1 00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:05,800

2

00:00:05,800 --> 00:00:09,430 This is a United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

3

00:00:09,430 --> 00:00:16,630 interview with Mrs. Helga Schuessler on May 22,

4

00:00:16,630 --> 00:00:20,980 2019 in Oviedo, Florida.

5

00:00:20,980 --> 00:00:23,260 Did I pronounce everything all right?

6

00:00:23,260 --> 00:00:24,220 Yes, Oviedo.

7

00:00:24,220 --> 00:00:27,130 Oviedo, Florida.

8

00:00:27,130 --> 00:00:29,110 Thank you, Mrs. Schuessler, for agreeing

9

00:00:29,110 --> 00:00:30,500 to speak with us today.

10

00:00:30,500 --> 00:00:32,439 I think it is a pleasure having you here.

11 00:00:32,439 --> 00:00:33,640 Thank you.

12 00:00:33,640 --> 00:00:37,150 I'm going to start our interview at the very beginning, 13 00:00:37,150 --> 00:00:39,580 asking you as many details as I can

14 00:00:39,580 --> 00:00:41,920 about your life before the war--

15 00:00:41,920 --> 00:00:45,500 and your family-- and we'll take things from there.

16 00:00:45,500 --> 00:00:49,000 So my very first questions are very basic.

17 00:00:49,000 --> 00:00:52,430 Can you tell me your name at birth?

18 00:00:52,430 --> 00:00:56,195 Helga Helena Emma Lindenberg.

19 00:00:56,195 --> 00:00:59,270 Helga Helena Emma Lindenberg.

20 00:00:59,270 --> 00:01:01,190 For my grandmothers.

21 00:01:01,190 --> 00:01:02,390 OK.

22 00:01:02,390 --> 00:01:04,489 And what was the date of your birth?

23 00:01:04,489 --> 00:01:09,470 November 15, 1921.

24 00:01:09,470 --> 00:01:12,710 November 15, 1921. 25 00:01:12,710 --> 00:01:14,210 And where were you born?

26 00:01:14,210 --> 00:01:15,560 In Breslau.

27 00:01:15,560 --> 00:01:17,180 That is Silesia.

28 00:01:17,180 --> 00:01:18,740 It is now Polish.

29 00:01:18,740 --> 00:01:20,975 And what is the Polish name for it?

30 00:01:20,975 --> 00:01:21,680 Pardon me?

31 00:01:21,680 --> 00:01:24,140 What is the Polish name for Breslau?

32

00:01:24,140 --> 00:01:24,980 Wroclaw.

33

00:01:24,980 --> 00:01:25,790 Wroclaw.

34 00:01:25,790 --> 00:01:26,570 OK.

35

00:01:26,570 --> 00:01:29,690 So it is in the eastern part of Germany,

36 00:01:29,690 --> 00:01:31,715 or was in the eastern part of Germany.

37 00:01:31,715 --> 00:01:32,990

1 00.

38 00:01:32,990 --> 00:01:35,150 Is it close to Danzig?

39

00:01:35,150 --> 00:01:39,750 Oh no, it is quite further south.

40

00:01:39,750 --> 00:01:42,080 And Danzig is in the north.

41

00:01:42,080 --> 00:01:46,135 And would you say it's about 200 kilometers or 100 kilometers?

42

00:01:46,135 --> 00:01:47,270 It could be.

43

00:01:47,270 --> 00:01:48,030 200?

44

00:01:48,030 --> 00:01:50,195 I don't know if Germany has 200--

45

00:01:50,195 --> 00:01:51,410 [LAUGHTER]

46

00:01:51,410 --> 00:01:52,250 --kilometers.

47

00:01:52,250 --> 00:01:53,690 Yeah.

48

00:01:53,690 --> 00:01:55,310 Well, that, of course, is why there

49

00:01:55,310 --> 00:01:57,000 needed to be Lebensraum, right? 50 00:01:57,000 --> 00:01:59,420 [LAUGHTER]

51 00:01:59,420 --> 00:02:00,260

52 00:02:00,260 --> 00:02:02,210 So you were born in Breslau.

53 00:02:02,210 --> 00:02:05,180 Tell me a little bit about your mother and your father.

54 00:02:05,180 --> 00:02:08,580 Tell me about your father's name and when he was born

55 00:02:08,580 --> 00:02:09,830 if you know the date of birth.

56 00:02:09,830 --> 00:02:13,550 My father's name is Rudolf Lindenberg.

57 00:02:13,550 --> 00:02:16,100 He was born in Lüneburg.

58 00:02:16,100 --> 00:02:18,110 That's close to Hanover.

59 00:02:18,110 --> 00:02:24,190 November 19, 18-oh good grief--

60 00:02:24,190 --> 00:02:25,360 81.

61 00:02:25,360 --> 00:02:28,960 1881.

62 00:02:28,960 --> 00:02:33,190

> This is a verbatim transcript of spoken word generated with 3Play Media. It is not the primary source, and it may contain errors in spelling or accuracy.

And his birthday was then close to yours.

63

00:02:33,190 --> 00:02:34,480 Not so close.

64

00:02:34,480 --> 00:02:35,230 Yeah, well--

65

00:02:35,230 --> 00:02:36,400 November.

66 00:02:36,400 --> 00:02:38,350 Yeah, September and November.

67 00:02:38,350 --> 00:02:39,710 Oh, I thought you said November.

68

00:02:39,710 --> 00:02:40,805 No, no, September.

69 00:02:40,805 --> 00:02:41,430 Your birthday--

70 00:02:41,430 --> 00:02:43,150 The 19th of September.

71

00:02:43,150 --> 00:02:46,460 19th of September is his birthday?

72

00:02:46,460 --> 00:02:47,270 His birthday.

73

00:02:47,270 --> 00:02:48,275 And yours is?

74

00:02:48,275 --> 00:02:51,080 Mine is the 15th of November.

75 00:02:51,080 --> 00:02:53,120

This is a verbatim transcript of spoken word generated with 3Play Media. It is not the primary source, and it may contain errors in spelling or accuracy. Got it.

76 00:02:53,120 --> 00:02:58,400 And did he have brothers and sisters?

77 00:02:58,400 --> 00:03:01,520 He has-- wait a minute--

78 00:03:01,520 --> 00:03:04,670

79 00:03:04,670 --> 00:03:06,380 three brothers and one sister.

80 00:03:06,380 --> 00:03:08,170 So there were five children in total?

81 00:03:08,170 --> 00:03:09,590 Yes.

82 00:03:09,590 --> 00:03:11,720 Did you know any of your aunts and uncles?

83 00:03:11,720 --> 00:03:19,650 His youngest, my Aunt Greten, his youngest sister.

84 00:03:19,650 --> 00:03:24,100 And she came to--

85 00:03:24,100 --> 00:03:26,270 from Germany, she went to England.

86 00:03:26,270 --> 00:03:29,660 And from England, she came to New York

87 00:03:29,660 --> 00:03:34,560 and lived in that house we lived in.

88 00:03:34,560 --> 00:03:40,520 And you have no idea because these houses were actually not

89 00:03:40,520 --> 00:03:45,680 allowed for humans anymore, you can see.

90

00:03:45,680 --> 00:03:53,060 But with the influx of all the immigrants from Europe,

91 00:03:53,060 --> 00:03:54,650

they opened it up.

92

00:03:54,650 --> 00:03:56,780 Were these condemned houses then?

93

00:03:56,780 --> 00:03:58,490 This was a dem--

94

00:03:58,490 --> 00:04:01,460 this was a house, you know, that [HUMS]..

95

00:04:01,460 --> 00:04:03,140 And was it in New York City?

96

00:04:03,140 --> 00:04:04,370 It was in Queens.

97

00:04:04,370 --> 00:04:05,225 It was in Queens.

98 00:04:05,225 --> 00:04:07,250 It is outside.

99 00:04:07,250 --> 00:04:08,450 OK.

100 00:04:08,450 --> 00:04:14,100 And we'll come to that, because that's after the war.

101 00:04:14,100 --> 00:04:18,079 But did she emigrate to the United States before the war

102 00:04:18,079 --> 00:04:19,640 or during?

103 00:04:19,640 --> 00:04:20,510 After the war.

104 00:04:20,510 --> 00:04:21,200 OK.

105 00:04:21,200 --> 00:04:25,130 So where did she spend the war?

106 00:04:25,130 --> 00:04:26,360 I spent--

107 00:04:26,360 --> 00:04:27,770 She, Aunt Greten.

108 00:04:27,770 --> 00:04:31,850 Oh, Aunt Greten, she was in England.

109 00:04:31,850 --> 00:04:36,500 And I don't know why she came over.

110 00:04:36,500 --> 00:04:39,890 Because my father had family in New York.

111 00:04:39,890 --> 00:04:40,730 OK. 112 00:04:40,730 --> 00:04:45,770 But did she leave Germany before 1933?

113 00:04:45,770 --> 00:04:49,970 She was able to leave Germany in '38

114 00:04:49,970 --> 00:04:53,780 to go to her oldest sister in England.

115 00:04:53,780 --> 00:04:56,330

116 00:04:56,330 --> 00:04:58,460 That means your father had another sister?

117 00:04:58,460 --> 00:04:59,660 Yes.

118 00:04:59,660 --> 00:05:01,640 It was Alice.

119 00:05:01,640 --> 00:05:10,250 And well, I don't know when she immigrated to England.

120 00:05:10,250 --> 00:05:13,760 Do you know the names of all of your father's siblings?

121 00:05:13,760 --> 00:05:16,130 It was Alice.

122 00:05:16,130 --> 00:05:19,200 It was-- good grief--

123 00:05:19,200 --> 00:05:19,920 Albert. 124 00:05:19,920 --> 00:05:21,300 Albert.

125 00:05:21,300 --> 00:05:24,570 It was Hans and Greten.

126 00:05:24,570 --> 00:05:25,920 And then your father?

127 00:05:25,920 --> 00:05:26,850 And Rudolf, yes.

128 00:05:26,850 --> 00:05:27,420 And Rudolf.

129 00:05:27,420 --> 00:05:28,950 And Rudolf was the youngest or--

130 00:05:28,950 --> 00:05:32,020 No, Rudolf was the second oldest.

131 00:05:32,020 --> 00:05:32,520 OK.

132 00:05:32,520 --> 00:05:34,080 Who was the oldest?

133 00:05:34,080 --> 00:05:36,210 The oldest is Alice.

134 00:05:36,210 --> 00:05:36,990 Alice.

135 00:05:36,990 --> 00:05:41,250 So Alice, Rudolf, Greten--

136 00:05:41,250 --> 00:05:44,310 Alice, Rudolf, Albert. 137 00:05:44,310 --> 00:05:46,390 Albert.

138 00:05:46,390 --> 00:05:47,760 Hans and Greten.

139 00:05:47,760 --> 00:05:48,990 Hans and Greten.

140 00:05:48,990 --> 00:05:52,140 And did you know your uncles?

141 00:05:52,140 --> 00:05:52,920 No.

142 00:05:52,920 --> 00:05:57,030 No, I only know Greten.

143 00:05:57,030 --> 00:05:59,070 And we called her Greten.

144 00:05:59,070 --> 00:06:00,480 [LAUGHS]

145 00:06:00,480 --> 00:06:03,960 Now, is it that you didn't know your uncles because they

146 00:06:03,960 --> 00:06:05,040 didn't live in Germany?

147 00:06:05,040 --> 00:06:09,300 Well, because they lived in the States already.

148 00:06:09,300 --> 00:06:12,620 OK, so they had emigrated to the United States before.

149 00:06:12,620 --> 00:06:13,260 Before. 150 00:06:13,260 --> 00:06:16,520 I think in '38.

151 00:06:16,520 --> 00:06:21,380 So they were living in Germany until 1938?

152 00:06:21,380 --> 00:06:22,400 Yes.

153 00:06:22,400 --> 00:06:23,510 Everybody?

154 00:06:23,510 --> 00:06:25,610 I really don't know if that might

155 00:06:25,610 --> 00:06:29,180 have been even earlier, because of family--

156 00:06:29,180 --> 00:06:30,975 my great uncle in Chicago.

157 00:06:30,975 --> 00:06:35,690

158 00:06:35,690 --> 00:06:45,140 He imported silk for the parachutes

159 00:06:45,140 --> 00:06:47,300 for the First World War.

160 00:06:47,300 --> 00:06:52,160 And later on, they used--

161 00:06:52,160 --> 00:06:52,910 what is it?

163 00:06:56,202 --> 00:06:56,910 [SPEAKING GERMAN]

164 00:06:56,910 --> 00:07:02,026 [LAUGHS] They use this as other material where they--

165

00:07:02,026 --> 00:07:02,526 Nylon?

166 00:07:02,526 --> 00:07:05,280 Nylon?

167 00:07:05,280 --> 00:07:05,880 Was it nylon?

168 00:07:05,880 --> 00:07:08,530

169 00:07:08,530 --> 00:07:10,710 You know this is something that--

170 00:07:10,710 --> 00:07:11,320 [LAUGHS]

171 00:07:11,320 --> 00:07:12,790 It happens to everybody.

172 00:07:12,790 --> 00:07:14,010 It happens to everybody.

173 00:07:14,010 --> 00:07:15,550 Yeah, but not at the right time.

174 00:07:15,550 --> 00:07:17,660 [LAUGHTER]

176 00:07:18,220 --> 00:07:22,330 Because they used for parachutes real silk,

177 00:07:22,330 --> 00:07:23,890 which is much heavier.

178 00:07:23,890 --> 00:07:29,260 And nylon, which was developed later on, was much lighter

179 00:07:29,260 --> 00:07:35,620 and the Second World War used the parachutes in nylon.

180 00:07:35,620 --> 00:07:36,700 Yes.

181 00:07:36,700 --> 00:07:39,910 But he made his money already before.

182

00:07:39,910 --> 00:07:47,080 And my great aunt was a very good friend of Helen Keller.

183 00:07:47,080 --> 00:07:48,010 No kidding.

184 00:07:48,010 --> 00:07:48,570 Yes.

185 00:07:48,570 --> 00:07:52,885 And the house in Chicago is still--

186 00:07:52,885 --> 00:07:55,930 00:07:55,930 --> 00:08:03,070 it was getting over to the blinds of Helen Keller.

188 00:08:03,070 --> 00:08:06,850 And she was very friendly.

189 00:08:06,850 --> 00:08:08,420 It was a friend of hers.

190 00:08:08,420 --> 00:08:09,070 OK.

191 00:08:09,070 --> 00:08:12,850 Do you know the name of your great aunt and uncle?

192 00:08:12,850 --> 00:08:20,130 It was Oscar und Rey.

193 00:08:20,130 --> 00:08:21,075 Oscar und Rey.

194 00:08:21,075 --> 00:08:22,410 Rey Heinemann.

195 00:08:22,410 --> 00:08:23,160 Heinemann.

196 00:08:23,160 --> 00:08:25,920

197 00:08:25,920 --> 00:08:30,210 And so they invited your uncles over to help with the business?

198 00:08:30,210 --> 00:08:31,860 Is this the idea?

199 00:08:31,860 --> 00:08:34,530 Nein, unfortunately, they didn't help, 200 00:08:34,530 --> 00:08:37,049 because they thought my father was

201 00:08:37,049 --> 00:08:41,730 married to a Christian woman and would escape all this.

202 00:08:41,730 --> 00:08:45,310 But that was not the right decision.

203 00:08:45,310 --> 00:08:46,380 No.

204 00:08:46,380 --> 00:08:47,700 No.

205 00:08:47,700 --> 00:08:49,860 He had certain privileges.

206 00:08:49,860 --> 00:08:54,140 He didn't need the yellow star, because he

207 00:08:54,140 --> 00:08:56,420 had a Christian family.

208 00:08:56,420 --> 00:08:59,667 Can we cut for just a second?

209 00:08:59,667 --> 00:09:00,250 Oh, I'm sorry.

210 00:09:00,250 --> 00:09:00,795 That was me.

211 00:09:00,795 --> 00:09:02,670 I was just noticing you sitting on the floor. 212 00:09:02,670 --> 00:09:04,670 And I thought, "Oh, she could sit on the couch."

213 00:09:04,670 --> 00:09:05,470 Can we still cut?

214 00:09:05,470 --> 00:09:06,150 Yeah, sure.

215 00:09:06,150 --> 00:09:07,950 OK.

216 00:09:07,950 --> 00:09:12,960 So it was Uncle Oscar.

217 00:09:12,960 --> 00:09:13,710 Oscar.

218 00:09:13,710 --> 00:09:15,280 Und Rey Heinemann?

219 00:09:15,280 --> 00:09:15,780 Yes.

220 00:09:15,780 --> 00:09:17,320 And they lived in Chicago.

221 00:09:17,320 --> 00:09:20,070 And she was a friend of Helen Keller's.

222 00:09:20,070 --> 00:09:21,660 Wait a minute.

223 00:09:21,660 --> 00:09:23,820 Oscar lived in Chicago.

224 00:09:23,820 --> 00:09:26,380 Otto and Rey lived in New York. 225 00:09:26,380 --> 00:09:32,250 And that's why we were able to stay in New York,

226 00:09:32,250 --> 00:09:36,120 because right after the war, these immigrants--

227

00:09:36,120 --> 00:09:40,590 and New York didn't take anybody who didn't have family there.

228 00:09:40,590 --> 00:09:44,070 So Otto and Rey, how were they related to you?

229 00:09:44,070 --> 00:09:48,240 That's my great aunt and uncle.

230

00:09:48,240 --> 00:09:54,980 It was my father's sisters and brothers.

231

00:09:54,980 --> 00:09:55,528 Well, I'm--

232

00:09:55,528 --> 00:09:56,320 Now, wait a minute.

233 00:09:56,320 --> 00:09:57,320 No, no, no.

234 00:09:57,320 --> 00:10:00,230

235 00:10:00,230 --> 00:10:02,450 Your father's sisters were Alice and Greten.

236 00:10:02,450 --> 00:10:06,230 And he had brothers Hans and Albert. 237 00:10:06,230 --> 00:10:08,990 But Otto, was he an uncle of your father's?

238 00:10:08,990 --> 00:10:12,370

239 00:10:12,370 --> 00:10:15,100 Yes-- [LAUGHS]

240 00:10:15,100 --> 00:10:15,880 You don't know.

241 00:10:15,880 --> 00:10:19,030 Who was Otto?

242 00:10:19,030 --> 00:10:21,610 He was a great uncle of mine.

243 00:10:21,610 --> 00:10:23,470 He must have been an uncle of my father.

244 00:10:23,470 --> 00:10:24,225 Yes.

245 00:10:24,225 --> 00:10:24,725 OK.

246 00:10:24,725 --> 00:10:28,600

247 00:10:28,600 --> 00:10:34,390 We'll come to this time when you're in the United States

248 00:10:34,390 --> 00:10:37,150 later on, because it comes after the war.

250

00:10:40,210 --> 00:10:42,130 What I'd like to get a sense of now

251

00:10:42,130 --> 00:10:44,680 is prewar life, which is why I ask you

252

00:10:44,680 --> 00:10:48,520 about your father and his siblings.

253

00:10:48,520 --> 00:10:52,060 Did any of them live together with you in Breslau?

254

00:10:52,060 --> 00:10:52,570 Nein.

