

1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:01,730  
We're speeding.

2  
00:00:01,730 --> 00:00:02,230  
OK.

3  
00:00:02,230 --> 00:00:03,240  
Speeding, speeding.

4  
00:00:03,240 --> 00:00:05,280  
OK.

5  
00:00:05,280 --> 00:00:09,060  
This is a United States  
Holocaust Memorial Museum

6  
00:00:09,060 --> 00:00:11,760  
interview with  
Mr. Lothar Meyer--

7  
00:00:11,760 --> 00:00:20,310  
or Lothar Maier-- on January 19,  
2019, in Delray Beach, Florida.

8  
00:00:20,310 --> 00:00:22,500  
Thank you very, very  
much, Mr. Meyer,

9  
00:00:22,500 --> 00:00:24,860  
for agreeing to  
speak with us today.

10  
00:00:24,860 --> 00:00:26,640  
It's my pleasure.

11  
00:00:26,640 --> 00:00:30,420  
This interview is going to be  
one of our more unusual ones

12  
00:00:30,420 --> 00:00:32,500  
because it will have

two parts to it.

13

00:00:32,500 --> 00:00:38,010

The first part will be about  
your own family's experiences.

14

00:00:38,010 --> 00:00:41,100

And the second part will  
be about your involvement

15

00:00:41,100 --> 00:00:45,840

in a very crucial program that  
the United States Holocaust

16

00:00:45,840 --> 00:00:49,050

Memorial Museum  
has benefited from

17

00:00:49,050 --> 00:00:52,330

and seeks to have others  
benefit from as well.

18

00:00:52,330 --> 00:00:53,730

So we'll start with part one.

19

00:00:53,730 --> 00:00:55,140

OK.

20

00:00:55,140 --> 00:00:58,200

Can you tell me the  
date of your birth?

21

00:00:58,200 --> 00:01:00,210

November 9, '39.

22

00:01:00,210 --> 00:01:02,640

And what was your name at birth?

23

00:01:02,640 --> 00:01:04,900

Lothar Leopold Meyer.

24

00:01:04,900 --> 00:01:06,780

Lothar Leopold Meyer.

25

00:01:06,780 --> 00:01:12,580

So you never pronounced it in  
the German way of Lo-tar My-ar?

26

00:01:12,580 --> 00:01:15,280

I actually spoke German  
before I spoke English.

27

00:01:15,280 --> 00:01:15,940

Did you really?

28

00:01:15,940 --> 00:01:17,020

Yes.

29

00:01:17,020 --> 00:01:21,370

Because when I was  
born, my family

30

00:01:21,370 --> 00:01:25,300

was my parents, my aunt,  
and my grandparents

31

00:01:25,300 --> 00:01:28,270

all living in one little house.

32

00:01:28,270 --> 00:01:30,500

Everybody was working  
but my grandmother.

33

00:01:30,500 --> 00:01:33,340

And my grandmother was the  
one that brought me up.

34

00:01:33,340 --> 00:01:34,550

And she spoke German.

35

00:01:34,550 --> 00:01:36,880

And that's all she  
spoke was German.

36

00:01:36,880 --> 00:01:39,620  
And she lived until  
I was five years old,

37  
00:01:39,620 --> 00:01:40,920  
and then she passed away.

38  
00:01:40,920 --> 00:01:41,420  
OK.

39  
00:01:41,420 --> 00:01:43,390  
And I actually learned  
to speak English

40  
00:01:43,390 --> 00:01:45,860  
from the kids on the block.

41  
00:01:45,860 --> 00:01:47,570  
And this was all  
in Johannesburg.

42  
00:01:47,570 --> 00:01:48,630  
In South Africa.

43  
00:01:48,630 --> 00:01:49,130  
Yeah.

44  
00:01:49,130 --> 00:01:51,380  
OK.

45  
00:01:51,380 --> 00:01:52,830  
Do you have brothers  
and sisters?

46  
00:01:52,830 --> 00:01:55,160  
I have one brother, six  
years younger than me.

47  
00:01:55,160 --> 00:01:57,000  
So he was born in 1945?

48  
00:01:57,000 --> 00:01:57,500

Yeah.

49

00:01:57,500 --> 00:01:58,610

What is his name?

50

00:01:58,610 --> 00:01:59,590

Stanley.

51

00:01:59,590 --> 00:02:01,120

Stanley.

52

00:02:01,120 --> 00:02:04,510

And tell me a little

bit about your parents.

53

00:02:04,510 --> 00:02:05,930

What was your father's name?

54

00:02:05,930 --> 00:02:08,110

My father's name was Julius.

55

00:02:08,110 --> 00:02:09,160

And your mother's.

56

00:02:09,160 --> 00:02:09,860

Hermina.

57

00:02:09,860 --> 00:02:10,590

Hermina?

58

00:02:10,590 --> 00:02:11,260

Yeah.

59

00:02:11,260 --> 00:02:12,700

And what was her maiden name?

60

00:02:12,700 --> 00:02:13,480

Levy.

61

00:02:13,480 --> 00:02:15,000

Levy.

62  
00:02:15,000 --> 00:02:18,390  
Your parents, were  
they from South Africa?

63  
00:02:18,390 --> 00:02:20,610  
No, all from Germany.

64  
00:02:20,610 --> 00:02:23,190  
Tell me, where did  
they come from?

65  
00:02:23,190 --> 00:02:26,580  
My father's family  
came from a village

66  
00:02:26,580 --> 00:02:29,940  
on the Moselle river  
called Ediger an der Mosel.

67  
00:02:29,940 --> 00:02:30,790  
Ediger an der Mosel.

68  
00:02:30,790 --> 00:02:32,160  
OK.

69  
00:02:32,160 --> 00:02:35,980  
My mother's family came  
from Zeltingen an der Mosel.

70  
00:02:35,980 --> 00:02:37,860  
Are they close to each other?

71  
00:02:37,860 --> 00:02:40,110  
They are close to  
each other, but they

72  
00:02:40,110 --> 00:02:43,740  
are on either side  
of the Moselle River.

73  
00:02:43,740 --> 00:02:46,650

The Moselle is a tributary  
of the Rhine River.

74  
00:02:46,650 --> 00:02:50,970  
And what part of  
Germany is this in?

75  
00:02:50,970 --> 00:02:52,410  
Like central Germany.

76  
00:02:52,410 --> 00:02:53,490  
OK.

77  
00:02:53,490 --> 00:02:58,035  
Could it be the  
Rhineland, or Bavaria or?

78  
00:02:58,035 --> 00:02:59,410  
No, Germany itself.

79  
00:02:59,410 --> 00:02:59,910  
OK.

80  
00:02:59,910 --> 00:03:01,050  
But I don't know.

81  
00:03:01,050 --> 00:03:02,160  
I don't know how else--

82  
00:03:02,160 --> 00:03:02,940  
You don't know what the area is.

83  
00:03:02,940 --> 00:03:03,525  
I do.

84  
00:03:03,525 --> 00:03:04,025  
OK.

85  
00:03:04,025 --> 00:03:08,800  
I know that the Moselle River  
is a tributary of the Rhine.

86

00:03:08,800 --> 00:03:09,300

OK.

87

00:03:09,300 --> 00:03:11,730

And my family, my  
father's family,

88

00:03:11,730 --> 00:03:14,670

were the only Jewish  
family in this village.

89

00:03:14,670 --> 00:03:15,490

In Ediger.

90

00:03:15,490 --> 00:03:17,040

In Ediger an der Mosel.

91

00:03:17,040 --> 00:03:18,165

How did they get there?

92

00:03:18,165 --> 00:03:19,940

How did they come to be there?

93

00:03:19,940 --> 00:03:23,330

They were there for a long time.

94

00:03:23,330 --> 00:03:24,770

Like several generations?

95

00:03:24,770 --> 00:03:27,770

Several generations.

96

00:03:27,770 --> 00:03:29,990

From the history I've  
been able to find,

97

00:03:29,990 --> 00:03:35,060

it looks like the family was  
three 300 years in Germany,

98

00:03:35,060 --> 00:03:38,910



and possibly came from Spain.

99

00:03:38,910 --> 00:03:40,140

That would make sense.

100

00:03:40,140 --> 00:03:42,660

That would make a lot of sense.

101

00:03:42,660 --> 00:03:44,700

But you don't know  
whether or not

102

00:03:44,700 --> 00:03:47,890

they moved around from other  
parts in Germany to Ediger?

103

00:03:47,890 --> 00:03:48,830

No, no, no.

104

00:03:48,830 --> 00:03:50,550

They were there.

105

00:03:50,550 --> 00:03:52,830

That's the place they were.

106

00:03:52,830 --> 00:03:59,340

They had the only  
four-story house in Ediger.

107

00:03:59,340 --> 00:04:02,770

And my father-- there  
were six children.

108

00:04:02,770 --> 00:04:05,087

My father was the youngest  
of the six children.

109

00:04:05,087 --> 00:04:06,920

Do you know the names  
of the other siblings?

110

00:04:06,920 --> 00:04:07,650

Yes, all of them.

111  
00:04:07,650 --> 00:04:09,030  
Please tell me.

112  
00:04:09,030 --> 00:04:10,570  
David was the oldest.

113  
00:04:10,570 --> 00:04:11,340  
OK.

114  
00:04:11,340 --> 00:04:12,690  
Sarah.

115  
00:04:12,690 --> 00:04:14,280  
Leo.

116  
00:04:14,280 --> 00:04:16,740  
Bertholt was the  
second youngest.

117  
00:04:16,740 --> 00:04:17,579  
And Tegla.

118  
00:04:17,579 --> 00:04:19,240  
OK.

119  
00:04:19,240 --> 00:04:20,230  
And then your father.

120  
00:04:20,230 --> 00:04:21,610  
And my father, the youngest.

121  
00:04:21,610 --> 00:04:22,570  
And his name was?

122  
00:04:22,570 --> 00:04:23,090  
Julius.

123  
00:04:23,090 --> 00:04:23,590  
Julius.

124  
00:04:23,590 --> 00:04:24,190  
Excuse me.

125  
00:04:24,190 --> 00:04:26,990  
You told me.

126  
00:04:26,990 --> 00:04:29,210  
Did you know all of  
your aunts and uncles?

127  
00:04:29,210 --> 00:04:30,980  
I knew none of them.

128  
00:04:30,980 --> 00:04:33,180  
Because none of them survived.

129  
00:04:33,180 --> 00:04:33,680  
All right.

130  
00:04:33,680 --> 00:04:38,908  
Let's talk about-- well,  
we'll come to that.

131  
00:04:38,908 --> 00:04:40,200  
We'll come to that in a minute.

132  
00:04:40,200 --> 00:04:42,960  
Right now I want to  
explore a little bit more

133  
00:04:42,960 --> 00:04:44,430  
about the family's past.

134  
00:04:44,430 --> 00:04:45,510  
OK.

135  
00:04:45,510 --> 00:04:48,090  
Do you know what your  
grandfather's business

136

00:04:48,090 --> 00:04:49,500  
was in Ediger?

137  
00:04:49,500 --> 00:04:52,410  
Basically, they  
were moneylenders.

138  
00:04:52,410 --> 00:04:56,040  
They lent money to the people  
of the village who were mainly

139  
00:04:56,040 --> 00:04:58,830  
growers of grapes on the hills.

140  
00:04:58,830 --> 00:04:59,500  
OK.

141  
00:04:59,500 --> 00:05:00,000  
And.

142  
00:05:00,000 --> 00:05:04,560  
If they paid the loan  
back, that was fine.

143  
00:05:04,560 --> 00:05:06,810  
And if not, they carried  
them for another year

144  
00:05:06,810 --> 00:05:09,900  
until they had a good  
harvest to pay back the loan.

145  
00:05:09,900 --> 00:05:10,710  
OK.

146  
00:05:10,710 --> 00:05:15,260  
They also sold some  
clothes in this house.

147  
00:05:15,260 --> 00:05:18,860  
Was there any other banking  
or financial possibilities

148

00:05:18,860 --> 00:05:19,550  
in that town?

149

00:05:19,550 --> 00:05:20,770  
No, not to my knowledge.

150

00:05:20,770 --> 00:05:23,200  
OK.

151

00:05:23,200 --> 00:05:26,230  
And your mother's family,  
where was it from?

152

00:05:26,230 --> 00:05:29,620  
From Zeltingen an der Mosel.

153

00:05:29,620 --> 00:05:35,650  
And my grandfather, my mother's  
father, had a hardware store.

154

00:05:35,650 --> 00:05:40,380  
And these are all the  
hardware store in the house.

155

00:05:40,380 --> 00:05:42,440  
The shop was above the house.

156

00:05:42,440 --> 00:05:45,698  
The house was above the shop.

157

00:05:45,698 --> 00:05:47,740  
"The house was above the  
shop" is the correct way

158

00:05:47,740 --> 00:05:48,690  
of describing it.

159

00:05:48,690 --> 00:05:49,750  
OK.

160

00:05:49,750 --> 00:05:50,710

And what was the name?

161  
00:05:50,710 --> 00:05:52,502  
Do you know the name  
of the hardware store?

162  
00:05:52,502 --> 00:05:53,130  
H Levy.

163  
00:05:53,130 --> 00:05:53,840  
H Levy?

164  
00:05:53,840 --> 00:05:54,340  
Yeah.

165  
00:05:54,340 --> 00:05:56,260  
OK, did your mother  
have siblings?

166  
00:05:56,260 --> 00:05:59,510  
My mother had a  
sister and a brother.

167  
00:05:59,510 --> 00:06:01,960  
And what are their names?

168  
00:06:01,960 --> 00:06:04,240  
Erna and Max.

169  
00:06:04,240 --> 00:06:07,240  
And did you know  
these aunt and uncle?

170  
00:06:07,240 --> 00:06:10,640  
I knew Erna because she  
came to South Africa also.

171  
00:06:10,640 --> 00:06:11,140  
OK.

172  
00:06:11,140 --> 00:06:13,845  
And Max went to Israel.

173  
00:06:13,845 --> 00:06:14,470  
[PHONE RINGING]

174  
00:06:14,470 --> 00:06:14,980  
I see.

175  
00:06:14,980 --> 00:06:15,720  
Excuse us.

176  
00:06:15,720 --> 00:06:16,710  
Let's cut for a second.

177  
00:06:16,710 --> 00:06:17,350  
Sorry.

178  
00:06:17,350 --> 00:06:18,100  
That's OK.

179  
00:06:18,100 --> 00:06:18,800  
Not a problem.

180  
00:06:18,800 --> 00:06:19,300  
Speed.

181  
00:06:19,300 --> 00:06:20,320  
OK.

182  
00:06:20,320 --> 00:06:21,940  
So Max I forgot.

183  
00:06:21,940 --> 00:06:23,240  
Max was the oldest.

184  
00:06:23,240 --> 00:06:24,880  
And did he come to South Africa?

185  
00:06:24,880 --> 00:06:36,070  
No, Max, there was a day  
when they had a Hitler Jugend

186  
00:06:36,070 --> 00:06:38,666  
in front of all Jewish stores.

187  
00:06:38,666 --> 00:06:40,290  
OK.

188  
00:06:40,290 --> 00:06:46,580  
And so you had H Levy the  
store, front door, Hitler Jugend

189  
00:06:46,580 --> 00:06:47,810  
standing in front.

190  
00:06:47,810 --> 00:06:50,970  
And Max wanted to take  
a picture of this.

191  
00:06:50,970 --> 00:06:53,930  
So a lady was walking  
past with her pram.

192  
00:06:53,930 --> 00:06:55,550  
And he asked her if  
she'd like to have

193  
00:06:55,550 --> 00:06:57,890  
a picture taken of her baby.

194  
00:06:57,890 --> 00:06:59,600  
To which she said yes.

195  
00:06:59,600 --> 00:07:01,940  
So he positioned  
the baby so that he

196  
00:07:01,940 --> 00:07:05,720  
could get a picture of the  
front of the store, the Hitler

197  
00:07:05,720 --> 00:07:08,450  
Jugend, and the baby.



198

00:07:08,450 --> 00:07:11,660

That evening, there was one  
policeman in the village who

199

00:07:11,660 --> 00:07:13,850

was a friend of my uncle's.

200

00:07:13,850 --> 00:07:15,920

And he came to my  
uncle, and said

201

00:07:15,920 --> 00:07:18,170

"Max, don't be here  
tomorrow morning,

202

00:07:18,170 --> 00:07:21,080

because I've got to arrest you."

203

00:07:21,080 --> 00:07:28,020

And Max left that night and  
went actually to Israel.

204

00:07:28,020 --> 00:07:32,210

And unfortunately in 1948,  
during the war, he passed away.

205

00:07:32,210 --> 00:07:35,010

206

00:07:35,010 --> 00:07:37,980

Was this a natural  
death in 1948,

207

00:07:37,980 --> 00:07:42,700

or was this part of the fighting  
that was going on at the time?

208

00:07:42,700 --> 00:07:44,250

I think it was part  
of the fighting.

209

00:07:44,250 --> 00:07:45,495

OK.

210  
00:07:45,495 --> 00:07:47,950  
I don't have exact  
details of that, though.

