

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:00,830
Tell us when to record.

2
00:00:00,830 --> 00:00:01,330
Recording.

3
00:00:01,330 --> 00:00:03,360
All right.

4
00:00:03,360 --> 00:00:06,960
This is a United States
Holocaust Memorial Museum

5
00:00:06,960 --> 00:00:13,200
interview with Mrs. Clara
Rechnitz on December 12, 2018,

6
00:00:13,200 --> 00:00:15,960
in Framingham, Massachusetts.

7
00:00:15,960 --> 00:00:19,620
Thank you so much for agreeing
to speak with us today

8
00:00:19,620 --> 00:00:24,120
to share a bit about your life
story and your family's story,

9
00:00:24,120 --> 00:00:28,050
and to give us a
glimpse into how

10
00:00:28,050 --> 00:00:33,990
the policies of Nazi
Germany affected people

11
00:00:33,990 --> 00:00:37,950
on an individual level.

12
00:00:37,950 --> 00:00:41,940
I'm going to start with

a very basic question.

13
00:00:41,940 --> 00:00:44,120
But let's cut the
camera first, please.

14
00:00:44,120 --> 00:00:44,620
Let me get--

15
00:00:44,620 --> 00:00:46,170
--of my mind, you know?

16
00:00:46,170 --> 00:00:51,650

17
00:00:51,650 --> 00:01:03,660
Now I have time to think
and remember my grandmother.

18
00:01:03,660 --> 00:01:09,550
We used to live in Poland at
the time near my grandmother

19
00:01:09,550 --> 00:01:12,610
and grandfather,
my father's side.

20
00:01:12,610 --> 00:01:18,133
And she was still alive
when Hitler was there.

21
00:01:18,133 --> 00:01:28,500

22
00:01:28,500 --> 00:01:29,175
OK.

23
00:01:29,175 --> 00:01:32,880
, So, Clara we're going to
start at the very beginning.

24
00:01:32,880 --> 00:01:35,160

Tell me, what's the
date of your birth?

25
00:01:35,160 --> 00:01:38,130
1929, February 4th.

26
00:01:38,130 --> 00:01:39,433
February 4, 1929.

27
00:01:39,433 --> 00:01:40,680
Yeah.

28
00:01:40,680 --> 00:01:42,000
Where were you born?

29
00:01:42,000 --> 00:01:42,675
In Germany.

30
00:01:42,675 --> 00:01:43,380
What town?

31
00:01:43,380 --> 00:01:45,120
A small town.

32
00:01:45,120 --> 00:01:47,760
Wetter on the Ruhr, it's called.

33
00:01:47,760 --> 00:01:49,260
Wetter on the Ruhr?

34
00:01:49,260 --> 00:01:51,060
The Ruhr was the river, yes.

35
00:01:51,060 --> 00:01:52,000
Ah, Ruhr, on the Ruhr.

36
00:01:52,000 --> 00:01:52,500
Ruhr, yeah.

37
00:01:52,500 --> 00:01:53,370
OK.

38
00:01:53,370 --> 00:01:54,900
And where is that?

39
00:01:54,900 --> 00:01:57,390
In Southern Germany,
in Northern Germany?

40
00:01:57,390 --> 00:02:00,570
Kind of Western, a
little bit Western.

41
00:02:00,570 --> 00:02:02,520
What part would it have been?

42
00:02:02,520 --> 00:02:03,870
[NON-ENGLISH]?

43
00:02:03,870 --> 00:02:04,890
Yes, it's West Wand.

44
00:02:04,890 --> 00:02:05,390
Yeah.

45
00:02:05,390 --> 00:02:06,702
It was in West Wand.

46
00:02:06,702 --> 00:02:07,202
Yeah.

47
00:02:07,202 --> 00:02:07,702
OK.

48
00:02:07,702 --> 00:02:09,870
And what was your name at birth?

49
00:02:09,870 --> 00:02:10,875
Teichmann.

50
00:02:10,875 --> 00:02:11,760
Teichmann.

51
00:02:11,760 --> 00:02:14,630
Clara Zelma Teichmann.

52
00:02:14,630 --> 00:02:15,150
OK.

53
00:02:15,150 --> 00:02:21,930
Now, I always thought my name
was spelled T-E-I-C-H-M-A-N-N,

54
00:02:21,930 --> 00:02:24,570
but that's not
really my real name.

55
00:02:24,570 --> 00:02:25,500
Oh.

56
00:02:25,500 --> 00:02:29,080
When my father moved
to Germany from Poland

57
00:02:29,080 --> 00:02:31,560
he tried to make
it the German way.

58
00:02:31,560 --> 00:02:34,590

59
00:02:34,590 --> 00:02:38,580
When I got married, I found
out my name is spelled

60
00:02:38,580 --> 00:02:43,260
T-A-J-C-H-M-A-N-N.

61
00:02:43,260 --> 00:02:45,330
Well, that's the Polish way.

62
00:02:45,330 --> 00:02:46,825
That's the Jewish way.

63
00:02:46,825 --> 00:02:47,325
Yeah.

64
00:02:47,325 --> 00:02:48,600
Yeah.

65
00:02:48,600 --> 00:02:50,100
With a J and--

66
00:02:50,100 --> 00:02:51,155
yeah, exactly.

67
00:02:51,155 --> 00:02:51,655
Exactly.

68
00:02:51,655 --> 00:02:54,050
Yeah.

69
00:02:54,050 --> 00:02:56,310
One of my questions,
and I will get to that,

70
00:02:56,310 --> 00:02:58,500
will be where your
father was from.

71
00:02:58,500 --> 00:03:00,388
Can we cut the camera?

72
00:03:00,388 --> 00:03:01,710
And we're recording.

73
00:03:01,710 --> 00:03:02,210
OK.

74
00:03:02,210 --> 00:03:05,170

75
00:03:05,170 --> 00:03:07,100
Did you have
brothers and sisters?

76
00:03:07,100 --> 00:03:07,600
Yeah.

77
00:03:07,600 --> 00:03:08,100
Tell me.

78
00:03:08,100 --> 00:03:13,000
I had one sister who was older,
and a brother who was younger.

79
00:03:13,000 --> 00:03:14,290
What was your sister's name?

80
00:03:14,290 --> 00:03:17,350
Else, E-L-S-E, Else.

81
00:03:17,350 --> 00:03:18,220
Else.

82
00:03:18,220 --> 00:03:21,100
And when was she born?

83
00:03:21,100 --> 00:03:22,480
Three years before me.

84
00:03:22,480 --> 00:03:23,470
That means--

85
00:03:23,470 --> 00:03:24,520
1926?

86
00:03:24,520 --> 00:03:26,920
19-- yeah.

87
00:03:26,920 --> 00:03:27,430
Yeah.

88
00:03:27,430 --> 00:03:29,230
OK, and your brother?

89

00:03:29,230 --> 00:03:31,570

He was a year younger than I am.

90

00:03:31,570 --> 00:03:33,130

And what was his name?

91

00:03:33,130 --> 00:03:33,670

Pardon me?

92

00:03:33,670 --> 00:03:34,878

What was your brother's name?

93

00:03:34,878 --> 00:03:35,660

Gerhardt.

94

00:03:35,660 --> 00:03:36,160

Gerhardt.

95

00:03:36,160 --> 00:03:36,730

Yeah.

96

00:03:36,730 --> 00:03:37,550

OK.

97

00:03:37,550 --> 00:03:39,730

And your mother,
what was her name?

98

00:03:39,730 --> 00:03:40,750

[? Helte. ?]

99

00:03:40,750 --> 00:03:43,420

[? Helte. ?] And
her maiden name?

100

00:03:43,420 --> 00:03:44,780

Steinfort.

101

00:03:44,780 --> 00:03:45,300

Steinfort.

102
00:03:45,300 --> 00:03:46,240
Yeah.

103
00:03:46,240 --> 00:03:49,780
S-T-E-I-N-F-O-R-T?

104
00:03:49,780 --> 00:03:50,620
Correct, yes.

105
00:03:50,620 --> 00:03:52,030
OK.

106
00:03:52,030 --> 00:03:57,340
And now let's talk a little
bit about your father

107
00:03:57,340 --> 00:03:59,920
because you already
mentioned that he

108
00:03:59,920 --> 00:04:02,800
came to Germany from Poland.

109
00:04:02,800 --> 00:04:05,770
That is, he was not--

110
00:04:05,770 --> 00:04:07,810
he was not a German Jew.

111
00:04:07,810 --> 00:04:08,320
No.

112
00:04:08,320 --> 00:04:09,500
He was a Polish Jew.

113
00:04:09,500 --> 00:04:10,000
Yeah.

114
00:04:10,000 --> 00:04:13,480
What town from Poland
did he come from?

115
00:04:13,480 --> 00:04:14,560
Sianow.

116
00:04:14,560 --> 00:04:20,290
It was a small, small village
where his parents used to live.

117
00:04:20,290 --> 00:04:24,590
And then they lost everything
during the First World War,

118
00:04:24,590 --> 00:04:25,090
I think.

119
00:04:25,090 --> 00:04:27,610
And then they
moved to Ostrowiec.

120
00:04:27,610 --> 00:04:28,110
Ostrowiec.

121
00:04:28,110 --> 00:04:30,430
The town Ostrowiec.

122
00:04:30,430 --> 00:04:33,550
And when we were sent
to Poland, that's

123
00:04:33,550 --> 00:04:39,670
where we kind of ended up
living with-- in that house,

124
00:04:39,670 --> 00:04:44,020
that apartment that my
father had bought for them.

125
00:04:44,020 --> 00:04:44,520
OK.

126
00:04:44,520 --> 00:04:48,130

127
00:04:48,130 --> 00:04:52,670
Why did your father even
move from Poland to Germany?

128
00:04:52,670 --> 00:04:58,050
I can tell you that most
Jews moved away from Poland

129
00:04:58,050 --> 00:05:02,780
into Germany because Polish
people were very great

130
00:05:02,780 --> 00:05:05,960
anti-Semites, much
worse than Germans--

131
00:05:05,960 --> 00:05:08,840
then the German population.

132
00:05:08,840 --> 00:05:14,390
And in Poland it was the Polish
population very anti-Semitic.

133
00:05:14,390 --> 00:05:18,190
And so that's what propelled
your father to move to Germany.

134
00:05:18,190 --> 00:05:19,580
Move to Germany, yes.

135
00:05:19,580 --> 00:05:23,240
What year was he born?

136
00:05:23,240 --> 00:05:24,640
1900.

137
00:05:24,640 --> 00:05:25,830
1900.

138
00:05:25,830 --> 00:05:26,330
Yes.

139
00:05:26,330 --> 00:05:28,440
So when the First
World War broke out,

140
00:05:28,440 --> 00:05:29,870
he was just a boy, still.

141
00:05:29,870 --> 00:05:31,630
He was 14 years old.

142
00:05:31,630 --> 00:05:33,150
Yeah, I would think so.

143
00:05:33,150 --> 00:05:35,010
But I don't know
much about that.

144
00:05:35,010 --> 00:05:35,600
OK.

145
00:05:35,600 --> 00:05:38,880
And when would it have been
that he moved to Germany?

146
00:05:38,880 --> 00:05:39,380
What year?

147
00:05:39,380 --> 00:05:40,220
He was 17.

148
00:05:40,220 --> 00:05:43,250
Oh, so it was even during--

149
00:05:43,250 --> 00:05:45,110
the war hadn't ended yet.

150
00:05:45,110 --> 00:05:45,650
Maybe.

151
00:05:45,650 --> 00:05:47,060

Maybe it just it ended.

152
00:05:47,060 --> 00:05:48,360
I'm not quite sure.

153
00:05:48,360 --> 00:05:52,870
I know he was 17 when
he got away from Poland.

154
00:05:52,870 --> 00:05:53,750
OK.

155
00:05:53,750 --> 00:05:57,500
And do you know where
he first moved to?

156
00:05:57,500 --> 00:06:00,720

157
00:06:00,720 --> 00:06:03,000
I think it was called Essen.

158
00:06:03,000 --> 00:06:03,780
In Essen.

159
00:06:03,780 --> 00:06:04,390
Yeah.

160
00:06:04,390 --> 00:06:06,810
OK.

161
00:06:06,810 --> 00:06:09,600
And did he have schooling?

162
00:06:09,600 --> 00:06:10,830
Did he have--

163
00:06:10,830 --> 00:06:13,200
Jewish schools, yes.

164
00:06:13,200 --> 00:06:15,720

All Jewish people go to school.

165
00:06:15,720 --> 00:06:17,020
I meant higher education.

166
00:06:17,020 --> 00:06:17,520
No.

167
00:06:17,520 --> 00:06:18,800
Did he go to university?

168
00:06:18,800 --> 00:06:19,740
No, no, no.

169
00:06:19,740 --> 00:06:21,150
No.

170
00:06:21,150 --> 00:06:24,240
He have a trade or a profession?

171
00:06:24,240 --> 00:06:26,740
You call it in
German [NON-ENGLISH]..

172
00:06:26,740 --> 00:06:27,240
A merchant.

173
00:06:27,240 --> 00:06:28,260
He was a salesman.

174
00:06:28,260 --> 00:06:29,640
Yes, a merchant.

175
00:06:29,640 --> 00:06:30,330
A merchant?

176
00:06:30,330 --> 00:06:30,880
Yeah.

177
00:06:30,880 --> 00:06:31,380
Yeah.

178
00:06:31,380 --> 00:06:35,550
He always had his own--
started his own business.

179
00:06:35,550 --> 00:06:36,330
Ah.

180
00:06:36,330 --> 00:06:39,150
So did he have his own store?

181
00:06:39,150 --> 00:06:44,700
Well, when I was alive he had
the wholesale paper business.

182
00:06:44,700 --> 00:06:45,390
Ah.

183
00:06:45,390 --> 00:06:49,120
At that time, everything
you needed paper for.

184
00:06:49,120 --> 00:06:51,810
Nothing was pre-packed.

185
00:06:51,810 --> 00:06:54,720
So anything you bought,
you needed paper.

186
00:06:54,720 --> 00:06:55,800
To wrap it up.

187
00:06:55,800 --> 00:06:58,560
To wrap it up or
weigh it or, you know.

188
00:06:58,560 --> 00:06:59,640
Yeah.

189
00:06:59,640 --> 00:07:01,060
So that was his business.

190

00:07:01,060 --> 00:07:01,560

Yeah.

191

00:07:01,560 --> 00:07:06,870

And do you know what kind
of trade his parents had

192

00:07:06,870 --> 00:07:09,180

or how they made their
living in Poland?

193

00:07:09,180 --> 00:07:13,140

Well, they used to have--

194

00:07:13,140 --> 00:07:15,780

before they lost
everything, it had something

195

00:07:15,780 --> 00:07:17,880

to do with some kind of liquor.

196

00:07:17,880 --> 00:07:18,510

OK.

197

00:07:18,510 --> 00:07:22,520

I don't know if it was just
wine or whiskey or whatever.

198

00:07:22,520 --> 00:07:23,020

Yeah.

199

00:07:23,020 --> 00:07:24,030

OK.

200

00:07:24,030 --> 00:07:26,690

And did he have
brothers and sisters?

201

00:07:26,690 --> 00:07:27,870

Yeah.

202

00:07:27,870 --> 00:07:29,400
Yeah.

203
00:07:29,400 --> 00:07:33,060
But I only knew two
of his brothers.

204
00:07:33,060 --> 00:07:37,140
One lived in France,
that was the youngest.

205
00:07:37,140 --> 00:07:42,190
And the older one lived in
Poland, so I got to know him.

206
00:07:42,190 --> 00:07:43,110
OK.

207
00:07:43,110 --> 00:07:46,390
I didn't know any of the others.

208
00:07:46,390 --> 00:07:49,260
So there were others, but
you just didn't know of them.

209
00:07:49,260 --> 00:07:54,600
There was also a sister
who was shot when

210
00:07:54,600 --> 00:07:57,120
the Cossacks came to Poland.

211
00:07:57,120 --> 00:08:01,125
I really don't know the
main story, how and what.

212
00:08:01,125 --> 00:08:02,220
Yeah.

213
00:08:02,220 --> 00:08:04,830
But she was killed
by the Cossacks.

214
00:08:04,830 --> 00:08:09,240
And were there any other
siblings who came to America?

215
00:08:09,240 --> 00:08:09,870
No.

216
00:08:09,870 --> 00:08:10,920
OK.

217
00:08:10,920 --> 00:08:15,360
Do you remember the name
of the brother in France?

218
00:08:15,360 --> 00:08:17,580
Abraham, but the
called him Adolf.

219
00:08:17,580 --> 00:08:18,080
[LAUGHS]

220
00:08:18,080 --> 00:08:18,580
Oh, wow.

221
00:08:18,580 --> 00:08:19,620
Yeah.

222
00:08:19,620 --> 00:08:24,210
Abraham, but you know,
named Adolf or called Adolf.

223
00:08:24,210 --> 00:08:27,660
Yeah, because he lived in
part of Germany and afterwards

224
00:08:27,660 --> 00:08:28,580
in France.

225
00:08:28,580 --> 00:08:31,080
So Adolf was the name.

226

00:08:31,080 --> 00:08:33,690
And the other brother
who I think you said

227
00:08:33,690 --> 00:08:37,909
stayed in Poland,
what was his name?

228
00:08:37,909 --> 00:08:40,640
I can't quite
remember right now--

229
00:08:40,640 --> 00:08:41,210
OK.

230
00:08:41,210 --> 00:08:41,810
That's OK.

231
00:08:41,810 --> 00:08:42,310
--his name.

232
00:08:42,310 --> 00:08:43,268
I can't quite remember.

233
00:08:43,268 --> 00:08:46,160
He was an older-- a little
bit older than my father.

234
00:08:46,160 --> 00:08:47,090
OK.

235
00:08:47,090 --> 00:08:50,030
And do you know why, in
particular, your father

236
00:08:50,030 --> 00:08:53,180
came to Essen and
then to the small town

237
00:08:53,180 --> 00:08:54,980
that you were born in?

238

00:08:54,980 --> 00:08:57,110

Well, he came to
Essen-- and I think

239

00:08:57,110 --> 00:09:01,460

there was-- it must've been
someone that he knew that went

240

00:09:01,460 --> 00:09:05,150

to Germany and was in Essen.

241

00:09:05,150 --> 00:09:10,640

And to Wetter, that was
already a few years later

242

00:09:10,640 --> 00:09:11,840

when somebody--

243

00:09:11,840 --> 00:09:15,320

how or why he exactly moved
to Wetter, I don't know.

244

00:09:15,320 --> 00:09:16,310

OK.

245

00:09:16,310 --> 00:09:19,280

And he started a business.

246

00:09:19,280 --> 00:09:24,710

First it was-- you know, were
no cars at that time yet.

247

00:09:24,710 --> 00:09:29,180

He had a horse and
a carriage, and he

248

00:09:29,180 --> 00:09:33,830

used to pick up old iron,
things that people threw out,

249

00:09:33,830 --> 00:09:39,070

you know, that had to
do with metal works.

250
00:09:39,070 --> 00:09:47,080
And afterwards he started a
different business, paper.

251
00:09:47,080 --> 00:09:47,800
Yeah.

252
00:09:47,800 --> 00:09:54,490
He had some people, friends
that he met the next town over,

253
00:09:54,490 --> 00:09:57,970
in Witten, and they
had the paper--

254
00:09:57,970 --> 00:09:59,200
wholesale paper.

255
00:09:59,200 --> 00:10:01,930
And he worked with
them a little while,

256
00:10:01,930 --> 00:10:06,920
and then he started his
own in Wetter on the Ruhr.

257
00:10:06,920 --> 00:10:08,927
In Wetter on the Ruhr.

258
00:10:08,927 --> 00:10:10,150
Yep.

259
00:10:10,150 --> 00:10:13,660
And do you know how
your parents met?

260
00:10:13,660 --> 00:10:17,710

261
00:10:17,710 --> 00:10:21,980
They just met each other and

fell in love with each other.

262
00:10:21,980 --> 00:10:22,600
Yeah.

263
00:10:22,600 --> 00:10:26,920
So it was it through friends
or was it at a party?

264
00:10:26,920 --> 00:10:27,820
Was it--

265
00:10:27,820 --> 00:10:30,730
Well, how they saw each
other the first time--

266
00:10:30,730 --> 00:10:36,040
my mother said my grandfather
had a bakery and a store,

267
00:10:36,040 --> 00:10:40,900
and the windows were washed
by the children, by the girls,

268
00:10:40,900 --> 00:10:41,920
you know.

269
00:10:41,920 --> 00:10:46,420
And she was outside washing
the windows, and he walked by.

270
00:10:46,420 --> 00:10:50,820

271
00:10:50,820 --> 00:10:54,530
And it's funny.

272
00:10:54,530 --> 00:10:57,060

273
00:10:57,060 --> 00:11:01,650
And she was on the ladder,

you know, washing the window.

274

00:11:01,650 --> 00:11:03,570

And he walked by.

275

00:11:03,570 --> 00:11:08,440

And all of a sudden she saw him
and she said, oh, my goodness.

276

00:11:08,440 --> 00:11:13,282

I-- I hope she couldn't
look up my skirt, you know.

277

00:11:13,282 --> 00:11:15,120

[LAUGHTER]

278

00:11:15,120 --> 00:11:18,120

And he was a stranger
in town, you know.

279

00:11:18,120 --> 00:11:21,150

Because it was a small
town, almost everybody

280

00:11:21,150 --> 00:11:21,990

knew each other.

