

1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:01,850

2  
00:00:01,850 --> 00:00:05,750  
This is a United States  
Holocaust Memorial Museum

3  
00:00:05,750 --> 00:00:13,190  
interview with Mrs. Susan  
Stahl on January 17, 2019,

4  
00:00:13,190 --> 00:00:15,980  
in Delray Beach, Florida.

5  
00:00:15,980 --> 00:00:19,200  
Thank you very, very  
much, Mrs. Stahl--

6  
00:00:19,200 --> 00:00:20,780  
Oh, my pleasure.

7  
00:00:20,780 --> 00:00:23,640  
--for agreeing to speak with us.

8  
00:00:23,640 --> 00:00:26,260  
I'm going to start at  
the very beginning,

9  
00:00:26,260 --> 00:00:28,450  
and we'll develop  
things from there.

10  
00:00:28,450 --> 00:00:29,400  
OK?

11  
00:00:29,400 --> 00:00:35,110  
So my very first question is,  
what is the date of your birth?

12  
00:00:35,110 --> 00:00:39,770  
November 14, 1925.

13  
00:00:39,770 --> 00:00:41,980  
And where were you born?

14  
00:00:41,980 --> 00:00:50,200  
In a hospital in WÃ¼rzburg,  
but we lived in Burgsinn.

15  
00:00:50,200 --> 00:00:51,670  
Burgsinn.

16  
00:00:51,670 --> 00:00:56,020  
And WÃ¼rzburg and Burgsinn, in  
what part of Germany are they?

17  
00:00:56,020 --> 00:00:57,250  
Bavaria.

18  
00:00:57,250 --> 00:00:59,680  
In Bavaria, OK.

19  
00:00:59,680 --> 00:01:00,985  
What was your name at birth?

20  
00:01:00,985 --> 00:01:03,580

21  
00:01:03,580 --> 00:01:06,210  
Suse, S-U-S-E.

22  
00:01:06,210 --> 00:01:07,840  
S-U-S-E.

23  
00:01:07,840 --> 00:01:09,130  
Stein.

24  
00:01:09,130 --> 00:01:10,120  
Stein.

25  
00:01:10,120 --> 00:01:13,260  
OK, Suse Stein.

26  
00:01:13,260 --> 00:01:15,250  
Did you have  
brothers and sisters?

27  
00:01:15,250 --> 00:01:16,440  
I have a brother.

28  
00:01:16,440 --> 00:01:23,160  
I had two brothers, but one  
passed away at the age of 10.

29  
00:01:23,160 --> 00:01:24,960  
Ah.

30  
00:01:24,960 --> 00:01:26,990  
When was he born?

31  
00:01:26,990 --> 00:01:35,320  
He was born two years after  
I was born, so it's '27.

32  
00:01:35,320 --> 00:01:36,850  
1927.

33  
00:01:36,850 --> 00:01:42,030  
And my other brother  
was born in '29.

34  
00:01:42,030 --> 00:01:44,370  
He's four years  
younger than I am.

35  
00:01:44,370 --> 00:01:46,140  
You're the oldest of the family.

36  
00:01:46,140 --> 00:01:47,460  
Yes.

37  
00:01:47,460 --> 00:01:50,670  
What was the name of the  
brother who passed away?

38  
00:01:50,670 --> 00:01:51,750  
Werner.

39  
00:01:51,750 --> 00:01:53,040  
Werner.

40  
00:01:53,040 --> 00:01:56,730  
And your youngest brother?

41  
00:01:56,730 --> 00:01:57,480  
Henry.

42  
00:01:57,480 --> 00:01:59,610  
Henry.

43  
00:01:59,610 --> 00:02:01,590  
Is your youngest  
brother still alive?

44  
00:02:01,590 --> 00:02:02,580  
Oh, yes.

45  
00:02:02,580 --> 00:02:03,420  
OK.

46  
00:02:03,420 --> 00:02:05,850  
Has he ever given his testimony?

47  
00:02:05,850 --> 00:02:06,792  
No.

48  
00:02:06,792 --> 00:02:07,292  
OK.

49  
00:02:07,292 --> 00:02:09,800

50  
00:02:09,800 --> 00:02:14,420  
Your parents, what were  
your parents' names?

51  
00:02:14,420 --> 00:02:16,080  
From your father,  
what was his name?

52  
00:02:16,080 --> 00:02:16,940  
Louis.

53  
00:02:16,940 --> 00:02:18,170  
Louis.

54  
00:02:18,170 --> 00:02:18,950  
And your mother?

55  
00:02:18,950 --> 00:02:19,850  
Erna.

56  
00:02:19,850 --> 00:02:21,260  
With her maiden name.

57  
00:02:21,260 --> 00:02:22,490  
Katz.

58  
00:02:22,490 --> 00:02:27,340  
Erna Katz Stein and Louis Stein.

59  
00:02:27,340 --> 00:02:30,520  
And were they both  
from Bursinn?

60  
00:02:30,520 --> 00:02:31,420  
No.

61  
00:02:31,420 --> 00:02:32,350  
Where were they from?

62  
00:02:32,350 --> 00:02:35,140  
My father, yes.

63  
00:02:35,140 --> 00:02:40,510  
My mother came from

a town called Bibra.

64  
00:02:40,510 --> 00:02:41,170  
Bibra.

65  
00:02:41,170 --> 00:02:42,160  
In Meiningen.

66  
00:02:42,160 --> 00:02:44,480  
And where is Meiningen?

67  
00:02:44,480 --> 00:02:47,840

68  
00:02:47,840 --> 00:02:50,060  
I really don't know exactly.

69  
00:02:50,060 --> 00:02:51,750  
OK.

70  
00:02:51,750 --> 00:02:53,490  
Was it also in Bavaria?

71  
00:02:53,490 --> 00:02:54,890  
No.

72  
00:02:54,890 --> 00:02:56,550  
It was in another  
part of Germany.

73  
00:02:56,550 --> 00:02:58,200  
Yes.

74  
00:02:58,200 --> 00:03:02,250  
And did you know her  
side of the family?

75  
00:03:02,250 --> 00:03:03,240  
Oh, yes.

76  
00:03:03,240 --> 00:03:05,550

So did they move to Burgsinn,  
or did you visit them?

77

00:03:05,550 --> 00:03:11,700

No, we spent our vacations  
there with my grandfather

78

00:03:11,700 --> 00:03:15,390

and my aunt, my mother's sister.

79

00:03:15,390 --> 00:03:17,570

And that was in Bibra?

80

00:03:17,570 --> 00:03:19,770

Yeah.

81

00:03:19,770 --> 00:03:22,230

So tell me a little bit  
about your maternal side

82

00:03:22,230 --> 00:03:23,460

of the family.

83

00:03:23,460 --> 00:03:25,650

Your mother had one sister.

84

00:03:25,650 --> 00:03:26,730

Yes.

85

00:03:26,730 --> 00:03:27,720

Any brothers?

86

00:03:27,720 --> 00:03:28,710

No.

87

00:03:28,710 --> 00:03:30,420

So what was her sister's name?

88

00:03:30,420 --> 00:03:31,830

Rosa.

89

00:03:31,830 --> 00:03:35,910

And your grandfather,  
does that mean you

90

00:03:35,910 --> 00:03:39,540

didn't have a grandmother by the  
time you were born and grew up?

91

00:03:39,540 --> 00:03:44,580

I had a grandmother  
from my father's mother.

92

00:03:44,580 --> 00:03:45,570

I see.

93

00:03:45,570 --> 00:03:47,130

But not your mother's mother.

94

00:03:47,130 --> 00:03:47,850

No.

95

00:03:47,850 --> 00:03:49,230

She had died earlier?

96

00:03:49,230 --> 00:03:49,830

Yes.

97

00:03:49,830 --> 00:03:50,880

OK.

98

00:03:50,880 --> 00:03:57,550

During the plague.

99

00:03:57,550 --> 00:03:58,210

The flu?

100

00:03:58,210 --> 00:04:00,970

The flu in the '18.

101

00:04:00,970 --> 00:04:01,600

In 1918.



102  
00:04:01,600 --> 00:04:03,420  
'18, yes.

103  
00:04:03,420 --> 00:04:06,190  
And so many people don't  
know about that, what

104  
00:04:06,190 --> 00:04:09,280  
a worldwide disaster that was--

105  
00:04:09,280 --> 00:04:10,030  
Yes.

106  
00:04:10,030 --> 00:04:12,280  
--that flu.

107  
00:04:12,280 --> 00:04:15,380  
So she was one of the victims,  
your maternal grandmother.

108  
00:04:15,380 --> 00:04:16,970  
Grandmother.

109  
00:04:16,970 --> 00:04:18,410  
Do you know what her name was?

110  
00:04:18,410 --> 00:04:21,320

111  
00:04:21,320 --> 00:04:22,400  
I should know.

112  
00:04:22,400 --> 00:04:25,350

113  
00:04:25,350 --> 00:04:27,180  
I can't think of it right now.

114  
00:04:27,180 --> 00:04:28,140  
That's OK.

115

00:04:28,140 --> 00:04:31,860

These things come to you long  
after the camera stops rolling.

116

00:04:31,860 --> 00:04:32,700

I'm sure.

117

00:04:32,700 --> 00:04:34,650

Yeah.

118

00:04:34,650 --> 00:04:38,220

What about your  
maternal grandfather?

119

00:04:38,220 --> 00:04:39,750

Did you know him?

120

00:04:39,750 --> 00:04:40,800

Yes.

121

00:04:40,800 --> 00:04:43,190

What was his name?

122

00:04:43,190 --> 00:04:45,230

Oh, you mean from  
my father's side?

123

00:04:45,230 --> 00:04:45,840

Mother's.

124

00:04:45,840 --> 00:04:47,870

From my mother's, Joseph.

125

00:04:47,870 --> 00:04:49,755

Joseph Katz, OK.

126

00:04:49,755 --> 00:04:53,140

127

00:04:53,140 --> 00:04:57,140

How had he made a

living, Joseph Katz?

128  
00:04:57,140 --> 00:05:05,820  
He was a cattle--

129  
00:05:05,820 --> 00:05:08,490  
he was in the cattle business.

130  
00:05:08,490 --> 00:05:09,630  
OK.

131  
00:05:09,630 --> 00:05:10,830  
So he was--

132  
00:05:10,830 --> 00:05:11,370  
OK.

133  
00:05:11,370 --> 00:05:16,050  
So that was a common business  
for many people to be in.

134  
00:05:16,050 --> 00:05:19,900  
I have interviewed some others  
who were involved in that.

135  
00:05:19,900 --> 00:05:23,980  
And was your maternal  
side of the family

136  
00:05:23,980 --> 00:05:28,750  
well-to-do or not so  
much, would you say?

137  
00:05:28,750 --> 00:05:30,130  
Average.

138  
00:05:30,130 --> 00:05:32,460  
OK, OK.

139  
00:05:32,460 --> 00:05:35,460  
What do you remember  
of your visits

140  
00:05:35,460 --> 00:05:41,040  
to your mother's side  
of the family in Bibra?

141  
00:05:41,040 --> 00:05:43,600  
Oh, we always had  
a wonderful time.

142  
00:05:43,600 --> 00:05:44,100  
Did you?

143  
00:05:44,100 --> 00:05:48,435  
My aunt was just a  
lovely, lovely lady.

144  
00:05:48,435 --> 00:05:49,980  
Mhm.

145  
00:05:49,980 --> 00:05:54,050  
We used to bake  
together, and she

146  
00:05:54,050 --> 00:06:00,350  
was able to stir with one  
hand and beat with the other.

147  
00:06:00,350 --> 00:06:02,450  
That's not easy to do.

148  
00:06:02,450 --> 00:06:03,470  
No it isn't.

149  
00:06:03,470 --> 00:06:04,060  
No, it isn't.

150  
00:06:04,060 --> 00:06:06,800  
And she was just wonderful.

151  
00:06:06,800 --> 00:06:10,830  
We loved spending time with her.

152

00:06:10,830 --> 00:06:12,410

And when you would  
go to visit her,

153

00:06:12,410 --> 00:06:15,710

would it just be the children,  
or would it just be you,

154

00:06:15,710 --> 00:06:17,330

or would it be the whole family?

155

00:06:17,330 --> 00:06:19,580

No, it would just be me.

156

00:06:19,580 --> 00:06:20,840

Well, that's very special.

157

00:06:20,840 --> 00:06:23,180

Yes.

158

00:06:23,180 --> 00:06:26,240

So you're the only  
girl, and you get

159

00:06:26,240 --> 00:06:30,560

to go there and have  
one-on-one time.

160

00:06:30,560 --> 00:06:31,380

Yes.

161

00:06:31,380 --> 00:06:36,360

What kind of a place did they  
live in, did your aunt live in?

162

00:06:36,360 --> 00:06:40,430

It's a small town, not  
many Jewish families.

163

00:06:40,430 --> 00:06:43,860

164

00:06:43,860 --> 00:06:48,510

Their are relatives that  
lived in that town that

165

00:06:48,510 --> 00:06:53,200

had a butcher shop.

166

00:06:53,200 --> 00:06:55,990

And the house, was it an an  
apartment, or was it a house?

167

00:06:55,990 --> 00:06:57,700

No, it was a house.

168

00:06:57,700 --> 00:07:00,100

And was it your  
grandfather's house?

169

00:07:00,100 --> 00:07:00,820

Yes.

170

00:07:00,820 --> 00:07:02,830

So Aunt Rosa was not married.

171

00:07:02,830 --> 00:07:03,640

No.

172

00:07:03,640 --> 00:07:05,650

OK.

173

00:07:05,650 --> 00:07:07,540

And why do you think that was?

174

00:07:07,540 --> 00:07:09,130

I have no idea.

175

00:07:09,130 --> 00:07:10,060

OK.

176

00:07:10,060 --> 00:07:12,520

Was she older or younger

than your mother?

177  
00:07:12,520 --> 00:07:13,758  
Younger.

178  
00:07:13,758 --> 00:07:16,510  
OK.

179  
00:07:16,510 --> 00:07:18,640  
Do you have memories  
of the house?

180  
00:07:18,640 --> 00:07:19,600  
Yes.

181  
00:07:19,600 --> 00:07:21,070  
Tell me about it.

182  
00:07:21,070 --> 00:07:23,770  
Well, not specific.

183  
00:07:23,770 --> 00:07:24,770  
No, but in general--

184  
00:07:24,770 --> 00:07:25,270  
Yes.

185  
00:07:25,270 --> 00:07:27,260  
--so that I'd get  
a picture of it.

186  
00:07:27,260 --> 00:07:32,292  
It was right across from  
the synagogue, and--

187  
00:07:32,292 --> 00:07:35,920

188  
00:07:35,920 --> 00:07:39,170  
Was it two-story or three-story?

189

00:07:39,170 --> 00:07:43,270  
No, it was a two-story.

190  
00:07:43,270 --> 00:07:46,600  
Did it have land around it?

191  
00:07:46,600 --> 00:07:48,250  
Not really.

192  
00:07:48,250 --> 00:07:51,250  
OK, was it in the  
center of Bibra?

193  
00:07:51,250 --> 00:07:52,330  
Yes.

194  
00:07:52,330 --> 00:07:53,770  
OK.

195  
00:07:53,770 --> 00:07:56,170  
Was it connected  
to other buildings?

196  
00:07:56,170 --> 00:07:56,920  
No.

197  
00:07:56,920 --> 00:07:58,600  
OK, so it was a standalone.

198  
00:07:58,600 --> 00:07:59,860  
Yes.

199  
00:07:59,860 --> 00:08:03,250  
OK, was there a  
garden of any kind?

200  
00:08:03,250 --> 00:08:04,300  
No.

201  
00:08:04,300 --> 00:08:04,990  
No?



202  
00:08:04,990 --> 00:08:06,730  
OK.

203  
00:08:06,730 --> 00:08:08,430  
Not that I recall.

204  
00:08:08,430 --> 00:08:09,960  
OK.

205  
00:08:09,960 --> 00:08:12,330  
And a couple of  
questions, and I'll

206  
00:08:12,330 --> 00:08:16,320  
ask this about your  
own home in Burgsinn.

207  
00:08:16,320 --> 00:08:22,360  
But what level of  
modernity did it have?

208  
00:08:22,360 --> 00:08:24,280  
Did it have electricity?

209  
00:08:24,280 --> 00:08:25,630  
Oh, yes.

210  
00:08:25,630 --> 00:08:28,750  
Did it have indoor plumbing?

211  
00:08:28,750 --> 00:08:34,550  
The toilet facility  
was separate, outdoors.

212  
00:08:34,550 --> 00:08:37,010  
Ah, it was.

213  
00:08:37,010 --> 00:08:39,730  
There a bathroom in the house?

214  
00:08:39,730 --> 00:08:40,490

No.

215

00:08:40,490 --> 00:08:41,630

No.

216

00:08:41,630 --> 00:08:46,430

So where did-- was there  
like a town, common baths

217

00:08:46,430 --> 00:08:47,750

that people would go to?

218

00:08:47,750 --> 00:08:54,610

Or how did people take care  
of those sorts of things?

219

00:08:54,610 --> 00:08:57,550

Did you heat water  
and fill up a tub?

220

00:08:57,550 --> 00:09:00,210

221

00:09:00,210 --> 00:09:02,430

I really don't recall.

222

00:09:02,430 --> 00:09:03,510

It's OK.

223

00:09:03,510 --> 00:09:04,500

That's OK.

224

00:09:04,500 --> 00:09:06,410

Was there a telephone?

225

00:09:06,410 --> 00:09:07,220

Yes.

226

00:09:07,220 --> 00:09:08,680

OK.

227

00:09:08,680 --> 00:09:12,430  
And did your grandfather  
have an automobile?

228  
00:09:12,430 --> 00:09:13,420  
No.

229  
00:09:13,420 --> 00:09:16,270  
OK.

230  
00:09:16,270 --> 00:09:21,500  
And when you would  
visit them, would you

231  
00:09:21,500 --> 00:09:24,400  
spend time with him as well?

232  
00:09:24,400 --> 00:09:25,240  
Yes.

233  
00:09:25,240 --> 00:09:27,040  
Was he retired?

234  
00:09:27,040 --> 00:09:27,990  
No.

235  
00:09:27,990 --> 00:09:33,901  
Oh, so he continued to work  
while you were growing up?

236  
00:09:33,901 --> 00:09:36,260  
OK.

237  
00:09:36,260 --> 00:09:38,000  
Do you know how  
your parents met?

238  
00:09:38,000 --> 00:09:42,780

239  
00:09:42,780 --> 00:09:53,400  
Through an aunt that I had

that lived in Burgsinn.

240  
00:09:53,400 --> 00:09:53,900  
OK.

241  
00:09:53,900 --> 00:09:58,910  
And I think she invited  
my mother to come down,

242  
00:09:58,910 --> 00:10:01,550  
and that's how they met.

243  
00:10:01,550 --> 00:10:03,590  
So was it an arranged marriage?

244  
00:10:03,590 --> 00:10:04,680  
No.

245  
00:10:04,680 --> 00:10:06,890  
OK.

246  
00:10:06,890 --> 00:10:09,470  
Did your parents ever  
talk about how they met

247  
00:10:09,470 --> 00:10:12,540  
and how they got  
to know each other?

248  
00:10:12,540 --> 00:10:13,560  
Not really.

249  
00:10:13,560 --> 00:10:16,068  
OK, OK.

250  
00:10:16,068 --> 00:10:17,485  
Do you know the  
year they married?

251  
00:10:17,485 --> 00:10:26,560

252

00:10:26,560 --> 00:10:29,260

I was born in '25--

253

00:10:29,260 --> 00:10:38,420

around 1900 and 1902.

254

00:10:38,420 --> 00:10:44,530

They married, or they  
were born in 1902?

255

00:10:44,530 --> 00:10:47,170

Well, I was born in '25.

256

00:10:47,170 --> 00:10:48,100

OK.

257

00:10:48,100 --> 00:10:49,840

And so you think  
they were married

258

00:10:49,840 --> 00:10:51,460

a few years before then?

259

00:10:51,460 --> 00:10:52,820

Not that long.

260

00:10:52,820 --> 00:10:54,890

So it was my mistake.

261

00:10:54,890 --> 00:10:57,840

OK, so it's like 1923 or 1924.

262

00:10:57,840 --> 00:10:59,400

Right.

263

00:10:59,400 --> 00:11:01,900

But that brings me  
to another question.

264

00:11:01,900 --> 00:11:06,870

Do you know about how old your

parents were when they married

265

00:11:06,870 --> 00:11:08,610

or when you were born?

266

00:11:08,610 --> 00:11:09,810

Were they young parents?

267

00:11:09,810 --> 00:11:12,540

Or were they older?

268

00:11:12,540 --> 00:11:13,830

They were young.

269

00:11:13,830 --> 00:11:15,030

OK.

270

00:11:15,030 --> 00:11:17,910

So your father's  
date of birth, do you

271

00:11:17,910 --> 00:11:20,010

know when it would have been?

272

00:11:20,010 --> 00:11:23,120

My father was born August 4.

273

00:11:23,120 --> 00:11:27,950

274

00:11:27,950 --> 00:11:29,360

I don't know the--

275

00:11:29,360 --> 00:11:30,740

I forgot the--

276

00:11:30,740 --> 00:11:31,400

That's OK.

277

00:11:31,400 --> 00:11:33,360

18--

278  
00:11:33,360 --> 00:11:34,910  
But still in the 1800s.

279  
00:11:34,910 --> 00:11:35,750  
Yes.

280  
00:11:35,750 --> 00:11:36,560  
And your mother?

281  
00:11:36,560 --> 00:11:40,220

282  
00:11:40,220 --> 00:11:43,670  
About a couple of years later.

283  
00:11:43,670 --> 00:11:46,090  
OK, OK.

284  
00:11:46,090 --> 00:11:51,940  
Was your father old enough to  
have served in any armed forces

285  
00:11:51,940 --> 00:11:53,080  
during World War I?

286  
00:11:53,080 --> 00:11:54,130  
Yes.

287  
00:11:54,130 --> 00:11:58,690  
My father won the  
Iron Cross First

288  
00:11:58,690 --> 00:12:06,010  
Class, which was very  
unusual for a Jew to get.

289  
00:12:06,010 --> 00:12:08,950  
He served through the whole war.

290  
00:12:08,950 --> 00:12:13,330

He was a spy in the--

291

00:12:13,330 --> 00:12:21,290  
behind the lines in  
the French part of--

292

00:12:21,290 --> 00:12:23,410  
Wow.

293

00:12:23,410 --> 00:12:24,820  
Wow.

294

00:12:24,820 --> 00:12:27,700  
Did he ever tell you  
what that involved,

295

00:12:27,700 --> 00:12:29,770  
being a spy behind those lines?

296

00:12:29,770 --> 00:12:32,520  
No, he never talked about it.

297

00:12:32,520 --> 00:12:33,900  
Never, huh?

298

00:12:33,900 --> 00:12:36,360  
But he did tell you  
that he had served.

299

00:12:36,360 --> 00:12:38,340  
Yes.

300

00:12:38,340 --> 00:12:38,840  
And--

301

00:12:38,840 --> 00:12:46,540  
My brother recently got  
a letter from Germany

302

00:12:46,540 --> 00:12:55,770  
saying that they have the record  
and what a brilliant soldier he



303  
00:12:55,770 --> 00:12:57,933  
was.

304  
00:12:57,933 --> 00:12:59,860  
Wow.

305  
00:12:59,860 --> 00:13:02,380  
I've just never heard  
of somebody-- well,

306  
00:13:02,380 --> 00:13:07,290  
I've heard of people who  
have gotten the Iron Cross.

307  
00:13:07,290 --> 00:13:10,920  
But that they got it  
for such purposes,

308  
00:13:10,920 --> 00:13:14,190  
you had to be pretty smart  
and have your wits about you.

309  
00:13:14,190 --> 00:13:15,690  
Oh, yes.

310  
00:13:15,690 --> 00:13:19,440  
So he would have been  
feeding back intelligence

311  
00:13:19,440 --> 00:13:20,920  
to his own side.

312  
00:13:20,920 --> 00:13:23,040  
Yes.

313  
00:13:23,040 --> 00:13:25,230  
Tell me a little bit  
about his personality,

314  
00:13:25,230 --> 00:13:26,880  
what kind of a person he was.

315  
00:13:26,880 --> 00:13:29,390

316  
00:13:29,390 --> 00:13:31,470  
He was wonderful.

317  
00:13:31,470 --> 00:13:33,640  
He was kind, caring.

318  
00:13:33,640 --> 00:13:36,570

319  
00:13:36,570 --> 00:13:44,300  
And he had a business.