211  
00:07:47,950 --> 00:07:48,960  
So you never met him?

212  
00:07:48,960 --> 00:07:49,950  
Never met him.

213  
00:07:49,950 --> 00:07:51,930  
But you know this  
part of his story.

214  
00:07:51,930 --> 00:07:57,810  
I know that part of the story,  
and I know his daughter.

215  
00:07:57,810 --> 00:07:58,950  
You know his daughter?

216  
00:07:58,950 --> 00:08:00,000  
Yes, I knew his daughter.

217  
00:08:00,000 --> 00:08:00,500  
OK.

218  
00:08:00,500 --> 00:08:01,000  
Yes.

219  
00:08:01,000 --> 00:08:02,150  
And she was born in Israel?

220  
00:08:02,150 --> 00:08:03,742  
Born in Israel.

221  
00:08:03,742 --> 00:08:05,230  
OK.

222

00:08:05,230 --> 00:08:07,600

Now, you mentioned a grandmother who brought you up

223

00:08:07,600 --> 00:08:08,830

until age five.

224

00:08:08,830 --> 00:08:09,330

Right.

225

00:08:09,330 --> 00:08:12,650

Was she your maternal or paternal grandmother?

226

00:08:12,650 --> 00:08:14,910

There's a story to this one.

227

00:08:14,910 --> 00:08:16,830

Tell us.

228

00:08:16,830 --> 00:08:19,530

My father was the youngest.

229

00:08:19,530 --> 00:08:24,510

In 1936, he decided that he needs to leave Germany,

230

00:08:24,510 --> 00:08:28,920

because he already saw problems that were coming.

231

00:08:28,920 --> 00:08:34,435

So he was able to take 50 marks with him, and--

232

00:08:34,435 --> 00:08:35,259

[PHONE RINGING]

233

00:08:35,259 --> 00:08:35,759

Excuse us.

234

00:08:35,759 --> 00:08:36,301

Can we pause?

235

00:08:36,301 --> 00:08:39,520

Sorry again.

236

00:08:39,520 --> 00:08:42,330

I think my wife got it.

237

00:08:42,330 --> 00:08:43,140

[INAUDIBLE]

238

00:08:43,140 --> 00:08:43,640

239

00:08:43,640 --> 00:08:44,390

Speed.

240

00:08:44,390 --> 00:08:46,340

OK.

241

00:08:46,340 --> 00:08:51,100

So your father, how old  
was he in 1936, by the way?

242

00:08:51,100 --> 00:08:53,823

I'm not sure.

243

00:08:53,823 --> 00:08:55,240

Do you know what  
year he was born?

244

00:08:55,240 --> 00:08:56,440

I could look it up.

245

00:08:56,440 --> 00:08:57,050

OK.

246

00:08:57,050 --> 00:08:59,570

We'll talk about that later.

247

00:08:59,570 --> 00:09:02,020

I can look it up,  
but I don't remember.

248  
00:09:02,020 --> 00:09:06,310  
All right, so here's another  
way of asking this question.

249  
00:09:06,310 --> 00:09:07,900  
was he already working?

250  
00:09:07,900 --> 00:09:09,040  
Was he already an adult?

251  
00:09:09,040 --> 00:09:09,860  
Yes.

252  
00:09:09,860 --> 00:09:10,360  
OK.

253  
00:09:10,360 --> 00:09:11,890  
Did he have a profession?

254  
00:09:11,890 --> 00:09:14,130  
Yes, he was a butcher.

255  
00:09:14,130 --> 00:09:14,850  
All right.

256  
00:09:14,850 --> 00:09:15,960  
So now we can continue.

257  
00:09:15,960 --> 00:09:16,890  
So he left Germany.

258  
00:09:16,890 --> 00:09:18,990  
He was able to take  
50 marks with him.

259  
00:09:18,990 --> 00:09:20,140  
OK.

260

00:09:20,140 --> 00:09:23,350  
And the only country he could  
get a visa to was South Africa.

261  
00:09:23,350 --> 00:09:25,120  
And this is in 1936.

262  
00:09:25,120 --> 00:09:27,740  
1936.

263  
00:09:27,740 --> 00:09:29,292  
We have to cut.

264  
00:09:29,292 --> 00:09:29,920  
Yeah.

265  
00:09:29,920 --> 00:09:30,960  
OK.

266  
00:09:30,960 --> 00:09:31,730  
Speed.

267  
00:09:31,730 --> 00:09:32,610  
All right.

268  
00:09:32,610 --> 00:09:33,320  
OK.

269  
00:09:33,320 --> 00:09:35,153  
So he was only able  
to take 50 marks,

270  
00:09:35,153 --> 00:09:36,320  
and he went to South Africa.

271  
00:09:36,320 --> 00:09:39,610  
Right, and he spent the  
50 marks on the ship.

272  
00:09:39,610 --> 00:09:42,432  
So he arrived in South  
Africa penniless.

273  
00:09:42,432 --> 00:09:47,870  
The Jewish community  
met met the boat

274  
00:09:47,870 --> 00:09:55,088  
and got him a job in  
a store on a mine.

275  
00:09:55,088 --> 00:09:56,370  
Aha.

276  
00:09:56,370 --> 00:10:01,443  
So like if there's a quarry and  
there's a mining activity going

277  
00:10:01,443 --> 00:10:02,610  
on, there was a store there.

278  
00:10:02,610 --> 00:10:05,220  
There was a story  
there on this mine.

279  
00:10:05,220 --> 00:10:11,880  
And the family that ran  
the store employed him.

280  
00:10:11,880 --> 00:10:15,450  
And he slept in the  
same little house

281  
00:10:15,450 --> 00:10:18,010  
that this family slept in.

282  
00:10:18,010 --> 00:10:22,590  
A year later, he wrote a  
letter to his siblings,

283  
00:10:22,590 --> 00:10:25,790  
saying I've got enough  
money for a visa.

284

00:10:25,790 --> 00:10:27,800  
Which one of you wants to come?

285  
00:10:27,800 --> 00:10:28,570  
OK.

286  
00:10:28,570 --> 00:10:29,570  
And what was the answer?

287  
00:10:29,570 --> 00:10:32,430  
The answer that they wrote  
back was, "we're all fine.

288  
00:10:32,430 --> 00:10:34,220  
Everything's fine for us.

289  
00:10:34,220 --> 00:10:36,710  
But that girl you  
used to take out,

290  
00:10:36,710 --> 00:10:39,530  
she would like to  
come to South Africa."

291  
00:10:39,530 --> 00:10:40,780  
Which is what happened.

292  
00:10:40,780 --> 00:10:42,490  
And what was that girl's name?

293  
00:10:42,490 --> 00:10:43,570  
Hermina.

294  
00:10:43,570 --> 00:10:44,290  
Hermina.

295  
00:10:44,290 --> 00:10:45,070  
Levy.

296  
00:10:45,070 --> 00:10:45,750  
Levy.



297

00:10:45,750 --> 00:10:46,810

OK.

298

00:10:46,810 --> 00:10:50,080

And so she came to South Africa.

299

00:10:50,080 --> 00:10:51,320

She was working.

300

00:10:51,320 --> 00:10:53,020

My father was working.

301

00:10:53,020 --> 00:10:58,720

And a year later, they wrote  
another letter to his siblings.

302

00:10:58,720 --> 00:11:00,160

"We have enough  
money for a visa.

303

00:11:00,160 --> 00:11:02,470

Which one of you wants to come?"

304

00:11:02,470 --> 00:11:03,730

"We are fine.

305

00:11:03,730 --> 00:11:05,290

Her sister."

306

00:11:05,290 --> 00:11:06,310

OK.

307

00:11:06,310 --> 00:11:08,910

So my aunt came.

308

00:11:08,910 --> 00:11:12,950

A year later, who wants to come?

309

00:11:12,950 --> 00:11:13,535

"Her parents."

310

00:11:13,535 --> 00:11:16,290

311

00:11:16,290 --> 00:11:18,740

And then it's Kristallnacht.

312

00:11:18,740 --> 00:11:19,970

After that.

313

00:11:19,970 --> 00:11:21,068

At that time.

314

00:11:21,068 --> 00:11:21,860

Right at that time.

315

00:11:21,860 --> 00:11:23,700

'36, '37, '38.

316

00:11:23,700 --> 00:11:25,620

That's right.

317

00:11:25,620 --> 00:11:27,300

Kristallnacht.

318

00:11:27,300 --> 00:11:30,150

My grandfather is locked  
up like all German--

319

00:11:30,150 --> 00:11:33,000

all Jewish males were locked up.

320

00:11:33,000 --> 00:11:35,250

Next morning, they were let out.

321

00:11:35,250 --> 00:11:37,510

He went to see that  
his wife was fine.

322

00:11:37,510 --> 00:11:38,290

She was fine.

323

00:11:38,290 --> 00:11:41,940

And then he went across the  
river to the Meyer family,

324

00:11:41,940 --> 00:11:44,550

to see that the Meyer  
family was fine.

325

00:11:44,550 --> 00:11:46,330

The synagogue had been--

326

00:11:46,330 --> 00:11:48,330

Oh, I didn't mention to  
you about the synagogue.

327

00:11:48,330 --> 00:11:49,740

No.

328

00:11:49,740 --> 00:11:51,960

The family had  
built a synagogue.

329

00:11:51,960 --> 00:11:54,060

They were the only Jewish  
family in the village.

330

00:11:54,060 --> 00:11:56,940

They'd built a synagogue  
attached to the house.

331

00:11:56,940 --> 00:11:58,170

Wow.

332

00:11:58,170 --> 00:12:00,960

And the surrounding  
Jewish families

333

00:12:00,960 --> 00:12:04,950

came Friday night  
for Shabbos to--

334

00:12:04,950 --> 00:12:06,420

The synagogue.

335

00:12:06,420 --> 00:12:07,620

To the synagogue.

336

00:12:07,620 --> 00:12:09,510

To stay over.

337

00:12:09,510 --> 00:12:13,350

So on Kristallnacht, that  
synagogue was destroyed,

338

00:12:13,350 --> 00:12:17,090

and the three Torahs were  
thrown in the street.

339

00:12:17,090 --> 00:12:19,810

So when my grandfather  
went to visit the Meyers,

340

00:12:19,810 --> 00:12:23,790

he took the three Torahs, built  
them into a piece of furniture

341

00:12:23,790 --> 00:12:26,010

that he was taking with  
him to South Africa,

342

00:12:26,010 --> 00:12:27,970

and he took them  
to South Africa.

343

00:12:27,970 --> 00:12:30,465

So this is your maternal  
grandfather Levy.

344

00:12:30,465 --> 00:12:31,950

Levy, Herman Levy.

345

00:12:31,950 --> 00:12:32,760

Herman Levy.

346

00:12:32,760 --> 00:12:33,870  
So he's arrested.

347  
00:12:33,870 --> 00:12:35,550  
He's released.

348  
00:12:35,550 --> 00:12:37,810  
He first sees if his  
wife is all right.

349  
00:12:37,810 --> 00:12:41,520  
And then he goes to the Meyer  
family, your father's family

350  
00:12:41,520 --> 00:12:42,870  
to see what happened there.

351  
00:12:42,870 --> 00:12:46,320  
And they're all fine, but  
the synagogue's destroyed,

352  
00:12:46,320 --> 00:12:48,530  
and the Torah's--

353  
00:12:48,530 --> 00:12:49,430  
OK.

354  
00:12:49,430 --> 00:12:52,280  
So he takes them  
to South Africa.

355  
00:12:52,280 --> 00:12:55,850  
Took him until 1950  
to have enough money

356  
00:12:55,850 --> 00:12:58,270  
to have them repaired.

357  
00:12:58,270 --> 00:13:01,062  
Two of the Torahs  
were not repairable

358

00:13:01,062 --> 00:13:04,430  
and were buried in the  
Johannesburg Jewish cemetery.

359  
00:13:04,430 --> 00:13:07,810  
The one Torah was  
repairable, and he then

360  
00:13:07,810 --> 00:13:12,265  
donated it to the retirement  
community he was living in,

361  
00:13:12,265 --> 00:13:15,232  
in Johannesburg called  
Our Parents Home.

362  
00:13:15,232 --> 00:13:18,148  
Oh.

363  
00:13:18,148 --> 00:13:19,120  
Wow.

364  
00:13:19,120 --> 00:13:25,300  
We, as it happens,  
visited South Africa

365  
00:13:25,300 --> 00:13:29,860  
because my wife's sister's  
husband was ill, terminally

366  
00:13:29,860 --> 00:13:30,960  
ill.

367  
00:13:30,960 --> 00:13:33,920  
And when we left South Africa--

368  
00:13:33,920 --> 00:13:35,670  
let me interrupt on that--

369  
00:13:35,670 --> 00:13:38,820  
when we left South  
Africa, I spoke

370

00:13:38,820 --> 00:13:40,920

to the head of the  
Chevra Kadisha, which

371

00:13:40,920 --> 00:13:44,790

owned this retirement  
community, and asked them if we

372

00:13:44,790 --> 00:13:46,920

could reacquire the Torah.

373

00:13:46,920 --> 00:13:47,850

They said, fine.

374

00:13:47,850 --> 00:13:48,840

Give us a Torah.

375

00:13:48,840 --> 00:13:51,100

You can have your Torah.

376

00:13:51,100 --> 00:13:56,410

We're about to leave, and I  
said to them, Where's the Torah?

377

00:13:56,410 --> 00:13:57,410

He says, take any Torah.

378

00:13:57,410 --> 00:13:59,630

I said, I don't want a Torah.

379

00:13:59,630 --> 00:14:01,460

I want the Torah.

380

00:14:01,460 --> 00:14:03,800

So we left South Africa.

381

00:14:03,800 --> 00:14:10,310

Then a couple of years later,  
when my wife's sister's husband

382

00:14:10,310 --> 00:14:12,920

was ill, we went  
back to South Africa,

383  
00:14:12,920 --> 00:14:16,550  
and we spoke to, again, the  
head of the Chevra Kadisha.

384  
00:14:16,550 --> 00:14:18,538  
He said, look, go  
see what you can do,

385  
00:14:18,538 --> 00:14:19,580  
but the deal's different.

386  
00:14:19,580 --> 00:14:20,630  
I don't need Torahs now.

387  
00:14:20,630 --> 00:14:21,530  
I need some money.

388  
00:14:21,530 --> 00:14:22,430  
I said fine.

389  
00:14:22,430 --> 00:14:24,290  
How much?

390  
00:14:24,290 --> 00:14:27,770  
That was easier than  
reacquiring a Torah.

391  
00:14:27,770 --> 00:14:30,620  
And we went into the synagogue  
of Our Parents' Home.

392  
00:14:30,620 --> 00:14:33,320  
The second Torah we took  
out in a metal plaque

393  
00:14:33,320 --> 00:14:37,280  
on the bottom, Herman  
Levy, the whole thing.

394



00:14:37,280 --> 00:14:38,900  
So we knew that was the Torah.

395  
00:14:38,900 --> 00:14:40,010  
That was the one.

396  
00:14:40,010 --> 00:14:44,870  
And we arranged for Chabad to  
bring the Torah to Brooklyn.

397  
00:14:44,870 --> 00:14:47,990  
In Brooklyn, we had somebody  
go through it and make sure

398  
00:14:47,990 --> 00:14:50,900  
that it's all perfectly written.

399  
00:14:50,900 --> 00:14:55,490  
Because the letters  
get old after a while.

400  
00:14:55,490 --> 00:15:02,360  
And we then had that  
Torah for all these years

401  
00:15:02,360 --> 00:15:04,040  
here in America.

402  
00:15:04,040 --> 00:15:07,730  
And recently I gave  
it to my brother.

403  
00:15:07,730 --> 00:15:09,740  
And he has it now in Texas.

404  
00:15:09,740 --> 00:15:10,250  
Wow.

405  
00:15:10,250 --> 00:15:12,980  
And in fact, I know  
that this morning he was

406

00:15:12,980 --> 00:15:15,244  
in shul reading from the Torah.

407  
00:15:15,244 --> 00:15:16,130  
That one.

408  
00:15:16,130 --> 00:15:17,270  
That Torah.

409  
00:15:17,270 --> 00:15:18,440  
Wow.

410  
00:15:18,440 --> 00:15:20,030  
And how long do  
you think it might

411  
00:15:20,030 --> 00:15:24,050  
have been part of your  
family's synagogue, the Meyers'

412  
00:15:24,050 --> 00:15:30,380  
synagogue, before your maternal  
grandfather rescued it?

413  
00:15:30,380 --> 00:15:32,810  
I don't know the answer  
to that, but it's probably

414  
00:15:32,810 --> 00:15:35,090  
something like 50 to 100 years.

415  
00:15:35,090 --> 00:15:35,660  
Wow.

416  
00:15:35,660 --> 00:15:36,690  
It was a long time.

417  
00:15:36,690 --> 00:15:37,190  
Yeah.

418  
00:15:37,190 --> 00:15:39,160  
Yeah.

419  
00:15:39,160 --> 00:15:39,785  
What a story.

420  
00:15:39,785 --> 00:15:40,285  
Yeah.