281

00:11:21,990 --> 00:11:22,615

[PHONE RINGING]

282

00:11:22,615 --> 00:11:25,290

Let's cut.

283

00:11:25,290 --> 00:11:27,240

OK.

284

00:11:27,240 --> 00:11:34,320

So you said that your mother had
this fear this stranger walking

285

00:11:34,320 --> 00:11:37,135

by could look up her skirt

as she's washing the windows.

286

00:11:37,135 --> 00:11:38,010

Well, it wasn't fear.

287

00:11:38,010 --> 00:11:42,480

It was just something,
you know, that--

288

00:11:42,480 --> 00:11:46,150

they didn't use beautiful
underwear at that time,

289

00:11:46,150 --> 00:11:46,950

you know.

290

00:11:46,950 --> 00:11:47,850

[LAUGHS]

291

00:11:47,850 --> 00:11:50,790

And she's up on the ladder,
and somebody walks by

292

00:11:50,790 --> 00:11:51,900

and they're a stranger.

293

00:11:51,900 --> 00:11:54,420

Because they're a small
town, they almost--

294

00:11:54,420 --> 00:11:56,213

everybody knew each
other, you know.

295

00:11:56,213 --> 00:11:56,880

Knew each other.

296

00:11:56,880 --> 00:11:57,380

OK.

297

00:11:57,380 --> 00:12:00,840

And he was a

stranger, and dressed

298

00:12:00,840 --> 00:12:05,050
different than all the
other young boys that age.

299

00:12:05,050 --> 00:12:08,670
So she kind of told me
that story, that she felt,

300

00:12:08,670 --> 00:12:10,440
oh, my goodness.

301

00:12:10,440 --> 00:12:16,150
And then afterwards they were
introduced by people there.

302

00:12:16,150 --> 00:12:20,790
And, eventually, they fell
in love and they got married,

303

00:12:20,790 --> 00:12:24,330
even though everybody said you
can't marry him, he's a Jew.

304

00:12:24,330 --> 00:12:25,380
Yeah.

305

00:12:25,380 --> 00:12:27,180
So your mother was not.

306

00:12:27,180 --> 00:12:28,170
No.

307

00:12:28,170 --> 00:12:30,210
There weren't any
Jewish people--

308

00:12:30,210 --> 00:12:31,710
many Jewish people.

309

00:12:31,710 --> 00:12:33,910

In a small town, not at all.

310
00:12:33,910 --> 00:12:35,140
OK.

311
00:12:35,140 --> 00:12:37,200
So what kind of--

312
00:12:37,200 --> 00:12:40,290
was your mother Lutheran
or was she Catholic?

313
00:12:40,290 --> 00:12:41,275
They weren't very-- no.

314
00:12:41,275 --> 00:12:42,990
They weren't very religious.

315
00:12:42,990 --> 00:12:43,710
Protestant.

316
00:12:43,710 --> 00:12:44,310
OK.

317
00:12:44,310 --> 00:12:45,250
They were Protestant.

318
00:12:45,250 --> 00:12:45,750
Yeah.

319
00:12:45,750 --> 00:12:46,680
OK.

320
00:12:46,680 --> 00:12:50,100
Do you know whether or
not her parents objected

321
00:12:50,100 --> 00:12:51,850
or whether they
supported it or did--

322

00:12:51,850 --> 00:12:52,350
Yeah.

323
00:12:52,350 --> 00:12:54,950
At first they supported it
because he was so different

324
00:12:54,950 --> 00:12:58,500
than all the other boys his age.

325
00:12:58,500 --> 00:13:01,360
He already looked
like business man.

326
00:13:01,360 --> 00:13:07,510
He was dressed differently,
you know, like a business man.

327
00:13:07,510 --> 00:13:09,060
He was a serious contender.

328
00:13:09,060 --> 00:13:09,660
Yeah.

329
00:13:09,660 --> 00:13:09,990
Yeah.

330
00:13:09,990 --> 00:13:10,290
OK.

331
00:13:10,290 --> 00:13:10,830
Yeah.

332
00:13:10,830 --> 00:13:11,670
OK.

333
00:13:11,670 --> 00:13:13,800
Did your mother have
brothers and sisters?

334
00:13:13,800 --> 00:13:14,730
Yeah.

335
00:13:14,730 --> 00:13:16,590
How many did she have?

336
00:13:16,590 --> 00:13:17,325
I have to count.

337
00:13:17,325 --> 00:13:17,850
[LAUGHS]

338
00:13:17,850 --> 00:13:18,570
OK.

339
00:13:18,570 --> 00:13:23,430
I think there was a
brother, older brother,

340
00:13:23,430 --> 00:13:27,740
and an older sister,
and then my mother,

341
00:13:27,740 --> 00:13:33,060
and then another brother,
and another brother,

342
00:13:33,060 --> 00:13:36,060
and another sister,
and another brother.

343
00:13:36,060 --> 00:13:37,000
Ooh, a large family.

344
00:13:37,000 --> 00:13:37,500
Yeah.

345
00:13:37,500 --> 00:13:40,600
At that time, everybody had
large families everywhere,

346
00:13:40,600 --> 00:13:41,560
not only in Germany.

347

00:13:41,560 --> 00:13:42,060
[LAUGHS]

348

00:13:42,060 --> 00:13:42,560
Of course.

349

00:13:42,560 --> 00:13:43,570
Of course.

350

00:13:43,570 --> 00:13:46,630
What were their names,
if you can remember?

351

00:13:46,630 --> 00:13:49,410
The oldest brother
was called Karl.

352

00:13:49,410 --> 00:13:50,440
Karl Steinfort?

353

00:13:50,440 --> 00:13:52,790
Yeah, the same as
my grandfather.

354

00:13:52,790 --> 00:13:55,740
His name was Karl, too.

355

00:13:55,740 --> 00:14:03,330
Karl, Fritz, F-R-I-T-Z, Walter,
he was the youngest, Willie.

356

00:14:03,330 --> 00:14:06,470

357

00:14:06,470 --> 00:14:08,830
I think those were
all the brothers.

358

00:14:08,830 --> 00:14:10,810
And the girls?

359

00:14:10,810 --> 00:14:15,970
Else, the oldest sister,
and Klara, same as my name.

360
00:14:15,970 --> 00:14:17,200
Ah, OK.

361
00:14:17,200 --> 00:14:18,310
And your mother was Helte.

362
00:14:18,310 --> 00:14:19,510
Helte, right.

363
00:14:19,510 --> 00:14:24,250
So you were named for one
sister and your sister

364
00:14:24,250 --> 00:14:25,270
was named for the other?

365
00:14:25,270 --> 00:14:27,610
I was surprised that
didn't my father

366
00:14:27,610 --> 00:14:29,545
went along with that, yes.

367
00:14:29,545 --> 00:14:30,640
Right.

368
00:14:30,640 --> 00:14:31,750
OK.

369
00:14:31,750 --> 00:14:35,190
Now, did your father speak
German with an accent?

370
00:14:35,190 --> 00:14:35,820
No.

371
00:14:35,820 --> 00:14:36,470
No.

372
00:14:36,470 --> 00:14:38,560
Not when I knew him, no.

373
00:14:38,560 --> 00:14:39,310
OK.

374
00:14:39,310 --> 00:14:41,830
Do you think he had learned
that even in Poland?

375
00:14:41,830 --> 00:14:42,370
No.

376
00:14:42,370 --> 00:14:42,970
No.

377
00:14:42,970 --> 00:14:43,678
I don't think so.

378
00:14:43,678 --> 00:14:46,270
So he learned it as a
teenager when he came--

379
00:14:46,270 --> 00:14:48,560
A teenager when he
went to Germany.

380
00:14:48,560 --> 00:14:49,060
OK.

381
00:14:49,060 --> 00:14:49,560
Yeah.

382
00:14:49,560 --> 00:14:52,210
Because he didn't
hear any more Yiddish

383
00:14:52,210 --> 00:14:53,500
because he didn't even--

384

00:14:53,500 --> 00:14:56,800
I don't think he spoke Polish,
because his parents didn't

385
00:14:56,800 --> 00:14:57,830
spoke Polish.

386
00:14:57,830 --> 00:14:58,330
OK.

387
00:14:58,330 --> 00:15:01,024
They all spoke Yiddish
with each other.

388
00:15:01,024 --> 00:15:02,230
OK.

389
00:15:02,230 --> 00:15:08,580
And what are your first
memories in Wetter?

390
00:15:08,580 --> 00:15:11,850
As a little girl, do you
have any first memories

391
00:15:11,850 --> 00:15:16,430
that are in your mind that
you could describe for us?

392
00:15:16,430 --> 00:15:20,010
My first memory was, I think,
I was about two years old

393
00:15:20,010 --> 00:15:21,540
and my mother was
in the hospital.

394
00:15:21,540 --> 00:15:26,610

395
00:15:26,610 --> 00:15:29,000
She was on the second
floor in the hospital,

396
00:15:29,000 --> 00:15:31,470
and took me to the hospital.

397
00:15:31,470 --> 00:15:32,160
Oh, yeah.

398
00:15:32,160 --> 00:15:32,660
Yeah?

399
00:15:32,660 --> 00:15:33,660
Yeah.

400
00:15:33,660 --> 00:15:35,400
They took you to the hospital?

401
00:15:35,400 --> 00:15:36,120
Yeah.

402
00:15:36,120 --> 00:15:39,510
I couldn't go near her.

403
00:15:39,510 --> 00:15:44,640
She was upstairs and I was
downstairs in the yard.

404
00:15:44,640 --> 00:15:47,120
And I was crying.

405
00:15:47,120 --> 00:15:47,790
Yeah.

406
00:15:47,790 --> 00:15:49,910
Yeah.

407
00:15:49,910 --> 00:15:53,510
And thought she had
typhoid, but she

408
00:15:53,510 --> 00:15:57,060
didn't have typhoid, at all.

409

00:15:57,060 --> 00:16:01,040

But, at that time, the doctor
that was in charge there,

410

00:16:01,040 --> 00:16:02,940

he was he was never
a good doctor.

411

00:16:02,940 --> 00:16:05,570

412

00:16:05,570 --> 00:16:09,800

And so I couldn't go and see--
couldn't go near her, you know.

413

00:16:09,800 --> 00:16:11,610

That was a terrible experience.

414

00:16:11,610 --> 00:16:12,110

That was--

415

00:16:12,110 --> 00:16:13,400

Of course.

416

00:16:13,400 --> 00:16:14,490

--my first--

417

00:16:14,490 --> 00:16:14,990

Memory.

418

00:16:14,990 --> 00:16:18,470

--remembrance as a young child.

419

00:16:18,470 --> 00:16:20,000

Yeah.

420

00:16:20,000 --> 00:16:22,940

Describe a little
bit for me your home

421

00:16:22,940 --> 00:16:26,720
that you grew up in, in Wetter.

422
00:16:26,720 --> 00:16:33,000
We moved in-- maybe I was
three years old already when

423
00:16:33,000 --> 00:16:33,720
we moved.

424
00:16:33,720 --> 00:16:37,370
I don't remember
where we lived before.

425
00:16:37,370 --> 00:16:42,820
We moved to-- what was
the name of the street?

426
00:16:42,820 --> 00:16:46,265
I think Bismarckstrasse,
and it was in a house--

427
00:16:46,265 --> 00:16:48,890

428
00:16:48,890 --> 00:16:50,180
three apartments.

429
00:16:50,180 --> 00:16:53,390
The owners had a bakery.

430
00:16:53,390 --> 00:16:54,530
This is a reminder.

431
00:16:54,530 --> 00:16:55,040
Excuse us.

432
00:16:55,040 --> 00:16:55,540
Let's cut.

433
00:16:55,540 --> 00:16:58,640
Drink water.

434
00:16:58,640 --> 00:17:02,560
That was either Siri or Alexa.

435
00:17:02,560 --> 00:17:03,260
Alexa.

436
00:17:03,260 --> 00:17:03,855
Its Alexa.

437
00:17:03,855 --> 00:17:05,369
Do you need some water?

438
00:17:05,369 --> 00:17:06,020
She has some.

439
00:17:06,020 --> 00:17:07,040
This is a reminder.

440
00:17:07,040 --> 00:17:08,290
Drink water.

441
00:17:08,290 --> 00:17:09,800
She'll stop.

442
00:17:09,800 --> 00:17:10,475
Stop, Alexa.

443
00:17:10,475 --> 00:17:13,260

444
00:17:13,260 --> 00:17:14,819
That's the first
time I've met Alexa.

445
00:17:14,819 --> 00:17:17,029
[LAUGHTER]

446
00:17:17,029 --> 00:17:18,359
OK.

447

00:17:18,359 --> 00:17:22,470

Because I forget to drink
water, so my son-in-law

448

00:17:22,470 --> 00:17:24,359

put that in to remind me.

449

00:17:24,359 --> 00:17:26,460

OK.

450

00:17:26,460 --> 00:17:27,660

Where were we, now?

451

00:17:27,660 --> 00:17:30,390

We were talking about where
you moved, on Bismarckstrasse.

452

00:17:30,390 --> 00:17:30,920

Yeah.

453

00:17:30,920 --> 00:17:31,420

Yeah.

454

00:17:31,420 --> 00:17:32,576

OK.

455

00:17:32,576 --> 00:17:35,340

Do you remember the address?

456

00:17:35,340 --> 00:17:36,210

No.

457

00:17:36,210 --> 00:17:36,800

No?

458

00:17:36,800 --> 00:17:37,300

No.

459

00:17:37,300 --> 00:17:40,300

There weren't too
many houses there.

460
00:17:40,300 --> 00:17:42,780
So the address is--
they had a big house.

461
00:17:42,780 --> 00:17:49,470
The bakery was downstairs,
including a pastry shop.

462
00:17:49,470 --> 00:17:53,100
And the back was a
large bakery where

463
00:17:53,100 --> 00:17:55,290
they did all the--
baked the breads

464
00:17:55,290 --> 00:17:59,860
and make the pastry and so on.

465
00:17:59,860 --> 00:18:04,450
And we lived on the second
floor there for a long time.

466
00:18:04,450 --> 00:18:08,120
And this was-- this is
your grandfather's bakery?

467
00:18:08,120 --> 00:18:08,680
No, no, no.

468
00:18:08,680 --> 00:18:10,210
No, it was somebody else's.

469
00:18:10,210 --> 00:18:11,740
Somebody else's, yeah. yeah.

470
00:18:11,740 --> 00:18:12,530
OK.

471
00:18:12,530 --> 00:18:13,300
OK.

472
00:18:13,300 --> 00:18:17,590
They had also some
pastry for sale, which

473
00:18:17,590 --> 00:18:19,920
my grandfather didn't have.

474
00:18:19,920 --> 00:18:22,450
They only sold bread--

475
00:18:22,450 --> 00:18:25,660
dark bread, the German
bread, and some white bread.

476
00:18:25,660 --> 00:18:26,620
That's it.

477
00:18:26,620 --> 00:18:28,810
Well, where did your
mother buy bread from then,

478
00:18:28,810 --> 00:18:30,760
her own father or the pastry--

479
00:18:30,760 --> 00:18:31,868
the bakery downstairs?

480
00:18:31,868 --> 00:18:32,410
I don't know.

481
00:18:32,410 --> 00:18:33,110
You don't know?

482
00:18:33,110 --> 00:18:33,610
No.

483
00:18:33,610 --> 00:18:35,230
OK.

484
00:18:35,230 --> 00:18:38,050

I think we got it
downstairs because they also

485
00:18:38,050 --> 00:18:40,930
baked fresh rolls
every day, you know.

486
00:18:40,930 --> 00:18:44,980
So we just, I think,
got them there.

487
00:18:44,980 --> 00:18:48,140
You mentioned there weren't
many Jewish people in--

488
00:18:48,140 --> 00:18:48,640
Wetter, no.

489
00:18:48,640 --> 00:18:50,560
--in Wetter.

490
00:18:50,560 --> 00:18:51,550
Were there any?

491
00:18:51,550 --> 00:18:52,170
No.

492
00:18:52,170 --> 00:18:52,670
No.

493
00:18:52,670 --> 00:18:54,370
So your father was
the only one in town.

494
00:18:54,370 --> 00:18:54,870
Yeah.

495
00:18:54,870 --> 00:18:56,940
Yeah.

496
00:18:56,940 --> 00:19:00,000
And about how many

people did the town have

497

00:19:00,000 --> 00:19:01,230

or the village have?

498

00:19:01,230 --> 00:19:03,300

It's a very small town.

499

00:19:03,300 --> 00:19:04,680

I don't remember.

500

00:19:04,680 --> 00:19:07,740

Would you think, I mean,
approximately maybe 100 people?

501

00:19:07,740 --> 00:19:08,310

Oh, more.

502

00:19:08,310 --> 00:19:08,940

It was big.

503

00:19:08,940 --> 00:19:10,770

500 people?

504

00:19:10,770 --> 00:19:12,870

I think it was bigger than that.

505

00:19:12,870 --> 00:19:13,960

It was bigger than that.

506

00:19:13,960 --> 00:19:14,460

Yeah.

507

00:19:14,460 --> 00:19:15,300

OK.

508

00:19:15,300 --> 00:19:18,325

Did it have a town square?

509

00:19:18,325 --> 00:19:21,890

510
00:19:21,890 --> 00:19:25,590
No, not a real town square,
as far as I remember.

511
00:19:25,590 --> 00:19:26,090
No.

512
00:19:26,090 --> 00:19:26,590
OK.

513
00:19:26,590 --> 00:19:29,645

514
00:19:29,645 --> 00:19:32,520
Did many people
have automobiles?

515
00:19:32,520 --> 00:19:33,020
No.

516
00:19:33,020 --> 00:19:35,560
At that time, nobody
had automobiles

517
00:19:35,560 --> 00:19:38,260
when I was very young,
when I was born.

518
00:19:38,260 --> 00:19:38,860
OK.

519
00:19:38,860 --> 00:19:42,190
As a matter of fact,
my father bought

520
00:19:42,190 --> 00:19:45,190
one of the first
automobiles that were

521
00:19:45,190 --> 00:19:47,410
on sale that you could buy.

522

00:19:47,410 --> 00:19:50,050

And I have a
photograph of it, too.

523

00:19:50,050 --> 00:19:53,170

Well, that must have been
unusual, you know, an event.

524

00:19:53,170 --> 00:19:55,990

Yeah, because he did very well.

525

00:19:55,990 --> 00:20:00,790

Once he had his business,
he did very well.

526

00:20:00,790 --> 00:20:04,030

People liked him and he
liked the Germans, too.

527

00:20:04,030 --> 00:20:07,830

528

00:20:07,830 --> 00:20:10,200

Describe a little bit
the house on the--

529

00:20:10,200 --> 00:20:13,290

your apartment living
quarters on the inside.

530

00:20:13,290 --> 00:20:15,300

About how many
rooms did you have?

531

00:20:15,300 --> 00:20:17,430

Where we lived there--

532

00:20:17,430 --> 00:20:22,710

a large kitchen, first of
all, a very large kitchen,

533

00:20:22,710 --> 00:20:27,960
a living room, a dining
room, an [NON-ENGLISH]..

534
00:20:27,960 --> 00:20:31,020
I don't know what you'd
call that in English.

535
00:20:31,020 --> 00:20:32,820
It wasn't an office.

536
00:20:32,820 --> 00:20:35,940
It was more room a
room-- elegant furniture.

537
00:20:35,940 --> 00:20:41,100
But it had a desk
and bookcase and--

538
00:20:41,100 --> 00:20:42,540
Like, a library?

539
00:20:42,540 --> 00:20:44,740
Like, a home library
a little bit?

540
00:20:44,740 --> 00:20:45,240
No.

541
00:20:45,240 --> 00:20:48,990
It was more like a room, but
it was called [NON-ENGLISH]..

542
00:20:48,990 --> 00:20:50,010
A gentleman's room.

543
00:20:50,010 --> 00:20:51,093
That's what you called it.

544
00:20:51,093 --> 00:20:54,040
Yeah that's what you
called it in Germany, yeah.

545

00:20:54,040 --> 00:20:56,280

But was it used
only by a gentleman

546

00:20:56,280 --> 00:20:58,290

or was it something the
whole family would use?

547

00:20:58,290 --> 00:21:00,040

We could use--
anybody could use it.

548

00:21:00,040 --> 00:21:00,540

Yeah.

549

00:21:00,540 --> 00:21:01,040

OK.

550

00:21:01,040 --> 00:21:02,290

OK.

551

00:21:02,290 --> 00:21:04,800

But it was the most beautiful--

552

00:21:04,800 --> 00:21:08,940

in there were the most beautiful
furniture of the whole house.

553

00:21:08,940 --> 00:21:09,570

OK.

554

00:21:09,570 --> 00:21:11,850

I loved the furniture in there.

555

00:21:11,850 --> 00:21:14,530

And did you have a radio?

556

00:21:14,530 --> 00:21:15,370

Yeah.

557

00:21:15,370 --> 00:21:15,870

Yeah.

558

00:21:15,870 --> 00:21:17,450

Did you have a telephone?

559

00:21:17,450 --> 00:21:18,330

Yeah.

560

00:21:18,330 --> 00:21:20,110

OK.

561

00:21:20,110 --> 00:21:23,550

How was the house heated?

562

00:21:23,550 --> 00:21:24,580

That, I don't remember.

563

00:21:24,580 --> 00:21:25,580

Would it have been cold?

564

00:21:25,580 --> 00:21:27,710

It was not very cold there.

565

00:21:27,710 --> 00:21:33,640

I think it's very seldom
that you needed heat on.

566

00:21:33,640 --> 00:21:36,990

Did you have these sort of,
like, tiled ovens in each room?