255 00:10:52,570 --> 00:10:53,350 No.

256 00:10:53,350 --> 00:10:55,480 They were all in Lüneburg?

257 00:10:55,480 --> 00:10:59,790

They were all spread over.

258

00:10:59,790 --> 00:11:04,470 In England, his older sister, my aunt Alice.

259

00:11:04,470 --> 00:11:12,310 And his second brother, Albert, in Chicago.

260 00:11:12,310 --> 00:11:15,790 And Greten lived in--

00:11:15,790 --> 00:11:19,870 yeah, she lived still in--

262

00:11:19,870 --> 00:11:23,275 when did she get to--

263

00:11:23,275 --> 00:11:28,270 I really don't know when she went to England to her sister.

264

00:11:28,270 --> 00:11:28,770 OK.

265 00:11:28,770 --> 00:11:31,780

266

00:11:31,780 --> 00:11:34,930 And then that leaves one brother.

267

00:11:34,930 --> 00:11:44,400 Hans died in the First World War as a soldier, as an officer.

268

00:11:44,400 --> 00:11:47,670 And he couldn't get, as being Jewish,

269

00:11:47,670 --> 00:11:52,170 not the highest rank in the German army either.

270

00:11:52,170 --> 00:11:53,250 Oh, really?

271 00:11:53,250 --> 00:11:54,870 Even during the First World War?

272 00:11:54,870 --> 00:11:57,240 Yeah, that was already '18.

273 00:11:57,240 --> 00:11:58,675

274 00:11:58,675 --> 00:12:00,100 It goes way back.

275 00:12:00,100 --> 00:12:01,050 [CHUCKLES]

276 00:12:01,050 --> 00:12:02,860 Yeah.

277 00:12:02,860 --> 00:12:06,260 Did you know your grandparents, on your father's side?

278 00:12:06,260 --> 00:12:10,720 I only knew my two grandfathers--

279 00:12:10,720 --> 00:12:18,250 my father's father in LÃ¹/4neburg and my mother's father in--

280 00:12:18,250 --> 00:12:19,150 where did they live?

281 00:12:19,150 --> 00:12:21,060 In Breslau.

282 00:12:21,060 --> 00:12:26,980 Because my one grandmother died half a year before I was born.

283 00:12:26,980 --> 00:12:30,830 And the other, half a year after I was born.

284 00:12:30,830 --> 00:12:34,210 So I had only grandfathers.

285 00:12:34,210 --> 00:12:36,730 What was your grandfather on your father's side?

286

00:12:36,730 --> 00:12:38,980 What was his name?

287 00:12:38,980 --> 00:12:40,570 Adolf Lindenberg.

288 00:12:40,570 --> 00:12:42,850 Adolf Lindenberg.

289 00:12:42,850 --> 00:12:46,180 And my mother's was--

290 00:12:46,180 --> 00:12:48,380 what was it?

291 00:12:48,380 --> 00:12:51,320 What was my grandfather?

292 00:12:51,320 --> 00:12:56,280 Do you remember mother's father?

293

00:12:56,280 --> 00:12:57,858 It can come to you later.

294

00:12:57,858 --> 00:12:58,650 [LAUGHS] It should.

295 00:12:58,650 --> 00:12:59,820 And then you'll let me know.

296 00:12:59,820 --> 00:13:00,510 It should.

297 00:13:00,510 --> 00:13:03,230

298 00:13:03,230 --> 00:13:05,840 So your father was born in LÃ¹/4neburg? 299 00:13:05,840 --> 00:13:06,770 Yes.

300 00:13:06,770 --> 00:13:08,880 And that's where the family came from?

301 00:13:08,880 --> 00:13:09,380 Yes.

302 00:13:09,380 --> 00:13:15,260 And we had two years ago in July a very, very nice reunion.

303 00:13:15,260 --> 00:13:18,460 Unfortunately, I couldn't attend.

304 00:13:18,460 --> 00:13:19,430 In LÃ¹/4neburg?

305 00:13:19,430 --> 00:13:21,500 In LÃ¹/4neburg, the museum.

306 00:13:21,500 --> 00:13:27,380 And LÃ¹/4neburg Museum now has a Heinemann Saal.

307 00:13:27,380 --> 00:13:28,190 Oh, really?

308 00:13:28,190 --> 00:13:29,270 Yes.

309 00:13:29,270 --> 00:13:31,710 So that's from your--

310 00:13:31,710 --> 00:13:32,900 My father's family. 00:13:32,900 --> 00:13:34,060 From your father's family.

312

00:13:34,060 --> 00:13:36,660 So there must have been a maternal Heinemann--

313

00:13:36,660 --> 00:13:37,160 Yeah.

314

00:13:37,160 --> 00:13:37,740 --in there.

315 00:13:37,740 --> 00:13:38,240 OK.

316 00:13:38,240 --> 00:13:40,640 And there is even a street.

317 00:13:40,640 --> 00:13:41,660 Heinemannstrase?

318 00:13:41,660 --> 00:13:43,220 Heinemannstrase.

319 00:13:43,220 --> 00:13:44,240 Interesting.

320 00:13:44,240 --> 00:13:47,330 So were they prominent citizens of LÃ¹/₄neburg?

321 00:13:47,330 --> 00:13:48,500 Yes.

322 00:13:48,500 --> 00:13:49,040 How?

323 00:13:49,040 --> 00:13:52,160 In what way were they were they well known and prominent?

324 00:13:52,160 --> 00:13:54,650 They were bankers-my grandfather,

325 00:13:54,650 --> 00:13:56,510 my great-grandfather.

326

00:13:56,510 --> 00:14:03,650 And they had a bank, that was later on took over from

327

00:14:03,650 --> 00:14:05,930 Deutsche Bank in LÃ¹/₄neburg.

328

00:14:05,930 --> 00:14:07,130 I see.

329

00:14:07,130 --> 00:14:08,060 I see.

330

00:14:08,060 --> 00:14:12,230 And did all of your father and his siblings,

331

00:14:12,230 --> 00:14:14,240 did they have higher education?

332

00:14:14,240 --> 00:14:15,910 Yes.

333 00:14:15,910 --> 00:14:17,770

They were all professionals.

334 00:14:17,770 --> 00:14:19,030 OK.

335 00:14:19,030 --> 00:14:22,300 Do you know what your father studied at university?

336 00:14:22,300 --> 00:14:28,360

My father was an engineer for electrical high and low

337 00:14:28,360 --> 00:14:29,140 currency.

338 00:14:29,140 --> 00:14:31,590 I don't know how you will--

339 00:14:31,590 --> 00:14:33,200 what it is in today.

340 00:14:33,200 --> 00:14:33,700 OK.

341 00:14:33,700 --> 00:14:34,780 But at that time.

342 00:14:34,780 --> 00:14:36,160 Yes, at that time.

343 00:14:36,160 --> 00:14:43,810 And he worked with court for question

344 00:14:43,810 --> 00:14:47,560 that appeared in court, when people

345 00:14:47,560 --> 00:14:51,550 weren't so sure how they were--

346 00:14:51,550 --> 00:14:54,160

347 00:14:54,160 --> 00:14:56,710 how do you call it?

348 00:14:56,710 --> 00:14:59,060 It sounds like maybe he was an expert witness? 349 00:14:59,060 --> 00:14:59,560 Yes.

350 00:14:59,560 --> 00:15:01,788 About these technical things.

351 00:15:01,788 --> 00:15:02,830 Yeah, for certain things.

352 00:15:02,830 --> 00:15:03,520 Yes.

353 00:15:03,520 --> 00:15:07,540 And of course, this all disappeared with Hitler.

354 00:15:07,540 --> 00:15:08,410 OK.

355 00:15:08,410 --> 00:15:09,123 We'll get there.

356 00:15:09,123 --> 00:15:09,790 We'll get there.

357 00:15:09,790 --> 00:15:12,020 Right now, I'm in the 1920s.

358 00:15:12,020 --> 00:15:14,992 [LAUGHTER]

359 00:15:14,992 --> 00:15:16,540

360 00:15:16,540 --> 00:15:22,150 So his family of origin was both prominent, being bankers,

361 00:15:22,150 --> 00:15:23,950 and well-to-do. 362 00:15:23,950 --> 00:15:24,550 Yes?

363

00:15:24,550 --> 00:15:27,850 Is that what the truth was, is that they were well-off?

364

00:15:27,850 --> 00:15:29,530 Yeah.

365 00:15:29,530 --> 00:15:33,190 Do you know how many generations they had lived in $L\tilde{A}^{1/4}$ neburg?

366 00:15:33,190 --> 00:15:36,870

367 00:15:36,870 --> 00:15:39,750 Quite a few generations.

368 00:15:39,750 --> 00:15:41,850 But I couldn't tell you.

369 00:15:41,850 --> 00:15:44,990

370 00:15:44,990 --> 00:15:48,410 I really don't know, but a long time ago.

371 00:15:48,410 --> 00:15:50,270 OK.

372 00:15:50,270 --> 00:15:55,820 And your paternal grandfather, when you were born,

373 00:15:55,820 --> 00:15:57,790 did he still live in Lüneburg?

374 00:15:57,790 --> 00:15:58,430

```
375
00:15:58,430 --> 00:15:59,460
So did you visit him?
```

```
376
00:15:59,460 --> 00:15:59,960
Yes.
```

377

00:15:59,960 --> 00:16:01,293 Is that how you get to know him?

378

00:16:01,293 --> 00:16:04,925 There is still a picture where my aunt

379

00:16:04,925 --> 00:16:07,850 and the dog and my little sister--

380 00:16:07,850 --> 00:16:09,500 I don't know if you saw it.

381 00:16:09,500 --> 00:16:10,040 OK.

382 00:16:10,040 --> 00:16:12,720 But there's a photo of him and your aunt and the dog?

383 00:16:12,720 --> 00:16:13,220 Yes.

384 00:16:13,220 --> 00:16:16,080 And I have the house still from $L\tilde{A}^{1/4}$ neburg.

385 00:16:16,080 --> 00:16:20,450 Dieter, you know the picture of the house in LÃ¹/4neburg?

386 00:16:20,450 --> 00:16:21,200 Yeah.

387 00:16:21,200 --> 00:16:22,520 It's hanging in my--

388 00:16:22,520 --> 00:16:23,480 Yeah.

389 00:16:23,480 --> 00:16:25,400 It still exists.

390 00:16:25,400 --> 00:16:27,290 Oh, so the house he lived in?

391 00:16:27,290 --> 00:16:28,700 The house he lived in, yes.

392 00:16:28,700 --> 00:16:30,260 And when you say you still have it,

393 00:16:30,260 --> 00:16:31,790 does that mean you have the photo,

394 00:16:31,790 --> 00:16:33,260 or you have the actual house?

395 00:16:33,260 --> 00:16:34,940 I still have a photo from that house.

396 00:16:34,940 --> 00:16:36,750 But you don't own the house.

397 00:16:36,750 --> 00:16:39,300 No, that was taken over--

398 00:16:39,300 --> 00:16:43,780

399 00:16:43,780 --> 00:16:47,170

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I think a lot of tenants.

400

00:16:47,170 --> 00:16:49,320 But it wasn't ours anymore.

401

00:16:49,320 --> 00:16:52,270 But I remember that house really well.

402

00:16:52,270 --> 00:16:54,670 My aunt, the youngest one--

403

00:16:54,670 --> 00:16:55,590 Greta.

404

00:16:55,590 --> 00:16:58,030 --Greten, she studied music.

405

00:16:58,030 --> 00:17:02,710 And there was a living room and there was a formal dining

406 00:17:02,710 --> 00:17:04,599 room and another room.

407

 $00:17:04,599 \rightarrow 00:17:08,950$ And over there was her room and with all the doors closed.

408

00:17:08,950 --> 00:17:12,130 And we had to be quiet when [LAUGHS] she

409

00:17:12,130 --> 00:17:14,470 practiced her music.

410

00:17:14,470 --> 00:17:18,910 So that's a vivid memory of--

411

00:17:18,910 --> 00:17:22,840 Well, was her music nice, or was she practicing? 412 00:17:22,840 --> 00:17:27,010 Well, she taught later on in England music too.

413 00:17:27,010 --> 00:17:28,450 Was it piano?

414 00:17:28,450 --> 00:17:30,940 Piano, yes.

415 00:17:30,940 --> 00:17:34,300 But this is something later on, you feel good grief,

416 00:17:34,300 --> 00:17:37,030 there's all these thoughts in between.

417 00:17:37,030 --> 00:17:39,460 And she still must have heard us.

418 00:17:39,460 --> 00:17:42,730 And we were not allowed to scream or--

419 00:17:42,730 --> 00:17:43,765 Or play or anything.

420 00:17:43,765 --> 00:17:45,700 [LAUGHS]

421 00:17:45,700 --> 00:17:47,170 When you would visit him, would it

422 00:17:47,170 --> 00:17:49,975 be together with your parents, or would it be separately?

423 00:17:49,975 --> 00:17:58,510

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No, only with-- yeah, it was with my father.

424 00:17:58,510 --> 00:18:03,400 I don't know if my mother so often visit, because there

425 00:18:03,400 --> 00:18:05,050 was a little something.

426 00:18:05,050 --> 00:18:08,620 My grandmother, father's mother, was quite religious

427 00:18:08,620 --> 00:18:14,620 and resented that father married out of his faith.

428 00:18:14,620 --> 00:18:17,050 OK, so let's establish right now.

429 00:18:17,050 --> 00:18:18,610 Your father was Jewish?

430

00:18:18,610 --> 00:18:19,900 Yes.

431 00:18:19,900 --> 00:18:20,980 And your mother?

432 00:18:20,980 --> 00:18:22,210 Was Christian.

433 00:18:22,210 --> 00:18:25,540 And what denomination?

434 00:18:25,540 --> 00:18:26,530 Lutheran.

435 00:18:26,530 --> 00:18:27,420 She was Lutheran? 436

00:18:27,420 --> 00:18:29,850 Yeah, and this is what we are too.

437 00:18:29,850 --> 00:18:30,970 OK.

438

00:18:30,970 --> 00:18:35,030 And what did I want to ask?

439

00:18:35,030 --> 00:18:39,610 How is it that your father ended up in Breslau?

440

00:18:39,610 --> 00:18:46,030 He worked with telecommunication, telephone,

441

00:18:46,030 --> 00:18:48,730 and it wasn't at this time telephone.

442

00:18:48,730 --> 00:18:53,225 And how do you call this?

443

00:18:53,225 --> 00:18:53,725 Telegraph?

444

00:18:53,725 --> 00:18:54,225 What was it?

445

00:18:54,225 --> 00:18:56,020 That Morse something.

446

00:18:56,020 --> 00:18:57,220 With telegraph?

447 00:18:57,220 --> 00:18:59,860

Telegraph, yes.

448

00:18:59,860 --> 00:19:06,730 And my mother, she worked too as what they called a Stopselmaus.

449

00:19:06,730 --> 00:19:07,270 Stopselmaus?

450

00:19:07,270 --> 00:19:07,970 [LAUGHTER]

451

00:19:07,970 --> 00:19:08,470 Yeah.

452 00:19:08,470 --> 00:19:09,420 What's a Stopselmaus?

453

00:19:09,420 --> 00:19:13,120 Because at that time you made connections with calls

454

00:19:13,120 --> 00:19:17,590 from a main center, and you connected.

455

00:19:17,590 --> 00:19:19,570 So she was kind of an operator?

456

00:19:19,570 --> 00:19:23,500 An operator, yes, one of the operators at that time

457

00:19:23,500 --> 00:19:24,520 they had.

458

00:19:24,520 --> 00:19:29,210 And they said sometimes they made some fun, because--

459

00:19:29,210 --> 00:19:34,810 excuse me-- it's Schmidt and Schmidt, 00:19:34,810 --> 00:19:37,810 but it wasn't the same Schmidt.

461 00:19:37,810 --> 00:19:38,540 Excuse me.

462 00:19:38,540 --> 00:19:39,040 It's OK.

463 00:19:39,040 --> 00:19:39,700 Take a breath.

464 00:19:39,700 --> 00:19:42,430

465 00:19:42,430 --> 00:19:46,340 Well, you could have that kind of confusion in those days.

466 00:19:46,340 --> 00:19:48,752 And they made fun out of it too.

467 00:19:48,752 --> 00:19:51,530

468 00:19:51,530 --> 00:19:54,860 So did they work at the same company

469 00:19:54,860 --> 00:19:56,660 or the same organization?

470 00:19:56,660 --> 00:19:59,190 No, my father had a business.

471 00:19:59,190 --> 00:20:03,757 And obviously, I don't know how they got together.

472 00:20:03,757 --> 00:20:05,215 Well, that was one of my questions. 473 00:20:05,215 --> 00:20:08,150 Most likely because of my mother,

474 00:20:08,150 --> 00:20:10,120 what she was doing at the time.

475 00:20:10,120 --> 00:20:13,910

476 00:20:13,910 --> 00:20:20,570 And you know, I heard a very nice story of a cousin of ours.

477 00:20:20,570 --> 00:20:27,500 His father was so religious that the family resented it.

478 00:20:27,500 --> 00:20:30,065 And it might be--

479 00:20:30,065 --> 00:20:33,110 that sounds to me kind of familiar.

480 00:20:33,110 --> 00:20:35,043 My grandmother was very religious.

481 00:20:35,043 --> 00:20:36,710 So you're talking on your father's side?

482 00:20:36,710 --> 00:20:36,860 Jewish, yeah.

483 00:20:36,860 --> 00:20:37,610 On the Jewish side.

484 00:20:37,610 --> 00:20:38,110 OK. 485 00:20:38,110 --> 00:20:39,260 On the Jewish side.

486 00:20:39,260 --> 00:20:42,710 And resented obviously.

487

00:20:42,710 --> 00:20:51,530 And out of rebellion maybe, my father married out of faith.

488 00:20:51,530 --> 00:20:53,770 So in other words, your cousin thinks

489 00:20:53,770 --> 00:20:57,520 that because it was too much your father was

490 00:20:57,520 --> 00:20:58,900 rebelling against that?

491 00:20:58,900 --> 00:21:00,070 Yes, in a certain way.

492 00:21:00,070 --> 00:21:04,030 You know, if you are forced to do something

493 00:21:04,030 --> 00:21:06,260 that you go the other way.

494 00:21:06,260 --> 00:21:09,040 It looks like it.

495 00:21:09,040 --> 00:21:10,250 Well, it can happen.

496 00:21:10,250 --> 00:21:11,440 It can certainly happen.

497

00:21:11,440 --> 00:21:17,620 Yeah, well, this idea came to me with this nephew of mine

498 00:21:17,620 --> 00:21:18,820 now in Israel.

499 00:21:18,820 --> 00:21:24,100 He had more or less the same experience with his father.

500 00:21:24,100 --> 00:21:28,850 When he start to be too religious,

501 00:21:28,850 --> 00:21:31,150 the family wanted you know.

502 00:21:31,150 --> 00:21:33,850

503 00:21:33,850 --> 00:21:37,690 Too much of a good thing is still too much.

504 00:21:37,690 --> 00:21:38,390 It can be.

505 00:21:38,390 --> 00:21:38,890 [LAUGHS]

506 00:21:38,890 --> 00:21:39,610 It can be.