421  
00:15:40,285 --> 00:15:41,950  
What a story.

422  
00:15:41,950 --> 00:15:46,150  
So did you know your maternal  
grandfather as well as

423  
00:15:46,150 --> 00:15:46,900  
grandmother?

424  
00:15:46,900 --> 00:15:47,660  
Yes.

425  
00:15:47,660 --> 00:15:48,160  
OK.

426  
00:15:48,160 --> 00:15:52,023  
So that side of the family,  
except for Uncle Max,

427  
00:15:52,023 --> 00:15:53,440  
were part of your  
life growing up.

428  
00:15:53,440 --> 00:15:54,070  
Correct.

429  
00:15:54,070 --> 00:15:56,130  
Absolutely.

430  
00:15:56,130 --> 00:15:58,580  
But the other side, no.

431  
00:15:58,580 --> 00:15:59,850

No, no.

432  
00:15:59,850 --> 00:16:00,988  
I didn't know any of them.

433  
00:16:00,988 --> 00:16:03,280  
Did you know anything of  
their lives, of their stories?

434  
00:16:03,280 --> 00:16:04,010  
yes

435  
00:16:04,010 --> 00:16:05,160  
Tell me what you do know.

436  
00:16:05,160 --> 00:16:09,080  
The only one that was married  
was David, who was the eldest.

437  
00:16:09,080 --> 00:16:10,230  
OK.

438  
00:16:10,230 --> 00:16:13,950  
And he was married,  
and he had a son.

439  
00:16:13,950 --> 00:16:16,038  
Whose name was Lothar.

440  
00:16:16,038 --> 00:16:16,538  
Lothar.

441  
00:16:16,538 --> 00:16:17,510  
OK.

442  
00:16:17,510 --> 00:16:21,810  
And the reason for it is  
that the grandfather's name

443  
00:16:21,810 --> 00:16:23,908  
was Leopold Lothar.

444

00:16:23,908 --> 00:16:24,408

Ah.

445

00:16:24,408 --> 00:16:27,090

446

00:16:27,090 --> 00:16:29,760

On his mother's side, on  
the child's mother's side,

447

00:16:29,760 --> 00:16:31,650

or on David's side?

448

00:16:31,650 --> 00:16:32,490

David's.

449

00:16:32,490 --> 00:16:33,580

So your grandfather.

450

00:16:33,580 --> 00:16:34,080

David.

451

00:16:34,080 --> 00:16:37,000

My great-grandfather  
was Leopold Lothar.

452

00:16:37,000 --> 00:16:39,540

453

00:16:39,540 --> 00:16:42,630

And so they continued.

454

00:16:42,630 --> 00:16:45,630

After Kristallnacht, what  
kind of communication

455

00:16:45,630 --> 00:16:50,010

was there between your  
father and his family?

456

00:16:50,010 --> 00:16:53,790

There were some letters.

457

00:16:53,790 --> 00:16:58,200

David was the only  
one that was married.

458

00:16:58,200 --> 00:17:00,060

And he had the child.

459

00:17:00,060 --> 00:17:07,920

And he had moved from  
Ediger to another town.

460

00:17:07,920 --> 00:17:12,490

I can't remember the  
name at the moment.

461

00:17:12,490 --> 00:17:16,020

But when I was at  
Yad Vashem, they

462

00:17:16,020 --> 00:17:21,659

had documents of him being  
transported to Belzec.

463

00:17:21,659 --> 00:17:24,650

464

00:17:24,650 --> 00:17:28,190

And we have a copy,  
and Yad Vashem

465

00:17:28,190 --> 00:17:32,780

has a copy, of the transport  
where everybody is listed.

466

00:17:32,780 --> 00:17:33,950

So David's listed.

467

00:17:33,950 --> 00:17:35,180

His wife's listed.

468

00:17:35,180 --> 00:17:39,950  
And Lothar's listed on  
that transfer to Belzec.

469  
00:17:39,950 --> 00:17:45,920  
And Belzec was a camp  
where if you arrived there,

470  
00:17:45,920 --> 00:17:47,948  
you were killed.

471  
00:17:47,948 --> 00:17:48,740  
Extermination camp.

472  
00:17:48,740 --> 00:17:53,320  
- Yeah, "extermination  
camp" is the correct word.

473  
00:17:53,320 --> 00:17:57,010  
Do you have a paper trail for  
other members of the family?

474  
00:17:57,010 --> 00:17:58,660  
Yes, we do have.

475  
00:17:58,660 --> 00:18:03,390  
And you have them at  
the Holocaust Museum.

476  
00:18:03,390 --> 00:18:06,160  
Interesting one is  
the one Bertholt's.

477  
00:18:06,160 --> 00:18:08,500  
Bertholt. And he's now  
the second youngest?

478  
00:18:08,500 --> 00:18:09,610  
Second youngest.

479  
00:18:09,610 --> 00:18:10,450  
All right.

480

00:18:10,450 --> 00:18:17,720

And just before they were  
sent away to the camps

481

00:18:17,720 --> 00:18:19,780

in April of '42.

482

00:18:19,780 --> 00:18:21,980

So this is quite  
late, April of '42.

483

00:18:21,980 --> 00:18:24,578

Yeah, correct.

484

00:18:24,578 --> 00:18:31,020

And two weeks or a week before  
the family was sent away,

485

00:18:31,020 --> 00:18:36,370

they locked up Bertholt  
for committing a crime.

486

00:18:36,370 --> 00:18:37,660

And what was that crime?

487

00:18:37,660 --> 00:18:41,560

And the crime he committed was,  
he gave a piece of furniture

488

00:18:41,560 --> 00:18:44,480

to his neighbor.

489

00:18:44,480 --> 00:18:49,370

But all Jewish assets had  
been donated to the state.

490

00:18:49,370 --> 00:18:51,890

So he gave away a  
piece of furniture

491

00:18:51,890 --> 00:18:55,020

that had been donated to



the state to his neighbor.

492  
00:18:55,020 --> 00:18:57,240  
And he was locked  
up for two weeks.

493  
00:18:57,240 --> 00:18:59,780  
So when the rest of the  
family was sent away,

494  
00:18:59,780 --> 00:19:01,070  
he was still in jail.

495  
00:19:01,070 --> 00:19:04,350  
And then a week later,  
he was sent away.

496  
00:19:04,350 --> 00:19:06,030  
And that you find in  
the documentation.

497  
00:19:06,030 --> 00:19:09,240  
That's all in the documentation  
at the Holocaust Museum.

498  
00:19:09,240 --> 00:19:13,560  
But originally where did  
those documents come from?

499  
00:19:13,560 --> 00:19:15,390  
The original  
documents, the way we

500  
00:19:15,390 --> 00:19:19,115  
saw the original documents  
came from Bad Arolsen.

501  
00:19:19,115 --> 00:19:20,490  
Ah, second part  
of our interview.

502  
00:19:20,490 --> 00:19:21,210  
Yes.

503  
00:19:21,210 --> 00:19:23,470  
We'll talk about  
that in a minute.

504  
00:19:23,470 --> 00:19:27,270  
And are there any  
other documents

505  
00:19:27,270 --> 00:19:31,230  
for other family members who  
perished on your father's side?

506  
00:19:31,230 --> 00:19:32,220  
No.

507  
00:19:32,220 --> 00:19:32,910  
That's it?

508  
00:19:32,910 --> 00:19:34,390  
That's it.

509  
00:19:34,390 --> 00:19:37,660  
So do you know what camps  
the others were sent to?

510  
00:19:37,660 --> 00:19:39,610  
We don't.

511  
00:19:39,610 --> 00:19:42,910  
If the documents do  
not show-- the only one

512  
00:19:42,910 --> 00:19:47,365  
they show is the  
one for David, which

513  
00:19:47,365 --> 00:19:51,490  
shows he was sent to Belzec.

514  
00:19:51,490 --> 00:19:57,010  
But the other ones, some

say they were sent overseas,

515  
00:19:57,010 --> 00:19:59,380  
but there's nothing  
clear of which camp

516  
00:19:59,380 --> 00:20:02,200  
it is that they were killed in.

517  
00:20:02,200 --> 00:20:02,800  
OK.

518  
00:20:02,800 --> 00:20:06,466  
All we know is that  
they didn't survive.

519  
00:20:06,466 --> 00:20:06,966  
OK.

520  
00:20:06,966 --> 00:20:12,720

521  
00:20:12,720 --> 00:20:15,460  
Let's go back to South  
Africa for a minute.

522  
00:20:15,460 --> 00:20:20,130  
Your earliest memories, do  
you have some as aged three,

523  
00:20:20,130 --> 00:20:23,280  
or four, or even earlier?

524  
00:20:23,280 --> 00:20:25,140  
All of us have something,  
but it's usually

525  
00:20:25,140 --> 00:20:26,820  
quite fuzzy in our minds.

526  
00:20:26,820 --> 00:20:29,370

527

00:20:29,370 --> 00:20:34,480

The memory that I have is of  
being with my grandmother.

528

00:20:34,480 --> 00:20:37,160

Tell me what kind  
of a person she was.

529

00:20:37,160 --> 00:20:43,020

She was just phenomenal.

530

00:20:43,020 --> 00:20:44,460

She was really my mother.

531

00:20:44,460 --> 00:20:46,050

Because my mother was working.

532

00:20:46,050 --> 00:20:47,230

My aunt was working.

533

00:20:47,230 --> 00:20:48,240

My father was working.

534

00:20:48,240 --> 00:20:49,532

And my grandfather was working.

535

00:20:49,532 --> 00:20:50,850

They were all working.

536

00:20:50,850 --> 00:20:55,080

And so they would all come home  
at night from having worked.

537

00:20:55,080 --> 00:20:59,940

And I, one year, two year,  
three year, four year, five year

538

00:20:59,940 --> 00:21:02,700

was brought up by  
this lady who was not

539

00:21:02,700 --> 00:21:03,990  
my mother but my grandmother.

540

00:21:03,990 --> 00:21:05,460  
OK.

541

00:21:05,460 --> 00:21:07,560  
Did she tell you stories?

542

00:21:07,560 --> 00:21:12,580  
Yes, but I don't remember  
any of their stories.

543

00:21:12,580 --> 00:21:13,080  
OK.

544

00:21:13,080 --> 00:21:15,310  
How did you learn--

545

00:21:15,310 --> 00:21:17,700  
well, first of all, did  
you have an interest

546

00:21:17,700 --> 00:21:23,040  
in your family's immediate  
background from Germany

547

00:21:23,040 --> 00:21:26,290  
as you were growing up?

548

00:21:26,290 --> 00:21:31,390  
My father-- my mother's father  
was in the hardware business.

549

00:21:31,390 --> 00:21:32,680  
That was a hardware store.

550

00:21:32,680 --> 00:21:34,960  
And so he continued being  
in the hardware business

551

00:21:34,960 --> 00:21:35,830  
in South Africa?

552  
00:21:35,830 --> 00:21:39,850  
In South Africa, he  
was not business,

553  
00:21:39,850 --> 00:21:43,810  
but he would make  
things for people.

554  
00:21:43,810 --> 00:21:48,790  
He was always working on  
things that a hardware

555  
00:21:48,790 --> 00:21:50,660  
man would know how to make.

556  
00:21:50,660 --> 00:21:51,160  
OK.

557  
00:21:51,160 --> 00:21:56,410  
And I would go after  
school to be with him.

558  
00:21:56,410 --> 00:22:00,520  
Once a week, I would get on a  
bus, go to our parents' home,

559  
00:22:00,520 --> 00:22:01,720  
help him.

560  
00:22:01,720 --> 00:22:05,200  
And we had a great,  
phenomenal relationship.

561  
00:22:05,200 --> 00:22:07,000  
Was he a storyteller?

562  
00:22:07,000 --> 00:22:07,890  
Not really.

563

00:22:07,890 --> 00:22:08,390  
Not really.

564  
00:22:08,390 --> 00:22:11,830  
So did he talk much about  
his hardware store back

565  
00:22:11,830 --> 00:22:12,700  
in Zeltingen?

566  
00:22:12,700 --> 00:22:13,690  
Not really.

567  
00:22:13,690 --> 00:22:17,140  
Only about-- one of the  
things I knew about Max

568  
00:22:17,140 --> 00:22:21,830  
is that Max had been on  
a motorbike, fallen off.

569  
00:22:21,830 --> 00:22:25,880  
And he made me promise that I  
would never drive a motorbike.

570  
00:22:25,880 --> 00:22:32,060  
Now, that picture that Max  
took, was it ever developed?

571  
00:22:32,060 --> 00:22:32,990  
The photograph?

572  
00:22:32,990 --> 00:22:33,950  
We never saw it.

573  
00:22:33,950 --> 00:22:34,740  
You never saw it.

574  
00:22:34,740 --> 00:22:35,240  
No.

575  
00:22:35,240 --> 00:22:36,890

OK.

576

00:22:36,890 --> 00:22:41,000

And did he talk, your  
maternal grandfather,

577

00:22:41,000 --> 00:22:46,580

about Kristallnacht itself and  
how his business was affected

578

00:22:46,580 --> 00:22:49,130

and how he was taken?

579

00:22:49,130 --> 00:22:52,880

No, just that he was locked up.

580

00:22:52,880 --> 00:22:54,560

Came out next morning.

581

00:22:54,560 --> 00:22:55,922

Didn't affect his business.

582

00:22:55,922 --> 00:22:57,380

The windows were  
smashed and things

583

00:22:57,380 --> 00:23:01,020

like that, which was  
happening all over.

584

00:23:01,020 --> 00:23:03,230

And about how long  
after that happened

585

00:23:03,230 --> 00:23:06,240

did he leave with  
your grandmother?

586

00:23:06,240 --> 00:23:08,600

Like weeks.

587

00:23:08,600 --> 00:23:09,340



OK.

588

00:23:09,340 --> 00:23:09,840

OK.

589

00:23:09,840 --> 00:23:13,210

590

00:23:13,210 --> 00:23:13,710

On year.

591

00:23:13,710 --> 00:23:17,240

Then did your father continue  
working in this store

592

00:23:17,240 --> 00:23:20,360

where there was a  
mining place going on?

593

00:23:20,360 --> 00:23:21,500

For a while.

594

00:23:21,500 --> 00:23:25,940

And then when he got to a  
point where he was able to,

595

00:23:25,940 --> 00:23:30,380

he actually went to work in  
a butchery in Johannesburg.

596

00:23:30,380 --> 00:23:31,620

Because he was a butcher.

597

00:23:31,620 --> 00:23:32,120

Right.

598

00:23:32,120 --> 00:23:33,110

OK.

599

00:23:33,110 --> 00:23:36,620

And then he worked in a  
butcher, kosher butchery.

600  
00:23:36,620 --> 00:23:39,830  
And then he established  
his own butchery.

601  
00:23:39,830 --> 00:23:41,750  
And then he bought  
another butchery.

602  
00:23:41,750 --> 00:23:44,840  
And not only was it a  
butchery, but it also

603  
00:23:44,840 --> 00:23:49,040  
manufactured sausages, and  
bologna, and things like that.

604  
00:23:49,040 --> 00:23:52,370  
All that you'd want.

605  
00:23:52,370 --> 00:23:54,740  
Was there a large  
Jewish community

606  
00:23:54,740 --> 00:23:58,410  
that you had in Johannesburg?

607  
00:23:58,410 --> 00:24:00,530  
Oh, very large.

608  
00:24:00,530 --> 00:24:02,600  
Most of them from Germany?

609  
00:24:02,600 --> 00:24:04,020  
No.

610  
00:24:04,020 --> 00:24:06,660  
The vast majority of  
South African Jews

611  
00:24:06,660 --> 00:24:10,240  
were from Lithuania.

612  
00:24:10,240 --> 00:24:12,490  
My wife's family  
were from Lithuania.

613  
00:24:12,490 --> 00:24:13,600  
I see.

614  
00:24:13,600 --> 00:24:15,910  
I was one of the few Yekkes.

615  
00:24:15,910 --> 00:24:16,795  
And what's a Yekke?

616  
00:24:16,795 --> 00:24:20,140  
A Yekke is a German.

617  
00:24:20,140 --> 00:24:26,380  
And Litvaks did not like Yekkes.

618  
00:24:26,380 --> 00:24:28,690  
And was the reverse also true?

619  
00:24:28,690 --> 00:24:30,190  
No, not at all.

620  
00:24:30,190 --> 00:24:30,730  
OK.

621  
00:24:30,730 --> 00:24:35,020  
But in my particular  
case, my wife's family

622  
00:24:35,020 --> 00:24:38,140  
liked me, and were happy  
that I asked them if I

623  
00:24:38,140 --> 00:24:40,560  
could marry their daughter.

624  
00:24:40,560 --> 00:24:42,480

When did you first  
start becoming

625  
00:24:42,480 --> 00:24:45,150  
interested in your own  
family's background?

626  
00:24:45,150 --> 00:24:50,490

627  
00:24:50,490 --> 00:24:53,950  
I was interested in it from  
a number of points of view.

628  
00:24:53,950 --> 00:24:54,450  
OK.