567

00:21:36,990 --> 00:21:37,650

Yes.

568

00:21:37,650 --> 00:21:41,190

Beautiful, beautiful,
beautiful, ovens.

569

00:21:41,190 --> 00:21:44,220

They were about
this high, and they

570

00:21:44,220 --> 00:21:48,180

were made for marble
tile, different colors.

571

00:21:48,180 --> 00:21:50,707

So that could have been
either wood or coal.

572

00:21:50,707 --> 00:21:52,290

You know, that's
would use frequently.

573

00:21:52,290 --> 00:21:54,550

I don't think they
ever put them on.

574

00:21:54,550 --> 00:21:55,050

Really?

575

00:21:55,050 --> 00:21:58,860

[LAUGHS] I don't remember
that they ever put them on.

576

00:21:58,860 --> 00:22:00,420

So it never got that cold.

577

00:22:00,420 --> 00:22:00,940

That's nice.

578

00:22:00,940 --> 00:22:01,440

No.

579

00:22:01,440 --> 00:22:01,750

That's nice.

580

00:22:01,750 --> 00:22:02,250

No.

581

00:22:02,250 --> 00:22:04,530

It was never that cold.

582

00:22:04,530 --> 00:22:07,320
Only the kitchen
had a regular stove,

583
00:22:07,320 --> 00:22:10,770
and then was on, you know,
because the cooking was done.

584
00:22:10,770 --> 00:22:12,280
The stove, was it a gas stove?

585
00:22:12,280 --> 00:22:12,780
No.

586
00:22:12,780 --> 00:22:14,290
There was no gas in the house.

587
00:22:14,290 --> 00:22:14,790
No.

588
00:22:14,790 --> 00:22:16,530
OK.

589
00:22:16,530 --> 00:22:22,230
You need briquettes, I think
it was called in German,

590
00:22:22,230 --> 00:22:24,780
briquettes that were like this.

591
00:22:24,780 --> 00:22:26,908
So coal was uneven pieces.

592
00:22:26,908 --> 00:22:27,450
That's right.

593
00:22:27,450 --> 00:22:30,360
But briquettes were
made like that.

594
00:22:30,360 --> 00:22:32,260
And that's what you

use to heat the stove.

595

00:22:32,260 --> 00:22:32,760

Yeah.

596

00:22:32,760 --> 00:22:33,780

That's what they used.

597

00:22:33,780 --> 00:22:34,470

Yeah.

598

00:22:34,470 --> 00:22:38,030

And I take it you
had indoor plumbing.

599

00:22:38,030 --> 00:22:38,580

Yes, sure.

600

00:22:38,580 --> 00:22:39,080

Yeah.

601

00:22:39,080 --> 00:22:39,830

OK.

602

00:22:39,830 --> 00:22:40,730

OK.

603

00:22:40,730 --> 00:22:43,070

I ask these questions
because it gives us

604

00:22:43,070 --> 00:22:46,242

a sense of what was
the level of modernity

605

00:22:46,242 --> 00:22:48,200

at a certain time-- in
a certain place in time.

606

00:22:48,200 --> 00:22:50,730

In Germany it was-- it was
quite different than in Poland.

607
00:22:50,730 --> 00:22:51,230
Yes.

608
00:22:51,230 --> 00:22:52,080
Yes.

609
00:22:52,080 --> 00:22:53,630
Yes, it was quite different.

610
00:22:53,630 --> 00:22:54,140
Yeah.

611
00:22:54,140 --> 00:22:59,270
And so these modern conveniences
was something that you had.

612
00:22:59,270 --> 00:22:59,870
Yes.

613
00:22:59,870 --> 00:23:00,370
Yeah, yeah.

614
00:23:00,370 --> 00:23:01,400
OK.

615
00:23:01,400 --> 00:23:05,510
Did you have public
transportation in your village?

616
00:23:05,510 --> 00:23:06,590
I don't know.

617
00:23:06,590 --> 00:23:07,160
OK.

618
00:23:07,160 --> 00:23:09,350
Because we didn't use it.

619
00:23:09,350 --> 00:23:12,650
Yeah, so was everything

within walking distance--

620
00:23:12,650 --> 00:23:14,180
the shops, the schools?

621
00:23:14,180 --> 00:23:18,770
Well, most of it was
within walking distance.

622
00:23:18,770 --> 00:23:19,340
OK.

623
00:23:19,340 --> 00:23:23,330
I mean, there was a part of the
town where we just never went,

624
00:23:23,330 --> 00:23:27,980
you know, but
where we went or we

625
00:23:27,980 --> 00:23:30,770
had to go it was in
walking distance.

626
00:23:30,770 --> 00:23:34,460
And did you live in the center
of town or on the outskirts?

627
00:23:34,460 --> 00:23:35,510
No.

628
00:23:35,510 --> 00:23:39,080
It's not the outskirts, but
it's part of the town where

629
00:23:39,080 --> 00:23:42,185
it wasn't that--

630
00:23:42,185 --> 00:23:44,680
like a downtown, it
wasn't the downtown.

631

00:23:44,680 --> 00:23:46,310
It was more residential.

632
00:23:46,310 --> 00:23:47,140
Yeah, yeah.

633
00:23:47,140 --> 00:23:48,590
OK.

634
00:23:48,590 --> 00:23:51,690
Aside from the bakery, where
the other shops on the street?

635
00:23:51,690 --> 00:23:52,610
No.

636
00:23:52,610 --> 00:23:54,540
OK.

637
00:23:54,540 --> 00:23:57,390
And your neighbors-- did
you know your neighbors

638
00:23:57,390 --> 00:23:57,890
pretty well?

639
00:23:57,890 --> 00:23:58,390
No.

640
00:23:58,390 --> 00:23:59,200
Or not so much?

641
00:23:59,200 --> 00:24:00,210
Not at all.

642
00:24:00,210 --> 00:24:00,820
Not at all.

643
00:24:00,820 --> 00:24:01,320
No.

644

00:24:01,320 --> 00:24:02,880
For a small town--

645
00:24:02,880 --> 00:24:03,840
Not at all.

646
00:24:03,840 --> 00:24:06,630
I don't know, maybe they
knew we were Jewish.

647
00:24:06,630 --> 00:24:07,740
I don't know.

648
00:24:07,740 --> 00:24:10,050
OK.

649
00:24:10,050 --> 00:24:12,000
Or maybe that's the
way people were.

650
00:24:12,000 --> 00:24:13,590
They just didn't
know each other.

651
00:24:13,590 --> 00:24:16,920
There were no other children
right around where we lived.

652
00:24:16,920 --> 00:24:18,750
That was one of my questions.

653
00:24:18,750 --> 00:24:19,860
Maybe that's why.

654
00:24:19,860 --> 00:24:21,210
OK.

655
00:24:21,210 --> 00:24:25,320
Did your father have his
own office that is either

656
00:24:25,320 --> 00:24:27,990

in the apartment or elsewhere?

657

00:24:27,990 --> 00:24:29,970

It was someplace else, yes.

658

00:24:29,970 --> 00:24:32,460

It was someplace else.

659

00:24:32,460 --> 00:24:34,760

And did he employ
any people there?

660

00:24:34,760 --> 00:24:36,780

Yeah.

661

00:24:36,780 --> 00:24:40,270

The business was near
the railway station.

662

00:24:40,270 --> 00:24:42,510

There were the tracks
of the railway,

663

00:24:42,510 --> 00:24:47,490

and there he built
a large warehouse

664

00:24:47,490 --> 00:24:49,890

where the paper
was that he sold,

665

00:24:49,890 --> 00:24:52,320

you know, and
could be loaded up.

666

00:24:52,320 --> 00:24:57,990

And he had a truck where
they could deliver it.

667

00:24:57,990 --> 00:25:03,180

He had built that, and the
office was right in there, too.

668

00:25:03,180 --> 00:25:07,320

You walked into the office,
and in back was all the paper,

669

00:25:07,320 --> 00:25:07,890

you know.

670

00:25:07,890 --> 00:25:09,150

Did you visit him there?

671

00:25:09,150 --> 00:25:10,440

Oh, yeah.

672

00:25:10,440 --> 00:25:11,640

It wasn't too far.

673

00:25:11,640 --> 00:25:13,920

We all could walk there.

674

00:25:13,920 --> 00:25:14,570

OK.

675

00:25:14,570 --> 00:25:18,270

It was near the
railroad station--

676

00:25:18,270 --> 00:25:20,430

near the railroad station.

677

00:25:20,430 --> 00:25:23,010

Un bahnhof, you
call it in German.

678

00:25:23,010 --> 00:25:23,700

That's right.

679

00:25:23,700 --> 00:25:26,910

680

00:25:26,910 --> 00:25:30,060

Did your parents have a

social circle of people coming

681
00:25:30,060 --> 00:25:32,100
to visit them and with whom--

682
00:25:32,100 --> 00:25:35,730
Well, because my mother's
relatives lived in Germany,

683
00:25:35,730 --> 00:25:39,930
lived quite close by,
so they came to see us.

684
00:25:39,930 --> 00:25:47,360
And another family from the
next town, they were Jewish,

685
00:25:47,360 --> 00:25:50,570
and they also came to see us.

686
00:25:50,570 --> 00:25:52,533
So that was your
social circle, was

687
00:25:52,533 --> 00:25:53,825
your mother's-- your mother's--

688
00:25:53,825 --> 00:25:54,425
Family.

689
00:25:54,425 --> 00:25:56,650
--brothers and
sisters, her family.

690
00:25:56,650 --> 00:25:57,290
Parents, yeah.

691
00:25:57,290 --> 00:25:58,118
Parents.

692
00:25:58,118 --> 00:25:59,410
Did you know your grandparents?

693
00:25:59,410 --> 00:26:00,740
Oh, yeah.

694
00:26:00,740 --> 00:26:01,277
OK.

695
00:26:01,277 --> 00:26:02,485
I didn't like my grandmother.

696
00:26:02,485 --> 00:26:03,260
[LAUGHS]

697
00:26:03,260 --> 00:26:04,730
Why not?

698
00:26:04,730 --> 00:26:06,220
She wasn't likeable.

699
00:26:06,220 --> 00:26:08,420
[LAUGHTER]

700
00:26:08,420 --> 00:26:09,560
There are such people.

701
00:26:09,560 --> 00:26:11,600
I loved my grandfather.

702
00:26:11,600 --> 00:26:14,210
He was the best
person in the world.

703
00:26:14,210 --> 00:26:14,930
Yeah.

704
00:26:14,930 --> 00:26:19,520
And what kind of
personality did he have?

705
00:26:19,520 --> 00:26:20,990
How would I say?

706
00:26:20,990 --> 00:26:24,740
He was just likeable.

707
00:26:24,740 --> 00:26:25,250
OK.

708
00:26:25,250 --> 00:26:28,160
Just a plain
likable human being.

709
00:26:28,160 --> 00:26:29,720
Was he a friendly person?

710
00:26:29,720 --> 00:26:31,010
Well, yeah, sure.

711
00:26:31,010 --> 00:26:31,880
OK.

712
00:26:31,880 --> 00:26:33,980
Was he successful in his bakery?

713
00:26:33,980 --> 00:26:35,120
Yeah.

714
00:26:35,120 --> 00:26:35,900
OK.

715
00:26:35,900 --> 00:26:40,310
It was a small town and he had
his customers who came there.

716
00:26:40,310 --> 00:26:44,270
And it was enough, you
know, to make a living.

717
00:26:44,270 --> 00:26:47,540
In the back there
was, like, a garden

718

00:26:47,540 --> 00:26:51,530
where my grandmother
and her daughters,

719
00:26:51,530 --> 00:26:55,970
whoever was yet still home,
worked and had some vegetables,

720
00:26:55,970 --> 00:26:56,570
you know.

721
00:26:56,570 --> 00:27:00,840
And further in the
back there was--

722
00:27:00,840 --> 00:27:03,000
in Hebrew you call
it a [NON-ENGLISH]..

723
00:27:03,000 --> 00:27:05,940
What do you call it in German?

724
00:27:05,940 --> 00:27:11,400
[NON-ENGLISH]

725
00:27:11,400 --> 00:27:13,020
A stable for something.

726
00:27:13,020 --> 00:27:17,550
Yes, for-- [LAUGHS]
I can't think of--

727
00:27:17,550 --> 00:27:20,100
I can't think of a simple word.

728
00:27:20,100 --> 00:27:22,680
That's OK.

729
00:27:22,680 --> 00:27:24,540
Well, you eat meat all the time.

730
00:27:24,540 --> 00:27:25,100

Chicken.

731

00:27:25,100 --> 00:27:25,600

Chickens.

732

00:27:25,600 --> 00:27:26,310

Oh, so it's a--

733

00:27:26,310 --> 00:27:27,145

A chicken coop.

734

00:27:27,145 --> 00:27:28,020

A large chicken coop.

735

00:27:28,020 --> 00:27:28,492

A chicken coop.

736

00:27:28,492 --> 00:27:28,964

Right.

737

00:27:28,964 --> 00:27:29,436

Yeah.

738

00:27:29,436 --> 00:27:29,936

OK.

739

00:27:29,936 --> 00:27:32,420

And so you had fresh
eggs and fresh chicken.

740

00:27:32,420 --> 00:27:33,000

Yes.

741

00:27:33,000 --> 00:27:35,610

Well, we didn't kill
the chickens too often.

742

00:27:35,610 --> 00:27:36,570

Yeah.

743

00:27:36,570 --> 00:27:38,100

That was my grandfather's.

744

00:27:38,100 --> 00:27:40,830

We didn't have that
in our apartment.

745

00:27:40,830 --> 00:27:43,772

746

00:27:43,772 --> 00:27:45,855

Were there enough eggs to
go around for everybody?

747

00:27:45,855 --> 00:27:46,940

I have no idea.

748

00:27:46,940 --> 00:27:47,724

[LAUGHTER]

749

00:27:47,724 --> 00:27:50,730

They didn't eat
eggs every day, no.

750

00:27:50,730 --> 00:27:53,790

And what was your unlikable
grandmother's first name?

751

00:27:53,790 --> 00:27:56,580

752

00:27:56,580 --> 00:27:58,990

She was seldom
called by her name.

753

00:27:58,990 --> 00:28:02,050

I think Klara that was
also her first name.

754

00:28:02,050 --> 00:28:04,600

But I never heard
anybody call her that.

755

00:28:04,600 --> 00:28:09,960
Well, they called her
Mutter or Mama or, you know.

756
00:28:09,960 --> 00:28:11,580
Did she ever smile?

757
00:28:11,580 --> 00:28:12,330
Yeah.

758
00:28:12,330 --> 00:28:13,140
She did smile.

759
00:28:13,140 --> 00:28:18,330
She was very skinny,
very, very skinny.

760
00:28:18,330 --> 00:28:24,210
I think she had an operation
on her ear once and she had,

761
00:28:24,210 --> 00:28:27,030
I remember, a big
hole behind her ear.

762
00:28:27,030 --> 00:28:27,690
Ooh.

763
00:28:27,690 --> 00:28:30,390
But she could hear well.

764
00:28:30,390 --> 00:28:35,220
So I have no idea
what that was exactly.

765
00:28:35,220 --> 00:28:39,220
Did you have any favorite aunts
or uncles of your mother's--

766
00:28:39,220 --> 00:28:39,720
Yes.

767

00:28:39,720 --> 00:28:45,610
My oldest-- my mother's older
sister, Else, was her name.

768
00:28:45,610 --> 00:28:47,520
I remember we all loved her.

769
00:28:47,520 --> 00:28:50,070
She was a wonderful person.

770
00:28:50,070 --> 00:28:51,480
And did they have children?

771
00:28:51,480 --> 00:28:52,210
No.

772
00:28:52,210 --> 00:28:52,710
No.

773
00:28:52,710 --> 00:28:53,430
No.

774
00:28:53,430 --> 00:28:54,310
They got married.

775
00:28:54,310 --> 00:28:57,090
She married someone, and
they never had children.

776
00:28:57,090 --> 00:28:59,460
I think it was not the
right husband for her,

777
00:28:59,460 --> 00:29:05,000
but at that time I
didn't know, you know?

778
00:29:05,000 --> 00:29:05,940
Yeah.

779
00:29:05,940 --> 00:29:09,595
Did any of your other aunts

or uncles have children?

780
00:29:09,595 --> 00:29:10,095
Yes.

781
00:29:10,095 --> 00:29:12,810

782
00:29:12,810 --> 00:29:18,670
Her oldest brother,
Uncle Karl, he had--

783
00:29:18,670 --> 00:29:23,740
at that time we were the
first grandchildren, my sister

784
00:29:23,740 --> 00:29:25,960
and I and my brother.

785
00:29:25,960 --> 00:29:27,670
There were no other
grandchildren.

786
00:29:27,670 --> 00:29:36,680
And then her brother
married and he had a son.

787
00:29:36,680 --> 00:29:42,080
And later on, the
youngest sister married

788
00:29:42,080 --> 00:29:44,360
and she had children.

789
00:29:44,360 --> 00:29:45,560
But not everybody.

790
00:29:45,560 --> 00:29:46,160
No.

791
00:29:46,160 --> 00:29:47,010
Not everyone did.

792
00:29:47,010 --> 00:29:47,510
No.

793
00:29:47,510 --> 00:29:49,610
OK.

794
00:29:49,610 --> 00:29:52,710
Did you travel much out of town?

795
00:29:52,710 --> 00:29:54,090
Not at that time, no.

796
00:29:54,090 --> 00:29:54,590
No.

797
00:29:54,590 --> 00:29:55,090
No.

798
00:29:55,090 --> 00:29:57,770
Did you ever go on car
rides with your father,

799
00:29:57,770 --> 00:29:58,790
since he had that car?

800
00:29:58,790 --> 00:30:04,340
We went with my father and my
mother to see his customers.

801
00:30:04,340 --> 00:30:06,410
Because you had to travel.

802
00:30:06,410 --> 00:30:10,850
You didn't get your
orders on the phone.

803
00:30:10,850 --> 00:30:13,460
You had to go see
your customers.

804

00:30:13,460 --> 00:30:15,680
And so he would
take you all along.

805
00:30:15,680 --> 00:30:18,080
Sometimes he would
take just one of us.

806
00:30:18,080 --> 00:30:22,160
Maybe I had the
chance to go with him.

807
00:30:22,160 --> 00:30:23,450
We all wanted to go.

808
00:30:23,450 --> 00:30:27,200
Because when they took us to the
stores we always got something.

809
00:30:27,200 --> 00:30:33,300
If it was a bakery or it was a--

810
00:30:33,300 --> 00:30:36,170
whatever shop, you know, they
always liked the children--

811
00:30:36,170 --> 00:30:36,710
Of course.

812
00:30:36,710 --> 00:30:40,060
--and gave us something.

813
00:30:40,060 --> 00:30:41,380
So we liked to go.

814
00:30:41,380 --> 00:30:45,820
But once we went to school we
couldn't go anymore, you know.

815
00:30:45,820 --> 00:30:47,620
So it was only when
you were little.

816

00:30:47,620 --> 00:30:49,030

When we were smaller.

817

00:30:49,030 --> 00:30:50,920

Yeah.

818

00:30:50,920 --> 00:30:55,480

I think I only went to
first grade in Wetter.

819

00:30:55,480 --> 00:30:56,720

Only to first grade.

820

00:30:56,720 --> 00:30:57,220

Yeah.

821

00:30:57,220 --> 00:31:03,530

Then we had to move because he
had to tear down the warehouse.

822

00:31:03,530 --> 00:31:07,710

Hitler was already
there, so he had

823

00:31:07,710 --> 00:31:09,840

to tear down the
warehouse, which he had

824

00:31:09,840 --> 00:31:13,380

built near the railroad tracks.

825

00:31:13,380 --> 00:31:16,270

How old were you
when that happened?

826

00:31:16,270 --> 00:31:18,900

How old was I?

827

00:31:18,900 --> 00:31:21,600

Maybe eight, maybe seven, eight.

828

00:31:21,600 --> 00:31:28,290
So that would have been in 1937,
because you're born in 1929

829
00:31:28,290 --> 00:31:32,700
and you're four years old
when Hitler comes to power.

830
00:31:32,700 --> 00:31:34,680
Do you remember
your parents talking

831
00:31:34,680 --> 00:31:36,060
about something like that?

832
00:31:36,060 --> 00:31:36,750
No.

833
00:31:36,750 --> 00:31:37,370
No.

834
00:31:37,370 --> 00:31:38,070
No.

835
00:31:38,070 --> 00:31:38,570
OK.

836
00:31:38,570 --> 00:31:41,130

837
00:31:41,130 --> 00:31:43,350
Do you remember--
I mean, you then

838
00:31:43,350 --> 00:31:47,560
must have started school
after he came to power.

839
00:31:47,560 --> 00:31:48,060
Yeah.

840
00:31:48,060 --> 00:31:52,150

841
00:31:52,150 --> 00:31:56,870
My mother kept me home
for the first year.

842
00:31:56,870 --> 00:31:58,280
I should have gone to school.

843
00:31:58,280 --> 00:32:02,000
Because all of the
sudden I got very skinny.

844
00:32:02,000 --> 00:32:06,380
I lost all my baby
fat, that you call.

845
00:32:06,380 --> 00:32:10,100
I was very chubby, you know.

846
00:32:10,100 --> 00:32:15,290
And I had nightmares
all of a sudden,

847
00:32:15,290 --> 00:32:18,200
all kinds of nightmares.

848
00:32:18,200 --> 00:32:20,840
And so she held me back a year.