320  
00:13:44,300 --> 00:13:48,710  
He was in the--

321  
00:13:48,710 --> 00:13:53,910  
he was supplying shoemakers  
with all their needs.

322  
00:13:53,910 --> 00:13:57,890  
And at that time, they  
not only repaired shoes.

323  
00:13:57,890 --> 00:14:00,620  
They made shoes.

324  
00:14:00,620 --> 00:14:06,630  
So he would supply shoemakers  
with the raw materials?

325  
00:14:06,630 --> 00:14:08,550  
Do you know what  
that consisted of?

326  
00:14:08,550 --> 00:14:11,200  
What were those raw materials?

327

00:14:11,200 --> 00:14:12,300  
Leather.

328  
00:14:12,300 --> 00:14:13,810  
OK.

329  
00:14:13,810 --> 00:14:15,550  
And anything else?

330  
00:14:15,550 --> 00:14:23,500  
Well, all of the things that  
you need to produce a shoe.

331  
00:14:23,500 --> 00:14:26,420  
And did you ever see  
those items as you were--

332  
00:14:26,420 --> 00:14:26,920  
Yes.

333  
00:14:26,920 --> 00:14:35,020  
Because my father had a storage  
in the lower part of our house.

334  
00:14:35,020 --> 00:14:35,950  
OK.

335  
00:14:35,950 --> 00:14:40,390  
So you would see things  
like heels, and shoelaces,

336  
00:14:40,390 --> 00:14:42,820  
and leather bits.

337  
00:14:42,820 --> 00:14:44,230  
And I'm just curious.

338  
00:14:44,230 --> 00:14:47,020  
I wonder what a sole  
was made out of,

339  
00:14:47,020 --> 00:14:50,870

whether it was made out  
of some kind of wood or--

340  
00:14:50,870 --> 00:14:51,370  
No.

341  
00:14:51,370 --> 00:14:59,590  
They had-- these were  
big leather pieces that

342  
00:14:59,590 --> 00:15:02,130  
were cut out from there.

343  
00:15:02,130 --> 00:15:04,200  
Interesting, interesting.

344  
00:15:04,200 --> 00:15:06,620  
Did he make shoes for you?

345  
00:15:06,620 --> 00:15:07,990  
No.

346  
00:15:07,990 --> 00:15:08,740  
OK.

347  
00:15:08,740 --> 00:15:13,320  
So would you say he  
was a wholesaler?

348  
00:15:13,320 --> 00:15:19,630  
He was a retailer supplying  
shoe manufacturers.

349  
00:15:19,630 --> 00:15:21,800  
OK, OK.

350  
00:15:21,800 --> 00:15:24,800  
He did a lot of traveling.

351  
00:15:24,800 --> 00:15:31,800  
He got a car very early on  
when very few people had a car.

352  
00:15:31,800 --> 00:15:34,170  
Was Burgsinn a large place?

353  
00:15:34,170 --> 00:15:35,430  
No.

354  
00:15:35,430 --> 00:15:37,710  
About how many families--

355  
00:15:37,710 --> 00:15:41,330  
well, how large would  
it have been as a town?

356  
00:15:41,330 --> 00:15:42,430  
That I don't know.

357  
00:15:42,430 --> 00:15:47,720  
But there were about  
20 Jewish families.

358  
00:15:47,720 --> 00:15:48,880  
So that's not much.

359  
00:15:48,880 --> 00:15:49,900  
No.

360  
00:15:49,900 --> 00:15:51,760  
And did you all  
know one another?

361  
00:15:51,760 --> 00:15:53,440  
Oh, yes.

362  
00:15:53,440 --> 00:15:58,870  
And how had your father's  
family come to be there?

363  
00:15:58,870 --> 00:16:01,680  
Do you know?

364

00:16:01,680 --> 00:16:04,640  
His family had lived there.

365  
00:16:04,640 --> 00:16:08,510  
My grandmother was still alive.

366  
00:16:08,510 --> 00:16:12,110  
My grandfather had passed away.

367  
00:16:12,110 --> 00:16:24,110  
And we had two houses that were  
attached and the two stories.

368  
00:16:24,110 --> 00:16:37,500  
And there was stairs going  
up at a second house,

369  
00:16:37,500 --> 00:16:42,300  
and we could access them  
from the first house.

370  
00:16:42,300 --> 00:16:47,730  
So my grandmother lived  
on the first floor

371  
00:16:47,730 --> 00:16:49,770  
of the second house.

372  
00:16:49,770 --> 00:16:56,070  
And the bedrooms for my  
family were upstairs.

373  
00:16:56,070 --> 00:16:57,330  
In her house.

374  
00:16:57,330 --> 00:16:58,060  
In that house.

375  
00:16:58,060 --> 00:16:58,560  
Yeah.

376  
00:16:58,560 --> 00:16:59,670

Yes.

377

00:16:59,670 --> 00:17:05,069

And in our house, my  
father had his business

378

00:17:05,069 --> 00:17:10,800

on the first floor,  
and our living quarters

379

00:17:10,800 --> 00:17:14,030

were on the second floor.

380

00:17:14,030 --> 00:17:17,810

And had he inherited this  
business from his own father?

381

00:17:17,810 --> 00:17:18,440

No.

382

00:17:18,440 --> 00:17:19,950

He started it on his own.

383

00:17:19,950 --> 00:17:21,440

Yes.

384

00:17:21,440 --> 00:17:24,930

What was the name  
of the business?

385

00:17:24,930 --> 00:17:26,839

It was just under his name.

386

00:17:26,839 --> 00:17:30,770

So it would have  
been Stein [GERMAN]

387

00:17:30,770 --> 00:17:31,910

or something like that?

388

00:17:31,910 --> 00:17:33,320

Yes.

389  
00:17:33,320 --> 00:17:34,810  
OK.

390  
00:17:34,810 --> 00:17:37,030  
It wasn't like Schuhhaus Stein.

391  
00:17:37,030 --> 00:17:39,130  
I don't think so, no.

392  
00:17:39,130 --> 00:17:40,630  
Did he have a storefront?

393  
00:17:40,630 --> 00:17:41,910  
No.

394  
00:17:41,910 --> 00:17:44,350  
OK, OK.

395  
00:17:44,350 --> 00:17:48,400  
And did any customers  
ever come to his--

396  
00:17:48,400 --> 00:17:52,650  
to where those parts of your  
home where he had his supplies?

397  
00:17:52,650 --> 00:17:55,050  
Yes.

398  
00:17:55,050 --> 00:17:57,370  
So people would come  
to pick them up.

399  
00:17:57,370 --> 00:17:59,860  
It's not just that he  
would deliver them.

400  
00:17:59,860 --> 00:18:02,140  
He delivered most of them.

401



00:18:02,140 --> 00:18:05,860

But once in a while,  
a customer came.

402

00:18:05,860 --> 00:18:09,550

And even when he  
was out of town,

403

00:18:09,550 --> 00:18:14,140

my mother would  
take care of that.

404

00:18:14,140 --> 00:18:15,790

Well, that was one  
of my questions

405

00:18:15,790 --> 00:18:18,500

too is, did she help  
her in the business?

406

00:18:18,500 --> 00:18:19,000

Yes.

407

00:18:19,000 --> 00:18:20,140

Help him in the business.

408

00:18:20,140 --> 00:18:20,930

Yes.

409

00:18:20,930 --> 00:18:22,390

Yeah.

410

00:18:22,390 --> 00:18:24,910

Was it just the two  
of them together?

411

00:18:24,910 --> 00:18:25,690

Yes.

412

00:18:25,690 --> 00:18:27,850

There was nobody else  
that he hired for it?

413

00:18:27,850 --> 00:18:29,600

No.

414

00:18:29,600 --> 00:18:35,480

And then who took care of  
you and your brothers most

415

00:18:35,480 --> 00:18:37,600

of the time?

416

00:18:37,600 --> 00:18:40,180

My mother and father.

417

00:18:40,180 --> 00:18:43,360

What about if your  
father was on business

418

00:18:43,360 --> 00:18:46,060

and your mother was  
helping him, does that

419

00:18:46,060 --> 00:18:47,830

mean that your grandmother  
would sometimes

420

00:18:47,830 --> 00:18:49,900

step in, or not so much?

421

00:18:49,900 --> 00:18:51,220

Not so much.

422

00:18:51,220 --> 00:18:52,480

OK.

423

00:18:52,480 --> 00:18:54,040

Did you have a nanny?

424

00:18:54,040 --> 00:18:55,400

No.

425

00:18:55,400 --> 00:18:57,500

Did you have any other help?

426  
00:18:57,500 --> 00:18:59,100  
Yes.

427  
00:18:59,100 --> 00:19:00,380  
OK.

428  
00:19:00,380 --> 00:19:01,760  
What kind?

429  
00:19:01,760 --> 00:19:10,580  
From what I remember, we had  
somebody come in once a week,

430  
00:19:10,580 --> 00:19:13,960  
I believe, to do laundry.

431  
00:19:13,960 --> 00:19:19,870  
OK, but nobody who was like a  
regular, almost live-in kind

432  
00:19:19,870 --> 00:19:21,760  
of help situation.

433  
00:19:21,760 --> 00:19:24,670  
I don't recall that there was.

434  
00:19:24,670 --> 00:19:25,420  
OK.

435  
00:19:25,420 --> 00:19:28,030  
Could have been, but  
I don't remember.

436  
00:19:28,030 --> 00:19:29,170  
OK.

437  
00:19:29,170 --> 00:19:31,000  
Do you have any  
earliest memories?

438

00:19:31,000 --> 00:19:34,250

439

00:19:34,250 --> 00:19:40,470

Well, it's a long  
time ago, but some.

440

00:19:40,470 --> 00:19:41,250

What kind?

441

00:19:41,250 --> 00:19:44,660

Could you share some of them?

442

00:19:44,660 --> 00:19:50,500

Well, I enjoyed visiting  
my grandfather and my aunt

443

00:19:50,500 --> 00:19:52,950

during vacation.

444

00:19:52,950 --> 00:20:01,880

And we had friends that we  
got together with, but mostly

445

00:20:01,880 --> 00:20:04,520

only the Jewish children.

446

00:20:04,520 --> 00:20:06,220

OK.

447

00:20:06,220 --> 00:20:08,330

Did you have any pets?

448

00:20:08,330 --> 00:20:09,230

No.

449

00:20:09,230 --> 00:20:12,610

My grandfather had a dog.

450

00:20:12,610 --> 00:20:13,930

Did you like animals?

451  
00:20:13,930 --> 00:20:16,150  
No.

452  
00:20:16,150 --> 00:20:19,390  
I must have stepped  
on him once, that dog.

453  
00:20:19,390 --> 00:20:20,290  
Ah.

454  
00:20:20,290 --> 00:20:26,930  
And ever since then,  
I don't like dogs.

455  
00:20:26,930 --> 00:20:29,110  
Did he bark or bite?

456  
00:20:29,110 --> 00:20:30,005  
No.

457  
00:20:30,005 --> 00:20:32,050  
He barked, but he didn't bite.

458  
00:20:32,050 --> 00:20:35,500  
OK, at least that much.

459  
00:20:35,500 --> 00:20:42,580  
And describe your own home that  
you shared with your father's

460  
00:20:42,580 --> 00:20:45,100  
mother, so those two buildings.

461  
00:20:45,100 --> 00:20:46,240  
Did they have electricity?

462  
00:20:46,240 --> 00:20:47,000  
Was there--

463  
00:20:47,000 --> 00:20:47,800

Oh, yes.

464  
00:20:47,800 --> 00:20:48,730  
OK.

465  
00:20:48,730 --> 00:20:51,680  
And what about indoor  
plumbing, was there indoor--

466  
00:20:51,680 --> 00:20:52,180  
Yes.

467  
00:20:52,180 --> 00:20:53,080  
OK.

468  
00:20:53,080 --> 00:20:56,860  
So they were a little  
bit more modern than what

469  
00:20:56,860 --> 00:20:59,510  
your mother's father lived in.

470  
00:20:59,510 --> 00:21:00,190  
Right.

471  
00:21:00,190 --> 00:21:01,750  
OK.

472  
00:21:01,750 --> 00:21:06,700  
How was the place heated, your  
mother's and father's home?

473  
00:21:06,700 --> 00:21:13,540

474  
00:21:13,540 --> 00:21:19,670  
Oh, we had an oven in each room.

475  
00:21:19,670 --> 00:21:22,250  
Was it with coal,  
or was it with wood?

476  
00:21:22,250 --> 00:21:23,540  
With wood.

477  
00:21:23,540 --> 00:21:25,460  
OK, OK.

478  
00:21:25,460 --> 00:21:28,250  
So each room would  
be heated separately.

479  
00:21:28,250 --> 00:21:30,580  
From what I remember, yes.

480  
00:21:30,580 --> 00:21:31,430  
OK.

481  
00:21:31,430 --> 00:21:32,345  
How did she bake?

482  
00:21:32,345 --> 00:21:36,520

483  
00:21:36,520 --> 00:21:40,060  
We had an oven that worked.

484  
00:21:40,060 --> 00:21:42,150  
Also wood-fired?

485  
00:21:42,150 --> 00:21:43,350  
Yes.

486  
00:21:43,350 --> 00:21:46,080  
OK.

487  
00:21:46,080 --> 00:21:49,620  
Was your mother a baker, a cook?

488  
00:21:49,620 --> 00:21:51,000  
Very much so.

489

00:21:51,000 --> 00:21:52,260  
Yeah?

490  
00:21:52,260 --> 00:21:54,840  
Were there any favorite  
dishes that you had?

491  
00:21:54,840 --> 00:21:55,650  
Yes.

492  
00:21:55,650 --> 00:21:57,230  
What were they?

493  
00:21:57,230 --> 00:22:12,070  
Well, every Thursday night, we  
had soup, and meat in the soup,

494  
00:22:12,070 --> 00:22:17,410  
and potato.

495  
00:22:17,410 --> 00:22:20,770

496  
00:22:20,770 --> 00:22:27,280  
And then for lunch  
the next day, we had--

497  
00:22:27,280 --> 00:22:29,170  
and sauerkraut.

498  
00:22:29,170 --> 00:22:34,300  
And for lunch next day, we  
had this all mixed together

499  
00:22:34,300 --> 00:22:39,780  
into a soup that was delicious.

500  
00:22:39,780 --> 00:22:40,765  
Also healthy.

501  
00:22:40,765 --> 00:22:41,265  
Yes.



502  
00:22:41,265 --> 00:22:44,210

503  
00:22:44,210 --> 00:22:50,420  
And did your parents keep  
to Jewish traditions?

504  
00:22:50,420 --> 00:22:51,740  
Absolutely.

505  
00:22:51,740 --> 00:22:54,460  
Were they religious people?

506  
00:22:54,460 --> 00:22:58,510  
I wouldn't say  
orthodox, but religious.

507  
00:22:58,510 --> 00:22:59,770  
Was there a synagogue?

508  
00:22:59,770 --> 00:23:00,520  
Yes.

509  
00:23:00,520 --> 00:23:01,420  
In Burgsinn, yeah?

510  
00:23:01,420 --> 00:23:03,220  
Yes.

511  
00:23:03,220 --> 00:23:07,300  
And but only 20 families?

512  
00:23:07,300 --> 00:23:09,480  
Yes.

513  
00:23:09,480 --> 00:23:10,580  
And there was already--

514  
00:23:10,580 --> 00:23:14,150  
so does that mean there had been

a Jewish community in Burgsinn

515

00:23:14,150 --> 00:23:16,960

for 100, 200 years?

516

00:23:16,960 --> 00:23:18,970

I'm sure.

517

00:23:18,970 --> 00:23:22,090

Was there a cemetery,  
a Jewish cemetery?

518

00:23:22,090 --> 00:23:23,140

Not in Burgsinn.

519

00:23:23,140 --> 00:23:24,790

And that was in WÃ¼rzburg.

520

00:23:24,790 --> 00:23:26,590

In WÃ¼rzburg, OK.

521

00:23:26,590 --> 00:23:29,860

And about how much distance  
was there between Burgsinn

522

00:23:29,860 --> 00:23:32,060

and WÃ¼rzburg?

523

00:23:32,060 --> 00:23:35,990

I imagine it was about an  
hour's drive, hour and a half.

524

00:23:35,990 --> 00:23:37,400

OK.

525

00:23:37,400 --> 00:23:39,350

But you wouldn't  
know kilometer-wise?

526

00:23:39,350 --> 00:23:40,010

No.

527  
00:23:40,010 --> 00:23:40,670  
OK.

528  
00:23:40,670 --> 00:23:42,110  
We can find out today.

529  
00:23:42,110 --> 00:23:44,240  
I mean, we could look  
on the map and see.

530  
00:23:44,240 --> 00:23:46,230  
I just wanted to know  
if you remembered.

531  
00:23:46,230 --> 00:23:46,950  
No.

532  
00:23:46,950 --> 00:23:47,600  
OK.

533  
00:23:47,600 --> 00:23:49,190  
Did your father have a car?

534  
00:23:49,190 --> 00:23:49,970  
Yes.

535  
00:23:49,970 --> 00:23:50,630  
OK, yes.

536  
00:23:50,630 --> 00:23:51,950  
You said he did.

537  
00:23:51,950 --> 00:23:53,810  
And do you remember  
what kind it was?

538  
00:23:53,810 --> 00:23:57,760

539  
00:23:57,760 --> 00:24:01,080  
I think it was an Opel.

540  
00:24:01,080 --> 00:24:02,640  
Did he take you for rides?

541  
00:24:02,640 --> 00:24:03,570  
Yeah.

542  
00:24:03,570 --> 00:24:05,190  
Yeah?

543  
00:24:05,190 --> 00:24:09,100  
Did you go on vacation  
with your family?

544  
00:24:09,100 --> 00:24:12,410  
Was there ever an  
opportunity for that?

545  
00:24:12,410 --> 00:24:13,310  
Sometimes.

546  
00:24:13,310 --> 00:24:15,900

547  
00:24:15,900 --> 00:24:19,560  
Well, most of my  
longer vacations

548  
00:24:19,560 --> 00:24:23,670  
I spent with my  
grandfather and aunt.

549  
00:24:23,670 --> 00:24:28,600  
But there were times when we  
just had a couple of days,

550  
00:24:28,600 --> 00:24:34,150  
and we would go to a nearby spa.

551  
00:24:34,150 --> 00:24:38,110  
Oh, do you remember the town?

552  
00:24:38,110 --> 00:24:39,120  
No.

553  
00:24:39,120 --> 00:24:41,120  
OK.

554  
00:24:41,120 --> 00:24:44,540  
But Bavaria is known  
for such places.

555  
00:24:44,540 --> 00:24:46,490  
Yes.

556  
00:24:46,490 --> 00:24:50,510  
Would you say that your  
town was a pretty town?

557  
00:24:50,510 --> 00:24:54,410  
Was it a medieval town,  
or was it fairly new?

558  
00:24:54,410 --> 00:24:56,510  
I think it was a pretty town.

559  
00:24:56,510 --> 00:24:57,720  
Yeah?

560  
00:24:57,720 --> 00:25:01,640  
Our house was right  
next to a river.

561  
00:25:01,640 --> 00:25:02,830  
What was the river name?

562  
00:25:02,830 --> 00:25:13,550

563  
00:25:13,550 --> 00:25:16,460  
I think it was Sinn.

564  
00:25:16,460 --> 00:25:17,540

Sinn.

565

00:25:17,540 --> 00:25:20,980

Well, Burgsinn, it  
would make sense.

566

00:25:20,980 --> 00:25:23,250

Was there a castle?

567

00:25:23,250 --> 00:25:24,660

Yes.

568

00:25:24,660 --> 00:25:25,830

OK.

569

00:25:25,830 --> 00:25:30,230

And what did it look like?

570

00:25:30,230 --> 00:25:33,560

Well, I never went inside.

571

00:25:33,560 --> 00:25:34,210

OK.

572

00:25:34,210 --> 00:25:37,660

I don't even know  
if it was inhabited.

573

00:25:37,660 --> 00:25:41,008

But it had a moat around it.

574

00:25:41,008 --> 00:25:41,508

And--

575

00:25:41,508 --> 00:25:45,760

576

00:25:45,760 --> 00:25:47,830

Did you live in  
the center of town?

577

00:25:47,830 --> 00:25:49,330  
Yes.

578  
00:25:49,330 --> 00:25:53,260  
And the other Jewish  
families, did they also

579  
00:25:53,260 --> 00:25:55,090  
live in the same area?

580  
00:25:55,090 --> 00:25:56,080  
Yes.

581  
00:25:56,080 --> 00:26:00,130  
So could you say there  
was like a neighborhood?

582  
00:26:00,130 --> 00:26:01,340  
Well, no.

583  
00:26:01,340 --> 00:26:07,880  
They were not all in  
exactly the same area,

584  
00:26:07,880 --> 00:26:09,800  
but it was a small town.

585  
00:26:09,800 --> 00:26:14,370  
So nothing was very far.

586  
00:26:14,370 --> 00:26:15,530  
How did most--

587  
00:26:15,530 --> 00:26:17,690  
OK, let's start with  
the Jewish families.

588  
00:26:17,690 --> 00:26:23,070  
How did most of the other people  
who were Jewish make a living?

589  
00:26:23,070 --> 00:26:31,940

Well, there was one next to us that had a clothing shop,

590  
00:26:31,940 --> 00:26:39,840  
and they had a lot of bolts of material

591  
00:26:39,840 --> 00:26:43,890  
where people could buy and make their own clothes.

592  
00:26:43,890 --> 00:26:44,460  
OK.

593  
00:26:44,460 --> 00:26:50,790  
And then there's another family who had the kosher butcher

594  
00:26:50,790 --> 00:27:00,830  
shop, and another family who had a haberdashery,

595  
00:27:00,830 --> 00:27:12,290  
and one who had a hardware store.

596  
00:27:12,290 --> 00:27:15,580  
That's about the only one I remember.

597  
00:27:15,580 --> 00:27:19,060  
Were there were also any doctors, or lawyers,

598  
00:27:19,060 --> 00:27:22,300  
or professions, other professions within the 20

599  
00:27:22,300 --> 00:27:23,120  
Jewish families?

600  
00:27:23,120 --> 00:27:24,490  
No.



601  
00:27:24,490 --> 00:27:25,480  
OK.

602  
00:27:25,480 --> 00:27:29,450  
Had your father gone  
to higher education?

603  
00:27:29,450 --> 00:27:31,790  
That is, did he  
go to university?

604  
00:27:31,790 --> 00:27:33,020  
No.

605  
00:27:33,020 --> 00:27:34,190  
Your mother?

606  
00:27:34,190 --> 00:27:35,135  
No.

607  
00:27:35,135 --> 00:27:38,737  
Do you know the level of  
education they finished,

608  
00:27:38,737 --> 00:27:40,070  
the highest level they finished?

609  
00:27:40,070 --> 00:27:43,270

610  
00:27:43,270 --> 00:27:48,620  
I imagine it was what we  
would call high school.

611  
00:27:48,620 --> 00:27:49,910  
OK, OK.

612  
00:27:49,910 --> 00:27:54,090

613

00:27:54,090 --> 00:27:58,080  
I asked you earlier about  
your father's personality.

614  
00:27:58,080 --> 00:28:01,590  
And you said he was a very  
kind and a very good man

615  
00:28:01,590 --> 00:28:03,720  
and a good father.

616  
00:28:03,720 --> 00:28:08,100  
What was his personality  
like as far as his nature,

617  
00:28:08,100 --> 00:28:10,590  
in the sense of,  
was he a quiet man?

618  
00:28:10,590 --> 00:28:13,620  
Or was he somebody  
who was an extrovert?

619  
00:28:13,620 --> 00:28:16,150

620  
00:28:16,150 --> 00:28:19,150  
He wasn't that much  
of an extrovert.

621  
00:28:19,150 --> 00:28:20,560  
Was he more reserved?

622  
00:28:20,560 --> 00:28:21,830  
Yes.

623  
00:28:21,830 --> 00:28:22,450  
OK.

624  
00:28:22,450 --> 00:28:31,450  
But not to the extent that  
you would call him reserved.

625

00:28:31,450 --> 00:28:33,490

OK, OK.

626

00:28:33,490 --> 00:28:35,890

So he was not out there.

627

00:28:35,890 --> 00:28:37,480

He was not loud.

628

00:28:37,480 --> 00:28:41,290

But he also wasn't somebody  
who you never knew who he was.

629

00:28:41,290 --> 00:28:42,310

Exactly.

630

00:28:42,310 --> 00:28:43,300

OK.