629  
00:24:54,450 --> 00:24:57,894

630  
00:24:57,894 --> 00:25:02,530  
I was able to graduate  
from high school

631  
00:25:02,530 --> 00:25:05,110  
two years younger  
than my sibling,

632  
00:25:05,110 --> 00:25:08,170  
than other people were.

633  
00:25:08,170 --> 00:25:13,250  
And in 1956, I went  
to Israel on what

634  
00:25:13,250 --> 00:25:15,890  
was called the  
[SPEAKING HEBREW],, which

635  
00:25:15,890 --> 00:25:18,440  
is a youth leadership  
training course for a year.

636  
00:25:18,440 --> 00:25:19,220  
OK.

637  
00:25:19,220 --> 00:25:22,961  
So I happened to be there  
during the time of the war.

638  
00:25:22,961 --> 00:25:26,000  
I learned how to use--

639  
00:25:26,000 --> 00:25:26,510  
A weapon.

640  
00:25:26,510 --> 00:25:28,100  
--a weapon.

641  
00:25:28,100 --> 00:25:31,190  
Went to 10 kilometers  
from the Suez Canal.

642  
00:25:31,190 --> 00:25:32,660  
Wow.

643  
00:25:32,660 --> 00:25:35,750  
And one of the  
interesting things

644  
00:25:35,750 --> 00:25:41,660  
about that road through  
Gaza to El Arish

645  
00:25:41,660 --> 00:25:45,360  
is that there were  
gun emplacements built

646  
00:25:45,360 --> 00:25:50,580  
by the Egyptians on the Sinai  
along this one single road,

647  
00:25:50,580 --> 00:25:53,460  
so that they would  
be able to shoot down

648  
00:25:53,460 --> 00:25:54,960  
Israeli tanks that came.

649  
00:25:54,960 --> 00:25:57,560

650  
00:25:57,560 --> 00:25:59,270  
When we were driving  
on this road,

651  
00:25:59,270 --> 00:26:05,320  
I expected to see some of these  
shooting places or some tanks

652  
00:26:05,320 --> 00:26:08,270  
that had been destroyed  
or something like that.

653  
00:26:08,270 --> 00:26:10,330  
But the reality is,  
I saw something else.

654  
00:26:10,330 --> 00:26:11,410  
What did you see?

655  
00:26:11,410 --> 00:26:13,435  
Thousands of army boots.

656  
00:26:13,435 --> 00:26:16,780

657  
00:26:16,780 --> 00:26:18,050  
What does that mean?

658  
00:26:18,050 --> 00:26:21,790  
It means that when these  
Egyptians saw the Israeli tanks

659  
00:26:21,790 --> 00:26:24,880  
coming down the road, instead  
of shooting at the tanks

660  
00:26:24,880 --> 00:26:26,620  
they took off their  
boots and ran away.

661  
00:26:26,620 --> 00:26:30,830

662  
00:26:30,830 --> 00:26:32,750  
That's a powerful symbol.

663  
00:26:32,750 --> 00:26:36,230  
It stuck in my mind since then.

664  
00:26:36,230 --> 00:26:38,010  
OK.

665  
00:26:38,010 --> 00:26:39,930  
And '56 is a little while ago.

666  
00:26:39,930 --> 00:26:40,960  
It is a bit.

667  
00:26:40,960 --> 00:26:42,000  
It is a bit.

668  
00:26:42,000 --> 00:26:45,090  
But did that reawaken  
something that you hadn't

669  
00:26:45,090 --> 00:26:46,780  
had an interest in before?

670  
00:26:46,780 --> 00:26:47,580  
No, no.

671  
00:26:47,580 --> 00:26:48,210  
It was always--

672  
00:26:48,210 --> 00:26:49,850  
OK, it was just one part.

673  
00:26:49,850 --> 00:26:52,410  
Just another part of the puzzle.

674  
00:26:52,410 --> 00:26:53,880  
OK.

675  
00:26:53,880 --> 00:26:57,450  
In your mother's side of  
the family and your father,

676  
00:26:57,450 --> 00:27:01,170  
did they tell you of  
their life in Germany?

677  
00:27:01,170 --> 00:27:02,880  
Did they talk about it much?

678  
00:27:02,880 --> 00:27:05,490  
Yes, because the village  
that they came from

679  
00:27:05,490 --> 00:27:08,370  
had a number of Jewish families.

680  
00:27:08,370 --> 00:27:10,190  
Zeitlingen.

681  
00:27:10,190 --> 00:27:10,880  
Zeltingen, yeah.

682  
00:27:10,880 --> 00:27:12,290  
Zeltingen. Sorry.

683  
00:27:12,290 --> 00:27:14,450  
And it was also a wine--

684  
00:27:14,450 --> 00:27:17,590  
I mean, the Moselle  
was where the wine--

685



00:27:17,590 --> 00:27:18,980  
Yeah, sure.

686  
00:27:18,980 --> 00:27:25,280  
But they had a number of  
neighbors that they knew well.

687  
00:27:25,280 --> 00:27:28,710  
And that's what it was.

688  
00:27:28,710 --> 00:27:33,360

689  
00:27:33,360 --> 00:27:36,090  
Another thing happened,  
by the way, which--

690  
00:27:36,090 --> 00:27:37,120  
with my mother.

691  
00:27:37,120 --> 00:27:43,370  
And I think it was 1953.

692  
00:27:43,370 --> 00:27:45,950  
My mother decided to  
go back to Germany.

693  
00:27:45,950 --> 00:27:48,680  
Was this the first time anybody  
from the family goes back?

694  
00:27:48,680 --> 00:27:51,380  
Yes, and she went  
back for a purpose.

695  
00:27:51,380 --> 00:27:56,990  
Because my mother's family  
had sold their house when

696  
00:27:56,990 --> 00:27:59,840  
my grandfather left Germany.

697

00:27:59,840 --> 00:28:02,690  
But the Meyer family  
never sold their house.

698  
00:28:02,690 --> 00:28:03,530  
OK.

699  
00:28:03,530 --> 00:28:05,820  
They were just  
taken to the camps.

700  
00:28:05,820 --> 00:28:09,710  
So my mother went back to  
speak to the person that

701  
00:28:09,710 --> 00:28:13,055  
was occupying the house, saying  
you're living in our house.

702  
00:28:13,055 --> 00:28:16,410

703  
00:28:16,410 --> 00:28:20,660  
So she went back,  
spoke to the person

704  
00:28:20,660 --> 00:28:24,330  
who was living in the house.

705  
00:28:24,330 --> 00:28:28,210  
The synagogue had been  
made into a stable,

706  
00:28:28,210 --> 00:28:32,260  
but she was able to  
get them to purchase

707  
00:28:32,260 --> 00:28:35,610  
both the house and the stable.

708  
00:28:35,610 --> 00:28:39,690  
And the money from the stable,  
which was the synagogue,

709  
00:28:39,690 --> 00:28:44,560  
was donated to Etz Chayim  
Synagogue in Johannesburg.

710  
00:28:44,560 --> 00:28:46,920  
And the house at least--

711  
00:28:46,920 --> 00:28:51,530  
and when she went to speak  
to the people in the house,

712  
00:28:51,530 --> 00:28:52,570  
she said to them--

713  
00:28:52,570 --> 00:28:55,540  
they say to her, how do you  
know this is your house?

714  
00:28:55,540 --> 00:28:57,640  
How can you prove that  
this is your house?

715  
00:28:57,640 --> 00:29:00,850  
Said, let's go  
down to the cellar.

716  
00:29:00,850 --> 00:29:04,860  
In the wall, she  
knew that they had

717  
00:29:04,860 --> 00:29:09,870  
embedded in the wall some  
jewelry and some silver.

718  
00:29:09,870 --> 00:29:14,970  
And she found it, and it  
was three sets of cutlery,

719  
00:29:14,970 --> 00:29:18,060  
and some jewels, some  
watches, and things like that.

720

00:29:18,060 --> 00:29:21,580

And that proved that  
this was her house.

721

00:29:21,580 --> 00:29:24,240

Was there no paperwork  
at all in the town?

722

00:29:24,240 --> 00:29:25,120

No.

723

00:29:25,120 --> 00:29:27,190

And nothing that would--

724

00:29:27,190 --> 00:29:30,700

like a registry of deeds  
or anything like that?

725

00:29:30,700 --> 00:29:32,247

Nothing that we knew about.

726

00:29:32,247 --> 00:29:34,190

OK.

727

00:29:34,190 --> 00:29:41,000

And the people who had occupied  
your paternal family's house,

728

00:29:41,000 --> 00:29:44,240

had they been people  
that they knew before?

729

00:29:44,240 --> 00:29:46,643

I don't know the answer to that.

730

00:29:46,643 --> 00:29:48,090

OK.

731

00:29:48,090 --> 00:29:52,530

And do you know whether or not  
she got a fair price in 1953?

732

00:29:52,530 --> 00:29:53,190

I don't know.

733

00:29:53,190 --> 00:29:54,170

She got one.

734

00:29:54,170 --> 00:29:55,740

She did the best she could.

735

00:29:55,740 --> 00:30:00,840

Which is pretty  
good, considering.

736

00:30:00,840 --> 00:30:03,810

And your maternal  
grandfather, when

737

00:30:03,810 --> 00:30:06,870

he sold his hardware store,  
do you know under what

738

00:30:06,870 --> 00:30:08,280

conditions that was?

739

00:30:08,280 --> 00:30:14,190

It was again leaving  
when Hitler was already--

740

00:30:14,190 --> 00:30:16,200

Usually it was for a  
fraction of the real value.

741

00:30:16,200 --> 00:30:17,770

A fraction, absolutely.

742

00:30:17,770 --> 00:30:18,870

OK.

743

00:30:18,870 --> 00:30:22,770

But they actually  
sold it to somebody,

744

00:30:22,770 --> 00:30:24,420

it was the price of the time.

745

00:30:24,420 --> 00:30:29,400

Whereas the Meyer Family house  
was never sold until my mother

746

00:30:29,400 --> 00:30:33,060

went back to try to do a  
deal with the person that

747

00:30:33,060 --> 00:30:34,170

occupied it.

748

00:30:34,170 --> 00:30:38,430

Did she talk about other  
things that she experienced

749

00:30:38,430 --> 00:30:42,870

or felt when she came back to  
South Africa after that visit?

750

00:30:42,870 --> 00:30:43,560

Not really.

751

00:30:43,560 --> 00:30:45,840

It was a very  
difficult trip for her,

752

00:30:45,840 --> 00:30:48,600

but my father couldn't  
do it, but she did it.

753

00:30:48,600 --> 00:30:49,450

Did he ever go back?

754

00:30:49,450 --> 00:30:49,950

No.

755

00:30:49,950 --> 00:30:54,770

756  
00:30:54,770 --> 00:30:56,410  
Did she ever go back again?

757  
00:30:56,410 --> 00:30:57,140  
No.

758  
00:30:57,140 --> 00:30:58,590  
This is the one and only time.

759  
00:30:58,590 --> 00:30:59,240  
Yeah.

760  
00:30:59,240 --> 00:31:00,470  
And what about you?

761  
00:31:00,470 --> 00:31:02,230  
We went back.

762  
00:31:02,230 --> 00:31:04,570  
My wife and I went  
on a trip to Germany.

763  
00:31:04,570 --> 00:31:10,230  
We went to see both where  
my father's family came from

764  
00:31:10,230 --> 00:31:12,060  
and where my mother's  
family came from.

765  
00:31:12,060 --> 00:31:15,620  
And what year was this?

766  
00:31:15,620 --> 00:31:17,800  
Or approximately what  
year would it have been?

767  
00:31:17,800 --> 00:31:20,700

768  
00:31:20,700 --> 00:31:21,450

I don't know.

769

00:31:21,450 --> 00:31:27,230

Maybe '60 something. '69, maybe.

770

00:31:27,230 --> 00:31:28,300

So a while ago.

771

00:31:28,300 --> 00:31:29,260

Oh, yes.

772

00:31:29,260 --> 00:31:31,380

It would be now  
close to 50 years.

773

00:31:31,380 --> 00:31:31,880

Yeah.

774

00:31:31,880 --> 00:31:33,250

Yeah, something like.

775

00:31:33,250 --> 00:31:34,210

All right.

776

00:31:34,210 --> 00:31:38,020

And what do you  
remember from that trip?

777

00:31:38,020 --> 00:31:39,660

What I remember  
from the trip was

778

00:31:39,660 --> 00:31:44,220

that when we went to the house,  
my father's family's house,

779

00:31:44,220 --> 00:31:48,150

the lady asked, what are you  
coming to ask for more money?

780

00:31:48,150 --> 00:31:50,430

I said, no we just



would appreciate it

781  
00:31:50,430 --> 00:31:54,390  
if you could let  
us see the house.

782  
00:31:54,390 --> 00:31:58,030  
And she showed us  
around, and she said--

783  
00:31:58,030 --> 00:32:01,290  
and then she gave us a siddur.

784  
00:32:01,290 --> 00:32:02,235  
What is that?

785  
00:32:02,235 --> 00:32:03,120  
A prayer book.

786  
00:32:03,120 --> 00:32:10,210  
A book that she'd found in  
the ceiling, a Hebrew book.

787  
00:32:10,210 --> 00:32:11,740  
Do you know her name?

788  
00:32:11,740 --> 00:32:13,140  
I don't that.

789  
00:32:13,140 --> 00:32:15,400  
But it was the same family  
that your mother had met?

790  
00:32:15,400 --> 00:32:16,830  
Yeah, yeah, yeah.

791  
00:32:16,830 --> 00:32:18,600  
Same family.

792  
00:32:18,600 --> 00:32:24,070  
And your father's--  
your mother's home,

793  
00:32:24,070 --> 00:32:25,810  
where the hardware  
store had been?

794  
00:32:25,810 --> 00:32:28,890

795  
00:32:28,890 --> 00:32:33,390  
The family-- the people  
when we were there

796  
00:32:33,390 --> 00:32:35,520  
were very nice to  
us and all the rest,

797  
00:32:35,520 --> 00:32:38,650  
but there was no dispute  
or anything between them.

798  
00:32:38,650 --> 00:32:40,410  
They hadn't been  
bad to my family,

799  
00:32:40,410 --> 00:32:43,110  
and my family hadn't  
been bad to them.

800  
00:32:43,110 --> 00:32:44,820  
So it was neighborly.

801  
00:32:44,820 --> 00:32:48,870  
But otherwise in 1969, which  
was still pretty early on--

802  
00:32:48,870 --> 00:32:50,240  
Right.

803  
00:32:50,240 --> 00:32:54,050  
--this is where your roots were.

804  
00:32:54,050 --> 00:32:56,293

Yeah, but I'm not sure  
if '69 is the right date.

805  
00:32:56,293 --> 00:32:57,960  
I'm just thinking  
that it was that date.

806  
00:32:57,960 --> 00:33:00,440  
I'm not positive on that.

807  
00:33:00,440 --> 00:33:02,205  
It could be any  
time in the '60s.

808  
00:33:02,205 --> 00:33:04,035  
Yeah, it could have been.

809  
00:33:04,035 --> 00:33:04,535  
Yeah.

810  
00:33:04,535 --> 00:33:07,390

811  
00:33:07,390 --> 00:33:11,020  
The overall question is,  
is what kind of a feeling

812  
00:33:11,020 --> 00:33:14,850  
did this leave you with?

813  
00:33:14,850 --> 00:33:19,650  
It was a very strange  
experience to go and see

814  
00:33:19,650 --> 00:33:22,660  
this house that I  
had always heard

815  
00:33:22,660 --> 00:33:28,540  
about, and my father's,  
both families' homes,

816

00:33:28,540 --> 00:33:34,810  
and to see these neighbors  
who had lived with them,

817  
00:33:34,810 --> 00:33:37,780  
lived through this  
experience with them,

818  
00:33:37,780 --> 00:33:42,380  
and yet didn't do anything  
to stop it from happening.

819  
00:33:42,380 --> 00:33:45,320  
That's what I  
always thought was--

820  
00:33:45,320 --> 00:33:47,450  
why did they not do anything?

821  
00:33:47,450 --> 00:33:48,200  
And they didn't.

822  
00:33:48,200 --> 00:33:50,890

823  
00:33:50,890 --> 00:33:54,010  
Was there a Jewish cemetery  
near the synagogue?

824  
00:33:54,010 --> 00:33:55,810  
There was a Jewish  
cemetery where

825  
00:33:55,810 --> 00:34:00,190  
my father's family are buried.

826  
00:34:00,190 --> 00:34:01,420  
Was it still--

827  
00:34:01,420 --> 00:34:03,640  
It's in a town called Beilstein.

828

00:34:03,640 --> 00:34:04,150  
[INAUDIBLE]

829  
00:34:04,150 --> 00:34:05,050  
Beilstein.

830  
00:34:05,050 --> 00:34:05,920  
Beilstein?

831  
00:34:05,920 --> 00:34:07,090  
Yeah.

832  
00:34:07,090 --> 00:34:08,679  
That must have been close by.

833  
00:34:08,679 --> 00:34:09,850  
Near.