849
00:32:20,840 --> 00:32:24,050
So I went the next
year to school,

850
00:32:24,050 --> 00:32:27,740
and my brother then
went to the same.

851
00:32:27,740 --> 00:32:31,280
And we both had
the same teacher.

852

00:32:31,280 --> 00:32:33,500

And, also, my mother
thought we would

853

00:32:33,500 --> 00:32:38,180

have another teacher that
my oldest sister had,

854

00:32:38,180 --> 00:32:39,350

who was a woman.

855

00:32:39,350 --> 00:32:41,960

And she was fantastic.

856

00:32:41,960 --> 00:32:45,290

But, unfortunately,
we did not have her.

857

00:32:45,290 --> 00:32:49,115

We got that-- he was
director of the school,

858

00:32:49,115 --> 00:32:50,390

you know, in charge.

859

00:32:50,390 --> 00:32:53,570

And he was the biggest
anti-Semite, and the miserable

860

00:32:53,570 --> 00:32:56,150

person all together.

861

00:32:56,150 --> 00:32:59,510

But that was unlucky for us.

862

00:32:59,510 --> 00:33:00,590

I didn't care.

863

00:33:00,590 --> 00:33:01,760

I wanted to learn.

864

00:33:01,760 --> 00:33:03,620

I always wanted to learn.

865
00:33:03,620 --> 00:33:08,210
My brother-- he
didn't want to learn.

866
00:33:08,210 --> 00:33:10,790
And many times he had
to go to the front.

867
00:33:10,790 --> 00:33:12,560
At that time they
had these little

868
00:33:12,560 --> 00:33:18,380
sticks that they, you know,
could use or send kids

869
00:33:18,380 --> 00:33:19,217
to the corner.

870
00:33:19,217 --> 00:33:20,550
They had to stand in the corner.

871
00:33:20,550 --> 00:33:27,130

872
00:33:27,130 --> 00:33:30,370
We had these desks, you
know, like in every school.

873
00:33:30,370 --> 00:33:31,870
And I was a lefty.

874
00:33:31,870 --> 00:33:33,970
I wrote with my left hand.

875
00:33:33,970 --> 00:33:37,690
And every time the
teacher went by he

876
00:33:37,690 --> 00:33:39,490

gave me a slap on my back.

877

00:33:39,490 --> 00:33:47,810

878

00:33:47,810 --> 00:33:52,730

I never was hit
at home, you know.

879

00:33:52,730 --> 00:33:57,140

And it was a shock, you know?

880

00:33:57,140 --> 00:34:02,540

Did he mistreat all the children
or was he somebody who was--

881

00:34:02,540 --> 00:34:03,760

who was particularly--

882

00:34:03,760 --> 00:34:06,140

That was the one
class where I was in.

883

00:34:06,140 --> 00:34:08,830

They were all the same--

884

00:34:08,830 --> 00:34:11,239

kind of the same age.

885

00:34:11,239 --> 00:34:14,600

But did he treat all
the children this way

886

00:34:14,600 --> 00:34:16,769

or particularly you
and your brother?

887

00:34:16,769 --> 00:34:20,179

I think my brother more than
any other children, yeah.

888

00:34:20,179 --> 00:34:22,730

Really?

889

00:34:22,730 --> 00:34:25,889

I don't know if there was
anybody else who wrote left.

890

00:34:25,889 --> 00:34:32,120

But I know when he walked by I
every time got one on my back.

891

00:34:32,120 --> 00:34:34,489

Yeah.

892

00:34:34,489 --> 00:34:35,340

And I didn't care.

893

00:34:35,340 --> 00:34:37,029

I just wanted to
learn, you know.

894

00:34:37,029 --> 00:34:39,540

895

00:34:39,540 --> 00:34:40,040

Yeah.

896

00:34:40,040 --> 00:34:43,880

I still was one of the
best pupils in his class.

897

00:34:43,880 --> 00:34:48,780

There was another boy and I, and
he hated it that I was so good,

898

00:34:48,780 --> 00:34:49,280

you know.

899

00:34:49,280 --> 00:34:51,260

[LAUGHS]

900

00:34:51,260 --> 00:34:52,940

I remember at one time--

901
00:34:52,940 --> 00:34:55,159
now, we were just
in first grade.

902
00:34:55,159 --> 00:35:03,410
And he called me up
and gave me a math--

903
00:35:03,410 --> 00:35:05,420
nothing big, just numbers.

904
00:35:05,420 --> 00:35:10,220
Add up, add up, add up seven
and to eight and to whatever--

905
00:35:10,220 --> 00:35:11,210
and more and more.

906
00:35:11,210 --> 00:35:16,550
And you wanted me to
say something wrong.

907
00:35:16,550 --> 00:35:22,010
But it didn't happen,
so he gave up.

908
00:35:22,010 --> 00:35:23,190
That's the teacher.

909
00:35:23,190 --> 00:35:25,400
The teacher, yes.

910
00:35:25,400 --> 00:35:29,660
He was also not only the
teacher of the school.

911
00:35:29,660 --> 00:35:32,960
He was the head of the school,
the director, you call him.

912
00:35:32,960 --> 00:35:33,880

The headmaster.

913
00:35:33,880 --> 00:35:35,390
The headmaster, right.

914
00:35:35,390 --> 00:35:37,940
Do you remember his name?

915
00:35:37,940 --> 00:35:39,740
[? Doimer, ?] I think.

916
00:35:39,740 --> 00:35:40,470
[? Doimer? ?]

917
00:35:40,470 --> 00:35:42,020
[? Doimer ?] was
his last name, yeah.

918
00:35:42,020 --> 00:35:45,770
And I still hate myself because
he still was alive after we

919
00:35:45,770 --> 00:35:51,050
came back after the
war, that we couldn't--

920
00:35:51,050 --> 00:35:54,920
we didn't do anything to
really make him suffer for--

921
00:35:54,920 --> 00:35:58,440
because he made us suffer.

922
00:35:58,440 --> 00:36:00,720
I don't know why,
what happened that we

923
00:36:00,720 --> 00:36:07,050
didn't try to do something
to make him suffer.

924
00:36:07,050 --> 00:36:09,870

925
00:36:09,870 --> 00:36:10,380
Yeah.

926
00:36:10,380 --> 00:36:12,598
Would you wipe a little
bit on your eyes?

927
00:36:12,598 --> 00:36:13,140
That's right.

928
00:36:13,140 --> 00:36:14,640
Yeah.

929
00:36:14,640 --> 00:36:15,390
Other one, too?

930
00:36:15,390 --> 00:36:15,890
Yeah.

931
00:36:15,890 --> 00:36:19,210
And then let's try to
keep the hands free.

932
00:36:19,210 --> 00:36:19,710
OK?

933
00:36:19,710 --> 00:36:22,920
[LAUGHS]

934
00:36:22,920 --> 00:36:23,880

935
00:36:23,880 --> 00:36:25,560
What else did I want to ask?

936
00:36:25,560 --> 00:36:29,040
We were talking about the
school and the teacher.

937

00:36:29,040 --> 00:36:30,450
And what about the children?

938
00:36:30,450 --> 00:36:31,560
How did they behave?

939
00:36:31,560 --> 00:36:33,160
They were all fine.

940
00:36:33,160 --> 00:36:34,000
They were normal.

941
00:36:34,000 --> 00:36:35,790
They were all normal, yeah.

942
00:36:35,790 --> 00:36:37,530
OK.

943
00:36:37,530 --> 00:36:40,350
We were never ever
called you dirty Jew--

944
00:36:40,350 --> 00:36:43,710
never, ever, ever.

945
00:36:43,710 --> 00:36:47,880
Do you think that even after
Hitler came to power most

946
00:36:47,880 --> 00:36:51,070
of the people in
the town continued

947
00:36:51,070 --> 00:36:54,960
to work with your father
and like him and so on?

948
00:36:54,960 --> 00:36:55,650
Yeah.

949
00:36:55,650 --> 00:36:56,190
Yeah?

950
00:36:56,190 --> 00:36:59,430
The Germans were not
really anti-Semites.

951
00:36:59,430 --> 00:37:04,410
It's the Polish people who
were anti-Semites, all of them

952
00:37:04,410 --> 00:37:06,750
with exceptions.

953
00:37:06,750 --> 00:37:12,040
But Germans were not
normally anti-Semites.

954
00:37:12,040 --> 00:37:15,730
Hitler had just his own gang--
his whole gang, you know.

955
00:37:15,730 --> 00:37:19,570
Whoever was bad and liked
to be above other people,

956
00:37:19,570 --> 00:37:21,070
they worked for him.

957
00:37:21,070 --> 00:37:22,450
Ah.

958
00:37:22,450 --> 00:37:25,910
Where they're such
people in Wetter?

959
00:37:25,910 --> 00:37:27,960
I don't remember, no.

960
00:37:27,960 --> 00:37:28,580
OK.

961
00:37:28,580 --> 00:37:31,040
No, not when we lived there.

962
00:37:31,040 --> 00:37:34,880
When your parents lived
above that bakery,

963
00:37:34,880 --> 00:37:39,890
did they own the place
or did they pay rent?

964
00:37:39,890 --> 00:37:40,730
They paid rent.

965
00:37:40,730 --> 00:37:43,200
Nobody owned their apartment.

966
00:37:43,200 --> 00:37:47,060
Everybody who had an apartment
had to rent from the owner.

967
00:37:47,060 --> 00:37:48,800
OK, so they weren't owners.

968
00:37:48,800 --> 00:37:49,820
No.

969
00:37:49,820 --> 00:37:53,760
And your grandfather who
had his bakery, did he own?

970
00:37:53,760 --> 00:37:56,090
Yes, he owned his
house and the bakery.

971
00:37:56,090 --> 00:37:57,890
Yeah.

972
00:37:57,890 --> 00:38:01,040
Tell me a little bit about
your parents' personalities--

973
00:38:01,040 --> 00:38:03,530
your mother's personality and

your father's personality.

974

00:38:03,530 --> 00:38:08,010

They were both fantastic people and fantastic parents.

975

00:38:08,010 --> 00:38:09,980

Well, was your mother, for example,

976

00:38:09,980 --> 00:38:11,960

outgoing or was she shy and reserved?

977

00:38:11,960 --> 00:38:13,442

No, she was outgoing.

978

00:38:13,442 --> 00:38:14,150

She was outgoing.

979

00:38:14,150 --> 00:38:19,530

She grew up in that town, you know, so everybody knew her.

980

00:38:19,530 --> 00:38:24,560

I mean, not everybody but a lot of people knew each other.

981

00:38:24,560 --> 00:38:27,350

And your father, was he a reserved person

982

00:38:27,350 --> 00:38:28,790

or was he also outgoing?

983

00:38:28,790 --> 00:38:29,450

Outgoing.

984

00:38:29,450 --> 00:38:31,250

Everybody loved him.

985

00:38:31,250 --> 00:38:33,260

All his customers were Germans.

986

00:38:33,260 --> 00:38:36,548

There weren't any other
Jews around, you know.

987

00:38:36,548 --> 00:38:42,440

All his customers-- many
towns around Wetter,

988

00:38:42,440 --> 00:38:47,780

they had to go visit the
stores in order to get orders.

989

00:38:47,780 --> 00:38:50,610

990

00:38:50,610 --> 00:38:55,050

They all bought from him
except maybe the last year when

991

00:38:55,050 --> 00:38:58,350

they said, I think,
Mr. Teichmann,

992

00:38:58,350 --> 00:39:00,180

it's better if
you don't come in.

993

00:39:00,180 --> 00:39:03,870

Because they know-- our
neighbors know you're Jewish.

994

00:39:03,870 --> 00:39:06,810

So that happened at
the end, before we

995

00:39:06,810 --> 00:39:09,930

were sent out from Germany.

996

00:39:09,930 --> 00:39:15,180

Well, tell me about the
part where you were--

997

00:39:15,180 --> 00:39:18,450

you were starting to
explain that your father had

998

00:39:18,450 --> 00:39:24,450

to take down his own
warehouse and you had to move.

999

00:39:24,450 --> 00:39:25,740

Let's go back to that.

1000

00:39:25,740 --> 00:39:29,910

You were eight years old,
you said, at that time?

1001

00:39:29,910 --> 00:39:32,490

I don't really know
exactly what age I was.

1002

00:39:32,490 --> 00:39:33,390

That's OK.

1003

00:39:33,390 --> 00:39:36,330

OK, but at any rate it
wasn't at the very beginning.

1004

00:39:36,330 --> 00:39:37,000

It was later on.

1005

00:39:37,000 --> 00:39:39,060

No, no, it wasn't
the very beginning.

1006

00:39:39,060 --> 00:39:42,600

I remember how many times we
went to visit the warehouse.

1007

00:39:42,600 --> 00:39:46,320

Because there was an office
in front, and in the back

1008

00:39:46,320 --> 00:39:49,110
was the warehouse.

1009
00:39:49,110 --> 00:39:53,760
And the people who worked for
him, they were very friendly.

1010
00:39:53,760 --> 00:39:55,975
There were a few people
who worked in the office.

1011
00:39:55,975 --> 00:40:02,630

1012
00:40:02,630 --> 00:40:06,320
You said you had to leave
your apartment at one point.

1013
00:40:06,320 --> 00:40:09,890
When did you have to move out
from on top of the bakery, when

1014
00:40:09,890 --> 00:40:12,510
you lived on top of the bakery?

1015
00:40:12,510 --> 00:40:16,920
When he had to tear
his warehouse down.

1016
00:40:16,920 --> 00:40:19,800
And he had to find
another place where

1017
00:40:19,800 --> 00:40:21,795
he could to keep all his--

1018
00:40:21,795 --> 00:40:24,145

1019
00:40:24,145 --> 00:40:24,770
Supplies, yeah.

1020

00:40:24,770 --> 00:40:28,700
--all the paper, all his stuff
that was in the warehouse.

1021
00:40:28,700 --> 00:40:30,620
And was that for
political reasons

1022
00:40:30,620 --> 00:40:31,790
that he had to tear it down?

1023
00:40:31,790 --> 00:40:34,880
Yeah, yeah, yeah.

1024
00:40:34,880 --> 00:40:35,380
Yeah.

1025
00:40:35,380 --> 00:40:40,390
From then on, it was whatever
happened was political reasons.

1026
00:40:40,390 --> 00:40:45,910
Your older sister, Else, did
she have experiences in school

1027
00:40:45,910 --> 00:40:49,480
that were also--

1028
00:40:49,480 --> 00:40:50,590
she was older, you see.

1029
00:40:50,590 --> 00:40:53,110
She's the only one
who had experiences

1030
00:40:53,110 --> 00:40:54,460
because she was Jewish.

1031
00:40:54,460 --> 00:40:55,930
Yeah.

1032
00:40:55,930 --> 00:40:56,950

What were some of those?

1033
00:40:56,950 --> 00:41:00,170

1034
00:41:00,170 --> 00:41:04,460
In Germany you always had to--

1035
00:41:04,460 --> 00:41:07,940
what do you say, [NON-ENGLISH]--

1036
00:41:07,940 --> 00:41:11,260
gymnastics and things like that.

1037
00:41:11,260 --> 00:41:14,480
And they didn't let
her do it anymore.

1038
00:41:14,480 --> 00:41:20,700
And she loved to do that, and
she couldn't do that anymore.

1039
00:41:20,700 --> 00:41:24,500
That was the year
before we were sent out.

1040
00:41:24,500 --> 00:41:27,340

1041
00:41:27,340 --> 00:41:30,070
At home, when you
listened to the radio--

1042
00:41:30,070 --> 00:41:33,070
I never listened to the
radio, so I couldn't tell you

1043
00:41:33,070 --> 00:41:33,970
much about it.

1044
00:41:33,970 --> 00:41:38,050
I heard singing sometimes or

music sometimes and that's it.

1045
00:41:38,050 --> 00:41:38,830
OK.

1046
00:41:38,830 --> 00:41:39,760
OK.

1047
00:41:39,760 --> 00:41:41,530
But, you know, the
interesting thing

1048
00:41:41,530 --> 00:41:47,590
is that you're young enough that
you're only four years old when

1049
00:41:47,590 --> 00:41:49,270
Hitler comes to power.

1050
00:41:49,270 --> 00:41:54,040
So all of those formative
years is during the time

1051
00:41:54,040 --> 00:41:55,930
when he's already in control.

1052
00:41:55,930 --> 00:41:57,250
Yeah, but I didn't know.

1053
00:41:57,250 --> 00:41:58,660
We didn't hear about it.

1054
00:41:58,660 --> 00:41:59,530
OK.

1055
00:41:59,530 --> 00:42:02,660
Did you see Nazis in the street
in Wetter, people in uniforms?

1056
00:42:02,660 --> 00:42:03,160
No.

1057
00:42:03,160 --> 00:42:03,660
No.

1058
00:42:03,660 --> 00:42:05,650
Did you see the
swastika many places?

1059
00:42:05,650 --> 00:42:06,340
No.

1060
00:42:06,340 --> 00:42:06,890
Really?

1061
00:42:06,890 --> 00:42:07,390
No.

1062
00:42:07,390 --> 00:42:08,140
Really?

1063
00:42:08,140 --> 00:42:09,095
It wasn't in Wetter?

1064
00:42:09,095 --> 00:42:09,970
Not at that time, no.

1065
00:42:09,970 --> 00:42:11,320
OK.

1066
00:42:11,320 --> 00:42:12,965
When did life start to change?

1067
00:42:12,965 --> 00:42:15,890

1068
00:42:15,890 --> 00:42:19,170
I think it was after we
left Germany already,

1069
00:42:19,170 --> 00:42:20,930
we were sent out.

1070
00:42:20,930 --> 00:42:22,580
Well, tell me about
that event then.

1071
00:42:22,580 --> 00:42:24,140
What happened?

1072
00:42:24,140 --> 00:42:26,630
What happened when
you had to leave?

1073
00:42:26,630 --> 00:42:28,190
Let's see.

1074
00:42:28,190 --> 00:42:31,250
First of all, we had to
move to a different town

1075
00:42:31,250 --> 00:42:34,760
because he had to tear
the warehouse down.

1076
00:42:34,760 --> 00:42:38,690
So he had to find a
place where we could live

1077
00:42:38,690 --> 00:42:43,040
and where there also was
a warehouse close by.

1078
00:42:43,040 --> 00:42:48,760
So that was a town about
maybe 20 minutes away.

1079
00:42:48,760 --> 00:42:51,110
And the warehouse
was in the back yard,

1080
00:42:51,110 --> 00:42:54,300
the large, large warehouse.

1081
00:42:54,300 --> 00:42:59,150

And that's the place from
where we were sent away.

1082
00:42:59,150 --> 00:43:02,550
How long did you live there?

1083
00:43:02,550 --> 00:43:04,830
Maybe 1 and 1/2 year.

1084
00:43:04,830 --> 00:43:06,630
Do you remember the street name?

1085
00:43:06,630 --> 00:43:07,800
No.

1086
00:43:07,800 --> 00:43:09,660
I don't remember
the street name.

1087
00:43:09,660 --> 00:43:12,560
And what was the
name of the town?

1088
00:43:12,560 --> 00:43:13,910
Annen.

1089
00:43:13,910 --> 00:43:15,170
Witten-Annen.

1090
00:43:15,170 --> 00:43:15,670
Annen.

1091
00:43:15,670 --> 00:43:17,260
It was a small town.

1092
00:43:17,260 --> 00:43:18,860
OK, Witten-Annen.

1093
00:43:18,860 --> 00:43:19,360
Yeah.

1094

00:43:19,360 --> 00:43:23,150
And was he able to
continue his business?

1095
00:43:23,150 --> 00:43:23,650
Yeah.

1096
00:43:23,650 --> 00:43:25,300
He still had the business.

1097
00:43:25,300 --> 00:43:25,900
Yeah.

1098
00:43:25,900 --> 00:43:27,430
OK.

1099
00:43:27,430 --> 00:43:31,360
As I said, some people he
couldn't go and my mother

1100
00:43:31,360 --> 00:43:32,410
went to see them.

1101
00:43:32,410 --> 00:43:36,010
Because he had to see the
customers to get orders.

1102
00:43:36,010 --> 00:43:40,180
It wasn't done by phone that
somebody ordered something.

1103
00:43:40,180 --> 00:43:44,500
You had to go see the customers.

1104
00:43:44,500 --> 00:43:46,780
Was that a solution for them--

1105
00:43:46,780 --> 00:43:49,900
for your parents for a while,
that your father would not

1106
00:43:49,900 --> 00:43:51,640

go but your mother would go?

1107
00:43:51,640 --> 00:43:52,740
Yeah.

1108
00:43:52,740 --> 00:43:55,960
And we had to hire
a chauffeur who

1109
00:43:55,960 --> 00:43:59,950
drove the car, because
my mother did not drive.

1110
00:43:59,950 --> 00:44:00,550
OK.

1111
00:44:00,550 --> 00:44:03,190
And, also, my father was sick.

1112
00:44:03,190 --> 00:44:04,840
I forgot to tell that.

1113
00:44:04,840 --> 00:44:07,870
He had appendix.

1114
00:44:07,870 --> 00:44:08,830
Appendicitis?

1115
00:44:08,830 --> 00:44:10,300
Appendicitis.

1116
00:44:10,300 --> 00:44:12,590
And it was operated.

1117
00:44:12,590 --> 00:44:15,730
And, as I mentioned, I think,
the doctor-- he was not-- he

1118
00:44:15,730 --> 00:44:20,050
was called a doctor,
but he was not a doctor.