631

00:28:43,300 --> 00:28:47,170

And your mother, what kind of  
a personality did she have?

632

00:28:47,170 --> 00:28:49,180

Very outgoing.

633

00:28:49,180 --> 00:28:51,170

Very outgoing, OK.

634

00:28:51,170 --> 00:28:52,960

Which was the  
stronger of the two?

635

00:28:52,960 --> 00:28:55,580

636

00:28:55,580 --> 00:28:57,020

I think my mother.

637

00:28:57,020 --> 00:28:58,220

Yeah?

638  
00:28:58,220 --> 00:29:00,410  
Did she have more of  
an influence on you

639  
00:29:00,410 --> 00:29:01,670  
than your father?

640  
00:29:01,670 --> 00:29:03,120  
Yes.

641  
00:29:03,120 --> 00:29:04,320  
OK.

642  
00:29:04,320 --> 00:29:05,190  
Was she strict?

643  
00:29:05,190 --> 00:29:09,880

644  
00:29:09,880 --> 00:29:11,490  
At times.

645  
00:29:11,490 --> 00:29:11,990  
OK.

646  
00:29:11,990 --> 00:29:15,810

647  
00:29:15,810 --> 00:29:19,620  
What would you describe as your  
home life and the atmosphere

648  
00:29:19,620 --> 00:29:21,060  
in your home?

649  
00:29:21,060 --> 00:29:23,850  
Was it a quiet atmosphere?

650  
00:29:23,850 --> 00:29:26,100  
Was it a cold atmosphere?

651  
00:29:26,100 --> 00:29:27,937  
Was it a warm one?

652  
00:29:27,937 --> 00:29:29,020  
How would you describe it?

653  
00:29:29,020 --> 00:29:30,600  
It was a warm one.

654  
00:29:30,600 --> 00:29:31,790  
It was warm, yeah?

655  
00:29:31,790 --> 00:29:35,020

656  
00:29:35,020 --> 00:29:36,580  
Your parents got along.

657  
00:29:36,580 --> 00:29:38,000  
Oh, yes.

658  
00:29:38,000 --> 00:29:39,720  
OK.

659  
00:29:39,720 --> 00:29:43,320  
And you mentioned earlier  
also that you played

660  
00:29:43,320 --> 00:29:46,270  
with other Jewish children.

661  
00:29:46,270 --> 00:29:47,520  
Who were some of your friends?

662  
00:29:47,520 --> 00:29:55,800

663  
00:29:55,800 --> 00:30:02,290  
There was the children of  
the people who had the--

664  
00:30:02,290 --> 00:30:03,565  
a clothing store.

665  
00:30:03,565 --> 00:30:06,300

666  
00:30:06,300 --> 00:30:08,550  
Their name was Hamburger.

667  
00:30:08,550 --> 00:30:10,020  
Hamburger, mhm.

668  
00:30:10,020 --> 00:30:20,880  
And the butcher,  
he had two girls

669  
00:30:20,880 --> 00:30:24,030  
that we were friendly with.

670  
00:30:24,030 --> 00:30:29,460  
And we even saw each  
other yet here in America.

671  
00:30:29,460 --> 00:30:33,970  
Do you remember his  
name, the butcher's name?

672  
00:30:33,970 --> 00:30:37,038  
I know the daughter was Renata.

673  
00:30:37,038 --> 00:30:37,538  
Uh-huh.

674  
00:30:37,538 --> 00:30:41,290

675  
00:30:41,290 --> 00:30:44,430  
I don't remember his name.

676  
00:30:44,430 --> 00:30:45,950

OK.

677

00:30:45,950 --> 00:30:47,750

Was there a rabbi in town?

678

00:30:47,750 --> 00:30:49,040

No.

679

00:30:49,040 --> 00:30:52,550

So how would services be held at the synagogue?

680

00:30:52,550 --> 00:30:55,050

The men performed it.

681

00:30:55,050 --> 00:30:55,820

OK.

682

00:30:55,820 --> 00:30:59,500

The women sat upstairs.

683

00:30:59,500 --> 00:31:00,760

Do you remember that?

684

00:31:00,760 --> 00:31:02,860

Oh, yes.

685

00:31:02,860 --> 00:31:06,490

And did your parents go every week?

686

00:31:06,490 --> 00:31:07,750

Yes.

687

00:31:07,750 --> 00:31:09,670

So they were observant in that way.

688

00:31:09,670 --> 00:31:10,690

Yes.

689

00:31:10,690 --> 00:31:11,920  
OK.

690  
00:31:11,920 --> 00:31:15,850  
We made kiddush  
every Friday night.

691  
00:31:15,850 --> 00:31:19,730  
We did the benschen  
every Friday night.

692  
00:31:19,730 --> 00:31:27,550  
And we observed  
all the holidays.

693  
00:31:27,550 --> 00:31:30,700  
Did you ever go to another  
synagogue in a larger town?

694  
00:31:30,700 --> 00:31:31,690  
No.

695  
00:31:31,690 --> 00:31:34,470  
Only your own, only  
here in Burgsinn.

696  
00:31:34,470 --> 00:31:37,440

697  
00:31:37,440 --> 00:31:42,720  
Aside from Bibra and  
the occasional time

698  
00:31:42,720 --> 00:31:45,640  
when you would go to a  
spa with your family,

699  
00:31:45,640 --> 00:31:48,770  
did you travel much  
outside of Burgsinn?

700  
00:31:48,770 --> 00:31:50,390  
No.



701  
00:31:50,390 --> 00:31:51,740  
But your father did.

702  
00:31:51,740 --> 00:31:53,030  
Yes.

703  
00:31:53,030 --> 00:31:57,860  
What kind of radius, I  
mean, what kind of places

704  
00:31:57,860 --> 00:31:59,150  
would he be going to?

705  
00:31:59,150 --> 00:32:02,250

706  
00:32:02,250 --> 00:32:12,220  
Oh, anywheres between  
Burgsinn, W<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>rzburg,

707  
00:32:12,220 --> 00:32:14,650  
and that whole vicinity.

708  
00:32:14,650 --> 00:32:16,840  
So it still was within Bavaria.

709  
00:32:16,840 --> 00:32:17,650  
Yes.

710  
00:32:17,650 --> 00:32:21,180  
He would not go to Frankfurt,  
or to Stuttgart, or--

711  
00:32:21,180 --> 00:32:27,163  
He would go to Frankfurt to  
buy his-- some of his supplies.

712  
00:32:27,163 --> 00:32:28,130  
Mhm.

713

00:32:28,130 --> 00:32:30,310  
Did he ever go to Berlin?

714  
00:32:30,310 --> 00:32:31,500  
No.

715  
00:32:31,500 --> 00:32:33,660  
OK.

716  
00:32:33,660 --> 00:32:40,470  
So it would be nobody ever  
went outside the country,

717  
00:32:40,470 --> 00:32:41,460  
or did they?

718  
00:32:41,460 --> 00:32:44,436  
No, not that I know of.

719  
00:32:44,436 --> 00:32:46,730  
OK.

720  
00:32:46,730 --> 00:32:51,330  
If you were born in 1925,  
when did you start school?

721  
00:32:51,330 --> 00:33:00,380

722  
00:33:00,380 --> 00:33:05,180  
I must have been five  
years later, 19--

723  
00:33:05,180 --> 00:33:07,352  
about 1930.

724  
00:33:07,352 --> 00:33:10,430  
But you started school  
before Hitler came to power.

725  
00:33:10,430 --> 00:33:11,840  
Yes.

726  
00:33:11,840 --> 00:33:14,930  
Do you remember anything  
of your first school years?

727  
00:33:14,930 --> 00:33:20,710

728  
00:33:20,710 --> 00:33:25,600  
I don't remember anything  
of my first school years,

729  
00:33:25,600 --> 00:33:31,600  
but I do remember after  
Hitler came into power.

730  
00:33:31,600 --> 00:33:33,040  
We'll come to that in a minute.

731  
00:33:33,040 --> 00:33:36,110

732  
00:33:36,110 --> 00:33:39,010  
You said that most of the  
children that you played with

733  
00:33:39,010 --> 00:33:41,630  
were other Jewish children.

734  
00:33:41,630 --> 00:33:46,250  
Did you have any friends who  
were not Jewish your age?

735  
00:33:46,250 --> 00:33:48,460  
I don't think so.

736  
00:33:48,460 --> 00:33:52,510  
And what about from your--  
from the adults in the family,

737  
00:33:52,510 --> 00:33:57,880  
was there much contact with

non-Jewish either people,

738  
00:33:57,880 --> 00:33:59,110  
or customers, or--

739  
00:33:59,110 --> 00:34:00,730  
Customers, yes.

740  
00:34:00,730 --> 00:34:03,730  
Customers, yes, but  
not in a social way.

741  
00:34:03,730 --> 00:34:04,900  
No.

742  
00:34:04,900 --> 00:34:05,887  
OK.

743  
00:34:05,887 --> 00:34:08,810  
OK.

744  
00:34:08,810 --> 00:34:12,170  
And most of the town, what  
other relig-- what religion

745  
00:34:12,170 --> 00:34:16,630  
predominated in Burgsinn?

746  
00:34:16,630 --> 00:34:18,760  
Oh, Catholicism.

747  
00:34:18,760 --> 00:34:20,370  
OK, it was a Catholic town.

748  
00:34:20,370 --> 00:34:20,889  
Yes.

749  
00:34:20,889 --> 00:34:22,420  
All right.

750  
00:34:22,420 --> 00:34:26,050

Do you have a sense of whether  
it was 1,000 people, more

751  
00:34:26,050 --> 00:34:28,679  
than 1,000 people, less?

752  
00:34:28,679 --> 00:34:30,429  
I couldn't judge.

753  
00:34:30,429 --> 00:34:31,418  
OK, OK.

754  
00:34:31,418 --> 00:34:34,290

755  
00:34:34,290 --> 00:34:39,969  
Now, when Hitler came  
to power in 1933,

756  
00:34:39,969 --> 00:34:44,040  
you were how old, seven, eight?

757  
00:34:44,040 --> 00:34:45,090  
Right.

758  
00:34:45,090 --> 00:34:46,739  
OK.

759  
00:34:46,739 --> 00:34:47,999  
Did your parents have a radio?

760  
00:34:47,999 --> 00:34:52,360

761  
00:34:52,360 --> 00:34:54,280  
Yes.

762  
00:34:54,280 --> 00:34:57,670  
Do you remember hearing  
his voice over the radio?

763

00:34:57,670 --> 00:35:01,680

764

00:35:01,680 --> 00:35:07,455

I remember visiting  
my uncle in Berlin.

765

00:35:07,455 --> 00:35:10,250

766

00:35:10,250 --> 00:35:21,670

And there was a parade with  
him at the head of the parade.

767

00:35:21,670 --> 00:35:22,940

So you actually saw Hitler.

768

00:35:22,940 --> 00:35:23,440

Yes.

769

00:35:23,440 --> 00:35:26,270

770

00:35:26,270 --> 00:35:28,670

Can you describe to me  
what it is that you saw?

771

00:35:28,670 --> 00:35:32,990

772

00:35:32,990 --> 00:35:34,160

A scary man.

773

00:35:34,160 --> 00:35:38,450

774

00:35:38,450 --> 00:35:39,530

Was he small?

775

00:35:39,530 --> 00:35:41,090

Was he tall?

776

00:35:41,090 --> 00:35:44,030

Was he-- yeah, did he look--

777

00:35:44,030 --> 00:35:51,795

what-- yeah, I guess I'm asking  
for, in the circumstances,

778

00:35:51,795 --> 00:35:54,822

did you-- was he far away  
from you, close to you

779

00:35:54,822 --> 00:35:55,530

when you saw him?

780

00:35:55,530 --> 00:35:59,880

Well, he was in a  
car standing up.

781

00:35:59,880 --> 00:36:08,240

And we were on the street  
with lots of other people.

782

00:36:08,240 --> 00:36:11,500

783

00:36:11,500 --> 00:36:13,510

Did he have his arm up  
in the Hitler salute?

784

00:36:13,510 --> 00:36:14,468

Yes.

785

00:36:14,468 --> 00:36:14,968

OK.

786

00:36:14,968 --> 00:36:19,100

787

00:36:19,100 --> 00:36:21,040

About how old were  
you at that time?

788

00:36:21,040 --> 00:36:29,770

789

00:36:29,770 --> 00:36:31,420

About 11.

790

00:36:31,420 --> 00:36:32,380

OK.

791

00:36:32,380 --> 00:36:34,930

Now, you say you had an uncle.

792

00:36:34,930 --> 00:36:37,030

Does that mean he was  
your mother's brother?

793

00:36:37,030 --> 00:36:38,290

My father's brother.

794

00:36:38,290 --> 00:36:40,790

Your father's brother, that's  
right, because your mother had

795

00:36:40,790 --> 00:36:41,980

only one sister.

796

00:36:41,980 --> 00:36:45,440

I'd forgot to ask you about  
your father's siblings.

797

00:36:45,440 --> 00:36:47,200

How many did he have?

798

00:36:47,200 --> 00:36:48,850

Just the one brother.

799

00:36:48,850 --> 00:36:50,350

And what was his name?

800

00:36:50,350 --> 00:36:51,520

Arnold.



801  
00:36:51,520 --> 00:36:53,420  
Arnold Stein.

802  
00:36:53,420 --> 00:36:59,200  
OK, and how did he  
come to live in Berlin?

803  
00:36:59,200 --> 00:37:00,850  
That I don't know.

804  
00:37:00,850 --> 00:37:02,900  
Do you know how he  
made a living there?

805  
00:37:02,900 --> 00:37:03,400  
Yes.

806  
00:37:03,400 --> 00:37:05,200  
He had a printing business.

807  
00:37:05,200 --> 00:37:07,500  
Ah, OK.

808  
00:37:07,500 --> 00:37:08,640  
And--

809  
00:37:08,640 --> 00:37:16,290  
He printed advertisements  
for a lot of movies.

810  
00:37:16,290 --> 00:37:18,500  
Oh, that sounds like fun.

811  
00:37:18,500 --> 00:37:20,150  
So you would see the posters?

812  
00:37:20,150 --> 00:37:21,470  
Yes.

813  
00:37:21,470 --> 00:37:22,400

Oh, wow.

814  
00:37:22,400 --> 00:37:25,490  
My cousin still has some here.

815  
00:37:25,490 --> 00:37:27,320  
Really?

816  
00:37:27,320 --> 00:37:28,850  
Do you remember  
any of the movies

817  
00:37:28,850 --> 00:37:30,408  
that you saw posters  
for in the shop?

818  
00:37:30,408 --> 00:37:30,908  
No.

819  
00:37:30,908 --> 00:37:32,222  
No?

820  
00:37:32,222 --> 00:37:34,550  
They were all in German.

821  
00:37:34,550 --> 00:37:36,730  
Did you go to the cinema  
when you were a girl?

822  
00:37:36,730 --> 00:37:40,370

823  
00:37:40,370 --> 00:37:44,330  
Not frequently.

824  
00:37:44,330 --> 00:37:46,550  
Do you remember anything  
that you saw there?

825  
00:37:46,550 --> 00:37:47,870  
No.

826

00:37:47,870 --> 00:37:49,885

OK, OK.

827

00:37:49,885 --> 00:37:54,260

828

00:37:54,260 --> 00:38:01,120

So do you recall

what it was like when

829

00:38:01,120 --> 00:38:05,400

Hitler came to power,

for your family, how

830

00:38:05,400 --> 00:38:06,405

your family reacted?

831

00:38:06,405 --> 00:38:09,060

832

00:38:09,060 --> 00:38:15,870

I remember the Hitler

Youth having a parade

833

00:38:15,870 --> 00:38:18,330

down Main Street.

834

00:38:18,330 --> 00:38:22,540

And my brother

couldn't understand

835

00:38:22,540 --> 00:38:25,460

why he couldn't be part of it.

836

00:38:25,460 --> 00:38:26,570

The youngest brother?

837

00:38:26,570 --> 00:38:28,340

My younger brother, yes.

838

00:38:28,340 --> 00:38:29,120

Henry.

839  
00:38:29,120 --> 00:38:30,440  
Yes.

840  
00:38:30,440 --> 00:38:32,680  
Yeah.

841  
00:38:32,680 --> 00:38:37,730  
Yeah, well, parades are  
fascinating for kids.

842  
00:38:37,730 --> 00:38:43,050  
And had you seen the Hitler  
Youth parade before then

843  
00:38:43,050 --> 00:38:45,690  
or only after he came to power?

844  
00:38:45,690 --> 00:38:46,680  
After.

845  
00:38:46,680 --> 00:38:49,410  
Only after.

846  
00:38:49,410 --> 00:38:54,040  
Did people change in their  
behavior towards you?

847  
00:38:54,040 --> 00:38:57,340

848  
00:38:57,340 --> 00:39:00,800  
Not at first.

849  
00:39:00,800 --> 00:39:09,260  
But later on, they were afraid  
to have any contact with us.

850  
00:39:09,260 --> 00:39:12,270  
How did that show itself?

851

00:39:12,270 --> 00:39:16,770

Like I had a toothache,  
and the dentist

852

00:39:16,770 --> 00:39:22,330

we always went to  
wouldn't see us.

853

00:39:22,330 --> 00:39:25,590

So my mother said,  
what should she do?

854

00:39:25,590 --> 00:39:30,670

He says, OK, come at night.

855

00:39:30,670 --> 00:39:35,020

I'll see her this  
time, but it has

856

00:39:35,020 --> 00:39:40,778

to be at night so nobody else  
knows that I treated you.

857

00:39:40,778 --> 00:39:43,070

Hm.

858

00:39:43,070 --> 00:39:45,095

And was this a  
gentleman or a lady?

859

00:39:45,095 --> 00:39:47,870

A gentleman.

860

00:39:47,870 --> 00:39:49,450

Older man?

861

00:39:49,450 --> 00:39:50,150

No.

862

00:39:50,150 --> 00:39:50,930

A young man.

863

00:39:50,930 --> 00:39:53,960

864

00:39:53,960 --> 00:39:58,880

What about clients for  
your father's products,

865

00:39:58,880 --> 00:40:00,890

did fewer of them come?

866

00:40:00,890 --> 00:40:02,240

How was his business affected?

867

00:40:02,240 --> 00:40:06,900

868

00:40:06,900 --> 00:40:10,590

I don't think it  
really was after--

869

00:40:10,590 --> 00:40:12,300

in the beginning.

870

00:40:12,300 --> 00:40:14,690

OK.

871

00:40:14,690 --> 00:40:20,040

So things continued  
normally for a while.

872

00:40:20,040 --> 00:40:21,495

What was life like at school?

873

00:40:21,495 --> 00:40:25,750

874

00:40:25,750 --> 00:40:31,810

Well, after Hitler  
came into power,

875

00:40:31,810 --> 00:40:42,020

our teacher was a  
real anti-Semite.

876  
00:40:42,020 --> 00:40:47,200  
And he would take all  
the Jewish children

877  
00:40:47,200 --> 00:40:53,000  
and put them in the front row  
of the school, of the room.

878  
00:40:53,000 --> 00:40:58,520  
And the town was in two,  
except one was the upper,

879  
00:40:58,520 --> 00:41:00,890  
and one was the lower.

880  
00:41:00,890 --> 00:41:03,410  
We lived on the  
lower, and the school

881  
00:41:03,410 --> 00:41:05,450  
was on the upper section.

882  
00:41:05,450 --> 00:41:08,720  
So there were a  
great deal of stairs.

883  
00:41:08,720 --> 00:41:17,480  
And he would dismiss us a minute  
earlier than all the others

884  
00:41:17,480 --> 00:41:21,245  
so they could chase  
us down those stairs.

885  
00:41:21,245 --> 00:41:23,870

886  
00:41:23,870 --> 00:41:28,250  
And that went on  
on a daily basis.

887  
00:41:28,250 --> 00:41:30,480  
That's terrifying for a kid.

888  
00:41:30,480 --> 00:41:30,980  
Yes.

889  
00:41:30,980 --> 00:41:37,250  
And then also when we sitting  
in the front of the school--

890  
00:41:37,250 --> 00:41:38,120  
Of the room.

891  
00:41:38,120 --> 00:41:43,370  
--of the room, they would  
pinch us in the back,

892  
00:41:43,370 --> 00:41:47,290  
badly sometimes.

893  
00:41:47,290 --> 00:41:54,020  
Would these be other girls, or  
boys as well, or mostly boys?

894  
00:41:54,020 --> 00:41:56,030  
I don't even recall that.

895  
00:41:56,030 --> 00:41:57,050  
OK.

896  
00:41:57,050 --> 00:41:58,730  
I think it was both.

897  
00:41:58,730 --> 00:42:00,950  
OK.

898  
00:42:00,950 --> 00:42:03,020  
Before that  
happened, had you had

899



00:42:03,020 --> 00:42:05,750  
any classmates that  
were not Jewish

900  
00:42:05,750 --> 00:42:07,370  
that you were friendly with?

901  
00:42:07,370 --> 00:42:08,840  
No.

902  
00:42:08,840 --> 00:42:11,600  
OK, so it never happened there.

903  
00:42:11,600 --> 00:42:16,190  
There was no friend that you  
lost because you never had one.

904  
00:42:16,190 --> 00:42:17,840  
Right.

905  
00:42:17,840 --> 00:42:21,506  
How many Jewish kids  
were in the class?

906  
00:42:21,506 --> 00:42:23,440  
Hm.

907  
00:42:23,440 --> 00:42:25,690  
I think about eight.

908  
00:42:25,690 --> 00:42:27,970  
And the class would have  
been about how many kids?

909  
00:42:27,970 --> 00:42:34,380

910  
00:42:34,380 --> 00:42:36,270  
15, 20.

911  
00:42:36,270 --> 00:42:37,165  
Not so large.

912  
00:42:37,165 --> 00:42:37,665  
No.

913  
00:42:37,665 --> 00:42:40,600

914  
00:42:40,600 --> 00:42:44,770  
And had there been any  
teachers who were kind

915  
00:42:44,770 --> 00:42:47,770  
and who were nice  
despite these changes?

916  
00:42:47,770 --> 00:42:48,820  
No.

917  
00:42:48,820 --> 00:42:50,320  
Really?

918  
00:42:50,320 --> 00:42:51,900  
Really?

919  
00:42:51,900 --> 00:42:55,170  
Did you have one  
teacher all the time,

920  
00:42:55,170 --> 00:42:57,585  
or did you have several  
teachers for different courses?

921  
00:42:57,585 --> 00:43:01,800  
It was one different teacher,  
from what I remember,

922  
00:43:01,800 --> 00:43:04,050  
one teacher all the time.

923  
00:43:04,050 --> 00:43:05,130  
A man or a woman?

924  
00:43:05,130 --> 00:43:06,090  
Man.

925  
00:43:06,090 --> 00:43:07,440  
What was his name?

926  
00:43:07,440 --> 00:43:10,870  
I don't recall.

927  
00:43:10,870 --> 00:43:12,410  
But he was cruel.

928  
00:43:12,410 --> 00:43:12,910  
Yes.

929  
00:43:12,910 --> 00:43:15,850  
And one day, he picked on me.

930  
00:43:15,850 --> 00:43:18,170  
I don't know why.

931  
00:43:18,170 --> 00:43:24,270  
And he hit me so hard on--

932  
00:43:24,270 --> 00:43:29,670  
with a stick on my hand  
that it was so swollen.

933  
00:43:29,670 --> 00:43:33,690  
And my father tried to--

934  
00:43:33,690 --> 00:43:37,260

935  
00:43:37,260 --> 00:43:45,580  
various ways of getting it  
recognized that this is wrong,

936  
00:43:45,580 --> 00:43:48,290  
but he did not succeed.

937

00:43:48,290 --> 00:43:52,270

So then he took us  
out of the school.

938

00:43:52,270 --> 00:43:54,010

How old were you at that point?

939

00:43:54,010 --> 00:43:57,307

940

00:43:57,307 --> 00:44:01,800

I must've been about 12.

941

00:44:01,800 --> 00:44:03,810

So if you were 12  
years old, that

942

00:44:03,810 --> 00:44:08,400

means it was-- you had already  
been from age eight, seven

943

00:44:08,400 --> 00:44:11,340

or eight, until age 12.

944

00:44:11,340 --> 00:44:13,740

Those four years, you  
had gone to school

945

00:44:13,740 --> 00:44:16,880

under these conditions.

946

00:44:16,880 --> 00:44:19,580

Was it always with  
that same teacher,

947

00:44:19,580 --> 00:44:23,110

or were there different  
teachers that you had?