834  
00:34:09,850 --> 00:34:13,270  
And the tombstones of  
my great-grandfather

835  
00:34:13,270 --> 00:34:15,343  
and great-grandmother  
are still there.

836  
00:34:15,343 --> 00:34:16,150  
OK.

837  
00:34:16,150 --> 00:34:20,380  
Well, at least they were there  
when we went to the cemetery.

838  
00:34:20,380 --> 00:34:23,290  
And have you ever  
been back since then?

839  
00:34:23,290 --> 00:34:25,008  
Not since then.

840  
00:34:25,008 --> 00:34:27,409  
Wow.

841  
00:34:27,409 --> 00:34:29,489  
Because the country has changed.

842  
00:34:29,489 --> 00:34:31,310  
Oh, we've been back  
to Germany many times.

843  
00:34:31,310 --> 00:34:32,393  
Oh, but not to that place.

844  
00:34:32,393 --> 00:34:33,230  
No, no, no.

845  
00:34:33,230 --> 00:34:39,020  
We went to-- we ended up being  
in the hardware business.

846  
00:34:39,020 --> 00:34:45,120  
And there was a trade show  
in Cologne every year.

847  
00:34:45,120 --> 00:34:47,080  
So we would go to  
the show every year.

848  
00:34:47,080 --> 00:34:48,920  
The Kolnischer Messe.

849  
00:34:48,920 --> 00:34:49,420  
Yeah.

850  
00:34:49,420 --> 00:34:51,699  
And did you retain your German?

851  
00:34:51,699 --> 00:34:53,590  
Or did you lose  
it at some point?

852  
00:34:53,590 --> 00:34:55,659  
No, I can still speak German.

853

00:34:55,659 --> 00:34:57,670

OK.

854

00:34:57,670 --> 00:34:59,180

I guess not as  
well as I used to,

855

00:34:59,180 --> 00:35:00,850

but I can still speak German.

856

00:35:00,850 --> 00:35:02,740

After your grandmother  
passed away

857

00:35:02,740 --> 00:35:06,920

what was the language that  
you spoke with your parents?

858

00:35:06,920 --> 00:35:07,460

English.

859

00:35:07,460 --> 00:35:07,960

English?

860

00:35:07,960 --> 00:35:08,460

Yeah.

861

00:35:08,460 --> 00:35:12,670

And they amongst themselves,  
that older generation?

862

00:35:12,670 --> 00:35:13,700

English and German.

863

00:35:13,700 --> 00:35:14,200

Both?

864

00:35:14,200 --> 00:35:14,770

Yeah.

865

00:35:14,770 --> 00:35:19,630

But the more time they  
spent in South Africa,

866  
00:35:19,630 --> 00:35:22,100  
the more they started  
speaking English.

867  
00:35:22,100 --> 00:35:22,860  
OK.

868  
00:35:22,860 --> 00:35:23,560  
OK.

869  
00:35:23,560 --> 00:35:25,810  
Did your aunt ever go back?

870  
00:35:25,810 --> 00:35:27,140  
Not to my knowledge.

871  
00:35:27,140 --> 00:35:27,820  
All right.

872  
00:35:27,820 --> 00:35:29,300  
So your mother was the only one.

873  
00:35:29,300 --> 00:35:29,800  
Yeah.

874  
00:35:29,800 --> 00:35:36,510

875  
00:35:36,510 --> 00:35:41,440  
What are some of the  
questions for you that remain

876  
00:35:41,440 --> 00:35:47,690  
unanswered about your family's  
story, your family's history,

877  
00:35:47,690 --> 00:35:49,870  
your family's experiences?



878

00:35:49,870 --> 00:35:51,910

The thing that I find--

879

00:35:51,910 --> 00:35:56,260

the only unanswered  
thing is, you

880

00:35:56,260 --> 00:35:58,480

had the family living  
in this village

881

00:35:58,480 --> 00:36:01,528

as the only Jewish family  
with a great relationship

882

00:36:01,528 --> 00:36:02,320

with the neighbors.

883

00:36:02,320 --> 00:36:08,100

884

00:36:08,100 --> 00:36:12,900

And yet, when the Holocaust  
happened, when Hitler started,

885

00:36:12,900 --> 00:36:19,200

none of them did anything  
to protect the family

886

00:36:19,200 --> 00:36:21,690

to the extent of somebody  
moving into their house

887

00:36:21,690 --> 00:36:25,140

when they were sent away,  
moving into the house

888

00:36:25,140 --> 00:36:29,230

without doing anything about it.

889

00:36:29,230 --> 00:36:32,300

So that is the unanswerable

question for you.

890  
00:36:32,300 --> 00:36:32,800  
Yeah.

891  
00:36:32,800 --> 00:36:35,665

892  
00:36:35,665 --> 00:36:38,040  
What type of relationship do  
you have with your neighbors

893  
00:36:38,040 --> 00:36:38,998  
if that's what happens?

894  
00:36:38,998 --> 00:36:41,868

895  
00:36:41,868 --> 00:36:42,910  
And that's what happened.

896  
00:36:42,910 --> 00:36:45,650

897  
00:36:45,650 --> 00:36:50,480  
In your own life, have you  
had relations with Germans?

898  
00:36:50,480 --> 00:36:52,360  
Yes.

899  
00:36:52,360 --> 00:36:58,990  
We had-- the company that  
manufactured piano hinges

900  
00:36:58,990 --> 00:37:00,190  
was a German company.

901  
00:37:00,190 --> 00:37:03,040  
And we were their  
largest customer.

902

00:37:03,040 --> 00:37:06,760

And every time at the trade  
show, we would go and see them.

903

00:37:06,760 --> 00:37:11,190

And we had a great  
relationship with them.

904

00:37:11,190 --> 00:37:12,960

We'd be invited.

905

00:37:12,960 --> 00:37:16,740

After the show we'd do a little  
cruise on the Rhine River,

906

00:37:16,740 --> 00:37:19,860

and we had a good relationship.

907

00:37:19,860 --> 00:37:21,010

And everything's normal.

908

00:37:21,010 --> 00:37:21,510

Normal.

909

00:37:21,510 --> 00:37:22,620

Very normal.

910

00:37:22,620 --> 00:37:25,310

Spoke German, too.

911

00:37:25,310 --> 00:37:28,520

Do these questions, do  
these topics ever come up?

912

00:37:28,520 --> 00:37:31,280

No.

913

00:37:31,280 --> 00:37:38,720

No, to speak to Germans, whether  
it's today or 10 years ago

914

00:37:38,720 --> 00:37:41,990  
or whenever it is,  
about the Holocaust,

915  
00:37:41,990 --> 00:37:45,950  
it's like sticking  
something in their face.

916  
00:37:45,950 --> 00:37:50,420

917  
00:37:50,420 --> 00:37:54,780  
And not only that, but  
people you're talking to,

918  
00:37:54,780 --> 00:38:00,850  
very, very few of them were  
involved in the Holocaust.

919  
00:38:00,850 --> 00:38:03,880  
I mean, most of the people that  
were involved in the Holocaust

920  
00:38:03,880 --> 00:38:06,100  
have passed away.

921  
00:38:06,100 --> 00:38:07,720  
And yet something remains.

922  
00:38:07,720 --> 00:38:09,130  
Yes, very much so.

923  
00:38:09,130 --> 00:38:11,590  
But I'm just saying that it's--

924  
00:38:11,590 --> 00:38:20,960  
yeah you say that the documents  
that you found for Bertholt--

925  
00:38:20,960 --> 00:38:21,560  
Yes.

926

00:38:21,560 --> 00:38:23,000  
--were at Bad Arolsen.

927  
00:38:23,000 --> 00:38:24,740  
Yes.

928  
00:38:24,740 --> 00:38:32,210  
Did you first approach  
Bad Arolsen directly?

929  
00:38:32,210 --> 00:38:33,950  
That's a story on its own.

930  
00:38:33,950 --> 00:38:34,910  
Tell us.

931  
00:38:34,910 --> 00:38:36,330  
Tell us what that story--

932  
00:38:36,330 --> 00:38:41,480  
how were you-- what was your  
journey, or your odyssey,

933  
00:38:41,480 --> 00:38:43,730  
or however one  
would describe it,

934  
00:38:43,730 --> 00:38:47,860  
of trying to find documents  
about your family?

935  
00:38:47,860 --> 00:38:50,176  
OK, I had written a letter.

936  
00:38:50,176 --> 00:38:53,490  
It became known that  
there were documents,

937  
00:38:53,490 --> 00:38:56,100  
and that there was an  
international tracing service.

938

00:38:56,100 --> 00:38:59,220  
I had written a letter  
to them, asking them

939  
00:38:59,220 --> 00:39:01,200  
if they were documents  
for my family.

940  
00:39:01,200 --> 00:39:02,250  
This was about what year?

941  
00:39:02,250 --> 00:39:07,260

942  
00:39:07,260 --> 00:39:09,140  
I don't remember the year, but--

943  
00:39:09,140 --> 00:39:10,230  
Well, approximate.

944  
00:39:10,230 --> 00:39:11,355  
10 years ago, 20 years ago.

945  
00:39:11,355 --> 00:39:11,960  
Oh, more.

946  
00:39:11,960 --> 00:39:13,130  
Maybe 30.

947  
00:39:13,130 --> 00:39:14,180  
Maybe 30 years.

948  
00:39:14,180 --> 00:39:15,000  
30 years ago.

949  
00:39:15,000 --> 00:39:15,500  
Yeah.

950  
00:39:15,500 --> 00:39:17,220  
So it would have  
been like late '80s.

951  
00:39:17,220 --> 00:39:18,220  
Something like that.

952  
00:39:18,220 --> 00:39:18,720  
OK.

953  
00:39:18,720 --> 00:39:21,590

954  
00:39:21,590 --> 00:39:25,280  
Unfortunately, we've  
moved into this house,

955  
00:39:25,280 --> 00:39:28,580  
and a lot of my  
documents are in storage.

956  
00:39:28,580 --> 00:39:29,760  
Otherwise I'd--

957  
00:39:29,760 --> 00:39:31,010  
You'd have them right at hand.

958  
00:39:31,010 --> 00:39:32,450  
I'd have them all at hand.

959  
00:39:32,450 --> 00:39:34,760  
I've got a lot of  
documents about this,

960  
00:39:34,760 --> 00:39:38,740  
and copies of documents  
from Bad Arolsen

961  
00:39:38,740 --> 00:39:42,520  
and from the International  
Tracing Service and Yad Vashem,

962  
00:39:42,520 --> 00:39:44,840  
but I don't have them here.

963

00:39:44,840 --> 00:39:45,520  
That's OK.

964  
00:39:45,520 --> 00:39:46,170  
That's OK.

965  
00:39:46,170 --> 00:39:49,030

966  
00:39:49,030 --> 00:39:53,700  
We go to Washington  
normally once

967  
00:39:53,700 --> 00:39:57,160  
a month to meet with AIPAC.

968  
00:39:57,160 --> 00:39:59,260  
AIPAC being American--

969  
00:39:59,260 --> 00:40:01,290  
Israel Public Affairs Committee.

970  
00:40:01,290 --> 00:40:02,680  
My wife's on the National Board.

971  
00:40:02,680 --> 00:40:06,225  
I'm on the Foundation Board.

972  
00:40:06,225 --> 00:40:10,750  
And I ended up going, once  
we were in Washington,

973  
00:40:10,750 --> 00:40:12,370  
to the Holocaust Museum.

974  
00:40:12,370 --> 00:40:14,530  
When it was opened in '93.

975  
00:40:14,530 --> 00:40:15,200  
Yes.

976



00:40:15,200 --> 00:40:17,380  
OK.

977  
00:40:17,380 --> 00:40:24,870  
And met with a lady that was  
the chair and the head of,

978  
00:40:24,870 --> 00:40:26,570  
I think his name was Shapiro.

979  
00:40:26,570 --> 00:40:27,673  
Paul Shapiro.

980  
00:40:27,673 --> 00:40:28,560  
Paul Shapiro.

981  
00:40:28,560 --> 00:40:30,780  
Well, the head of the  
museum is Sarah Bloomfield.

982  
00:40:30,780 --> 00:40:32,580  
Sarah Bloomfield.

983  
00:40:32,580 --> 00:40:36,650  
But I met with them,  
and Paul told me

984  
00:40:36,650 --> 00:40:41,810  
that International Tracing  
Service has got documents,

985  
00:40:41,810 --> 00:40:45,860  
and they're trying to,  
but they're 11 countries,

986  
00:40:45,860 --> 00:40:50,750  
and have to have a unanimous  
decision, et cetera.

987  
00:40:50,750 --> 00:40:52,940  
And he's trying to do  
something about it.

988

00:40:52,940 --> 00:40:55,700

I said OK, I'll give  
you three months.

989

00:40:55,700 --> 00:40:58,650

990

00:40:58,650 --> 00:41:02,900

Get something done three  
months, I'll try my way.

991

00:41:02,900 --> 00:41:05,720

Three months later, he  
still hadn't got it done.

992

00:41:05,720 --> 00:41:07,280

I said fine.

993

00:41:07,280 --> 00:41:09,560

I'm going to see--

994

00:41:09,560 --> 00:41:13,270

oh, it's just slipped  
out of my head.

995

00:41:13,270 --> 00:41:17,380

Clay Shaw, Congressman  
of Florida.

996

00:41:17,380 --> 00:41:19,630

For this area, for Delray?

997

00:41:19,630 --> 00:41:20,950

I don't remember what area.

998

00:41:20,950 --> 00:41:21,850

I think it was, yeah.

999

00:41:21,850 --> 00:41:26,020

But we knew him as a  
United States Congressman.

1000

00:41:26,020 --> 00:41:27,860

We had a good  
relationship with him.

1001

00:41:27,860 --> 00:41:30,310

I went to him,  
told him the story,

1002

00:41:30,310 --> 00:41:33,580

that there are  
documents in Germany,

1003

00:41:33,580 --> 00:41:36,790

in Bad Arolsen, the  
International Tracing Service,

1004

00:41:36,790 --> 00:41:40,150

and they're not giving us  
copies of the documents.

1005

00:41:40,150 --> 00:41:43,330

Had you on your own  
already received any answer

1006

00:41:43,330 --> 00:41:45,220

from International  
Tracing Service?

1007

00:41:45,220 --> 00:41:46,810

Yes, that they would  
contact me later.

1008

00:41:46,810 --> 00:41:47,500

Well--

1009

00:41:47,500 --> 00:41:48,610

That was in the late '80s.

1010

00:41:48,610 --> 00:41:51,255

Yes, [INAUDIBLE].

1011

00:41:51,255 --> 00:41:51,880

"Don't call us.

1012  
00:41:51,880 --> 00:41:52,547  
We'll call you."

1013  
00:41:52,547 --> 00:41:54,400  
That type of an answer.

1014  
00:41:54,400 --> 00:41:55,810  
OK.

1015  
00:41:55,810 --> 00:41:59,440  
So he called in his  
assistant, dictated a two page

1016  
00:41:59,440 --> 00:42:03,870  
letter, which I have a  
copy of, to Condi Rice.

1017  
00:42:03,870 --> 00:42:05,640  
Condoleezza Rice.

1018  
00:42:05,640 --> 00:42:08,970  
And her position  
at the time was?

1019  
00:42:08,970 --> 00:42:10,590  
I think she was  
Secretary of State.

1020  
00:42:10,590 --> 00:42:12,048  
I think she was  
Secretary of State.

1021  
00:42:12,048 --> 00:42:14,160  
Under the George  
Bush administration.

1022  
00:42:14,160 --> 00:42:16,950  
And she wrote to Merkel.

1023  
00:42:16,950 --> 00:42:19,920

Angela Merkel, who was Kanzler.

1024  
00:42:19,920 --> 00:42:20,490  
Chancellor.

1025  
00:42:20,490 --> 00:42:21,330  
Chancellor.

1026  
00:42:21,330 --> 00:42:27,300  
And the two of them got the  
International Tracing Service

1027  
00:42:27,300 --> 00:42:29,790  
at the next meeting,  
because now you

1028  
00:42:29,790 --> 00:42:32,820  
had two countries  
of the 11 countries

1029  
00:42:32,820 --> 00:42:38,660  
to agree that they would  
provide a digital copy of all

1030  
00:42:38,660 --> 00:42:42,600  
of their records to each  
one of the 11 countries.

1031  
00:42:42,600 --> 00:42:45,530  
And that's the first  
time it's raised.

1032  
00:42:45,530 --> 00:42:50,510  
And then we had to get each  
one of those 11 countries

1033  
00:42:50,510 --> 00:42:59,520  
to agree to what their person  
of the committee had agreed to.

1034  
00:42:59,520 --> 00:43:01,410  
So that each country would--

1035

00:43:01,410 --> 00:43:04,950

and we were able to get  
all 11 countries to.

1036

00:43:04,950 --> 00:43:07,380

Were you part of the  
process for each country?

1037

00:43:07,380 --> 00:43:09,245

Not each country but  
the last two countries.

1038

00:43:09,245 --> 00:43:10,620

What were the last  
two countries?

1039

00:43:10,620 --> 00:43:12,750

Italy and France.