1119

00:44:20,050 --> 00:44:26,320

So he was in the
hospital a lot of times

1120

00:44:26,320 --> 00:44:28,540

and it never really healed.

1121

00:44:28,540 --> 00:44:32,260

Even during the war he
always had the small hole

1122

00:44:32,260 --> 00:44:34,060

in this belly.

1123

00:44:34,060 --> 00:44:36,130

Yeah.

1124

00:44:36,130 --> 00:44:37,090

Had it burst?

1125

00:44:37,090 --> 00:44:40,630

Had the appendix burst
before he had the operation?

1126

00:44:40,630 --> 00:44:42,020

Yeah.

1127

00:44:42,020 --> 00:44:45,010

He had the problems and
then he had the operation.

1128

00:44:45,010 --> 00:44:47,420

And the doctor was
not-- he was a shyster.

1129

00:44:47,420 --> 00:44:50,770

I don't know if you know
what that means, a shyster.

1130

00:44:50,770 --> 00:44:51,630

A shyster.

1131
00:44:51,630 --> 00:44:52,130
Yeah.

1132
00:44:52,130 --> 00:44:53,840
[LAUGHTER]

1133
00:44:53,840 --> 00:44:56,050
Right.

1134
00:44:56,050 --> 00:44:57,430
OK.

1135
00:44:57,430 --> 00:45:01,450
And did you have
any warning at all

1136
00:45:01,450 --> 00:45:05,200
that there would be a change
that you would have to leave?

1137
00:45:05,200 --> 00:45:06,510
No.

1138
00:45:06,510 --> 00:45:08,410
I wouldn't have known, no.

1139
00:45:08,410 --> 00:45:09,310
OK.

1140
00:45:09,310 --> 00:45:14,410
So describe to me what happened
when you were in this new home.

1141
00:45:14,410 --> 00:45:17,800
You're there for a year and a
half, and then what happens?

1142
00:45:17,800 --> 00:45:20,710

1143
00:45:20,710 --> 00:45:24,460

How did it happen that
we had-- that we left?

1144
00:45:24,460 --> 00:45:28,090
Sometimes I try to think
what exactly happened.

1145
00:45:28,090 --> 00:45:32,860
They came-- the police came.

1146
00:45:32,860 --> 00:45:38,240
And they said to my father--

1147
00:45:38,240 --> 00:45:41,300
it was kind of in the
evening after he came back

1148
00:45:41,300 --> 00:45:44,600
from his customers, and we
were at the dinner table.

1149
00:45:44,600 --> 00:45:50,060
And policeman came in
and apologized for it

1150
00:45:50,060 --> 00:45:53,960
and he said, "Mr.
Teichmann, you have

1151
00:45:53,960 --> 00:45:59,450
to be over the German
border by 12 o'clock."

1152
00:45:59,450 --> 00:46:02,350
And we were all in shock.

1153
00:46:02,350 --> 00:46:07,210
And then they came back again,
after maybe 15 or 20 minutes,

1154
00:46:07,210 --> 00:46:09,970
and they said, "I'm
sorry, Mr. Teichmann,

1155
00:46:09,970 --> 00:46:13,550
but we have to
take you with us."

1156
00:46:13,550 --> 00:46:14,660
So they took him.

1157
00:46:14,660 --> 00:46:17,210

1158
00:46:17,210 --> 00:46:21,650
And all the Jewish
people that came from--

1159
00:46:21,650 --> 00:46:24,770
were not German Jews,
like Polish Jews,

1160
00:46:24,770 --> 00:46:32,030
were taken at that night and put
into a large prison, a bigger

1161
00:46:32,030 --> 00:46:34,290
town away from us.

1162
00:46:34,290 --> 00:46:37,200
And they took him, too.

1163
00:46:37,200 --> 00:46:39,137
And he didn't have
German citizenship.

1164
00:46:39,137 --> 00:46:40,220
He had Polish citizenship.

1165
00:46:40,220 --> 00:46:41,120
No, he had German.

1166
00:46:41,120 --> 00:46:42,370
It didn't matter.

1167
00:46:42,370 --> 00:46:44,520
He was still a Polish Jew.

1168
00:46:44,520 --> 00:46:47,380
And he was a Jew, on
top of it, you know?

1169
00:46:47,380 --> 00:46:47,910
OK.

1170
00:46:47,910 --> 00:46:48,690
It didn't matter.

1171
00:46:48,690 --> 00:46:52,050
Yes, he was a-- had
a German citizenship

1172
00:46:52,050 --> 00:46:56,460
because he had lived in
Germany since he was 17 years.

1173
00:46:56,460 --> 00:46:57,420
Yeah.

1174
00:46:57,420 --> 00:46:58,290
Yeah.

1175
00:46:58,290 --> 00:47:01,440
Anyhow, so they took him.

1176
00:47:01,440 --> 00:47:04,035
And they told my
mother that she can--

1177
00:47:04,035 --> 00:47:09,030
we can come and see him the next
day at this and this prison.

1178
00:47:09,030 --> 00:47:12,620

1179

00:47:12,620 --> 00:47:16,750
So that's how it all started.

1180
00:47:16,750 --> 00:47:21,640
And we went to see
him the next day.

1181
00:47:21,640 --> 00:47:24,940
And somehow things kind of--

1182
00:47:24,940 --> 00:47:27,790
I don't really remember
how did it really

1183
00:47:27,790 --> 00:47:31,305
happen that we got on the
train and were sent to Poland,

1184
00:47:31,305 --> 00:47:32,080
you know.

1185
00:47:32,080 --> 00:47:34,030
Do you remember packing?

1186
00:47:34,030 --> 00:47:35,050
No, no.

1187
00:47:35,050 --> 00:47:36,040
I don't remember.

1188
00:47:36,040 --> 00:47:40,150
I remember my mother
was packing and hiding

1189
00:47:40,150 --> 00:47:45,160
money in all kinds
of places, you know.

1190
00:47:45,160 --> 00:47:49,360
Was there ever any question
or was there the possibility

1191

00:47:49,360 --> 00:47:53,860
that she didn't have to
go because she was German?

1192
00:47:53,860 --> 00:47:54,400
Yes.

1193
00:47:54,400 --> 00:47:56,320
They said we did not have to go.

1194
00:47:56,320 --> 00:47:59,696
She didn't have to go
and we didn't have to go.

1195
00:47:59,696 --> 00:48:00,400
Uh-huh.

1196
00:48:00,400 --> 00:48:04,810
But we wanted to stay
together as a family.

1197
00:48:04,810 --> 00:48:07,300
We were a very close family.

1198
00:48:07,300 --> 00:48:10,030
What about your mother's
brothers and sisters?

1199
00:48:10,030 --> 00:48:13,750
When things started to get
difficult for the Jews,

1200
00:48:13,750 --> 00:48:16,650
were they still the
same in the way they--

1201
00:48:16,650 --> 00:48:18,370
They were still the same.

1202
00:48:18,370 --> 00:48:21,160
There was one brother,
the youngest one,

1203

00:48:21,160 --> 00:48:23,080

who was a little bit
influenced, you know.

1204

00:48:23,080 --> 00:48:26,880

1205

00:48:26,880 --> 00:48:32,660

And maybe my
grandmother, too, but not

1206

00:48:32,660 --> 00:48:36,830

that she really
let it out on us,

1207

00:48:36,830 --> 00:48:43,040

but she definitely believed
in Hitler, you know.

1208

00:48:43,040 --> 00:48:45,580

Not my grandfather, but she did.

1209

00:48:45,580 --> 00:48:46,450

I see.

1210

00:48:46,450 --> 00:48:48,100

I see.

1211

00:48:48,100 --> 00:48:51,130

And were there any friends
from your older village,

1212

00:48:51,130 --> 00:48:54,940

the first one, who let's
say became adherents,

1213

00:48:54,940 --> 00:48:57,805

who joined the party or
believed in the party?

1214

00:48:57,805 --> 00:49:00,350

1215
00:49:00,350 --> 00:49:01,130
Yeah, they were.

1216
00:49:01,130 --> 00:49:06,890
Where we first-- the
house that had the bakery,

1217
00:49:06,890 --> 00:49:10,270
they were very-- the women
that owned it, that run it,

1218
00:49:10,270 --> 00:49:12,040
were very friendly.

1219
00:49:12,040 --> 00:49:15,730
We called them [NON-ENGLISH].

1220
00:49:15,730 --> 00:49:18,890
But their brother was different.

1221
00:49:18,890 --> 00:49:22,210
He became a Nazi, but
he did not live there.

1222
00:49:22,210 --> 00:49:25,540
He had moved away and
had gotten married.

1223
00:49:25,540 --> 00:49:28,870
But when he came to visit
he wore a [NON-ENGLISH]..

1224
00:49:28,870 --> 00:49:29,870
You know, they had the--

1225
00:49:29,870 --> 00:49:30,745
He wore the swastika.

1226
00:49:30,745 --> 00:49:32,160
The swastika, right.

1227
00:49:32,160 --> 00:49:35,290

1228
00:49:35,290 --> 00:49:38,560
But we didn't really
have much to do with him

1229
00:49:38,560 --> 00:49:40,910
because he was not there.

1230
00:49:40,910 --> 00:49:43,150
He didn't live there.

1231
00:49:43,150 --> 00:49:46,630
And I take it that
you and your brother

1232
00:49:46,630 --> 00:49:50,380
and your sister and your
mother had German citizenship.

1233
00:49:50,380 --> 00:49:51,345
We were all German.

1234
00:49:51,345 --> 00:49:51,650
German.

1235
00:49:51,650 --> 00:49:52,030
Yeah.

1236
00:49:52,030 --> 00:49:52,530
Right.

1237
00:49:52,530 --> 00:49:55,070
My father had German
citizenship, too.

1238
00:49:55,070 --> 00:49:55,570
OK.

1239
00:49:55,570 --> 00:50:00,390

So there was really no legal basis for any of it.

1240
00:50:00,390 --> 00:50:03,240
For my father, he was still born in Poland.

1241
00:50:03,240 --> 00:50:03,810
Yes.

1242
00:50:03,810 --> 00:50:08,130
But if we wanted to stay as a family we could have stayed.

1243
00:50:08,130 --> 00:50:09,900
We had to go with him.

1244
00:50:09,900 --> 00:50:12,780
Did your mother-- did anyone suggest to your mother

1245
00:50:12,780 --> 00:50:14,730
that she divorce your father?

1246
00:50:14,730 --> 00:50:16,330
Not at that time, no.

1247
00:50:16,330 --> 00:50:16,850
OK.

1248
00:50:16,850 --> 00:50:17,350
No.

1249
00:50:17,350 --> 00:50:20,070
OK.

1250
00:50:20,070 --> 00:50:21,930
Do you remember the journey?

1251
00:50:21,930 --> 00:50:22,950
No.

1252

00:50:22,950 --> 00:50:25,710

I don't remember
anything of that.

1253

00:50:25,710 --> 00:50:26,730

Nothing.

1254

00:50:26,730 --> 00:50:29,130

How old were you when you left?

1255

00:50:29,130 --> 00:50:30,230

Good question.

1256

00:50:30,230 --> 00:50:30,810

Don't know.

1257

00:50:30,810 --> 00:50:33,150

[LAUGHS] I have to figure.

1258

00:50:33,150 --> 00:50:35,610

Was it before Kristallnacht?

1259

00:50:35,610 --> 00:50:36,330

Yeah.

1260

00:50:36,330 --> 00:50:39,660

We were not there
during Kristallnacht.

1261

00:50:39,660 --> 00:50:43,920

Maybe it was the year
of the Kristallnacht,

1262

00:50:43,920 --> 00:50:46,020

but we were sent away before.

1263

00:50:46,020 --> 00:50:49,560

We were not there during
the Kristallnacht.

1264

00:50:49,560 --> 00:50:54,330

I believe that was in '38, in
November '38, I believe it was.

1265
00:50:54,330 --> 00:50:55,680
But it I might be wrong.

1266
00:50:55,680 --> 00:50:57,870
It might have been '39.

1267
00:50:57,870 --> 00:50:59,290
I think it was '38.

1268
00:50:59,290 --> 00:50:59,790
Yeah.

1269
00:50:59,790 --> 00:51:02,970
I think Kristallnacht was
'38 because the war starts

1270
00:51:02,970 --> 00:51:03,910
in September '39.

1271
00:51:03,910 --> 00:51:04,410
Yeah.

1272
00:51:04,410 --> 00:51:05,010
Yeah.

1273
00:51:05,010 --> 00:51:08,710
So we left before
the Kristallnacht.

1274
00:51:08,710 --> 00:51:09,570
OK.

1275
00:51:09,570 --> 00:51:14,280
Do you remember the time
of year when you left?

1276
00:51:14,280 --> 00:51:18,060
Well, it must've been still
late summer or something.

1277
00:51:18,060 --> 00:51:18,850
OK.

1278
00:51:18,850 --> 00:51:19,350
OK.

1279
00:51:19,350 --> 00:51:20,670
So it wasn't during school.

1280
00:51:20,670 --> 00:51:23,690

1281
00:51:23,690 --> 00:51:24,690
I don't know.

1282
00:51:24,690 --> 00:51:25,420
OK.

1283
00:51:25,420 --> 00:51:26,930
OK.

1284
00:51:26,930 --> 00:51:30,620
The vacation were a
different time in Germany

1285
00:51:30,620 --> 00:51:32,180
than they are here, you know.

1286
00:51:32,180 --> 00:51:34,790

1287
00:51:34,790 --> 00:51:37,655
So your father-- how long
was he in this prison for?

1288
00:51:37,655 --> 00:51:40,400

1289
00:51:40,400 --> 00:51:43,010
I don't remember.

1290
00:51:43,010 --> 00:51:46,460
Not too long because we
were sent away from there.

1291
00:51:46,460 --> 00:51:48,300
And you all were
together when you left.

1292
00:51:48,300 --> 00:51:48,800
Yeah.

1293
00:51:48,800 --> 00:51:53,480
So it was-- that first rule that
he had to be across the border

1294
00:51:53,480 --> 00:51:55,400
by midnight was--

1295
00:51:55,400 --> 00:51:56,613
That was different.

1296
00:51:56,613 --> 00:51:57,155
That changed.

1297
00:51:57,155 --> 00:51:58,460
Then he took him.

1298
00:51:58,460 --> 00:51:59,240
They took him.

1299
00:51:59,240 --> 00:52:03,800
And forget about
our car, you know.

1300
00:52:03,800 --> 00:52:05,450
Your car was gone.

1301
00:52:05,450 --> 00:52:06,230
You didn't go--

1302

00:52:06,230 --> 00:52:11,660
The car was there where we used
to live at that time, you know.

1303
00:52:11,660 --> 00:52:14,450
We couldn't use the car anymore.

1304
00:52:14,450 --> 00:52:16,190
So you went by train.

1305
00:52:16,190 --> 00:52:17,300
Oh, yeah.

1306
00:52:17,300 --> 00:52:22,760
We were all supposed to meet him
where they had him in prison.

1307
00:52:22,760 --> 00:52:25,160
And from there we took a train.

1308
00:52:25,160 --> 00:52:26,210
Yeah.

1309
00:52:26,210 --> 00:52:29,970
And you ended up where?

1310
00:52:29,970 --> 00:52:34,940
Well, first we--
the train, I think,

1311
00:52:34,940 --> 00:52:42,060
went to Posen, the border
of Germany and Poland.

1312
00:52:42,060 --> 00:52:46,260
I think we stayed there
overnight and then we were--

1313
00:52:46,260 --> 00:52:50,790
continued to Ostrowiec, where
my father's parents lived.

1314

00:52:50,790 --> 00:52:53,590
And had you ever visited
Ostrowiec before?

1315
00:52:53,590 --> 00:52:54,210
No.

1316
00:52:54,210 --> 00:52:56,160
No.

1317
00:52:56,160 --> 00:53:00,720
When you went into Poland,
how did the place look to you?

1318
00:53:00,720 --> 00:53:02,550
Did it look very
different than Germany?

1319
00:53:02,550 --> 00:53:04,740
It looked like day and night.

1320
00:53:04,740 --> 00:53:06,720
Yes, it looked very different.

1321
00:53:06,720 --> 00:53:08,490
It was disgusting.

1322
00:53:08,490 --> 00:53:09,510
[LAUGHS]

1323
00:53:09,510 --> 00:53:10,230
Really?

1324
00:53:10,230 --> 00:53:12,150
Yeah.

1325
00:53:12,150 --> 00:53:16,300
Where my grandparents
lived, as I said,

1326
00:53:16,300 --> 00:53:18,470
my father bought it for them.

1327
00:53:18,470 --> 00:53:21,280
Because they had
lost everything.

1328
00:53:21,280 --> 00:53:26,260
So he bought them that
piece of property, which

1329
00:53:26,260 --> 00:53:29,230
was attached room by room.

1330
00:53:29,230 --> 00:53:31,550
It wasn't, like,
a house like that.

1331
00:53:31,550 --> 00:53:32,230
OK.

1332
00:53:32,230 --> 00:53:40,050
And the part that belonged to
them was three rooms, you know.

1333
00:53:40,050 --> 00:53:44,250
And when we get to Poland,
that's where we moved in.

1334
00:53:44,250 --> 00:53:45,580
All five of you.

1335
00:53:45,580 --> 00:53:46,380
Yeah.

1336
00:53:46,380 --> 00:53:48,296
Well, one room was gigantic.

1337
00:53:48,296 --> 00:53:52,980
It was as long as the
house, from here to the end.

1338
00:53:52,980 --> 00:53:54,390
OK.

1339
00:53:54,390 --> 00:53:59,110
And we had that room, and we
changed it into smaller places.

1340
00:53:59,110 --> 00:54:00,390
Yeah.

1341
00:54:00,390 --> 00:54:03,180
And then we had to--
my father, by the way,

1342
00:54:03,180 --> 00:54:05,760
had electricity put in.

1343
00:54:05,760 --> 00:54:09,270
You know, there was no
electricity in the house.

1344
00:54:09,270 --> 00:54:11,840
But we couldn't do
anything about the water.

1345
00:54:11,840 --> 00:54:14,780
Water had to be
delivered, you know.

1346
00:54:14,780 --> 00:54:18,540
Did you have a well
in the yard or--

1347
00:54:18,540 --> 00:54:19,310
No, no, no.

1348
00:54:19,310 --> 00:54:23,040
As I said, it had
to be delivered.

1349
00:54:23,040 --> 00:54:23,590
Wow.

1350
00:54:23,590 --> 00:54:24,090

OK?

1351

00:54:24,090 --> 00:54:27,330

There were water carriers
who made the money that way.

1352

00:54:27,330 --> 00:54:30,360

They wore a thing and
pails on each side

1353

00:54:30,360 --> 00:54:32,610

and they brought the water.

1354

00:54:32,610 --> 00:54:35,550

Was this Ostrowiec,
was it a small shtetl

1355

00:54:35,550 --> 00:54:37,440

or was it a larger town?

1356

00:54:37,440 --> 00:54:38,280

What was it?

1357

00:54:38,280 --> 00:54:39,382

It was a--

1358

00:54:39,382 --> 00:54:42,094

1359

00:54:42,094 --> 00:54:47,260

I think it was a city but
still far behind in everything,

1360

00:54:47,260 --> 00:54:47,760

you know?

1361

00:54:47,760 --> 00:54:48,350

Yeah.

1362

00:54:48,350 --> 00:54:49,030

Yeah.

1363

00:54:49,030 --> 00:54:50,350

Sure, there were people.

1364

00:54:50,350 --> 00:54:51,220

We had friends.

1365

00:54:51,220 --> 00:54:53,950

And they had electricity
and they had water.

1366

00:54:53,950 --> 00:54:56,590

They lived in different places.

1367

00:54:56,590 --> 00:54:57,470

In Ostrowiec.

1368

00:54:57,470 --> 00:54:57,970

Yeah.

1369

00:54:57,970 --> 00:54:59,410

OK.

1370

00:54:59,410 --> 00:55:01,250

But where your
grandparents lived,

1371

00:55:01,250 --> 00:55:03,395

then, it was
undeveloped in that way.

1372

00:55:03,395 --> 00:55:03,895

Yeah.

1373

00:55:03,895 --> 00:55:06,580

It was a completely
Jewish section, and a lot

1374

00:55:06,580 --> 00:55:08,770

of poor Jewish people.

1375

00:55:08,770 --> 00:55:12,310

Most Jewish people lived
in Poland, and most of them

1376
00:55:12,310 --> 00:55:13,260
were poor.

1377
00:55:13,260 --> 00:55:14,930
Yeah.

1378
00:55:14,930 --> 00:55:16,370
Very poor.

1379
00:55:16,370 --> 00:55:21,290
They lived in one room
with their whole family.

1380
00:55:21,290 --> 00:55:24,730
And there was then
no electricity

1381
00:55:24,730 --> 00:55:26,830
until your father
had an installed.

1382
00:55:26,830 --> 00:55:28,210
Yeah.

1383
00:55:28,210 --> 00:55:30,620
There was no plumbing because--

1384
00:55:30,620 --> 00:55:31,120
No.

1385
00:55:31,120 --> 00:55:32,880
Never any plumbing.

1386
00:55:32,880 --> 00:55:33,960
OK.

1387
00:55:33,960 --> 00:55:37,230
How was that place heated?

1388

00:55:37,230 --> 00:55:39,810

There were tile-- tile--

1389

00:55:39,810 --> 00:55:40,320

big--

1390

00:55:40,320 --> 00:55:41,230

Ovens.

1391

00:55:41,230 --> 00:55:42,030

--tile ovens.

1392

00:55:42,030 --> 00:55:42,530

Right.