948

00:44:23,110 --> 00:44:28,120

From what I call, it  
was the same teacher.

949  
00:44:28,120 --> 00:44:30,650  
Because I get the sense  
it was a small school.

950  
00:44:30,650 --> 00:44:31,150  
Yes.

951  
00:44:31,150 --> 00:44:33,650  
If you had a small town,  
you had a small school.

952  
00:44:33,650 --> 00:44:34,850  
Right.

953  
00:44:34,850 --> 00:44:36,560  
OK, OK.

954  
00:44:36,560 --> 00:44:39,400  
So there was no escape from him.

955  
00:44:39,400 --> 00:44:40,312  
No.

956  
00:44:40,312 --> 00:44:42,040  
OK.

957  
00:44:42,040 --> 00:44:46,150  
Did your brothers  
also go to school?

958  
00:44:46,150 --> 00:44:48,940  
And were they in the same  
class or in different classes?

959  
00:44:48,940 --> 00:44:50,440  
In different classes.

960  
00:44:50,440 --> 00:44:51,490  
Different teachers.

961

00:44:51,490 --> 00:44:52,740  
Yes.

962  
00:44:52,740 --> 00:44:54,570  
Did they have a  
different experience?

963  
00:44:54,570 --> 00:44:55,770  
Yes.

964  
00:44:55,770 --> 00:44:57,060  
Oh, really?

965  
00:44:57,060 --> 00:44:59,340  
Did they have teachers  
who were kinder?

966  
00:44:59,340 --> 00:45:00,448  
Yes.

967  
00:45:00,448 --> 00:45:02,690  
Ah.

968  
00:45:02,690 --> 00:45:06,410  
So it was that you ended  
up in that particular class

969  
00:45:06,410 --> 00:45:10,420  
with somebody who  
was an anti-Semite

970  
00:45:10,420 --> 00:45:12,670  
and now could show it.

971  
00:45:12,670 --> 00:45:14,038  
Right.

972  
00:45:14,038 --> 00:45:15,460  
Mhm.

973  
00:45:15,460 --> 00:45:19,390  
But your brothers didn't

have the same issues.

974

00:45:19,390 --> 00:45:21,214

Not that I recall.

975

00:45:21,214 --> 00:45:22,990

OK.

976

00:45:22,990 --> 00:45:26,530

Did your father take you all  
out of the school or just you?

977

00:45:26,530 --> 00:45:27,520

All.

978

00:45:27,520 --> 00:45:29,170

All.

979

00:45:29,170 --> 00:45:31,480

What about the  
other Jewish kids?

980

00:45:31,480 --> 00:45:33,685

Did they leave that  
school, or did they stay?

981

00:45:33,685 --> 00:45:36,820

982

00:45:36,820 --> 00:45:39,550

They left the school too.

983

00:45:39,550 --> 00:45:41,650

And then there was a--

984

00:45:41,650 --> 00:45:48,250

we had a teacher coming  
to our town every twice

985

00:45:48,250 --> 00:45:51,850

or three times a week and  
give us Hebrew lessons

986  
00:45:51,850 --> 00:45:53,320  
in the afternoon.

987  
00:45:53,320 --> 00:45:55,090  
OK, religious classes.

988  
00:45:55,090 --> 00:45:56,100  
Beg your pardon?

989  
00:45:56,100 --> 00:45:57,280  
Religious classes.

990  
00:45:57,280 --> 00:45:58,000  
Yes.

991  
00:45:58,000 --> 00:45:58,570  
OK.

992  
00:45:58,570 --> 00:46:05,200  
And he had a schoolroom  
in the following--

993  
00:46:05,200 --> 00:46:07,750  
in the next town.

994  
00:46:07,750 --> 00:46:12,525  
So we went to school there.

995  
00:46:12,525 --> 00:46:14,850  
Ah.

996  
00:46:14,850 --> 00:46:18,630  
Either one of the  
fathers would drive us

997  
00:46:18,630 --> 00:46:21,176  
or we would take the train.

998  
00:46:21,176 --> 00:46:23,000  
Oh.



999  
00:46:23,000 --> 00:46:25,310  
And do you know the  
name of that next town?

1000  
00:46:25,310 --> 00:46:27,950

1001  
00:46:27,950 --> 00:46:29,330  
Mittelsinn.

1002  
00:46:29,330 --> 00:46:32,100  
Mittelsinn, OK.

1003  
00:46:32,100 --> 00:46:33,980  
And what was the name of your--

1004  
00:46:33,980 --> 00:46:37,470  
the first school  
that you went to?

1005  
00:46:37,470 --> 00:46:39,280  
I have no idea.

1006  
00:46:39,280 --> 00:46:41,170  
OK, OK.

1007  
00:46:41,170 --> 00:46:43,950  
But it was the public  
school for Burgsinn.

1008  
00:46:43,950 --> 00:46:44,930  
Right.

1009  
00:46:44,930 --> 00:46:45,430  
OK.

1010  
00:46:45,430 --> 00:46:48,220

1011  
00:46:48,220 --> 00:46:51,130

What were the kinds of  
conversations going on

1012  
00:46:51,130 --> 00:47:01,050  
at home during these years  
between 1933 and 1937?

1013  
00:47:01,050 --> 00:47:09,740  
My father tried to leave Germany  
because he saw the handwriting

1014  
00:47:09,740 --> 00:47:13,510  
on the wall as early as '36.

1015  
00:47:13,510 --> 00:47:16,260

1016  
00:47:16,260 --> 00:47:20,830  
And he was going  
to go anywheres,

1017  
00:47:20,830 --> 00:47:26,080  
but nobody would  
take you unless you

1018  
00:47:26,080 --> 00:47:31,660  
had someone backing you and  
guaranteeing that you won't

1019  
00:47:31,660 --> 00:47:34,610  
become a burden of the state.

1020  
00:47:34,610 --> 00:47:35,920  
That's true, yeah.

1021  
00:47:35,920 --> 00:47:43,040  
So my uncle from Berlin--

1022  
00:47:43,040 --> 00:47:44,010  
Arnold.

1023  
00:47:44,010 --> 00:47:45,930

Yes.

1024  
00:47:45,930 --> 00:47:50,410  
He went to England,  
and he waited

1025  
00:47:50,410 --> 00:47:56,020  
there to either go to  
Australia or to America,

1026  
00:47:56,020 --> 00:47:58,760  
whatever came first.

1027  
00:47:58,760 --> 00:48:05,330  
And he went to America, and  
then he was able to sponsor us.

1028  
00:48:05,330 --> 00:48:08,510  
So was your uncle better off?

1029  
00:48:08,510 --> 00:48:09,890  
Yes.

1030  
00:48:09,890 --> 00:48:10,410  
OK.

1031  
00:48:10,410 --> 00:48:12,620  
Did he have his own family?

1032  
00:48:12,620 --> 00:48:14,510  
Yes.

1033  
00:48:14,510 --> 00:48:15,680  
So you had cousins?

1034  
00:48:15,680 --> 00:48:16,820  
Yes.

1035  
00:48:16,820 --> 00:48:19,400  
And you had an aunt, his wife.

1036

00:48:19,400 --> 00:48:20,210  
Right.

1037  
00:48:20,210 --> 00:48:23,150  
Can you tell me their names?

1038  
00:48:23,150 --> 00:48:25,640  
My aunt's name was Truda.

1039  
00:48:25,640 --> 00:48:26,930  
Truda, OK.

1040  
00:48:26,930 --> 00:48:29,360  
And his name was Arnold.

1041  
00:48:29,360 --> 00:48:30,740  
And the children.

1042  
00:48:30,740 --> 00:48:34,460  
Werner and Marianne.

1043  
00:48:34,460 --> 00:48:37,810  
Were they about your age?

1044  
00:48:37,810 --> 00:48:39,130  
Werner was.

1045  
00:48:39,130 --> 00:48:41,720  
Marianne was a little older.

1046  
00:48:41,720 --> 00:48:45,710  
OK, OK.

1047  
00:48:45,710 --> 00:48:52,520  
And how was it that he was  
able to go to England and then

1048  
00:48:52,520 --> 00:48:53,540  
the United States?

1049  
00:48:53,540 --> 00:48:55,790

Was he well-off enough  
he could support himself?

1050  
00:48:55,790 --> 00:48:59,700

1051  
00:48:59,700 --> 00:49:01,958  
I believe so.

1052  
00:49:01,958 --> 00:49:03,230  
OK.

1053  
00:49:03,230 --> 00:49:04,880  
Because he would  
have needed someone

1054  
00:49:04,880 --> 00:49:06,800  
to give him an affidavit.

1055  
00:49:06,800 --> 00:49:08,092  
Right.

1056  
00:49:08,092 --> 00:49:09,780  
OK.

1057  
00:49:09,780 --> 00:49:13,710  
So it's through Uncle  
Arnold that you eventually

1058  
00:49:13,710 --> 00:49:16,210  
are able to leave.

1059  
00:49:16,210 --> 00:49:18,970  
OK, and when did  
he leave Germany?

1060  
00:49:18,970 --> 00:49:21,760  
What year did they  
leave Germany?

1061  
00:49:21,760 --> 00:49:24,670  
I think '39.

1062  
00:49:24,670 --> 00:49:29,430  
OK, so it nevertheless  
took a while for him

1063  
00:49:29,430 --> 00:49:33,410  
to be able to establish himself.

1064  
00:49:33,410 --> 00:49:36,820  
When you had seen  
Hitler, you said

1065  
00:49:36,820 --> 00:49:38,570  
you were about 12 years old.

1066  
00:49:38,570 --> 00:49:41,540  
It was 1937.

1067  
00:49:41,540 --> 00:49:44,060  
He was still with  
his family in Berlin.

1068  
00:49:44,060 --> 00:49:45,260  
Right.

1069  
00:49:45,260 --> 00:49:48,110  
What part of Berlin  
did they live in?

1070  
00:49:48,110 --> 00:49:57,700  
Oh, I don't remember  
what it was called.

1071  
00:49:57,700 --> 00:49:59,430  
Was it the center of town?

1072  
00:49:59,430 --> 00:49:59,930  
Yes.

1073  
00:49:59,930 --> 00:50:01,860  
It was near Kurfürstendamm.

1074  
00:50:01,860 --> 00:50:03,785  
Charlottenburg?

1075  
00:50:03,785 --> 00:50:04,285  
No.

1076  
00:50:04,285 --> 00:50:08,640

1077  
00:50:08,640 --> 00:50:09,960  
I don't recall.

1078  
00:50:09,960 --> 00:50:11,220  
OK.

1079  
00:50:11,220 --> 00:50:13,050  
Do you remember the  
street the parade

1080  
00:50:13,050 --> 00:50:15,030  
was on where you saw Hitler?

1081  
00:50:15,030 --> 00:50:16,290  
In Burgsinn?

1082  
00:50:16,290 --> 00:50:16,932  
No, no.

1083  
00:50:16,932 --> 00:50:18,390  
You saw Hitler in  
Berlin, you said.

1084  
00:50:18,390 --> 00:50:20,550  
Oh, yeah.

1085  
00:50:20,550 --> 00:50:23,040  
Whatever that main  
thoroughfare was.

1086  
00:50:23,040 --> 00:50:24,900  
So would it have

been Kurfürstendamm?

1087  
00:50:24,900 --> 00:50:26,490  
Yes, probably.

1088  
00:50:26,490 --> 00:50:28,620  
OK, OK.

1089  
00:50:28,620 --> 00:50:30,930  
And were you there  
just with your uncle

1090  
00:50:30,930 --> 00:50:33,780  
or with your cousins  
and your aunt?

1091  
00:50:33,780 --> 00:50:34,650  
Yes.

1092  
00:50:34,650 --> 00:50:35,370  
All of them?

1093  
00:50:35,370 --> 00:50:36,910  
Yes.

1094  
00:50:36,910 --> 00:50:39,580  
And why?

1095  
00:50:39,580 --> 00:50:41,320  
Was it something  
that was forced,

1096  
00:50:41,320 --> 00:50:45,290  
or you wanted to see  
what was happening?

1097  
00:50:45,290 --> 00:50:49,110  
I guess my uncle wanted  
to see what was happening.

1098  
00:50:49,110 --> 00:50:49,610  
OK.



1099  
00:50:49,610 --> 00:50:53,076  
And wanted us to see  
what was happening too.

1100  
00:50:53,076 --> 00:50:55,560  
OK.

1101  
00:50:55,560 --> 00:51:00,720  
And the conversations in  
your uncle's home in 1937

1102  
00:51:00,720 --> 00:51:04,430  
when you were there,  
what were they about?

1103  
00:51:04,430 --> 00:51:15,200

1104  
00:51:15,200 --> 00:51:19,250  
I don't think they were  
anything out of the ordinary.

1105  
00:51:19,250 --> 00:51:22,160  
Were they mostly about  
how to leave or they

1106  
00:51:22,160 --> 00:51:24,110  
mostly about what's going--

1107  
00:51:24,110 --> 00:51:25,820  
I'm talking in the  
political sense.

1108  
00:51:25,820 --> 00:51:27,680  
Yes.

1109  
00:51:27,680 --> 00:51:31,720  
Did they talk often about  
what's going on in the country?

1110  
00:51:31,720 --> 00:51:34,100

Yes.

1111  
00:51:34,100 --> 00:51:38,860  
And do you recall what it is  
that they would be saying?

1112  
00:51:38,860 --> 00:51:44,896  
Well, they all wanted to  
get out as soon as possible.

1113  
00:51:44,896 --> 00:51:48,370  
Yeah, yeah.

1114  
00:51:48,370 --> 00:51:51,700  
And how is it that you ended  
up being there with them

1115  
00:51:51,700 --> 00:51:52,690  
at age 12?

1116  
00:51:52,690 --> 00:51:55,720

1117  
00:51:55,720 --> 00:52:04,800  
Well, we have to go back to that  
little school in Mittelsinn.

1118  
00:52:04,800 --> 00:52:06,510  
So this was just a vacation?

1119  
00:52:06,510 --> 00:52:09,250

1120  
00:52:09,250 --> 00:52:13,550  
Well, I lived with  
them for a while,

1121  
00:52:13,550 --> 00:52:19,690  
but that was after  
Crystal Night.

1122  
00:52:19,690 --> 00:52:22,150

OK, we'll come to  
that later then.

1123  
00:52:22,150 --> 00:52:23,210  
We'll come to that later.

1124  
00:52:23,210 --> 00:52:27,120

1125  
00:52:27,120 --> 00:52:31,260  
So at age 12, your life changes.

1126  
00:52:31,260 --> 00:52:34,440  
Your school life  
changes that you now

1127  
00:52:34,440 --> 00:52:36,900  
go to that school  
in Mittelsinn that

1128  
00:52:36,900 --> 00:52:39,120  
is run by the Hebrew teacher.

1129  
00:52:39,120 --> 00:52:44,890  
And it's one classroom for  
lots of different kids.

1130  
00:52:44,890 --> 00:52:49,670  
About how many children  
were in that classroom?

1131  
00:52:49,670 --> 00:52:51,800  
I would say about 20.

1132  
00:52:51,800 --> 00:52:53,460  
OK, all Jewish children?

1133  
00:52:53,460 --> 00:52:54,260  
Yes, of course.

1134  
00:52:54,260 --> 00:52:56,150  
From age what to what?

1135  
00:52:56,150 --> 00:53:00,610

1136  
00:53:00,610 --> 00:53:11,690  
Age, I imagine, 8 to 10 and--

1137  
00:53:11,690 --> 00:53:14,630

1138  
00:53:14,630 --> 00:53:15,556  
Older?

1139  
00:53:15,556 --> 00:53:16,780  
Older, yeah.

1140  
00:53:16,780 --> 00:53:21,240

1141  
00:53:21,240 --> 00:53:24,900  
How did this teacher  
manage to teach children

1142  
00:53:24,900 --> 00:53:27,300  
at different levels  
of education?

1143  
00:53:27,300 --> 00:53:31,590  
Well, he wasn't a good Hebrew  
teacher when he came to town.

1144  
00:53:31,590 --> 00:53:36,240  
And he certainly wasn't a  
good teacher for all of us.

1145  
00:53:36,240 --> 00:53:39,060  
[LAUGHS] In what  
way was he not good?

1146  
00:53:39,060 --> 00:53:39,630  
Tell me.

1147  
00:53:39,630 --> 00:53:47,560

1148  
00:53:47,560 --> 00:53:49,030  
I can't describe it.

1149  
00:53:49,030 --> 00:53:52,630  
He was just not a good teacher.

1150  
00:53:52,630 --> 00:53:53,680  
OK.

1151  
00:53:53,680 --> 00:53:57,280  
Was he a kind person, or  
was he a strict person?

1152  
00:53:57,280 --> 00:53:59,680  
No, he was not a strict person.

1153  
00:53:59,680 --> 00:54:00,340  
OK.

1154  
00:54:00,340 --> 00:54:03,010  
Did he know how to  
control a classroom?

1155  
00:54:03,010 --> 00:54:04,956  
At times.

1156  
00:54:04,956 --> 00:54:06,750  
OK.

1157  
00:54:06,750 --> 00:54:09,175  
Were the kids able to  
run circles around him

1158  
00:54:09,175 --> 00:54:09,800  
at other times?

1159  
00:54:09,800 --> 00:54:11,880  
No, no, not that bad.

1160  
00:54:11,880 --> 00:54:13,890  
OK, OK.

1161  
00:54:13,890 --> 00:54:15,210  
Do you remember his name?

1162  
00:54:15,210 --> 00:54:17,360  
No, not at all.

1163  
00:54:17,360 --> 00:54:20,010  
OK, do you remember  
what he looked like?

1164  
00:54:20,010 --> 00:54:21,060  
Yes.

1165  
00:54:21,060 --> 00:54:22,470  
Tell me.

1166  
00:54:22,470 --> 00:54:27,720  
He was not too tall--

1167  
00:54:27,720 --> 00:54:29,410  
and heavy.

1168  
00:54:29,410 --> 00:54:33,550

1169  
00:54:33,550 --> 00:54:38,690  
I remember when he  
came to town to teach,

1170  
00:54:38,690 --> 00:54:41,780  
when he was just  
our Hebrew teacher,

1171  
00:54:41,780 --> 00:54:45,845  
he ate most of the time that  
he was supposed to teach us.

1172

00:54:45,845 --> 00:54:50,000

1173

00:54:50,000 --> 00:54:52,700

And let's do the same  
thing for that teacher

1174

00:54:52,700 --> 00:54:54,320

who was so cruel to you.

1175

00:54:54,320 --> 00:54:55,410

Do you have a vision?

1176

00:54:55,410 --> 00:54:57,350

Can you describe to me  
what he looked like?

1177

00:54:57,350 --> 00:55:03,600

1178

00:55:03,600 --> 00:55:05,910

I think he was in his 20s.

1179

00:55:05,910 --> 00:55:07,060

So he was a young man.

1180

00:55:07,060 --> 00:55:09,990

Yeah.

1181

00:55:09,990 --> 00:55:12,420

Was he tall?

1182

00:55:12,420 --> 00:55:13,290

Average.

1183

00:55:13,290 --> 00:55:16,630

1184

00:55:16,630 --> 00:55:19,110

Did he have any other  
distinguishing features?

1185  
00:55:19,110 --> 00:55:21,340  
Not that I--

1186  
00:55:21,340 --> 00:55:24,100  
OK.

1187  
00:55:24,100 --> 00:55:30,382  
About how many teachers were in  
that school, in the one that--

1188  
00:55:30,382 --> 00:55:31,370  
In Burgsinn?

1189  
00:55:31,370 --> 00:55:32,260  
Mm.

1190  
00:55:32,260 --> 00:55:34,120  
I don't know.

1191  
00:55:34,120 --> 00:55:35,522  
OK, OK.

1192  
00:55:35,522 --> 00:55:38,410

1193  
00:55:38,410 --> 00:55:43,150  
But you're saying that your  
father's business did not

1194  
00:55:43,150 --> 00:55:44,830  
seem to suffer much.

1195  
00:55:44,830 --> 00:55:45,685  
Did that change?

1196  
00:55:45,685 --> 00:55:50,610

1197  
00:55:50,610 --> 00:55:58,490  
Well, everything changed  
after Kristallnacht.



1198  
00:55:58,490 --> 00:56:00,920  
All right, tell me about that.

1199  
00:56:00,920 --> 00:56:02,510  
What happened at Kristallnacht?

1200  
00:56:02,510 --> 00:56:06,050

1201  
00:56:06,050 --> 00:56:08,210  
My father wasn't feeling well.

1202  
00:56:08,210 --> 00:56:10,920

1203  
00:56:10,920 --> 00:56:17,160  
And we were in  
school in Mittelsinn.

1204  
00:56:17,160 --> 00:56:25,780  
And what I learned  
after we came back

1205  
00:56:25,780 --> 00:56:32,160  
is that my father was arrested  
with all the other Jewish men

1206  
00:56:32,160 --> 00:56:34,440  
in town.

1207  
00:56:34,440 --> 00:56:41,200  
And we had no idea where they  
were, or how long they're--

1208  
00:56:41,200 --> 00:56:44,970  
or if we'd ever see them again.

1209  
00:56:44,970 --> 00:56:49,790  
In the meantime, the  
Gestapo came to the school

1210

00:56:49,790 --> 00:56:55,390  
in Mittelsinn and said,  
if you're not out of here

1211

00:56:55,390 --> 00:57:00,180  
in one minute, we'll  
chop your heads off.

1212

00:57:00,180 --> 00:57:09,210  
So we left our books, our coats,  
everything, and we ran home.

1213

00:57:09,210 --> 00:57:11,700  
So you ran from one  
town to the other.

1214

00:57:11,700 --> 00:57:12,810  
Right.

1215

00:57:12,810 --> 00:57:16,750  
Do you know how much  
of a distance it was?

1216

00:57:16,750 --> 00:57:23,930  
It was quite a distance,  
but we were able to do it.

1217

00:57:23,930 --> 00:57:29,220  
And I don't know  
exactly how far.

1218

00:57:29,220 --> 00:57:33,620  
But when we got  
to our town, there

1219

00:57:33,620 --> 00:57:37,730  
was a bonfire in front  
of every Jewish house.

1220

00:57:37,730 --> 00:57:38,870  
Including yours?

1221

00:57:38,870 --> 00:57:41,600  
Including ours.

1222  
00:57:41,600 --> 00:57:48,440  
And they threw everything out  
of the windows to burn it.

1223  
00:57:48,440 --> 00:57:54,730  
But after they started our  
house, one of the Gestapo

1224  
00:57:54,730 --> 00:57:59,890  
came and said, stop here.

1225  
00:57:59,890 --> 00:58:04,660  
Because he wanted the  
Iron Cross First Class.

1226  
00:58:04,660 --> 00:58:11,820  
So they didn't destroy  
much of our stuff.

1227  
00:58:11,820 --> 00:58:17,850  
But at the end of the day,  
they brought all the women

1228  
00:58:17,850 --> 00:58:19,680  
to our house.

1229  
00:58:19,680 --> 00:58:21,450  
From the 20 families?

1230  
00:58:21,450 --> 00:58:23,130  
Yes.

1231  
00:58:23,130 --> 00:58:25,350  
So it was like a holding center.

1232  
00:58:25,350 --> 00:58:27,740  
Right.

1233  
00:58:27,740 --> 00:58:35,000

And I remember my uncle  
called from Berlin

1234  
00:58:35,000 --> 00:58:39,520  
and asked my  
mother, how are you?

1235  
00:58:39,520 --> 00:58:42,700  
And she says, not so good.

1236  
00:58:42,700 --> 00:58:49,310  
And with that, they pulled  
the telephone out of the wall

1237  
00:58:49,310 --> 00:58:55,980  
and said, you ungrateful person.

1238  
00:58:55,980 --> 00:59:01,650  
Here we spare you,  
and you say that.

1239  
00:59:01,650 --> 00:59:05,490  
And they held a  
conference to decide

1240  
00:59:05,490 --> 00:59:07,635  
what to do with my mother.

1241  
00:59:07,635 --> 00:59:10,210

1242  
00:59:10,210 --> 00:59:15,690  
And they let her go.

1243  
00:59:15,690 --> 00:59:19,220  
That must have been  
terrifying for you.

1244  
00:59:19,220 --> 00:59:20,900  
It was terrifying.

1245  
00:59:20,900 --> 00:59:23,780

1246  
00:59:23,780 --> 00:59:32,090  
Then my mother came over  
to me, and she said,

1247  
00:59:32,090 --> 00:59:35,700  
you have to go up in the attic.

1248  
00:59:35,700 --> 00:59:39,230  
I don't know how  
we're going to do it.