1040

00:43:12,750 --> 00:43:17,130

And walk me through  
what was that process.

1041

00:43:17,130 --> 00:43:18,780

It was just explaining to them.

1042

00:43:18,780 --> 00:43:21,240

There are documents  
there that need to be

1043

00:43:21,240 --> 00:43:23,820

made available to the world.

1044

00:43:23,820 --> 00:43:28,050

And your country  
should get a copy

1045

00:43:28,050 --> 00:43:30,090

of these digital documents.

1046

00:43:30,090 --> 00:43:33,510

They claim that they've

got 40 million documents.

1047  
00:43:33,510 --> 00:43:35,460  
It's a lot of documents.

1048  
00:43:35,460 --> 00:43:38,230  
Was there resistance from  
any of these governments?

1049  
00:43:38,230 --> 00:43:42,780  
Just another thing that you've  
got to ask, and beg, and--

1050  
00:43:42,780 --> 00:43:44,160  
It was inertia.

1051  
00:43:44,160 --> 00:43:46,100  
Yes, that's what it is.

1052  
00:43:46,100 --> 00:43:46,600  
OK.

1053  
00:43:46,600 --> 00:43:48,390  
But the fact is  
that the 40 million

1054  
00:43:48,390 --> 00:43:50,400  
documents that they  
claimed they had,

1055  
00:43:50,400 --> 00:43:54,780  
it transpired that there's  
120 million documents.

1056  
00:43:54,780 --> 00:44:00,450  
Before Condoleezza Rice  
contacts Angela Merkel,

1057  
00:44:00,450 --> 00:44:01,870  
had they already been digitized?

1058  
00:44:01,870 --> 00:44:02,370

No.

1059  
00:44:02,370 --> 00:44:03,480  
Were they in the process?

1060  
00:44:03,480 --> 00:44:03,980  
No.

1061  
00:44:03,980 --> 00:44:05,340  
So it was all in hard copy.

1062  
00:44:05,340 --> 00:44:09,210  
Not only was it in hard  
copy, but they had files.

1063  
00:44:09,210 --> 00:44:13,280  
Like when we went there--

1064  
00:44:13,280 --> 00:44:16,100  
I still can't  
remember the guy that

1065  
00:44:16,100 --> 00:44:19,640  
wrote the article for the  
US News & World Report,

1066  
00:44:19,640 --> 00:44:28,150  
but when we went  
to the Holocaust--

1067  
00:44:28,150 --> 00:44:31,090  
to the International  
Trace at Bad Arolsen,

1068  
00:44:31,090 --> 00:44:35,790  
they gave me files of my family.

1069  
00:44:35,790 --> 00:44:39,240  
So they gave me  
David Meyer's file.

1070  
00:44:39,240 --> 00:44:41,990



But in David Meyer's file  
were not only documents,

1071  
00:44:41,990 --> 00:44:44,420  
original documents  
of David Meyer,

1072  
00:44:44,420 --> 00:44:46,460  
there was also documents  
of another David

1073  
00:44:46,460 --> 00:44:50,900  
Meyer with a different birth  
date misfiled in his file.

1074  
00:44:50,900 --> 00:44:55,330  
That's how good they  
were at filing documents.

1075  
00:44:55,330 --> 00:44:58,795  
What kind of documents did  
you find for David Meyer?

1076  
00:44:58,795 --> 00:45:02,440  
I found a number of documents.

1077  
00:45:02,440 --> 00:45:05,350  
I've got a copy of them all,  
but at the Holocaust Museum

1078  
00:45:05,350 --> 00:45:07,315  
they've also got copies  
of those documents.

1079  
00:45:07,315 --> 00:45:07,940  
I realize that.

1080  
00:45:07,940 --> 00:45:10,810  
But you see, I'm asking you as--

1081  
00:45:10,810 --> 00:45:14,470  
I mean, you're involved in the  
process and as an end user.

1082  
00:45:14,470 --> 00:45:17,000  
These are Gestapo documents.

1083  
00:45:17,000 --> 00:45:18,800  
Oh, jeez.

1084  
00:45:18,800 --> 00:45:22,690  
These are all Gestapo documents.

1085  
00:45:22,690 --> 00:45:24,200  
And one of the  
things, by the way,

1086  
00:45:24,200 --> 00:45:31,470  
that meeting that we  
had at Bad Arolsen,

1087  
00:45:31,470 --> 00:45:36,880  
they showed us a book  
where the Germans had made

1088  
00:45:36,880 --> 00:45:41,490  
notes of every Jew that died.

1089  
00:45:41,490 --> 00:45:44,040  
And in this book,  
part of the pages,

1090  
00:45:44,040 --> 00:45:49,060  
they showed us where  
there were 200 Jews who

1091  
00:45:49,060 --> 00:45:50,620  
were killed every 2 minutes.

1092  
00:45:50,620 --> 00:45:53,530  
One was killed  
every two minutes.

1093  
00:45:53,530 --> 00:45:58,030  
And across these 200 names

was written "in celebration

1094  
00:45:58,030 --> 00:45:59,570  
of Hitler's birthday."

1095  
00:45:59,570 --> 00:46:03,312

1096  
00:46:03,312 --> 00:46:05,020  
This is what you saw  
when you went there.

1097  
00:46:05,020 --> 00:46:06,500  
When we went to Bad Arolsen.

1098  
00:46:06,500 --> 00:46:10,690

1099  
00:46:10,690 --> 00:46:15,980  
Did the people who were the  
custodians of the documents

1100  
00:46:15,980 --> 00:46:20,570  
at Bad Arolsen, did they  
realize the powerful material

1101  
00:46:20,570 --> 00:46:23,400  
that they had?

1102  
00:46:23,400 --> 00:46:27,430  
They believed at the  
time that we were there--

1103  
00:46:27,430 --> 00:46:30,230  
that's before it was all  
opened up and all agreed to--

1104  
00:46:30,230 --> 00:46:33,870  
And give me a year again, if  
you can, or approximate year.

1105  
00:46:33,870 --> 00:46:36,980

1106  
00:46:36,980 --> 00:46:38,490  
I really don't remember.

1107  
00:46:38,490 --> 00:46:39,440  
13 years ago?

1108  
00:46:39,440 --> 00:46:40,640  
Oh, more than that.

1109  
00:46:40,640 --> 00:46:41,770  
20 years ago.

1110  
00:46:41,770 --> 00:46:43,740  
It must be 20 years ago, easy.

1111  
00:46:43,740 --> 00:46:45,657  
George Bush was elected in 2000.

1112  
00:46:45,657 --> 00:46:46,740  
Yeah, something like that.

1113  
00:46:46,740 --> 00:46:51,200  
So we're talking 18 years ago  
that Condoleezza Rice becomes

1114  
00:46:51,200 --> 00:46:52,210  
secretary of state.

1115  
00:46:52,210 --> 00:46:53,100  
Right.

1116  
00:46:53,100 --> 00:46:54,770  
And if this happens  
afterwards, then it

1117  
00:46:54,770 --> 00:46:56,690  
must be already in the 2000s.

1118  
00:46:56,690 --> 00:46:57,930

Could be, yeah.

1119  
00:46:57,930 --> 00:46:58,790  
OK.

1120  
00:46:58,790 --> 00:47:01,370  
But sometime there.

1121  
00:47:01,370 --> 00:47:05,300  
And the question remains, OK,  
before it all becomes open,

1122  
00:47:05,300 --> 00:47:07,385  
I was asking did they realize?

1123  
00:47:07,385 --> 00:47:10,950  
They believed that  
their mission was

1124  
00:47:10,950 --> 00:47:15,990  
the preservation of the paper,  
not what was on the paper.

1125  
00:47:15,990 --> 00:47:19,225

1126  
00:47:19,225 --> 00:47:19,725  
OK.

1127  
00:47:19,725 --> 00:47:22,920  
And that's the attitude  
that they had when

1128  
00:47:22,920 --> 00:47:26,880  
we asked them any questions.

1129  
00:47:26,880 --> 00:47:31,710  
Why don't you want these  
documents digitized?

1130  
00:47:31,710 --> 00:47:34,530  
No, our mission is to

keep them, to make sure

1131  
00:47:34,530 --> 00:47:37,560  
that the papers survive.

1132  
00:47:37,560 --> 00:47:39,660  
But what about the  
fact that you've

1133  
00:47:39,660 --> 00:47:42,870  
got a David Meyer  
with a different birth

1134  
00:47:42,870 --> 00:47:46,700  
date filed in my uncle's file?

1135  
00:47:46,700 --> 00:47:48,110  
And you got no answer for that.

1136  
00:47:48,110 --> 00:47:51,530  
They had no answers to that.

1137  
00:47:51,530 --> 00:47:53,870  
I mean, they had files,  
and files, and files.

1138  
00:47:53,870 --> 00:47:57,200  
They knew they had  
millions of documents,

1139  
00:47:57,200 --> 00:47:58,760  
and they were  
trying to file them,

1140  
00:47:58,760 --> 00:48:00,740  
and they were  
trying to sort them

1141  
00:48:00,740 --> 00:48:04,340  
into some kind of categories  
that they were trying to do.

1142

00:48:04,340 --> 00:48:06,530

It's not that they were  
not trying to do anything.

1143

00:48:06,530 --> 00:48:09,742

But the real history of  
that was that in 19--

1144

00:48:09,742 --> 00:48:11,450

I don't know if I  
mentioned this to you--

1145

00:48:11,450 --> 00:48:18,700

1950, the 11 countries had  
documents of the Holocaust.

1146

00:48:18,700 --> 00:48:21,010

And they said they  
wanted to have a meeting

1147

00:48:21,010 --> 00:48:24,350

to see how they preserve  
these documents.

1148

00:48:24,350 --> 00:48:27,200

Came up with the idea  
that the Red Cross

1149

00:48:27,200 --> 00:48:32,540

would be the best place to  
have these documents preserved.

1150

00:48:32,540 --> 00:48:34,400

Red Cross said  
fine, we'll do it.

1151

00:48:34,400 --> 00:48:39,710

But German government  
has to pay the budget,

1152

00:48:39,710 --> 00:48:41,697

and we'll do it as a subsidiary.

1153

00:48:41,697 --> 00:48:42,780  
It won't be the Red Cross.

1154  
00:48:42,780 --> 00:48:46,400  
It will be called the  
International Tracing Service.

1155  
00:48:46,400 --> 00:48:49,340  
And then the German government  
said yes, well, Bad Arolsen,

1156  
00:48:49,340 --> 00:48:51,470  
there used to be  
a Nazi camp there.

1157  
00:48:51,470 --> 00:48:54,500  
It's empty it's got some  
empty buildings there.

1158  
00:48:54,500 --> 00:48:55,820  
That's where we can do it.

1159  
00:48:55,820 --> 00:48:58,430  
That's where we'll create the  
International Tracing Service.

1160  
00:48:58,430 --> 00:49:00,860  
Nazi camp, labor camp?

1161  
00:49:00,860 --> 00:49:01,490  
No, it was a--

1162  
00:49:01,490 --> 00:49:02,360  
I don't know.

1163  
00:49:02,360 --> 00:49:03,040  
Barracks?

1164  
00:49:03,040 --> 00:49:03,540  
Barracks.

1165  
00:49:03,540 --> 00:49:05,360



It was a building.

1166

00:49:05,360 --> 00:49:07,580

And that's what Bad Arolsen was.

1167

00:49:07,580 --> 00:49:10,250

And that's how Bad Arolsen  
became the International

1168

00:49:10,250 --> 00:49:12,470

Tracing Service residence.

1169

00:49:12,470 --> 00:49:17,330

You know, the place for the  
International Tracing Service.

1170

00:49:17,330 --> 00:49:21,250

So the discussion  
started in 1950, you say.

1171

00:49:21,250 --> 00:49:22,220

Yeah, I think so.

1172

00:49:22,220 --> 00:49:26,870

And that was then the solution,  
is that it organizationally,

1173

00:49:26,870 --> 00:49:30,510

administratively, is a  
subsidiary of the Red Cross.

1174

00:49:30,510 --> 00:49:31,160

Red Cross.

1175

00:49:31,160 --> 00:49:33,455

As International  
Tracing Service.

1176

00:49:33,455 --> 00:49:36,560

Now, was its status an  
international organization

1177

00:49:36,560 --> 00:49:38,270  
or German organization?

1178  
00:49:38,270 --> 00:49:39,710  
International organization.

1179  
00:49:39,710 --> 00:49:40,210  
OK.

1180  
00:49:40,210 --> 00:49:43,640  
It was the 11 countries, and  
they had a meeting once a year.

1181  
00:49:43,640 --> 00:49:46,520  
But nothing could get done  
unless all 11 countries agreed

1182  
00:49:46,520 --> 00:49:47,120  
to it.

1183  
00:49:47,120 --> 00:49:48,480  
That's almost impossible.

1184  
00:49:48,480 --> 00:49:48,980  
Yeah.

1185  
00:49:48,980 --> 00:49:49,490  
Usually.

1186  
00:49:49,490 --> 00:49:51,020  
And that's what happened.

1187  
00:49:51,020 --> 00:49:52,590  
What are the 11 countries?

1188  
00:49:52,590 --> 00:49:54,440  
I don't remember.

1189  
00:49:54,440 --> 00:49:56,960  
I just wanted to know if we  
could have them for the tape.

1190  
00:49:56,960 --> 00:49:58,400  
We have the US.

1191  
00:49:58,400 --> 00:49:59,210  
We have Germany.

1192  
00:49:59,210 --> 00:50:00,620  
We have France.

1193  
00:50:00,620 --> 00:50:02,540  
The guy you mentioned.

1194  
00:50:02,540 --> 00:50:03,400  
Paul Shapiro.

1195  
00:50:03,400 --> 00:50:05,037  
He'd probably know.

1196  
00:50:05,037 --> 00:50:06,620  
Yeah, he'd be able  
to rattle them off.

1197  
00:50:06,620 --> 00:50:07,414  
Yeah.

1198  
00:50:07,414 --> 00:50:10,380  
He'd be able to rattle them off.

1199  
00:50:10,380 --> 00:50:14,060  
Was there resistance  
for other kinds

1200  
00:50:14,060 --> 00:50:19,910  
of reasons or emotional  
reasons to change the way

1201  
00:50:19,910 --> 00:50:22,790  
that things were  
operating at Bad Arolsen,

1202  
00:50:22,790 --> 00:50:26,660

to make sure those  
archives were open?

1203  
00:50:26,660 --> 00:50:30,090  
I would put it this way.

1204  
00:50:30,090 --> 00:50:32,940  
The person that was  
in charge thought

1205  
00:50:32,940 --> 00:50:35,540  
he was doing a good job.

1206  
00:50:35,540 --> 00:50:38,390  
And he didn't have  
the personality

1207  
00:50:38,390 --> 00:50:42,140  
to have somebody tell him  
what to do, or to tell him

1208  
00:50:42,140 --> 00:50:46,740  
that what he is doing he  
could be doing better.

1209  
00:50:46,740 --> 00:50:49,830  
That was the sort  
of reaction that one

1210  
00:50:49,830 --> 00:50:58,610  
got from trying to get  
them to give us a copy.

1211  
00:50:58,610 --> 00:51:00,830  
Physically, when we're  
talking about millions

1212  
00:51:00,830 --> 00:51:05,530  
of documents, 120,  
you say in the end,

1213  
00:51:05,530 --> 00:51:09,090  
that's not something that

can be done fairly quickly.

1214  
00:51:09,090 --> 00:51:10,320  
Why not?

1215  
00:51:10,320 --> 00:51:15,200  
Well, when you have  
only paper copies--

1216  
00:51:15,200 --> 00:51:15,740  
Yes.

1217  
00:51:15,740 --> 00:51:19,770  
--to physically digitize them,  
how much personnel do you need?

1218  
00:51:19,770 --> 00:51:21,010  
How much funding do you need?

1219  
00:51:21,010 --> 00:51:22,010  
You just need equipment.

1220  
00:51:22,010 --> 00:51:24,370  
You need scanning equipment.

1221  
00:51:24,370 --> 00:51:26,520  
All you need is a scanner.

1222  
00:51:26,520 --> 00:51:27,170  
Or two.

1223  
00:51:27,170 --> 00:51:28,850  
Or two, or three, or 200.

1224  
00:51:28,850 --> 00:51:29,350  
Yeah.

1225  
00:51:29,350 --> 00:51:30,360  
Yes.

1226  
00:51:30,360 --> 00:51:32,730

But all you need  
are some scanners.

1227  
00:51:32,730 --> 00:51:37,720  
So how long did it take  
to get that collection--

1228  
00:51:37,720 --> 00:51:38,730  
A few years.

1229  
00:51:38,730 --> 00:51:40,320  
A few years.

1230  
00:51:40,320 --> 00:51:41,160  
OK.

1231  
00:51:41,160 --> 00:51:42,810  
But at least it got in motion.

1232  
00:51:42,810 --> 00:51:46,020  
And it became something  
that they had all agreed to,

1233  
00:51:46,020 --> 00:51:47,790  
and that's what was  
going to happen.

1234  
00:51:47,790 --> 00:51:49,667  
And it did happen.

