

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:01,930
When they tell us
to roll, we'll talk.

2
00:00:01,930 --> 00:00:05,050
OK, all right.

3
00:00:05,050 --> 00:00:07,750
OK, so before we
had a little break,

4
00:00:07,750 --> 00:00:12,340
I was asking about whether
or not anyone in your family

5
00:00:12,340 --> 00:00:15,850
was particularly political.

6
00:00:15,850 --> 00:00:16,750
Really not.

7
00:00:16,750 --> 00:00:21,140

8
00:00:21,140 --> 00:00:24,590
In terms of my
immediate family, no.

9
00:00:24,590 --> 00:00:26,610
I did have a cousin,
who was an attorney, who

10
00:00:26,610 --> 00:00:27,590
was somewhat political.

11
00:00:27,590 --> 00:00:30,720
But in general, really not.

12
00:00:30,720 --> 00:00:34,940
But what it triggered was
a memory from the DP camp,

13
00:00:34,940 --> 00:00:41,050
where politics was
somewhat taboo.

14
00:00:41,050 --> 00:00:44,130
I mean, one of the
ironies of the DP camps,

15
00:00:44,130 --> 00:00:49,020
because they had been training
camps for the German army,

16
00:00:49,020 --> 00:00:53,630
is they had a barbed
wire fence around them.

17
00:00:53,630 --> 00:00:58,070
And the American occupation--
we were in the American zone,

18
00:00:58,070 --> 00:01:00,650
so the American occupation--

19
00:01:00,650 --> 00:01:04,340
soldiers had the duty
of controlling the camp.

20
00:01:04,340 --> 00:01:07,235
And people would periodically
climb under the wire, [MURMUR],,

21
00:01:07,235 --> 00:01:11,450
and some had arrangements
with local farmers.

22
00:01:11,450 --> 00:01:14,600
The local Austrian farmers
were very happy for that fence,

23
00:01:14,600 --> 00:01:17,540
because they didn't want
all these people trampling

24
00:01:17,540 --> 00:01:18,860
through their fields.

25
00:01:18,860 --> 00:01:23,470
But as the camp
got more organized,

26
00:01:23,470 --> 00:01:26,080
as it became more and
more of a community,

27
00:01:26,080 --> 00:01:31,320
there were groups, meetings,
and discussions about Zionism

28
00:01:31,320 --> 00:01:34,840
and travel to Israel, and
back and forth, kind of.

29
00:01:34,840 --> 00:01:42,760
But mostly it was kind of
arguments about nothing

30
00:01:42,760 --> 00:01:47,080
in particular, except just
allowing yourself to flex

31
00:01:47,080 --> 00:01:50,410
your opinions in an argument.

32
00:01:50,410 --> 00:01:53,470
My father and my uncle,
to their dying day,

33
00:01:53,470 --> 00:01:57,820
used to argue about
stuff that made no sense.

34
00:01:57,820 --> 00:02:00,070
I mean, we lived it up
in central New York,

35

00:02:00,070 --> 00:02:03,250
and they would argue about
how to get to Binghamton.

36

00:02:03,250 --> 00:02:05,770
Except neither of them
could pronounce Binghamton.

37

00:02:05,770 --> 00:02:09,460
So it was those
kinds of arguments.

38

00:02:09,460 --> 00:02:16,360
But as the character of a
camp became more and more

39

00:02:16,360 --> 00:02:18,310
of a community,
they had to organize

40

00:02:18,310 --> 00:02:20,710
certain councils, et cetera.

41

00:02:20,710 --> 00:02:23,530
And the closest
political thing is

42

00:02:23,530 --> 00:02:27,520
that my father, because
he was former military,

43

00:02:27,520 --> 00:02:30,250
was named the police chief.

44

00:02:30,250 --> 00:02:32,800
It was a police chief of
nothing in particular.

45

00:02:32,800 --> 00:02:36,290
He had very little authority.

46

00:02:36,290 --> 00:02:39,580

He couldn't enforce anything.

47

00:02:39,580 --> 00:02:43,440

But they cursed him--

48

00:02:43,440 --> 00:02:50,360

the Americans-- cursed
him by giving him

49

00:02:50,360 --> 00:02:55,190

an implement of his political
power as police chief.

50

00:02:55,190 --> 00:02:57,080

They gave him a German shepherd.

51

00:02:57,080 --> 00:02:59,381

Oh good god.

52

00:02:59,381 --> 00:03:01,370

Good god.

53

00:03:01,370 --> 00:03:04,040

The dog's name was Tarzan.

54

00:03:04,040 --> 00:03:06,050

And my brother and
I loved this dog.

55

00:03:06,050 --> 00:03:08,540

This dog was as
gentle as a lamb.

56

00:03:08,540 --> 00:03:10,730

And he hated my father.

57

00:03:10,730 --> 00:03:12,950

And my father hated the dog.

58

00:03:12,950 --> 00:03:16,910

And everybody hated
my father and the dog.

59

00:03:16,910 --> 00:03:22,670

So eventually, what I
was told is-- you know,

60

00:03:22,670 --> 00:03:25,550

we always wondered-- well, we
have a picture of my brother

61

00:03:25,550 --> 00:03:28,550

and I and the dog.

62

00:03:28,550 --> 00:03:30,350

And we wondered what
happened to the dog.

63

00:03:30,350 --> 00:03:33,530

And eventually they gave
him back to the GIs.

64

00:03:33,530 --> 00:03:35,870

Oh.

65

00:03:35,870 --> 00:03:37,400

And what camp was this?

66

00:03:37,400 --> 00:03:38,480

In Ebelsberg.

67

00:03:38,480 --> 00:03:39,320

Ebelsberg.

68

00:03:39,320 --> 00:03:40,060

Ebelsberg.

69

00:03:40,060 --> 00:03:49,600

E-B-E-L-S-B-E-R-G. There was--
but this isn't political.

70

00:03:49,600 --> 00:03:50,430

It's more social.

71

00:03:50,430 --> 00:03:54,400

For example, one of the things they did in [? Vegscheidt. ?]

72

00:03:54,400 --> 00:03:59,680

And I remember this because it was an awful experience--

73

00:03:59,680 --> 00:04:02,920

they sprayed us with DDT.

74

00:04:02,920 --> 00:04:03,640

Oh, yes.

75

00:04:03,640 --> 00:04:05,945

Mm-hmm.

76

00:04:05,945 --> 00:04:07,970

And it was very toxic.

77

00:04:07,970 --> 00:04:09,790

This is the Americans do that?

78

00:04:09,790 --> 00:04:11,020

Well, they had to.

79

00:04:11,020 --> 00:04:12,070

To delouse people?

80

00:04:12,070 --> 00:04:13,030

Yeah, to delouse them.

81

00:04:13,030 --> 00:04:15,550

And people were coming from god knows where--

82

00:04:15,550 --> 00:04:18,010

the camps, the woods, whatever.

83

00:04:18,010 --> 00:04:22,029

And they were in

very close quarters.

84

00:04:22,029 --> 00:04:25,190

In fact-- I keep going
all over the place--

85

00:04:25,190 --> 00:04:27,070

That's OK.

86

00:04:27,070 --> 00:04:29,470

We were deloused in it
in [? Vegscheidt. ?]

87

00:04:29,470 --> 00:04:32,830

And then several months later
when we moved to Ebelsburg,

88

00:04:32,830 --> 00:04:36,520

they couldn't guarantee who was
and who wasn't, so we ended up

89

00:04:36,520 --> 00:04:38,680

getting deloused again.

90

00:04:38,680 --> 00:04:41,830

So there was these
debates about whether we

91

00:04:41,830 --> 00:04:44,650

were going to allow them to
do that to us, and all that.

92

00:04:44,650 --> 00:04:48,050

And we're not going to
tolerate this anymore.

93

00:04:48,050 --> 00:04:51,880

Well, but you didn't really
have any power or authority.

94

00:04:51,880 --> 00:04:58,270

But eventually, the GIs became
almost part of the community.

95
00:04:58,270 --> 00:05:01,520

96
00:05:01,520 --> 00:05:03,740
Over time, they were
inside the fence

97
00:05:03,740 --> 00:05:07,130
as much as they were
outside the fence.

98
00:05:07,130 --> 00:05:12,200
They played with the kids.

99
00:05:12,200 --> 00:05:14,660
They would give the kids
a chocolate, or whatever.

100
00:05:14,660 --> 00:05:17,660
And then, I remember
a new building.

101
00:05:17,660 --> 00:05:20,100
It turned out it was a Quonset
hut, from what I was told,

102
00:05:20,100 --> 00:05:20,780
was set up.

103
00:05:20,780 --> 00:05:23,860
It was a rec center.

104
00:05:23,860 --> 00:05:25,910
I saw my first movie there.

105
00:05:25,910 --> 00:05:28,270
It was a Tom Mix movie.

106
00:05:28,270 --> 00:05:30,250
Tom Mix may not
mean anything to.

107
00:05:30,250 --> 00:05:33,640
Tom Mix is one of the
great cowboys of the West,

108
00:05:33,640 --> 00:05:36,940
going back to the '40s and '50s.

109
00:05:36,940 --> 00:05:42,490
And I remember how charmed,
how excited the kids were.

110
00:05:42,490 --> 00:05:44,170
We didn't understand
a word of it,

111
00:05:44,170 --> 00:05:49,990
but eventually, with the
GIs, we start to pick up

112
00:05:49,990 --> 00:05:51,470
phrases and this and that.

113
00:05:51,470 --> 00:05:55,600
So when we got to
Canada, I didn't really

114
00:05:55,600 --> 00:05:56,860
speak any English.

115
00:05:56,860 --> 00:06:00,220
But at least I had some
words, and it was--

116
00:06:00,220 --> 00:06:01,760
Hopefully they were clean words.

117
00:06:01,760 --> 00:06:02,260
Hmm?

118
00:06:02,260 --> 00:06:04,460
They were clean words, I hope.

119
00:06:04,460 --> 00:06:05,140
Clean?

120
00:06:05,140 --> 00:06:07,270
Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah,
clean words, yeah.

121
00:06:07,270 --> 00:06:10,870

122
00:06:10,870 --> 00:06:13,840
I mean, because the
GIs could play tricks.

123
00:06:13,840 --> 00:06:14,680
Yeah.

124
00:06:14,680 --> 00:06:17,680
Well, I guess we didn't
run into any GIs that

125
00:06:17,680 --> 00:06:20,040
had my sense of humor.

126
00:06:20,040 --> 00:06:25,480
I would have taught kids dirty
words to go home with, right.

127
00:06:25,480 --> 00:06:30,190
So what was the name of the
first DP camp you mentioned?

128
00:06:30,190 --> 00:06:31,060
[? Vegscheidt. ?]

129
00:06:31,060 --> 00:06:32,852
[? Vegscheidt. ?] So
that would have been--

130
00:06:32,852 --> 00:06:39,260
V-E-G-S-C-H-E-I-D-T.

131
00:06:39,260 --> 00:06:42,635
OK, they're less familiar to
me because they're in Austria.

132
00:06:42,635 --> 00:06:43,460
Right.

133
00:06:43,460 --> 00:06:45,650
And the ones the
Americans own in--

134
00:06:45,650 --> 00:06:47,180
They're both outside of Linz.

135
00:06:47,180 --> 00:06:48,680
They're both outside of Linz.

136
00:06:48,680 --> 00:06:50,240
OK, that gives me--

137
00:06:50,240 --> 00:06:51,635
that's close to
the Czech border.

138
00:06:51,635 --> 00:06:52,320
Yes.

139
00:06:52,320 --> 00:06:55,490
And close to the
Bavarian border.

140
00:06:55,490 --> 00:06:57,980
And were these almost
all Jewish camps?

141
00:06:57,980 --> 00:06:59,930
Or where they a mix
off different peoples--

142
00:06:59,930 --> 00:07:02,180
No, [? Vegscheidt ?]

was very mixed--

143
00:07:02,180 --> 00:07:08,320
very mixed ethnicities,
national origins, religion.

144
00:07:08,320 --> 00:07:12,770
And from what I
understand from my dad,

145
00:07:12,770 --> 00:07:15,830
is that it posed some
problems because it was just

146
00:07:15,830 --> 00:07:17,210
too much tension.

147
00:07:17,210 --> 00:07:23,510
So other camps were established
that were more homogeneous.

148
00:07:23,510 --> 00:07:27,470
So Ebensburg was
almost entirely Jewish.

149
00:07:27,470 --> 00:07:29,750
So that's why you had a cheder.

150
00:07:29,750 --> 00:07:32,510
You had a makeshift synagogue.

151
00:07:32,510 --> 00:07:36,890
You had weddings that
were under a chuppah.

152
00:07:36,890 --> 00:07:39,050
Did you see your
aunt get married?

153
00:07:39,050 --> 00:07:39,860
My-- huh?

154

00:07:39,860 --> 00:07:41,780

Your aunt-- your aunt-- um--

155

00:07:41,780 --> 00:07:42,630

My Aunt Eshka?

156

00:07:42,630 --> 00:07:43,130

Yeah.

157

00:07:43,130 --> 00:07:44,150

Oh, I was at the wedding.

158

00:07:44,150 --> 00:07:45,150

You were at the wedding.

159

00:07:45,150 --> 00:07:47,270

Yeah, we have a picture
of me at the wedding.

160

00:07:47,270 --> 00:07:51,110

And I was so sorry she
was getting married.

161

00:07:51,110 --> 00:07:54,320

How old were you?

162

00:07:54,320 --> 00:07:55,740

Eight, maybe.

163

00:07:55,740 --> 00:07:56,240

Eight?

164

00:07:56,240 --> 00:07:59,240

Eight, seven or eight.

165

00:07:59,240 --> 00:08:01,010

You thought you were losing her?

166

00:08:01,010 --> 00:08:04,430

Well, yeah, because,
well, the talk in the home

167

00:08:04,430 --> 00:08:11,840
was Joe, by virtue of being
a survivor of the camps,

168

00:08:11,840 --> 00:08:16,190
had priority through HIAS
on the American visa.

169

00:08:16,190 --> 00:08:20,240
Because none of us
had been in a camp--

170

00:08:20,240 --> 00:08:23,510
just a different kind
of survivorship--

171

00:08:23,510 --> 00:08:26,780
we kept moving down as
other people kept moving up.

172

00:08:26,780 --> 00:08:30,260
And finally, my father--

173

00:08:30,260 --> 00:08:32,549
I think they made the decision
together-- said, look,

174

00:08:32,549 --> 00:08:35,600
we have friends in Winnipeg
that'll sponsor us.

175

00:08:35,600 --> 00:08:37,640
Let's get out of here.

176

00:08:37,640 --> 00:08:41,070
How many years were
you in the DP camp?

177

00:08:41,070 --> 00:08:44,940
From 1946 to 1951.

178

00:08:44,940 --> 00:08:46,000

That's a long time.

179
00:08:46,000 --> 00:08:46,650
Yes.