1249  
00:59:39,230 --> 00:59:45,210  
But there are a bunch  
of American dollars,

1250  
00:59:45,210 --> 00:59:48,460  
and you've got to  
get rid of them.

1251  
00:59:48,460 --> 00:59:55,010  
Because if they find  
it, we will all be gone.

1252  
00:59:55,010 --> 00:59:59,660  
So the bathroom was upstairs.

1253  
00:59:59,660 --> 01:00:05,690  
So when we went to the  
bathroom, one of the Gestapo

1254  
01:00:05,690 --> 01:00:08,870  
stood on the stairs.

1255  
01:00:08,870 --> 01:00:13,900  
So they must have  
distracted him somehow.

1256  
01:00:13,900 --> 01:00:19,940  
And I was able to sneak  
upstairs, find the money,

1257  
01:00:19,940 --> 01:00:23,030  
and flush it down the toilet

1258  
01:00:23,030 --> 01:00:24,860  
Oh, my goodness.

1259  
01:00:24,860 --> 01:00:29,735  
And have you any  
idea how much it was?

1260  
01:00:29,735 --> 01:00:30,235  
No.

1261  
01:00:30,235 --> 01:00:34,560

1262  
01:00:34,560 --> 01:00:38,730  
What a lo-- how  
bittersweet because people

1263  
01:00:38,730 --> 01:00:41,750  
weren't able to leave with  
a lot of money from Germany.

1264  
01:00:41,750 --> 01:00:42,250  
Right.

1265  
01:00:42,250 --> 01:00:45,670

1266  
01:00:45,670 --> 01:00:51,740  
I want to get a sense of how  
this happened logistically.

1267  
01:00:51,740 --> 01:00:54,680  
Earlier you described  
to me that there

1268  
01:00:54,680 --> 01:00:57,680  
were the two houses  
connected, and there

1269

01:00:57,680 --> 01:01:04,400  
was a staircase from the house  
where your father had his work

1270

01:01:04,400 --> 01:01:06,950  
place and your living  
room, and there

1271

01:01:06,950 --> 01:01:10,220  
was a staircase that  
went to the second floor

1272

01:01:10,220 --> 01:01:12,200  
where you had your bedrooms.

1273

01:01:12,200 --> 01:01:15,260  
And was that staircase--  
and that was above where

1274

01:01:15,260 --> 01:01:17,690  
your grandmother lived.

1275

01:01:17,690 --> 01:01:20,280  
Was that staircase inside  
the house or outside?

1276

01:01:20,280 --> 01:01:20,780  
Inside.

1277

01:01:20,780 --> 01:01:23,090  
Inside.

1278

01:01:23,090 --> 01:01:28,220  
It was really from my  
grandmother's living quarters

1279

01:01:28,220 --> 01:01:31,440  
up to the second floor.

1280

01:01:31,440 --> 01:01:35,750  
And there was a door  
on the first floor,

1281  
01:01:35,750 --> 01:01:41,650  
and you can use  
the steps to go up.

1282  
01:01:41,650 --> 01:01:47,440  
So the bottom or,  
say, the ground floor

1283  
01:01:47,440 --> 01:01:50,230  
areas were connected  
to each other

1284  
01:01:50,230 --> 01:01:52,210  
where your grandmother  
lived and where

1285  
01:01:52,210 --> 01:01:54,270  
your father had his workshop.

1286  
01:01:54,270 --> 01:01:55,540  
Is that correct?

1287  
01:01:55,540 --> 01:02:02,590  
All the houses were really  
separate with a wall separating

1288  
01:02:02,590 --> 01:02:06,190  
them except for that one door--

1289  
01:02:06,190 --> 01:02:09,070  
Into your grandmother's place.

1290  
01:02:09,070 --> 01:02:12,210  
--for the stairs to go up.

1291  
01:02:12,210 --> 01:02:13,780  
OK, OK.

1292  
01:02:13,780 --> 01:02:16,540  
And it's this staircase  
that you had to use?



1293  
01:02:16,540 --> 01:02:17,410  
Yes.

1294  
01:02:17,410 --> 01:02:18,390  
All right.

1295  
01:02:18,390 --> 01:02:22,150  
What was happening with your  
grandmother at this time?

1296  
01:02:22,150 --> 01:02:31,220  
My grandmother was in an  
old-age home in Berlin.

1297  
01:02:31,220 --> 01:02:32,090  
With Arnold?

1298  
01:02:32,090 --> 01:02:34,160  
That is, he was taking  
care of him-- her?

1299  
01:02:34,160 --> 01:02:35,030  
Yes.

1300  
01:02:35,030 --> 01:02:35,930  
Uncle Arnold.

1301  
01:02:35,930 --> 01:02:37,540  
OK.

1302  
01:02:37,540 --> 01:02:40,600  
And what about your grandfather  
on your mother's side

1303  
01:02:40,600 --> 01:02:44,070  
and your aunt Rosa,  
where were they?

1304  
01:02:44,070 --> 01:02:51,490  
My grandfather was in a  
old-age home in Frankfurt.

1305

01:02:51,490 --> 01:02:59,010

And my aunt had gotten  
married just around that time

1306

01:02:59,010 --> 01:03:01,430

and lived in Frankfurt.

1307

01:03:01,430 --> 01:03:05,100

1308

01:03:05,100 --> 01:03:08,160

Did you have any  
chance to visit them?

1309

01:03:08,160 --> 01:03:13,500

Just before we left,  
we visited them.

1310

01:03:13,500 --> 01:03:15,720

And did they have  
any plans to leave?

1311

01:03:15,720 --> 01:03:18,960

1312

01:03:18,960 --> 01:03:21,390

Everybody had plans  
to leave, but they

1313

01:03:21,390 --> 01:03:26,530

had no way of accomplishing it.

1314

01:03:26,530 --> 01:03:27,820

So they never left.

1315

01:03:27,820 --> 01:03:29,420

No.

1316

01:03:29,420 --> 01:03:39,070

My grandmother from Berlin died  
in the cattle car to the camp.

1317  
01:03:39,070 --> 01:03:43,950  
And my grandfather  
and my aunt died

1318  
01:03:43,950 --> 01:03:48,403  
and her husband  
died in the camp.

1319  
01:03:48,403 --> 01:03:49,320  
Do you know which one?

1320  
01:03:49,320 --> 01:03:54,610

1321  
01:03:54,610 --> 01:03:55,700  
I think it was Birkenau.

1322  
01:03:55,700 --> 01:04:00,560

1323  
01:04:00,560 --> 01:04:05,240  
How were you able to find out  
about your father's mother

1324  
01:04:05,240 --> 01:04:06,380  
in the cattle car?

1325  
01:04:06,380 --> 01:04:09,290  
Somebody must have told you that  
they were there or something.

1326  
01:04:09,290 --> 01:04:13,940  
Well, there were-- the Germans  
kept track of everything

1327  
01:04:13,940 --> 01:04:17,135  
very well.

1328  
01:04:17,135 --> 01:04:19,130  
OK, so there was a record.

1329

01:04:19,130 --> 01:04:25,890

1330

01:04:25,890 --> 01:04:28,970

So let's go back  
to that situation

1331

01:04:28,970 --> 01:04:33,140

where your mother  
is in her home,

1332

01:04:33,140 --> 01:04:34,580

and that's on the second--

1333

01:04:34,580 --> 01:04:36,980

every-- all those other  
ladies were herded

1334

01:04:36,980 --> 01:04:41,520

into the second-floor  
living room--

1335

01:04:41,520 --> 01:04:42,480

and the children.

1336

01:04:42,480 --> 01:04:45,490

And how long do they stay there?

1337

01:04:45,490 --> 01:04:48,880

How long were they kept there?

1338

01:04:48,880 --> 01:04:50,830

A couple of days.

1339

01:04:50,830 --> 01:04:53,360

Wow, wow.

1340

01:04:53,360 --> 01:04:58,520

And did any of the men  
return who were arrested?

1341

01:04:58,520 --> 01:04:59,930  
They all came back.

1342  
01:04:59,930 --> 01:05:02,740

1343  
01:05:02,740 --> 01:05:03,850  
How long did it take?

1344  
01:05:03,850 --> 01:05:07,290

1345  
01:05:07,290 --> 01:05:09,612  
Less than a week.

1346  
01:05:09,612 --> 01:05:11,070  
OK.

1347  
01:05:11,070 --> 01:05:14,400  
Did your father tell you  
what that week had been like?

1348  
01:05:14,400 --> 01:05:16,970  
No.

1349  
01:05:16,970 --> 01:05:18,390  
Did he look different?

1350  
01:05:18,390 --> 01:05:18,890  
No.

1351  
01:05:18,890 --> 01:05:21,530

1352  
01:05:21,530 --> 01:05:27,080  
And did you ever go back  
to that one-room schoolroom

1353  
01:05:27,080 --> 01:05:29,610  
where you had left your coats,  
and your books, and anything?

1354  
01:05:29,610 --> 01:05:30,410  
No.

1355  
01:05:30,410 --> 01:05:32,210  
So that was the  
end of education.

1356  
01:05:32,210 --> 01:05:35,440

1357  
01:05:35,440 --> 01:05:36,460  
So then what happened?

1358  
01:05:36,460 --> 01:05:41,630

1359  
01:05:41,630 --> 01:05:51,410  
Well, my uncle  
and aunt in Berlin

1360  
01:05:51,410 --> 01:05:59,780  
made arrangements for us to go  
into an orphanage in Berlin.

1361  
01:05:59,780 --> 01:06:01,890  
And why was that?

1362  
01:06:01,890 --> 01:06:05,070  
Why would you--  
you have parents.

1363  
01:06:05,070 --> 01:06:06,720  
You have other relatives.

1364  
01:06:06,720 --> 01:06:07,830  
You have aunts and uncles.

1365  
01:06:07,830 --> 01:06:10,500  
Why would you go  
to an orphanage?

1366

01:06:10,500 --> 01:06:13,740  
Because there was no other  
place to go, and that's

1367  
01:06:13,740 --> 01:06:16,800  
one way of going to school.

1368  
01:06:16,800 --> 01:06:21,330  
I lived with my uncle and  
aunt for a couple of months

1369  
01:06:21,330 --> 01:06:24,690  
while my brother was in  
the orphanage already.

1370  
01:06:24,690 --> 01:06:26,490  
And this is after Kristallnacht.

1371  
01:06:26,490 --> 01:06:27,660  
Yes.

1372  
01:06:27,660 --> 01:06:31,810  
Why did you not stay  
with your own parents?

1373  
01:06:31,810 --> 01:06:38,400  
Because it was impossible  
to stay in the town.

1374  
01:06:38,400 --> 01:06:43,710  
And my parents  
were in the process

1375  
01:06:43,710 --> 01:06:47,110  
of leaving the town too.

1376  
01:06:47,110 --> 01:06:53,700  
Did they sell their home, or  
did they just leave their home?

1377  
01:06:53,700 --> 01:06:57,440  
I don't know if they  
were able to sell it,

1378  
01:06:57,440 --> 01:07:01,160  
if they were allowed to sell.

1379  
01:07:01,160 --> 01:07:12,290  
But they moved to be near  
us into a [NON-ENGLISH]..

1380  
01:07:12,290 --> 01:07:13,310  
What's that?

1381  
01:07:13,310 --> 01:07:23,560  
That's a farming compound that  
teachers, lawyers, and doctors,

1382  
01:07:23,560 --> 01:07:30,040  
and all kinds of  
people had to farm.

1383  
01:07:30,040 --> 01:07:34,810  
So if they go to Israel  
or wherever they go,

1384  
01:07:34,810 --> 01:07:40,240  
they at least would have  
an idea of what to do.

1385  
01:07:40,240 --> 01:07:44,230  
They would be able  
to work on a farm.

1386  
01:07:44,230 --> 01:07:49,270  
So my mother was in  
charge of the kitchen,

1387  
01:07:49,270 --> 01:07:56,860  
and my father was in  
charge of the fields.

1388  
01:07:56,860 --> 01:08:00,740  
So he was on horseback.

1389



01:08:00,740 --> 01:08:10,290  
And every so often, we  
went to visit them there

1390  
01:08:10,290 --> 01:08:13,000  
from the orphanage.

1391  
01:08:13,000 --> 01:08:16,029  
So you at first lived with  
your aunt and your uncle.

1392  
01:08:16,029 --> 01:08:18,829  
Until they left for England.

1393  
01:08:18,829 --> 01:08:21,970  
Ah, so all of this is  
after Kristallnacht.

1394  
01:08:21,970 --> 01:08:23,050  
Yes.

1395  
01:08:23,050 --> 01:08:24,700  
And they leave for England.

1396  
01:08:24,700 --> 01:08:28,630  
Then you go to the orphanage  
together with your brother.

1397  
01:08:28,630 --> 01:08:30,250  
Was this a Jewish orphanage?

1398  
01:08:30,250 --> 01:08:31,120  
Yes.

1399  
01:08:31,120 --> 01:08:32,430  
And it was in Berlin.

1400  
01:08:32,430 --> 01:08:33,399  
Yes.

1401  
01:08:33,399 --> 01:08:37,120  
And the [NON-ENGLISH] that

you're telling me, what--

1402

01:08:37,120 --> 01:08:38,529

where was that located?

1403

01:08:38,529 --> 01:08:40,720

Near Berlin.

1404

01:08:40,720 --> 01:08:42,850

Do you know the area, the town.

1405

01:08:42,850 --> 01:08:45,130

[COUGHS] Excuse me.

1406

01:08:45,130 --> 01:08:45,960

No.

1407

01:08:45,960 --> 01:08:48,010

OK.

1408

01:08:48,010 --> 01:08:50,170

Did your father  
still have his car?

1409

01:08:50,170 --> 01:08:51,630

No.

1410

01:08:51,630 --> 01:08:52,710

OK.

1411

01:08:52,710 --> 01:08:55,080

So how would you meet  
with one another?

1412

01:08:55,080 --> 01:08:56,850

What transportation  
did you take?

1413

01:08:56,850 --> 01:08:59,822

1414

01:08:59,822 --> 01:09:00,780  
That's a good question.

1415  
01:09:00,780 --> 01:09:04,540

1416  
01:09:04,540 --> 01:09:06,790  
I guess we took a train.

1417  
01:09:06,790 --> 01:09:07,479  
OK.

1418  
01:09:07,479 --> 01:09:08,979  
You just don't--  
you don't remember.

1419  
01:09:08,979 --> 01:09:09,950  
I don't.

1420  
01:09:09,950 --> 01:09:10,660  
That's OK.

1421  
01:09:10,660 --> 01:09:11,620  
That's OK.

1422  
01:09:11,620 --> 01:09:13,870  
Was it a long journey?

1423  
01:09:13,870 --> 01:09:15,040  
No.

1424  
01:09:15,040 --> 01:09:17,600  
OK, OK.

1425  
01:09:17,600 --> 01:09:22,010  
So it clearly is that there are  
plans to leave the country one

1426  
01:09:22,010 --> 01:09:23,240  
way or another.

1427

01:09:23,240 --> 01:09:27,140  
Your parents are trying to  
retrain themselves so that they

1428  
01:09:27,140 --> 01:09:30,529  
would know how to make a  
living doing different things.

1429  
01:09:30,529 --> 01:09:36,920  
They were teaching  
people and training them

1430  
01:09:36,920 --> 01:09:40,729  
so they could make a  
living as a farmer.

1431  
01:09:40,729 --> 01:09:41,660  
Was there--

1432  
01:09:41,660 --> 01:09:45,710  
My father was an  
equestrian rider.

1433  
01:09:45,710 --> 01:09:51,647  
He was very good with horses.

1434  
01:09:51,647 --> 01:09:54,450  
Ah.

1435  
01:09:54,450 --> 01:09:56,520  
Now, one thing I  
had forgotten to ask

1436  
01:09:56,520 --> 01:10:07,770  
about Burgsinn, how did the  
town itself fair economically?

1437  
01:10:07,770 --> 01:10:10,500  
That is, what ran the  
town economy-wise?

1438  
01:10:10,500 --> 01:10:12,600  
Was it the farming around?

1439  
01:10:12,600 --> 01:10:15,060  
Was there some kind  
of manufacturing?

1440  
01:10:15,060 --> 01:10:17,820  
How did most other people,  
aside from the ones

1441  
01:10:17,820 --> 01:10:19,950  
that you had told me  
about, how did they

1442  
01:10:19,950 --> 01:10:22,000  
make their living in that area?

1443  
01:10:22,000 --> 01:10:24,690

1444  
01:10:24,690 --> 01:10:25,930  
I don't know.

1445  
01:10:25,930 --> 01:10:28,340  
OK, OK.

1446  
01:10:28,340 --> 01:10:31,160  
Well, there was a bakery.

1447  
01:10:31,160 --> 01:10:37,480  
There was a general  
merchandise store.

1448  
01:10:37,480 --> 01:10:41,110  
And I don't know how anybody  
else made their living.

1449  
01:10:41,110 --> 01:10:41,920  
OK.

1450  
01:10:41,920 --> 01:10:43,910  
So it wasn't like  
it was a town that

1451  
01:10:43,910 --> 01:10:45,880  
served a farming community.

1452  
01:10:45,880 --> 01:10:46,720  
No.

1453  
01:10:46,720 --> 01:10:47,890  
OK.

1454  
01:10:47,890 --> 01:10:52,850  
So farming was really new to  
your father and your mother

1455  
01:10:52,850 --> 01:10:53,780  
in this place.

1456  
01:10:53,780 --> 01:10:54,620  
Right.

1457  
01:10:54,620 --> 01:10:55,690  
All right.

1458  
01:10:55,690 --> 01:11:03,210  
But he had experience with  
horses, and he was good at it.

1459  
01:11:03,210 --> 01:11:05,940  
Did you ever go riding with  
him on top of the horse?

1460  
01:11:05,940 --> 01:11:06,750  
No.

1461  
01:11:06,750 --> 01:11:07,680  
Did your brother?

1462  
01:11:07,680 --> 01:11:08,490  
No.

1463  
01:11:08,490 --> 01:11:08,990

OK.

1464

01:11:08,990 --> 01:11:12,130

1465

01:11:12,130 --> 01:11:14,530

Did you visit them  
there, or did they

1466

01:11:14,530 --> 01:11:16,420

visit you at the orphanage?

1467

01:11:16,420 --> 01:11:17,260

Both.

1468

01:11:17,260 --> 01:11:18,730

Yeah.

1469

01:11:18,730 --> 01:11:22,410

What was living in  
the orphanage like?

1470

01:11:22,410 --> 01:11:25,470

My brother was  
very unhappy there.

1471

01:11:25,470 --> 01:11:27,800

Henry.

1472

01:11:27,800 --> 01:11:32,410

I was less so.

1473

01:11:32,410 --> 01:11:42,770

We put on plays, and we had  
services every Saturday.

1474

01:11:42,770 --> 01:11:48,736

And I found it not that  
difficult to adjust to.

1475

01:11:48,736 --> 01:11:53,290

OK, can you describe to me

what it looked like physically?

1476

01:11:53,290 --> 01:11:57,010

Like I asked you about your home  
and your grandfather's home,

1477

01:11:57,010 --> 01:11:59,300

what did this place look  
like, this orphanage?

1478

01:11:59,300 --> 01:12:07,500

It was a large building,  
and one wing for the boys,

1479

01:12:07,500 --> 01:12:18,950

one wing for the girls, had a  
large walking place in between.

1480

01:12:18,950 --> 01:12:19,910

Like a courtyard?

1481

01:12:19,910 --> 01:12:22,200

Like a courtyard.

1482

01:12:22,200 --> 01:12:24,960

And--

1483

01:12:24,960 --> 01:12:26,400

Was it a stone building?

1484

01:12:26,400 --> 01:12:27,570

Yes.

1485

01:12:27,570 --> 01:12:28,195

One story?

1486

01:12:28,195 --> 01:12:33,200

1487

01:12:33,200 --> 01:12:35,690

I think it was a two-story.



1488

01:12:35,690 --> 01:12:39,200

In the center of town or  
in a residential area?

1489

01:12:39,200 --> 01:12:41,390

In a residential area.

1490

01:12:41,390 --> 01:12:45,380

Do you know that-- what  
area that would have been?

1491

01:12:45,380 --> 01:12:46,730

I should know it.

1492

01:12:46,730 --> 01:12:53,320

1493

01:12:53,320 --> 01:12:55,550

I can't think of it right now.

1494

01:12:55,550 --> 01:12:57,310

OK.

1495

01:12:57,310 --> 01:12:59,830

Was it in one of  
the Berlin suburbs?

1496

01:12:59,830 --> 01:13:00,890

Yes.

1497

01:13:00,890 --> 01:13:01,390

No.

1498

01:13:01,390 --> 01:13:03,850

It was actually within the city.

1499

01:13:03,850 --> 01:13:10,700

It was within the city but in  
a residential part of the city.

1500

01:13:10,700 --> 01:13:16,120

West or east, would  
you have an idea?

1501  
01:13:16,120 --> 01:13:17,050  
No.

1502  
01:13:17,050 --> 01:13:20,440  
Because in the west  
part, there's Schoneberg.

1503  
01:13:20,440 --> 01:13:21,880  
There's Charlottenburg.

1504  
01:13:21,880 --> 01:13:26,620  
There's Dahlem-Dorf,  
There's Wannsee.

1505  
01:13:26,620 --> 01:13:31,420  
There's Zehlendorf,  
Lichterfelde, Lankwitz.

1506  
01:13:31,420 --> 01:13:32,650  
Any of those ring a bell?

1507  
01:13:32,650 --> 01:13:42,940  
Well, we were so busy  
trying to adjust to it,

1508  
01:13:42,940 --> 01:13:46,820  
and we went to  
school from there.

1509  
01:13:46,820 --> 01:13:49,490  
Oh, so the school was not  
part of the orphanage.

1510  
01:13:49,490 --> 01:13:50,690  
No.

1511  
01:13:50,690 --> 01:13:52,010  
But it was a Jewish school.

1512

01:13:52,010 --> 01:13:53,150  
Yes.

1513  
01:13:53,150 --> 01:13:55,340  
And did you walk to the school.

1514  
01:13:55,340 --> 01:13:56,115  
Yes.

1515  
01:13:56,115 --> 01:13:57,740  
Do you remember the  
name of the school?

1516  
01:13:57,740 --> 01:13:58,790  
No.

1517  
01:13:58,790 --> 01:14:01,580  
One of the reasons I'm  
asking all these questions

1518  
01:14:01,580 --> 01:14:03,980  
is because sometime  
in the future somebody

1519  
01:14:03,980 --> 01:14:06,530  
may listen and say,  
oh, that's interesting.

1520  
01:14:06,530 --> 01:14:09,080  
I'd like to know more  
about this orphanage.

1521  
01:14:09,080 --> 01:14:11,480  
And the more we  
have detail of it,

1522  
01:14:11,480 --> 01:14:14,070  
the more we can  
place it in context.

1523  
01:14:14,070 --> 01:14:17,360  
But I completely realize  
that it's, in some ways,

1524  
01:14:17,360 --> 01:14:20,060  
an unreasonable thing  
to ask because you're

1525  
01:14:20,060 --> 01:14:22,580  
in a different  
circumstance and mindset.

1526  
01:14:22,580 --> 01:14:25,550  
At the time, you're a  
13-year-old child who

1527  
01:14:25,550 --> 01:14:27,380  
was trying to hold it together.

1528  
01:14:27,380 --> 01:14:28,130  
You know?

1529  
01:14:28,130 --> 01:14:29,960  
And these are not  
the sorts of things

1530  
01:14:29,960 --> 01:14:32,900  
that one would  
normally remember.

1531  
01:14:32,900 --> 01:14:34,400  
But forgive me for asking.

1532  
01:14:34,400 --> 01:14:34,985  
Not at all.

1533  
01:14:34,985 --> 01:14:36,110  
That's the reason why I do.

1534  
01:14:36,110 --> 01:14:37,820  
That's the reason why I do.

1535  
01:14:37,820 --> 01:14:42,110  
So was it a long walk from  
the orphanage to the school?

1536  
01:14:42,110 --> 01:14:44,840  
Manageable, apparently.

1537  
01:14:44,840 --> 01:14:49,160  
Were you chased or in some  
way harassed between the two?

1538  
01:14:49,160 --> 01:14:50,180  
No.

1539  
01:14:50,180 --> 01:14:55,100  
OK, so it wasn't like Burgsinn  
where when you left school,

1540  
01:14:55,100 --> 01:14:56,570  
the other kids could chase you.

1541  
01:14:56,570 --> 01:14:57,410  
No.

1542  
01:14:57,410 --> 01:14:58,550  
OK.