1235  
00:51:49,667 --> 00:51:51,250  
Would you say it was  
about five years?

1236  
00:51:51,250 --> 00:51:52,210  
Oh, easy.

1237  
00:51:52,210 --> 00:51:52,810  
Easy?

1238  
00:51:52,810 --> 00:51:53,380  
Yeah.

1239  
00:51:53,380 --> 00:51:56,050  
Between the first  
meeting and when there's

1240  
00:51:56,050 --> 00:51:58,660  
an actual digitized copy.

1241  
00:51:58,660 --> 00:52:03,580  
Well, I think it was more that  
an actual digitized copy was

1242  
00:52:03,580 --> 00:52:05,920  
even after the first year.

1243  
00:52:05,920 --> 00:52:07,870  
And then after the second  
year were some more.

1244  
00:52:07,870 --> 00:52:09,250  
And after the third  
year were some more.

1245  
00:52:09,250 --> 00:52:11,320  
It's not that they waited  
until they were all

1246  
00:52:11,320 --> 00:52:13,960  
done before they gave.

1247  
00:52:13,960 --> 00:52:15,040  
It was incremental.

1248  
00:52:15,040 --> 00:52:16,774  
Yeah.

1249  
00:52:16,774 --> 00:52:18,690  
OK.

1250  
00:52:18,690 --> 00:52:21,630  
And was this funded by  
the German government?

1251  
00:52:21,630 --> 00:52:24,200  
Yes.

1252  
00:52:24,200 --> 00:52:24,700  
Yeah.

1253  
00:52:24,700 --> 00:52:30,220  
And they were the easy  
part of the equation.

1254  
00:52:30,220 --> 00:52:32,500  
And the difficult part was?

1255  
00:52:32,500 --> 00:52:34,340  
The Red Cross.

1256  
00:52:34,340 --> 00:52:34,840  
Really?

1257  
00:52:34,840 --> 00:52:37,540  
It was the International  
Tracing Service itself.

1258  
00:52:37,540 --> 00:52:38,770  
OK.

1259  
00:52:38,770 --> 00:52:43,210  
But Red Cross as oversight,  
was their involvement

1260  
00:52:43,210 --> 00:52:44,320  
on their part, too?

1261  
00:52:44,320 --> 00:52:46,410  
Very little.

1262  
00:52:46,410 --> 00:52:49,140  
So International Tracing  
Service more or less

1263



00:52:49,140 --> 00:52:50,640  
acted independently.

1264  
00:52:50,640 --> 00:52:52,470  
Correct.

1265  
00:52:52,470 --> 00:52:52,970  
OK.

1266  
00:52:52,970 --> 00:52:54,512  
And so in other  
words, they were also

1267  
00:52:54,512 --> 00:52:56,720  
not accountable to anybody.

1268  
00:52:56,720 --> 00:52:59,450  
That's exactly the type  
of attitude that they had,

1269  
00:52:59,450 --> 00:53:01,430  
was that they were not  
accountable to anybody,

1270  
00:53:01,430 --> 00:53:04,740  
that they were an  
independent organization.

1271  
00:53:04,740 --> 00:53:07,740  
The fact that they'd been  
set up by the Red Cross

1272  
00:53:07,740 --> 00:53:10,290  
was like Red Cross is Red Cross.

1273  
00:53:10,290 --> 00:53:15,520

1274  
00:53:15,520 --> 00:53:17,520  
Can we cut for a second?

1275  
00:53:17,520 --> 00:53:18,940

Right.

1276  
00:53:18,940 --> 00:53:20,090  
Speed.

1277  
00:53:20,090 --> 00:53:20,590  
So--

1278  
00:53:20,590 --> 00:53:21,700  
OK.

1279  
00:53:21,700 --> 00:53:28,040  
The documents existed  
in 11 countries.

1280  
00:53:28,040 --> 00:53:32,090  
11 countries knew that they  
had documents of the Holocaust

1281  
00:53:32,090 --> 00:53:34,280  
for whatever reason.

1282  
00:53:34,280 --> 00:53:41,380  
And when they got  
together at a meeting

1283  
00:53:41,380 --> 00:53:44,420  
the question was,  
how do we do this?

1284  
00:53:44,420 --> 00:53:45,710  
We've got this.

1285  
00:53:45,710 --> 00:53:46,450  
You've got that.

1286  
00:53:46,450 --> 00:53:47,170  
You've got that.

1287  
00:53:47,170 --> 00:53:49,450  
How do we organize?

1288

00:53:49,450 --> 00:53:52,650

And that's when they came  
up with the idea of asking

1289

00:53:52,650 --> 00:53:55,140

the International  
Red Cross, which

1290

00:53:55,140 --> 00:53:57,930

was an international  
organization, in all

1291

00:53:57,930 --> 00:54:03,560

of these countries,  
to become the--

1292

00:54:03,560 --> 00:54:04,250

Repository.

1293

00:54:04,250 --> 00:54:07,130

Depository is a good word.

1294

00:54:07,130 --> 00:54:07,985

OK.

1295

00:54:07,985 --> 00:54:12,710

And they then, in my opinion,  
typical Red Cross fashion,

1296

00:54:12,710 --> 00:54:16,950

said, well, we'll  
make it happen.

1297

00:54:16,950 --> 00:54:19,460

But it's not our budget.

1298

00:54:19,460 --> 00:54:20,930

We're not going to do it.

1299

00:54:20,930 --> 00:54:23,810

It's got to be a  
separate organization.

1300  
00:54:23,810 --> 00:54:26,270  
And that's what they created.

1301  
00:54:26,270 --> 00:54:29,450  
But by doing that, it was like--

1302  
00:54:29,450 --> 00:54:30,440  
Washing their hands.

1303  
00:54:30,440 --> 00:54:32,420  
They washed their hands of it.

1304  
00:54:32,420 --> 00:54:37,220  
And the International  
Tracing Service's job

1305  
00:54:37,220 --> 00:54:42,030  
then was to collect the  
documents, which they did.

1306  
00:54:42,030 --> 00:54:48,060  
And then to start looking  
into the documents.

1307  
00:54:48,060 --> 00:54:52,530  
But they had numerous  
inquiries once it became known

1308  
00:54:52,530 --> 00:54:54,180  
that there were documents.

1309  
00:54:54,180 --> 00:54:58,350  
Like my letter to them, a  
couple of letters to them,

1310  
00:54:58,350 --> 00:55:01,950  
asking, do you have any  
information about my family?

1311  
00:55:01,950 --> 00:55:04,410  
They had numerous of these.

1312  
00:55:04,410 --> 00:55:09,060  
And they didn't have the  
time, or the personnel,

1313  
00:55:09,060 --> 00:55:14,730  
or anything else to deal  
with it appropriately.

1314  
00:55:14,730 --> 00:55:18,030  
Did they see that as part  
of what their mission was?

1315  
00:55:18,030 --> 00:55:20,430  
Again, I said they  
saw their mission

1316  
00:55:20,430 --> 00:55:23,010  
as being to preserve  
the documents,

1317  
00:55:23,010 --> 00:55:27,580  
not to know what  
is in the documents

1318  
00:55:27,580 --> 00:55:30,970  
and provide that  
information to the people

1319  
00:55:30,970 --> 00:55:35,860  
or family of those people whose  
documents the documents are.

1320  
00:55:35,860 --> 00:55:37,900  
And that's where  
the problem was.

1321  
00:55:37,900 --> 00:55:39,040  
OK.

1322  
00:55:39,040 --> 00:55:44,320  
And not only that, if you  
think about it, employing--

1323

00:55:44,320 --> 00:55:47,770

I don't remember how many people  
International Tracing Service

1324

00:55:47,770 --> 00:55:52,030

was employing, but it was  
a relatively small number

1325

00:55:52,030 --> 00:55:53,530

of people.

1326

00:55:53,530 --> 00:55:58,300

All of these documents,  
from 11 countries,

1327

00:55:58,300 --> 00:56:03,860

and don't forget the Germans  
had a document of everything.

1328

00:56:03,860 --> 00:56:07,610

I mean, I have copies of  
the documents that are

1329

00:56:07,610 --> 00:56:10,790

in these files of my family.

1330

00:56:10,790 --> 00:56:16,100

There's a document of  
just about everything,

1331

00:56:16,100 --> 00:56:19,790

of like Bertholt. That  
Bertholt was put in jail,

1332

00:56:19,790 --> 00:56:24,890

why he was put in jail, that  
Bertholt was let out of jail.

1333

00:56:24,890 --> 00:56:26,150

All of the stuff is there.

1334

00:56:26,150 --> 00:56:29,870

1335

00:56:29,870 --> 00:56:32,870

And the surprising  
thing that I found,

1336

00:56:32,870 --> 00:56:34,400

from my point of  
view surprising,

1337

00:56:34,400 --> 00:56:37,970

was that what Bad  
Arolsen had in regard

1338

00:56:37,970 --> 00:56:43,730

to David, his wife, and  
son being sent to Belzec,

1339

00:56:43,730 --> 00:56:48,570

that was not in Bad Arolsen.

1340

00:56:48,570 --> 00:56:50,550

That was in Yad Vashem.

1341

00:56:50,550 --> 00:56:54,620

1342

00:56:54,620 --> 00:56:55,760

How do you explain that?

1343

00:56:55,760 --> 00:56:58,560

I don't-- I can't explain it.

1344

00:56:58,560 --> 00:56:59,060

OK.

1345

00:56:59,060 --> 00:57:01,310

All I know is that  
something that when

1346

00:57:01,310 --> 00:57:04,520

I was at Yad Vashem, which  
I was a number of times,

1347  
00:57:04,520 --> 00:57:07,850  
as I was a number of times  
at the Holocaust Museum.

1348  
00:57:07,850 --> 00:57:10,520  
They were able to find this  
document, and showed it to me,

1349  
00:57:10,520 --> 00:57:11,720  
and gave me a copy of it.

1350  
00:57:11,720 --> 00:57:18,790

1351  
00:57:18,790 --> 00:57:22,900  
So this was the  
post-war reality--

1352  
00:57:22,900 --> 00:57:25,360  
documents scattered  
all over the place,

1353  
00:57:25,360 --> 00:57:31,510  
amongst these 11 countries,  
an effort to centralize them,

1354  
00:57:31,510 --> 00:57:34,720  
to put them in one place.

1355  
00:57:34,720 --> 00:57:38,720  
And then how should  
it be handled?

1356  
00:57:38,720 --> 00:57:39,220  
Yeah.

1357  
00:57:39,220 --> 00:57:44,130  
And I wonder, in  
the post-war years,



1358

00:57:44,130 --> 00:57:49,860  
Germany also enacted an awful  
lot of laws actually to prevent

1359

00:57:49,860 --> 00:57:52,020  
what happened with the Gestapo.

1360

00:57:52,020 --> 00:57:57,610  
That is, they had these laws to  
protect personal information,

1361

00:57:57,610 --> 00:57:59,790  
so that personal  
information is not

1362

00:57:59,790 --> 00:58:03,450  
released about a private  
individual to someone.

1363

00:58:03,450 --> 00:58:07,770  
I think they call it  
Datenschutzgesetz.

1364

00:58:07,770 --> 00:58:12,630  
Did that play a role in these  
discussions on opening up?

1365

00:58:12,630 --> 00:58:13,630  
I don't think so.

1366

00:58:13,630 --> 00:58:14,910  
I don't know.

1367

00:58:14,910 --> 00:58:15,940  
Nobody mentioned that.

1368

00:58:15,940 --> 00:58:18,700  
At least, I don't remember  
them ever mentioning that.

1369

00:58:18,700 --> 00:58:19,200  
OK.

1370  
00:58:19,200 --> 00:58:22,930  
I don't remember that at all.

1371  
00:58:22,930 --> 00:58:26,710  
And when you were at Bad  
Arolsen for the first time

1372  
00:58:26,710 --> 00:58:30,810  
and you got the file  
for David Meyer,

1373  
00:58:30,810 --> 00:58:32,670  
did you get the files for--

1374  
00:58:32,670 --> 00:58:33,420  
I got all of them.

1375  
00:58:33,420 --> 00:58:34,120  
You got all of them?

1376  
00:58:34,120 --> 00:58:34,740  
All of them.

1377  
00:58:34,740 --> 00:58:35,370  
Yes.

1378  
00:58:35,370 --> 00:58:36,610  
All right.

1379  
00:58:36,610 --> 00:58:44,300  
And then later did you get  
the same files digitally

1380  
00:58:44,300 --> 00:58:46,670  
from the Holocaust  
Museum in Washington?

1381  
00:58:46,670 --> 00:58:49,760  
I didn't get into  
the digital files.

1382  
00:58:49,760 --> 00:58:51,170  
You never got digital files?

1383  
00:58:51,170 --> 00:58:52,700  
No, I got the original.

1384  
00:58:52,700 --> 00:58:56,276  
I got copies of  
the original files.

1385  
00:58:56,276 --> 00:58:59,228  
OK.

1386  
00:58:59,228 --> 00:59:01,196  
Can we cut?

1387  
00:59:01,196 --> 00:59:03,180  
--In 1938.

1388  
00:59:03,180 --> 00:59:04,860  
OK.

1389  
00:59:04,860 --> 00:59:07,890  
The brothers were sent  
to Dachau, but only

1390  
00:59:07,890 --> 00:59:09,570  
for a very short time.

1391  
00:59:09,570 --> 00:59:10,960  
And then they were released.

1392  
00:59:10,960 --> 00:59:12,090  
They went back home.

1393  
00:59:12,090 --> 00:59:15,160  
And it was only in '42.

1394  
00:59:15,160 --> 00:59:16,870  
This is '38 we're talking about.

1395

00:59:16,870 --> 00:59:19,110

'42 that they were  
actually sent away.

1396

00:59:19,110 --> 00:59:22,640

1397

00:59:22,640 --> 00:59:24,875

Why they were sent to  
Dachau we don't know.

1398

00:59:24,875 --> 00:59:27,720

And why they were released  
from Dachau we don't know.

1399

00:59:27,720 --> 00:59:31,120

But I do know that they  
were sent to Dachau.

1400

00:59:31,120 --> 00:59:32,320

We're rolling.

1401

00:59:32,320 --> 00:59:33,310

OK.

1402

00:59:33,310 --> 00:59:38,890

So tell me, why is this  
important for us to know?

1403

00:59:38,890 --> 00:59:40,390

Why is it important  
for you to know?

1404

00:59:40,390 --> 00:59:43,540

1405

00:59:43,540 --> 00:59:45,073

I'm not understanding.

1406

00:59:45,073 --> 00:59:48,940

1407

00:59:48,940 --> 00:59:52,360

Why do you need to know this?

1408

00:59:52,360 --> 00:59:59,180

I would love to know where  
they were actually killed.

1409

00:59:59,180 --> 01:00:02,510

In the same way as I  
know from that document

1410

01:00:02,510 --> 01:00:09,620

that I got from Yad Vashem that  
David, his son, and wife were

1411

01:00:09,620 --> 01:00:10,550

on this list.

1412

01:00:10,550 --> 01:00:12,440

This is number so-and-so,  
number so-and-so,

1413

01:00:12,440 --> 01:00:16,100

and number so-and-so, on this  
list of 2,000 people that

1414

01:00:16,100 --> 01:00:18,590

were sent away.

1415

01:00:18,590 --> 01:00:22,570

I know that that was  
where David was killed.

1416

01:00:22,570 --> 01:00:25,960

The other brothers and  
sisters, the four of them,

1417

01:00:25,960 --> 01:00:29,290

I don't know where they  
were killed, because none

1418

01:00:29,290 --> 01:00:32,050

of the documents that I've  
ever been able to find,

1419

01:00:32,050 --> 01:00:34,810  
whether it was from Bad Arolsen  
or from the Holocaust Museum,

1420

01:00:34,810 --> 01:00:39,900  
or Yad Vashem has been able  
to determine the date of death

1421

01:00:39,900 --> 01:00:42,010  
and where they were killed.

1422

01:00:42,010 --> 01:00:47,910  
And my question is, why does  
a person need to know this?

1423

01:00:47,910 --> 01:00:51,150  
Because it gives you--

1424

01:00:51,150 --> 01:00:53,520  
it closes the book.

1425

01:00:53,520 --> 01:00:54,790  
Does it?

1426

01:00:54,790 --> 01:00:55,290  
Yes.

1427

01:00:55,290 --> 01:00:58,560

1428

01:00:58,560 --> 01:01:00,360  
With all those  
documents that there

1429

01:01:00,360 --> 01:01:06,590  
are there, and like the  
document of Bertholt

1430

01:01:06,590 --> 01:01:07,790

selling a piece of--

1431  
01:01:07,790 --> 01:01:09,320  
giving a piece of furniture to--

1432  
01:01:09,320 --> 01:01:10,610  
The state property.

1433  
01:01:10,610 --> 01:01:13,320  
Yeah, the state property.

1434  
01:01:13,320 --> 01:01:16,260  
The fact he was released  
and then sent away,

1435  
01:01:16,260 --> 01:01:18,110  
but it doesn't say  
where he was sent.