180
00:08:46,650 --> 00:08:49,380
That's a very long
time to be there.

181
00:08:49,380 --> 00:08:49,890
Yeah.

182
00:08:49,890 --> 00:08:51,870
Yeah, we sailed in--

183
00:08:51,870 --> 00:08:53,370
I'm trying to remember--

184
00:08:53,370 --> 00:08:56,340
July of 51 out of Bremerhaven.

185
00:08:56,340 --> 00:08:58,140
And had you been--

186
00:08:58,140 --> 00:09:01,170
what was it-- Aberscheid,
Aberscheid camp?

187
00:09:01,170 --> 00:09:02,133
What's that?

188
00:09:02,133 --> 00:09:03,300
The second camp you were in.

189
00:09:03,300 --> 00:09:04,470
Ebelsberg.

190
00:09:04,470 --> 00:09:05,550
Ebelsberg camp.

191
00:09:05,550 --> 00:09:07,680

Were you there the
whole five years,

192
00:09:07,680 --> 00:09:09,240
or did you move to other camps?

193
00:09:09,240 --> 00:09:11,400
No, no, we were in
Ebelsberg the entire time,

194
00:09:11,400 --> 00:09:13,170
once we left Wegscheid.

195
00:09:13,170 --> 00:09:16,830
Probably 4 and 1/2
years at Ebelsberg.

196
00:09:16,830 --> 00:09:18,900
All right, now let's
go back, because we're

197
00:09:18,900 --> 00:09:21,625
filling in the chronology that
way, in a circular fashion.

198
00:09:21,625 --> 00:09:22,620
OK, sideways, right.

199
00:09:22,620 --> 00:09:24,490
No, no, it works--

200
00:09:24,490 --> 00:09:27,390
makes it interesting,
makes it very interesting.

201
00:09:27,390 --> 00:09:34,990
So, still on this trip,
from global gloom boxing

202
00:09:34,990 --> 00:09:39,580
to the east, as far as the
end of the line will be.

203

00:09:39,580 --> 00:09:44,770

Are there any other tidbits
that your Aunt Eshka

204

00:09:44,770 --> 00:09:49,310

revealed to you about what
that journey was like?

205

00:09:49,310 --> 00:09:51,610

Not so much on the trip.

206

00:09:51,610 --> 00:09:55,600

Whenever it came up, it was
just this door would slam.

207

00:09:55,600 --> 00:09:57,100

It was just silence.

208

00:09:57,100 --> 00:09:59,890

They would change subjects.

209

00:09:59,890 --> 00:10:02,680

It's convinced me
that they really

210

00:10:02,680 --> 00:10:05,870

had some ugly experiences
along the way.

211

00:10:05,870 --> 00:10:11,710

And their survival was,
I think, a reflection

212

00:10:11,710 --> 00:10:17,200

of their tenacity, patience,
call it whatever you will.

213

00:10:17,200 --> 00:10:21,640

But the way my aunt spoke about
it, when they got to Tashkent,

214

00:10:21,640 --> 00:10:26,270

it was like, they were
able to take a deep breath.

215
00:10:26,270 --> 00:10:28,980
You know, it was--

216
00:10:28,980 --> 00:10:30,560
I don't know much
about Tashkent,

217
00:10:30,560 --> 00:10:32,420
but the way they
speak of it, it was

218
00:10:32,420 --> 00:10:33,980
a place where there
was fresh air,

219
00:10:33,980 --> 00:10:38,090
and they were not
afraid, because they

220
00:10:38,090 --> 00:10:42,270
had protection of this chief.

221
00:10:42,270 --> 00:10:44,120
Did you know-- did she--

222
00:10:44,120 --> 00:10:45,800
I'm sorry I'm
interrupting-- did she--

223
00:10:45,800 --> 00:10:48,620
The chief-- the head of
the family, or whatever.

224
00:10:48,620 --> 00:10:51,290
He was-- from
everything I can gather,

225
00:10:51,290 --> 00:10:54,250
they were very good
to-- well, OK--

226
00:10:54,250 --> 00:10:56,060
I just remembered a piece.

227
00:10:56,060 --> 00:11:01,730
My 4th birthday, I got a
pony as a gift birthday gift

228
00:11:01,730 --> 00:11:02,730
from this chief.

229
00:11:02,730 --> 00:11:04,490
I don't think he meant
for me to keep it,

230
00:11:04,490 --> 00:11:07,100
but I had the use of it.

231
00:11:07,100 --> 00:11:09,710
And the joke in the
family was, years later,

232
00:11:09,710 --> 00:11:12,740
that I was the only Jewish
kid in the continent that

233
00:11:12,740 --> 00:11:14,390
had a pony that wasn't eaten.

234
00:11:14,390 --> 00:11:16,970

235
00:11:16,970 --> 00:11:19,030
It's probably true.

236
00:11:19,030 --> 00:11:20,030
Yeah.

237
00:11:20,030 --> 00:11:21,710
Kind of like one of
those bitter jokes.

238

00:11:21,710 --> 00:11:26,360

239

00:11:26,360 --> 00:11:30,410

Do you know how they made
contact to this person

240

00:11:30,410 --> 00:11:32,900

in Tashkent, who
became their protector?

241

00:11:32,900 --> 00:11:33,860

I do not.

242

00:11:33,860 --> 00:11:36,290

The impression I had is that
it was just happenstance.

243

00:11:36,290 --> 00:11:41,030

244

00:11:41,030 --> 00:11:44,300

I don't remember any
conversation about that.

245

00:11:44,300 --> 00:11:46,370

It was just suddenly there.

246

00:11:46,370 --> 00:11:50,360

Shortly after that, Eshka was
working at the opera house

247

00:11:50,360 --> 00:11:51,350

with--

248

00:11:51,350 --> 00:11:54,200

my mother used to joke
about this little outfit

249

00:11:54,200 --> 00:11:56,390

that Eshka had to wear.

250

00:11:56,390 --> 00:11:57,230

I don't know.

251

00:11:57,230 --> 00:11:59,810

I was trying to imagine her
as one of those cigarette

252

00:11:59,810 --> 00:12:02,420

girls in those old movies,
and it just didn't work.

253

00:12:02,420 --> 00:12:05,950

254

00:12:05,950 --> 00:12:08,780

I always pictured her
with overalls and a pick

255

00:12:08,780 --> 00:12:13,670

over her shoulders, so
it was very incongruous.

256

00:12:13,670 --> 00:12:16,190

But it also-- those
details sound like it

257

00:12:16,190 --> 00:12:18,260

was a level of normality.

258

00:12:18,260 --> 00:12:22,230

Yes, yes, yeah.

259

00:12:22,230 --> 00:12:27,260

I say yes immediately because
I don't remember a great--

260

00:12:27,260 --> 00:12:29,750

or hardly any detail
from all that.

261

00:12:29,750 --> 00:12:35,660

Other than there were other kids

and that I got to play outside.

262
00:12:35,660 --> 00:12:38,960
Whereas through the
entire time of the trip,

263
00:12:38,960 --> 00:12:43,070
I was held very close.

264
00:12:43,070 --> 00:12:46,850
The minute I started
to cry, I was silenced.

265
00:12:46,850 --> 00:12:49,790
In fact, my crying
was one of the reasons

266
00:12:49,790 --> 00:12:53,240
they left the partisans, because
I became a risk for them.

267
00:12:53,240 --> 00:12:56,510

268
00:12:56,510 --> 00:12:57,520
My aunt worked.

269
00:12:57,520 --> 00:12:58,505
My mother went to work.

270
00:12:58,505 --> 00:12:59,380
They would come home.

271
00:12:59,380 --> 00:13:00,610
I mean, it was just--

272
00:13:00,610 --> 00:13:03,740
Do you remember your
living quarters?

273
00:13:03,740 --> 00:13:06,250
Not very well.

274

00:13:06,250 --> 00:13:11,300

It was small, but by comparison
with what we found initially

275

00:13:11,300 --> 00:13:16,170

in the camp, it was luxurious.

276

00:13:16,170 --> 00:13:18,470

In Wegscheid, it
was in a space--

277

00:13:18,470 --> 00:13:20,340

it was a barracks kind
of thing, in a space

278

00:13:20,340 --> 00:13:24,150

maybe half the
size of this room,

279

00:13:24,150 --> 00:13:26,040

there'd be three families.

280

00:13:26,040 --> 00:13:27,555

That's kind of small, yeah.

281

00:13:27,555 --> 00:13:31,320

282

00:13:31,320 --> 00:13:34,260

There was a potbelly stove and--

283

00:13:34,260 --> 00:13:38,330

284

00:13:38,330 --> 00:13:43,940

it dawned on me years
later, I always wondered--

285

00:13:43,940 --> 00:13:46,310

during the day
there was a rotation

286
00:13:46,310 --> 00:13:50,790
of who could occupy the space.

287
00:13:50,790 --> 00:13:57,600
And I figured it out when I
became a teenager, I think.

288
00:13:57,600 --> 00:14:00,330
I figured it out that the
reason they were rotating

289
00:14:00,330 --> 00:14:02,760
the use of the space
is the same way

290
00:14:02,760 --> 00:14:06,630
that we used to rotate the hotel
room during our spring break

291
00:14:06,630 --> 00:14:09,000
trips to Fort Lauderdale.

292
00:14:09,000 --> 00:14:11,580
It was the only way
a young couple could

293
00:14:11,580 --> 00:14:13,080
have some time to themselves.

294
00:14:13,080 --> 00:14:16,020
At night, there were 30 people
sleeping in that room-- or 20,

295
00:14:16,020 --> 00:14:17,010
or whatever.

296
00:14:17,010 --> 00:14:20,040
So there'd be an hour in
the middle of the day that--

297
00:14:20,040 --> 00:14:20,615

This family.

298
00:14:20,615 --> 00:14:22,170
--they could be conjugal.

299
00:14:22,170 --> 00:14:23,820
Yes.

300
00:14:23,820 --> 00:14:28,170
But the reason I stopped
is it kind of called them.

301
00:14:28,170 --> 00:14:31,680
And this is perhaps the
most striking memory I have

302
00:14:31,680 --> 00:14:35,320
of either DP camp.

303
00:14:35,320 --> 00:14:37,600
The potbelly stove was in
the middle of the room,

304
00:14:37,600 --> 00:14:40,120
and it heated the whole
room quite efficiently.

305
00:14:40,120 --> 00:14:42,650
And we were always
cautioned away from it.

306
00:14:42,650 --> 00:14:46,570
And this one boy
fell against it.

307
00:14:46,570 --> 00:14:49,740
And they literally
had to peel him off.

308
00:14:49,740 --> 00:14:52,190
And I never saw him again.

309

00:14:52,190 --> 00:14:55,160
And I always, for a while,
I remember asking about him.

310
00:14:55,160 --> 00:15:04,360
But, yeah, so there were
incidents like that.

311
00:15:04,360 --> 00:15:09,350
Not so much that kind
of grotesque thing.

312
00:15:09,350 --> 00:15:14,350
But one of the
shortcomings of the camps

313
00:15:14,350 --> 00:15:19,960
is that there was virtually
no medical attention.

314
00:15:19,960 --> 00:15:22,720

315
00:15:22,720 --> 00:15:27,780
The medics we're just
not trained to deal

316
00:15:27,780 --> 00:15:30,590
with family medicine.

317
00:15:30,590 --> 00:15:32,470
I almost died.

318
00:15:32,470 --> 00:15:35,370
I had my appendix burst.

319
00:15:35,370 --> 00:15:38,160
And they had to get
me from Ebelsburg

320
00:15:38,160 --> 00:15:46,770
to the hospital in Linz in some
military vehicle racing down

321
00:15:46,770 --> 00:15:49,710
the road, and they
barely made it.

322
00:15:49,710 --> 00:15:52,380
If somebody had an accident
or gotten very sick

323
00:15:52,380 --> 00:15:54,490
or something like that--

324
00:15:54,490 --> 00:15:56,860
I mean, my mother was
the only game in town.

325
00:15:56,860 --> 00:15:59,280
And she was a practical
nurse who would cup you.

326
00:15:59,280 --> 00:16:03,580

327
00:16:03,580 --> 00:16:06,430
She knew certain
things to help someone,

328
00:16:06,430 --> 00:16:11,530
but if they were in serious
trouble or seriously ill,

329
00:16:11,530 --> 00:16:14,500
we needed a doctor.

330
00:16:14,500 --> 00:16:18,470
There was, at some
point in time,

331
00:16:18,470 --> 00:16:22,000
one man that came who
was, in fact, a doctor,

332

00:16:22,000 --> 00:16:27,520
who they had known from back
in the hometown, Dr. Godwin.

333
00:16:27,520 --> 00:16:30,010
And he became like
the saint of the camp,

334
00:16:30,010 --> 00:16:34,510
because he could at
least do some triage

335
00:16:34,510 --> 00:16:35,830
and take care of people.

336
00:16:35,830 --> 00:16:37,407
This is in Ebensburg.

337
00:16:37,407 --> 00:16:39,240
This is in the second
camp that you were in.

338
00:16:39,240 --> 00:16:40,630
Yes, yeah, in the second one.

339
00:16:40,630 --> 00:16:41,980
First camp was bedlam.

340
00:16:41,980 --> 00:16:44,840
It was just-- it was early on.

341
00:16:44,840 --> 00:16:46,510
Nothing had been organized.

342
00:16:46,510 --> 00:16:49,260

343
00:16:49,260 --> 00:16:51,480
Well, I'll give you an example.

344
00:16:51,480 --> 00:16:55,230
One of the times I

did a presentation

345
00:16:55,230 --> 00:16:58,240
for the Holocaust
Speakers Bureau.

346
00:16:58,240 --> 00:17:00,480
There was a man
that came before me

347
00:17:00,480 --> 00:17:06,030
who happened to be a veteran,
an American soldier who

348
00:17:06,030 --> 00:17:10,440
was in one of the units
that liberated Dachau.

349
00:17:10,440 --> 00:17:18,730
Well, "liberated" is a
convenient but inaccurate term.

350
00:17:18,730 --> 00:17:21,440
When the Americans showed
up, the way he explained it--

351
00:17:21,440 --> 00:17:22,819
and it makes sense--

352
00:17:22,819 --> 00:17:26,880
when the Americans got there,
all the Germans had fled.

353
00:17:26,880 --> 00:17:32,420
There were just the inmates, the
prisoners, the emaciated there.

354
00:17:32,420 --> 00:17:36,930
And it was a tank unit.

355
00:17:36,930 --> 00:17:38,700
And they had medics,
but they were not

356

00:17:38,700 --> 00:17:43,720
equipped to deal with people in
the condition that they found.

357

00:17:43,720 --> 00:17:46,570
And he said, we probably
killed half of them

358

00:17:46,570 --> 00:17:51,130
by giving them C-rations.

359

00:17:51,130 --> 00:17:55,540
That kind of
thing-- so Wegscheid

360

00:17:55,540 --> 00:17:59,200
was, in some respects,
similar to that.