1393

00:55:42,530 --> 00:55:43,030

Right.

1394

00:55:43,030 --> 00:55:48,780

1395

00:55:48,780 --> 00:55:49,800

Were the roads paved?

1396

00:55:49,800 --> 00:55:53,250

1397

00:55:53,250 --> 00:55:54,640

Not paved, no.

1398

00:55:54,640 --> 00:55:59,080

They had stones, you
know, that made the road.

1399

00:55:59,080 --> 00:56:03,660

Was there anybody else who was
living with your grandparents

1400

00:56:03,660 --> 00:56:05,340

when you came there?

1401

00:56:05,340 --> 00:56:07,920

My cousin, yeah,
lived with them.

1402

00:56:07,920 --> 00:56:14,160

He had lost his parents and
lived with his grandparents.

1403

00:56:14,160 --> 00:56:16,800

And what was his name?

1404

00:56:16,800 --> 00:56:17,850

Max Teichmann.

1405

00:56:17,850 --> 00:56:18,390

Max.

1406

00:56:18,390 --> 00:56:19,242

The same last name.

1407

00:56:19,242 --> 00:56:19,825

Max Teichmann?

1408

00:56:19,825 --> 00:56:20,520

Yeah.

1409

00:56:20,520 --> 00:56:24,510

And about how old was
he in relation to you?

1410

00:56:24,510 --> 00:56:27,440

I think it was about
10 years older than I.

1411

00:56:27,440 --> 00:56:28,440

Ah, OK.

1412

00:56:28,440 --> 00:56:30,715

So he was, like, a young
man or a older teenager.

1413

00:56:30,715 --> 00:56:31,215
Oh, yeah.

1414
00:56:31,215 --> 00:56:32,730
He was a young man,
and I hated him.

1415
00:56:32,730 --> 00:56:33,370
[LAUGHTER]

1416
00:56:33,370 --> 00:56:35,110
Really?

1417
00:56:35,110 --> 00:56:36,370
Yeah.

1418
00:56:36,370 --> 00:56:36,930
Why?

1419
00:56:36,930 --> 00:56:38,180
Did he tease you or something?

1420
00:56:38,180 --> 00:56:40,020
No.

1421
00:56:40,020 --> 00:56:43,320
When we first got there
and arrived at the station,

1422
00:56:43,320 --> 00:56:46,320
you know, you didn't have cars.

1423
00:56:46,320 --> 00:56:49,660
You had and horse and
behind a buggy, you know.

1424
00:56:49,660 --> 00:56:52,330
A [NON-ENGLISH], it was called.

1425
00:56:52,330 --> 00:56:58,000
And we all-- the five of us,
the family with the suitcases,

1426
00:56:58,000 --> 00:57:00,770
were all in that
one [NON-ENGLISH],,

1427
00:57:00,770 --> 00:57:02,770
and he was standing on the side.

1428
00:57:02,770 --> 00:57:05,470
There was, like,
the step to get in.

1429
00:57:05,470 --> 00:57:09,400
And the [NON-ENGLISH] was a
little leaning to the side.

1430
00:57:09,400 --> 00:57:14,020
And I was screaming for
him to get off because it

1431
00:57:14,020 --> 00:57:15,230
was going to tip over.

1432
00:57:15,230 --> 00:57:18,100

1433
00:57:18,100 --> 00:57:23,700
Anyhow, I was very
emotional always, you know.

1434
00:57:23,700 --> 00:57:26,880
But he didn't get off and
he assured me all the time

1435
00:57:26,880 --> 00:57:28,470
it's not going to tip over.

1436
00:57:28,470 --> 00:57:30,000
It's not going to tip over.

1437
00:57:30,000 --> 00:57:32,280
But I hated them from

then on, you know.

1438
00:57:32,280 --> 00:57:35,850
Anyhow, maybe I would have hated-- disliked him anyhow,

1439
00:57:35,850 --> 00:57:38,850
I don't know.

1440
00:57:38,850 --> 00:57:43,050
How did you communicate with your grandparents and with him?

1441
00:57:43,050 --> 00:57:45,300
Well, they only spoke Yiddish.

1442
00:57:45,300 --> 00:57:47,970
Yiddish is very much like German.

1443
00:57:47,970 --> 00:57:51,390
It's just a little different.

1444
00:57:51,390 --> 00:57:54,040
So we could communicate with them.

1445
00:57:54,040 --> 00:57:54,540
OK.

1446
00:57:54,540 --> 00:57:56,400
Did you end up learning some Yiddish?

1447
00:57:56,400 --> 00:57:58,470
Oh, yes.

1448
00:57:58,470 --> 00:57:59,220
Yes.

1449
00:57:59,220 --> 00:58:01,806
Maybe I still

remember now a little.

1450
00:58:01,806 --> 00:58:03,570
But I never speak it.

1451
00:58:03,570 --> 00:58:06,330
Yeah.

1452
00:58:06,330 --> 00:58:09,840
How did they react to the fact
that your mother wasn't Jewish?

1453
00:58:09,840 --> 00:58:12,360

1454
00:58:12,360 --> 00:58:14,520
There was no reaction at all.

1455
00:58:14,520 --> 00:58:19,590
My grandmother loved my mother,
and my mother became Jewish.

1456
00:58:19,590 --> 00:58:23,940
We all became Jewish when
my mother married my father.

1457
00:58:23,940 --> 00:58:25,230
Oh, so she converted?

1458
00:58:25,230 --> 00:58:25,930
Oh, yeah.

1459
00:58:25,930 --> 00:58:27,060
Yeah.

1460
00:58:27,060 --> 00:58:30,200
We all were brought
up to be Jewish.

1461
00:58:30,200 --> 00:58:31,830
Yeah.

1462
00:58:31,830 --> 00:58:35,580
Did you have-- go to
religious services?

1463
00:58:35,580 --> 00:58:36,170
Yeah.

1464
00:58:36,170 --> 00:58:37,570
But it wasn't in Wetter.

1465
00:58:37,570 --> 00:58:40,860
We had to drive to
the next town where

1466
00:58:40,860 --> 00:58:43,750
there were some more Jewish
people and there was a temple.

1467
00:58:43,750 --> 00:58:44,250
Yeah.

1468
00:58:44,250 --> 00:58:46,840
And did you go often,
on a regular basis?

1469
00:58:46,840 --> 00:58:47,340
No.

1470
00:58:47,340 --> 00:58:48,030
No.

1471
00:58:48,030 --> 00:58:48,870
No, OK.

1472
00:58:48,870 --> 00:58:49,680
OK.

1473
00:58:49,680 --> 00:58:53,370
I had misunderstood or made an
assumption that was incorrect.

1474

00:58:53,370 --> 00:58:56,130
I thought that your
mother stayed Protestant.

1475
00:58:56,130 --> 00:58:56,730
No.

1476
00:58:56,730 --> 00:58:57,230
OK.

1477
00:58:57,230 --> 00:58:57,730
No.

1478
00:58:57,730 --> 00:59:00,330
She became Jewish
and we became Jewish.

1479
00:59:00,330 --> 00:59:01,260
Yeah.

1480
00:59:01,260 --> 00:59:06,380
And what was your
father's mother's name?

1481
00:59:06,380 --> 00:59:09,374

1482
00:59:09,374 --> 00:59:10,371
Rachel.

1483
00:59:10,371 --> 00:59:10,871
Rachel.

1484
00:59:10,871 --> 00:59:11,371
Yeah.

1485
00:59:11,371 --> 00:59:13,830
And do you know what her
maiden name would have been?

1486
00:59:13,830 --> 00:59:16,490

1487
00:59:16,490 --> 00:59:18,360
Don't remember now, no.

1488
00:59:18,360 --> 00:59:19,270
OK.

1489
00:59:19,270 --> 00:59:19,790
Fuchs.

1490
00:59:19,790 --> 00:59:20,290
Yes.

1491
00:59:20,290 --> 00:59:20,790
Fuchs.

1492
00:59:20,790 --> 00:59:22,035
Her maiden name was Fuchs.

1493
00:59:22,035 --> 00:59:22,535
Yeah.

1494
00:59:22,535 --> 00:59:23,035
Fuchs.

1495
00:59:23,035 --> 00:59:23,920
Yeah.

1496
00:59:23,920 --> 00:59:27,790
And your grandfather's
name-- what was his name?

1497
00:59:27,790 --> 00:59:28,670
Tajchmann.

1498
00:59:28,670 --> 00:59:30,520
Oh, his first name, you mean?

1499
00:59:30,520 --> 00:59:32,710
Mm-hmm.

1500
00:59:32,710 --> 00:59:33,700
Haskell.

1501
00:59:33,700 --> 00:59:34,390
Haskell.

1502
00:59:34,390 --> 00:59:36,250
Yeah.

1503
00:59:36,250 --> 00:59:37,270
OK.

1504
00:59:37,270 --> 00:59:40,630
And any of your
father's siblings

1505
00:59:40,630 --> 00:59:43,660
live around their parents?

1506
00:59:43,660 --> 00:59:44,380
No.

1507
00:59:44,380 --> 00:59:46,120
Where did they all live?

1508
00:59:46,120 --> 00:59:50,180
Well, I only remember
an older brother

1509
00:59:50,180 --> 00:59:52,950
who lived in the next town.

1510
00:59:52,950 --> 00:59:55,680
OK.

1511
00:59:55,680 --> 00:59:57,570
We saw him maybe twice.

1512
00:59:57,570 --> 00:59:59,950
We didn't seem too often.

1513

00:59:59,950 --> 01:00:03,620

We know he didn't have children.

1514

01:00:03,620 --> 01:00:06,200

He married once and he
didn't have children,

1515

01:00:06,200 --> 01:00:10,330

so he divorced the wife because
he thought it was her fault.

1516

01:00:10,330 --> 01:00:12,860

And he married again and
he didn't have children.

1517

01:00:12,860 --> 01:00:18,790

So it wasn't-- wasn't
the women's fault.

1518

01:00:18,790 --> 01:00:23,320

And his youngest
brother lived in--

1519

01:00:23,320 --> 01:00:24,220

I think I said--

1520

01:00:24,220 --> 01:00:24,790

France.

1521

01:00:24,790 --> 01:00:25,373

France, right.

1522

01:00:25,373 --> 01:00:26,000

Yes.

1523

01:00:26,000 --> 01:00:27,430

Yes.

1524

01:00:27,430 --> 01:00:30,220

And the sister had been shot
during the Cossack time.

1525
01:00:30,220 --> 01:00:31,450
Yeah.

1526
01:00:31,450 --> 01:00:37,510
And I don't remember that I
ever met any other brothers.

1527
01:00:37,510 --> 01:00:39,970
Were there other Germans--

1528
01:00:39,970 --> 01:00:43,090
German Jews who were
in Ostrowiec, too,

1529
01:00:43,090 --> 01:00:45,980
who had been thrown out
like your family was?

1530
01:00:45,980 --> 01:00:46,910
Much, much later.

1531
01:00:46,910 --> 01:00:47,410
Much later.

1532
01:00:47,410 --> 01:00:48,070
Much later.

1533
01:00:48,070 --> 01:00:48,940
Yeah.

1534
01:00:48,940 --> 01:00:50,305
So you were amongst the first.

1535
01:00:50,305 --> 01:00:50,590
Oh, yes.

1536
01:00:50,590 --> 01:00:50,770
Yeah.

1537
01:00:50,770 --> 01:00:52,480
Your family was

amongst the first.

1538
01:00:52,480 --> 01:00:54,080
Yeah.

1539
01:00:54,080 --> 01:01:00,100
And was there any reaction
on the Polish side?

1540
01:01:00,100 --> 01:01:03,550
Jewish people didn't have much
to do with the Polish people.

1541
01:01:03,550 --> 01:01:04,340
OK.

1542
01:01:04,340 --> 01:01:07,480
During your time there, did
you have any interaction?

1543
01:01:07,480 --> 01:01:08,190
Yeah.

1544
01:01:08,190 --> 01:01:09,980
Yeah?

1545
01:01:09,980 --> 01:01:11,390
As a child?

1546
01:01:11,390 --> 01:01:12,260
Yeah.

1547
01:01:12,260 --> 01:01:13,440
Did you go to school?

1548
01:01:13,440 --> 01:01:13,940
No.

1549
01:01:13,940 --> 01:01:15,980
My mother didn't
let us go to school.

1550

01:01:15,980 --> 01:01:19,310

Everybody had lice.

1551

01:01:19,310 --> 01:01:21,990

And she was afraid
we might get sick,

1552

01:01:21,990 --> 01:01:23,850

so we did not go to school.

1553

01:01:23,850 --> 01:01:27,415

My father had to
hire tutors for us,

1554

01:01:27,415 --> 01:01:31,000

you know, from high school
that finished high school.

1555

01:01:31,000 --> 01:01:31,860

Yeah.

1556

01:01:31,860 --> 01:01:34,130

And was he able--

1557

01:01:34,130 --> 01:01:36,230

it sounds like he
still had some money

1558

01:01:36,230 --> 01:01:38,870

that he was able to take
with him that he would--

1559

01:01:38,870 --> 01:01:43,040

he could afford to
do that, to also

1560

01:01:43,040 --> 01:01:45,020

have electricity installed.

1561

01:01:45,020 --> 01:01:48,120

Well, it didn't-- all those
things didn't cost much money

1562
01:01:48,120 --> 01:01:50,270
at that time.

1563
01:01:50,270 --> 01:01:51,605
And did he continue working?

1564
01:01:51,605 --> 01:01:56,395

1565
01:01:56,395 --> 01:02:01,770
I don't know exactly how
in the beginning he--

1566
01:02:01,770 --> 01:02:04,890
we made-- got some money in.

1567
01:02:04,890 --> 01:02:11,820
I remember the time that his
friends came to our house

1568
01:02:11,820 --> 01:02:14,040
and they played cards.

1569
01:02:14,040 --> 01:02:16,920
And they paid him
money for being

1570
01:02:16,920 --> 01:02:23,240
able to sit there and play,
use the place as a-- you know.

1571
01:02:23,240 --> 01:02:26,970
And then there's--

1572
01:02:26,970 --> 01:02:31,640
Jewish people started some kind
of a club where people went,

1573
01:02:31,640 --> 01:02:36,450
and my mother used to
cook the meals there.

1574
01:02:36,450 --> 01:02:39,340
So they're paid
as for the meals.

1575
01:02:39,340 --> 01:02:41,040
So we got a little money.

1576
01:02:41,040 --> 01:02:43,840
That was before Hitler came in.

1577
01:02:43,840 --> 01:02:44,340
Yeah.

1578
01:02:44,340 --> 01:02:48,500

1579
01:02:48,500 --> 01:02:51,090
You say that there
was this plot of land

1580
01:02:51,090 --> 01:02:55,500
and these separate rooms
that were built on that land.

1581
01:02:55,500 --> 01:02:57,810
And your grandparents
had three of them.

1582
01:02:57,810 --> 01:03:00,270
And you moved into
one of those three.

1583
01:03:00,270 --> 01:03:01,710
Yeah.

1584
01:03:01,710 --> 01:03:04,660
In that yard, was
there anything--

1585
01:03:04,660 --> 01:03:05,680
We don't call it a yard.

1586
01:03:05,680 --> 01:03:06,180
No.

1587
01:03:06,180 --> 01:03:06,650
OK.

1588
01:03:06,650 --> 01:03:07,150
No.

1589
01:03:07,150 --> 01:03:08,800
It wasn't just the bank--

1590
01:03:08,800 --> 01:03:10,260
whatever you call it.

1591
01:03:10,260 --> 01:03:12,030
The dirty water was spilled.

1592
01:03:12,030 --> 01:03:14,730
There was a big thing,
and then there was a big--

1593
01:03:14,730 --> 01:03:18,810

1594
01:03:18,810 --> 01:03:20,270
what do you call it?

1595
01:03:20,270 --> 01:03:24,160
A hole built where
you throw all the--

1596
01:03:24,160 --> 01:03:24,660
Trash?

1597
01:03:24,660 --> 01:03:26,340
--trash in, yeah.

1598
01:03:26,340 --> 01:03:29,220
And then, all the way back,

there were some outhouses.

1599

01:03:29,220 --> 01:03:30,360

It sounds ugly.

1600

01:03:30,360 --> 01:03:32,560

Oh, very, very ugly.

1601

01:03:32,560 --> 01:03:33,540

I don't know.

1602

01:03:33,540 --> 01:03:35,970

My mother, she never,
ever complained.

1603

01:03:35,970 --> 01:03:39,000

1604

01:03:39,000 --> 01:03:42,060

Still today I cannot--

1605

01:03:42,060 --> 01:03:43,800

I cannot understand.

1606

01:03:43,800 --> 01:03:49,740

She never, ever complained
from such a change, you know.

1607

01:03:49,740 --> 01:03:50,240

Yeah.

1608

01:03:50,240 --> 01:03:55,010

Because if they were quite
well-to-do when you lived

1609

01:03:55,010 --> 01:03:55,720

in Germany--

1610

01:03:55,720 --> 01:04:01,180

We were very well-to-do, yeah,
in comparison to other people.

1611
01:04:01,180 --> 01:04:01,730
Yeah.

1612
01:04:01,730 --> 01:04:05,170
And then you're thrown
into this situation.

1613
01:04:05,170 --> 01:04:05,670
Yeah.

1614
01:04:05,670 --> 01:04:07,070
And she never complained.

1615
01:04:07,070 --> 01:04:10,400
All she tried to do is
keep us alive, you know.

1616
01:04:10,400 --> 01:04:12,110
OK.

1617
01:04:12,110 --> 01:04:16,110
Every night we were checked
if we had lice, you know,

1618
01:04:16,110 --> 01:04:20,820
that somehow we got someplace.

1619
01:04:20,820 --> 01:04:27,750
And then she bought
a big metal--

1620
01:04:27,750 --> 01:04:29,720
Kettle?

1621
01:04:29,720 --> 01:04:32,180
Not kettle, like, a bathtub.

1622
01:04:32,180 --> 01:04:33,050
You know, like--

1623
01:04:33,050 --> 01:04:34,310

A metal bathtub.

1624
01:04:34,310 --> 01:04:38,690
Yeah, so that we
could take a bath.

1625
01:04:38,690 --> 01:04:41,180
The water had to be
heated someplace,

1626
01:04:41,180 --> 01:04:43,970
and then we took a
bath one after another.

1627
01:04:43,970 --> 01:04:47,220

1628
01:04:47,220 --> 01:04:51,380
So that's whatever she could
do to keep us alive, you know.

1629
01:04:51,380 --> 01:04:55,550
And she didn't want us
to go to the outhouses.

1630
01:04:55,550 --> 01:04:59,450
So she had a carpenter
called who built a box.

1631
01:04:59,450 --> 01:05:02,510
And inside the box
she put a big pail.

1632
01:05:02,510 --> 01:05:05,210
And that's where we had to go.

1633
01:05:05,210 --> 01:05:06,620
And then she took it--

1634
01:05:06,620 --> 01:05:07,910
took it out, you know.

1635

01:05:07,910 --> 01:05:11,060

1636

01:05:11,060 --> 01:05:23,250

She was a-- yeah.

1637

01:05:23,250 --> 01:05:24,490

She was an amazing woman.

1638

01:05:24,490 --> 01:05:33,490

1639

01:05:33,490 --> 01:05:37,465

Did their personalities change much after this, your parents?

1640

01:05:37,465 --> 01:05:40,370

1641

01:05:40,370 --> 01:05:49,010

Well, my father, he was in concentration camps, you know.

1642

01:05:49,010 --> 01:05:51,230

I don't know if you know.

1643

01:05:51,230 --> 01:05:55,480

And when he came back alive they were back together,

1644

01:05:55,480 --> 01:05:59,240

my mother and my father and the children.

1645

01:05:59,240 --> 01:06:02,180

We came back as a family.

1646

01:06:02,180 --> 01:06:06,830

And he never, as I remember, had a temper

1647

01:06:06,830 --> 01:06:09,560

before that he
screamed or yelled.

1648
01:06:09,560 --> 01:06:13,670
But at that time, when
he came back, yes he did.

1649
01:06:13,670 --> 01:06:15,560
Especially with my brother.

1650
01:06:15,560 --> 01:06:16,060
Mm-hmm.

1651
01:06:16,060 --> 01:06:19,220

1652
01:06:19,220 --> 01:06:20,870
But this is after Germany--

1653
01:06:20,870 --> 01:06:21,690
After the war.

1654
01:06:21,690 --> 01:06:22,190
Yeah.

1655
01:06:22,190 --> 01:06:24,170
After Germany
invades Poland and--

1656
01:06:24,170 --> 01:06:25,513
It was after the war, again.

1657
01:06:25,513 --> 01:06:26,096
After the war.

1658
01:06:26,096 --> 01:06:26,810
Yeah.

1659
01:06:26,810 --> 01:06:30,080
After we got together,
after the war was over.

1660

01:06:30,080 --> 01:06:30,980

No more Hitler.

1661

01:06:30,980 --> 01:06:32,830

Yeah.

1662

01:06:32,830 --> 01:06:34,880

We'll come to all
of these things.

1663

01:06:34,880 --> 01:06:38,060

Right now I'm still
in that year--

1664

01:06:38,060 --> 01:06:39,800

those years between
the time you're

1665

01:06:39,800 --> 01:06:43,580

in Poland, in the
late 1930s, '38,

1666

01:06:43,580 --> 01:06:47,540

and up until when war
is declared in '39,

1667

01:06:47,540 --> 01:06:48,810

September 1, '39.

1668

01:06:48,810 --> 01:06:49,700

Yeah, yeah.