507 00:21:39,610 --> 00:21:45,200 And it can always be in the human who interprets religion.

508 00:21:45,200 --> 00:21:48,760 Some people are very religious but they draw you to them 00:21:48,760 --> 00:21:50,260 rather than away from them.

510 00:21:50,260 --> 00:21:53,250

511 00:21:53,250 --> 00:21:57,590 So you're not sure how your parents met?

512 00:21:57,590 --> 00:22:01,310 I think through my father's profession

513 00:22:01,310 --> 00:22:04,940 and what my mother was doing with telephone.

514 00:22:04,940 --> 00:22:06,080 OK, Stopselmaus.

515 00:22:06,080 --> 00:22:07,120 A Stopselmaus.

516 00:22:07,120 --> 00:22:08,390 [LAUGHTER]

517 00:22:08,390 --> 00:22:10,190 If we call it, that means it would

518 00:22:10,190 --> 00:22:12,030 be something with a mouse.

519 00:22:12,030 --> 00:22:12,900 But Stopsel?

520 00:22:12,900 --> 00:22:14,210 How do I translate Stopsel?

521 00:22:14,210 --> 00:22:15,710 Well, to connect. 522 00:22:15,710 --> 00:22:17,810 Ah, a connecting mouse.

523 00:22:17,810 --> 00:22:19,980 And connecting.

524 00:22:19,980 --> 00:22:21,010 [LAUGHS]

525

00:22:21,010 --> 00:22:21,620 Plug.

526

00:22:21,620 --> 00:22:22,190 A plug?

527

00:22:22,190 --> 00:22:22,940 Plug mouse.

528

00:22:22,940 --> 00:22:23,720 A plug mouse.

529

00:22:23,720 --> 00:22:24,220 OK.

530

00:22:24,220 --> 00:22:27,820

531

00:22:27,820 --> 00:22:28,690 OK.

532

00:22:28,690 --> 00:22:30,190 Let's turn to your mother.

533

00:22:30,190 --> 00:22:31,720 Let's talk about her a little bit.

534 00:22:31,720 --> 00:22:33,380 What was her name?

535 00:22:33,380 --> 00:22:36,310 My mother's name is Erna Jordan.

536 00:22:36,310 --> 00:22:37,120 Erna?

537 00:22:37,120 --> 00:22:37,990 Jordan.

538 00:22:37,990 --> 00:22:39,070 Jordan.

539 00:22:39,070 --> 00:22:42,310 So in American parlance it would be Jordan?

540 00:22:42,310 --> 00:22:42,910 Jordan.

541 00:22:42,910 --> 00:22:43,810 OK.

542 00:22:43,810 --> 00:22:46,720 And her first name Erna, so E-R-N-A?

543 00:22:46,720 --> 00:22:47,500 That's correct.

544 00:22:47,500 --> 00:22:49,160 And when was she born?

545

00:22:49,160 --> 00:22:53,770 She was born in March '91.

546 00:22:53,770 --> 00:22:55,510 So 1891?

547 00:22:55,510 --> 00:22:56,050 Yeah. 548 00:22:56,050 --> 00:22:58,040 So she's 10 years younger than your father?

549 00:22:58,040 --> 00:22:58,670 Yeah.

550 00:22:58,670 --> 00:22:59,860 OK.

551 00:22:59,860 --> 00:23:03,500 And where was she born?

552 00:23:03,500 --> 00:23:06,950 She was born in Deutsch Eylau.

553 00:23:06,950 --> 00:23:07,450 Ooh.

554 00:23:07,450 --> 00:23:12,190 This is something on the northern coast.

555 00:23:12,190 --> 00:23:15,390 I think it is now--

556 00:23:15,390 --> 00:23:17,220 is it Russian?

557 00:23:17,220 --> 00:23:18,630 Is it part of Prussia?

558 00:23:18,630 --> 00:23:20,040 Was it part of Prussia?

559 00:23:20,040 --> 00:23:20,580 Yeah.

560 00:23:20,580 --> 00:23:23,430 So she's from the old Prussian territory 561 00:23:23,430 --> 00:23:25,493 that today would be Kaliningrad?

562 00:23:25,493 --> 00:23:26,590 Yeah.

563 00:23:26,590 --> 00:23:28,780 Near Konigsberg?

564 00:23:28,780 --> 00:23:29,970 Not that far.

565 00:23:29,970 --> 00:23:31,510 Not that far from Konigsberg?

566 00:23:31,510 --> 00:23:32,880 Yeah, exactly.

567 00:23:32,880 --> 00:23:35,115 OK, so Konigsberg is today known as Kaliningrad.

568 00:23:35,115 --> 00:23:37,020 Yeah, she was born, but I think she

569 00:23:37,020 --> 00:23:41,640 moved as a very, very young child to Breslau

570 00:23:41,640 --> 00:23:44,220 with her parents.

571 00:23:44,220 --> 00:23:47,443 And do you know anything about your grandparents

572 00:23:47,443 --> 00:23:48,360 on your mother's side? 00:23:48,360 --> 00:23:55,800 I think my grandfather, he work too in telecommunication.

574

00:23:55,800 --> 00:23:59,280 That might have been the connection

575

00:23:59,280 --> 00:24:01,100 with my father later on.

576 00:24:01,100 --> 00:24:02,460 OK.

577 00:24:02,460 --> 00:24:04,530 One question I forgot to ask--

578 00:24:04,530 --> 00:24:09,640 Was your father the only one who married someone non-Jewish

579

00:24:09,640 --> 00:24:10,600 in his family?

580

00:24:10,600 --> 00:24:11,840 Yes, I think so.

581

00:24:11,840 --> 00:24:13,870 No, no.

582

00:24:13,870 --> 00:24:17,260 I think his oldest--

583

00:24:17,260 --> 00:24:20,080 no, he was Jewish too.

584

00:24:20,080 --> 00:24:22,536 I think he was the only one.

585 00:24:22,536 --> 00:24:25,900 But Greten never married. 586 00:24:25,900 --> 00:24:30,550 She said she doesn't want a marriage or anything

587 00:24:30,550 --> 00:24:31,480

to do with it.

588

00:24:31,480 --> 00:24:34,420 [LAUGHS]

589

00:24:34,420 --> 00:24:35,930 Did she like your mother?

590

00:24:35,930 --> 00:24:36,430 Pardon?

591

00:24:36,430 --> 00:24:38,230 Was there anybody on your father's side

592

00:24:38,230 --> 00:24:41,200 who liked your mother?

593

00:24:41,200 --> 00:24:44,230 I think they had very little connection.

594

00:24:44,230 --> 00:24:46,840 OK.

595

00:24:46,840 --> 00:24:48,820 Did your mother have brothers and sisters?

596

00:24:48,820 --> 00:24:49,460 Yes.

597 00:24:49,460 --> 00:24:50,020 Yes.

598 00:24:50,020 --> 00:24:51,400 Who were they?

599

00:24:51,400 --> 00:24:56,650 As I told you, the most ridiculous thing, they were--

600 00:24:56,650 --> 00:25:00,040 my cousin was in the Leibstandarte Adolf Hitler.

601 00:25:00,040 --> 00:25:02,785 Well, let's translate that so the people could understand.

602 00:25:02,785 --> 00:25:03,400 [LAUGHS]

603 00:25:03,400 --> 00:25:07,770 Leibstandarte Adolf Hitler means they were the bodyguards--

604 00:25:07,770 --> 00:25:08,380 That's right.

605 00:25:08,380 --> 00:25:09,410 --for Adolf Hitler.

606 00:25:09,410 --> 00:25:11,650 Because they were very tall.

607 00:25:11,650 --> 00:25:15,340 But you know, from one side, you have that extreme

608 00:25:15,340 --> 00:25:17,550 to the other side.

609 00:25:17,550 --> 00:25:22,610 And as I told you, we had to tell our cousins.

610 00:25:22,610 --> 00:25:26,780

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He was in the Lazarett for a time being in Breslau.

611 00:25:26,780 --> 00:25:29,270 Lazarett meaning he was in the hospital?

612 00:25:29,270 --> 00:25:30,260 In the hospital.

613 00:25:30,260 --> 00:25:37,310 And he was injured quite early in the Second World War.

614 00:25:37,310 --> 00:25:41,630 And coming from Breslau, he was in the Lazarett,

615 00:25:41,630 --> 00:25:43,850 or the hospital.

616 00:25:43,850 --> 00:25:47,750 And we had to tell him, "Please, with your uniform,

617 00:25:47,750 --> 00:25:50,630 don't come and visit us," because our neighbor was also

618 00:25:50,630 --> 00:25:51,800 Nazi.

619 00:25:51,800 --> 00:25:56,900 And he was the one who told us if they ever see my father--

620 00:25:56,900 --> 00:25:59,540 they used to throw them down the stairs,

621 00:25:59,540 --> 00:26:02,960 and my father had to live-- 622 00:26:02,960 --> 00:26:03,990 We'll come to that.

623

00:26:03,990 --> 00:26:04,782 We'll come to that.

624

00:26:04,782 --> 00:26:06,740 Right now, I'm still in the 1920s.

625

00:26:06,740 --> 00:26:09,080 I haven't even gotten to Hitler coming to power yet.

626

00:26:09,080 --> 00:26:12,950 Oh, in the 1920s, I had a very nice youth.

627

00:26:12,950 --> 00:26:15,440 But before I get even to that--

628 00:26:15,440 --> 00:26:16,550 I misspoke.

629

00:26:16,550 --> 00:26:19,070 I'm before the 1920s, because I'm

630

00:26:19,070 --> 00:26:21,800 asking you about your parents' backgrounds.

631

00:26:21,800 --> 00:26:24,410 And so we were talking about your mother.

632

00:26:24,410 --> 00:26:28,520 And you said that she had brothers and sisters.

633 00:26:28,520 --> 00:26:30,990 So let's find out who they were. 634 00:26:30,990 --> 00:26:32,390 How many did she have?

635 00:26:32,390 --> 00:26:33,140 Were they boys?

636 00:26:33,140 --> 00:26:34,430

Were they girls?

637

00:26:34,430 --> 00:26:38,060 My mother had-- they were seven.

638 00:26:38,060 --> 00:26:39,520 And my father had five.

639

00:26:39,520 --> 00:26:40,020 Right.

640 00:26:40,020 --> 00:26:44,710 So in the seven from your

mother's side, who were they?

641

00:26:44,710 --> 00:26:45,940 I'm sorry.

642

00:26:45,940 --> 00:26:46,560 I'm sorry.

643 00:26:46,560 --> 00:26:47,060 [LAUGHTER]

644 00:26:47,060 --> 00:26:50,560 As much as you can remember.

645 00:26:50,560 --> 00:26:52,090 I wasn't prepared for that.

646 00:26:52,090 --> 00:26:52,960 I know. 647 00:26:52,960 --> 00:26:55,720 I know.

648 00:26:55,720 --> 00:26:57,670 I know quite a few.

649 00:26:57,670 --> 00:26:58,930 It was Arthur.

650 00:26:58,930 --> 00:27:03,930

651 00:27:03,930 --> 00:27:07,160 The oldest one-- you got me.

652 00:27:07,160 --> 00:27:08,050 That's OK.

653 00:27:08,050 --> 00:27:11,140 But anyway, let's go through the ones that you remember.

654 00:27:11,140 --> 00:27:14,700

655 00:27:14,700 --> 00:27:18,450 I remember almost each and every one.

656 00:27:18,450 --> 00:27:21,800 All right, so what were their names?

657 00:27:21,800 --> 00:27:22,427 That's--

658 00:27:22,427 --> 00:27:23,510 --what you don't remember?

659 00:27:23,510 --> 00:27:24,310 [LAUGHTER] 660 00:27:24,310 --> 00:27:24,810 OK.

661 00:27:24,810 --> 00:27:28,130

662 00:27:28,130 --> 00:27:29,330 How many boys were there?

663 00:27:29,330 --> 00:27:31,740 How many girls?

664 00:27:31,740 --> 00:27:38,320 I think they were three boys and two girls.

665 00:27:38,320 --> 00:27:40,810 Three boys and two girls makes five.

666 00:27:40,810 --> 00:27:42,640 And then you said there was seven.

667 00:27:42,640 --> 00:27:45,300

668 00:27:45,300 --> 00:27:45,980 It's OK.

669 00:27:45,980 --> 00:27:46,580 It's OK.

670 00:27:46,580 --> 00:27:50,220 [LAUGHS] It's so far, so far away.

671 00:27:50,220 --> 00:27:51,180 OK.

672

00:27:51,180 --> 00:27:54,780 But as with your father, I'm trying

673

00:27:54,780 --> 00:27:57,210 to get a sense of how many of this

674

00:27:57,210 --> 00:28:00,270 larger family were part of your life.

675

00:28:00,270 --> 00:28:02,910 So did they live in Breslau?

676 00:28:02,910 --> 00:28:05,550 No, they were quite separate.

677 00:28:05,550 --> 00:28:10,420 My father's family in LÃ¹/4neburg was quite different.

678 00:28:10,420 --> 00:28:15,570 And it was just my grandfather and his youngest--

679

00:28:15,570 --> 00:28:16,290 Daughter?

680

00:28:16,290 --> 00:28:18,360 --sister, my Aunt Greten.

681

00:28:18,360 --> 00:28:19,210 Yeah.

682

00:28:19,210 --> 00:28:22,800 But on your mother's side, did all of her siblings

683

00:28:22,800 --> 00:28:24,960 live in Breslau?

00:28:24,960 --> 00:28:27,330 Yes, but wait a minute.

685

00:28:27,330 --> 00:28:35,530 There was-- she lost I think one brother in the World War II.

686 00:28:35,530 --> 00:28:36,580 Or One?

687

00:28:36,580 --> 00:28:38,650 World War I.

688 00:28:38,650 --> 00:28:49,490 And well, we came together for birthdays.

689

00:28:49,490 --> 00:28:57,120 But other than that-because he married beneath.

690 00:28:57,120 --> 00:28:58,445 Who married beneath whom?

691 00:28:58,445 --> 00:29:01,410

692 00:29:01,410 --> 00:29:06,330 I think my father's [LAUGHS] idea.

693 00:29:06,330 --> 00:29:12,480 So your father felt that he had married beneath himself?

694 00:29:12,480 --> 00:29:13,570 Or your mother felt--

695 00:29:13,570 --> 00:29:14,840 No.

696 00:29:14,840 --> 00:29:17,070 Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection

My mother's family--

697

00:29:17,070 --> 00:29:17,970 So the Lutheran side?

698

00:29:17,970 --> 00:29:22,860 In a way that not kind of agree with my father's family.

699

00:29:22,860 --> 00:29:24,460 OK.

700 00:29:24,460 --> 00:29:29,220 Was your mother's family also well-to-do?

701 00:29:29,220 --> 00:29:30,630 Not too well-to-do.

702 00:29:30,630 --> 00:29:32,100 Not too well-to-do.

703 00:29:32,100 --> 00:29:39,200 I think there were too many children and not

704

00:29:39,200 --> 00:29:42,400 on the same level as my father's family.

705 00:29:42,400 --> 00:29:43,430 OK.

706 00:29:43,430 --> 00:29:48,500 And had any of them gone to university or to higher

707 00:29:48,500 --> 00:29:49,880 education of some kind?

708 00:29:49,880 --> 00:29:53,265 709 00:29:53,265 --> 00:29:59,795 I think one of the boys, because he worked--

710 00:29:59,795 --> 00:30:02,490

711 00:30:02,490 --> 00:30:04,800 but I couldn't tell you really.

712 00:30:04,800 --> 00:30:06,900 OK.

713 00:30:06,900 --> 00:30:12,150 Well, now I'm turning actually to 1920s, all right?

714 00:30:12,150 --> 00:30:15,090 And that is your birth.

715 00:30:15,090 --> 00:30:16,993 You have a sister.

716 00:30:16,993 --> 00:30:17,660 Is that correct?

717 00:30:17,660 --> 00:30:18,300 Yes.

718 00:30:18,300 --> 00:30:19,850 What is her name?

719 00:30:19,850 --> 00:30:20,760 Gertraud.

720 00:30:20,760 --> 00:30:21,270 Gertraud.

721 00:30:21,270 --> 00:30:21,770 Gertraud? 722 00:30:21,770 --> 00:30:23,100 Gertraud.

723 00:30:23,100 --> 00:30:27,150 If you say Gertrude, she gets furious.

724 00:30:27,150 --> 00:30:28,350 [LAUGHS]

725 00:30:28,350 --> 00:30:30,510 Does she have a nickname?

726 00:30:30,510 --> 00:30:31,950 No, she doesn't.

727 00:30:31,950 --> 00:30:33,930 So she's Gertraud?

728 00:30:33,930 --> 00:30:34,630 Traute.

729 00:30:34,630 --> 00:30:35,130 Traute.

730 00:30:35,130 --> 00:30:36,550 Traute.

731 00:30:36,550 --> 00:30:38,550 Traute Marguerite Hildegard.

732 00:30:38,550 --> 00:30:43,900 She is after her godmothers.

733 00:30:43,900 --> 00:30:45,970 And I am the grandmothers.

734 00:30:45,970 --> 00:30:49,660 And she has her middle names with godmothers. 735 00:30:49,660 --> 00:30:51,550 Would this be on your mother's side?

736 00:30:51,550 --> 00:30:52,670 On my mother's side.

737 00:30:52,670 --> 00:30:56,200 So all of your middle names-were you baptized, by the way?

738 00:30:56,200 --> 00:30:56,860 Yes.

739 00:30:56,860 --> 00:30:58,270 OK.

740 00:30:58,270 --> 00:30:59,470 And your sister, as well?

741 00:30:59,470 --> 00:31:01,150 Also yeah.

742 00:31:01,150 --> 00:31:07,300 As you were growing up, did you practice a religion,

743 00:31:07,300 --> 00:31:08,850 or were your parents secular?

744 00:31:08,850 --> 00:31:11,450

745 00:31:11,450 --> 00:31:14,960 Well, I was confirmed.

746 00:31:14,960 --> 00:31:16,080 You know confirmation?

747 00:31:16,080 --> 00:31:16,580

748 00:31:16,580 --> 00:31:20,180 Because the Lutheran, they do it with 14 years.

749 00:31:20,180 --> 00:31:23,150 I had two years with my pastor.

750 00:31:23,150 --> 00:31:24,290 [LAUGHS]

751 00:31:24,290 --> 00:31:25,650 OK.

752 00:31:25,650 --> 00:31:27,160 So you did go to ch--

753 00:31:27,160 --> 00:31:28,010 Yes, we did.

754 00:31:28,010 --> 00:31:30,540 Not so frequently.

755 00:31:30,540 --> 00:31:38,000 But we practiced in a way the Christian religion.

756 00:31:38,000 --> 00:31:41,930 So here's a question--

757 00:31:41,930 --> 00:31:45,800 when you were born in 1921, your father

758 00:31:45,800 --> 00:31:47,730 was already 40 years old.

759 00:31:47,730 --> 00:31:48,230 Yes.

760

00:31:48,230 --> 00:31:51,425 That's kind of old in those times to start having a family.

761 00:31:51,425 --> 00:31:53,330 It was, yes.

762 00:31:53,330 --> 00:31:57,010 How does one explain that?