1543  
01:14:58,550 --> 01:15:01,210  
Did you feel safe there?

1544  
01:15:01,210 --> 01:15:02,375  
Yes.

1545  
01:15:02,375 --> 01:15:02,875  
OK.

1546  
01:15:02,875 --> 01:15:06,800

1547  
01:15:06,800 --> 01:15:09,590  
And about how many children  
were in the orphanage?

1548  
01:15:09,590 --> 01:15:13,240

1549  
01:15:13,240 --> 01:15:16,960  
Oh, quite a few there were.

1550  
01:15:16,960 --> 01:15:20,000  
We were the exception  
to the rule.

1551  
01:15:20,000 --> 01:15:24,880  
There were mostly orphans in  
the school-- in the orphanage.

1552  
01:15:24,880 --> 01:15:25,930  
Real orphans.

1553  
01:15:25,930 --> 01:15:27,070  
Yes.

1554  
01:15:27,070 --> 01:15:29,170  
Not people whose  
parents just couldn't--

1555  
01:15:29,170 --> 01:15:29,980  
Right.

1556  
01:15:29,980 --> 01:15:31,300  
--handle them.

1557  
01:15:31,300 --> 01:15:34,300  
Were there any  
who were like you?

1558  
01:15:34,300 --> 01:15:36,570  
Not that I know of.

1559  
01:15:36,570 --> 01:15:37,360  
OK.

1560  
01:15:37,360 --> 01:15:41,050  
And why do you think  
for your younger brother

1561  
01:15:41,050 --> 01:15:45,040  
it was so much more difficult?

1562  
01:15:45,040 --> 01:15:48,240  
He just had a very  
hard time adjusting.

1563  
01:15:48,240 --> 01:15:51,400  
He always said, I  
want to go home.

1564  
01:15:51,400 --> 01:15:53,460  
Yeah, yeah.

1565  
01:15:53,460 --> 01:15:56,830  
Sometimes maybe those few  
years make a difference.

1566  
01:15:56,830 --> 01:15:58,520  
You know, you were  
a few years older.

1567  
01:15:58,520 --> 01:16:01,330

1568  
01:16:01,330 --> 01:16:03,960  
I want to go back too.

1569  
01:16:03,960 --> 01:16:08,940  
In all of this turmoil,  
in all of this uncertainty

1570  
01:16:08,940 --> 01:16:17,090  
and hostility, you also  
lose a brother, Werner.

1571  
01:16:17,090 --> 01:16:19,590  
What happened with Werner?

1572  
01:16:19,590 --> 01:16:36,160  
He had-- oh, my brain is

not working right today.

1573  
01:16:36,160 --> 01:16:37,240  
That's all right.

1574  
01:16:37,240 --> 01:16:41,650  
Anyhow, there wasn't  
penicillin or anything.

1575  
01:16:41,650 --> 01:16:44,640  
He had scarlet fever.

1576  
01:16:44,640 --> 01:16:46,540  
OK.

1577  
01:16:46,540 --> 01:16:48,570  
So this came on suddenly?

1578  
01:16:48,570 --> 01:16:54,370  
And he was in a  
hospital in Würzburg.

1579  
01:16:54,370 --> 01:16:57,100  
And were there difficulties  
there for your parents

1580  
01:16:57,100 --> 01:16:58,430  
to get treatment for him?

1581  
01:16:58,430 --> 01:16:59,700  
No.

1582  
01:16:59,700 --> 01:17:01,630  
OK, OK.

1583  
01:17:01,630 --> 01:17:04,465  
So it wasn't like the  
dentist was with you?

1584  
01:17:04,465 --> 01:17:05,395  
No.



1585

01:17:05,395 --> 01:17:08,380

All right, is that  
where he passed away?

1586

01:17:08,380 --> 01:17:11,110

Yes.

1587

01:17:11,110 --> 01:17:13,930

Did you visit him there, you?

1588

01:17:13,930 --> 01:17:15,250

No.

1589

01:17:15,250 --> 01:17:18,760

So when was the last  
time you saw him?

1590

01:17:18,760 --> 01:17:22,230

Before he went to the hospital.

1591

01:17:22,230 --> 01:17:23,790

Was he conscious?

1592

01:17:23,790 --> 01:17:26,070

Yes.

1593

01:17:26,070 --> 01:17:30,290

Was this a surprise then  
when he didn't come home?

1594

01:17:30,290 --> 01:17:32,870

1595

01:17:32,870 --> 01:17:34,770

We knew he was very sick.

1596

01:17:34,770 --> 01:17:37,730

1597

01:17:37,730 --> 01:17:40,560

Were your parents

with him when he died?

1598

01:17:40,560 --> 01:17:43,440

I believe my mother was.

1599

01:17:43,440 --> 01:17:46,300

1600

01:17:46,300 --> 01:17:48,280

And so where was he buried then?

1601

01:17:48,280 --> 01:17:49,300

In WÃ¼rzburg.

1602

01:17:49,300 --> 01:17:50,500

In WÃ¼rzburg.

1603

01:17:50,500 --> 01:17:55,680

A Jew cemetery was in WÃ¼rzburg.

1604

01:17:55,680 --> 01:17:57,330

Did he have a stone?

1605

01:17:57,330 --> 01:17:58,710

Yes.

1606

01:17:58,710 --> 01:18:00,270

Do you know if it's  
still standing?

1607

01:18:00,270 --> 01:18:01,650

Yes.

1608

01:18:01,650 --> 01:18:03,150

Have you ever been back there?

1609

01:18:03,150 --> 01:18:04,200

I have not.

1610

01:18:04,200 --> 01:18:05,980

My mother has.

1611  
01:18:05,980 --> 01:18:09,180  
OK, OK.

1612  
01:18:09,180 --> 01:18:12,000  
And were there other  
family members buried

1613  
01:18:12,000 --> 01:18:13,740  
in that same cemetery?

1614  
01:18:13,740 --> 01:18:15,120  
Yes.

1615  
01:18:15,120 --> 01:18:17,250  
Is he close to them?

1616  
01:18:17,250 --> 01:18:19,440  
Is his grave close to theirs?

1617  
01:18:19,440 --> 01:18:21,800  
I don't know.

1618  
01:18:21,800 --> 01:18:22,970  
Did you ever go there?

1619  
01:18:22,970 --> 01:18:24,260  
No.

1620  
01:18:24,260 --> 01:18:30,200  
Oh, so even right  
after he passed away,

1621  
01:18:30,200 --> 01:18:32,290  
his burial was taken--

1622  
01:18:32,290 --> 01:18:34,820  
took place separately.

1623  
01:18:34,820 --> 01:18:36,100  
That is, you didn't go.

1624  
01:18:36,100 --> 01:18:39,640  
Your younger brother didn't  
go, but your parents did.

1625  
01:18:39,640 --> 01:18:44,330

1626  
01:18:44,330 --> 01:18:47,600  
I can't imagine what a loss  
it must have been for them.

1627  
01:18:47,600 --> 01:18:50,025  
It was horrendous.

1628  
01:18:50,025 --> 01:18:50,525  
Yeah.

1629  
01:18:50,525 --> 01:18:53,380

1630  
01:18:53,380 --> 01:18:55,975  
A hole right there  
in the family.

1631  
01:18:55,975 --> 01:19:00,860

1632  
01:19:00,860 --> 01:19:05,180  
So we can go back  
now to the orphanage

1633  
01:19:05,180 --> 01:19:08,040  
that you're there with  
your younger brother.

1634  
01:19:08,040 --> 01:19:11,432  
Did you have any items  
from home with you?

1635  
01:19:11,432 --> 01:19:12,344  
No.

1636  
01:19:12,344 --> 01:19:15,520  
No toys, no dolls,  
no books, no nothing.

1637  
01:19:15,520 --> 01:19:20,140

1638  
01:19:20,140 --> 01:19:22,450  
What did you take  
with you from Burgsinn

1639  
01:19:22,450 --> 01:19:26,440  
when you left to go to Berlin?

1640  
01:19:26,440 --> 01:19:31,090  
All I remember is we took a  
suitcase with our clothes.

1641  
01:19:31,090 --> 01:19:31,910  
And that's it.

1642  
01:19:31,910 --> 01:19:33,530  
Yes.

1643  
01:19:33,530 --> 01:19:35,010  
Everything else was left.

1644  
01:19:35,010 --> 01:19:37,090  
Yes.

1645  
01:19:37,090 --> 01:19:41,290  
Did any of this of the household  
items, your items, your parents

1646  
01:19:41,290 --> 01:19:43,030  
items, or things like  
that, did they ever

1647  
01:19:43,030 --> 01:19:44,238  
make it to the United States?

1648

01:19:44,238 --> 01:19:45,370

No.

1649

01:19:45,370 --> 01:19:48,030

All right, so it was pretty  
much the shirts on your backs.

1650

01:19:48,030 --> 01:19:50,640

1651

01:19:50,640 --> 01:19:58,150

When you were in this orphanage,  
how long did that last?

1652

01:19:58,150 --> 01:19:59,350

How long were you there?

1653

01:19:59,350 --> 01:20:09,610

Well, my parents decided that  
I should go and learn a trade

1654

01:20:09,610 --> 01:20:12,940

instead continuing in school.

1655

01:20:12,940 --> 01:20:13,780

OK.

1656

01:20:13,780 --> 01:20:20,480

So they sent me to a  
school for dressmaking.

1657

01:20:20,480 --> 01:20:26,240

And there were also only  
other Jewish girls there.

1658

01:20:26,240 --> 01:20:28,610

So again, it was  
a Jewish school.

1659

01:20:28,610 --> 01:20:29,930

Right.

1660

01:20:29,930 --> 01:20:34,340

So I don't remember exactly  
how long I was there.

1661

01:20:34,340 --> 01:20:42,530

But one day, the Gestapo  
came in and said, all of you

1662

01:20:42,530 --> 01:20:47,460

are now working for the state.

1663

01:20:47,460 --> 01:20:54,240

So we weren't allowed to  
do dressmaking anymore,

1664

01:20:54,240 --> 01:20:56,930

but we had--

1665

01:20:56,930 --> 01:21:02,700

we were doing radio  
wiring for Siemens.

1666

01:21:02,700 --> 01:21:06,290

1667

01:21:06,290 --> 01:21:08,480

Did you still live  
in the orphanage?

1668

01:21:08,480 --> 01:21:09,380

Yes.

1669

01:21:09,380 --> 01:21:12,140

So instead of going to  
school from the orphanage,

1670

01:21:12,140 --> 01:21:15,650

you would go to this facility.

1671

01:21:15,650 --> 01:21:20,570

And instead of  
making dresses, you

1672  
01:21:20,570 --> 01:21:23,540  
did whatever they told you to,  
and it happened to be wiring.

1673  
01:21:23,540 --> 01:21:32,940  
And we were watched by a  
Gestapo woman who had a rifle,

1674  
01:21:32,940 --> 01:21:41,840  
and we weren't allowed to talk,  
or to sing, or to do anything

1675  
01:21:41,840 --> 01:21:48,850  
but concentrate on  
what we had to do.

1676  
01:21:48,850 --> 01:21:51,140  
So it was much more a  
prison-like atmosphere.

1677  
01:21:51,140 --> 01:21:51,640  
Yes.

1678  
01:21:51,640 --> 01:21:54,380

1679  
01:21:54,380 --> 01:21:57,020  
Your brother stayed  
at the orphanage?

1680  
01:21:57,020 --> 01:21:58,400  
Yes.

1681  
01:21:58,400 --> 01:22:01,970  
Did your parents find  
out about this situation?

1682  
01:22:01,970 --> 01:22:03,380  
Oh, yes.

1683  
01:22:03,380 --> 01:22:09,390



Did they come to visit you when  
you were already working there?

1684  
01:22:09,390 --> 01:22:13,620  
I'm sure that they  
couldn't visit me there.

1685  
01:22:13,620 --> 01:22:16,740  
But at the orphanage,  
I'm sure they did.

1686  
01:22:16,740 --> 01:22:17,490  
OK.

1687  
01:22:17,490 --> 01:22:23,440  
We spent many nights  
in the air raid shelter

1688  
01:22:23,440 --> 01:22:28,780  
and had to go from  
the air raid shelter

1689  
01:22:28,780 --> 01:22:34,120  
right away to the factory.

1690  
01:22:34,120 --> 01:22:37,810  
So you were still in Germany  
when the war started?

1691  
01:22:37,810 --> 01:22:39,520  
Oh, yes.

1692  
01:22:39,520 --> 01:22:42,100  
Do you remember?

1693  
01:22:42,100 --> 01:22:48,280  
Since you were in Berlin, the  
war started September 1, 1939.

1694  
01:22:48,280 --> 01:22:50,350  
Do you remember how  
you learned of it,

1695

01:22:50,350 --> 01:22:54,520

how you heard of it,  
what your day was

1696

01:22:54,520 --> 01:23:01,510

like once you learned that  
Germany was finally at war?

1697

01:23:01,510 --> 01:23:03,310

Mixed.

1698

01:23:03,310 --> 01:23:10,210

We were afraid for  
our lives and glad

1699

01:23:10,210 --> 01:23:17,670

that somebody's trying  
to wipe that man

1700

01:23:17,670 --> 01:23:21,682

of the face of the earth.

1701

01:23:21,682 --> 01:23:24,460

Yeah, yeah.

1702

01:23:24,460 --> 01:23:29,950

But did the life outside,  
let's say in the city,

1703

01:23:29,950 --> 01:23:34,120

in the streets, did it change  
once Germany declared war

1704

01:23:34,120 --> 01:23:36,340

on Poland?

1705

01:23:36,340 --> 01:23:42,830

Yeah, there were  
bombings almost nightly.

1706

01:23:42,830 --> 01:23:43,330

Really?

1707  
01:23:43,330 --> 01:23:44,380  
That early on?

1708  
01:23:44,380 --> 01:23:45,520  
Yes.

1709  
01:23:45,520 --> 01:23:46,960  
OK.

1710  
01:23:46,960 --> 01:23:48,780  
Who from?

1711  
01:23:48,780 --> 01:23:49,902  
England.

1712  
01:23:49,902 --> 01:23:50,402  
OK.

1713  
01:23:50,402 --> 01:23:53,560

1714  
01:23:53,560 --> 01:23:59,830  
And was life at the orphanage  
affected by the fact

1715  
01:23:59,830 --> 01:24:02,920  
that there was now  
a war going on?

1716  
01:24:02,920 --> 01:24:07,225  
Yeah, because we spent  
most of our nights

1717  
01:24:07,225 --> 01:24:09,100  
in the air raid shelter.

1718  
01:24:09,100 --> 01:24:10,300  
All of the kids together?

1719  
01:24:10,300 --> 01:24:11,490

Yes.

1720  
01:24:11,490 --> 01:24:13,390  
Was it a public  
air raid shelter,

1721  
01:24:13,390 --> 01:24:15,220  
or was it one that  
was in the cellars,

1722  
01:24:15,220 --> 01:24:17,830  
for example, of the  
orphanage itself?

1723  
01:24:17,830 --> 01:24:19,840  
It was in the orphanage.

1724  
01:24:19,840 --> 01:24:24,610  
So you didn't have to share an  
air raid shelter with Nazis,

1725  
01:24:24,610 --> 01:24:25,140  
for example.

1726  
01:24:25,140 --> 01:24:25,660  
Right.

1727  
01:24:25,660 --> 01:24:29,100  
OK, OK.

1728  
01:24:29,100 --> 01:24:35,130  
And yet, during the day, you  
had to go back to the facility

1729  
01:24:35,130 --> 01:24:37,920  
where you were  
working for Siemens.

1730  
01:24:37,920 --> 01:24:39,720  
Did the facility change?

1731  
01:24:39,720 --> 01:24:42,630

Was it still the  
dressmaking location?

1732  
01:24:42,630 --> 01:24:45,660

Or did they take you from  
there to someplace else?

1733  
01:24:45,660 --> 01:24:47,470  
To someplace else.

1734  
01:24:47,470 --> 01:24:49,320  
So what they really  
wanted was the labor--

1735  
01:24:49,320 --> 01:24:49,820  
Right.

1736  
01:24:49,820 --> 01:24:51,340  
--the labor force.

1737  
01:24:51,340 --> 01:24:53,100  
OK.

1738  
01:24:53,100 --> 01:24:58,090  
And how far was that someplace  
else from the orphanage?

1739  
01:24:58,090 --> 01:25:04,850  
Not any larger distance than  
from the dressmaking school.

1740  
01:25:04,850 --> 01:25:06,790  
It was in walking distance.

1741  
01:25:06,790 --> 01:25:08,620  
OK.

1742  
01:25:08,620 --> 01:25:09,310  
Did you--

1743  
01:25:09,310 --> 01:25:10,150  
[PHONE RINGING]

1744  
01:25:10,150 --> 01:25:11,125  
Let's cut for a second.

1745  
01:25:11,125 --> 01:25:12,130  
Cutting.

1746  
01:25:12,130 --> 01:25:13,678  
Would you like to  
answer the phone?

1747  
01:25:13,678 --> 01:25:14,428  
Oh, you know what?

1748  
01:25:14,428 --> 01:25:15,865  
Hang on one second, OK?

1749  
01:25:15,865 --> 01:25:16,823  
Oop.

1750  
01:25:16,823 --> 01:25:17,760  
Cutting again.

1751  
01:25:17,760 --> 01:25:18,260  
Yeah.

1752  
01:25:18,260 --> 01:25:18,739  
Mhm.

1753  
01:25:18,739 --> 01:25:19,239  
Speed.

1754  
01:25:19,239 --> 01:25:20,176  
Whenever you're ready.

1755  
01:25:20,176 --> 01:25:20,676  
OK.

1756  
01:25:20,676 --> 01:25:23,540

1757

01:25:23,540 --> 01:25:26,090

Was there anybody  
accompanying you

1758

01:25:26,090 --> 01:25:29,030

when you would go from the  
orphanage to this facility

1759

01:25:29,030 --> 01:25:31,160

where you worked for Siemens?

1760

01:25:31,160 --> 01:25:31,940

No.

1761

01:25:31,940 --> 01:25:32,870

OK.

1762

01:25:32,870 --> 01:25:35,720

But once you got there,  
it was-- it sounds like it

1763

01:25:35,720 --> 01:25:37,190

was like under lock and key.

1764

01:25:37,190 --> 01:25:40,040

1765

01:25:40,040 --> 01:25:40,940

And--

1766

01:25:40,940 --> 01:25:48,820

They were all-- they  
came to the place

1767

01:25:48,820 --> 01:25:51,450

where we were learning  
how to do dressmaking.

1768

01:25:51,450 --> 01:25:55,060

And there were all  
Jewish girls there,

1769

01:25:55,060 --> 01:25:58,960

and they just took  
everybody and put

1770

01:25:58,960 --> 01:26:07,250

them to work in the  
factory making radio

1771

01:26:07,250 --> 01:26:10,310

for Siemens for the war.

1772

01:26:10,310 --> 01:26:12,120

What was your job?

1773

01:26:12,120 --> 01:26:14,960

What did you have to do?

1774

01:26:14,960 --> 01:26:16,620

Wiring.

1775

01:26:16,620 --> 01:26:19,340

So what did you have to wire?

1776

01:26:19,340 --> 01:26:20,900

Did you have to wire--

1777

01:26:20,900 --> 01:26:24,560

yeah, describe for me what  
it was that you had to do.

1778

01:26:24,560 --> 01:26:26,840

I don't remember exactly.

1779

01:26:26,840 --> 01:26:27,920

OK.

1780

01:26:27,920 --> 01:26:33,290

All I know is it's wiring  
that they used for the radios.

1781

01:26:33,290 --> 01:26:35,903



But these weren't  
radios that people would

1782  
01:26:35,903 --> 01:26:37,070  
have in their houses, were--

1783  
01:26:37,070 --> 01:26:37,880  
No, no, no.

1784  
01:26:37,880 --> 01:26:43,050  
That was for military purposes.

1785  
01:26:43,050 --> 01:26:46,244  
So they were smaller radios.

1786  
01:26:46,244 --> 01:26:47,160  
Uh-huh.

1787  
01:26:47,160 --> 01:26:49,340  
Maybe they were like  
walkie-talkies or something

1788  
01:26:49,340 --> 01:26:49,840  
like that.

1789  
01:26:49,840 --> 01:26:51,390  
I have no idea.

1790  
01:26:51,390 --> 01:26:54,660  
OK, OK.

1791  
01:26:54,660 --> 01:26:59,450  
And about how many of  
you were there to a room?

1792  
01:26:59,450 --> 01:27:03,080  
Well, it was just the  
one room, and we must

1793  
01:27:03,080 --> 01:27:09,560  
have been about 15, 20 girls.

1794

01:27:09,560 --> 01:27:11,270

And you weren't  
allowed to speak.

1795

01:27:11,270 --> 01:27:12,320

No.

1796

01:27:12,320 --> 01:27:14,420

You weren't allowed to  
make any kind of noise.

1797

01:27:14,420 --> 01:27:16,320

Right.

1798

01:27:16,320 --> 01:27:18,810

And there was somebody  
there with a gun,

1799

01:27:18,810 --> 01:27:21,870

a Gestapo lady with a gun.

1800

01:27:21,870 --> 01:27:24,840

Did anybody ever  
step out of line?

1801

01:27:24,840 --> 01:27:26,280

No.

1802

01:27:26,280 --> 01:27:27,720

OK.

1803

01:27:27,720 --> 01:27:29,880

Did you ever see  
anyone beaten there?

1804

01:27:29,880 --> 01:27:31,286

No.

1805

01:27:31,286 --> 01:27:33,200

OK.

1806

01:27:33,200 --> 01:27:35,300  
How long did this go on for?

1807  
01:27:35,300 --> 01:27:40,070

1808  
01:27:40,070 --> 01:27:51,440  
Until we left for  
the United States.

1809  
01:27:51,440 --> 01:27:55,340  
So what would you say,  
about a year or two years?

1810  
01:27:55,340 --> 01:27:57,290  
I think it was less than that.

1811  
01:27:57,290 --> 01:27:58,310  
Less than a year?

1812  
01:27:58,310 --> 01:27:59,220  
Yeah.

1813  
01:27:59,220 --> 01:27:59,990  
OK.

1814  
01:27:59,990 --> 01:28:09,150  
But you had to have--

1815  
01:28:09,150 --> 01:28:14,730  
in order to get a visa, you  
had to have a ship's passage.

1816  
01:28:14,730 --> 01:28:22,340  
And otherwise, you  
couldn't get the visa.

1817  
01:28:22,340 --> 01:28:28,470  
So my father had to  
spend a lot of money

1818  
01:28:28,470 --> 01:28:31,145

to have the ship's  
passage forged.

1819  
01:28:31,145 --> 01:28:34,020

1820  
01:28:34,020 --> 01:28:43,460  
And the organization that  
ran the farm where he worked

1821  
01:28:43,460 --> 01:28:45,830  
was a big help to him.

1822  
01:28:45,830 --> 01:28:46,490  
OK.

1823  
01:28:46,490 --> 01:28:52,430  
And that way, we got  
the ship's passage.

1824  
01:28:52,430 --> 01:29:00,040  
Now, I had to get permission  
to leave the factory.

1825  
01:29:00,040 --> 01:29:01,390  
I was wondering.

1826  
01:29:01,390 --> 01:29:04,840  
Because that wouldn't be  
so easy if you're already

1827  
01:29:04,840 --> 01:29:11,330  
pulled into a military  
kind of activity.

1828  
01:29:11,330 --> 01:29:13,310  
Well, I got the permission.

1829  
01:29:13,310 --> 01:29:14,590  
OK.

1830  
01:29:14,590 --> 01:29:22,690

And I had to get  
my visa separately

1831  
01:29:22,690 --> 01:29:28,200  
because I was just 15.

1832  
01:29:28,200 --> 01:29:33,440  
So this was a huge room,  
and there was a circle

1833  
01:29:33,440 --> 01:29:35,210  
in the middle of the room.

1834  
01:29:35,210 --> 01:29:37,340  
Was this a German  
administrative office?

1835  
01:29:37,340 --> 01:29:38,280  
Yes.

1836  
01:29:38,280 --> 01:29:38,780  
OK.

1837  
01:29:38,780 --> 01:29:45,280  
And if you were a Jew, you  
had to stand in that circle.

1838  
01:29:45,280 --> 01:29:48,290  
How weird.

1839  
01:29:48,290 --> 01:29:53,300  
And you literally had to  
hold on to each other to

1840  
01:29:53,300 --> 01:29:55,700  
not to step out of that circle.