361

00:17:59,200 --> 00:18:07,150
If I were a GI given the duty
of keeping control of this camp,

362

00:18:07,150 --> 00:18:09,310
of herding all these
people in there,

363

00:18:09,310 --> 00:18:14,830
spraying them, breaking
up what I suspected

364

00:18:14,830 --> 00:18:18,082
were black market rings--

365

00:18:18,082 --> 00:18:18,790
it's interesting.

366

00:18:18,790 --> 00:18:21,460
Nobody really had jobs to work.

367

00:18:21,460 --> 00:18:26,080

And they all came from
places, god knows--

368
00:18:26,080 --> 00:18:30,700
and how they had stuff to trade
on the black market always

369
00:18:30,700 --> 00:18:31,630
fascinated me.

370
00:18:31,630 --> 00:18:33,890
Where did-- did
everybody have 10 coins?

371
00:18:33,890 --> 00:18:36,500

372
00:18:36,500 --> 00:18:38,770
I was always fascinated by that.

373
00:18:38,770 --> 00:18:43,600
It was kind of an underground
marketplace from early on.

374
00:18:43,600 --> 00:18:46,360
But the first camp was chaos.

375
00:18:46,360 --> 00:18:48,190
OK.

376
00:18:48,190 --> 00:18:53,280
Everything you say
has more questions.

377
00:18:53,280 --> 00:18:56,100
But I'm going to start with
the very first one that

378
00:18:56,100 --> 00:18:57,870
came to my mind.

379
00:18:57,870 --> 00:19:00,870

And that is how did you
get from Tashkent to Linz?

380
00:19:00,870 --> 00:19:02,250
That's a bit of a trek too.

381
00:19:02,250 --> 00:19:07,230

382
00:19:07,230 --> 00:19:08,910
I don't know for a certainty.

383
00:19:08,910 --> 00:19:11,500

384
00:19:11,500 --> 00:19:15,910
I had the impression that travel
was much easier coming back.

385
00:19:15,910 --> 00:19:19,510
There were lots
of people moving,

386
00:19:19,510 --> 00:19:21,940
coming back home,
wherever that was,

387
00:19:21,940 --> 00:19:25,305
whether home was Poland or
Austria or Hungary or whatever.

388
00:19:25,305 --> 00:19:26,555
There were people on the move.

389
00:19:26,555 --> 00:19:30,990

390
00:19:30,990 --> 00:19:33,390
Did your parents
ever explain it?

391
00:19:33,390 --> 00:19:36,090

No.

392

00:19:36,090 --> 00:19:38,830

All I know is that we
ended up in the camp.

393

00:19:38,830 --> 00:19:41,910

They never thought--
yeah, it's interesting.

394

00:19:41,910 --> 00:19:46,080

It wasn't-- my father, you
know, he kind of popped up out

395

00:19:46,080 --> 00:19:48,240

of the woods.

396

00:19:48,240 --> 00:19:51,900

Yeah, how did he get from
the partisan woods to Linz?

397

00:19:51,900 --> 00:19:54,490

Who knows.

398

00:19:54,490 --> 00:19:56,440

Who knows.

399

00:19:56,440 --> 00:19:59,340

In his mind, he was
on his way to Israel.

400

00:19:59,340 --> 00:20:00,840

And he didn't know
what had happened

401

00:20:00,840 --> 00:20:01,965

to you or your mother and--

402

00:20:01,965 --> 00:20:04,620

No idea.

403

00:20:04,620 --> 00:20:07,200

When we were in Ebelsberg--

404

00:20:07,200 --> 00:20:09,618

we had already
moved to Ebelsberg--

405

00:20:09,618 --> 00:20:13,370

406

00:20:13,370 --> 00:20:17,680

Eshka managed to get some
arrangement with a local farmer

407

00:20:17,680 --> 00:20:19,000

on the other side of the fence.

408

00:20:19,000 --> 00:20:22,060

And she had special
papers and stuff.

409

00:20:22,060 --> 00:20:25,750

He let her use a small
plot of land that

410

00:20:25,750 --> 00:20:28,240

would have been fallow
otherwise, to grow

411

00:20:28,240 --> 00:20:30,400

some vegetables and
potatoes and stuff.

412

00:20:30,400 --> 00:20:36,110

And she would take
them to market.

413

00:20:36,110 --> 00:20:40,400

And occasionally, she would
actually bake the potatoes

414

00:20:40,400 --> 00:20:42,350

before she took
them to the market,

415
00:20:42,350 --> 00:20:44,940
and they would
sell a lot better.

416
00:20:44,940 --> 00:20:48,390
And on one occasion, she was
on her way to the market,

417
00:20:48,390 --> 00:20:54,280
and there was this large tree
that was just full of notes--

418
00:20:54,280 --> 00:20:59,550
have you seen so-and-so,
pictures, what town,

419
00:20:59,550 --> 00:21:01,620
that kind of thing.

420
00:21:01,620 --> 00:21:03,840
The only thing I can think
of that's similar to it

421
00:21:03,840 --> 00:21:08,843
was after 9/11 there were all
these notes all over the place,

422
00:21:08,843 --> 00:21:11,385
because people didn't know what
happened to their loved ones.

423
00:21:11,385 --> 00:21:12,960
It was that kind of thing.

424
00:21:12,960 --> 00:21:15,345
And Eshka was going
by, and by habit

425
00:21:15,345 --> 00:21:18,900
would always would stop to
look who's coming, who's going,

426

00:21:18,900 --> 00:21:19,830

et cetera.

427

00:21:19,830 --> 00:21:24,360

And she stopped, and there was
a note there from my father.

428

00:21:24,360 --> 00:21:32,580

And she was forever tearful
when she described it.

429

00:21:32,580 --> 00:21:37,310

And she decided to
stay by the tree.

430

00:21:37,310 --> 00:21:41,270

She was there like a day and a
half eating her baked potatoes,

431

00:21:41,270 --> 00:21:43,400

and my father came by.

432

00:21:43,400 --> 00:21:45,860

And that's how we were reunited.

433

00:21:45,860 --> 00:21:46,670

That's amazing.

434

00:21:46,670 --> 00:21:49,310

Yeah, I mean, it's
more than amazing

435

00:21:49,310 --> 00:21:53,120

when you think of the odds,
of the millions of people

436

00:21:53,120 --> 00:21:58,250

that were displaced and going
in every which direction--

437

00:21:58,250 --> 00:22:02,900

some hopeless, some hopeful,

some god knows what.

438

00:22:02,900 --> 00:22:05,210

And that's how we were reunited.

439

00:22:05,210 --> 00:22:12,800

Yeah, so that means that
your dad found his way there.

440

00:22:12,800 --> 00:22:18,530

Your mom and your aunt left
Tashkent and found their way

441

00:22:18,530 --> 00:22:23,210

there, in the DP camp.

442

00:22:23,210 --> 00:22:26,060

Well, he wasn't in
the DP camp, but he

443

00:22:26,060 --> 00:22:28,820

was he was going
to be placed there

444

00:22:28,820 --> 00:22:31,340

when they were coming through.

445

00:22:31,340 --> 00:22:36,660

But you know the word "beshert?"

446

00:22:36,660 --> 00:22:37,700

Tell us what it means.

447

00:22:37,700 --> 00:22:39,575

If someone has written
it, it is meant to be.

448

00:22:39,575 --> 00:22:43,640

Whatever the term, and whatever
primitive culture or religion

449

00:22:43,640 --> 00:22:47,000

you speak of, there's a
belief that there is a karma,

450
00:22:47,000 --> 00:22:47,780
if you like.

451
00:22:47,780 --> 00:22:50,990
And that's what
the karma dictated.

452
00:22:50,990 --> 00:22:53,450
Do you remember
anything of your travel

453
00:22:53,450 --> 00:22:56,310
from Tashkent to the west?

454
00:22:56,310 --> 00:22:57,200
Nothing.

455
00:22:57,200 --> 00:22:59,120
But you do remember
the DP camps,

456
00:22:59,120 --> 00:23:02,260
I can tell that you can
remember what they looked like,

457
00:23:02,260 --> 00:23:02,760
and so on.

458
00:23:02,760 --> 00:23:08,300
So something happened
in that crucial year.

459
00:23:08,300 --> 00:23:13,430
I remember-- I was too young
to remember great detail,

460
00:23:13,430 --> 00:23:18,950
but I remember Tashkent being
normal, being predictable.

461

00:23:18,950 --> 00:23:22,460

462

00:23:22,460 --> 00:23:25,190

When you're an infant, and
whether you're breastfed

463

00:23:25,190 --> 00:23:26,720

or not, whatever, you scream.

464

00:23:26,720 --> 00:23:30,110

And you don't have a memory
of being hungry or well taken

465

00:23:30,110 --> 00:23:31,020

care of, or whatever.

466

00:23:31,020 --> 00:23:34,710

But when you're
three, you remember

467

00:23:34,710 --> 00:23:39,710

a sweet or a baked
good, and a regular meal

468

00:23:39,710 --> 00:23:43,590

or a comfortable place
to sleep, whatever it is.

469

00:23:43,590 --> 00:23:46,650

That starts to have
meaning in terms of how you

470

00:23:46,650 --> 00:23:48,400

relate to the world around you.

471

00:23:48,400 --> 00:23:50,530

So that was stable.

472

00:23:50,530 --> 00:23:51,290

I don't know.

473

00:23:51,290 --> 00:23:53,040

I don't remember
much about the trip,

474

00:23:53,040 --> 00:23:57,140

except it just-- it
seemed to take a minute.

475

00:23:57,140 --> 00:23:57,800

Like that.

476

00:23:57,800 --> 00:24:01,410

Yeah, but-- and it's
still a fairly long trip.

477

00:24:01,410 --> 00:24:02,830

It's almost the same--

478

00:24:02,830 --> 00:24:06,220

I mean, from Tashkent to
Ebelsberg is pretty much

479

00:24:06,220 --> 00:24:09,290

the same distance as from
Glubokoye to Tashkent.

480

00:24:09,290 --> 00:24:09,790

Yeah.

481

00:24:09,790 --> 00:24:13,110

482

00:24:13,110 --> 00:24:16,367

Do you know why it was to Linz?

483

00:24:16,367 --> 00:24:17,700

Do you know-- did you ever get--

484

00:24:17,700 --> 00:24:18,200

I don't.

485

00:24:18,200 --> 00:24:20,010
I don't.

486
00:24:20,010 --> 00:24:24,690
Again, because everything
was just in such a flux,

487
00:24:24,690 --> 00:24:28,030
if they had any coins left--

488
00:24:28,030 --> 00:24:29,550
which I don't know--

489
00:24:29,550 --> 00:24:34,700
if they could use one of
those coins to buy passage,

490
00:24:34,700 --> 00:24:37,860
the impulse would be to buy
passage on the first train out

491
00:24:37,860 --> 00:24:38,720
of there.

492
00:24:38,720 --> 00:24:40,820
Or the first train home.

493
00:24:40,820 --> 00:24:47,570
And Austria was closer
to home than Uzbekistan.

494
00:24:47,570 --> 00:24:50,460
Well, do you-- they
didn't go back though.

495
00:24:50,460 --> 00:24:55,100
No, their intention
was to go back.

496
00:24:55,100 --> 00:24:59,060
They, in fact, made some
efforts in the DP camp

497

00:24:59,060 --> 00:25:00,680
to get permission to go back.

498

00:25:00,680 --> 00:25:05,490
But it was denied them
by the authorities.

499

00:25:05,490 --> 00:25:13,310
But they gradually got word
from people from the area

500

00:25:13,310 --> 00:25:16,020
that the town had
been obliterated.

501

00:25:16,020 --> 00:25:17,910
And there was nothing
to go back to.

502

00:25:17,910 --> 00:25:20,730

503

00:25:20,730 --> 00:25:21,720
Here is, now--

504

00:25:21,720 --> 00:25:24,930

505

00:25:24,930 --> 00:25:29,160
I waited until you could
give me whatever explanation

506

00:25:29,160 --> 00:25:32,310
you might have, because I
didn't want to influence it.

507

00:25:32,310 --> 00:25:37,990
But here is my assumption,
hearing what you are saying.

508

00:25:37,990 --> 00:25:44,290
Your parents and your Aunt

Eshka were Polish citizens

509
00:25:44,290 --> 00:25:47,740
before the war.

510
00:25:47,740 --> 00:25:50,410
I don't know if they had
any documentation with them,

511
00:25:50,410 --> 00:25:51,970
whether they took any.

512
00:25:51,970 --> 00:25:52,930
Do you know?

513
00:25:52,930 --> 00:25:56,770
The only documentation
I've ever seen was one--

514
00:25:56,770 --> 00:25:57,370
no.

515
00:25:57,370 --> 00:25:59,170
Travel documentation, you mean?

516
00:25:59,170 --> 00:26:01,870
Passport, ID card.

517
00:26:01,870 --> 00:26:06,280
The first thing I've ever seen
that looked like a passport

518
00:26:06,280 --> 00:26:11,110
at all was stuff that was
issued in the DP camps

519
00:26:11,110 --> 00:26:15,320
by the American Red
Cross or by HIAS

520
00:26:15,320 --> 00:26:17,860
through cooperation with

the American authorities.

521
00:26:17,860 --> 00:26:20,680

522
00:26:20,680 --> 00:26:25,960
Somewhere I have my father's
green card, but no, nothing

523
00:26:25,960 --> 00:26:29,690
from that time period
that I can recall.

524
00:26:29,690 --> 00:26:32,842
Well, here's the assumption.

525
00:26:32,842 --> 00:26:35,440

526
00:26:35,440 --> 00:26:40,910
When Germany and the
Soviet Union were allies,

527
00:26:40,910 --> 00:26:43,550
Poland was an enemy.

528
00:26:43,550 --> 00:26:47,480
And that meant that the Polish
officers we talked about

529
00:26:47,480 --> 00:26:50,120
were arrested, and
10,000 of them shot.

530
00:26:50,120 --> 00:26:53,210
And Poles were
deported to Siberia.

531
00:26:53,210 --> 00:26:56,150
And Jews who were Poles
were deported to Siberia.

532

00:26:56,150 --> 00:27:00,110
And some Jews found refuge in
the-- that kind of situation.

533
00:27:00,110 --> 00:27:05,130
However, when Germany
attacked the Soviet Union,

534
00:27:05,130 --> 00:27:07,290
Stalin needed people
to help fight.

535
00:27:07,290 --> 00:27:07,920
I'm sorry?

536
00:27:07,920 --> 00:27:09,600
He needed people to help fight.

537
00:27:09,600 --> 00:27:10,740
Oh, yeah, sure.

538
00:27:10,740 --> 00:27:15,180
And the Polish government
in exile by General Sikorski

539
00:27:15,180 --> 00:27:16,980
came to an agreement
with Stalin,

540
00:27:16,980 --> 00:27:21,360
that the Poles are going to
be released from the gulags.