763 00:31:57,010 --> 00:31:59,060 Was he a bachelor for a long time?

764 00:31:59,060 --> 00:32:01,660 Yes, obviously.

765 00:32:01,660 --> 00:32:05,440 And I don't know what made him then marry.

766 00:32:05,440 --> 00:32:07,470 I really couldn't tell.

767 00:32:07,470 --> 00:32:10,640 All right, what kind of personality did he have?

768 00:32:10,640 --> 00:32:11,140 Pardon me?

769 00:32:11,140 --> 00:32:13,210 What kind of personality did your father have?

770 00:32:13,210 --> 00:32:16,570 He was a very, very calm and nice.

771 00:32:16,570 --> 00:32:19,270 And he never complained.

773

00:32:22,040 --> 00:32:24,570 Was he an outgoing person?

774

00:32:24,570 --> 00:32:25,070 No.

775

00:32:25,070 --> 00:32:25,570 Or reserved?

776

00:32:25,570 --> 00:32:31,940 I would say he could sit in his corner reading and the world

777

00:32:31,940 --> 00:32:34,140 around him forgotten.

778

00:32:34,140 --> 00:32:36,690 It was a good thing in a certain way.

779

00:32:36,690 --> 00:32:37,700 Yeah.

780

00:32:37,700 --> 00:32:40,490 And your mother, what kind of a personality did she have?

781

00:32:40,490 --> 00:32:41,840 Oh, she had friends.

782

00:32:41,840 --> 00:32:48,710 And she had a ein Kraenzchen with girls.

783 00:32:48,710 --> 00:32:49,730

What's a Kraenzchen?

784 00:32:49,730 --> 00:32:50,813 I don't know what that is.

785 00:32:50,813 --> 00:32:54,980 That is when some of her friends,

786 00:32:54,980 --> 00:32:58,250 girlfriends-- they were all married already,

787 00:32:58,250 --> 00:32:59,840 but they always came together.

788 00:32:59,840 --> 00:33:04,340 And they called this Kraenzchen.

789 00:33:04,340 --> 00:33:07,910 And they had coffee in one house of one girl

790 00:33:07,910 --> 00:33:10,760 or coffee in the other one.

791 00:33:10,760 --> 00:33:12,380 So it was a circle of friends--

792 00:33:12,380 --> 00:33:12,920 Yes.

793 00:33:12,920 --> 00:33:13,670 --who would meet.

794 00:33:13,670 --> 00:33:16,170 [LAUGHS]

795 00:33:16,170 --> 00:33:16,670

796 00:33:16,670 --> 00:33:19,970 Describe for me the house that you grew up in. Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection

00:33:19,970 --> 00:33:22,400 Was it an apartment or a house?

798 00:33:22,400 --> 00:33:24,050 That was an apartment.

799 00:33:24,050 --> 00:33:29,270 In the city, in big cities, you didn't have private houses.

800 00:33:29,270 --> 00:33:34,820 But we had big apartments before Hitler with eight rooms.

801 00:33:34,820 --> 00:33:35,510 Oh, wow.

802 00:33:35,510 --> 00:33:36,530 [LAUGHS]

803 00:33:36,530 --> 00:33:39,110 All right, so we're in the 1920s, before Hitler.

804 00:33:39,110 --> 00:33:40,770 Tell me what it was like?

805 00:33:40,770 --> 00:33:43,387 Tell me what the house looked like.

806 00:33:43,387 --> 00:33:44,470 The apartment looked like?

807 00:33:44,470 --> 00:33:44,970 The house.

808 00:33:44,970 --> 00:33:46,280 Yeah, the apartment.

809 00:33:46,280 --> 00:33:48,230 We had our play rooms. 810 00:33:48,230 --> 00:33:55,100 We had for the maid an extra entrance with her own room

811 00:33:55,100 --> 00:33:57,500 and her own linen--

812 00:33:57,500 --> 00:33:58,020 Wow.

813 00:33:58,020 --> 00:33:58,790 --bed linen.

814 00:33:58,790 --> 00:34:04,130 [LAUGHS] And my father had his room--

815 00:34:04,130 --> 00:34:06,200 a Herrenzimmer.

816 00:34:06,200 --> 00:34:07,970 So like a study?

817 00:34:07,970 --> 00:34:10,550 No, where he had--

818 00:34:10,550 --> 00:34:17,840 when he met his friends or his people who he worked with,

819 00:34:17,840 --> 00:34:20,489 he had his own room.

820 00:34:20,489 --> 00:34:22,850 So your mother had one room to entertain her friends,

821 00:34:22,850 --> 00:34:23,855 and your father had another? 00:34:23,855 --> 00:34:25,313 Yes, and my father had another one.

823 00:34:25,313 --> 00:34:26,780 Ooh.

824 00:34:26,780 --> 00:34:28,969 And we had a formal dining room.

825 00:34:28,969 --> 00:34:31,909 And we had a dining room for every day.

826 00:34:31,909 --> 00:34:33,380 Oh jeez, that's a lot.

827 00:34:33,380 --> 00:34:34,520 [LAUGHS] Yes.

828 00:34:34,520 --> 00:34:35,360 That's an awful lot.

829 00:34:35,360 --> 00:34:38,330 And my mother had a sewing room.

830 00:34:38,330 --> 00:34:40,969 You could get lost in that place.

831 00:34:40,969 --> 00:34:46,190 One of these apartments had a 20-meter corridor,

832 00:34:46,190 --> 00:34:47,969 from one side to the other.

833 00:34:47,969 --> 00:34:52,250 And I remember we had some tricycles and that--

834 00:34:52,250 --> 00:34:53,739

835

00:34:53,739 --> 00:34:54,239 Yeah.

836

00:34:54,239 --> 00:34:56,360 [LAUGHS]

837

00:34:56,360 --> 00:34:59,990 Was the apartment in the center of town?

838 00:34:59,990 --> 00:35:00,680

Ves.

839

00:35:00,680 --> 00:35:02,390 Do you remember the address?

840

00:35:02,390 --> 00:35:04,760 One was Hohenzollernplatz.

841 00:35:04,760 --> 00:35:06,170 Hohenzollernplatz.

842 00:35:06,170 --> 00:35:06,670 OK.

843 00:35:06,670 --> 00:35:09,530 And the other one Kaiser-Wilhelm-Strasse.

844 00:35:09,530 --> 00:35:10,100 OK.

845

00:35:10,100 --> 00:35:12,410 Well, they certainly speak to German history.

846 00:35:12,410 --> 00:35:13,700 [LAUGHTER]

00:35:13,700 --> 00:35:15,770 Both of those names.

848

 $00:35:15,770 \rightarrow 00:35:17,510$ Do you remember the addresses by numbers?

849 00:35:17,510 --> 00:35:20,160

850 00:35:20,160 --> 00:35:22,170 This I would have to look up.

851 00:35:22,170 --> 00:35:22,860 That's OK.

852 00:35:22,860 --> 00:35:24,195 That's OK.

853 00:35:24,195 --> 00:35:26,100 I don't remember anymore.

854 00:35:26,100 --> 00:35:27,300 That's OK.

855 00:35:27,300 --> 00:35:29,960 Did you have telephones?

856 00:35:29,960 --> 00:35:35,300 Yes, we do because my father worked in a company.

857 00:35:35,300 --> 00:35:37,150 It was AEG.

858 00:35:37,150 --> 00:35:38,100 AEG.

859 00:35:38,100 --> 00:35:38,600 OK. 00:35:38,600 --> 00:35:40,100 That's still quite a big company.

861 00:35:40,100 --> 00:35:40,880 Yes.

862 00:35:40,880 --> 00:35:41,760 AEG.

863 00:35:41,760 --> 00:35:43,700 Yeah.

864 00:35:43,700 --> 00:35:46,780 We did have very early a telephone.

865 00:35:46,780 --> 00:35:51,080 And later on, you had a combination

866 00:35:51,080 --> 00:35:53,430 when everything went down.

867 00:35:53,430 --> 00:35:56,890 You split the line with somebody else.

868 00:35:56,890 --> 00:35:57,580 Oh, I see.

869 00:35:57,580 --> 00:35:59,860 So it could be two apartments sharing a phone?

870 00:35:59,860 --> 00:36:03,325 Yes, you shared a telephone.

871 00:36:03,325 --> 00:36:03,825 OK.

872 00:36:03,825 --> 00:36:06,760 873 00:36:06,760 --> 00:36:08,150 You shared a line.

874 00:36:08,150 --> 00:36:08,960 A line, yes.

875 00:36:08,960 --> 00:36:11,510 Because each person could have their own phone, yes?

876 00:36:11,510 --> 00:36:12,010 Yes.

877 00:36:12,010 --> 00:36:13,780 Yes, but you shared a line.

878 00:36:13,780 --> 00:36:18,670 And sometimes when it rung--

879 00:36:18,670 --> 00:36:19,570 excuse me.

880 00:36:19,570 --> 00:36:22,090 That's what I remember.

881 00:36:22,090 --> 00:36:26,010 When it rung, it was not necessarily for us.

882 00:36:26,010 --> 00:36:27,360 But this was later on.

883 00:36:27,360 --> 00:36:28,230 This is later on.

884 00:36:28,230 --> 00:36:32,550 In the very beginning, in the '20s, beginning of '20s, before 00:36:32,550 --> 00:36:33,210 Hitler--

886 00:36:33,210 --> 00:36:33,890 Before Hitler.

887 00:36:33,890 --> 00:36:35,890 --we had our own telephones.

888 00:36:35,890 --> 00:36:37,380 OK.

889 00:36:37,380 --> 00:36:39,300 How was your apartment heated?

890 00:36:39,300 --> 00:36:42,180 Or it sounds like you lived in several apartments,

891 00:36:42,180 --> 00:36:44,550 but I'm talking the big one.

892 00:36:44,550 --> 00:36:45,542 Was it coal ovens?

893 00:36:45,542 --> 00:36:46,500 Was it some other kind?

894 00:36:46,500 --> 00:36:51,660 They had central-- you know, what they called central that

895 00:36:51,660 --> 00:36:59,100 was from the basement with hot steam up under the windows,

896 00:36:59,100 --> 00:36:59,940 these--

897 00:36:59,940 --> 00:37:01,560 Radiators. 898 00:37:01,560 --> 00:37:02,870 Radiators.

899 00:37:02,870 --> 00:37:04,740 OK.

900 00:37:04,740 --> 00:37:06,540 I mean, I ask these questions--

901 00:37:06,540 --> 00:37:10,290 And some of these apartments, I think,

902 00:37:10,290 --> 00:37:16,530 had these big nice stoves, where you could sit

903 00:37:16,530 --> 00:37:21,360 and that had a little hole where you could do--

904 00:37:21,360 --> 00:37:24,000

905 00:37:24,000 --> 00:37:27,000 You put in coal or you put in wood to burn.

906 00:37:27,000 --> 00:37:30,570 That was coal or briquettes.

907 00:37:30,570 --> 00:37:33,130 I think in German it's called Kachelofen or something

908 00:37:33,130 --> 00:37:33,630 like that.

909 00:37:33,630 --> 00:37:34,980 Yes. Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection

00:37:34,980 --> 00:37:38,500 Our kitchen had a [GERMAN].

911 00:37:38,500 --> 00:37:39,330

What's that?

912 00:37:39,330 --> 00:37:45,870 That was a very monstrous something big.

913 00:37:45,870 --> 00:37:48,420 I think it was by gas.

914 00:37:48,420 --> 00:37:59,220 And you had one of these rings but the oven too.

915 00:37:59,220 --> 00:38:04,250 And bake, bakery, or something.

916 00:38:04,250 --> 00:38:10,010 And I remember I had shoes with these crepe soles.

917 00:38:10,010 --> 00:38:13,090 I don't know if you ever-this is some kind of a rubber

918 00:38:13,090 --> 00:38:14,020 something.

919 00:38:14,020 --> 00:38:22,420 And the maid we had, to dry it up, put this in that stove

920 00:38:22,420 --> 00:38:26,252 till we all of a sudden had a very funny smell.

921 00:38:26,252 --> 00:38:32,200 [LAUGHS] And the soles, they stuck to the-- 922 00:38:32,200 --> 00:38:33,500 What they were sitting on.

923 00:38:33,500 --> 00:38:34,000 Yeah.

924 00:38:34,000 --> 00:38:35,830 [LAUGHS]

925 00:38:35,830 --> 00:38:38,485 Well, that was a maid who didn't know how to dry out shoes.

926 00:38:38,485 --> 00:38:40,380 [LAUGHTER]

927 00:38:40,380 --> 00:38:40,900

928 00:38:40,900 --> 00:38:44,860 Did you have other servants?

929 00:38:44,860 --> 00:38:47,710 Did you have a cook?

930 00:38:47,710 --> 00:38:49,267 We had maids, yes.

931 00:38:49,267 --> 00:38:49,850 You had maids.

932 00:38:49,850 --> 00:38:52,940 A cook, I think my mother liked to cook.

933 00:38:52,940 --> 00:38:55,080 But a maid we had, yes.

934 00:38:55,080 --> 00:38:55,580 OK. 935 00:38:55,580 --> 00:38:57,290 One or more?

936

00:38:57,290 --> 00:38:59,070 It was, as a rule, one.

937

00:38:59,070 --> 00:38:59,720 OK.

938

00:38:59,720 --> 00:39:01,860 Did you have a nanny?

939

00:39:01,860 --> 00:39:02,520 No.

940

00:39:02,520 --> 00:39:03,180 No nanny.

941

00:39:03,180 --> 00:39:03,680 OK.

942 00:39:03,680 --> 00:39:04,410 No nanny.

943 00:39:04,410 --> 00:39:06,285 So it was your mother who watched--

944 00:39:06,285 --> 00:39:07,950 My mother, yeah.

945 00:39:07,950 --> 00:39:11,630 After she got married, was she still a Stopselmaus?

946 00:39:11,630 --> 00:39:12,340 No.

947 00:39:12,340 --> 00:39:12,840 OK. 948 00:39:12,840 --> 00:39:15,300 [LAUGHTER]

949 00:39:15,300 --> 00:39:16,740

950 00:39:16,740 --> 00:39:23,230 And were your parents social?

951 00:39:23,230 --> 00:39:25,660 In the sense that you say your mother would have friends

952 00:39:25,660 --> 00:39:27,280 and they'd have coffee here, there.

953 00:39:27,280 --> 00:39:28,020 Yes.

954 00:39:28,020 --> 00:39:28,810 Yes.

955 00:39:28,810 --> 00:39:33,430 And it was more that my mother had social connections.

956 00:39:33,430 --> 00:39:38,740 My father-- because he wasn't from Breslau.

957 00:39:38,740 --> 00:39:43,570 And if he met people from his profession,

958 00:39:43,570 --> 00:39:46,960 that was obviously business.

959 00:39:46,960 --> 00:39:48,970 Because he had his own room.

960

00:39:48,970 --> 00:39:53,740 And I remember the corner had some kind of where

961

00:39:53,740 --> 00:40:00,910 the wine bottles were stored and the glasses were hung up.

962

00:40:00,910 --> 00:40:02,170 And so that's where he would--

963

00:40:02,170 --> 00:40:06,070 And his desk had a safe on one side.

964

00:40:06,070 --> 00:40:11,770 And I remember whenever we moved they lifted this,

965

00:40:11,770 --> 00:40:13,960 and one side was always so heavy.

966

00:40:13,960 --> 00:40:16,260 And they didn't know what's the matter.

967

00:40:16,260 --> 00:40:20,440 What do you have on this one side of the desk?

968

00:40:20,440 --> 00:40:22,030 So it was a hidden safe?

969

00:40:22,030 --> 00:40:24,400 It was a built-in safe.

970

00:40:24,400 --> 00:40:27,310 OK.

971 00:40:27,310 --> 00:40:28,670 Did you move a lot?

972 00:40:28,670 --> 00:40:34,330 Yes because later on when my father didn't

973

00:40:34,330 --> 00:40:35,890 have his business--

974

00:40:35,890 --> 00:40:37,720 OK, that's after '33.

975

00:40:37,720 --> 00:40:40,150 I'm talking before 1933.

976

00:40:40,150 --> 00:40:42,500 Did you live in one place, or did you live in several?

977

00:40:42,500 --> 00:40:43,600 No.

978

00:40:43,600 --> 00:40:45,285 I think we moved twice.

979

00:40:45,285 --> 00:40:48,700 I don't know why we moved from Hohenzollernstrasse

980

00:40:48,700 --> 00:40:50,350 to Kaiser-Wilhelm-Strasse.

981

00:40:50,350 --> 00:40:51,510 This I couldn't tell you.

982

00:40:51,510 --> 00:40:52,010 OK.

983 00:40:52,010 --> 00:40:55,870

984 00:40:55,870 --> 00:40:58,690 And you were born in Hohenzollernstrasse?

985

00:40:58,690 --> 00:41:02,460 Was that the one that was your first home?

986 00:41:02,460 --> 00:41:04,090 That's what I remember.

987 00:41:04,090 --> 00:41:06,880 And I remember something very nice

988 00:41:06,880 --> 00:41:11,680 on this Hohenzollernstrasse, that had a gate.

989 00:41:11,680 --> 00:41:13,780 At the entrance door had a gate.

990

00:41:13,780 --> 00:41:18,580 When you closed it, that was from inside the gate,

991

00:41:18,580 --> 00:41:19,600 that nobody--

992

00:41:19,600 --> 00:41:22,630 it was a burglarproof, you can say.

993

00:41:22,630 --> 00:41:28,060 And it must have been that my mother lost the key

994

00:41:28,060 --> 00:41:30,640 or forgot the key or I don't know.

995

00:41:30,640 --> 00:41:33,220 We had to call the fire department 996 00:41:33,220 --> 00:41:37,000 to come and break in the second floor--

997

00:41:37,000 --> 00:41:38,860 it was the first floor--

998

00:41:38,860 --> 00:41:42,950 because she couldn't get the entrance.

999

00:41:42,950 --> 00:41:49,870 And they had to break in and open this gate from the inside.

1000

00:41:49,870 --> 00:41:55,480 So describe for me what the apartment building looked like.

1001

00:41:55,480 --> 00:41:57,130 First of all, how many floors was it?

1002

00:41:57,130 --> 00:41:59,140 How many stories?

1003

00:41:59,140 --> 00:42:01,750 These were big houses.

1004 00:42:01,750 --> 00:42:05,650 And we lived on the second.

1005

00:42:05,650 --> 00:42:08,410 Here you would call it the second floor.

1006

00:42:08,410 --> 00:42:11,410 But it was actually the first floor,

1007 00:42:11,410 --> 00:42:13,210 because down there didn't count. 1008 00:42:13,210 --> 00:42:13,720 Exactly.

1009 00:42:13,720 --> 00:42:17,470 So in the European, or at least in Germany,

1010 00:42:17,470 --> 00:42:18,970 the first floor is the ground floor.

1011 00:42:18,970 --> 00:42:19,470 Yeah.

1012 00:42:19,470 --> 00:42:23,620 And then the first above it is the first floor.

1013 00:42:23,620 --> 00:42:25,450 But for us in the United States, we'd

1014 00:42:25,450 --> 00:42:27,400 call that the second floor.

1015 00:42:27,400 --> 00:42:28,840 Correct, yes.