1669

01:06:49,700 --> 01:06:57,410

So I asked you before if you
had any interaction with Poles

1670

01:06:57,410 --> 01:06:58,868

and you said yes.

1671

01:06:58,868 --> 01:07:01,160

But it wasn't through school
because your mother didn't

1672
01:07:01,160 --> 01:07:03,560
allow you or your father didn't
allow you to go to school.

1673
01:07:03,560 --> 01:07:04,060
No.

1674
01:07:04,060 --> 01:07:06,530
So what kind of
interaction was this?

1675
01:07:06,530 --> 01:07:11,140
Well, in the beginning we
didn't have interaction

1676
01:07:11,140 --> 01:07:13,240
with the Polish people.

1677
01:07:13,240 --> 01:07:14,800
There were only Jewish people.

1678
01:07:14,800 --> 01:07:16,690
But then, the
Jewish-- when Hitler

1679
01:07:16,690 --> 01:07:23,490
came, which wasn't very much
later, all the Jewish people

1680
01:07:23,490 --> 01:07:24,630
we're sent away.

1681
01:07:24,630 --> 01:07:28,050

1682
01:07:28,050 --> 01:07:31,170
And we were lucky we did
not-- were not sent away.

1683
01:07:31,170 --> 01:07:33,720
Because my father had left.

1684
01:07:33,720 --> 01:07:39,540
He did not live with us anymore
because the Germans deported

1685
01:07:39,540 --> 01:07:42,480
one city after another,
not all of Poland

1686
01:07:42,480 --> 01:07:45,610
at once, but one
city after another.

1687
01:07:45,610 --> 01:07:49,310
And so you could hear
what was going on.

1688
01:07:49,310 --> 01:07:53,680
And when he realized that
if we stayed together

1689
01:07:53,680 --> 01:07:57,410
we might all be sent
away, he left and worked

1690
01:07:57,410 --> 01:07:59,980
some someplace in
a German factory,

1691
01:07:59,980 --> 01:08:03,910
as Jewish people worked as
slave laborers at the time.

1692
01:08:03,910 --> 01:08:06,780

1693
01:08:06,780 --> 01:08:13,370
So when the advocation
came, all the Jews

1694
01:08:13,370 --> 01:08:15,730
had to go to the marketplace.

1695

01:08:15,730 --> 01:08:20,020

And, as I said, my
grandmother she still lived.

1696

01:08:20,020 --> 01:08:22,550

And she came to
the door and said,

1697

01:08:22,550 --> 01:08:25,220

I have to go to the marketplace.

1698

01:08:25,220 --> 01:08:29,790

And we have no
idea how she died.

1699

01:08:29,790 --> 01:08:33,390

But since my father
didn't live with us--

1700

01:08:33,390 --> 01:08:36,350

1701

01:08:36,350 --> 01:08:39,500

and my grandfather,
my mother's father,

1702

01:08:39,500 --> 01:08:44,420

had visited us a year
before, so the Germans knew

1703

01:08:44,420 --> 01:08:46,819

that my mother is
German and that she

1704

01:08:46,819 --> 01:08:51,069

has a German family in Germany.

1705

01:08:51,069 --> 01:08:52,840

So they left us alone.

1706

01:08:52,840 --> 01:08:56,050

They didn't send us away.

1707
01:08:56,050 --> 01:08:58,450
And, as I said, my
father wasn't with us

1708
01:08:58,450 --> 01:09:03,910
because we heard that there
was a family in two towns over,

1709
01:09:03,910 --> 01:09:06,790
the same like we.

1710
01:09:06,790 --> 01:09:09,399
And the whole family
was sent away.

1711
01:09:09,399 --> 01:09:12,189
Because the father was there,
the children were there,

1712
01:09:12,189 --> 01:09:16,290
and the mother was there
and they were all sent away.

1713
01:09:16,290 --> 01:09:18,590
So my father decided to leave.

1714
01:09:18,590 --> 01:09:21,590
That would give us
a chance to survive.

1715
01:09:21,590 --> 01:09:22,490
And it did.

1716
01:09:22,490 --> 01:09:25,920

1717
01:09:25,920 --> 01:09:27,930
So where was I?

1718
01:09:27,930 --> 01:09:30,630
Well, I was asking what

kind of interaction

1719
01:09:30,630 --> 01:09:34,220
did you have with Poles.

1720
01:09:34,220 --> 01:09:38,580
Because it didn't-- if you
lived in a Jewish community--

1721
01:09:38,580 --> 01:09:42,090
Well, it was a Polish town,
but most people in the area

1722
01:09:42,090 --> 01:09:45,779
were Jewish, even though of
across the street was a fancier

1723
01:09:45,779 --> 01:09:47,819
house and it was Polish.

1724
01:09:47,819 --> 01:09:49,490
Polish people lived there.

1725
01:09:49,490 --> 01:09:50,310
OK.

1726
01:09:50,310 --> 01:09:56,220
But eventually we also
had Polish friends.

1727
01:09:56,220 --> 01:09:58,890
Else, who was older,
also had friends.

1728
01:09:58,890 --> 01:10:02,520

1729
01:10:02,520 --> 01:10:07,450
And eventually all Jewish
people were sent away

1730
01:10:07,450 --> 01:10:09,760

and we stayed behind.

1731
01:10:09,760 --> 01:10:11,240
They left us.

1732
01:10:11,240 --> 01:10:11,740
OK.

1733
01:10:11,740 --> 01:10:13,700
I'm going to go backward.

1734
01:10:13,700 --> 01:10:19,070
I'm going to step back a
little bit chronologically.

1735
01:10:19,070 --> 01:10:25,460
So let's say it was '37 or
'38 that you get to Poland.

1736
01:10:25,460 --> 01:10:29,750
You're in this house,
well, sort of a--

1737
01:10:29,750 --> 01:10:30,950
Not '37, '38.

1738
01:10:30,950 --> 01:10:31,820
'38.

1739
01:10:31,820 --> 01:10:33,990
Or maybe even later.

1740
01:10:33,990 --> 01:10:36,260
Maybe even later, you think.

1741
01:10:36,260 --> 01:10:39,620
Well, I think a year we lived
there and then Hitler came.

1742
01:10:39,620 --> 01:10:40,280
OK.

1743

01:10:40,280 --> 01:10:45,500

So that would have
been September 1, 1939.

1744

01:10:45,500 --> 01:10:51,500

Do you remember-- by that
point you're 10 years old.

1745

01:10:51,500 --> 01:10:54,950

Do you remember
discussions at home about

1746

01:10:54,950 --> 01:10:57,530

whether there will be a war
or there won't be a war,

1747

01:10:57,530 --> 01:10:59,750

whether people felt something?

1748

01:10:59,750 --> 01:11:02,330

What kind of-- no, you didn't?

1749

01:11:02,330 --> 01:11:03,750

We didn't really listen, no.

1750

01:11:03,750 --> 01:11:04,250

OK.

1751

01:11:04,250 --> 01:11:07,410

1752

01:11:07,410 --> 01:11:11,450

What kind of conversation would
be going on in the family?

1753

01:11:11,450 --> 01:11:15,450

We wouldn't be there if they had
conversations about something.

1754

01:11:15,450 --> 01:11:16,320

OK.

1755

01:11:16,320 --> 01:11:19,110

So we didn't know.

1756

01:11:19,110 --> 01:11:21,350

OK.

1757

01:11:21,350 --> 01:11:25,810

What about-- how
did you experience

1758

01:11:25,810 --> 01:11:28,330

the beginning of the war?

1759

01:11:28,330 --> 01:11:29,980

Do you remember where you were?

1760

01:11:29,980 --> 01:11:31,480

Yeah, the same house.

1761

01:11:31,480 --> 01:11:32,950

The same place.

1762

01:11:32,950 --> 01:11:34,240

OK.

1763

01:11:34,240 --> 01:11:36,740

By this point did you
have a radio there?

1764

01:11:36,740 --> 01:11:37,360

No.

1765

01:11:37,360 --> 01:11:38,030

No radio.

1766

01:11:38,030 --> 01:11:38,530

No.

1767

01:11:38,530 --> 01:11:39,030

No radio.

1768

01:11:39,030 --> 01:11:39,970

No news.

1769

01:11:39,970 --> 01:11:40,850

No.

1770

01:11:40,850 --> 01:11:41,350

OK.

1771

01:11:41,350 --> 01:11:43,840

I don't know how the news
traveled, but somehow--

1772

01:11:43,840 --> 01:11:48,650

news somehow eventually
came around, you know.

1773

01:11:48,650 --> 01:11:49,150

Yeah.

1774

01:11:49,150 --> 01:11:53,750

Some people had a
radio but not many.

1775

01:11:53,750 --> 01:11:57,410

And do you remember hearing
about, OK, the war has started,

1776

01:11:57,410 --> 01:11:58,370

they've invaded Poland?

1777

01:11:58,370 --> 01:12:01,170

1778

01:12:01,170 --> 01:12:01,960

Yeah.

1779

01:12:01,960 --> 01:12:05,290

Well, all of a sudden there
was-- there were Germans there,

1780

01:12:05,290 --> 01:12:06,130
you know.

1781
01:12:06,130 --> 01:12:07,450
OK.

1782
01:12:07,450 --> 01:12:13,810
And they called my father
to translate, you know,

1783
01:12:13,810 --> 01:12:20,040
from Polish to German
in the beginning.

1784
01:12:20,040 --> 01:12:23,610
And slowly it got
worse and worse,

1785
01:12:23,610 --> 01:12:29,910
and then all the Jews were
sent out and were deported.

1786
01:12:29,910 --> 01:12:31,620
Including your grandmother.

1787
01:12:31,620 --> 01:12:32,250
Yeah.

1788
01:12:32,250 --> 01:12:34,260
Well, she had to walk.

1789
01:12:34,260 --> 01:12:38,500
All Jewish people had to
walk to the marketplace.

1790
01:12:38,500 --> 01:12:40,000
What about your grandfather?

1791
01:12:40,000 --> 01:12:44,680
He had died normally,
a normal death, before.

1792

01:12:44,680 --> 01:12:46,070
After you had arrived?

1793
01:12:46,070 --> 01:12:46,570
Yeah.

1794
01:12:46,570 --> 01:12:47,200
Yeah.

1795
01:12:47,200 --> 01:12:49,930
Shortly after we had arrived.

1796
01:12:49,930 --> 01:12:54,250
So then it was just your
grandmother and Max and you--

1797
01:12:54,250 --> 01:12:54,880
Yeah.

1798
01:12:54,880 --> 01:12:57,450
--as a family.

1799
01:12:57,450 --> 01:12:59,040
Yeah.

1800
01:12:59,040 --> 01:13:00,720
And did you know
where your father

1801
01:13:00,720 --> 01:13:04,300
had gone to be a laborer,
to be a slave laborer?

1802
01:13:04,300 --> 01:13:04,800
Yeah.

1803
01:13:04,800 --> 01:13:07,800
At first he worked in a factory.

1804
01:13:07,800 --> 01:13:11,760
I think it was partly
Swiss and German.

1805
01:13:11,760 --> 01:13:13,950
And we still could see him.

1806
01:13:13,950 --> 01:13:16,020
It wasn't far away
from the town,

1807
01:13:16,020 --> 01:13:18,900
and we could go and visit him.

1808
01:13:18,900 --> 01:13:24,070
And then, after a while, we
didn't hear from him anymore.

1809
01:13:24,070 --> 01:13:29,320
They had transferred the
Jewish people to another place.

1810
01:13:29,320 --> 01:13:32,920
And from then on we didn't
hear anything anymore.

1811
01:13:32,920 --> 01:13:35,360
And you all stayed
in that same place.

1812
01:13:35,360 --> 01:13:35,860
Yeah.

1813
01:13:35,860 --> 01:13:37,480
You never moved from there.

1814
01:13:37,480 --> 01:13:39,220
Not at that time, no.

1815
01:13:39,220 --> 01:13:40,850
We lived in the same place.

1816
01:13:40,850 --> 01:13:41,590
Yeah.

1817

01:13:41,590 --> 01:13:48,160

And so when the evacuation
of all of the other Jews

1818

01:13:48,160 --> 01:13:53,960

in the neighborhood
happened and you stayed,

1819

01:13:53,960 --> 01:13:56,480

did anything change after that?

1820

01:13:56,480 --> 01:13:58,800

It sounds like it
was very empty.

1821

01:13:58,800 --> 01:14:00,050

It was empty.

1822

01:14:00,050 --> 01:14:06,430

And it was silent that day
that all Jews had to leave.

1823

01:14:06,430 --> 01:14:14,580

And you didn't hear anything
except once in a while a shot.

1824

01:14:14,580 --> 01:14:16,920

And then, all of the sudden--

1825

01:14:16,920 --> 01:14:20,190

there were shudders, you
know, big wooden shutters

1826

01:14:20,190 --> 01:14:23,610

that you pulled in from the
outside and you put hooks on.

1827

01:14:23,610 --> 01:14:28,580

But there's always some
room you could look through.

1828

01:14:28,580 --> 01:14:34,580

And that day we were in the
house there, shuttered in,

1829
01:14:34,580 --> 01:14:39,540
you know, it was
very silent outside.

1830
01:14:39,540 --> 01:14:43,230
As I said, all Jewish people
had to go to the marketplace,

1831
01:14:43,230 --> 01:14:47,550
and then it was
very quiet all over.

1832
01:14:47,550 --> 01:14:54,600
And all of a sudden I
hear a little boy saying,

1833
01:14:54,600 --> 01:14:55,590
[NON-ENGLISH].

1834
01:14:55,590 --> 01:14:59,720

1835
01:14:59,720 --> 01:15:01,520
That means-- do you
know what that means?

1836
01:15:01,520 --> 01:15:04,290
Tell me.

1837
01:15:04,290 --> 01:15:07,770
And then there was a German.

1838
01:15:07,770 --> 01:15:10,830
And the boy was all by
himself, nobody else.

1839
01:15:10,830 --> 01:15:11,820
It was quiet.

1840

01:15:11,820 --> 01:15:15,600
Just he came down the street
and said [NON-ENGLISH]..

1841
01:15:15,600 --> 01:15:17,970
So there was a German there.

1842
01:15:17,970 --> 01:15:19,950
And all of a sudden
there's a shot.

1843
01:15:19,950 --> 01:15:21,450
He killed the little boy.

1844
01:15:21,450 --> 01:15:36,970

1845
01:15:36,970 --> 01:15:40,280
[CRYING] And I--

1846
01:15:40,280 --> 01:15:41,330
I saw it.

1847
01:15:41,330 --> 01:15:42,200
Aw.

1848
01:15:42,200 --> 01:15:44,120
Because I looked--

1849
01:15:44,120 --> 01:15:46,700
I looked out
through the shutters

1850
01:15:46,700 --> 01:15:48,230
when I heard the little boy.

1851
01:15:48,230 --> 01:15:51,500

1852
01:15:51,500 --> 01:15:53,218
And the German shot him.

1853

01:15:53,218 --> 01:16:01,040

1854

01:16:01,040 --> 01:16:02,000

And I saw it.

1855

01:16:02,000 --> 01:16:08,150

1856

01:16:08,150 --> 01:16:10,060

And I couldn't do anything.

1857

01:16:10,060 --> 01:16:11,500

I couldn't do anything.

1858

01:16:11,500 --> 01:16:14,570

1859

01:16:14,570 --> 01:16:16,145

Never could take revenge.

1860

01:16:16,145 --> 01:16:23,720

1861

01:16:23,720 --> 01:16:28,860

It's the only time that I
saw somebody being shot.

1862

01:16:28,860 --> 01:16:31,080

Tell us, what was the
little boy saying?

1863

01:16:31,080 --> 01:16:33,040

I forgot his name.

1864

01:16:33,040 --> 01:16:34,230

So you knew him?

1865

01:16:34,230 --> 01:16:34,840

Yeah.

1866

01:16:34,840 --> 01:16:35,340

Yeah.

1867

01:16:35,340 --> 01:16:38,170

He was about our age,
maybe a little young--

1868

01:16:38,170 --> 01:16:43,930

or maybe half a
year younger or so.

1869

01:16:43,930 --> 01:16:46,617

And what was he saying as
he was walking down the--

1870

01:16:46,617 --> 01:16:47,200

I didn't know.

1871

01:16:47,200 --> 01:16:48,170

I didn't know.

1872

01:16:48,170 --> 01:16:48,940

I didn't know.

1873

01:16:48,940 --> 01:16:50,770

[NON-ENGLISH].

1874

01:16:50,770 --> 01:16:52,120

I didn't know.

1875

01:16:52,120 --> 01:16:54,713

All Jews had to go
to the marketplace.

1876

01:16:54,713 --> 01:16:56,380

And he didn't know
he had to go to the--

1877

01:16:56,380 --> 01:17:00,660

And he said I didn't know.

1878

01:17:00,660 --> 01:17:01,320
Yeah.

1879
01:17:01,320 --> 01:17:02,817
And it didn't matter.

1880
01:17:02,817 --> 01:17:06,200
Didn't matter, no.

1881
01:17:06,200 --> 01:17:09,510
To Germans, the
Jews were like rats.

1882
01:17:09,510 --> 01:17:15,800
You can kill them
any time, anywhere.

1883
01:17:15,800 --> 01:17:18,020
Did you ever see
anything like that again?

1884
01:17:18,020 --> 01:17:19,790
No.

1885
01:17:19,790 --> 01:17:20,290
No.

1886
01:17:20,290 --> 01:17:22,060
In movies, yeah.

1887
01:17:22,060 --> 01:17:22,630
Yeah.

1888
01:17:22,630 --> 01:17:23,920
Well, movies is different.

1889
01:17:23,920 --> 01:17:25,730
Yeah.

1890
01:17:25,730 --> 01:17:29,960
No, I never saw anything like
that, that a human being got

1891
01:17:29,960 --> 01:17:30,490
shot.

1892
01:17:30,490 --> 01:17:30,990
No.

1893
01:17:30,990 --> 01:17:33,360

1894
01:17:33,360 --> 01:17:38,160
Did your father ever come
back from the factories

1895
01:17:38,160 --> 01:17:41,550
where he was sent, where he
first went and then was sent?

1896
01:17:41,550 --> 01:17:44,580
In the beginning
he came back twice

1897
01:17:44,580 --> 01:17:48,660
because it wasn't very far away.

1898
01:17:48,660 --> 01:17:54,230
And then he didn't
dare to come anymore.

1899
01:17:54,230 --> 01:17:58,680
And eventually they sent them
to other places, you know.

1900
01:17:58,680 --> 01:18:01,635
But you said earlier he
was in concentration camps.

1901
01:18:01,635 --> 01:18:03,003
Yeah, from there on--

1902
01:18:03,003 --> 01:18:04,420
From there on

concentration camps.

1903

01:18:04,420 --> 01:18:06,045

--they sent him to
concentration camps.

1904

01:18:06,045 --> 01:18:08,490

That was in the
beginning that he was--

1905

01:18:08,490 --> 01:18:14,030

the Jews were all working
someplace for someone

1906

01:18:14,030 --> 01:18:18,020

as slave laborers or had
to go to the marketplace

1907

01:18:18,020 --> 01:18:20,520

and were all gone, you know.

1908

01:18:20,520 --> 01:18:25,520

And did you have any idea where
he might be during this time?

1909

01:18:25,520 --> 01:18:28,210

This is already after
Germany occupies Poland.

1910

01:18:28,210 --> 01:18:28,710

Yeah.

1911

01:18:28,710 --> 01:18:29,240

Naturally.

1912

01:18:29,240 --> 01:18:30,930

Who else would do that?

1913

01:18:30,930 --> 01:18:31,430

Yeah.

1914

01:18:31,430 --> 01:18:31,930

Yeah.

1915

01:18:31,930 --> 01:18:35,180

I mean, did you have
any idea where he was?

1916

01:18:35,180 --> 01:18:36,080

In the beginning?

1917

01:18:36,080 --> 01:18:36,600

No, no.

1918

01:18:36,600 --> 01:18:37,100

Later--

1919

01:18:37,100 --> 01:18:37,400

No.

1920

01:18:37,400 --> 01:18:38,940

--when he's sent to
concentration camps.

1921

01:18:38,940 --> 01:18:39,440

No.

1922

01:18:39,440 --> 01:18:40,400

We had no idea.

1923

01:18:40,400 --> 01:18:45,460

From then on, when they sent
him from that factory away,

1924

01:18:45,460 --> 01:18:52,995

we had no idea anymore where he
was or if he is alive or not.

1925

01:18:52,995 --> 01:18:55,220

I'm going to have to
turn off up there.

1926

01:18:55,220 --> 01:18:55,720

OK.

1927
01:18:55,720 --> 01:18:57,340
Can we do that for a second?

1928
01:18:57,340 --> 01:18:57,840
Yeah.

1929
01:18:57,840 --> 01:18:58,340
Yeah.

1930
01:18:58,340 --> 01:18:59,375
OK.

1931
01:18:59,375 --> 01:18:59,875
OK.

1932
01:18:59,875 --> 01:19:02,710

1933
01:19:02,710 --> 01:19:04,160
To make it clear--

1934
01:19:04,160 --> 01:19:06,280
so there-- when some
people are going

1935
01:19:06,280 --> 01:19:09,760
to be listening to your
interview in the future

1936
01:19:09,760 --> 01:19:13,240
and they hear that someone
has to go to the marketplace,

1937
01:19:13,240 --> 01:19:14,680
what does that mean?

1938
01:19:14,680 --> 01:19:17,830
What happened at that
marketplace to all those

1939

01:19:17,830 --> 01:19:19,360
who were told they
had to go there?