541
00:27:21,360 --> 00:27:24,960
And that they are free to
leave the country if they want,

542
00:27:24,960 --> 00:27:29,760
if they can prove some
military kind of connection.

543
00:27:29,760 --> 00:27:32,370
And many of them did,

under General Anders.

544

00:27:32,370 --> 00:27:35,880

Not everybody-- I mean, this
certainly isn't everybody.

545

00:27:35,880 --> 00:27:41,190

But fast-forward, many Jews
did not leave the Soviet Union,

546

00:27:41,190 --> 00:27:44,610

but they were free to
move around the country.

547

00:27:44,610 --> 00:27:47,610

At the end of the
war, Jews would also

548

00:27:47,610 --> 00:27:50,700

have been Polish citizens
as well as Poles, ethnic

549

00:27:50,700 --> 00:27:54,660

Poles, who had the right
to go back to Poland

550

00:27:54,660 --> 00:27:56,910

and cross the border.

551

00:27:56,910 --> 00:28:02,550

Whereas, people who-- for the
Balts, for example, did not.

552

00:28:02,550 --> 00:28:07,380

Now one wrinkle is that, what
we found in the little break

553

00:28:07,380 --> 00:28:10,260

that we took, is that your
mother and your father's

554

00:28:10,260 --> 00:28:14,880

villages were in Belarus,

which had been part of Poland,

555

00:28:14,880 --> 00:28:20,610
and then got absorbed
into the Belarusian SSR.

556

00:28:20,610 --> 00:28:23,280
How easy or difficult
it would have

557

00:28:23,280 --> 00:28:25,020
been for your aunt
and your mother

558

00:28:25,020 --> 00:28:30,450
to convince the Soviet
authorities to let them out,

559

00:28:30,450 --> 00:28:33,480
given that they were
Polish citizens,

560

00:28:33,480 --> 00:28:37,350
but the territory is
now part of the USSR,

561

00:28:37,350 --> 00:28:40,470
is something that
would have, in my mind,

562

00:28:40,470 --> 00:28:42,950
been something they
had to deal with.

563

00:28:42,950 --> 00:28:47,580
And how they got to Linz would
have been a story on its own,

564

00:28:47,580 --> 00:28:52,620
because there are these
bureaucratic policies and--

565

00:28:52,620 --> 00:28:53,220

Too late.

566
00:28:53,220 --> 00:28:57,000
Yeah, but I mean it makes
sense that the ticket out

567
00:28:57,000 --> 00:28:59,010
was the Polish citizenship.

568
00:28:59,010 --> 00:29:01,690
You know, that that is
what helped them get West.

569
00:29:01,690 --> 00:29:04,245
That's ironic.

570
00:29:04,245 --> 00:29:05,620
Well, you know,
it's interesting.

571
00:29:05,620 --> 00:29:10,500
One of the ironies, in
terms of Polish citizens

572
00:29:10,500 --> 00:29:15,460
and where you are,
my father, who

573
00:29:15,460 --> 00:29:19,240
was in the military and then
this other cockamamie outfit

574
00:29:19,240 --> 00:29:25,860
that they put together,
was never far from home.

575
00:29:25,860 --> 00:29:26,580
That's right.

576
00:29:26,580 --> 00:29:30,810
The entire time he
was close to home.

577

00:29:30,810 --> 00:29:32,900

And then after the war he--

578

00:29:32,900 --> 00:29:35,200

I don't understand it.

579

00:29:35,200 --> 00:29:38,910

I think part of
it is that he just

580

00:29:38,910 --> 00:29:40,740

assumed everybody
had perished, and he

581

00:29:40,740 --> 00:29:42,770

was going to go to Israel.

582

00:29:42,770 --> 00:29:44,030

And this was the best way.

583

00:29:44,030 --> 00:29:47,390

It was either that or go to
Greece or something like that.

584

00:29:47,390 --> 00:29:50,660

Didn't he have siblings who
left before the war, for Israel?

585

00:29:50,660 --> 00:29:51,350

Yes.

586

00:29:51,350 --> 00:29:53,180

And there's a logical
connection why.

587

00:29:53,180 --> 00:29:56,000

Yep, exactly.

588

00:29:56,000 --> 00:29:59,540

Now you also mentioned something
about your mother and your aunt

589

00:29:59,540 --> 00:30:03,500

always closing the
door pretty tight

590

00:30:03,500 --> 00:30:09,550

when you would ask questions
about their trip to Tashkent.

591

00:30:09,550 --> 00:30:13,930

Was that same thing true about
other aspects of their lives,

592

00:30:13,930 --> 00:30:15,220

their pre-war life?

593

00:30:15,220 --> 00:30:17,970

594

00:30:17,970 --> 00:30:18,470

No.

595

00:30:18,470 --> 00:30:22,100

596

00:30:22,100 --> 00:30:24,630

Eshka not so much.

597

00:30:24,630 --> 00:30:27,590

She didn't have much to say.

598

00:30:27,590 --> 00:30:32,420

Her life was pretty simple.

599

00:30:32,420 --> 00:30:34,160

She was the youngest.

600

00:30:34,160 --> 00:30:36,680

She was put upon
by all the others.

601

00:30:36,680 --> 00:30:39,440

602
00:30:39,440 --> 00:30:48,130
She saw her world in, I
think, very clear but limited

603
00:30:48,130 --> 00:30:48,816
parameters.

604
00:30:48,816 --> 00:30:51,430
And she was quite
satisfied with that.

605
00:30:51,430 --> 00:30:55,480
My mother, on the other hand,
in her own mind at least,

606
00:30:55,480 --> 00:30:58,140
was the eternal prom queen.

607
00:30:58,140 --> 00:30:59,310
And I'm serious.

608
00:30:59,310 --> 00:31:02,790
She danced and dated,
and all the boys

609
00:31:02,790 --> 00:31:06,150
were after her, and how
was lucky my dad was,

610
00:31:06,150 --> 00:31:08,500
and just this kind of thing.

611
00:31:08,500 --> 00:31:13,020
So yeah, in their younger days,
from everything I could tell,

612
00:31:13,020 --> 00:31:16,020
they had good lives.

613
00:31:16,020 --> 00:31:18,180

They didn't come from
very wealthy families,

614
00:31:18,180 --> 00:31:20,490
but they came from
well-to-do families.

615
00:31:20,490 --> 00:31:23,400
They were stable.

616
00:31:23,400 --> 00:31:29,660
She was able to
further her education.

617
00:31:29,660 --> 00:31:33,260
My uncles Morton and
Milton were educated.

618
00:31:33,260 --> 00:31:38,610

619
00:31:38,610 --> 00:31:40,610
They talked about friends.

620
00:31:40,610 --> 00:31:43,680
Well, one of the things
that they talked about

621
00:31:43,680 --> 00:31:48,750
quite bitterly was how many
of their former friends

622
00:31:48,750 --> 00:31:51,510
turned on them--

623
00:31:51,510 --> 00:31:53,220
their Polish friends.

624
00:31:53,220 --> 00:31:53,920
Gentiles?

625
00:31:53,920 --> 00:31:54,420

Huh?

626
00:31:54,420 --> 00:31:55,260
Gentiles?

627
00:31:55,260 --> 00:31:59,430
Yes, turned on them afterwards.

628
00:31:59,430 --> 00:32:00,480
You mean after what?

629
00:32:00,480 --> 00:32:04,200
After the Germans arrived,
or after the Soviets arrived?

630
00:32:04,200 --> 00:32:05,550
Or after the war?

631
00:32:05,550 --> 00:32:14,910
No, no, during all the
turbulence of the Holocaust.

632
00:32:14,910 --> 00:32:19,260
They were suddenly
unsafe in their own town,

633
00:32:19,260 --> 00:32:20,130
that kind of thing.

634
00:32:20,130 --> 00:32:23,280

635
00:32:23,280 --> 00:32:25,830
My mother would talk
about, I danced with him,

636
00:32:25,830 --> 00:32:29,160
and he wanted to turn me in.

637
00:32:29,160 --> 00:32:33,030
She didn't quite say that,
but it was that kind of thing,

638
00:32:33,030 --> 00:32:35,030
that people turned.

639
00:32:35,030 --> 00:32:45,510
Well, in my life's
experience, I have

640
00:32:45,510 --> 00:32:48,180
found that when people
are under great stress,

641
00:32:48,180 --> 00:32:54,310
under great duress, are afraid,
they will turn on each other.

642
00:32:54,310 --> 00:32:57,290
Neighbors will
turn on each other.

643
00:32:57,290 --> 00:33:02,950
So this is no different, except
the magnitude of the Holocaust

644
00:33:02,950 --> 00:33:06,370
is beyond anything
anyone can imagine

645
00:33:06,370 --> 00:33:08,750
or in any clear way understand.

646
00:33:08,750 --> 00:33:12,380
So that is very different.

647
00:33:12,380 --> 00:33:14,990
So--

648
00:33:14,990 --> 00:33:18,830
That's where the policies
that are set in motion

649
00:33:18,830 --> 00:33:22,610

get played out on
an individual level.

650
00:33:22,610 --> 00:33:25,370
But on that individual
level, people

651
00:33:25,370 --> 00:33:27,705
don't see what the larger
policy is in motion--

652
00:33:27,705 --> 00:33:28,205
Yeah.

653
00:33:28,205 --> 00:33:28,705
Yeah.

654
00:33:28,705 --> 00:33:29,870
--until later.

655
00:33:29,870 --> 00:33:30,990
Right until--

656
00:33:30,990 --> 00:33:32,870
Until--yeah.

657
00:33:32,870 --> 00:33:34,950
It's a door they cannot un-slam.

658
00:33:34,950 --> 00:33:35,450
Yeah.

659
00:33:35,450 --> 00:33:37,590
They can't undo
what they've done.

660
00:33:37,590 --> 00:33:44,120
And I was stationed in
Germany, in Bavaria in Augsburg

661
00:33:44,120 --> 00:33:47,390
for about a year and a half.

662
00:33:47,390 --> 00:33:51,140
And my father was far more
upset that I was in Germany

663
00:33:51,140 --> 00:33:54,145
than when I was in Vietnam.

664
00:33:54,145 --> 00:33:57,205

665
00:33:57,205 --> 00:33:58,940
He would be spinning
in his grave

666
00:33:58,940 --> 00:34:00,825
if he knew I was driving a BMW.

667
00:34:00,825 --> 00:34:01,325
Oh.

668
00:34:01,325 --> 00:34:02,382
Oh.

669
00:34:02,382 --> 00:34:03,620
[LAUGHING]

670
00:34:03,620 --> 00:34:04,385

671
00:34:04,385 --> 00:34:08,929
When I was in college, I bought
a Volkswagen my senior year--

672
00:34:08,929 --> 00:34:10,560
reliable transportation.

673
00:34:10,560 --> 00:34:12,780
And he threatened to sit shiva.

674
00:34:12,780 --> 00:34:13,280

Oh dear.

675
00:34:13,280 --> 00:34:14,600
I had to sell the car.

676
00:34:14,600 --> 00:34:15,139
Really?

677
00:34:15,139 --> 00:34:15,639
Yeah.

678
00:34:15,639 --> 00:34:19,440

679
00:34:19,440 --> 00:34:24,570
Anyway, where I was going
with the Bavaria thing

680
00:34:24,570 --> 00:34:36,469
is that how people who on an
individual, on a small basis,

681
00:34:36,469 --> 00:34:40,460
will do something and
not really comprehend

682
00:34:40,460 --> 00:34:42,560
what the larger picture is.

683
00:34:42,560 --> 00:34:45,739
I was stationed in Augsburg.

684
00:34:45,739 --> 00:34:50,510
For a time, I was the 24th
Infantry division protocol

685
00:34:50,510 --> 00:34:51,710
officer.

686
00:34:51,710 --> 00:34:54,560
So I had to travel around--
and this was difficult for me,

687
00:34:54,560 --> 00:34:56,480
I will tell you--

688
00:34:56,480 --> 00:35:00,350
travel around the
various towns in Bavaria,

689
00:35:00,350 --> 00:35:03,490
fostering German-American
friendship.

690
00:35:03,490 --> 00:35:06,430
Many of the people
that I had to deal with

691
00:35:06,430 --> 00:35:11,140
were former Luftwaffe
or whatever.

692
00:35:11,140 --> 00:35:14,960
I mean, there were
former German officers.

693
00:35:14,960 --> 00:35:19,040
Look, you have orders, and
you do what's necessary.

694
00:35:19,040 --> 00:35:24,470
But one of the towns very
close to Augsburg is Dachau.

695
00:35:24,470 --> 00:35:25,080
Oh, yeah.

696
00:35:25,080 --> 00:35:25,580
OK?

697
00:35:25,580 --> 00:35:26,540
Yeah.

698
00:35:26,540 --> 00:35:31,850

And I would be down the
Autobahn to Munich quite often.

699
00:35:31,850 --> 00:35:35,150
And on one occasion, I
took a circular route,

700
00:35:35,150 --> 00:35:36,730
because I had never
been to Dachau.

701
00:35:36,730 --> 00:35:38,420
And I went there.

702
00:35:38,420 --> 00:35:42,797
And I spoke some German.

703
00:35:42,797 --> 00:35:50,690
But in talking with
people, nobody--

704
00:35:50,690 --> 00:35:53,000
even people who understood
what was going on,

705
00:35:53,000 --> 00:35:55,400
didn't understand
what was going on.

706
00:35:55,400 --> 00:35:59,063
And by virtue of not
understanding it, denied it.

707
00:35:59,063 --> 00:36:00,730
That's an interesting
way of putting it.

708
00:36:00,730 --> 00:36:01,230
Yeah.

709
00:36:01,230 --> 00:36:03,700

710

00:36:03,700 --> 00:36:06,600

With an exception.

711

00:36:06,600 --> 00:36:09,570

I had already had a year
of teaching behind me,

712

00:36:09,570 --> 00:36:13,740

so I thought of
myself as pedagogical.

713

00:36:13,740 --> 00:36:19,110

But when I was visiting Dachau,
there was a young woman--

714

00:36:19,110 --> 00:36:20,790

I think she was a
second or third grade

715

00:36:20,790 --> 00:36:22,830

teacher with her class--

716

00:36:22,830 --> 00:36:26,190

going through Dachau.

717

00:36:26,190 --> 00:36:29,570

And the kids were misbehaving.

718

00:36:29,570 --> 00:36:33,920

But they were seven-year-olds,
eight-year-olds.

719

00:36:33,920 --> 00:36:35,630

They were misbehaving.

720

00:36:35,630 --> 00:36:37,970

And I was in uniform.

721

00:36:37,970 --> 00:36:40,310

And I accosted her.

722

00:36:40,310 --> 00:36:45,500
And I said, look, this
is really inappropriate.

723
00:36:45,500 --> 00:36:47,690
I was kind of nasty to her.

724
00:36:47,690 --> 00:36:49,280
And she started to cry.