1016 00:42:28,840 --> 00:42:31,360 Was there an elevator in that building?

1017 00:42:31,360 --> 00:42:35,260

1018 00:42:35,260 --> 00:42:36,410 I don't think so.

1019 00:42:36,410 --> 00:42:36,910 OK. 1020 00:42:36,910 --> 00:42:38,470 So you had a staircase?

1021 00:42:38,470 --> 00:42:39,730 We had a staircase.

1022 00:42:39,730 --> 00:42:45,370 And we had a staircase, as I told you, for the maid too.

1023 00:42:45,370 --> 00:42:46,600 So a separate one.

1024 00:42:46,600 --> 00:42:48,790 A separate one from--

1025 00:42:48,790 --> 00:42:49,880 The other side.

1026 00:42:49,880 --> 00:42:50,500 From behind.

1027 00:42:50,500 --> 00:42:51,230 From the side.

1028 00:42:51,230 --> 00:42:52,450 OK.

1029 00:42:52,450 --> 00:42:55,060 And did you have a balcony in that apartment?

1030 00:42:55,060 --> 00:42:57,845 Yes.

1031 00:42:57,845 --> 00:43:01,920 We always had a balcony with geraniums.

1032 00:43:01,920 --> 00:43:03,370 [LAUGHS] 1033 00:43:03,370 --> 00:43:04,840 And what did it look out on?

1034 00:43:04,840 --> 00:43:08,520

1035 00:43:08,520 --> 00:43:09,360 Was it a park?

1036 00:43:09,360 --> 00:43:11,190 Was it a street?

1037 00:43:11,190 --> 00:43:13,470 This was a big street.

1038 00:43:13,470 --> 00:43:15,660 And the middle of the street--

1039 00:43:15,660 --> 00:43:19,680 it was on both sides you had riding passes,

1040

00:43:19,680 --> 00:43:24,000 because at that time, people who had the means had their horses

1041 00:43:24,000 --> 00:43:25,170 and rode.

1042 00:43:25,170 --> 00:43:31,440 And it was the middle where you could walk.

1043 00:43:31,440 --> 00:43:34,380 And on both sides there were riding

1044 00:43:34,380 --> 00:43:39,760 passes, where you had your horses and for the cars 1045 00:43:39,760 --> 00:43:41,010 on both sides.

1046 00:43:41,010 --> 00:43:43,930 It was one way one and one way the other.

1047 00:43:43,930 --> 00:43:46,770 So if I understand this properly,

1048 00:43:46,770 --> 00:43:49,230 the cars would go on the outside.

1049 00:43:49,230 --> 00:43:50,550 On the outside.

1050 00:43:50,550 --> 00:43:54,030 And one from this side, and one from this side.

1051 00:43:54,030 --> 00:44:01,410 And the middle was big, big where we walked.

1052 00:44:01,410 --> 00:44:05,070 You had your baby carriage or whatever.

1053 00:44:05,070 --> 00:44:11,040 And on both sides still, they had riding passes.

1054 00:44:11,040 --> 00:44:14,550 So riding passes means the places where horses could go.

1055 00:44:14,550 --> 00:44:18,000 Because people who had the means and lived

1056

00:44:18,000 --> 00:44:21,390 a little outside had their horses.

1057 00:44:21,390 --> 00:44:23,220 And when you say passes, they didn't

1058 00:44:23,220 --> 00:44:26,040 have to get a pass to be able to ride there, did they?

1059 00:44:26,040 --> 00:44:26,540 No.

1060 00:44:26,540 --> 00:44:27,040 No.

1061 00:44:27,040 --> 00:44:28,540 It just meant that this was the way.

1062 00:44:28,540 --> 00:44:29,457 That was the way, yes.

1063 00:44:29,457 --> 00:44:30,960 This is the way that they could go.

1064 00:44:30,960 --> 00:44:35,250 And was that close to the pedestrian area where

1065 00:44:35,250 --> 00:44:35,750 the people--

1066 00:44:35,750 --> 00:44:37,580 No, that was the middle.

1067 00:44:37,580 --> 00:44:40,900 The pedestrian was where the cars went. 1068 00:44:40,900 --> 00:44:41,400 No, no, no.

1069 00:44:41,400 --> 00:44:43,290 Pedestrian is where the people walk.

1070 00:44:43,290 --> 00:44:43,790 Yeah.

1071 00:44:43,790 --> 00:44:44,290 OK.

1072 00:44:44,290 --> 00:44:49,890 And then so the horses would be near where the people walked?

1073 00:44:49,890 --> 00:44:50,970 Is that so?

1074 00:44:50,970 --> 00:44:52,070 No.

1075 00:44:52,070 --> 00:44:54,780 There was a road for the cars in between.

1076 00:44:54,780 --> 00:44:58,950 That was here you had the sidewalk.

1077 00:44:58,950 --> 00:45:01,100 Then you had where the cars went.

1078 00:45:01,100 --> 00:45:04,980 And then you came where is the riding passes.

1079 00:45:04,980 --> 00:45:07,610 In the middle, where you still can walk. 1080 00:45:07,610 --> 00:45:09,360 And then the same thing on the other side?

1081 00:45:09,360 --> 00:45:10,240 On the other side.

1082 00:45:10,240 --> 00:45:11,160 OK.

1083 00:45:11,160 --> 00:45:11,860 How interesting.

1084 00:45:11,860 --> 00:45:13,590 It must have been wide streets.

1085 00:45:13,590 --> 00:45:16,930 These were-- not all of them were that way.

1086 00:45:16,930 --> 00:45:19,590 But these two--

1087 00:45:19,590 --> 00:45:23,080 Kaiser-Wilhelm-Strasse und Hohenzollernstrasse--

1088 00:45:23,080 --> 00:45:29,530 were these wide, where you had of these better

1089 00:45:29,530 --> 00:45:32,530 apartments or big apartments.

1090 00:45:32,530 --> 00:45:37,840 And were there a lot of cars in Breslau?

1091 00:45:37,840 --> 00:45:38,980 I think so. 1092 00:45:38,980 --> 00:45:39,790 OK.

1093 00:45:39,790 --> 00:45:44,020 So were there more cars than horses?

1094 00:45:44,020 --> 00:45:44,640 Yes.

1095 00:45:44,640 --> 00:45:46,530 Yes.

1096 00:45:46,530 --> 00:45:49,590 We had an old Mercedes.

1097 00:45:49,590 --> 00:45:51,160 You owned a car?

1098 00:45:51,160 --> 00:45:51,660 Yes.

1099 00:45:51,660 --> 00:45:53,730 And my father didn't drive, funny enough.

1100 00:45:53,730 --> 00:45:55,380 We had a chauffeur.

1101 00:45:55,380 --> 00:45:56,610 Oh my goodness.

1102 00:45:56,610 --> 00:45:58,820 I don't know why he didn't drive.

1103 00:45:58,820 --> 00:46:00,630 [LAUGHS]

1104 00:46:00,630 --> 00:46:04,432 And did you take vacations with this car?

1105

00:46:04,432 --> 00:46:05,890 Did you have outings with this car?

1106 00:46:05,890 --> 00:46:09,120 Yes, we went to the seashore.

1107 00:46:09,120 --> 00:46:11,190 And we went to the mountains.

1108 00:46:11,190 --> 00:46:14,360 And later on, our chauffeur was better off [LAUGHS]

1109 00:46:14,360 --> 00:46:15,900 than we were.

1110 00:46:15,900 --> 00:46:17,430 Oh my goodness.

1111 00:46:17,430 --> 00:46:21,900 Because when this all fell down, my father

1112 00:46:21,900 --> 00:46:28,500 saw to it that he got a good job in Berlin with Siemens.

1113 00:46:28,500 --> 00:46:29,430 Oh, wow.

1114 00:46:29,430 --> 00:46:32,965 Another very strong company--

1115 00:46:32,965 --> 00:46:33,465 Siemens.

1116 00:46:33,465 --> 00:46:36,180 1117 00:46:36,180 --> 00:46:39,250 I remember Klini--

1118 00:46:39,250 --> 00:46:40,420 Klinisch.

1119 00:46:40,420 --> 00:46:41,350 Klinisch?

1120 00:46:41,350 --> 00:46:42,250 Klinisch.

1121 00:46:42,250 --> 00:46:44,560 I think it was his last name.

1122 00:46:44,560 --> 00:46:46,810 But this is all I remember.

1123 00:46:46,810 --> 00:46:49,510 Klinisch, he drove us there.

1124 00:46:49,510 --> 00:46:53,360 And I remember he picked me up from school.

1125 00:46:53,360 --> 00:46:58,720 And one day he had a flat or something and was late.

1126 00:46:58,720 --> 00:47:04,110 And I had frostbitten two toes.

1127 00:47:04,110 --> 00:47:05,500 He was really late.

1128 00:47:05,500 --> 00:47:06,420 Yeah, he was.

1129 00:47:06,420 --> 00:47:06,920 He was. 1130 00:47:06,920 --> 00:47:08,580 He was really late.

1131 00:47:08,580 --> 00:47:10,500 So he had a flat tire?

1132 00:47:10,500 --> 00:47:12,360 I don't know what.

1133 00:47:12,360 --> 00:47:16,100 Something with the car that he didn't pick me up.

1134 00:47:16,100 --> 00:47:19,010 And at that time, you know, you didn't have your telephones.

1135 00:47:19,010 --> 00:47:22,180

1136 00:47:22,180 --> 00:47:28,420 And in the 1920s, that's when you started going to school?

1137 00:47:28,420 --> 00:47:28,950 Yeah.

1138 00:47:28,950 --> 00:47:30,890 How old were you?

1139 00:47:30,890 --> 00:47:33,060 That was a very, very nice school.

1140 00:47:33,060 --> 00:47:36,870 It was Ilming Lyceum.

1141 00:47:36,870 --> 00:47:39,360 Ilming mit Lyceum?

1142 00:47:39,360 --> 00:47:42,300 Ilming Lyceum.

1143 00:47:42,300 --> 00:47:43,570 Ilmen Lyceum? 1144 00:47:43,570 --> 00:47:44,070 Yeah. 1145 00:47:44,070 --> 00:47:45,070 OK. 1146 00:47:45,070 --> 00:47:46,530 And was this a private school? 1147 00:47:46,530 --> 00:47:47,910 Yes. 1148 00:47:47,910 --> 00:47:49,380 Tell me about it. 1149 00:47:49,380 --> 00:47:50,250 What was it like? 1150 00:47:50,250 --> 00:47:51,340 What did you study? 1151 00:47:51,340 --> 00:47:52,650 What did you learn? 1152 00:47:52,650 --> 00:47:55,650 I just know that our school was always better. 1153 00:47:55,650 --> 00:47:57,990 [LAUGHS] 1154 00:47:57,990 --> 00:48:00,590 Did you have to wear uniforms? 1155 00:48:00,590 --> 00:48:01,140

No.

1156 00:48:01,140 --> 00:48:01,640 No.

1157 00:48:01,640 --> 00:48:04,550

1158 00:48:04,550 --> 00:48:09,750 And I was just in a girls' school, because at that time,

1159 00:48:09,750 --> 00:48:12,350 it was still not--

1160 00:48:12,350 --> 00:48:14,315 It was separate?

1161 00:48:14,315 --> 00:48:19,210 I really don't know that they have mixed schools.

1162 00:48:19,210 --> 00:48:19,710 OK.

1163 00:48:19,710 --> 00:48:21,170 Boys and girls together?

1164 00:48:21,170 --> 00:48:24,710 It might have been because my poor sister.

1165 00:48:24,710 --> 00:48:28,910 Because of these economic downfalls,

1166 00:48:28,910 --> 00:48:31,480 she couldn't attend a private school anymore

1167 00:48:31,480 --> 00:48:34,070 and went to a public school. 1168 00:48:34,070 --> 00:48:35,300 But I really don't know.

1169 00:48:35,300 --> 00:48:39,180 I never went, because when all this happened,

1170 00:48:39,180 --> 00:48:41,030 I was already 15.

1171 00:48:41,030 --> 00:48:45,050 And that was the end of public school.

1172 00:48:45,050 --> 00:48:48,290 They only went to the age of 14.

1173 00:48:48,290 --> 00:48:48,950 OK.

1174 00:48:48,950 --> 00:48:52,160 So when you were 15, that's already 1936.

1175 00:48:52,160 --> 00:48:53,420 Yeah.

1176 00:48:53,420 --> 00:48:56,670 Let's talk still before 1933.

1177 00:48:56,670 --> 00:49:02,030 So up until the time you are 12 years old,

1178 00:49:02,030 --> 00:49:04,910 you have a life that is worry free.

1179 00:49:04,910 --> 00:49:05,960 Is that correct?

1180

00:49:05,960 --> 00:49:06,480 Yes.

1181 00:49:06,480 --> 00:49:07,100 All right.

1182 00:49:07,100 --> 00:49:09,560 And you go to this Lyzeum.

1183 00:49:09,560 --> 00:49:14,370 And how old were you when you started school?

1184 00:49:14,370 --> 00:49:18,680 I think we start with six years.

1185

00:49:18,680 --> 00:49:22,640 I don't remember that we had kindergarten as they have it

1186 00:49:22.640 --> (

00:49:22,640 --> 00:49:24,560 here.

1187

00:49:24,560 --> 00:49:28,640 Maybe, at that time, it wasn't, in Europe, not customary.

1188 00:49:28,640 --> 00:49:30,410 OK.

1189 00:49:30,410 --> 00:49:34,070 When you went to school as a child,

1190

00:49:34,070 --> 00:49:36,950 do you have memories of either walking there,

1191 00:49:36,950 --> 00:49:40,290 or were you always driven by the chauffeur?

1192

00:49:40,290 --> 00:49:45,020 Well, my first few years, we had a chauffeur, [LAUGHS]

1193

00:49:45,020 --> 00:49:48,320 who brought me to school.

1194

00:49:48,320 --> 00:49:52,730 And later on, we walked to school.

1195

00:49:52,730 --> 00:49:55,510 Was it far from your home?

1196

00:49:55,510 --> 00:49:58,630 Obviously not so far, that you could walk.

1197

00:49:58,630 --> 00:50:02,860 Do you remember the building, what it looked like?

1198 00:50:02,860 --> 00:50:05,260 Wait a minute.

1199 00:50:05,260 --> 00:50:08,320 What was the school?

1200 00:50:08,320 --> 00:50:09,870 I'll get to it.

1201

00:50:09,870 --> 00:50:12,040 OK.

1202

00:50:12,040 --> 00:50:16,030 That school had a high school on a higher level

1203

00:50:16,030 --> 00:50:19,600 and under middle level.

1204 00:50:19,600 --> 00:50:20,200 OK.

1205 00:50:20,200 --> 00:50:21,117 So it had a Gymnasium?

1206 00:50:21,117 --> 00:50:24,670 It was still better than public schools, but not as much

1207 00:50:24,670 --> 00:50:29,620 as high schools, because they charged.

1208 00:50:29,620 --> 00:50:37,230 And money was not easily available anymore.

1209 00:50:37,230 --> 00:50:38,790 Yeah, after '33?

1210 00:50:38,790 --> 00:50:40,500 Yes.

1211 00:50:40,500 --> 00:50:45,160 But also, for many people in the 1920s, it was a very hard time.

1212 00:50:45,160 --> 00:50:49,020 And yet your family, you told me, was well-to-do-- not only

1213 00:50:49,020 --> 00:50:50,715 your grandfathers but your father.

1214 00:50:50,715 --> 00:50:55,620

1215 00:50:55,620 --> 00:51:00,370 He had his business for telephone and telecommunication 00:51:00,370 --> 00:51:03,570 and worked together with--

1217 00:51:03,570 --> 00:51:06,870 at first, it was Mix and Genest, where they

1218 00:51:06,870 --> 00:51:09,633 said "Mist" und "Geht Nicht".

1219 00:51:09,633 --> 00:51:14,020 [LAUGHS] And later on, with Siemens.

1220 00:51:14,020 --> 00:51:15,090 OK.

1221 00:51:15,090 --> 00:51:17,920 So he had his own company.

1222 00:51:17,920 --> 00:51:18,420 Yes.

1223 00:51:18,420 --> 00:51:21,340 But was he the only person in that company?

1224 00:51:21,340 --> 00:51:23,250 He was the owner of it.

1225 00:51:23,250 --> 00:51:23,790 OK.

1226 00:51:23,790 --> 00:51:26,070 Did he have anybody who worked for him?

1227 00:51:26,070 --> 00:51:27,990 I guess so.

1228 00:51:27,990 --> 00:51:29,480 Did he have an office? 1229 00:51:29,480 --> 00:51:30,300 Yes.

1230 00:51:30,300 --> 00:51:32,310 Outside of the apartment?

1231 00:51:32,310 --> 00:51:33,210 Yes.

1232 00:51:33,210 --> 00:51:39,720 And I remember that was '23, when my mother said

1233 00:51:39,720 --> 00:51:42,870 he sent baskets of money.

1234 00:51:42,870 --> 00:51:46,110 Buy something because a few hours later you

1235 00:51:46,110 --> 00:51:50,430 couldn't get a matchbox for it.

1236 00:51:50,430 --> 00:51:52,750 So it was during that huge inflation?

1237 00:51:52,750 --> 00:51:53,520 Yes.

1238 00:51:53,520 --> 00:51:55,770 So he would send money home to your mother

1239 00:51:55,770 --> 00:51:57,660 and tell her buy something.

1240 00:51:57,660 --> 00:52:05,420 Buy whatever you can still for that basket of money. 1241 00:52:05,420 --> 00:52:10,380 Did your father belong to a Jewish community in Breslau?

1242 00:52:10,380 --> 00:52:10,885 No.

1243 00:52:10,885 --> 00:52:11,385 OK.

1244 00:52:11,385 --> 00:52:14,670

1245 00:52:14,670 --> 00:52:19,170 Did they have common friends, your mother and your father?

1246 00:52:19,170 --> 00:52:21,600 More my mother's friends.

1247 00:52:21,600 --> 00:52:24,690 So they became his friends?

1248 00:52:24,690 --> 00:52:30,030 I don't think so, because with this woman [GERMAN]..

1249 00:52:30,030 --> 00:52:31,740 So he would have nothing to do with that?

1250 00:52:31,740 --> 00:52:32,070 [LAUGHS] No.

1251 00:52:32,070 --> 00:52:33,090 He would nothing to do with that.

1252 00:52:33,090 --> 00:52:33,750 OK.

1253

00:52:33,750 --> 00:52:37,500 So it wasn't like they had a joint social life?

1254

00:52:37,500 --> 00:52:39,300 No, not in this way.

1255

00:52:39,300 --> 00:52:40,470 OK.

1256

00:52:40,470 --> 00:52:41,920 Did they get along?

1257

00:52:41,920 --> 00:52:42,420 Pardon me?

1258

00:52:42,420 --> 00:52:44,000 Did they get along, your parents?

1259 00:52:44,000 --> 00:52:46,660

Yes, I think so.

1260

00:52:46,660 --> 00:52:52,600 My father, he didn't like any complaints or any--

1261

00:52:52,600 --> 00:52:55,770 he wanted his peace.

1262 00:52:55,770 --> 00:52:56,910 OK.

1263 00:52:56,910 --> 00:53:01,360 And was your mother somebody who would complain?