1436  
01:01:18,110 --> 01:01:21,550

1437  
01:01:21,550 --> 01:01:24,520  
I don't know for  
the four of them

1438  
01:01:24,520 --> 01:01:26,680  
where they were sent  
to, when they were

1439  
01:01:26,680 --> 01:01:28,480  
killed, how they were killed.

1440  
01:01:28,480 --> 01:01:30,040  
I don't know any of that.

1441  
01:01:30,040 --> 01:01:33,310  
For David, at least for  
David and his wife and son,

1442  
01:01:33,310 --> 01:01:37,180  
I know that he was

on a train to Belzec,

1443

01:01:37,180 --> 01:01:41,080  
and that when the train got  
to Belzec, they were killed.

1444

01:01:41,080 --> 01:01:43,030  
That I know.

1445

01:01:43,030 --> 01:01:45,850  
Did these questions  
plague your father?

1446

01:01:45,850 --> 01:01:47,980  
I don't know to what  
extent they plagued him

1447

01:01:47,980 --> 01:01:51,580  
as much as they played me.

1448

01:01:51,580 --> 01:01:52,718  
I don't know.

1449

01:01:52,718 --> 01:01:53,218  
No.

1450

01:01:53,218 --> 01:01:57,130

1451

01:01:57,130 --> 01:02:05,950  
My father was-- my  
father's mindset

1452

01:02:05,950 --> 01:02:11,450  
was to have his family  
come to South Africa.

1453

01:02:11,450 --> 01:02:15,170  
And none of them wanted to  
come and gave the opportunity

1454

01:02:15,170 --> 01:02:18,650



to my mother, and her  
sister, and her parents

1455  
01:02:18,650 --> 01:02:22,940  
to come instead of them.

1456  
01:02:22,940 --> 01:02:26,900  
And that's something that  
has plagued me my whole life,

1457  
01:02:26,900 --> 01:02:28,960  
is as to why did that happen.

1458  
01:02:28,960 --> 01:02:32,150

1459  
01:02:32,150 --> 01:02:33,510  
Why did not one of them come?

1460  
01:02:33,510 --> 01:02:36,650

1461  
01:02:36,650 --> 01:02:38,375  
Four of them were unmarried.

1462  
01:02:38,375 --> 01:02:41,170

1463  
01:02:41,170 --> 01:02:43,150  
David was the only  
one that was married,

1464  
01:02:43,150 --> 01:02:45,250  
and my father was the  
only one that was married.

1465  
01:02:45,250 --> 01:02:49,660  
The other four that remained in  
Germany until they were killed,

1466  
01:02:49,660 --> 01:02:51,700  
none of them got married.

1467  
01:02:51,700 --> 01:02:55,070  
And they were the only Jewish  
family in this village.

1468  
01:02:55,070 --> 01:02:57,830  
Were there any letters that  
they sent to South Africa

1469  
01:02:57,830 --> 01:02:58,840  
between '38 and '42?

1470  
01:02:58,840 --> 01:03:01,190  
Yes, I've got some  
copies and letters.

1471  
01:03:01,190 --> 01:03:03,380  
Did they give you any  
answers in those letters?

1472  
01:03:03,380 --> 01:03:04,490  
Not to this.

1473  
01:03:04,490 --> 01:03:07,460  
Only the fact is, we  
are not ready to come.

1474  
01:03:07,460 --> 01:03:12,440  
We are still fine, but Hermina  
wants to, Erna wants to,

1475  
01:03:12,440 --> 01:03:13,810  
her parents want.

1476  
01:03:13,810 --> 01:03:16,620

1477  
01:03:16,620 --> 01:03:19,380  
Those are the  
letters that I have.

1478  
01:03:19,380 --> 01:03:26,030

Were there other people like you  
who had tried to get an answer

1479  
01:03:26,030 --> 01:03:29,030  
through Bad Arolsen and didn't?

1480  
01:03:29,030 --> 01:03:29,720  
I'm sure.

1481  
01:03:29,720 --> 01:03:30,890  
I'm sure there must be many.

1482  
01:03:30,890 --> 01:03:36,890  
But then took it one step  
further and contacted--

1483  
01:03:36,890 --> 01:03:40,130  
in other words, I'm  
wondering if there

1484  
01:03:40,130 --> 01:03:45,620  
hadn't been a Lothar Meyer doing  
it, would we have ITS today?

1485  
01:03:45,620 --> 01:03:47,070  
I don't know the answer to that.

1486  
01:03:47,070 --> 01:03:48,710  
I can't give you an answer.

1487  
01:03:48,710 --> 01:03:51,620  
All I know is that Clay  
Shaw made it happen,

1488  
01:03:51,620 --> 01:03:55,640  
and it was easy for me  
to get Clay to do it.

1489  
01:03:55,640 --> 01:03:58,430  
And it opened up.

1490  
01:03:58,430 --> 01:04:05,062

And if you can get the copy of  
the US News & World Report--

1491  
01:04:05,062 --> 01:04:05,770  
Of course I will.

1492  
01:04:05,770 --> 01:04:07,610  
I'm sure you'll be  
able to get it online.

1493  
01:04:07,610 --> 01:04:09,980  
Yeah.

1494  
01:04:09,980 --> 01:04:12,770  
I just keep on trying  
to think of the guy's

1495  
01:04:12,770 --> 01:04:14,420  
name, the author of it.

1496  
01:04:14,420 --> 01:04:17,910  
But it's a three page article.

1497  
01:04:17,910 --> 01:04:22,910

1498  
01:04:22,910 --> 01:04:30,690  
I just wanted to say, seeing  
it from the other side of what

1499  
01:04:30,690 --> 01:04:31,770  
a phenomenal--

1500  
01:04:31,770 --> 01:04:34,600

1501  
01:04:34,600 --> 01:04:37,120  
what a phenomenal  
treasure it is,

1502  
01:04:37,120 --> 01:04:41,680  
for the people who seek to

know some information, who

1503

01:04:41,680 --> 01:04:42,670

also want closure.

1504

01:04:42,670 --> 01:04:45,840

1505

01:04:45,840 --> 01:04:49,500

I mean, I asked the same question to one of those people

1506

01:04:49,500 --> 01:04:51,780

that I interviewed, that I told you about,

1507

01:04:51,780 --> 01:04:53,790

who had never seen such documents.

1508

01:04:53,790 --> 01:04:55,830

He told me he had been in Mauthausen.

1509

01:04:55,830 --> 01:04:56,670

Oh, yes.

1510

01:04:56,670 --> 01:04:59,040

And then all of a sudden here is a document

1511

01:04:59,040 --> 01:05:01,410

from the International Tracing Service

1512

01:05:01,410 --> 01:05:04,300

saying there's a card that says he's in Mauthausen.

1513

01:05:04,300 --> 01:05:06,300

I said, what difference does it make to you now?

1514

01:05:06,300 --> 01:05:08,190

You knew you were in Mauthausen.

1515

01:05:08,190 --> 01:05:09,510

You know?

1516

01:05:09,510 --> 01:05:11,820

And he goes, but it's there.

1517

01:05:11,820 --> 01:05:14,200

It's independent  
of me saying it.

1518

01:05:14,200 --> 01:05:16,470

It's concrete proof.

1519

01:05:16,470 --> 01:05:17,580

It's confirmation.

1520

01:05:17,580 --> 01:05:19,900

Right.

1521

01:05:19,900 --> 01:05:23,080

And in some ways what I'm  
asking you is a question that

1522

01:05:23,080 --> 01:05:27,150

is hard to answer, but why do  
we need these pieces of paper?

1523

01:05:27,150 --> 01:05:28,420

What do they give us?

1524

01:05:28,420 --> 01:05:30,520

They give you confirmation.

1525

01:05:30,520 --> 01:05:33,160

They give you information  
that tells you

1526

01:05:33,160 --> 01:05:37,700

what actually happened to them.

1527

01:05:37,700 --> 01:05:39,170

We know that they  
didn't survive.

1528

01:05:39,170 --> 01:05:40,700

We know that if they  
would have survived,

1529

01:05:40,700 --> 01:05:42,742

they would have contacted  
my father, because they

1530

01:05:42,742 --> 01:05:44,510

knew how to contact him.

1531

01:05:44,510 --> 01:05:47,380

So they didn't survive.

1532

01:05:47,380 --> 01:05:49,240

Yeah.

1533

01:05:49,240 --> 01:05:50,380

Thank you.

1534

01:05:50,380 --> 01:05:51,040

Thank you.

1535

01:05:51,040 --> 01:05:52,820

Thank you very, very much.

1536

01:05:52,820 --> 01:05:54,200

Thanks for coming.

1537

01:05:54,200 --> 01:05:58,450

I will say this then concludes  
the United States Holocaust

1538

01:05:58,450 --> 01:06:05,320

Memorial Museum interview with  
Mr. Lothar Meyer on January 19,

1539  
01:06:05,320 --> 01:06:06,730  
2019.

1540  
01:06:06,730 --> 01:06:07,450  
Thank you.

1541  
01:06:07,450 --> 01:06:08,890  
In Delray Beach.

1542  
01:06:08,890 --> 01:06:09,520  
Thank you.

1543  
01:06:09,520 --> 01:06:10,660  
Thank you very much.

1544  
01:06:10,660 --> 01:06:11,620  
OK.

1545  
01:06:11,620 --> 01:06:13,140  
You can cut.

1546  
01:06:13,140 --> 01:06:14,267  
With all of this--

1547  
01:06:14,267 --> 01:06:15,725  
What is the shame  
of what happened?

1548  
01:06:15,725 --> 01:06:20,160  
Is the fact that  
we've had people

1549  
01:06:20,160 --> 01:06:24,806  
preventing the truth from  
being properly recorded.

1550  
01:06:24,806 --> 01:06:27,020  
Yeah.

1551  
01:06:27,020 --> 01:06:30,470



Any archive is not complete, but all of them

1552  
01:06:30,470 --> 01:06:34,180  
are pieces of a puzzle, and this is such a huge piece.

1553  
01:06:34,180 --> 01:06:36,300  
It's a huge puzzle.

1554  
01:06:36,300 --> 01:06:37,590  
It's a huge puzzle.

1555  
01:06:37,590 --> 01:06:41,720  
And we know we keep on talking about six million.

1556  
01:06:41,720 --> 01:06:44,580  
The reality is that, in my opinion,

1557  
01:06:44,580 --> 01:06:46,163  
it's a much larger number.

1558  
01:06:46,163 --> 01:06:47,970  
Of course, of course.

1559  
01:06:47,970 --> 01:06:51,330  
And because these are individual files, I don't know--

1560  
01:06:51,330 --> 01:06:53,100  
I don't know how they are filed.

1561  
01:06:53,100 --> 01:06:54,840  
I do know that my colleagues told me

1562  
01:06:54,840 --> 01:06:57,690  
you need training in order to be able to use

1563

01:06:57,690 --> 01:06:59,340  
the databases properly.

1564  
01:06:59,340 --> 01:07:02,592  
This Rabbi Dubois--

1565  
01:07:02,592 --> 01:07:04,000  
You mean Father Dubois.

1566  
01:07:04,000 --> 01:07:04,500  
Sorry.

1567  
01:07:04,500 --> 01:07:05,580  
I mean Father Dubois.

1568  
01:07:05,580 --> 01:07:07,000  
Yeah.

1569  
01:07:07,000 --> 01:07:12,100  
The people that were killed in--

1570  
01:07:12,100 --> 01:07:12,800  
In the Ukraine.

1571  
01:07:12,800 --> 01:07:13,910  
In the Ukraine.

1572  
01:07:13,910 --> 01:07:16,820  
Not only the Ukraine  
but wherever--

1573  
01:07:16,820 --> 01:07:18,390  
Mm-hmm.

1574  
01:07:18,390 --> 01:07:19,050  
Poland and--

1575  
01:07:19,050 --> 01:07:19,610  
The Baltics.

1576  
01:07:19,610 --> 01:07:20,110

Lithuania.

1577

01:07:20,110 --> 01:07:20,970

By shooting.

1578

01:07:20,970 --> 01:07:23,100

Yeah, the Lithuanian.

1579

01:07:23,100 --> 01:07:27,520

Those are not included, in my opinion, in the six million.

1580

01:07:27,520 --> 01:07:28,510

Ah.

1581

01:07:28,510 --> 01:07:31,010

Ah.

1582

01:07:31,010 --> 01:07:32,570

That's interesting.

1583

01:07:32,570 --> 01:07:36,168

Because they were never registered.

1584

01:07:36,168 --> 01:07:37,460

There's no lists of them.

1585

01:07:37,460 --> 01:07:40,760

1586

01:07:40,760 --> 01:07:43,910

There are lists being made up now.

1587

01:07:43,910 --> 01:07:47,990

I know Yad Vashem has tried a certain list.

1588

01:07:47,990 --> 01:07:51,160

Father Dubois has tried to do that, too.

1589  
01:07:51,160 --> 01:07:52,070  
Yeah.

1590  
01:07:52,070 --> 01:07:58,730  
I mean, when we  
went to the village

1591  
01:07:58,730 --> 01:08:03,140  
that her family  
had come from, it's

1592  
01:08:03,140 --> 01:08:06,240  
clear where they were buried.

1593  
01:08:06,240 --> 01:08:07,970  
The cemetery was destroyed.

1594  
01:08:07,970 --> 01:08:10,100  
All the tombstones  
were destroyed.

1595  
01:08:10,100 --> 01:08:13,070  
But who kept a record  
of who they were?

1596  
01:08:13,070 --> 01:08:17,600  
Because what had happened  
was, the local police came.

1597  
01:08:17,600 --> 01:08:18,979  
They knew who the Jews were.

1598  
01:08:18,979 --> 01:08:22,670  
And by the way, do you know why  
they knew who the Jews were?

1599  
01:08:22,670 --> 01:08:23,421  
Why?

1600  
01:08:23,421 --> 01:08:25,729  
How?

1601  
01:08:25,729 --> 01:08:32,340  
In Lithuania, if you lived in  
a house and you were Jewish,

1602  
01:08:32,340 --> 01:08:34,020  
your front door  
faced the street.

1603  
01:08:34,020 --> 01:08:36,890

1604  
01:08:36,890 --> 01:08:38,750  
If you were not  
Jewish, your front door

1605  
01:08:38,750 --> 01:08:42,090  
did not face the street.

1606  
01:08:42,090 --> 01:08:43,874  
I have to look at that.

1607  
01:08:43,874 --> 01:08:46,134  
It's a fact.

1608  
01:08:46,134 --> 01:08:47,090  
OK.

1609  
01:08:47,090 --> 01:08:48,050  
Isn't that interesting.

1610  
01:08:48,050 --> 01:08:52,080  
That's what we learned  
from being in Skuodas.

1611  
01:08:52,080 --> 01:08:53,450  
What was the village?

1612  
01:08:53,450 --> 01:08:54,660  
Skuodas.

1613

01:08:54,660 --> 01:08:56,109  
[SPEAKING LITHUANIAN]

1614  
01:08:56,109 --> 01:08:56,859  
Skuodas.

1615  
01:08:56,859 --> 01:08:57,700  
Skuodas?

1616  
01:08:57,700 --> 01:08:58,894  
Skuodas?

1617  
01:08:58,894 --> 01:09:00,229  
Ah-hah.

1618  
01:09:00,229 --> 01:09:01,439  
This is your wife's family?

1619  
01:09:01,439 --> 01:09:04,279  
My wife's family  
comes from Skuodas,

1620  
01:09:04,279 --> 01:09:07,969  
which is on the Latvian border.

1621  
01:09:07,969 --> 01:09:08,939  
OK.

1622  
01:09:08,939 --> 01:09:15,479  
And then houses with front door  
faced the street were Jews.

1623  
01:09:15,479 --> 01:09:20,460  
And those Jews had  
stores in those homes.

1624  
01:09:20,460 --> 01:09:22,330  
Skuodas.

1625  
01:09:22,330 --> 01:09:22,930  
That's what--

1626  
01:09:22,930 --> 01:09:23,430  
Yeah.

1627  
01:09:23,430 --> 01:09:23,930  
OK.

1628  
01:09:23,930 --> 01:09:25,040  
Now I I know where it is.

1629  
01:09:25,040 --> 01:09:25,990  
I know where it is.

1630  
01:09:25,990 --> 01:09:27,189  
OK.

1631  
01:09:27,189 --> 01:09:28,149  
Wow.

1632  
01:09:28,149 --> 01:09:28,779  
Yeah.

1633  
01:09:28,779 --> 01:09:31,300  
I don't-- I never  
heard that before.

1634  
01:09:31,300 --> 01:09:32,689  
We found it phenomenal.

1635  
01:09:32,689 --> 01:09:36,939  
I mean, to think that every  
house would be identified

1636  
01:09:36,939 --> 01:09:40,600  
as to who its resident, what  
religion its resident was,

1637  
01:09:40,600 --> 01:09:42,220  
whether he was  
Jewish or Christian?

1638  
01:09:42,220 --> 01:09:44,170

Yeah.

1639

01:09:44,170 --> 01:09:46,150

OK, now we can cut.

1640

01:09:46,150 --> 01:09:48,300

Now we can cut.