725
00:36:49,280 --> 00:36:50,750
I said, oh, Jeez.

726
00:36:50,750 --> 00:36:53,360
Europe and American
friendship-- we were going

727
00:36:53,360 --> 00:36:56,570
around abusing European women.

728
00:36:56,570 --> 00:37:01,660
But we talked for a while,
and she explained to me

729
00:37:01,660 --> 00:37:07,860
and says she's risking her job
by bringing her kids there,

730
00:37:07,860 --> 00:37:11,600
because it's not part
of the curriculum.

731
00:37:11,600 --> 00:37:14,810
Germany, in the
early 60s, had still

732
00:37:14,810 --> 00:37:18,910
not gotten to the
point of including

733
00:37:18,910 --> 00:37:25,660
the real history of World
War II in their schools.

734
00:37:25,660 --> 00:37:27,790
That came eventually after that.

735
00:37:27,790 --> 00:37:33,520
And she was a trailblazer
in making these kids know

736
00:37:33,520 --> 00:37:34,750
that this place was there.

737
00:37:34,750 --> 00:37:36,550
And I said, OK, I understand.

738
00:37:36,550 --> 00:37:39,530
But nobody in town--

739
00:37:39,530 --> 00:37:41,300
the mayor, nothing.

740
00:37:41,300 --> 00:37:43,345
He'd been mayor for God
knows how many years.

741
00:37:43,345 --> 00:37:43,970
I know nothing.

742
00:37:43,970 --> 00:37:46,180
He's like Sergeant Schultz.

743
00:37:46,180 --> 00:37:47,210
And I'm serious.

744
00:37:47,210 --> 00:37:48,500
And--

745
00:37:48,500 --> 00:37:50,340
Sergeant Shultz of
the Hogan's Heroes?

746
00:37:50,340 --> 00:37:50,840

Yes.

747

00:37:50,840 --> 00:37:51,340

Yeah.

748

00:37:51,340 --> 00:37:54,260

People don't want to know,
because if I say I know,

749

00:37:54,260 --> 00:37:57,600

I have some responsibility.

750

00:37:57,600 --> 00:37:59,070

So--

751

00:37:59,070 --> 00:38:03,660

And you answered approximately
what my question, which

752

00:38:03,660 --> 00:38:06,060

was when were you in Germany?

753

00:38:06,060 --> 00:38:07,320

When were you stationed there?

754

00:38:07,320 --> 00:38:08,862

Because that makes
a difference, too.

755

00:38:08,862 --> 00:38:14,910

I was stationed in
Germany in 1966, '67.

756

00:38:14,910 --> 00:38:17,210

So before Vietnam?

757

00:38:17,210 --> 00:38:17,780

No.

758

00:38:17,780 --> 00:38:18,180

After--

759

00:38:18,180 --> 00:38:18,800

After it, yeah.

760

00:38:18,800 --> 00:38:19,300

I--

761

00:38:19,300 --> 00:38:20,000

After Vietnam.

762

00:38:20,000 --> 00:38:21,780

Oh, I was eager
to get to Vietnam.

763

00:38:21,780 --> 00:38:24,080

I wanted to be there early.

764

00:38:24,080 --> 00:38:25,400

So you volunteered?

765

00:38:25,400 --> 00:38:26,372

No, I was drafted.

766

00:38:26,372 --> 00:38:27,080

You were drafted.

767

00:38:27,080 --> 00:38:27,850

I was drafted.

768

00:38:27,850 --> 00:38:28,790

OK.

769

00:38:28,790 --> 00:38:31,230

I was one of the
oldest draftees.

770

00:38:31,230 --> 00:38:33,976

I was just--

771

00:38:33,976 --> 00:38:34,935

Just at the cutoff?

772

00:38:34,935 --> 00:38:35,893

--under the draft line.

773

00:38:35,893 --> 00:38:37,150

It was before the numbers.

774

00:38:37,150 --> 00:38:38,150

Oh.

775

00:38:38,150 --> 00:38:40,190

So everybody was
in the draft, and I

776

00:38:40,190 --> 00:38:42,450

was 25 when I was drafted.

777

00:38:42,450 --> 00:38:42,950

OK.

778

00:38:42,950 --> 00:38:47,180

I was older than my first
two company commanders.

779

00:38:47,180 --> 00:38:50,810

So yes, born in 1941, so '66.

780

00:38:50,810 --> 00:38:52,840

1966.

781

00:38:52,840 --> 00:38:54,130

I want to go back again.

782

00:38:54,130 --> 00:38:54,290

Sure.

783

00:38:54,290 --> 00:38:54,790

Go ahead.

784

00:38:54,790 --> 00:38:55,720

We're back in Linz.

785

00:38:55,720 --> 00:38:56,230

I'm sorry.

786

00:38:56,230 --> 00:38:57,022

I keep taking you--

787

00:38:57,022 --> 00:39:00,400

No, no, no, because
everywhere we've gone,

788

00:39:00,400 --> 00:39:03,610

you've given us a very
interesting insight that only

789

00:39:03,610 --> 00:39:05,380

a personal experience can give.

790

00:39:05,380 --> 00:39:06,100

OK.

791

00:39:06,100 --> 00:39:08,230

So not to feel bad about that.

792

00:39:08,230 --> 00:39:10,840

But another one of my
questions that came up as we

793

00:39:10,840 --> 00:39:13,540

were talking about the
DP camps, and you were

794

00:39:13,540 --> 00:39:15,280

talking about your Aunt Eshka.

795

00:39:15,280 --> 00:39:17,980

And she sees the note,
and it's from her father.

796

00:39:17,980 --> 00:39:20,890

And she sits there eating her
potatoes for a day and a half

797
00:39:20,890 --> 00:39:22,240
and so on.

798
00:39:22,240 --> 00:39:24,070
You said earlier,
you didn't see him

799
00:39:24,070 --> 00:39:25,330
until you were five years old.

800
00:39:25,330 --> 00:39:25,960
Right.

801
00:39:25,960 --> 00:39:28,660
Do you remember meeting this
stranger for the first time?

802
00:39:28,660 --> 00:39:29,320
Oh, yeah.

803
00:39:29,320 --> 00:39:30,040
What was it like?

804
00:39:30,040 --> 00:39:31,150
I was afraid of him.

805
00:39:31,150 --> 00:39:32,560
What did he look like?

806
00:39:32,560 --> 00:39:35,870
Oh, what did he look like?

807
00:39:35,870 --> 00:39:37,040
He looked like my father.

808
00:39:37,040 --> 00:39:41,000
I mean, he was,
in spite of having

809
00:39:41,000 --> 00:39:44,300
everything he'd gone through,

I remember him as a virile,

810
00:39:44,300 --> 00:39:46,730
strapping--

811
00:39:46,730 --> 00:39:47,870
I'll show you a picture.

812
00:39:47,870 --> 00:39:48,220
Sure.

813
00:39:48,220 --> 00:39:49,303
I have it on the computer.

814
00:39:49,303 --> 00:39:55,080

815
00:39:55,080 --> 00:39:57,330
What was his manner like?

816
00:39:57,330 --> 00:40:04,020
That's what I'm thinking--
it's just he was very stiff.

817
00:40:04,020 --> 00:40:13,930

818
00:40:13,930 --> 00:40:16,810
He didn't let go much--
every once in a while.

819
00:40:16,810 --> 00:40:19,120
I mean, this is long
after the camps.

820
00:40:19,120 --> 00:40:21,640
But certainly, in the camps.

821
00:40:21,640 --> 00:40:26,020
It was clear that he was
more than joyous to be there,

822

00:40:26,020 --> 00:40:30,130

that he loved us, that he
missed us, that he felt blessed

823

00:40:30,130 --> 00:40:32,230

and lucky to have survived.

824

00:40:32,230 --> 00:40:34,630

And no matter what
the circumstances,

825

00:40:34,630 --> 00:40:36,190

we were a family again.

826

00:40:36,190 --> 00:40:40,700

827

00:40:40,700 --> 00:40:46,850

I just don't remember my
dad laughing very often,

828

00:40:46,850 --> 00:40:50,840

which isn't much fun for a kid.

829

00:40:50,840 --> 00:40:55,640

And my father was,
by reputation--

830

00:40:55,640 --> 00:40:59,310

and there were people in the
camp that would testify to it--

831

00:40:59,310 --> 00:41:01,300

a terrific soccer player.

832

00:41:01,300 --> 00:41:06,310

And in Europe, then, now,
and 100 years from now,

833

00:41:06,310 --> 00:41:08,110

being a terrific
soccer player is

834
00:41:08,110 --> 00:41:14,210
a credential that will get
you passes to a lot of things.

835
00:41:14,210 --> 00:41:20,000
And for all of that, we never
kicked a soccer ball together.

836
00:41:20,000 --> 00:41:22,970
Well, yeah, you
make a face, but--

837
00:41:22,970 --> 00:41:23,730
It's sad.

838
00:41:23,730 --> 00:41:24,230
It's sad.

839
00:41:24,230 --> 00:41:25,260
Yeah, it is.

840
00:41:25,260 --> 00:41:25,760
It is.

841
00:41:25,760 --> 00:41:28,560

842
00:41:28,560 --> 00:41:30,630
I remember two instances--

843
00:41:30,630 --> 00:41:36,210
three, actually-- the third
being at his grave site.

844
00:41:36,210 --> 00:41:43,200

845
00:41:43,200 --> 00:41:48,150
First, I don't even know if
there's a real chronology here,

846
00:41:48,150 --> 00:41:50,750
but it was an instant.

847
00:41:50,750 --> 00:41:59,290
He was stiff, but there
was a sadness about him.

848
00:41:59,290 --> 00:42:01,580
There were times, even
when I was little,

849
00:42:01,580 --> 00:42:04,120
I remember there
were times there

850
00:42:04,120 --> 00:42:06,040
would be nothing in
particular going on,

851
00:42:06,040 --> 00:42:08,580
and he'd start to cry.

852
00:42:08,580 --> 00:42:13,380
And what's that about?

853
00:42:13,380 --> 00:42:15,540
So your mother
could fly in a rage,

854
00:42:15,540 --> 00:42:20,500
but your father would start
to cry out of nowhere?

855
00:42:20,500 --> 00:42:22,130
That's how it looked
like to the kids?

856
00:42:22,130 --> 00:42:22,630
Yeah.

857
00:42:22,630 --> 00:42:23,090
Yeah.

858
00:42:23,090 --> 00:42:23,490
Yeah.

859
00:42:23,490 --> 00:42:24,030
OK.

860
00:42:24,030 --> 00:42:25,200
Yeah, that's interesting.

861
00:42:25,200 --> 00:42:30,570
There's kind of a bipolar
sort of existence.

862
00:42:30,570 --> 00:42:33,015
But on one occasion,
it was at Passover.

863
00:42:33,015 --> 00:42:35,620

864
00:42:35,620 --> 00:42:53,220
And we were reading the Haggadah
and came to the Hebrew slaves

865
00:42:53,220 --> 00:43:01,520
being made to eat food
of sawdust and straw.

866
00:43:01,520 --> 00:43:04,490
And he started to cry.

867
00:43:04,490 --> 00:43:07,670
And it was one of the
few times I exacted

868
00:43:07,670 --> 00:43:10,520
from him an explanation.

869
00:43:10,520 --> 00:43:13,980
And it turned out
that among the things,

870
00:43:13,980 --> 00:43:17,880
even though they
had survived, food

871
00:43:17,880 --> 00:43:22,080
was so scarce that they were
forced to make bread out

872
00:43:22,080 --> 00:43:28,260
of what little wheat they had
mixed with straw and sawdust.

873
00:43:28,260 --> 00:43:29,370
Oh.

874
00:43:29,370 --> 00:43:35,880
Hey, it was-- and
my reaction was

875
00:43:35,880 --> 00:43:38,910
to say to my dad, what that
had to do to your intestines.

876
00:43:38,910 --> 00:43:44,900
But to be reduced to that
kind of thing for survival--

877
00:43:44,900 --> 00:43:54,320

878
00:43:54,320 --> 00:44:01,550
but you come to a point--

879
00:44:01,550 --> 00:44:04,520
and I say this from some
personal experience--

880
00:44:04,520 --> 00:44:10,280
you come to a point during
times of great danger and great

881

00:44:10,280 --> 00:44:14,625
stress and great
deprivation where you will--

882
00:44:14,625 --> 00:44:17,000
I'll say you sink to whatever.

883
00:44:17,000 --> 00:44:18,200
It's not a matter of sink.

884
00:44:18,200 --> 00:44:21,750

885
00:44:21,750 --> 00:44:24,390
There are breeds of dog
that are really delicious, I

886
00:44:24,390 --> 00:44:29,160
can tell you, and
other critters that

887
00:44:29,160 --> 00:44:31,290
are around at their own risk.

888
00:44:31,290 --> 00:44:34,200
If people don't have
anything to eat,

889
00:44:34,200 --> 00:44:39,000
they will resort to whatever,
including making bread out

890
00:44:39,000 --> 00:44:41,700
of the inedible.

891
00:44:41,700 --> 00:44:44,730
So that was one time.

892
00:44:44,730 --> 00:44:47,400
The next time was the
last year the Brooklyn

893

00:44:47,400 --> 00:44:49,450
Dodgers were in Brooklyn.

894
00:44:49,450 --> 00:44:52,310
And my dad and I went to a game.

895
00:44:52,310 --> 00:44:57,120
And I don't know
much about the game,

896
00:44:57,120 --> 00:45:05,010
but I spent nine innings
looking at him really

897
00:45:05,010 --> 00:45:08,810
adoringly, for two things.

898
00:45:08,810 --> 00:45:11,860
One, it was my pop.

899
00:45:11,860 --> 00:45:20,350
And two, he took time
away from his busyness

900
00:45:20,350 --> 00:45:23,860
to do something with me
for one of the only times

901
00:45:23,860 --> 00:45:26,510
that I can remember.

902
00:45:26,510 --> 00:45:29,880
And the third time
was when he died,

903
00:45:29,880 --> 00:45:31,530
and I was at his grave site.

904
00:45:31,530 --> 00:45:36,580
And I felt more rage than
loss because now he was gone,

905

00:45:36,580 --> 00:45:39,910
and we were never going to have
the conversations that I always

906
00:45:39,910 --> 00:45:41,740
wanted to have.

907
00:45:41,740 --> 00:45:46,740
So political ones, maybe, but--

908
00:45:46,740 --> 00:45:48,200
Any kind.

909
00:45:48,200 --> 00:45:49,300
Any kind.

910
00:45:49,300 --> 00:45:49,830
Yeah.

911
00:45:49,830 --> 00:45:50,330
Yeah.

912
00:45:50,330 --> 00:45:56,660
And I know there are dads
here and everywhere that

913
00:45:56,660 --> 00:46:00,050
just don't have a
relationship with their kids

914
00:46:00,050 --> 00:46:02,300
for whatever reasons.