1264 00:53:01,360 --> 00:53:03,520 Well, I wouldn't know.

1265 00:53:03,520 --> 00:53:08,170 This was a time when children were--

1266

00:53:08,170 --> 00:53:12,370 No, I'm not asking about details of something that was private.

1267 00:53:12,370 --> 00:53:15,610 But in a home, you get a sense whether it's a happy home

1268 00:53:15,610 --> 00:53:18,550 or whether it's a closed and sad home.

1269 00:53:18,550 --> 00:53:22,780 No, we had a very open--

1270 00:53:22,780 --> 00:53:24,280 And so they were happy together?

1271 00:53:24,280 --> 00:53:27,010 Yeah, well, my father had other interests.

1272 00:53:27,010 --> 00:53:32,800 So that was natural, that my mother had her friends.

1273 00:53:32,800 --> 00:53:33,760 And he had his.

1274 00:53:33,760 --> 00:53:36,940 And he had his.

1275 00:53:36,940 --> 00:53:39,310 Well, one of the reasons I ask about this

1276 00:53:39,310 --> 00:53:41,290 is because you showed me a photo which

1277

This is a verbatim transcript of spoken word generated with 3Play Media. It is not the primary source, and it may contain errors in spelling or accuracy. 00:53:41,290 --> 00:53:45,490 we will film later of them in their engagement party.

1278 00:53:45,490 --> 00:53:48,010 And that is such a

happy photograph.

1279

00:53:48,010 --> 00:53:49,460 That's my mother's family.

1280 00:53:49,460 --> 00:53:52,300

1281 00:53:52,300 --> 00:53:54,250 They were happy-go-lucky.

1282 00:53:54,250 --> 00:53:57,310 First of all, they were a lot of people.

1283 00:53:57,310 --> 00:54:04,330 And I think they were different from my father's family.

1284 00:54:04,330 --> 00:54:05,240 OK.

1285 00:54:05,240 --> 00:54:08,790 Were they more accepting of him?

1286 00:54:08,790 --> 00:54:09,700 I guess so.

1287

00:54:09,700 --> 00:54:11,290 OK.

1288 00:54:11,290 --> 00:54:12,040 You didn't know?

1289 00:54:12,040 --> 00:54:13,120 You didn't know.

1290 00:54:13,120 --> 00:54:13,620 OK.

1291 00:54:13,620 --> 00:54:18,570

1292 00:54:18,570 --> 00:54:21,210 Did you ever identify yourself as Jewish

1293 00:54:21,210 --> 00:54:23,140 when you were growing up?

1294 00:54:23,140 --> 00:54:26,250 We never were because we were baptized,

1295 00:54:26,250 --> 00:54:29,340 and we were Christian.

1296 00:54:29,340 --> 00:54:32,940 And my father had the idea that since the mother brings up

1297 00:54:32,940 --> 00:54:37,830 the children, it is better with her religion.

1298 00:54:37,830 --> 00:54:43,220 Then obviously, he wasn't the religious type, which

1299 00:54:43,220 --> 00:54:45,740 didn't go well with his mother.

1300 00:54:45,740 --> 00:54:47,270 Yeah.

1301 00:54:47,270 --> 00:54:50,580 With his very religious mother. 1302 00:54:50,580 --> 00:54:53,480 I never knew her, because as I said,

1303 00:54:53,480 --> 00:54:56,210 she died half a year before I was born.

1304 00:54:56,210 --> 00:54:58,070 Yeah.

1305 00:54:58,070 --> 00:54:59,785 But she had an influence?

1306 00:54:59,785 --> 00:55:00,660 She had an influence.

1307 00:55:00,660 --> 00:55:03,620 Obviously, she would have liked her son

1308 00:55:03,620 --> 00:55:05,730 to marry a good Jewish girl.

1309 00:55:05,730 --> 00:55:06,230 Yeah.

1310 00:55:06,230 --> 00:55:11,990

1311 00:55:11,990 --> 00:55:16,280 By the time 1930 rolls around, you're nine years old.

1312 00:55:16,280 --> 00:55:20,900 1931, you're 10 years old, and so on.

1313 00:55:20,900 --> 00:55:25,280 Do you hear anything of what's going on in the streets, 1314 00:55:25,280 --> 00:55:27,080 in the society?

1315 00:55:27,080 --> 00:55:29,690 Do you listen to the radio or anything?

1316 00:55:29,690 --> 00:55:31,340 Actually, no.

1317 00:55:31,340 --> 00:55:37,460 Where I was hit first, I was in a sport club.

1318 00:55:37,460 --> 00:55:41,540 And I liked sports from school.

1319 00:55:41,540 --> 00:55:45,440 And we had extra sports clubs.

1320 00:55:45,440 --> 00:55:53,000 And when I couldn't attend it anymore, I said, "Why not?"

1321 00:55:53,000 --> 00:55:59,600 Because I was Mischling, half Jewish.

1322 00:55:59,600 --> 00:56:05,450 Even so, we never practiced any Jewish religion at home.

1323 00:56:05,450 --> 00:56:10,520 So that was kind where I remember

1324 00:56:10,520 --> 00:56:14,040 I wasn't quite sure what they are talking about.

1325 00:56:14,040 --> 00:56:14,540 Yeah. 1326 00:56:14,540 --> 00:56:16,415 How could you even know what to make of this?

1327 00:56:16,415 --> 00:56:18,710 So this is the first time you're exposed.

1328 00:56:18,710 --> 00:56:21,110 Yeah, well, at the first time, I really

1329 00:56:21,110 --> 00:56:24,260 knew when they threw me out of the sport club.

1330 00:56:24,260 --> 00:56:26,450 How old were you?

1331 00:56:26,450 --> 00:56:27,350 Because--

1332 00:56:27,350 --> 00:56:28,450 How old were you?

1333 00:56:28,450 --> 00:56:32,370 Oh, I must have been 11 years or something like this.

1334 00:56:32,370 --> 00:56:35,640 So this is even before Hitler comes to power?

1335 00:56:35,640 --> 00:56:36,380 Wait a minute.

1336 00:56:36,380 --> 00:56:39,890

1337 00:56:39,890 --> 00:56:42,410 No, that was after Hitler. 1338 00:56:42,410 --> 00:56:46,190 Because he comes to power in 1933.

1339 00:56:46,190 --> 00:56:47,990 And you were then--

1340 00:56:47,990 --> 00:56:48,782 well, you could be.

1341 00:56:48,782 --> 00:56:49,282 12.

1342 00:56:49,282 --> 00:56:50,236 You were, yeah, 12--

1343 00:56:50,236 --> 00:56:52,040 11, 12, right on the cusp.

1344 00:56:52,040 --> 00:56:53,830 Yeah.

1345 00:56:53,830 --> 00:56:57,920 And that must have been the time when they threw me out.

1346 00:56:57,920 --> 00:56:59,150 Yeah.

1347 00:56:59,150 --> 00:57:01,430 And age wise it matter--

1348 00:57:01,430 --> 00:57:03,980 because he comes to power, I believe, in the beginning

1349 00:57:03,980 --> 00:57:05,540 of the year in 1933.

1350 00:57:05,540 --> 00:57:07,140 Yeah, in January '33.

1351

00:57:07,140 --> 00:57:07,640 Yeah.

1352 00:57:07,640 --> 00:57:10,710 And you have your birthday in November.

1353

00:57:10,710 --> 00:57:15,500 So between January and November that's pretty quick,

1354 00:57:15,500 --> 00:57:16,850 when you're thrown out.

1355

00:57:16,850 --> 00:57:18,960 And you're still 11 years old.

1356 00:57:18,960 --> 00:57:21,680 Yeah.

1357 00:57:21,680 --> 00:57:25,340 How did things change at home?

1358 00:57:25,340 --> 00:57:29,360 It changed it at home because of my father lost the business.

1359 00:57:29,360 --> 00:57:34,890 And we moved to a smaller and smaller and smaller apartments.

1360 00:57:34,890 --> 00:57:35,390 Excuse me.

1361 00:57:35,390 --> 00:57:46,490

1362 00:57:46,490 --> 00:57:48,410 Let me step back a bit. 1363 00:57:48,410 --> 00:57:52,220 In the '20s and early '30s, before Hitler,

1364 00:57:52,220 --> 00:57:54,180 and when you live on Hohenzollern

1365 00:57:54,180 --> 00:57:58,820 and Kaiser-Wilhelm-Strasse, did you

1366 00:57:58,820 --> 00:58:03,560 know your neighbors in the building that you lived in?

1367 00:58:03,560 --> 00:58:05,840 I don't think so.

1368 00:58:05,840 --> 00:58:07,550 I don't think so.

1369 00:58:07,550 --> 00:58:10,460 But we had friends, my mother's friends.

1370 00:58:10,460 --> 00:58:16,460 And one, we even called her Tante.

1371 00:58:16,460 --> 00:58:19,940 And she had two children--

1372 00:58:19,940 --> 00:58:21,320 she had three.

1373 00:58:21,320 --> 00:58:26,450 And one of the girls, she wasn't quite right.

1374 00:58:26,450 --> 00:58:35,460 And obviously, as they told me, Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection

I taught this Sylchen to speak.

1375 00:58:35,460 --> 00:58:36,990 Wow.

1376 00:58:36,990 --> 00:58:39,482 Because I felt sorry for her.

1377 00:58:39,482 --> 00:58:40,940 So she has some sort of disability?

1378 00:58:40,940 --> 00:58:45,210 As a child, maybe if you see somebody who

1379 00:58:45,210 --> 00:58:46,920 you feel sorry for her.

1380 00:58:46,920 --> 00:58:48,330 So she had a disability?

1381 00:58:48,330 --> 00:58:48,870 Yes.

1382 00:58:48,870 --> 00:58:49,410 Yes.

1383 00:58:49,410 --> 00:58:50,560 OK.

1384 00:58:50,560 --> 00:58:53,520 And well, that's quite a thing.

1385 00:58:53,520 --> 00:58:57,780 The oldest, she married Rodenstock.

1386 00:58:57,780 --> 00:58:59,670 Are you familiar with the--

1387

1388 00:59:03,400 --> 00:59:05,240 lens.

1389 00:59:05,240 --> 00:59:08,270 The Rodenstock is a very big company in Germany.

1390

00:59:08,270 --> 00:59:11,990 No, this company I don't know of.

1391 00:59:11,990 --> 00:59:15,830 But is this the family that this girl came from?

1392 00:59:15,830 --> 00:59:22,670 No, she married-- the daughter of that good friend of ours,

1393 00:59:22,670 --> 00:59:26,840 of my mother, Lotte, she married Rodenstock.

1394 00:59:26,840 --> 00:59:28,070 I see.

1395 00:59:28,070 --> 00:59:33,170

And Rodenstock is very famous for lens--

1396 00:59:33,170 --> 00:59:35,480 lens and lens.

1397 00:59:35,480 --> 00:59:36,560 Oh, for lenses--

1398 00:59:36,560 --> 00:59:37,130 Yeah, lenses.

1399

00:59:37,130 --> 00:59:40,550 --whether eyeglass or camera or something.

1400 00:59:40,550 --> 00:59:41,780 OK.

1401 00:59:41,780 --> 00:59:43,760 No, I wasn't familiar with that.

1402 00:59:43,760 --> 00:59:46,100 No, Rodenstock is still a name.

1403 00:59:46,100 --> 00:59:49,080

1404 00:59:49,080 --> 00:59:49,685 She died.

1405 00:59:49,685 --> 00:59:54,830

1406 00:59:54,830 --> 00:59:55,490 I don't know.

1407 00:59:55,490 --> 00:59:58,560 I think she drank.

1408 00:59:58,560 --> 01:00:01,350 Were any of your mother's friends Jewish?

1409 01:00:01,350 --> 01:00:01,950 No.

1410 01:00:01,950 --> 01:00:04,290 My mother's friends, no.

1411 01:00:04,290 --> 01:00:06,240 The whole family, no. Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection

01:00:06,240 --> 01:00:08,270 And you know, that wasn't even--

1413 01:00:08,270 --> 01:00:11,250

1414 01:00:11,250 --> 01:00:12,680 No one would make a distinction?

1415 01:00:12,680 --> 01:00:15,270 No.

1416 01:00:15,270 --> 01:00:22,860 Because only one of my aunts from my mother's brother's

1417

01:00:22,860 --> 01:00:28,620 wife, she was the one whose son was in Leibstandarte Adolf

1418

01:00:28,620 --> 01:00:34,710 Hitler, who resented my father.

1419

01:00:34,710 --> 01:00:37,050 But the others, they--

1420

01:00:37,050 --> 01:00:40,260 So was it only her son was Leibstandarte Adolf Hitler?

1421 01:00:40,260 --> 01:00:40,970 Yeah.

1422 01:00:40,970 --> 01:00:43,560 OK.

1423 01:00:43,560 --> 01:00:45,570 There weren't anymore?

1424 01:00:45,570 --> 01:00:47,700 He had a brother. 1425 01:00:47,700 --> 01:00:53,103 But Wolfgang died in the very beginning of the World War II.

1426 01:00:53,103 --> 01:00:53,770 Do you know how?

1427

01:00:53,770 --> 01:00:54,490 He was a--

1428 01:00:54,490 --> 01:00:57,070

1429 01:00:57,070 --> 01:00:57,852 Panzer.

1430 01:00:57,852 --> 01:00:58,810 How do you call Panzer?

1431

01:00:58,810 --> 01:00:59,620 He was on a tank.

1432

01:00:59,620 --> 01:01:01,990 Yeah, with tanks.

1433

01:01:01,990 --> 01:01:05,290 And he died with 19 years was killed.

1434 01:01:05,290 --> 01:01:09,160 Oh, he was a young kid actually.

1435

01:01:09,160 --> 01:01:13,070 Did your parents ever discuss politics at home?

1436 01:01:13,070 --> 01:01:16,500 No, I don't remember.

1437 01:01:16,500 --> 01:01:18,330 When things started, do you remember

1438

01:01:18,330 --> 01:01:20,500 the day Hitler came to power?

1439 01:01:20,500 --> 01:01:23,220 Oh, yes.

1440 01:01:23,220 --> 01:01:25,440 But we never discussed this.

1441 01:01:25,440 --> 01:01:31,020 Actually, with my father, he went with us to museums,

1442 01:01:31,020 --> 01:01:36,360 to churches, to something that we

1443

01:01:36,360 --> 01:01:43,690 learned or had to learn about the good thing of life.

1444

01:01:43,690 --> 01:01:45,850 And my mother was an excellent cook.

1445

01:01:45,850 --> 01:01:50,410 And [LAUGHS] so both had their--

1446

01:01:50,410 --> 01:01:52,090 Their areas where--

1447

01:01:52,090 --> 01:01:53,340 Yeah, their areas.

1448 01:01:53,340 --> 01:01:53,840 OK.

1449 01:01:53,840 --> 01:01:56,480 1450 01:01:56,480 --> 01:02:02,140 So do you remember radio broadcasts about Hitler?

1451 01:02:02,140 --> 01:02:05,080 Yeah, I think so.

1452 01:02:05,080 --> 01:02:12,370 I really don't know if we watched it, because we were hit

1453 01:02:12,370 --> 01:02:15,460 and that was enough.

1454 01:02:15,460 --> 01:02:17,200 Here's a question--The first time

1455 01:02:17,200 --> 01:02:19,090 that you feel the effects is when you're

1456 01:02:19,090 --> 01:02:22,300 thrown out of the sports club.

1457 01:02:22,300 --> 01:02:27,250 But after Hitler comes to power in 1933 in January,

1458 01:02:27,250 --> 01:02:33,130 how did public life outside change before you are affected?

1459 01:02:33,130 --> 01:02:34,530 Did things look different?

1460 01:02:34,530 --> 01:02:37,450

1461 01:02:37,450 --> 01:02:39,760 For us, only were different that we Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection

1462 01:02:39,760 --> 01:02:43,780 couldn't go to the private school anymore, because--

1463 01:02:43,780 --> 01:02:47,170 No, I'm asking not how it affected your family.

1464 01:02:47,170 --> 01:02:49,150 But did the streets change?

1465 01:02:49,150 --> 01:02:53,500 Did people's behavior change?

1466 01:02:53,500 --> 01:02:58,240 Frankly, maybe we didn't notice that

1467 01:02:58,240 --> 01:03:00,800 or we didn't take notice of it.

1468 01:03:00,800 --> 01:03:03,100 OK.

1469 01:03:03,100 --> 01:03:07,090 So when was the first time, aside

1470 01:03:07,090 --> 01:03:09,790 from you being thrown out of the sports club,

1471 01:03:09,790 --> 01:03:16,970 that your family as a whole is affected by what happened?

1472 01:03:16,970 --> 01:03:20,120 Well, with moving to smaller and smaller apartments.

1473 01:03:20,120 --> 01:03:23,435 How soon after Hitler came to power did you have to move?

1474 01:03:23,435 --> 01:03:26,070

1475 01:03:26,070 --> 01:03:30,990 I really don't remember when we moved the first time.

1476 01:03:30,990 --> 01:03:33,540 Was it already a year after he came to power?

1477 01:03:33,540 --> 01:03:34,740 Two years?

1478 01:03:34,740 --> 01:03:35,625 Three?

1479 01:03:35,625 --> 01:03:39,330 It must have been quite early, because the minute my father

1480

01:03:39,330 --> 01:03:43,410 lost his business, we must have lived

1481 01:03:43,410 --> 01:03:46,600 from money that was there.

1482 01:03:46,600 --> 01:03:49,170 But I couldn't tell you, because parents

1483 01:03:49,170 --> 01:03:52,170 didn't discuss these things with their children.

1484 01:03:52,170 --> 01:03:53,310 OK.

1485

01:03:53,310 --> 01:03:55,710 Do you remember what the new apartment

1486

01:03:55,710 --> 01:03:57,450 looked like-- the one that was smaller?

1487 01:03:57,450 --> 01:04:02,240

1488 01:04:02,240 --> 01:04:07,730 Yeah-- I remember that we didn't have a playroom anymore.

1489 01:04:07,730 --> 01:04:12,920 And my sister and I slept in the same room.

1490 01:04:12,920 --> 01:04:14,270 And you hadn't before?

1491 01:04:14,270 --> 01:04:18,170 We didn't before, because each one had its own room.

1492 01:04:18,170 --> 01:04:18,670 OK.

1493 01:04:18,670 --> 01:04:21,290

1494 01:04:21,290 --> 01:04:25,070 And do you remember the name of the street

1495 01:04:25,070 --> 01:04:27,240 that this one was on?

1496 01:04:27,240 --> 01:04:32,070 Yeah, well, it's either Hohenzollernstrasse 1497 01:04:32,070 --> 01:04:33,767 or the Kaiser-Wilhelm-Strasse.

1498 01:04:33,767 --> 01:04:34,850 No, that's before the war.

1499 01:04:34,850 --> 01:04:36,165 And then we moved--

1500 01:04:36,165 --> 01:04:39,260

1501 01:04:39,260 --> 01:04:43,580 I think that the last one was Paradiesstrasse.

1502 01:04:43,580 --> 01:04:45,230 Oh, what an irony.

1503 01:04:45,230 --> 01:04:48,470 Well, that was everything but a Paradies.

1504 01:04:48,470 --> 01:04:53,840 But I really don't know if there was something in between.