1841  
01:29:55,700 --> 01:29:58,580  
Well, what would  
happen if you did?

1842  
01:29:58,580 --> 01:30:02,240

We didn't find out.

1843  
01:30:02,240 --> 01:30:05,220  
So I have to picture  
this in my mind.

1844  
01:30:05,220 --> 01:30:07,850  
You're going to an  
administrative office

1845  
01:30:07,850 --> 01:30:11,070  
to get a visa to  
leave the country.

1846  
01:30:11,070 --> 01:30:13,230  
It's an exit visa.

1847  
01:30:13,230 --> 01:30:17,870  
And when you get there,  
non-Jews stand in line,

1848  
01:30:17,870 --> 01:30:20,330  
and the Jews go to  
the center of the room

1849  
01:30:20,330 --> 01:30:22,040  
where there's a circle.

1850  
01:30:22,040 --> 01:30:24,380  
And you have to  
stand in the circle,

1851  
01:30:24,380 --> 01:30:26,010  
and you can't step out of it.

1852  
01:30:26,010 --> 01:30:27,370  
Right.

1853  
01:30:27,370 --> 01:30:30,220  
But how large was that circle?

1854  
01:30:30,220 --> 01:30:32,340

Not very large.

1855  
01:30:32,340 --> 01:30:35,030  
About how many people  
could fit into it?

1856  
01:30:35,030 --> 01:30:38,230  
I think it must  
have been about 10.

1857  
01:30:38,230 --> 01:30:44,470  
OK, so 10 pairs of feet  
could fit into the circle.

1858  
01:30:44,470 --> 01:30:50,590  
And how did you stand so that  
everybody had an equal chance

1859  
01:30:50,590 --> 01:30:52,660  
not to step on those lines?

1860  
01:30:52,660 --> 01:30:54,520  
How were people standing?

1861  
01:30:54,520 --> 01:30:56,700  
Well, we would hold  
on to each other.

1862  
01:30:56,700 --> 01:30:59,600

1863  
01:30:59,600 --> 01:31:02,500  
So it was-- it  
sounds like someone's

1864  
01:31:02,500 --> 01:31:06,760  
thinking up some sort  
of cruel and weird game.

1865  
01:31:06,760 --> 01:31:07,552  
Absolutely.

1866

01:31:07,552 --> 01:31:13,890

1867

01:31:13,890 --> 01:31:16,470

And how do you  
give your paperwork

1868

01:31:16,470 --> 01:31:22,290

to the people who have to either  
say yes or no to the exit visa?

1869

01:31:22,290 --> 01:31:28,275

Well, then they would  
call us over to the--

1870

01:31:28,275 --> 01:31:31,100

OK, then you could  
leave the circle.

1871

01:31:31,100 --> 01:31:36,880

1872

01:31:36,880 --> 01:31:38,220

I've never heard of that before.

1873

01:31:38,220 --> 01:31:43,420

1874

01:31:43,420 --> 01:31:47,580

Do you remember how long  
it took standing there?

1875

01:31:47,580 --> 01:31:48,120

No.

1876

01:31:48,120 --> 01:31:49,100

No?

1877

01:31:49,100 --> 01:31:51,290

Did you get your exit  
visa the same day?

1878



01:31:51,290 --> 01:31:52,340  
Yes.

1879  
01:31:52,340 --> 01:31:54,730  
OK.

1880  
01:31:54,730 --> 01:32:00,190  
And with that exit visa, did you  
need any other kind of entrance

1881  
01:32:00,190 --> 01:32:03,100  
visa to someplace else?

1882  
01:32:03,100 --> 01:32:05,305  
I don't think so.

1883  
01:32:05,305 --> 01:32:05,805  
OK.

1884  
01:32:05,805 --> 01:32:09,050

1885  
01:32:09,050 --> 01:32:12,650  
What did your Uncle  
Arnold provide?

1886  
01:32:12,650 --> 01:32:16,580  
Was he the one who  
set this in motion

1887  
01:32:16,580 --> 01:32:19,120  
that you folks could leave?

1888  
01:32:19,120 --> 01:32:23,770  
Because by then,  
he was in America.

1889  
01:32:23,770 --> 01:32:24,700  
OK.

1890  
01:32:24,700 --> 01:32:31,120  
His passage to America had come

through, so he vouched for us.

1891  
01:32:31,120 --> 01:32:36,270  
OK, so he was able to provide  
that kind of affidavit.

1892  
01:32:36,270 --> 01:32:39,240  
Did you have a visa  
from the United States

1893  
01:32:39,240 --> 01:32:42,810  
that you could enter  
the United States?

1894  
01:32:42,810 --> 01:32:43,900  
See, there are two types.

1895  
01:32:43,900 --> 01:32:46,500  
One is to leave  
Germany, and one is

1896  
01:32:46,500 --> 01:32:48,030  
to be able to go somewhere else.

1897  
01:32:48,030 --> 01:32:50,250  
I believe we must have had it.

1898  
01:32:50,250 --> 01:32:52,270  
OK.

1899  
01:32:52,270 --> 01:32:54,820  
But you didn't go to  
the American consulate

1900  
01:32:54,820 --> 01:32:59,140  
or the American embassy  
to obtain that visa.

1901  
01:32:59,140 --> 01:33:00,550  
I don't think so.

1902  
01:33:00,550 --> 01:33:04,330

Because, OK, the reason I ask  
is because the one for the exit

1903  
01:33:04,330 --> 01:33:08,600  
visa is in your memory, but  
getting the American one

1904  
01:33:08,600 --> 01:33:10,330  
is not.

1905  
01:33:10,330 --> 01:33:15,960  
I think that was  
included in my parents'.

1906  
01:33:15,960 --> 01:33:17,170  
Got it.

1907  
01:33:17,170 --> 01:33:21,130  
Now, when they had been on  
that farm, that [NON-ENGLISH],,

1908  
01:33:21,130 --> 01:33:24,940  
was that with the idea that they  
might actually go to Palestine

1909  
01:33:24,940 --> 01:33:27,220  
rather than the United States?

1910  
01:33:27,220 --> 01:33:29,460  
Well, it was.

1911  
01:33:29,460 --> 01:33:33,520  
My father was willing  
to go anywhere,

1912  
01:33:33,520 --> 01:33:37,120  
Australia, Palestine,  
wherever he-- he

1913  
01:33:37,120 --> 01:33:40,090  
started as early as '36.

1914

01:33:40,090 --> 01:33:44,000  
OK, OK.

1915  
01:33:44,000 --> 01:33:46,940  
So you get your exit visa.

1916  
01:33:46,940 --> 01:33:50,790  
Your brother is  
with your parents.

1917  
01:33:50,790 --> 01:33:53,730  
Do they pick you up  
from the orphanage?

1918  
01:33:53,730 --> 01:33:56,010  
Is this what happens?

1919  
01:33:56,010 --> 01:33:57,340  
It must have.

1920  
01:33:57,340 --> 01:34:01,200  
OK, and was it at that  
point that you said goodbye

1921  
01:34:01,200 --> 01:34:02,750  
to your grandmother in Berlin.

1922  
01:34:02,750 --> 01:34:03,250  
Yes.

1923  
01:34:03,250 --> 01:34:10,320  
My parents took us to  
Frankfurt because they had all

1924  
01:34:10,320 --> 01:34:13,720  
moved from Bibra to Frankfurt.

1925  
01:34:13,720 --> 01:34:17,440  
And we said goodbye  
to my grandmother,

1926  
01:34:17,440 --> 01:34:22,740

who was still in Berlin  
in the old-age home,

1927  
01:34:22,740 --> 01:34:24,810  
and then in Bibra--

1928  
01:34:24,810 --> 01:34:31,136  
in Frankfurt to my  
grandfather and aunt.

1929  
01:34:31,136 --> 01:34:33,670  
And do you remember  
those last meetings?

1930  
01:34:33,670 --> 01:34:35,530  
Yes, I do.

1931  
01:34:35,530 --> 01:34:36,790  
What did you talk about?

1932  
01:34:36,790 --> 01:34:41,750

1933  
01:34:41,750 --> 01:34:43,280  
Nothing that special.

1934  
01:34:43,280 --> 01:34:44,660  
What could you talk about?

1935  
01:34:44,660 --> 01:34:49,260

1936  
01:34:49,260 --> 01:34:53,366  
We knew we'd probably  
never see each other again.

1937  
01:34:53,366 --> 01:34:54,860  
Mm, mm.

1938  
01:34:54,860 --> 01:35:00,350

1939

01:35:00,350 --> 01:35:02,620

And from there,  
where did you go?

1940

01:35:02,620 --> 01:35:05,276

1941

01:35:05,276 --> 01:35:13,530

It was a sealed train that  
went from Berlin to Lisbon.

1942

01:35:13,530 --> 01:35:15,990

Directly?

1943

01:35:15,990 --> 01:35:18,240

Wow, OK.

1944

01:35:18,240 --> 01:35:19,860

And--

1945

01:35:19,860 --> 01:35:25,990

Were there any-- who else was on  
that train besides yourselves?

1946

01:35:25,990 --> 01:35:29,590

A couple of other  
Jewish families.

1947

01:35:29,590 --> 01:35:32,340

And any other passengers?

1948

01:35:32,340 --> 01:35:36,320

Not in the car that we were in.

1949

01:35:36,320 --> 01:35:36,830

OK.

1950

01:35:36,830 --> 01:35:41,150

We were in a separate car.

1951

01:35:41,150 --> 01:35:47,670

And all of France was occupied.

1952

01:35:47,670 --> 01:35:55,350

So we were sure that we made it until we got to Spain.

1953

01:35:55,350 --> 01:35:59,520

And there was a Jewish organization in Spain

1954

01:35:59,520 --> 01:36:06,350

who had dinner for us, and that was a tremendous treat.

1955

01:36:06,350 --> 01:36:10,490

1956

01:36:10,490 --> 01:36:12,390

Why was it a treat?

1957

01:36:12,390 --> 01:36:18,610

We hadn't seen white bread in years

1958

01:36:18,610 --> 01:36:26,590

or a lot of other types of food that weren't available.

1959

01:36:26,590 --> 01:36:30,340

Was it that it wasn't available to you because you were Jews?

1960

01:36:30,340 --> 01:36:32,380

Or was it because of war rationing?

1961

01:36:32,380 --> 01:36:35,170

I think it was because of war rationing.

1962

01:36:35,170 --> 01:36:36,320

I don't know.

1963

01:36:36,320 --> 01:36:38,850

OK, OK.

1964

01:36:38,850 --> 01:36:42,390

So you were in Spain.

1965

01:36:42,390 --> 01:36:45,480

You were allowed to get  
off of the train in Spain,

1966

01:36:45,480 --> 01:36:48,810

and a Jewish organization  
arranges dinner for you.

1967

01:36:48,810 --> 01:36:51,910

Do you get back on the  
same train in the same car?

1968

01:36:51,910 --> 01:36:53,220

Yes.

1969

01:36:53,220 --> 01:36:55,520

And then what happens?

1970

01:36:55,520 --> 01:37:00,880

Then we were in  
Lisbon, and we spend

1971

01:37:00,880 --> 01:37:04,360

a couple of days in Lisbon.

1972

01:37:04,360 --> 01:37:09,280

And my father was  
wearing his riding boots.

1973

01:37:09,280 --> 01:37:10,540

From the horses, yeah, OK.

1974

01:37:10,540 --> 01:37:15,690

And I told him to  
not to wear them



1975

01:37:15,690 --> 01:37:21,180

because it looks too much  
like what Hitler's wearing.

1976

01:37:21,180 --> 01:37:22,560

Too much the Hitler fashion.

1977

01:37:22,560 --> 01:37:25,110

Yes.

1978

01:37:25,110 --> 01:37:31,030

So he had a pair  
of shoes packed.

1979

01:37:31,030 --> 01:37:32,320

That's all we had.

1980

01:37:32,320 --> 01:37:35,035

We just had a suitcase each.

1981

01:37:35,035 --> 01:37:39,750

1982

01:37:39,750 --> 01:37:41,760

What were your  
parents' demeanors

1983

01:37:41,760 --> 01:37:45,570

like at this time throughout the  
journey and when you get there?

1984

01:37:45,570 --> 01:37:47,010

Can you describe that for me?

1985

01:37:47,010 --> 01:37:53,560

Well, they were still in Berlin  
before we got on the train.

1986

01:37:53,560 --> 01:37:57,825

They were still debating whether  
they should let the men go

1987

01:37:57,825 --> 01:37:58,325  
or not.

1988

01:37:58,325 --> 01:38:00,850

1989

01:38:00,850 --> 01:38:03,400  
So it was still on edge.

1990

01:38:03,400 --> 01:38:04,300  
Yes or no.

1991

01:38:04,300 --> 01:38:06,960  
Yes or no.

1992

01:38:06,960 --> 01:38:08,760  
And that was the  
Gestapo officials

1993

01:38:08,760 --> 01:38:09,840  
who were debating this?

1994

01:38:09,840 --> 01:38:16,470

1995

01:38:16,470 --> 01:38:24,090  
Well, that was literally the  
last train that left Germany.

1996

01:38:24,090 --> 01:38:25,290  
Was it really?

1997

01:38:25,290 --> 01:38:33,640  
We got to America  
Labor Day, 1941.

1998

01:38:33,640 --> 01:38:36,090  
Wow.

1999

01:38:36,090 --> 01:38:39,090  
What was the date that

you left in Germany,

2000

01:38:39,090 --> 01:38:41,130

that you left Germany itself?

2001

01:38:41,130 --> 01:38:42,870

Do you remember that date?

2002

01:38:42,870 --> 01:38:43,980

No.

2003

01:38:43,980 --> 01:38:46,890

Was it August or July 19--

2004

01:38:46,890 --> 01:38:48,390

Has to have been August.

2005

01:38:48,390 --> 01:38:52,660

So it would have been  
the height of summer.

2006

01:38:52,660 --> 01:38:58,930

OK, July or August, 1941, which  
means that Germany had already

2007

01:38:58,930 --> 01:39:01,450

attacked the Soviet Union.

2008

01:39:01,450 --> 01:39:03,430

It was no longer an ally.

2009

01:39:03,430 --> 01:39:06,760

It was fighting there.

2010

01:39:06,760 --> 01:39:11,210

At the train station, what  
did the platforms look like?

2011

01:39:11,210 --> 01:39:14,720

Were they filled with  
people, or were they empty?

2012

01:39:14,720 --> 01:39:16,520

I don't recall.

2013

01:39:16,520 --> 01:39:18,030

OK.

2014

01:39:18,030 --> 01:39:22,380

And then in Lisbon, you said  
your father had forged--

2015

01:39:22,380 --> 01:39:28,160

had paid for forgeries of  
documents that would say

2016

01:39:28,160 --> 01:39:31,290

that you had ship's passage.

2017

01:39:31,290 --> 01:39:32,870

But if these were  
forgeries, how did

2018

01:39:32,870 --> 01:39:34,115

you get real ship's passage?

2019

01:39:34,115 --> 01:39:39,270

2020

01:39:39,270 --> 01:39:41,710

I have no idea.

2021

01:39:41,710 --> 01:39:42,640

OK.

2022

01:39:42,640 --> 01:39:43,930

But you did have one?

2023

01:39:43,930 --> 01:39:45,950

Oh, yes.

2024

01:39:45,950 --> 01:39:50,190

Do you remember the

ship that you were on?

2025

01:39:50,190 --> 01:39:51,720

The [? Monzinio ?].

2026

01:39:51,720 --> 01:39:53,880

[? Monzinio ?]?

2027

01:39:53,880 --> 01:39:56,860

And what did it look like?

2028

01:39:56,860 --> 01:40:01,680

Well, they had ripped  
out the whole inside,

2029

01:40:01,680 --> 01:40:04,130

and it were like bunks.

2030

01:40:04,130 --> 01:40:07,910

And men, women,  
and children slept

2031

01:40:07,910 --> 01:40:13,450

in one big room in those bunks.

2032

01:40:13,450 --> 01:40:15,340

So this was no luxury liner.

2033

01:40:15,340 --> 01:40:17,710

Oh, it certainly wasn't.

2034

01:40:17,710 --> 01:40:19,630

OK.

2035

01:40:19,630 --> 01:40:21,460

Did a lot of people get seasick?

2036

01:40:21,460 --> 01:40:22,540

I did.

2037

01:40:22,540 --> 01:40:24,030

You did?

2038

01:40:24,030 --> 01:40:25,810

OK.

2039

01:40:25,810 --> 01:40:30,210

A lot of swaying over the ocean?

2040

01:40:30,210 --> 01:40:33,010

And what about the  
rest of your family?

2041

01:40:33,010 --> 01:40:35,020

They were better than I was.

2042

01:40:35,020 --> 01:40:37,010

Oh.

2043

01:40:37,010 --> 01:40:38,600

How long did the voyage last?

2044

01:40:38,600 --> 01:40:43,265

2045

01:40:43,265 --> 01:40:47,250

You know, I don't even  
remember that exactly.

2046

01:40:47,250 --> 01:40:51,175

OK, but you do know you  
arrived on Labor Day in 1940--

2047

01:40:51,175 --> 01:40:52,600

We arrived Labor Day.

2048

01:40:52,600 --> 01:40:55,460

So early September, 1941.

2049

01:40:55,460 --> 01:40:56,830

Yes.

2050

01:40:56,830 --> 01:40:58,240  
That is late.

2051  
01:40:58,240 --> 01:41:00,550  
That is really late.

2052  
01:41:00,550 --> 01:41:04,340  
How do you know it  
was the last train?

2053  
01:41:04,340 --> 01:41:08,390  
I mean, I can understand  
that it's at that time.

2054  
01:41:08,390 --> 01:41:11,540  
But that it's literally the  
last train out of Germany,

2055  
01:41:11,540 --> 01:41:14,120  
did you find out later?

2056  
01:41:14,120 --> 01:41:19,670  
Were you told at the time  
that no more trains are going?

2057  
01:41:19,670 --> 01:41:26,260  
We found out later, I believe.

2058  
01:41:26,260 --> 01:41:38,930  
And my uncle and  
aunt met us at the--

2059  
01:41:38,930 --> 01:41:41,660  
we landed in Hoboken.

2060  
01:41:41,660 --> 01:41:42,770  
Oh, yeah.

2061  
01:41:42,770 --> 01:41:51,500  
And it was Labor Days, and  
the ship had run out of food.

2062

01:41:51,500 --> 01:41:54,520  
Of course, they wouldn't--

2063  
01:41:54,520 --> 01:42:01,140  
they didn't have the crews  
to discharge the passenger

2064  
01:42:01,140 --> 01:42:03,170  
on Labor Day.

2065  
01:42:03,170 --> 01:42:09,445  
So they brought us  
some food to eat.

2066  
01:42:09,445 --> 01:42:11,070  
OK.

2067  
01:42:11,070 --> 01:42:12,740  
Your uncle and your aunt did?

2068  
01:42:12,740 --> 01:42:14,160  
Yes.

2069  
01:42:14,160 --> 01:42:17,550  
And so they met you at the ship.

2070  
01:42:17,550 --> 01:42:22,200  
And were you discharged on  
Labor Day or the day after?

2071  
01:42:22,200 --> 01:42:23,950  
The day after.

2072  
01:42:23,950 --> 01:42:24,870  
All right.

2073  
01:42:24,870 --> 01:42:29,910  
What were your first  
impressions of what you saw?

2074  
01:42:29,910 --> 01:42:32,770  
Like I'm in a different world.



2075  
01:42:32,770 --> 01:42:34,950  
Yeah?

2076  
01:42:34,950 --> 01:42:40,200  
And describe for me  
what it is that you saw.

2077  
01:42:40,200 --> 01:42:45,670  
Well, you know, New York is  
very impressive when you come.

2078  
01:42:45,670 --> 01:42:48,100  
Where did your  
uncle and aunt live?

2079  
01:42:48,100 --> 01:42:49,960  
In Kew Gardens.

2080  
01:42:49,960 --> 01:42:51,430  
In Queens?

2081  
01:42:51,430 --> 01:42:52,690  
OK.

2082  
01:42:52,690 --> 01:42:56,160  
Did they have their  
own automobile?

2083  
01:42:56,160 --> 01:42:57,270  
No.

2084  
01:42:57,270 --> 01:43:01,590  
So how did you get from  
Hoboken to Kew Gardens?

2085  
01:43:01,590 --> 01:43:05,450

2086  
01:43:05,450 --> 01:43:08,090  
Well, we didn't.

2087

01:43:08,090 --> 01:43:08,870

Ah.

2088

01:43:08,870 --> 01:43:19,638

We found refuge  
in a rooming house

2089

01:43:19,638 --> 01:43:33,050

at 72nd Street near the park.

2090

01:43:33,050 --> 01:43:34,310

So you were in Manhattan.

2091

01:43:34,310 --> 01:43:37,040

2092

01:43:37,040 --> 01:43:44,275

And you usually were able  
to stay there only a couple

2093

01:43:44,275 --> 01:43:47,770

of days until you  
found some el--

2094

01:43:47,770 --> 01:43:50,440

someplace else to live.

2095

01:43:50,440 --> 01:43:53,050

My father was  
looking for a farm.

2096

01:43:53,050 --> 01:43:55,500

Oh, yeah.

2097

01:43:55,500 --> 01:43:57,540

Not many of those in Manhattan.

2098

01:43:57,540 --> 01:43:59,430

No.

2099

01:43:59,430 --> 01:44:03,420

But he was working with  
an organization that took

2100  
01:44:03,420 --> 01:44:07,560  
him Sundays around to a farm.

2101  
01:44:07,560 --> 01:44:11,570  
And so since nobody  
came after us,

2102  
01:44:11,570 --> 01:44:16,620  
they let us stay  
there for much longer.

2103  
01:44:16,620 --> 01:44:22,530  
I remember watching the  
Thanksgiving Day Parade

2104  
01:44:22,530 --> 01:44:24,340  
from there.

2105  
01:44:24,340 --> 01:44:29,010  
So we were still  
there at that time.

2106  
01:44:29,010 --> 01:44:35,400  
And I was always hoping my  
father wouldn't find a farm.

2107  
01:44:35,400 --> 01:44:36,750  
[LAUGHS]

2108  
01:44:36,750 --> 01:44:38,100

2109  
01:44:38,100 --> 01:44:39,300  
And he didn't.

2110  
01:44:39,300 --> 01:44:41,160  
And he didn't.

2111  
01:44:41,160 --> 01:44:46,560

So we got an apartment  
in Washington Heights.

2112  
01:44:46,560 --> 01:44:50,700  
Where so many other  
Jews from Germany lived.

2113  
01:44:50,700 --> 01:44:52,050  
And how did your father--

2114  
01:44:52,050 --> 01:44:53,400  
did he find a job?

2115  
01:44:53,400 --> 01:44:54,450  
Oh, yes.

2116  
01:44:54,450 --> 01:44:56,460  
What kind of a job did he find?

2117  
01:44:56,460 --> 01:45:04,250  
Well, he had the people he  
bought leather goods from had

2118  
01:45:04,250 --> 01:45:07,662  
established themselves here.

2119  
01:45:07,662 --> 01:45:08,900  
Ah.

2120  
01:45:08,900 --> 01:45:12,390  
So he got a job with them.

2121  
01:45:12,390 --> 01:45:13,960  
Doing what he knew how to do.

2122  
01:45:13,960 --> 01:45:15,240  
Right.

2123  
01:45:15,240 --> 01:45:16,230  
OK.

2124

01:45:16,230 --> 01:45:21,990  
So did he continue in  
reselling different parts

2125  
01:45:21,990 --> 01:45:24,780  
of the materials  
that make shoes?

2126  
01:45:24,780 --> 01:45:26,160  
Or did he make shoes?

2127  
01:45:26,160 --> 01:45:27,388  
No, neither.

2128  
01:45:27,388 --> 01:45:28,180  
OK, what did he do?

2129  
01:45:28,180 --> 01:45:31,770  
He was just there selling.

2130  
01:45:31,770 --> 01:45:33,340  
Shoes?

2131  
01:45:33,340 --> 01:45:38,350  
Materials to make  
shoes and repair shoes.

2132  
01:45:38,350 --> 01:45:38,860  
OK.

2133  
01:45:38,860 --> 01:45:46,970  
And my mother got a  
job knitting hats.

2134  
01:45:46,970 --> 01:45:48,340  
OK.

2135  
01:45:48,340 --> 01:45:52,180  
Was she working in  
the garment district?

2136  
01:45:52,180 --> 01:45:57,160

I believe it was, but you could  
do a lot of the work from home

2137  
01:45:57,160 --> 01:45:59,430  
too.