915
00:46:02,300 --> 00:46:07,370
But he was a good
and decent man.

916
00:46:07,370 --> 00:46:11,420
And the only thing I can
think of that prevented him

917
00:46:11,420 --> 00:46:16,050

from opening his heart
to me or the world

918
00:46:16,050 --> 00:46:23,090
or whatever is that he had seen
and been through things that he

919
00:46:23,090 --> 00:46:26,270
could not begin to describe,
and they were haunting him.

920
00:46:26,270 --> 00:46:32,030
We're back to the
business of being ghosts.

921
00:46:32,030 --> 00:46:34,790
He was haunted.

922
00:46:34,790 --> 00:46:37,940
And my mother, in different
ways and more active

923
00:46:37,940 --> 00:46:38,690
immediate ways--

924
00:46:38,690 --> 00:46:41,240

925
00:46:41,240 --> 00:46:42,840
she would flare up.

926
00:46:42,840 --> 00:46:44,480
But my dad just--

927
00:46:44,480 --> 00:46:48,070

928
00:46:48,070 --> 00:46:49,360
I miss him.

929
00:46:49,360 --> 00:46:50,740
I missed him when he was around.

930
00:46:50,740 --> 00:46:56,260

931
00:46:56,260 --> 00:46:59,170
Well, one of my
questions was, how

932
00:46:59,170 --> 00:47:03,070
did what they went
through affect you?

933
00:47:03,070 --> 00:47:05,470
And I think you've
answered a good part of it.

934
00:47:05,470 --> 00:47:08,015

935
00:47:08,015 --> 00:47:08,515
Yeah.

936
00:47:08,515 --> 00:47:13,590

937
00:47:13,590 --> 00:47:17,710
I wanted so desperately
to be normal--

938
00:47:17,710 --> 00:47:19,570
I'm now; I'm crazier
than a loon--

939
00:47:19,570 --> 00:47:28,150
but to be normal and in ways
that allowed us comfortably

940
00:47:28,150 --> 00:47:30,940
to do the normal things--

941
00:47:30,940 --> 00:47:34,120
go on a picnic go on the beach.

942
00:47:34,120 --> 00:47:37,070

943
00:47:37,070 --> 00:47:41,180
I learned how to
swim in Lake Ontario.

944
00:47:41,180 --> 00:47:43,310
my father took me
out in a rowboat

945
00:47:43,310 --> 00:47:45,305
and threw me overboard
and rowed away.

946
00:47:45,305 --> 00:47:46,520
Oh God!

947
00:47:46,520 --> 00:47:51,410
And I learned to swim because I
was deathly afraid of sinking.

948
00:47:51,410 --> 00:47:55,010
And he wasn't far enough
away that I was in danger,

949
00:47:55,010 --> 00:47:57,450
but to me, the world
was coming to an end.

950
00:47:57,450 --> 00:48:03,950

951
00:48:03,950 --> 00:48:09,030
I played hockey and
baseball and football.

952
00:48:09,030 --> 00:48:14,480

953
00:48:14,480 --> 00:48:17,510

My dad never saw a single game.

954

00:48:17,510 --> 00:48:20,690

My mother came to a
hockey game during which

955

00:48:20,690 --> 00:48:21,725

I had my nose broken.

956

00:48:21,725 --> 00:48:24,770

957

00:48:24,770 --> 00:48:26,390

And she was up in
the stands while I

958

00:48:26,390 --> 00:48:29,210

was out on the ice,
blood everywhere.

959

00:48:29,210 --> 00:48:31,790

So that was the only time
she came to see me play.

960

00:48:31,790 --> 00:48:40,890

961

00:48:40,890 --> 00:48:43,810

Do you feel like
you were raised by--

962

00:48:43,810 --> 00:48:44,580

I'm sorry?

963

00:48:44,580 --> 00:48:47,850

Do you feel like you were
raised by broken people?

964

00:48:47,850 --> 00:48:53,120

Do you feel like you were
raised by broken people?

965

00:48:53,120 --> 00:48:55,940
You certainly give
me the sense that you

966
00:48:55,940 --> 00:48:58,070
were raised by haunted people.

967
00:48:58,070 --> 00:48:58,730
By what people?

968
00:48:58,730 --> 00:48:59,690
Haunted.

969
00:48:59,690 --> 00:49:01,190
Haunted?

970
00:49:01,190 --> 00:49:02,330
Yeah.

971
00:49:02,330 --> 00:49:03,980
Haunted and broken
not necessarily--

972
00:49:03,980 --> 00:49:04,790
No, they're not.

973
00:49:04,790 --> 00:49:05,585
--too far apart.

974
00:49:05,585 --> 00:49:09,960

975
00:49:09,960 --> 00:49:13,290
I've been accused, from time
to time, of being my mother.

976
00:49:13,290 --> 00:49:16,780

977
00:49:16,780 --> 00:49:21,370
It's hard to escape
that, I think, entirely.

978
00:49:21,370 --> 00:49:24,160
I was about to say earlier,
I struggled mightily

979
00:49:24,160 --> 00:49:25,870
to be normal, to have them--

980
00:49:25,870 --> 00:49:30,670
but I couldn't say to my
mom, look, forget about that.

981
00:49:30,670 --> 00:49:34,690
But what I spent my life,
at least while I was home,

982
00:49:34,690 --> 00:49:38,950
and even when I came home from
school or traveling whatever,

983
00:49:38,950 --> 00:49:42,040
I spent my time trying to
get them to look forward

984
00:49:42,040 --> 00:49:47,290
rather than backward, that
there was a lot out there

985
00:49:47,290 --> 00:49:48,430
than there was--

986
00:49:48,430 --> 00:49:50,890
good stuff than
there was back there.

987
00:49:50,890 --> 00:49:55,170
And it was impossible for
them to let go, I guess.

988
00:49:55,170 --> 00:49:58,530
And over the years,
as I've become older,

989

00:49:58,530 --> 00:50:03,660

I've kind of come to
better understand that,

990

00:50:03,660 --> 00:50:06,390

as some things have
haunted me that I've not

991

00:50:06,390 --> 00:50:07,460

been able to let go.

992

00:50:07,460 --> 00:50:09,990

993

00:50:09,990 --> 00:50:13,300

I'll give you an example.

994

00:50:13,300 --> 00:50:18,800

I remember a great
fuss being made

995

00:50:18,800 --> 00:50:21,410

to orchestrate documentation.

996

00:50:21,410 --> 00:50:26,725

And I say orchestrate in terms
of falsify in some respects.

997

00:50:26,725 --> 00:50:28,100

And I probably
shouldn't be doing

998

00:50:28,100 --> 00:50:30,170

this kind of confessional.

999

00:50:30,170 --> 00:50:36,510

But my mom and dad went
through this process

1000

00:50:36,510 --> 00:50:41,080

of establishing legitimacy
for German [SPEAKING GERMAN]..

1001
00:50:41,080 --> 00:50:43,070
Yeah, to get compensation.

1002
00:50:43,070 --> 00:50:44,430
Compensation.

1003
00:50:44,430 --> 00:50:45,720
I called it blood money.

1004
00:50:45,720 --> 00:50:51,840

1005
00:50:51,840 --> 00:50:54,420
When I became an adult,
for the longest time,

1006
00:50:54,420 --> 00:50:56,230
they wanted to
file on my behalf.

1007
00:50:56,230 --> 00:50:57,430
And I told them no.

1008
00:50:57,430 --> 00:50:59,710
But for the longest time,
when I was an adult,

1009
00:50:59,710 --> 00:51:04,290
they kept trying to get
me to file for it as well.

1010
00:51:04,290 --> 00:51:04,980
And I wouldn't.

1011
00:51:04,980 --> 00:51:08,620

1012
00:51:08,620 --> 00:51:10,650
Now, I don't know--

1013

00:51:10,650 --> 00:51:11,800
it was a pittance.

1014
00:51:11,800 --> 00:51:12,550
It was nothing.

1015
00:51:12,550 --> 00:51:15,940
It was like \$120 a month,
something like that.

1016
00:51:15,940 --> 00:51:19,840

1017
00:51:19,840 --> 00:51:21,550
For them, especially
for my mother,

1018
00:51:21,550 --> 00:51:24,130
it was that idea that she
was going to get something.

1019
00:51:24,130 --> 00:51:26,920

1020
00:51:26,920 --> 00:51:33,920
I was of a mind that
getting that something

1021
00:51:33,920 --> 00:51:37,790
puts a price on
what has happened,

1022
00:51:37,790 --> 00:51:42,960
and there's no something that
would be sufficient for what

1023
00:51:42,960 --> 00:51:47,430
they went through, for the
slaughter of her sister

1024
00:51:47,430 --> 00:51:52,530
and nephew, for the slaughter
of all those people and all

1025
00:51:52,530 --> 00:51:57,140
that lunacy that went on.

1026
00:51:57,140 --> 00:51:58,275
A few hundred dollars--

1027
00:51:58,275 --> 00:51:59,525
I don't care how many dollars.

1028
00:51:59,525 --> 00:52:07,530

1029
00:52:07,530 --> 00:52:10,790
And she got her
[SPEAKING GERMAN] check.

1030
00:52:10,790 --> 00:52:14,050

1031
00:52:14,050 --> 00:52:18,390
And I just couldn't
talk her out of it.

1032
00:52:18,390 --> 00:52:20,110
It's just--

1033
00:52:20,110 --> 00:52:22,820
But there's nothing in
what you're telling me

1034
00:52:22,820 --> 00:52:25,240
that sounds like
it's falsification.

1035
00:52:25,240 --> 00:52:38,070
Well, I just remember that
they spent a long time

1036
00:52:38,070 --> 00:52:42,630
trying to put together
some credible story,

1037
00:52:42,630 --> 00:52:45,810
because they didn't have all
the details that they needed to,

1038
00:52:45,810 --> 00:52:49,350
that they could certify.

1039
00:52:49,350 --> 00:52:51,850
So they put together something
that could be certified.

1040
00:52:51,850 --> 00:52:52,350
OK.

1041
00:52:52,350 --> 00:52:55,320
That's all I meant.

1042
00:52:55,320 --> 00:52:58,290
I don't think it was out-and-out
fraud in that respect,

1043
00:52:58,290 --> 00:53:00,390
because they had gone
through all this stuff.

1044
00:53:00,390 --> 00:53:07,250

1045
00:53:07,250 --> 00:53:11,330
If they were destitute or needy
or something like that, where

1046
00:53:11,330 --> 00:53:16,220
every little bit would help
to buy food or whatever-- but

1047
00:53:16,220 --> 00:53:18,820
they had enough for food.

1048
00:53:18,820 --> 00:53:22,794
By way of analogy,

I've never used the VA.

1049
00:53:22,794 --> 00:53:26,120

1050
00:53:26,120 --> 00:53:28,910
I could have initially.

1051
00:53:28,910 --> 00:53:31,580
I was going through some very
difficult times initially,

1052
00:53:31,580 --> 00:53:33,020
and I went to the VA.

1053
00:53:33,020 --> 00:53:35,150
And they said they
wanted to give me drugs.

1054
00:53:35,150 --> 00:53:36,020
I don't want drugs.

1055
00:53:36,020 --> 00:53:38,660

1056
00:53:38,660 --> 00:53:40,700
And I've never gone back.

1057
00:53:40,700 --> 00:53:44,700
I know a lot of
folks who use the VA.

1058
00:53:44,700 --> 00:53:45,410
It helps them.

1059
00:53:45,410 --> 00:53:49,440

1060
00:53:49,440 --> 00:53:50,280
Look around me.

1061

00:53:50,280 --> 00:53:53,160
I'm doing OK.

1062
00:53:53,160 --> 00:53:57,030
I don't need another
few bucks by way

1063
00:53:57,030 --> 00:54:01,770
of compensation for my
psoriasis or exposure

1064
00:54:01,770 --> 00:54:03,240
to something like that.

1065
00:54:03,240 --> 00:54:05,490
It just--

1066
00:54:05,490 --> 00:54:06,660
It's a difference--

1067
00:54:06,660 --> 00:54:07,080
I don't need to get over--

1068
00:54:07,080 --> 00:54:07,705
--in principle.

1069
00:54:07,705 --> 00:54:09,090
--I guess, is the expression.

1070
00:54:09,090 --> 00:54:11,430
And I always had the
feeling that while they

1071
00:54:11,430 --> 00:54:15,880
may have been entitled
to it and 100 times more,

1072
00:54:15,880 --> 00:54:20,440
they diminish
themselves by taking it.

1073
00:54:20,440 --> 00:54:26,050

It's a stupid, young
idealist's view of the world,

1074
00:54:26,050 --> 00:54:29,480
but I've never completely been
able to rid myself of that.

1075
00:54:29,480 --> 00:54:29,980
Yeah.

1076
00:54:29,980 --> 00:54:33,580

1077
00:54:33,580 --> 00:54:36,760
Did your siblings have
different experiences

1078
00:54:36,760 --> 00:54:37,660
of the same parents?

1079
00:54:37,660 --> 00:54:41,476

1080
00:54:41,476 --> 00:54:42,472
That's funny.

1081
00:54:42,472 --> 00:54:45,970

1082
00:54:45,970 --> 00:54:51,350
My brother, who was the
forgotten middle child--

1083
00:54:51,350 --> 00:54:54,590
and forgotten literally
in so many respects,

1084
00:54:54,590 --> 00:54:58,610
because there's
this seven-year gap.

1085
00:54:58,610 --> 00:55:05,390

And so he ended up
being my responsibility.

1086
00:55:05,390 --> 00:55:06,350
I schooled him.

1087
00:55:06,350 --> 00:55:08,870
I beat him.

1088
00:55:08,870 --> 00:55:10,590
But we spent a lot
of time together.

1089
00:55:10,590 --> 00:55:15,020
We learned to speak
English together.

1090
00:55:15,020 --> 00:55:17,080
People always ask, well,
where's your accent?

1091
00:55:17,080 --> 00:55:21,110
He says, well, I left it
under the blanket in Toronto.

1092
00:55:21,110 --> 00:55:24,200
My brother and I, against
very strict orders,

1093
00:55:24,200 --> 00:55:27,720
would get into the same
bed with a little radio,

1094
00:55:27,720 --> 00:55:29,480
and we would listen
to the radio.

1095
00:55:29,480 --> 00:55:30,170
Oh.

1096
00:55:30,170 --> 00:55:32,640
And we would repeat
what we heard.

1097
00:55:32,640 --> 00:55:34,190
We didn't know what
we heard, but we

1098
00:55:34,190 --> 00:55:38,300
would repeat so the
expression of language

1099
00:55:38,300 --> 00:55:41,090
became second nature even
before we understood it.

1100
00:55:41,090 --> 00:55:45,010

1101
00:55:45,010 --> 00:55:47,830
We used to play the
Lone Ranger and Tonto.

1102
00:55:47,830 --> 00:55:49,780
Who was who?

1103
00:55:49,780 --> 00:55:53,810
I let him be the
Ranger once in a while.