1505 01:04:53,840 --> 01:04:54,710 OK.

1506 01:04:54,710 --> 01:04:57,440 So the last place that you live that you remember,

1507 01:04:57,440 --> 01:04:58,940 what did that place look like?

1508 01:04:58,940 --> 01:05:00,260 That was Paradiesstrasse.

1509 01:05:00,260 --> 01:05:01,820 That was Paradiesstrasse.

1510 01:05:01,820 --> 01:05:04,520

Was it still in the center of town, in Breslau?

1511 01:05:04,520 --> 01:05:06,890 That was still-- yes.

1512 01:05:06,890 --> 01:05:10,940 It was in different parts.

1513 01:05:10,940 --> 01:05:14,570 And was it a residential neighborhood?

1514 01:05:14,570 --> 01:05:17,660 It was one of the--

1515 01:05:17,660 --> 01:05:21,330 you had these streets where one house next to them.

1516 01:05:21,330 --> 01:05:24,980 And each house had, I don't know,

1517 01:05:24,980 --> 01:05:27,680 according to the height of the house.

1518 01:05:27,680 --> 01:05:32,750 And every floor maybe one or two people--

1519 01:05:32,750 --> 01:05:33,410 Apartments.

1520 01:05:33,410 --> 01:05:36,080 The have two apartments.

1521 01:05:36,080 --> 01:05:43,580 And you mentioned earlier somebody

1522

01:05:43,580 --> 01:05:49,010 who lived who was a neighbor who was quite an ardent Nazi.

1523

01:05:49,010 --> 01:05:51,050 Well, that was our last apartment.

1524 01:05:51,050 --> 01:05:53,130 And that was in Paradiesstrasse?

1525 01:05:53,130 --> 01:05:55,210 Yes.

1526

01:05:55,210 --> 01:06:00,570 And that's where my father had to take a rented room,

1527

01:06:00,570 --> 01:06:02,840 because he couldn't--

1528

01:06:02,840 --> 01:06:05,270 How old were you when you moved to Paradiesstrasse?

1529

01:06:05,270 --> 01:06:07,860 Do you remember?

1530 01:06:07,860 --> 01:06:09,990

Were you 15 already?

1531

01:06:09,990 --> 01:06:12,410 I think so.

1532 01:06:12,410 --> 01:06:13,500 I think maybe.

1533 01:06:13,500 --> 01:06:16,260 1534 01:06:16,260 --> 01:06:18,430 Do you get me.

1535 01:06:18,430 --> 01:06:20,340 Had you finished Lyzeum?

1536 01:06:20,340 --> 01:06:23,940 Yeah, well, I couldn't finish school.

1537 01:06:23,940 --> 01:06:29,832 I left in the middle, because I was--

1538 01:06:29,832 --> 01:06:34,230 with 15, I was too--

1539 01:06:34,230 --> 01:06:35,280 wait a minute.

1540 01:06:35,280 --> 01:06:38,190 I was 15 and a 1/2.

1541 01:06:38,190 --> 01:06:44,410 I think something when I left that school, which I couldn't

1542 01:06:44,410 --> 01:06:47,240 go further on because of money.

1543 01:06:47,240 --> 01:06:52,600 But for the regular--

1544 01:06:52,600 --> 01:06:53,530 Public school.

1545 01:06:53,530 --> 01:06:56,560 --public school, I was too old.

1546 01:06:56,560 --> 01:06:58,820 Because the regular public school,

1547 01:06:58,820 --> 01:07:01,930 my sister went because she is two years younger.

1548 01:07:01,930 --> 01:07:07,090 And she had her last year or two in a public school.

1549 01:07:07,090 --> 01:07:14,080 But for me, I was past 14 years, the age of a public school.

1550 01:07:14,080 --> 01:07:16,280 So I was left.

1551 01:07:16,280 --> 01:07:17,740 And so what did you do after that?

1552 01:07:17,740 --> 01:07:19,120 Stay at home?

1553 01:07:19,120 --> 01:07:23,260 No, I could get an apprenticeship,

1554 01:07:23,260 --> 01:07:25,510 because I couldn't study either, because I

1555 01:07:25,510 --> 01:07:28,410 didn't have the schooling.

1556 01:07:28,410 --> 01:07:31,100 I wanted to study pharmacy.

1557 01:07:31,100 --> 01:07:35,170 But I couldn't, because for studying,

1558 01:07:35,170 --> 01:07:38,350 you needed your high school finish.

1559 01:07:38,350 --> 01:07:39,220 Oh, I see.

1560 01:07:39,220 --> 01:07:41,440 So you weren't even able to start Gymnasium?

1561 01:07:41,440 --> 01:07:42,460 I couldn't.

1562 01:07:42,460 --> 01:07:44,230 I couldn't.

1563 01:07:44,230 --> 01:07:46,010 And why couldn't you?

1564 01:07:46,010 --> 01:07:50,140 Through my father's friend, I could

1565 01:07:50,140 --> 01:07:54,400 work in a darkroom as photofinishing.

1566 01:07:54,400 --> 01:07:59,410 At that time, you had films, you had to develop them,

1567 01:07:59,410 --> 01:08:03,490 and you made the photos out of it.

1568 01:08:03,490 --> 01:08:07,690 It's not something like you do [LAUGHS] right now.

1569 01:08:07,690 --> 01:08:08,990 Of course. 1570 01:08:08,990 --> 01:08:14,590 So let me establish that you finished your primary school

1571 01:08:14,590 --> 01:08:18,790 education and what we would call middle school education.

1572 01:08:18,790 --> 01:08:24,490 Well, I don't even have a middle school diploma.

1573 01:08:24,490 --> 01:08:25,060 OK.

1574 01:08:25,060 --> 01:08:27,880 So it would only be, let's say, the first--

1575 01:08:27,880 --> 01:08:29,720 but it finishes at age 14.

1576 01:08:29,720 --> 01:08:31,029 Yes.

1577 01:08:31,029 --> 01:08:35,170 And from there, normally, you would go to Gymnasium.

1578 01:08:35,170 --> 01:08:36,210 Is that correct?

1579 01:08:36,210 --> 01:08:36,819 Yeah.

1580 01:08:36,819 --> 01:08:40,850 And why is it that you did not go to Gymnasium?

1581 01:08:40,850 --> 01:08:41,779 You say you couldn't. 1582 01:08:41,779 --> 01:08:42,800 But why couldn't you?

1583 01:08:42,800 --> 01:08:47,740 Yeah, Gymnasium at that time was private and you had to pay.

1584 01:08:47,740 --> 01:08:48,250 I see.

1585 01:08:48,250 --> 01:08:49,240 And there was no money?

1586 01:08:49,240 --> 01:08:51,399 No, there was no money.

1587 01:08:51,399 --> 01:08:54,460 And there was no public Gymnasium?

1588 01:08:54,460 --> 01:08:55,390 No.

1589 01:08:55,390 --> 01:08:56,590 No public high school?

1590 01:08:56,590 --> 01:08:58,240 No public schools.

1591 01:08:58,240 --> 01:08:58,765 They stop--

1592 01:08:58,765 --> 01:08:59,880 They stopped at 14.

1593 01:08:59,880 --> 01:09:01,180 --with 14 years.

1594 01:09:01,180 --> 01:09:01,779 OK. 1595 01:09:01,779 --> 01:09:04,779 Now it's clearer to me.

1596 01:09:04,779 --> 01:09:06,760 It's different from here.

1597

01:09:06,760 --> 01:09:08,470 It's different from the United States,

1598

01:09:08,470 --> 01:09:11,320 where high school is still part of the public school system.

1599

01:09:11,320 --> 01:09:12,112 Yeah, that's right.

1600

01:09:12,112 --> 01:09:12,729 That's right.

1601

01:09:12,729 --> 01:09:15,609 Because I have my granddaughter here.

1602

01:09:15,609 --> 01:09:18,490 She goes to school.

1603 01:09:18,490 --> 01:09:22,120

1604 01:09:22 120 --> (

01:09:22,120 --> 01:09:22,689 All right.

1605

01:09:22,689 --> 01:09:28,120 So you were able to go and finish

1606

01:09:28,120 --> 01:09:31,240 your schooling even though Hitler had 1607 01:09:31,240 --> 01:09:34,479 come to power, up until age 15.

1608 01:09:34,479 --> 01:09:35,290 Is that correct?

1609 01:09:35,290 --> 01:09:35,790 Yeah.

1610 01:09:35,790 --> 01:09:37,870 So for three years you still went to school.

1611 01:09:37,870 --> 01:09:38,470 Yes.

1612 01:09:38,470 --> 01:09:41,694 Do you remember what the atmosphere was like?

1613 01:09:41,694 --> 01:09:44,540

1614 01:09:44,540 --> 01:09:47,779 Frankly, I don't know if we--

1615 01:09:47,779 --> 01:09:51,209

1616 01:09:51,209 --> 01:09:55,050 I have no memory of that.

1617 01:09:55,050 --> 01:10:01,820 The only thing I know that at home it wasn't as it

1618 01:10:01,820 --> 01:10:02,820 was before.

1619 01:10:02,820 --> 01:10:04,640 Let's put it that way. 1620 01:10:04,640 --> 01:10:09,660 In your Lyzeum, where there Jewish children?

1621 01:10:09,660 --> 01:10:16,080 If they were-- yes, I guess so because we had Saturday still

1622 01:10:16,080 --> 01:10:17,400 school.

1623 01:10:17,400 --> 01:10:21,930 And there must have been Jewish because they

1624 01:10:21,930 --> 01:10:23,260 were on Saturday in school.

1625 01:10:23,260 --> 01:10:25,840

1626 01:10:25,840 --> 01:10:31,080 But other than that, that wasn't important to us.

1627 01:10:31,080 --> 01:10:33,370 OK.

1628 01:10:33,370 --> 01:10:40,800 And after 1933, were there any Jewish children in the school,

1629 01:10:40,800 --> 01:10:42,360 that you know of?

1630 01:10:42,360 --> 01:10:43,720 You don't know.

1631 01:10:43,720 --> 01:10:45,070 You don't know. 1632 01:10:45,070 --> 01:10:50,850 You know, this was something you didn't pay attention to--

1633 01:10:50,850 --> 01:10:56,790 That one maybe went to one religious service and the other

1634

01:10:56,790 --> 01:11:00,356 to another-- because we had religious--

1635

01:11:00,356 --> 01:11:05,440 at ours, I think, once a week, something.

1636

01:11:05,440 --> 01:11:09,570 And if they weren't there, well, so what?

1637

01:11:09,570 --> 01:11:12,840 Well, of course, in normal life, you

1638

01:11:12,840 --> 01:11:14,740 don't make such a distinction.

1639

01:11:14,740 --> 01:11:15,630 No.

1640

01:11:15,630 --> 01:11:20,190 But because part of Nazi ideology was to--

1641

01:11:20,190 --> 01:11:21,480 That's what he made, yes.

1642 01:11:21,480 --> 01:11:22,020 Yeah.

1643 01:11:22,020 --> 01:11:28,710 Because that kind of imposed this kind of distinction

1644

01:11:28,710 --> 01:11:30,540 on society.

1645

01:11:30,540 --> 01:11:35,790 Then I assume people started to respond to that-- either follow

1646

01:11:35,790 --> 01:11:38,070 it or reject it.

1647

01:11:38,070 --> 01:11:40,500 In part obliged.

1648

01:11:40,500 --> 01:11:41,670 Obliged.

1649

01:11:41,670 --> 01:11:42,450 Obliged.

1650

01:11:42,450 --> 01:11:42,950 Yeah.

1651

01:11:42,950 --> 01:11:44,700 OK.

1652 01:11:44,700 --> 01:11:49,890 Do you remember anything

about such things happening

1653

01:11:49,890 --> 01:11:57,600 where you see somebody, either a teacher saying something

1654

01:11:57,600 --> 01:12:00,600 that you know they don't believe but because they have to.

1655 01:12:00,600 --> 01:12:03,670 1656 01:12:03,670 --> 01:12:05,080 Didn't come across.

1657 01:12:05,080 --> 01:12:07,180 That wasn't--

1658 01:12:07,180 --> 01:12:09,385 Frankly, we didn't pay--

1659 01:12:09,385 --> 01:12:12,700 I know we had one good teacher.

1660 01:12:12,700 --> 01:12:17,470 And I remember they had to go Heil Hitler when we came.

1661 01:12:17,470 --> 01:12:20,260 And we called her "the boettel".

1662 01:12:20,260 --> 01:12:22,438 She was Doctor Boettcher.

1663 01:12:22,438 --> 01:12:23,230 But we called her--

1664 01:12:23,230 --> 01:12:23,938 Doctor Boettcher?

1665 01:12:23,938 --> 01:12:25,390 Doctor Boettcher.

1666 01:12:25,390 --> 01:12:30,410 She was our class teacher.

1667 01:12:30,410 --> 01:12:33,460 And I remember she always had the keys

1668 01:12:33,460 --> 01:12:36,520 in her hand and Heil Hitler. 1669 01:12:36,520 --> 01:12:38,280 And always with the keys in her hand.

1670 01:12:38,280 --> 01:12:40,840 [LAUGHS]

1671 01:12:40,840 --> 01:12:44,080 Was there any kind of ideological instruction

1672 01:12:44,080 --> 01:12:44,710 in school?

1673 01:12:44,710 --> 01:12:48,108

1674 01:12:48,108 --> 01:12:50,190 Might be.

1675 01:12:50,190 --> 01:12:51,518 Frankly--

1676 01:12:51,518 --> 01:12:52,310 You don't remember.

1677 01:12:52,310 --> 01:12:53,510 I don't remember.

1678 01:12:53,510 --> 01:12:56,320

1679 01:12:56,320 --> 01:13:00,520 It was a shock when you were thrown out of the sports club

1680 01:13:00,520 --> 01:13:01,690 because you're Mischling.

1681 01:13:01,690 --> 01:13:02,890 Yeah. 1682 01:13:02,890 --> 01:13:06,220 Did that happen again in other circumstances?

1683 01:13:06,220 --> 01:13:11,080

1684 01:13:11,080 --> 01:13:13,060 Were there any other kinds of classes

1685 01:13:13,060 --> 01:13:14,920 where there was a distinction made

1686 01:13:14,920 --> 01:13:16,950 between you and the others?

1687 01:13:16,950 --> 01:13:20,860 Yeah, well, it was enough that I couldn't study,

1688 01:13:20,860 --> 01:13:26,950 that I couldn't go and further what I actually wanted to do.

1689 01:13:26,950 --> 01:13:29,750 But I thought that was because of money.

1690 01:13:29,750 --> 01:13:34,465 Yeah, well, not only because of money.

1691 01:13:34,465 --> 01:13:40,860

1692 01:13:40,860 --> 01:13:44,680 Yeah, not only because of money.

1693 01:13:44,680 --> 01:13:47,460 1694 01:13:47,460 --> 01:13:57,280 Because you had to study when you finished a certain grade

1695 01:13:57,280 --> 01:13:59,330 in school.

1696 01:13:59,330 --> 01:14:02,230 And that was my limit.

1697 01:14:02,230 --> 01:14:05,800 I couldn't study, because I couldn't get further on.

1698

01:14:05,800 --> 01:14:12,660 This public school didn't allow to go to study.

1699

01:14:12,660 --> 01:14:15,250 You know that it's a different-- was a very--

1700

01:14:15,250 --> 01:14:18,880 I don't know if it is still today.

1701

01:14:18,880 --> 01:14:26,890 But in my time, when you didn't get to that level

1702

01:14:26,890 --> 01:14:32,150 where you could go in to study, if you couldn't go there,

1703 01:14:32,150 --> 01:14:35,030

you couldn't jump this.

1704

01:14:35,030 --> 01:14:41,930 You left in a degree where later on you could get any 1705 01:14:41,930 --> 01:14:45,530 professional with a three-years apprentice--

1706 01:14:45,530 --> 01:14:49,370 that you started three years and you

1707 01:14:49,370 --> 01:14:54,570 could have a profession at that, which you don't have here.

1708 01:14:54,570 --> 01:14:55,520 No, you don't.

1709 01:14:55,520 --> 01:14:56,600 There isn't such a thing.

1710 01:14:56,600 --> 01:15:01,670 Because you could be a plumber, you could be a mason,

1711 01:15:01,670 --> 01:15:03,550 you could be--

1712 01:15:03,550 --> 01:15:05,030 An electrician.

1713 01:15:05,030 --> 01:15:06,680 --electrician, anything.

1714 01:15:06,680 --> 01:15:09,560 And we always feel people who feel

1715 01:15:09,560 --> 01:15:12,890 they have to study here, if they would have a profession here,

1716 01:15:12,890 --> 01:15:15,075 they could make more money-- 1717 01:15:15,075 --> 01:15:15,950 Of course they could.

1718 01:15:15,950 --> 01:15:18,890 Of course they could.

1719 01:15:18,890 --> 01:15:21,290 Than somebody who goes to university.

1720 01:15:21,290 --> 01:15:24,890

1721 01:15:24,890 --> 01:15:30,830 But it sounds to me like it was a mix, but also confusing,

1722 01:15:30,830 --> 01:15:37,060 that once you finish Lyzeum at age 15,

1723 01:15:37,060 --> 01:15:41,110 there is no Gymnasium that you can go to in order

1724 01:15:41,110 --> 01:15:45,640 to be able to go from there into university to study

1725 01:15:45,640 --> 01:15:47,050 pharmacology.

1726 01:15:47,050 --> 01:15:48,130 Is that correct?

1727 01:15:48,130 --> 01:15:48,640 Yeah.

1728 01:15:48,640 --> 01:15:52,960 And I couldn't, because I didn't finish that level. 1729 01:15:52,960 --> 01:15:59,920 You could only study if you went to the high school, finished

1730 01:15:59,920 --> 01:16:00,830 high school.

1731 01:16:00,830 --> 01:16:03,970 So in other words, was there something called the Abitur?

1732 01:16:03,970 --> 01:16:05,170 Yeah.

1733 01:16:05,170 --> 01:16:06,170 You needed the Abitur.

1734 01:16:06,170 --> 01:16:06,795 That's correct.

1735 01:16:06,795 --> 01:16:08,080 You needed the Abitur.

1736 01:16:08,080 --> 01:16:09,980 And you could not go further to get the--

1737 01:16:09,980 --> 01:16:15,010 No, I couldn't, because I had to leave earlier,

1738 01:16:15,010 --> 01:16:18,960 because that was private school and there wasn't money--

1739 01:16:18,960 --> 01:16:20,950 the money involved.

1740 01:16:20,950 --> 01:16:23,200 Here you don't need the money.

1741

01:16:23,200 --> 01:16:24,425 It is--

1742 01:16:24,425 --> 01:16:24,925 OK.

1743 01:16:24,925 --> 01:16:28,270

1744 01:16:28,270 --> 01:16:32,860 But it also sounds that if there had been money,

1745 01:16:32,860 --> 01:16:36,400 would you have been able to go further?

1746 01:16:36,400 --> 01:16:38,110 Most likely.

1747 01:16:38,110 --> 01:16:43,340 If my father wouldn't have lost it, most likely.

1748 01:16:43,340 --> 01:16:45,500 OK.