2138  
01:45:59,430 --> 01:46:03,980  
How easy was it for your  
parents to learn English?

2139  
01:46:03,980 --> 01:46:06,334  
Not easy.

2140  
01:46:06,334 --> 01:46:08,090  
OK.

2141  
01:46:08,090 --> 01:46:10,610  
And did they continue  
speaking German with one

2142  
01:46:10,610 --> 01:46:11,630  
another at home?

2143  
01:46:11,630 --> 01:46:13,100  
Yes.

2144  
01:46:13,100 --> 01:46:15,570  
What about for you  
and your brother?

2145  
01:46:15,570 --> 01:46:23,100  
Well, it was very important  
for me to learn English.

2146  
01:46:23,100 --> 01:46:26,120  
I was very lucky.

2147  
01:46:26,120 --> 01:46:32,100  
I was too young to  
get a working permit,

2148  
01:46:32,100 --> 01:46:35,260

so I had to go to school here.

2149  
01:46:35,260 --> 01:46:39,380  
So I started in high school.

2150  
01:46:39,380 --> 01:46:45,650  
First year, I had a  
teacher who was remarkable.

2151  
01:46:45,650 --> 01:46:51,940  
She took me on her lunch  
hour and taught me English.

2152  
01:46:51,940 --> 01:46:57,610  
She had books, children's books  
and things like that for me

2153  
01:46:57,610 --> 01:46:59,280  
to read.

2154  
01:46:59,280 --> 01:47:03,780  
And I took English I and II.

2155  
01:47:03,780 --> 01:47:10,730  
And my second-year  
English teacher

2156  
01:47:10,730 --> 01:47:16,990  
wrote a note to give me  
a 65, not to fail me.

2157  
01:47:16,990 --> 01:47:20,790

2158  
01:47:20,790 --> 01:47:23,370  
So it sounds like it  
was the first kind

2159  
01:47:23,370 --> 01:47:27,150  
experience with teachers  
who were competent.

2160

01:47:27,150 --> 01:47:28,620  
Yes.

2161  
01:47:28,620 --> 01:47:34,190  
And I took as a  
language, I took German.

2162  
01:47:34,190 --> 01:47:37,770  
And of course, you know--

2163  
01:47:37,770 --> 01:47:39,000  
You did well.

2164  
01:47:39,000 --> 01:47:39,600  
Yes.

2165  
01:47:39,600 --> 01:47:47,990  
And I had enough  
credits for graduation,

2166  
01:47:47,990 --> 01:47:53,520  
but I didn't have enough  
time, not enough school time.

2167  
01:47:53,520 --> 01:47:59,450  
So I went to the head of  
the language department.

2168  
01:47:59,450 --> 01:48:02,150  
And I said, I'll do anything.

2169  
01:48:02,150 --> 01:48:03,950  
I'll make it up at home.

2170  
01:48:03,950 --> 01:48:09,440  
I'll do whatever you tell me to  
do, but you gotta let me pass.

2171  
01:48:09,440 --> 01:48:11,298  
And he did.

2172  
01:48:11,298 --> 01:48:13,154



OK.

2173

01:48:13,154 --> 01:48:16,440

Did your brother also  
have a positive experience

2174

01:48:16,440 --> 01:48:17,940

in American schools?

2175

01:48:17,940 --> 01:48:18,760

Yes.

2176

01:48:18,760 --> 01:48:19,260

OK.

2177

01:48:19,260 --> 01:48:23,770

2178

01:48:23,770 --> 01:48:26,650

You were there already  
in the country then,

2179

01:48:26,650 --> 01:48:33,390

and you still were in Manhattan  
when Pearl Harbor happened,

2180

01:48:33,390 --> 01:48:36,930

December 7, 1941.

2181

01:48:36,930 --> 01:48:39,480

Do you remember  
where you were when

2182

01:48:39,480 --> 01:48:42,210

you learned that there was  
the Japanese bombing of Pearl

2183

01:48:42,210 --> 01:48:43,655

Harbor?

2184

01:48:43,655 --> 01:48:44,280

Where were you?

2185  
01:48:44,280 --> 01:48:46,740  
We were in the house.

2186  
01:48:46,740 --> 01:48:51,820  
The first thing  
my parents bought

2187  
01:48:51,820 --> 01:48:58,710  
was a radio, the  
very first purchase.

2188  
01:48:58,710 --> 01:48:59,440  
Why?

2189  
01:48:59,440 --> 01:49:03,310  
Why would that-- why was that?

2190  
01:49:03,310 --> 01:49:08,560  
They just felt it was important  
for them to listen to it

2191  
01:49:08,560 --> 01:49:11,580  
and to learn the  
language that way.

2192  
01:49:11,580 --> 01:49:12,340  
OK.

2193  
01:49:12,340 --> 01:49:14,620  
Now, I forgot to ask this.

2194  
01:49:14,620 --> 01:49:17,020  
But for many people  
back in Germany

2195  
01:49:17,020 --> 01:49:21,310  
when Hitler came to power,  
if you were a Jewish family,

2196  
01:49:21,310 --> 01:49:23,470  
the radio was confiscated.

2197  
01:49:23,470 --> 01:49:25,380  
Was that true in  
your home or not?

2198  
01:49:25,380 --> 01:49:26,070  
No.

2199  
01:49:26,070 --> 01:49:26,570  
No.

2200  
01:49:26,570 --> 01:49:30,640  
You still had a radio till  
the time you left Bursinn.

2201  
01:49:30,640 --> 01:49:32,380  
OK.

2202  
01:49:32,380 --> 01:49:35,650  
Describe for me a little  
bit your first apartment

2203  
01:49:35,650 --> 01:49:37,540  
in Washington Heights.

2204  
01:49:37,540 --> 01:49:40,738  
How many rooms did it have?

2205  
01:49:40,738 --> 01:49:50,590  
It had two bedrooms,  
kitchen, and a living room.

2206  
01:49:50,590 --> 01:49:57,560

2207  
01:49:57,560 --> 01:50:02,200  
My brother got  
the small bedroom.

2208  
01:50:02,200 --> 01:50:08,480  
I slept on the couch  
in the living room,

2209

01:50:08,480 --> 01:50:10,520  
and my parents had the bedroom.

2210

01:50:10,520 --> 01:50:13,300

2211

01:50:13,300 --> 01:50:16,620  
And how many years  
did you live there?

2212

01:50:16,620 --> 01:50:21,100

2213

01:50:21,100 --> 01:50:23,740  
Until I got married.

2214

01:50:23,740 --> 01:50:24,700  
Hm.

2215

01:50:24,700 --> 01:50:26,450  
Did you go to college?

2216

01:50:26,450 --> 01:50:34,140  
I went to Queens  
College at night.

2217

01:50:34,140 --> 01:50:37,890  
OK, and what were you  
doing during the day?

2218

01:50:37,890 --> 01:50:38,985  
I was working.

2219

01:50:38,985 --> 01:50:43,120

2220

01:50:43,120 --> 01:50:47,220  
What was my first job?

2221

01:50:47,220 --> 01:50:56,890

I was working in a  
superintendent's office

2222

01:50:56,890 --> 01:51:00,190  
or some buildings on Broadway.

2223

01:51:00,190 --> 01:51:02,810

2224

01:51:02,810 --> 01:51:06,440

Did anybody ever  
ask you, from, let's

2225

01:51:06,440 --> 01:51:09,740

say, the American  
authorities, what kind of work

2226

01:51:09,740 --> 01:51:12,470

you were doing at  
Siemens back in Berlin?

2227

01:51:12,470 --> 01:51:13,310

No.

2228

01:51:13,310 --> 01:51:13,810

OK.

2229

01:51:13,810 --> 01:51:18,500

2230

01:51:18,500 --> 01:51:20,150

Did you ever go back to Germany?

2231

01:51:20,150 --> 01:51:21,590

No.

2232

01:51:21,590 --> 01:51:22,760

Did your brother?

2233

01:51:22,760 --> 01:51:23,510

Yes.

2234  
01:51:23,510 --> 01:51:25,670  
He did, and your mother did.

2235  
01:51:25,670 --> 01:51:26,480  
Yes.

2236  
01:51:26,480 --> 01:51:28,820  
And what about your father?

2237  
01:51:28,820 --> 01:51:31,970  
My father passed away early.

2238  
01:51:31,970 --> 01:51:34,550  
He was 62 when he died.

2239  
01:51:34,550 --> 01:51:36,590  
Oh, what year would  
that have been?

2240  
01:51:36,590 --> 01:51:42,310

2241  
01:51:42,310 --> 01:51:43,960  
I don't remember.

2242  
01:51:43,960 --> 01:51:45,925  
Was it still in the  
'40s or the '50s?

2243  
01:51:45,925 --> 01:51:51,040

2244  
01:51:51,040 --> 01:51:52,805  
It wasn't in the '40s.

2245  
01:51:52,805 --> 01:51:58,000

2246  
01:51:58,000 --> 01:52:00,910  
It must have been in  
the '50s because he

2247

01:52:00,910 --> 01:52:06,026  
was 62 when he passed away.

2248

01:52:06,026 --> 01:52:07,014  
From what?

2249

01:52:07,014 --> 01:52:18,870

2250

01:52:18,870 --> 01:52:24,040  
He had-- he was a heavy smoker.

2251

01:52:24,040 --> 01:52:26,475  
Ah, OK.

2252

01:52:26,475 --> 01:52:30,860

2253

01:52:30,860 --> 01:52:34,620  
What kind of effect,  
what kind of mark

2254

01:52:34,620 --> 01:52:39,475  
did those years under Nazi  
rule leave on your parents?

2255

01:52:39,475 --> 01:52:52,190

2256

01:52:52,190 --> 01:52:55,340  
That's a difficult  
question to answer.

2257

01:52:55,340 --> 01:52:55,880  
I know.

2258

01:52:55,880 --> 01:53:00,370

2259

01:53:00,370 --> 01:53:08,000

I think they tried to  
forget those years as

2260  
01:53:08,000 --> 01:53:17,020  
quickly as possible and  
live their lives that

2261  
01:53:17,020 --> 01:53:19,030  
was given to them, literally.

2262  
01:53:19,030 --> 01:53:23,810

2263  
01:53:23,810 --> 01:53:25,850  
Did their personalities change?

2264  
01:53:25,850 --> 01:53:27,140  
No.

2265  
01:53:27,140 --> 01:53:28,320  
They stayed who they were.

2266  
01:53:28,320 --> 01:53:28,820  
Yeah.

2267  
01:53:28,820 --> 01:53:32,380

2268  
01:53:32,380 --> 01:53:34,420  
Had you seen your  
parents during any

2269  
01:53:34,420 --> 01:53:40,210  
of those times show stress,  
or tension, or nervousness,

2270  
01:53:40,210 --> 01:53:40,745  
or anger?

2271  
01:53:40,745 --> 01:53:45,850



2272

01:53:45,850 --> 01:53:51,610

Anger, yes, at the  
unfairness of everything.

2273

01:53:51,610 --> 01:53:55,990

But not then internalized and  
expressed to those around them.

2274

01:53:55,990 --> 01:53:56,980

No.

2275

01:53:56,980 --> 01:53:59,680

OK.

2276

01:53:59,680 --> 01:54:02,770

Because everybody was pretty  
much in the same boat.

2277

01:54:02,770 --> 01:54:06,550

Yeah, yeah.

2278

01:54:06,550 --> 01:54:11,230

And so there's the same question  
on you is, what kind of mark

2279

01:54:11,230 --> 01:54:12,900

did those years leave on you?

2280

01:54:12,900 --> 01:54:16,610

2281

01:54:16,610 --> 01:54:25,840

Well, as I said, several  
years ago, the day--

2282

01:54:25,840 --> 01:54:29,680

I had made a date  
to be interviewed,

2283

01:54:29,680 --> 01:54:35,080

and I didn't sleep  
for three nights.

2284  
01:54:35,080 --> 01:54:39,160  
And I said, it's not worth it.

2285  
01:54:39,160 --> 01:54:43,450  
I'm not doing this,  
so I canceled it.

2286  
01:54:43,450 --> 01:54:47,920  
But when this  
opportunity came, I

2287  
01:54:47,920 --> 01:54:54,690  
said, at my age, who knows  
if I have another opportunity

2288  
01:54:54,690 --> 01:54:56,780  
to do it?

2289  
01:54:56,780 --> 01:55:01,160  
So I better do it now.

2290  
01:55:01,160 --> 01:55:05,000  
Did you have the  
same experience?

2291  
01:55:05,000 --> 01:55:08,010  
Did you have the same  
three nights of no sleep?

2292  
01:55:08,010 --> 01:55:08,660  
No.

2293  
01:55:08,660 --> 01:55:15,050  
I tried not to think about  
it, to push it out of my mind,

2294  
01:55:15,050 --> 01:55:21,320  
and just go along with the flow.

2295  
01:55:21,320 --> 01:55:23,950  
You had background information.

2296  
01:55:23,950 --> 01:55:24,450  
Yeah.

2297  
01:55:24,450 --> 01:55:27,550

2298  
01:55:27,550 --> 01:55:30,550  
Forgive me for the question  
I'm about to ask because it

2299  
01:55:30,550 --> 01:55:33,020  
may seem self-evident.

2300  
01:55:33,020 --> 01:55:41,160  
But what about telling me  
this story has that effect?

2301  
01:55:41,160 --> 01:55:45,750  
What about relaying  
those experiences,

2302  
01:55:45,750 --> 01:55:48,090  
what part of those  
experiences are

2303  
01:55:48,090 --> 01:55:49,680  
the hardest to put words to?

2304  
01:55:49,680 --> 01:55:57,310

2305  
01:55:57,310 --> 01:55:59,830  
All of them.

2306  
01:55:59,830 --> 01:56:09,360  
All of them from the time  
Hitler came into power

2307  
01:56:09,360 --> 01:56:16,040  
until we came here.

2308

01:56:16,040 --> 01:56:20,330

And the first year was so  
very difficult here, too,

2309

01:56:20,330 --> 01:56:25,420

because you didn't really  
speak the language.

2310

01:56:25,420 --> 01:56:28,600

And you tried to  
make it in school,

2311

01:56:28,600 --> 01:56:31,750

which I wasn't supposed to.

2312

01:56:31,750 --> 01:56:35,260

My parents figured I would work.

2313

01:56:35,260 --> 01:56:39,940

But as I said, I wasn't old  
enough to get a working permit.

2314

01:56:39,940 --> 01:56:42,730

So then once I was  
in school, I begged

2315

01:56:42,730 --> 01:56:46,470

them to let me finish it.

2316

01:56:46,470 --> 01:56:50,310

So I always had a  
job after school

2317

01:56:50,310 --> 01:56:52,080

because my parents  
said the only thing

2318

01:56:52,080 --> 01:56:55,710

we can afford to give you  
is a roof over your head

2319

01:56:55,710 --> 01:56:57,600

and the food on the table.

2320

01:56:57,600 --> 01:57:03,910

Whatever else you need, you  
have to do it on your own.

2321

01:57:03,910 --> 01:57:05,035

So you had to grow up fast.

2322

01:57:05,035 --> 01:57:08,860

2323

01:57:08,860 --> 01:57:11,493

So I always had a  
job after school.

2324

01:57:11,493 --> 01:57:11,993

Mhm.

2325

01:57:11,993 --> 01:57:15,240

2326

01:57:15,240 --> 01:57:19,740

Do you feel like you  
didn't have a childhood?

2327

01:57:19,740 --> 01:57:22,030

Not a normal one,  
that's for sure.

2328

01:57:22,030 --> 01:57:32,630

2329

01:57:32,630 --> 01:57:37,120

Your parents-- I would--

2330

01:57:37,120 --> 01:57:38,860

I'm making an  
assumption, and tell me

2331

01:57:38,860 --> 01:57:42,290

whether this is a

correct assumption.

2332

01:57:42,290 --> 01:57:45,550

But because they were  
an older generation,

2333

01:57:45,550 --> 01:57:51,400

because they left Germany  
as middle-aged adults,

2334

01:57:51,400 --> 01:57:54,880

because your father had  
fought in World War I

2335

01:57:54,880 --> 01:57:59,340

and had gotten the  
Iron Cross, they're

2336

01:57:59,340 --> 01:58:01,650

German as well as Jewish.

2337

01:58:01,650 --> 01:58:03,610

You know, they're--

2338

01:58:03,610 --> 01:58:06,430

I'm getting the  
sense that you don't

2339

01:58:06,430 --> 01:58:09,560

have much German identity.

2340

01:58:09,560 --> 01:58:14,310

But for them, was it  
difficult for them to stop

2341

01:58:14,310 --> 01:58:16,290

having a connection to Germany?

2342

01:58:16,290 --> 01:58:18,110

I don't think so.

2343

01:58:18,110 --> 01:58:19,110

OK.

2344

01:58:19,110 --> 01:58:27,052

We were all so relieved  
that we made it out.

2345

01:58:27,052 --> 01:58:27,552

Yeah.

2346

01:58:27,552 --> 01:58:30,820

2347

01:58:30,820 --> 01:58:35,250

I don't think they  
had a moment's regret.

2348

01:58:35,250 --> 01:58:36,980

OK, OK.

2349

01:58:36,980 --> 01:58:41,320

2350

01:58:41,320 --> 01:58:43,190

And you?

2351

01:58:43,190 --> 01:58:45,200

Oh, my heavens, no.

2352

01:58:45,200 --> 01:58:45,700

OK.

2353

01:58:45,700 --> 01:58:49,260

2354

01:58:49,260 --> 01:58:51,930

Did your kids ask  
you much about what

2355

01:58:51,930 --> 01:58:56,110

your childhood and those  
years in the 1930s were like?

2356

01:58:56,110 --> 01:58:57,890

No.

2357

01:58:57,890 --> 01:58:59,220

Did you tell them much?

2358

01:58:59,220 --> 01:59:00,870

No.

2359

01:59:00,870 --> 01:59:03,690

How did they find out about it?

2360

01:59:03,690 --> 01:59:09,150

Well, a couple of years ago--

2361

01:59:09,150 --> 01:59:11,100

I think we sent you a copy--

2362

01:59:11,100 --> 01:59:14,490

I sat down, and I  
wrote some things

2363

01:59:14,490 --> 01:59:18,980

for my children and  
my grandchildren.

2364

01:59:18,980 --> 01:59:25,360

And I guess that's  
how they knew.

2365

01:59:25,360 --> 01:59:29,410

So that's the first time your  
own children knew the details?

2366

01:59:29,410 --> 01:59:30,580

Yes.

2367

01:59:30,580 --> 01:59:32,680

That's not long ago.

2368

01:59:32,680 --> 01:59:34,680



That's just a little while ago.

2369

01:59:34,680 --> 01:59:37,450

About 10 years.

2370

01:59:37,450 --> 01:59:42,330

So they grew up not really  
knowing much about what

2371

01:59:42,330 --> 01:59:43,650

your experiences were.

2372

01:59:43,650 --> 01:59:45,740

Well, they knew some of it.

2373

01:59:45,740 --> 01:59:48,150

OK, OK.

2374

01:59:48,150 --> 01:59:52,140

Did they ask many questions?

2375

01:59:52,140 --> 01:59:52,830

No.

2376

01:59:52,830 --> 01:59:56,820

Because I figured they knew  
it was a difficult subject

2377

01:59:56,820 --> 01:59:59,070

for me to answer.

2378

01:59:59,070 --> 02:00:02,490

But they certainly  
wanted me to ask you

2379

02:00:02,490 --> 02:00:06,810

how they can get a copy  
of what's going on today.

2380

02:00:06,810 --> 02:00:10,440

Oh, I will tell you,  
and I will tell them.

2381  
02:00:10,440 --> 02:00:14,760  
And they'll be able to see  
it, and hear it, and have

2382  
02:00:14,760 --> 02:00:15,540  
a copy of it.

2383  
02:00:15,540 --> 02:00:16,980  
That we can be assured of.

2384  
02:00:16,980 --> 02:00:21,390

2385  
02:00:21,390 --> 02:00:24,090  
Is there anything  
else that I may not

2386  
02:00:24,090 --> 02:00:26,940  
have asked you  
about that you think

2387  
02:00:26,940 --> 02:00:28,680  
is an important  
part of your story?

2388  
02:00:28,680 --> 02:00:40,780

2389  
02:00:40,780 --> 02:00:42,645  
I think we've  
pretty much covered.

2390  
02:00:42,645 --> 02:00:53,480

2391  
02:00:53,480 --> 02:00:58,490  
The one part that I'd like  
to get a better sense of

2392  
02:00:58,490 --> 02:01:02,330  
is, how much has

this shaped you?

2393

02:01:02,330 --> 02:01:07,250

How much did these experiences  
in the 1930s from the time

2394

02:01:07,250 --> 02:01:12,830

Hitler comes to power in 1933  
to the time you come, you land

2395

02:01:12,830 --> 02:01:18,180

in Hoboken on Labor Day  
'41, those eight years,

2396

02:01:18,180 --> 02:01:21,450

how much of this shaped  
you to the day now, to now?

2397

02:01:21,450 --> 02:01:25,234

2398

02:01:25,234 --> 02:01:28,920

It may not be a fair question,  
but I'd like to know.

2399

02:01:28,920 --> 02:01:36,920

2400

02:01:36,920 --> 02:01:42,170

It shaped me in a way that I  
was grateful for everything

2401

02:01:42,170 --> 02:01:43,160

I had here.

2402

02:01:43,160 --> 02:01:50,380

2403

02:01:50,380 --> 02:01:53,590

Was your husband also  
a survivor from Europe?

2404

02:01:53,590 --> 02:02:01,210  
Yes, but he came here in '38.

2405  
02:02:01,210 --> 02:02:03,010  
Quite a bit earlier.

2406  
02:02:03,010 --> 02:02:04,760  
OK, also from Germany?

2407  
02:02:04,760 --> 02:02:05,890  
Yes.

2408  
02:02:05,890 --> 02:02:07,420  
My first husband.

2409  
02:02:07,420 --> 02:02:11,890  
OK, and his name was  
what, your first husband?

2410  
02:02:11,890 --> 02:02:12,735  
Louis.

2411  
02:02:12,735 --> 02:02:13,235  
Louis.

2412  
02:02:13,235 --> 02:02:13,735  
Stahl.

2413  
02:02:13,735 --> 02:02:14,650  
Stahl.

2414  
02:02:14,650 --> 02:02:15,910  
OK.

2415  
02:02:15,910 --> 02:02:18,350  
And how many  
children do you have?

2416  
02:02:18,350 --> 02:02:26,640  
I have two sons, and  
I have two stepsons.

2417  
02:02:26,640 --> 02:02:30,270  
OK, and the sons names are?

2418  
02:02:30,270 --> 02:02:32,610  
Kent and Gary.

2419  
02:02:32,610 --> 02:02:34,810  
And the stepsons?

2420  
02:02:34,810 --> 02:02:39,400  
Irv and Norman [? Gastman. ?]

2421  
02:02:39,400 --> 02:02:43,830  
OK, so that was  
your second husband.

2422  
02:02:43,830 --> 02:02:45,730  
Was he also a survivor?

2423  
02:02:45,730 --> 02:02:46,230  
No.

2424  
02:02:46,230 --> 02:02:53,330  
He came from Poland in  
the very early '30s.

2425  
02:02:53,330 --> 02:02:57,210  
OK, OK.

2426  
02:02:57,210 --> 02:03:00,490  
Well, thank you very much.

2427  
02:03:00,490 --> 02:03:02,170  
I thank you.

2428  
02:03:02,170 --> 02:03:03,770  
You're more than welcome.

2429  
02:03:03,770 --> 02:03:04,900  
It's been an honor.

2430

02:03:04,900 --> 02:03:07,070

It truly has.

2431

02:03:07,070 --> 02:03:09,550

And I hope that you don't  
have any more sleepless nights

2432

02:03:09,550 --> 02:03:12,600

about this at all.

2433

02:03:12,600 --> 02:03:15,210

And I'll say then,  
with this, this

2434

02:03:15,210 --> 02:03:19,350

concludes the United States  
Holocaust Memorial Museum

2435

02:03:19,350 --> 02:03:26,790

interview with Mrs. Susan  
Stahl on January 17, 2019,

2436

02:03:26,790 --> 02:03:28,580

in Delray, Florida.

2437

02:03:28,580 --> 02:03:29,510

Thanks again.

2438

02:03:29,510 --> 02:03:31,110

Thank you so much.

2439

02:03:31,110 --> 02:03:32,030

You're welcome.

2440

02:03:32,030 --> 02:03:33,850

You're welcome.

2441

02:03:33,850 --> 02:03:35,000