1940
01:19:19,360 --> 01:19:23,500
They were only Jewish people who
were going to the marketplace.

1941
01:19:23,500 --> 01:19:27,680
From there on, the
ones that weren't shot

1942
01:19:27,680 --> 01:19:29,410
arrived at the marketplace.

1943
01:19:29,410 --> 01:19:33,640
Because, as I said, it was
so quiet all over except we

1944
01:19:33,640 --> 01:19:36,890
heard a shot every
once in a while.

1945
01:19:36,890 --> 01:19:37,900
OK.

1946
01:19:37,900 --> 01:19:40,750
So we don't know if my
grandfather was shot right

1947
01:19:40,750 --> 01:19:45,520
at the marketplace or if
she was transported down

1948
01:19:45,520 --> 01:19:51,040
to the-- by car, by trucks
to the railroad station,

1949
01:19:51,040 --> 01:19:53,710
and from there they
were put into wagons.

1950
01:19:53,710 --> 01:19:55,660

I think you know
about that, right?

1951
01:19:55,660 --> 01:19:56,915
But some others may not.

1952
01:19:56,915 --> 01:19:58,540
So that's why I want
to know, you know,

1953
01:19:58,540 --> 01:20:02,170
when you say someone goes
to a marketplace, what

1954
01:20:02,170 --> 01:20:06,040
happened to all those
Jews who gathered there?

1955
01:20:06,040 --> 01:20:07,420
What happened to
them afterwards?

1956
01:20:07,420 --> 01:20:09,310
So you're saying they
were either shot--

1957
01:20:09,310 --> 01:20:11,530
They were transported
to the-- the ones that

1958
01:20:11,530 --> 01:20:14,890
weren't killed at the
marketplace were transported

1959
01:20:14,890 --> 01:20:21,520
to the railroad station and
put into wagons where usually

1960
01:20:21,520 --> 01:20:22,960
animals are transported.

1961
01:20:22,960 --> 01:20:23,740
Cattle wagons.

1962
01:20:23,740 --> 01:20:25,450
Cattle wagons, right.

1963
01:20:25,450 --> 01:20:29,890
And from there on where they
were sent we did not know.

1964
01:20:29,890 --> 01:20:30,580
OK.

1965
01:20:30,580 --> 01:20:32,960
But they go away and
they never come back.

1966
01:20:32,960 --> 01:20:35,230
They never come back, right.

1967
01:20:35,230 --> 01:20:36,090
OK.

1968
01:20:36,090 --> 01:20:36,970
OK.

1969
01:20:36,970 --> 01:20:40,300
So most likely they were
sent to concentration camps.

1970
01:20:40,300 --> 01:20:40,970
Yes.

1971
01:20:40,970 --> 01:20:43,900
The ones that didn't die
in the carriages, right.

1972
01:20:43,900 --> 01:20:44,530
Yeah.

1973
01:20:44,530 --> 01:20:45,820
There was no food.

1974

01:20:45,820 --> 01:20:50,200
There was no where they
could relieve themselves.

1975
01:20:50,200 --> 01:20:53,510
It was just like
animals are sent away.

1976
01:20:53,510 --> 01:20:55,330
Yeah.

1977
01:20:55,330 --> 01:20:57,340
How old were you when
all this happened?

1978
01:20:57,340 --> 01:21:00,400

1979
01:21:00,400 --> 01:21:03,740
How old was I?

1980
01:21:03,740 --> 01:21:04,755
I don't know exactly.

1981
01:21:04,755 --> 01:21:05,910
10, 11, maybe.

1982
01:21:05,910 --> 01:21:10,230

1983
01:21:10,230 --> 01:21:12,147
Do you think you were--

1984
01:21:12,147 --> 01:21:13,980
then that would have
been soon after the war

1985
01:21:13,980 --> 01:21:18,960
starts, because you were 10
years old when the war starts.

1986
01:21:18,960 --> 01:21:21,250

I think it was in '42.

1987

01:21:21,250 --> 01:21:24,390

So then you would have
been about 12 or 13.

1988

01:21:24,390 --> 01:21:25,310

Yeah.

1989

01:21:25,310 --> 01:21:25,810

Yeah.

1990

01:21:25,810 --> 01:21:26,920

OK.

1991

01:21:26,920 --> 01:21:28,970

OK.

1992

01:21:28,970 --> 01:21:29,470

Yeah.

1993

01:21:29,470 --> 01:21:33,000

1994

01:21:33,000 --> 01:21:36,090

And how does your
mother then make do?

1995

01:21:36,090 --> 01:21:38,530

How does she keep
you all together?

1996

01:21:38,530 --> 01:21:41,340

How does she feed
you after that?

1997

01:21:41,340 --> 01:21:47,400

My mother started
to travel to Warsaw

1998

01:21:47,400 --> 01:21:49,650

and buy something

and then sell it

1999

01:21:49,650 --> 01:21:53,430
when she came back and so on.

2000

01:21:53,430 --> 01:21:57,532
She tried to do
the best she could.

2001

01:21:57,532 --> 01:22:01,380
It was a different
time then, you know.

2002

01:22:01,380 --> 01:22:05,750
She might have found something
that she could buy in Warsaw,

2003

01:22:05,750 --> 01:22:09,500
and when she came back she
could sell it for a little more.

2004

01:22:09,500 --> 01:22:12,030
Was Warsaw far away?

2005

01:22:12,030 --> 01:22:14,195
I don't know exactly how far.

2006

01:22:14,195 --> 01:22:15,680
Did you ever go with her?

2007

01:22:15,680 --> 01:22:17,480
No.

2008

01:22:17,480 --> 01:22:21,230
I never was in Warsaw, no.

2009

01:22:21,230 --> 01:22:25,370
You mentioned that your German
grandfather came to visit--

2010

01:22:25,370 --> 01:22:26,000
Yeah.

2011
01:22:26,000 --> 01:22:27,260
--pretty early on.

2012
01:22:27,260 --> 01:22:28,652
Yeah.

2013
01:22:28,652 --> 01:22:29,360
Let me take that.

2014
01:22:29,360 --> 01:22:30,030
Oh, yeah.

2015
01:22:30,030 --> 01:22:31,115
I know.

2016
01:22:31,115 --> 01:22:33,870
[LAUGHTER]

2017
01:22:33,870 --> 01:22:34,370

2018
01:22:34,370 --> 01:22:36,080
That he came to visit--

2019
01:22:36,080 --> 01:22:39,830
and was there any
communication from him

2020
01:22:39,830 --> 01:22:44,630
or from other aunts and uncles
in Germany during this time?

2021
01:22:44,630 --> 01:22:45,700
Yeah.

2022
01:22:45,700 --> 01:22:46,200
Yeah.

2023
01:22:46,200 --> 01:22:48,530
We would hear from them.

2024
01:22:48,530 --> 01:22:50,750
Were they sending you parcels?

2025
01:22:50,750 --> 01:22:54,530
My aunt, Tanta Else,
she usually was the one

2026
01:22:54,530 --> 01:22:56,670
who might send a parcel.

2027
01:22:56,670 --> 01:22:57,760
OK.

2028
01:22:57,760 --> 01:23:00,080
OK.

2029
01:23:00,080 --> 01:23:03,230
But from the others not so much?

2030
01:23:03,230 --> 01:23:04,370
No.

2031
01:23:04,370 --> 01:23:04,870
No.

2032
01:23:04,870 --> 01:23:06,690
OK.

2033
01:23:06,690 --> 01:23:13,550
And you said-- when I
asked you earlier that--

2034
01:23:13,550 --> 01:23:16,340
was it brought up to your
mother that she could divorce

2035
01:23:16,340 --> 01:23:19,570
your father when you
left Germany, you said--

2036

01:23:19,570 --> 01:23:20,150
I don't know.

2037
01:23:20,150 --> 01:23:21,200
--not at that time.

2038
01:23:21,200 --> 01:23:23,240
I didn't hear about that, no.

2039
01:23:23,240 --> 01:23:24,350
OK.

2040
01:23:24,350 --> 01:23:27,350
Was that question ever
raised for her later?

2041
01:23:27,350 --> 01:23:27,980
Yeah.

2042
01:23:27,980 --> 01:23:29,520
By whom?

2043
01:23:29,520 --> 01:23:32,930
That was in Poland.

2044
01:23:32,930 --> 01:23:36,590
Somebody came to work
in a store with--

2045
01:23:36,590 --> 01:23:40,130
who she knew from
before, from Germany.

2046
01:23:40,130 --> 01:23:48,950
And he suggested that it's a
better idea to get divorced.

2047
01:23:48,950 --> 01:23:53,180
I mean, just not
officially, but just

2048
01:23:53,180 --> 01:23:56,210

show that they are
divorced, you know.

2049
01:23:56,210 --> 01:23:58,010
Because there's a Jewish--

2050
01:23:58,010 --> 01:23:59,660
you know, a Jewish wedding, too.

2051
01:23:59,660 --> 01:24:00,590
Sure.

2052
01:24:00,590 --> 01:24:02,747
So that's what she
did eventually.

2053
01:24:02,747 --> 01:24:03,580
Oh, she did do that.

2054
01:24:03,580 --> 01:24:04,010
Yeah.

2055
01:24:04,010 --> 01:24:04,280
Yeah.

2056
01:24:04,280 --> 01:24:04,980
She did do that.

2057
01:24:04,980 --> 01:24:05,480
OK.

2058
01:24:05,480 --> 01:24:06,710
Yeah.

2059
01:24:06,710 --> 01:24:09,540
But this wasn't like
an official person.

2060
01:24:09,540 --> 01:24:12,770
This was just someone that she
knew who ended up in Ostrowiec.

2061
01:24:12,770 --> 01:24:13,270
Yeah.

2062
01:24:13,270 --> 01:24:13,770
Yeah.

2063
01:24:13,770 --> 01:24:15,355
OK, who said it as a suggestion.

2064
01:24:15,355 --> 01:24:19,220
Who became an official
in Ostrowiec, yes, who

2065
01:24:19,220 --> 01:24:21,960
had some kind of office there.

2066
01:24:21,960 --> 01:24:22,460
Yeah.

2067
01:24:22,460 --> 01:24:23,390
OK.

2068
01:24:23,390 --> 01:24:24,860
OK.

2069
01:24:24,860 --> 01:24:27,200
Did that help things for her?

2070
01:24:27,200 --> 01:24:28,310
I don't really know.

2071
01:24:28,310 --> 01:24:29,930
We weren't killed.

2072
01:24:29,930 --> 01:24:31,600
We were all alive, right?

2073
01:24:31,600 --> 01:24:34,760
We came out all alive.

2074

01:24:34,760 --> 01:24:37,760

So what did you do
during these years?

2075

01:24:37,760 --> 01:24:39,920

I mean, your father's gone away.

2076

01:24:39,920 --> 01:24:44,090

Your mother has to try to make
ends meet somehow or other.

2077

01:24:44,090 --> 01:24:46,100

There is no school
that you go to.

2078

01:24:46,100 --> 01:24:48,050

No.

2079

01:24:48,050 --> 01:24:50,510

I just read all the time.

2080

01:24:50,510 --> 01:24:51,200

You read?

2081

01:24:51,200 --> 01:24:53,510

I read whatever I
could get a hold

2082

01:24:53,510 --> 01:24:55,820

of that was written in German.

2083

01:24:55,820 --> 01:24:57,120

Did you ever learn Polish?

2084

01:24:57,120 --> 01:24:57,620

Yeah.

2085

01:24:57,620 --> 01:25:01,190

I learned to speak Polish,
eventually to read, too.

2086

01:25:01,190 --> 01:25:02,982

But I never could write Polish.

2087

01:25:02,982 --> 01:25:06,490

2088

01:25:06,490 --> 01:25:09,380

And your sister,
what did she do?

2089

01:25:09,380 --> 01:25:10,220

She was older.

2090

01:25:10,220 --> 01:25:13,770

Did she go to work or something?

2091

01:25:13,770 --> 01:25:19,710

She used to work in the
German office, the one that--

2092

01:25:19,710 --> 01:25:23,090

2093

01:25:23,090 --> 01:25:26,180

it was an office
who tried to supply

2094

01:25:26,180 --> 01:25:31,400

the Jewish people to where
they were called to work.

2095

01:25:31,400 --> 01:25:32,540

So, like, an [NON-ENGLISH].

2096

01:25:32,540 --> 01:25:33,215

Yes.

2097

01:25:33,215 --> 01:25:33,500

Yeah.

2098

01:25:33,500 --> 01:25:34,010

Yeah.

2099

01:25:34,010 --> 01:25:35,000

A labor office.

2100

01:25:35,000 --> 01:25:35,530

Yeah.

2101

01:25:35,530 --> 01:25:36,030

Yeah.

2102

01:25:36,030 --> 01:25:36,530

OK.

2103

01:25:36,530 --> 01:25:38,360

So she worked there.

2104

01:25:38,360 --> 01:25:39,830

OK.

2105

01:25:39,830 --> 01:25:43,040

And did she have any
experiences there that she would

2106

01:25:43,040 --> 01:25:44,670

talk about when she came home?

2107

01:25:44,670 --> 01:25:45,170

No?

2108

01:25:45,170 --> 01:25:46,130

No.

2109

01:25:46,130 --> 01:25:48,510

No.

2110

01:25:48,510 --> 01:25:52,060

And your younger brother then
was with you, I would take it.

2111

01:25:52,060 --> 01:25:52,560

Yeah.

2112
01:25:52,560 --> 01:25:53,460
Yeah.

2113
01:25:53,460 --> 01:25:57,870
And you both stayed in that
one room, that one large room

2114
01:25:57,870 --> 01:25:59,280
that you had portioned off?

2115
01:25:59,280 --> 01:25:59,780
Yeah.

2116
01:25:59,780 --> 01:26:01,800
We went out sometimes.

2117
01:26:01,800 --> 01:26:04,530
He looked very much
German, my brother.

2118
01:26:04,530 --> 01:26:05,700
So he was safe.

2119
01:26:05,700 --> 01:26:06,230
Yeah.

2120
01:26:06,230 --> 01:26:06,730
Yeah.

2121
01:26:06,730 --> 01:26:07,320
OK.

2122
01:26:07,320 --> 01:26:09,570
Except if they would have
pulled his pants down

2123
01:26:09,570 --> 01:26:11,820
he would not have
been safe anymore.

2124
01:26:11,820 --> 01:26:12,320

[LAUGHS]

2125
01:26:12,320 --> 01:26:14,090
Ah, OK.

2126
01:26:14,090 --> 01:26:14,790
OK.

2127
01:26:14,790 --> 01:26:17,660
But he looked very much German.

2128
01:26:17,660 --> 01:26:19,170
OK.

2129
01:26:19,170 --> 01:26:23,460
Did you ever walk around town in
the non-Jewish sections and see

2130
01:26:23,460 --> 01:26:25,000
the center of the city and--

2131
01:26:25,000 --> 01:26:25,500
Oh, yeah.

2132
01:26:25,500 --> 01:26:26,070
Sure.

2133
01:26:26,070 --> 01:26:28,830
Did you go-- was
there a cinema in--

2134
01:26:28,830 --> 01:26:29,695
There was a cinema.

2135
01:26:29,695 --> 01:26:32,360
And in the beginning,
my cousin, this--

2136
01:26:32,360 --> 01:26:32,860
Max?

2137

01:26:32,860 --> 01:26:35,960
--cousin who picked us
up, took me to the cinema.

2138
01:26:35,960 --> 01:26:36,460
Right.

2139
01:26:36,460 --> 01:26:38,370
OK.

2140
01:26:38,370 --> 01:26:41,515
And had Max left with
your grandmother?

2141
01:26:41,515 --> 01:26:42,015
No.

2142
01:26:42,015 --> 01:26:44,820

2143
01:26:44,820 --> 01:26:48,012
Just like my father, he
had to work, you know,

2144
01:26:48,012 --> 01:26:48,720
in German places.

2145
01:26:48,720 --> 01:26:50,070
Did he survive the war?

2146
01:26:50,070 --> 01:26:51,320
He survived the war.

2147
01:26:51,320 --> 01:26:51,990
Yeah.

2148
01:26:51,990 --> 01:26:54,400
OK.

2149
01:26:54,400 --> 01:26:57,910
Then tell me, how did life
go on during these years--

2150
01:26:57,910 --> 01:27:00,730
1942, '43, '44?

2151
01:27:00,730 --> 01:27:03,490
I was a teenager and
I was just thinking

2152
01:27:03,490 --> 01:27:07,353
of finding a boy that I
can fall in love with.

2153
01:27:07,353 --> 01:27:08,270
Even during this time?

2154
01:27:08,270 --> 01:27:10,540
I didn't think of
bad things then.

2155
01:27:10,540 --> 01:27:11,375
No.

2156
01:27:11,375 --> 01:27:11,875
OK.

2157
01:27:11,875 --> 01:27:15,190

2158
01:27:15,190 --> 01:27:19,910
I think I always was a person
who hoped for the better.

2159
01:27:19,910 --> 01:27:21,550
What do you call
people like that?

2160
01:27:21,550 --> 01:27:22,050
Optimist.

2161
01:27:22,050 --> 01:27:23,230
I wasn't a pessimist.

2162
01:27:23,230 --> 01:27:24,190
You were an optimist.

2163
01:27:24,190 --> 01:27:28,090
I was an optimist, always
things have to get better.

2164
01:27:28,090 --> 01:27:30,750
OK.

2165
01:27:30,750 --> 01:27:35,600
And is there anything
else from those years

2166
01:27:35,600 --> 01:27:41,530
that you'd like to
share that happened?

2167
01:27:41,530 --> 01:27:46,100
Because it's a time of both
emptiness, that is no one else

2168
01:27:46,100 --> 01:27:46,600
is there.

2169
01:27:46,600 --> 01:27:48,730
Did anyone move
into those houses

2170
01:27:48,730 --> 01:27:51,040
that the Jews were taken from?

2171
01:27:51,040 --> 01:27:52,450
Yes.

2172
01:27:52,450 --> 01:27:54,670
Yes.

2173
01:27:54,670 --> 01:27:56,770
Wherever the Jews
were taken from,

2174

01:27:56,770 --> 01:27:59,410
the Polish people moved in.

2175

01:27:59,410 --> 01:28:00,430
I see.

2176

01:28:00,430 --> 01:28:02,700
Yeah.

2177

01:28:02,700 --> 01:28:06,570
I told you-- I think I told
before, the Polish were

2178

01:28:06,570 --> 01:28:08,445
big anti-Semites.

2179

01:28:08,445 --> 01:28:09,220
You did say that.

2180

01:28:09,220 --> 01:28:13,780
Much worse than the
German population.

2181

01:28:13,780 --> 01:28:16,800
But you see, one of the
things I'm trying to get at

2182

01:28:16,800 --> 01:28:20,730
is what showed that to you.

2183

01:28:20,730 --> 01:28:22,980
What experiences that you had--

2184

01:28:22,980 --> 01:28:29,440
did you have that brings
you to that point of view?

2185

01:28:29,440 --> 01:28:33,720
Well, I think if it would have
been a population of Poles that

2186

01:28:33,720 --> 01:28:34,550
would love--

2187
01:28:34,550 --> 01:28:39,390
that would accept the
Jews as themselves,

2188
01:28:39,390 --> 01:28:41,280
not as you're a Jew, you know.

2189
01:28:41,280 --> 01:28:42,420
You're different.

2190
01:28:42,420 --> 01:28:45,190
They would have had
more protection.

2191
01:28:45,190 --> 01:28:49,900
Because there weren't as many
Jews said they were Poles,

2192
01:28:49,900 --> 01:28:53,890
but the Poles themselves
hated the Jews.

2193
01:28:53,890 --> 01:29:00,280
So they helped the
Germans more than

2194
01:29:00,280 --> 01:29:02,660
if it would have been
the other way around.

2195
01:29:02,660 --> 01:29:05,075
I think you probably
heard of Denmark.

2196
01:29:05,075 --> 01:29:05,700
Yes, of course.

2197
01:29:05,700 --> 01:29:06,790
How it was there.

2198
01:29:06,790 --> 01:29:08,050
Yeah.

2199
01:29:08,050 --> 01:29:08,910
Not in Poland.

2200
01:29:08,910 --> 01:29:12,560

2201
01:29:12,560 --> 01:29:15,740
What did I want to ask?

2202
01:29:15,740 --> 01:29:19,160
Did you hear such
expressions from the Poles

2203
01:29:19,160 --> 01:29:21,554
when they would move
into these houses?

2204
01:29:21,554 --> 01:29:22,054
Did I move?

2205
01:29:22,054 --> 01:29:23,000
No, no, no.

2206
01:29:23,000 --> 01:29:26,210
Did you hear Poles
say such things

2207
01:29:26,210 --> 01:29:28,200
when they moved
into the vacated--

2208
01:29:28,200 --> 01:29:28,700
No.

2209
01:29:28,700 --> 01:29:32,110
They didn't talk about
those things, no,

2210

01:29:32,110 --> 01:29:35,240
that they took over Jewish
places and Jewish things.

2211
01:29:35,240 --> 01:29:37,098
No.

2212
01:29:37,098 --> 01:29:37,598
OK.

2213
01:29:37,598 --> 01:29:41,540

2214
01:29:41,540 --> 01:29:43,940
OK, let's go on.

2215
01:29:43,940 --> 01:29:45,923
May I go to the restroom?

2216
01:29:45,923 --> 01:29:46,690
Of course.

2217
01:29:46,690 --> 01:29:48,540
Let's cut.