1104
00:55:53,810 --> 00:55:54,895
But he was usually Tonto.

1105
00:55:54,895 --> 00:56:01,180

1106
00:56:01,180 --> 00:56:04,150
In the morning, we'd get
up, and we could actually

1107
00:56:04,150 --> 00:56:07,630
go through a whole scene,
almost word for word,

1108
00:56:07,630 --> 00:56:10,390

of the Lone Ranger and
Tonto, the Green Hornet,

1109
00:56:10,390 --> 00:56:11,785
all those great radio shows.

1110
00:56:11,785 --> 00:56:26,280

1111
00:56:26,280 --> 00:56:30,170
David was born in
the camps, in Linz.

1112
00:56:30,170 --> 00:56:34,980

1113
00:56:34,980 --> 00:56:40,320
He, at least at
first, was effectively

1114
00:56:40,320 --> 00:56:44,820
the lovechild of my mom
and dad being reunited.

1115
00:56:44,820 --> 00:56:49,560
So it was a great joy, a great
simcha blessing, et cetera.

1116
00:56:49,560 --> 00:56:52,080
He was a great,
great little kid.

1117
00:56:52,080 --> 00:56:53,620
He was no trouble at all.

1118
00:56:53,620 --> 00:56:55,905
He was mild, kind.

1119
00:56:55,905 --> 00:57:04,900

1120
00:57:04,900 --> 00:57:08,890

But his temperament
was such that he

1121
00:57:08,890 --> 00:57:14,310
would make no demands of
anybody or anybody's time.

1122
00:57:14,310 --> 00:57:16,170
He would tag along
with me and be

1123
00:57:16,170 --> 00:57:18,520
grateful for it, and et cetera.

1124
00:57:18,520 --> 00:57:21,330
And it's almost like he
grew up in a household,

1125
00:57:21,330 --> 00:57:25,260
and nobody realized that
they had another child there.

1126
00:57:25,260 --> 00:57:29,740
When my sister was born,
that was in Toronto.

1127
00:57:29,740 --> 00:57:35,500
She was born with
dysplasia in her hips,

1128
00:57:35,500 --> 00:57:39,040
so she was in a cast from
her knees to her chest--

1129
00:57:39,040 --> 00:57:39,680
Oh, poor baby.

1130
00:57:39,680 --> 00:57:45,790
--for, God, the first
year or so of her life.

1131
00:57:45,790 --> 00:57:49,510
And so my mother's

nursing instincts

1132
00:57:49,510 --> 00:57:53,560
and motherly instincts
all turned to my sister.

1133
00:57:53,560 --> 00:57:56,170
And literally the
rest of the household,

1134
00:57:56,170 --> 00:58:00,910
for that time period, was
forgotten, understandably.

1135
00:58:00,910 --> 00:58:09,060
But Shelly became my
mother's plaything,

1136
00:58:09,060 --> 00:58:12,054
my mother's toy almost.

1137
00:58:12,054 --> 00:58:15,360
It was like my mother wanted
to control her heartbeat.

1138
00:58:15,360 --> 00:58:18,060

1139
00:58:18,060 --> 00:58:25,110
And Shelly sometimes resisted
it and sometimes enjoyed it.

1140
00:58:25,110 --> 00:58:28,870
So it was not a very healthy
kind of relationship.

1141
00:58:28,870 --> 00:58:32,250
I'll give you an example.

1142
00:58:32,250 --> 00:58:34,685
My sister had this
gorgeous red hair.

1143
00:58:34,685 --> 00:58:35,990
It was like down to here.

1144
00:58:35,990 --> 00:58:40,190
She would have passed for
native in Dublin, Ireland.

1145
00:58:40,190 --> 00:58:43,100
I mean, she really looked Irish.

1146
00:58:43,100 --> 00:58:48,330
And my mother kept
after her to cut it.

1147
00:58:48,330 --> 00:58:50,660
And Shelly didn't want to.

1148
00:58:50,660 --> 00:58:52,700
So one day while
Shelly was sleeping,

1149
00:58:52,700 --> 00:58:55,180
my mother cut her hair.

1150
00:58:55,180 --> 00:59:01,840
Now, I almost became
violent at my reaction

1151
00:59:01,840 --> 00:59:07,570
to the level of intrusion
into her space, into her life,

1152
00:59:07,570 --> 00:59:10,060
into her persona.

1153
00:59:10,060 --> 00:59:12,340
But that was the nature
of their relationship.

1154
00:59:12,340 --> 00:59:13,390
No boundaries.

1155
00:59:13,390 --> 00:59:13,970
Huh?

1156
00:59:13,970 --> 00:59:15,350
No boundaries.

1157
00:59:15,350 --> 00:59:16,220
No boundaries.

1158
00:59:16,220 --> 00:59:23,240
And what it did was it made
Shelly, in some respects,

1159
00:59:23,240 --> 00:59:25,340
dependent on my mother.

1160
00:59:25,340 --> 00:59:31,470
But in other respects, it gave
her power to manipulate her.

1161
00:59:31,470 --> 00:59:38,570
So they had this very,
very strange relationship.

1162
00:59:38,570 --> 00:59:41,970
I don't think either
David or I were

1163
00:59:41,970 --> 00:59:43,290
particularly jealous of it.

1164
00:59:43,290 --> 00:59:45,870
Initially, I think we were when
we were younger, because she

1165
00:59:45,870 --> 00:59:47,890
was getting all the attention.

1166
00:59:47,890 --> 00:59:48,390
But--

1167

00:59:48,390 --> 00:59:50,950

1168

00:59:50,950 --> 00:59:52,600

There's a price to pay for it.

1169

00:59:52,600 --> 00:59:53,110

I'm sorry?

1170

00:59:53,110 --> 00:59:54,950

There was a price to pay for it.

1171

00:59:54,950 --> 00:59:55,450

Yeah.

1172

00:59:55,450 --> 00:59:55,960

Yeah.

1173

00:59:55,960 --> 00:59:56,350

Yeah.

1174

00:59:56,350 --> 00:59:56,850

Yeah.

1175

00:59:56,850 --> 01:00:00,980

1176

01:00:00,980 --> 01:00:06,510

Yeah, and I think about that
one episode, and I still cringe.

1177

01:00:06,510 --> 01:00:10,520

But I don't know what
possessed my mother

1178

01:00:10,520 --> 01:00:12,560

to do that other than--

1179

01:00:12,560 --> 01:00:14,330

And she saw that she could.

1180

01:00:14,330 --> 01:00:15,840
In her way, in her
mind, it sounds--

1181
01:00:15,840 --> 01:00:16,340
Yeah.

1182
01:00:16,340 --> 01:00:16,840
Yeah.

1183
01:00:16,840 --> 01:00:21,800
--like there was no end
of her and the beginning

1184
01:00:21,800 --> 01:00:22,940
of your sister.

1185
01:00:22,940 --> 01:00:24,880
Yeah, that's a
good way to put it.

1186
01:00:24,880 --> 01:00:27,470

1187
01:00:27,470 --> 01:00:30,770
Their personalities
almost blended.

1188
01:00:30,770 --> 01:00:32,147
As you say, I
think it was, well,

1189
01:00:32,147 --> 01:00:33,980
she must have almost
been thinking as if she

1190
01:00:33,980 --> 01:00:35,490
were cutting her own hair.

1191
01:00:35,490 --> 01:00:36,170
Yeah.

1192

01:00:36,170 --> 01:00:38,050
So--

1193
01:00:38,050 --> 01:00:40,930
Did you ever go back or--
yes, I mean, for you,

1194
01:00:40,930 --> 01:00:44,830
it would have been back to that
Northeastern corner of Poland,

1195
01:00:44,830 --> 01:00:46,210
which is today Belarus?

1196
01:00:46,210 --> 01:00:46,896
No.

1197
01:00:46,896 --> 01:00:47,950
I never have.

1198
01:00:47,950 --> 01:00:49,400
My daughter has.

1199
01:00:49,400 --> 01:00:50,360
Has she?

1200
01:00:50,360 --> 01:00:50,860
Yeah.

1201
01:00:50,860 --> 01:00:56,080
My daughter was
working in England

1202
01:00:56,080 --> 01:01:00,100
after she got through
undergrad school.

1203
01:01:00,100 --> 01:01:03,640
Before she went to graduate
school, she worked in England

1204
01:01:03,640 --> 01:01:06,140

and decided to take
some time to travel.

1205
01:01:06,140 --> 01:01:09,280

1206
01:01:09,280 --> 01:01:12,770
She said there wasn't
much left of Glubokoye

1207
01:01:12,770 --> 01:01:17,490
so that's why I assumed
that that wall was down,

1208
01:01:17,490 --> 01:01:19,920
so it were destroyed.

1209
01:01:19,920 --> 01:01:21,540
Well, yeah.

1210
01:01:21,540 --> 01:01:24,460
Yeah.

1211
01:01:24,460 --> 01:01:27,250
I want to just say for the
record, during the break,

1212
01:01:27,250 --> 01:01:29,830
we looked on the
internet, and we found--

1213
01:01:29,830 --> 01:01:31,240
you and I looked
on the internet,

1214
01:01:31,240 --> 01:01:36,250
and we found that Glubokoye
and GermanaviÄiai are close

1215
01:01:36,250 --> 01:01:40,810
by to each other in Belarus,
and that the river that goes

1216

01:01:40,810 --> 01:01:47,980
through GermanaviÄ iai where your
grandfather's flour mill would

1217

01:01:47,980 --> 01:01:50,050
have been is the Dysna.

1218

01:01:50,050 --> 01:01:50,680
Right.

1219

01:01:50,680 --> 01:01:51,530
Is the Dysna river.

1220

01:01:51,530 --> 01:01:52,030
Right.

1221

01:01:52,030 --> 01:01:54,130
Yeah.

1222

01:01:54,130 --> 01:01:56,860
So it's interesting,
then, that at least some

1223

01:01:56,860 --> 01:02:01,870
of the story that you
have, the family's history,

1224

01:02:01,870 --> 01:02:05,890
got passed down to your
children, your daughter,

1225

01:02:05,890 --> 01:02:07,940
enough that she was
interested to go back to it.

1226

01:02:07,940 --> 01:02:08,470
Oh, yes.

1227

01:02:08,470 --> 01:02:09,520
Yes, very much.

1228

01:02:09,520 --> 01:02:11,500
Very much.

1229
01:02:11,500 --> 01:02:16,960
It's interesting, as
invasive, if you like,

1230
01:02:16,960 --> 01:02:21,970
my mother was with
my sister, she

1231
01:02:21,970 --> 01:02:27,882
was everything a grandmother
could be towards my daughter--

1232
01:02:27,882 --> 01:02:30,780

1233
01:02:30,780 --> 01:02:34,570
patient and interested
in what she was doing.

1234
01:02:34,570 --> 01:02:38,958
And she had conversations
with Lisa, my daughter,

1235
01:02:38,958 --> 01:02:39,750
for the few times--

1236
01:02:39,750 --> 01:02:41,743
I mean, we lived in
central New York.

1237
01:02:41,743 --> 01:02:42,660
They were in Brooklyn.

1238
01:02:42,660 --> 01:02:45,070
So we didn't see
them very often.

1239
01:02:45,070 --> 01:02:48,000
But for the few times
we did see them, I mean,

1240
01:02:48,000 --> 01:02:49,080
they were like old chums.

1241
01:02:49,080 --> 01:02:49,705
They would sit.

1242
01:02:49,705 --> 01:02:51,810
They would have a
cup of tea and talk.

1243
01:02:51,810 --> 01:02:54,876
I don't remember, ever,
her doing that with Shelly.

1244
01:02:54,876 --> 01:02:57,090
And it's just--

1245
01:02:57,090 --> 01:03:00,110
There's some of those mysteries
of the generations, you know?

1246
01:03:00,110 --> 01:03:00,610
Yeah.

1247
01:03:00,610 --> 01:03:02,460
You can't figure it.

1248
01:03:02,460 --> 01:03:06,420
Well, is anything else--
and I'm sure there

1249
01:03:06,420 --> 01:03:09,270
are lots of other things-- but
is there anything else that you

1250
01:03:09,270 --> 01:03:14,920
think you'd want people to
know about what your family's

1251
01:03:14,920 --> 01:03:17,710
experiences were, what

your experiences were,

1252
01:03:17,710 --> 01:03:19,480
how you've tried to
make sense of it?

1253
01:03:19,480 --> 01:03:23,060

1254
01:03:23,060 --> 01:03:24,810
Trying to think
what we left out.

1255
01:03:24,810 --> 01:03:44,590

1256
01:03:44,590 --> 01:03:46,900
I'm trying to
think of what I may

1257
01:03:46,900 --> 01:03:53,100
have forgotten, because
we've been all over the map.

1258
01:03:53,100 --> 01:03:55,890

1259
01:03:55,890 --> 01:03:56,860
I'm typically a--

1260
01:03:56,860 --> 01:03:57,360
That's OK.

1261
01:03:57,360 --> 01:03:59,260
--fairly linear
thinker, and here I've

1262
01:03:59,260 --> 01:04:01,030
been sprayed all over creation.

1263
01:04:01,030 --> 01:04:03,318
But I have a

feeling, and I mean--

1264
01:04:03,318 --> 01:04:04,360
I'm just trying to think.

1265
01:04:04,360 --> 01:04:07,000
--my sense of it is that
I've gotten your story,

1266
01:04:07,000 --> 01:04:08,280
as circular as it's been.

1267
01:04:08,280 --> 01:04:08,780
Yeah.

1268
01:04:08,780 --> 01:04:09,280
Yeah.

1269
01:04:09,280 --> 01:04:11,020
I think you have.

1270
01:04:11,020 --> 01:04:17,710
I have, in retrospect,
some reservations

1271
01:04:17,710 --> 01:04:24,185
about having trooped out all
the skeletons in my family's

1272
01:04:24,185 --> 01:04:24,685
closet.

1273
01:04:24,685 --> 01:04:27,183

1274
01:04:27,183 --> 01:04:28,475
But you've been very gracious--

1275
01:04:28,475 --> 01:04:28,760
I'm just trying to--

1276

01:04:28,760 --> 01:04:29,660
--in doing so.

1277
01:04:29,660 --> 01:04:30,230
I'm sorry?

1278
01:04:30,230 --> 01:04:33,180
You've been very gracious in
doing so and understanding

1279
01:04:33,180 --> 01:04:33,680
of them.

1280
01:04:33,680 --> 01:04:34,180
Yeah.

1281
01:04:34,180 --> 01:04:37,784

1282
01:04:37,784 --> 01:04:39,710
I'm just trying to think.

1283
01:04:39,710 --> 01:04:43,430
Well, I know they
always regretted

1284
01:04:43,430 --> 01:04:46,610
that they didn't go to Israel.

1285
01:04:46,610 --> 01:04:51,620
And I have, as an abiding
regret, that I didn't go.

1286
01:04:51,620 --> 01:04:57,140
Early on, when I thought
about going as a young man,

1287
01:04:57,140 --> 01:04:59,750
I ended up deciding
not to go, because I

1288
01:04:59,750 --> 01:05:04,220

was convinced that if I
went, I'd never come back.

1289
01:05:04,220 --> 01:05:14,750
I had an absolutely
fully-rounded opinion

1290
01:05:14,750 --> 01:05:23,890
or imagination of myself as a
soldier in the Israeli army,

1291
01:05:23,890 --> 01:05:26,030
preferably the
[NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]..

1292
01:05:26,030 --> 01:05:26,530
Ooh.

1293
01:05:26,530 --> 01:05:26,935
Yeah.

1294
01:05:26,935 --> 01:05:27,340
No, I'm serious.

1295
01:05:27,340 --> 01:05:28,690
For those of us who
don't know, tell me--

1296
01:05:28,690 --> 01:05:28,840
Listen, I--

1297
01:05:28,840 --> 01:05:30,340
--what is the
[NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]..

1298
01:05:30,340 --> 01:05:31,210
I mean business.

1299
01:05:31,210 --> 01:05:33,100
You're talking to an
airborne ranger here.

1300

01:05:33,100 --> 01:05:36,710

1301

01:05:36,710 --> 01:05:40,800

The [NON-ENGLISH SPEECH] the
underground part of-- yes.

1302

01:05:40,800 --> 01:05:41,300

Yeah, the--

1303

01:05:41,300 --> 01:05:41,900

It's the--

1304

01:05:41,900 --> 01:05:43,900

--that fought the British
and the Palestinians--

1305

01:05:43,900 --> 01:05:44,442

That's right.

1306

01:05:44,442 --> 01:05:46,330

--initially.

1307

01:05:46,330 --> 01:05:51,130

One of my favorite books
is Leo Uris' Exodus.

1308

01:05:51,130 --> 01:05:53,710

I identified with all the--

1309

01:05:53,710 --> 01:05:57,550

I mean, I'm very serious.

1310

01:05:57,550 --> 01:06:03,745

In fact, I taught AP
English, and I added Exodus

1311

01:06:03,745 --> 01:06:04,495

to the curriculum.

1312

01:06:04,495 --> 01:06:06,430

And I got in some

trouble for it,

1313
01:06:06,430 --> 01:06:10,720
but eventually we
settled it out.

1314
01:06:10,720 --> 01:06:20,770
But so I feel badly about that.

1315
01:06:20,770 --> 01:06:24,470

1316
01:06:24,470 --> 01:06:25,500
What else [? have I]?

1317
01:06:25,500 --> 01:06:29,840
Oh, I saw recently, the
name of the 50 Children--

1318
01:06:29,840 --> 01:06:32,155
is that the name of the
film, about this couple from

1319
01:06:32,155 --> 01:06:33,280
Philadelphia that rescued--

1320
01:06:33,280 --> 01:06:33,950
That's right.

1321
01:06:33,950 --> 01:06:34,450
50 children?

1322
01:06:34,450 --> 01:06:35,700
I've interviewed some of them.

1323
01:06:35,700 --> 01:06:36,470
I went to see it.

1324
01:06:36,470 --> 01:06:40,850
And the son of the woman
that did that was there,

1325

01:06:40,850 --> 01:06:42,200
and we chatted.

1326

01:06:42,200 --> 01:06:52,120
And there's a scene near
the end of the film, where

1327

01:06:52,120 --> 01:06:57,990
all the kids are lined up
on the side of the ship.

1328

01:06:57,990 --> 01:07:02,390
And they're looking at
the Statue of Liberty.

1329

01:07:02,390 --> 01:07:06,380
And it just triggered
this very sharp memory

1330

01:07:06,380 --> 01:07:10,730
of us coming into Halifax
on a much smaller ship.

1331

01:07:10,730 --> 01:07:14,030
And it was one of the few
times we were allowed out,

1332

01:07:14,030 --> 01:07:17,510
because typically,
we're below decks.

1333

01:07:17,510 --> 01:07:22,850
They would let us up
topside to throw up,

1334

01:07:22,850 --> 01:07:26,030
and then we'd get
shipped back down again.

1335

01:07:26,030 --> 01:07:30,752
But it triggered this vivid
memory of pulling into Halifax.

1336

01:07:30,752 --> 01:07:31,710

And it must have been--

1337

01:07:31,710 --> 01:07:32,627

I don't know how many.

1338

01:07:32,627 --> 01:07:35,150

There were some of
us who had heard

1339

01:07:35,150 --> 01:07:38,960

about the Statue of Liberty
from the soldiers, from the GIs,

1340

01:07:38,960 --> 01:07:39,920

and we were--

1341

01:07:39,920 --> 01:07:42,320

because the GIs were of
a mind that everybody

1342

01:07:42,320 --> 01:07:44,220

was going down Ellis island.

1343

01:07:44,220 --> 01:07:45,980

So we're pulling into
Halifax, and there's

1344

01:07:45,980 --> 01:07:47,480

a bunch of us
standing there looking

1345

01:07:47,480 --> 01:07:51,020

for the Statue of Liberty
as we move into Halifax.

1346

01:07:51,020 --> 01:07:53,660

And I shared that with
the son of this woman.

1347

01:07:53,660 --> 01:07:54,810

We got a chuckle out of it.

1348
01:07:54,810 --> 01:07:55,310
Yeah.

1349
01:07:55,310 --> 01:07:57,050
But it just
triggered this scene.

1350
01:07:57,050 --> 01:07:59,720
So maybe my life's
ambition ought

1351
01:07:59,720 --> 01:08:02,090
to be to build a statue
in Halifax, right?

1352
01:08:02,090 --> 01:08:04,850

1353
01:08:04,850 --> 01:08:06,890
I have a last question.

1354
01:08:06,890 --> 01:08:08,660
And it's about your ring.

1355
01:08:08,660 --> 01:08:09,320
My ring?

1356
01:08:09,320 --> 01:08:10,580
Your ring.

1357
01:08:10,580 --> 01:08:14,900
Tell me the circumstance that--

1358
01:08:14,900 --> 01:08:19,310
how you got the gold
coin, who you got it from,

1359
01:08:19,310 --> 01:08:22,040
and how it became a ring.

1360

01:08:22,040 --> 01:08:24,260
I got it from my Aunt Eshka.

1361
01:08:24,260 --> 01:08:26,425
And--

1362
01:08:26,425 --> 01:08:27,800
How old were you
when you got it?

1363
01:08:27,800 --> 01:08:31,340
--she would have no reason to
tell me that if it were not so.

1364
01:08:31,340 --> 01:08:35,240
This was the last of
the coins that they had.

1365
01:08:35,240 --> 01:08:39,920
And she had become quite ill.

1366
01:08:39,920 --> 01:08:43,760
And I think she was
convinced that she was not

1367
01:08:43,760 --> 01:08:45,950
going to be around much longer.

1368
01:08:45,950 --> 01:08:49,670
And she called me into her
bedroom and handed this to me

1369
01:08:49,670 --> 01:08:53,779
and said, I've been
saving this for you,

1370
01:08:53,779 --> 01:08:55,490
my [NON-ENGLISH SPEECH].

1371
01:08:55,490 --> 01:09:03,510
And I think of her every
day when I wear this ring.

1372

01:09:03,510 --> 01:09:12,590

And it's a memory that, if
I'm not a very good person,

1373

01:09:12,590 --> 01:09:15,620

it's a memory that at least
has made me a better person

1374

01:09:15,620 --> 01:09:17,000

than I would otherwise be.

1375

01:09:17,000 --> 01:09:21,550

1376

01:09:21,550 --> 01:09:26,510

No matter what the
rest of the family

1377

01:09:26,510 --> 01:09:33,189

would do, or no matter what
peccadillo I'd be involved in,

1378

01:09:33,189 --> 01:09:36,740

she was always there for me.

1379

01:09:36,740 --> 01:09:41,410

She didn't always approve, but
it was clear that she always

1380

01:09:41,410 --> 01:09:46,040

loved me, whereas other
members of my family--

1381

01:09:46,040 --> 01:09:50,090

my uncles especially--

1382

01:09:50,090 --> 01:09:56,120

their disapproval always meant
the withdrawal of affection.

1383

01:09:56,120 --> 01:10:01,730

And I was always

grateful to her for

1384

01:10:01,730 --> 01:10:03,530
that unconditional affection.

1385

01:10:03,530 --> 01:10:06,620

1386

01:10:06,620 --> 01:10:10,805
So my cousin Steve is
right to be jealous.

1387

01:10:10,805 --> 01:10:17,320

1388

01:10:17,320 --> 01:10:18,990
Thank you.

1389

01:10:18,990 --> 01:10:19,590
Thank you.

1390

01:10:19,590 --> 01:10:20,250
Thank you.

1391

01:10:20,250 --> 01:10:21,870
Well, thank you for sharing--

1392

01:10:21,870 --> 01:10:22,480
Yeah, I'm--

1393

01:10:22,480 --> 01:10:23,280
--these memories.

1394

01:10:23,280 --> 01:10:25,470
--picking a lot of scabs here.

1395

01:10:25,470 --> 01:10:27,060
That, I don't mean.

1396

01:10:27,060 --> 01:10:30,390
But you have shared

with us and given us

1397

01:10:30,390 --> 01:10:33,260
a portrait of these people
who mean so much to you,

1398

01:10:33,260 --> 01:10:37,200
who endured so
much, a little bit

1399

01:10:37,200 --> 01:10:39,790
into their lives
and their struggles.

1400

01:10:39,790 --> 01:10:43,770
And one of the
thoughts that I have

1401

01:10:43,770 --> 01:10:48,820
is, if only we had all been
able to have normalcy, the thing

1402

01:10:48,820 --> 01:10:52,540
that we strive for, thing that
you don't have oral history

1403

01:10:52,540 --> 01:10:53,950
interviews about--

1404

01:10:53,950 --> 01:10:54,500
Yeah.

1405

01:10:54,500 --> 01:10:55,000
--but--

1406

01:10:55,000 --> 01:10:57,633
There was an element.

1407

01:10:57,633 --> 01:10:58,800
I'm sorry to interrupt you--

1408

01:10:58,800 --> 01:10:59,730

No, it's OK.

1409
01:10:59,730 --> 01:11:00,440
I'm pretty--

1410
01:11:00,440 --> 01:11:01,450
--as you speak.

1411
01:11:01,450 --> 01:11:05,050

1412
01:11:05,050 --> 01:11:09,280
I may have, in
some respects, cast

1413
01:11:09,280 --> 01:11:18,520
a wrong picture in this
respect, as no matter how

1414
01:11:18,520 --> 01:11:25,600
stressful or toxic any given
situation might have become,

1415
01:11:25,600 --> 01:11:33,868
there was always a redeeming
aspect of Yiddishkeit in it.

1416
01:11:33,868 --> 01:11:34,368
OK.

1417
01:11:34,368 --> 01:11:39,620

1418
01:11:39,620 --> 01:11:46,650
Whether it was the sense of
tradition, the sense of--

1419
01:11:46,650 --> 01:11:55,160
it was always curious to me
that the great celebrations

1420
01:11:55,160 --> 01:12:03,390

were celebrations of bad times.

1421

01:12:03,390 --> 01:12:04,230

There's an irony.

1422

01:12:04,230 --> 01:12:05,710

No, no, really.

1423

01:12:05,710 --> 01:12:08,310

You think about Passover.

1424

01:12:08,310 --> 01:12:09,480

What are we celebrating?

1425

01:12:09,480 --> 01:12:11,760

OK, yeah, we're
celebrating the escape.

1426

01:12:11,760 --> 01:12:15,420

But you spend the night talking
about how miserable it was.

1427

01:12:15,420 --> 01:12:16,920

You eat all those
different foods

1428

01:12:16,920 --> 01:12:19,830

that represent all that misery.

1429

01:12:19,830 --> 01:12:21,780

So you're eating bitter herbs.

1430

01:12:21,780 --> 01:12:24,000

Eat some sweet herbs,
for God's sake!

1431

01:12:24,000 --> 01:12:26,640

1432

01:12:26,640 --> 01:12:31,130

But there was always
that piece in it.

1433
01:12:31,130 --> 01:12:37,220

1434
01:12:37,220 --> 01:12:44,100
My parents were always proud of
the fact that they were Jews--

1435
01:12:44,100 --> 01:12:46,590
not in an arrogant
kind of way, but

1436
01:12:46,590 --> 01:12:52,460
in a way that gave them a
certain comfort, the same way I

1437
01:12:52,460 --> 01:12:56,360
think that my Catholic
friends derive comfort

1438
01:12:56,360 --> 01:12:59,690
from their Catholicism,
even though to me,

1439
01:12:59,690 --> 01:13:03,380
it's 8 degrees of
crazy, just like Judaism

1440
01:13:03,380 --> 01:13:04,760
is in some respects.

1441
01:13:04,760 --> 01:13:06,772
OK, you don't want to
put that in the tape.

1442
01:13:06,772 --> 01:13:08,220
I'm sorry.

1443
01:13:08,220 --> 01:13:09,280
That's OK.

1444
01:13:09,280 --> 01:13:12,210

It's there.

1445

01:13:12,210 --> 01:13:17,186

I watch Bill Maher
too often, I think.

1446

01:13:17,186 --> 01:13:18,020

What else?

1447

01:13:18,020 --> 01:13:23,750

1448

01:13:23,750 --> 01:13:26,210

I think you've painted
a very loving picture.

1449

01:13:26,210 --> 01:13:28,400

OK.

1450

01:13:28,400 --> 01:13:29,547

So thank you for that.

1451

01:13:29,547 --> 01:13:30,380

You're very welcome.

1452

01:13:30,380 --> 01:13:31,610

Thank you.

1453

01:13:31,610 --> 01:13:35,870

And I'll say that that, then,
concludes the United States

1454

01:13:35,870 --> 01:13:39,920

Holocaust Memorial Museum
interview with Mr. Robin

1455

01:13:39,920 --> 01:13:40,670

Rapaport--

1456

01:13:40,670 --> 01:13:41,503

Oh, you have to do--

1457
01:13:41,503 --> 01:13:42,200
--born Reuven

1458
01:13:42,200 --> 01:13:45,020
Reuven.

1459
01:13:45,020 --> 01:13:51,120
--on January 24, 2019
in Sarasota, Florida.

1460
01:13:51,120 --> 01:13:51,620
OK.

1461
01:13:51,620 --> 01:13:52,170
Thanks.

1462
01:13:52,170 --> 01:13:52,670
Thank you.

1463
01:13:52,670 --> 01:13:53,420
[APPLAUSE]

1464
01:13:53,420 --> 01:13:53,920
Yeah.

1465
01:13:53,920 --> 01:13:54,570
We're done.

1466
01:13:54,570 --> 01:13:55,070
Cut.

1467
01:13:55,070 --> 01:13:56,620
Cut.