1749 01:16:45,500 --> 01:16:50,260 Did his demeanor change as time went on?

1750 01:16:50,260 --> 01:16:52,690 No.

1751 01:16:52,690 --> 01:16:54,460 He was even quieter.

1752 01:16:54,460 --> 01:17:01,620 And I don't remember him complaining ever.

1753 01:17:01,620 --> 01:17:02,580

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1754 01:17:02,580 --> 01:17:04,200

Do you think he was lonely?

1755 01:17:04,200 --> 01:17:04,920 Pardon me?

1756

01:17:04,920 --> 01:17:08,330 Do you think he was lonely?

1757

01:17:08,330 --> 01:17:09,010 Maybe.

1758 01:17:09,010 --> 01:17:10,900 And I don't think so.

1759

01:17:10,900 --> 01:17:11,460 He read.

1760 01:17:11,460 --> 01:17:14,700

1761 01:17:14,700 --> 01:17:19,890 He could forget his world in a book.

1762 01:17:19,890 --> 01:17:22,085 And maybe it was his defense.

1763 01:17:22,085 --> 01:17:26,650

1764 01:17:26,650 --> 01:17:31,090 So if he suffered any more hardships,

1765 01:17:31,090 --> 01:17:33,971 did he keep those to himself?

1766 01:17:33,971 --> 01:17:34,471 105.

1767 01:17:34,471 --> 01:17:38,210

1768 01:17:38,210 --> 01:17:44,450 And I still remember when he had to leave our apartment

1769 01:17:44,450 --> 01:17:49,910 because of that lousy neighbor, there were Jewish families who

1770 01:17:49,910 --> 01:17:51,920 had big apartments.

1771 01:17:51,920 --> 01:17:57,280 And they were obliged to rent this to people who--

1772 01:17:57,280 --> 01:18:01,330 my father had one of these rooms,

1773 01:18:01,330 --> 01:18:07,030 which were very inferior.

1774 01:18:07,030 --> 01:18:12,610 But I remember I brought him the food.

1775 01:18:12,610 --> 01:18:14,710 Was it far from your own apartment?

1776 01:18:14,710 --> 01:18:15,790 Not too far.

1777 01:18:15,790 --> 01:18:17,530 I had a bicycle.

1778 01:18:17,530 --> 01:18:20,530 And I drove.

1779 01:18:20,530 --> 01:18:23,770 And I brought him his food.

1780 01:18:23,770 --> 01:18:28,420 And this was in Paradiesstrasse that you were living.

1781 01:18:28,420 --> 01:18:33,730 But he-- the street, that was another street.

1782 01:18:33,730 --> 01:18:34,900 I don't remember.

1783 01:18:34,900 --> 01:18:39,130 I only remember that one day I came

1784 01:18:39,130 --> 01:18:41,380 and this apartment was empty.

1785 01:18:41,380 --> 01:18:43,300 And they said they took them all.

1786 01:18:43,300 --> 01:18:45,830

1787 01:18:45,830 --> 01:18:46,640 OK.

1788 01:18:46,640 --> 01:18:48,050 We'll come to that later.

1789 01:18:48,050 --> 01:18:49,670 We'll come to that in a little bit.

1790 01:18:49,670 --> 01:18:50,780 Can we cut for a second? 1791 01:18:50,780 --> 01:18:51,980 Of course.

1792 01:18:51,980 --> 01:18:53,900 All right, camera's speeding.

1793 01:18:53,900 --> 01:18:55,040 OK.

1794 01:18:55,040 --> 01:19:00,551 So we stopped at a very poignant moment.

1795 01:19:00,551 --> 01:19:03,530 I want to step back a little bit.

1796 01:19:03,530 --> 01:19:14,180 And that is-- you mentioned this neighbor in your apartment

1797 01:19:14,180 --> 01:19:17,090 house who threatened your father.

1798 01:19:17,090 --> 01:19:18,950 Yeah.

1799 01:19:18,950 --> 01:19:21,680 Did you come in contact with other people

1800 01:19:21,680 --> 01:19:26,990 who were ardent Nazis in addition to him?

1801 01:19:26,990 --> 01:19:33,350 Well, you can see with my family because one of my uncles--

1802 01:19:33,350 --> 01:19:36,920

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it was not the uncle.

1803

01:19:36,920 --> 01:19:38,510 The picture you saw--

1804 01:19:38,510 --> 01:19:44,120 it was his wife who told her-- my cousin's--

1805

01:19:44,120 --> 01:19:48,800 her two sons-- the one who died in the--

1806 01:19:48,800 --> 01:19:50,920 Wolfgang at age 19.

1807 01:19:50,920 --> 01:19:51,420 Yeah.

1808 01:19:51,420 --> 01:19:54,200

1809 01:19:54,200 --> 01:19:55,415 But this was the only--

1810 01:19:55,415 --> 01:20:00,290

1811 01:20:00,290 --> 01:20:05,360 maybe we were isolated then.

1812 01:20:05,360 --> 01:20:08,210 Did your mother's demeanor change as the--

1813 01:20:08,210 --> 01:20:09,110 No.

1814 01:20:09,110 --> 01:20:11,780 She was always still friendly, still outgoing? 1815 01:20:11,780 --> 01:20:12,825 Yeah.

1816 01:20:12,825 --> 01:20:13,325 OK.

1817 01:20:13,325 --> 01:20:17,440

1818 01:20:17,440 --> 01:20:19,510 And the photograph that you showed me,

1819 01:20:19,510 --> 01:20:24,700 which we'll film later, is of a man in a Wehrmacht uniform.

1820 01:20:24,700 --> 01:20:26,030 That was my uncle.

1821 01:20:26,030 --> 01:20:26,530 OK.

1822 01:20:26,530 --> 01:20:27,760 What was his first name?

1823 01:20:27,760 --> 01:20:30,340

1824 01:20:30,340 --> 01:20:31,060 Albert.

1825 01:20:31,060 --> 01:20:32,240 Albert Jordan?

1826 01:20:32,240 --> 01:20:32,740 Yeah.

1827 01:20:32,740 --> 01:20:33,790 Albert Jordan. 1828 01:20:33,790 --> 01:20:34,780 OK.

1829 01:20:34,780 --> 01:20:36,290 And it was his children?

1830 01:20:36,290 --> 01:20:40,420 It was his son who was in the Leibstandarte Adolf Hitler,

1831 01:20:40,420 --> 01:20:45,130 because they were at that time very tall.

1832 01:20:45,130 --> 01:20:46,340 He was very tall.

1833 01:20:46,340 --> 01:20:47,870 He was very tall.

1834 01:20:47,870 --> 01:20:56,700 But at that time, then 60 years, that long ago, it was tall.

1835 01:20:56,700 --> 01:21:00,310 Today's generations, I think [LAUGHS] they

1836 01:21:00,310 --> 01:21:02,050 are taller to begin with.

1837 01:21:02,050 --> 01:21:03,610 OK.

1838 01:21:03,610 --> 01:21:05,920 So was he like six-foot tall or something like that?

1839 01:21:05,920 --> 01:21:07,240 Yeah, well, he was six foot.

1840

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01:21:07,240 --> 01:21:09,520 And I remember his bed.

1841 01:21:09,520 --> 01:21:12,430 They had these metal beds, German beds.

1842 01:21:12,430 --> 01:21:16,000 He had-- both of them-he and his brother too.

1843 01:21:16,000 --> 01:21:17,690 He wasn't quite as tall.

1844 01:21:17,690 --> 01:21:19,540 But these beds were too short.

1845 01:21:19,540 --> 01:21:23,110 And he had some kind of extension something.

1846 01:21:23,110 --> 01:21:24,040 For his feet.

1847 01:21:24,040 --> 01:21:26,200 [LAUGHTER]

1848 01:21:26,200 --> 01:21:29,250 My, that must have looked funny.

1849 01:21:29,250 --> 01:21:32,500 Well, we didn't think of anything.

1850 01:21:32,500 --> 01:21:33,580 They were just tall.

1851 01:21:33,580 --> 01:21:37,480 And they were for their generation extremely tall.

1852 01:21:37,480 --> 01:21:41,740 That's why he wound up with Hitler's Leibstandarte Adolf

1853 01:21:41,740 --> 01:21:42,610 Hitler.

1854 01:21:42,610 --> 01:21:45,320 Well, that certainly sounds like one of the reasons.

1855 01:21:45,320 --> 01:21:48,505 But did any of them join the Nazi party?

1856 01:21:48,505 --> 01:21:51,320

1857 01:21:51,320 --> 01:21:55,280 My uncle worked for the government.

1858 01:21:55,280 --> 01:21:56,800 And they were obliged.

1859 01:21:56,800 --> 01:22:03,970 They had to-- both of them, the youngest brother my mother

1860 01:22:03,970 --> 01:22:06,950 and this one in uniform.

1861 01:22:06,950 --> 01:22:07,960 They had to.

1862 01:22:07,960 --> 01:22:09,280 OK.

1863 01:22:09,280 --> 01:22:14,470 And their children, the ones who were part of the bodyguards,

1864 01:22:14,470 --> 01:22:19,580 were they also members of the party?

1865 01:22:19,580 --> 01:22:21,320 The ones who were the Leibstandarte.

1866 01:22:21,320 --> 01:22:23,320 Yeah, well, the Leibstandarte was enough.

1867 01:22:23,320 --> 01:22:25,640 [LAUGHS] Enough party.

1868 01:22:25,640 --> 01:22:27,890 Yeah.

1869 01:22:27,890 --> 01:22:29,675 That was the highest you could reach.

1870 01:22:29,675 --> 01:22:32,510

1871 01:22:32,510 --> 01:22:36,165 Did you have contact much with this side of the family?

1872 01:22:36,165 --> 01:22:37,040 Did they talk to you?

1873 01:22:37,040 --> 01:22:37,540 Yes.

1874 01:22:37,540 --> 01:22:39,050 But the only thing, as I told you,

1875 01:22:39,050 --> 01:22:40,940 we had to tell Wolfgang, "Please,

1876

01:22:40,940 --> 01:22:44,360 don't come and visit us in your uniform,"

1877 01:22:44,360 --> 01:22:47,180 because of our neighbor.

1878 01:22:47,180 --> 01:22:49,790 But wouldn't have the neighbor thought well

1879 01:22:49,790 --> 01:22:54,000 that here's this young man in a uniform coming to visit them?

1880 01:22:54,000 --> 01:22:56,930 I don't know what he would have done.

1881 01:22:56,930 --> 01:22:59,690 We didn't want Wolfgang.

1882 01:22:59,690 --> 01:23:05,955 And he was in the hospital at that time.

1883 01:23:05,955 --> 01:23:07,330 That's right, you mentioned that.

1884 01:23:07,330 --> 01:23:12,760 Yeah, because that was the reason he was not in--

1885 01:23:12,760 --> 01:23:14,770 because it was war still.

1886 01:23:14,770 --> 01:23:19,000 Do you remember when the war started?

1887 01:23:19,000 --> 01:23:22,310 Do you remember where you were? 1888 01:23:22,310 --> 01:23:23,600 When did the--

1889 01:23:23,600 --> 01:23:27,170 The war started September 1, 1939.

1890 01:23:27,170 --> 01:23:28,220 Yeah.

1891 01:23:28,220 --> 01:23:32,720 And you live in Breslau, which is close to the Polish border.

1892 01:23:32,720 --> 01:23:34,610 Yeah, not that close.

1893 01:23:34,610 --> 01:23:35,580 Not that close?

1894 01:23:35,580 --> 01:23:36,080 No?

1895 01:23:36,080 --> 01:23:38,150 No.

1896 01:23:38,150 --> 01:23:40,850 Were there Poles that lived in Breslau?

1897 01:23:40,850 --> 01:23:41,390 No.

1898 01:23:41,390 --> 01:23:41,890 No.

1899 01:23:41,890 --> 01:23:42,710 No.

1900 01:23:42,710 --> 01:23:43,210 1901 01:23:43,210 --> 01:23:45,710 That was only after the war then,

1902 01:23:45,710 --> 01:23:49,520 because the Russian pulled over to the Polish.

1903 01:23:49,520 --> 01:23:53,215 And the Polish went to Silesia.

1904 01:23:53,215 --> 01:23:59,060

1905 01:23:59,060 --> 01:24:03,590 So do you remember, as I said, the war starting?

1906 01:24:03,590 --> 01:24:07,425

1907 01:24:07,425 --> 01:24:07,925 Might.

1908 01:24:07,925 --> 01:24:10,730

1909 01:24:10,730 --> 01:24:19,190 This is so far away, that maybe you intentionally cut it out

1910 01:24:19,190 --> 01:24:20,690 of your memory.

1911 01:24:20,690 --> 01:24:21,770 Might be.

1912 01:24:21,770 --> 01:24:22,820 Might be. 1913 01:24:22,820 --> 01:24:25,790 Do you remember soldiers in the streets?

1914 01:24:25,790 --> 01:24:27,500 More soldiers?

1915 01:24:27,500 --> 01:24:29,080 There should have been, but--

1916 01:24:29,080 --> 01:24:31,880

1917 01:24:31,880 --> 01:24:35,480 But soldiers, you didn't see on the street.

1918 01:24:35,480 --> 01:24:37,112 They were-- [LAUGHS]

1919 01:24:37,112 --> 01:24:38,580 They were fighting.

1920 01:24:38,580 --> 01:24:39,853 They were fighting.

1921 01:24:39,853 --> 01:24:40,895 Did you go to the cinema?

1922 01:24:40,895 --> 01:24:43,770

1923 01:24:43,770 --> 01:24:44,475 Oh, we did.

1924 01:24:44,475 --> 01:24:47,990

1925 01:24:47,990 --> 01:24:51,674 Yes, I think we liked American films. 1926 01:24:51,674 --> 01:24:53,020 [LAUGHS]

1927 01:24:53,020 --> 01:24:55,660 Do you remember any that you saw?

1928 01:24:55,660 --> 01:24:58,920 Oh god, what was it?

1929 01:24:58,920 --> 01:25:01,350 It was with Fred Astaire.

1930 01:25:01,350 --> 01:25:05,250 And I remember, I think, you could sit--

1931 01:25:05,250 --> 01:25:06,540 you didn't have to go out.

1932 01:25:06,540 --> 01:25:07,890 They didn't throw you out.

1933 01:25:07,890 --> 01:25:09,170 You could sit twice.

1934 01:25:09,170 --> 01:25:11,580 [LAUGHS]

1935 01:25:11,580 --> 01:25:16,050 So you could see two showings, two different films.

1936 01:25:16,050 --> 01:25:20,640 But I remember, not often, but--

1937 01:25:20,640 --> 01:25:22,635 we always read a lot too.

1938 01:25:22,635 --> 01:25:25,410 1939 01:25:25,410 --> 01:25:26,730 My father said [GERMAN].

1940 01:25:26,730 --> 01:25:30,150

1941 01:25:30,150 --> 01:25:32,170 An intelligent person does not get bored.

1942 01:25:32,170 --> 01:25:32,670 Yeah.

1943 01:25:32,670 --> 01:25:33,450 [LAUGHS]

1944 01:25:33,450 --> 01:25:34,570 Yeah, it's true.

1945 01:25:34,570 --> 01:25:36,550 You find something to be of interest.

1946 01:25:36,550 --> 01:25:37,650 Yeah.

1947 01:25:37,650 --> 01:25:42,900 That's why, I have people here, when they see our books there,

1948 01:25:42,900 --> 01:25:45,635 they say, "Was your husband a lawyer?"

1949 01:25:45,635 --> 01:25:48,545 [LAUGHTER]

1950 01:25:48,545 --> 01:25:50,690 1951 01:25:50,690 --> 01:25:54,430 According to the books we have, must have been a funny lawyer.

1952 01:25:54,430 --> 01:25:55,643 A funny lawyer, yeah.

1953 01:25:55,643 --> 01:26:00,790

1954 01:26:00,790 --> 01:26:04,390 Did you see newsreels in the cinema?

1955 01:26:04,390 --> 01:26:07,100 Do you remember any newsreels?

1956 01:26:07,100 --> 01:26:11,180 We might have, but I don't remember that we

1957 01:26:11,180 --> 01:26:14,570 went so often to the movies.

1958 01:26:14,570 --> 01:26:16,940 That was all money involved.

1959 01:26:16,940 --> 01:26:18,140 OK.

1960 01:26:18,140 --> 01:26:20,540 Did you ever go hungry after your father?

1961 01:26:20,540 --> 01:26:21,470 No.

1962 01:26:21,470 --> 01:26:23,840 I don't remember, because my mother 01:26:23,840 --> 01:26:26,360 she did the darnedest thing.

1964 01:26:26,360 --> 01:26:29,660 Don't ask me from what, but there was always

1965 01:26:29,660 --> 01:26:31,520 something on the plate.

1966 01:26:31,520 --> 01:26:35,480 And did she go back to work when your father no longer was

1967 01:26:35,480 --> 01:26:40,430 able to support the family because he lost his business?

1968 01:26:40,430 --> 01:26:43,970 My mother, she was contracted.

1969 01:26:43,970 --> 01:26:45,500 She had to work.

1970 01-26-4

01:26:45,500 --> 01:26:50,000 While we were in camp, they took her in a company.

1971 01:26:50,000 --> 01:26:54,260 They made some kind of pills or something.

1972 01:26:54,260 --> 01:26:57,860 You're talking about during the war,

1973 01:26:57,860 --> 01:26:59,930 after your father is taken.

1974 01:26:59,930 --> 01:27:04,400 I'm still talking in the 1930s after Hitler comes to power, 1975 01:27:04,400 --> 01:27:08,000 and your father loses his business.

1976 01:27:08,000 --> 01:27:09,170 Did she go to work?

1977

01:27:09,170 --> 01:27:10,300 No, no.

1978

01:27:10,300 --> 01:27:11,540 OK.

1979

01:27:11,540 --> 01:27:13,970 So you were living mostly on whatever

1980

01:27:13,970 --> 01:27:15,650 your father's savings had been?

1981

01:27:15,650 --> 01:27:17,270 That's right.

1982

01:27:17,270 --> 01:27:20,390 And that's why the apartments got smaller and smaller.

1983 01:27:20,390 --> 01:27:21,830

OK.

1984

01:27:21,830 --> 01:27:25,910 Did you have still a radio and a telephone?

1985

01:27:25,910 --> 01:27:28,640 We had a radio, yes, because it was

1986 01:27:28,640 --> 01:27:31,175 kind of my father's profession.

1987

01:27:31,175 --> 01:27:33,340 We did have.

1988 01:27:33,340 --> 01:27:37,820 And telephone, I remember we had telephone too.

1989 01:27:37,820 --> 01:27:42,470 I don't know to whom we talked to.

1990 01:27:42,470 --> 01:27:44,120 And what about the Mercedes?

1991 01:27:44,120 --> 01:27:46,040 What happened with the Mercedes?

1992 01:27:46,040 --> 01:27:47,280 Did you still have the car?

1993 01:27:47,280 --> 01:27:48,440 Oh, the Mercedes?

1994 01:27:48,440 --> 01:27:50,690 I don't know.

1995 01:27:50,690 --> 01:27:54,860 I really don't know what happened to the Mercedes.

1996 01:27:54,860 --> 01:27:58,760 That wasn't our-- you know these old ones.

1997 01:27:58,760 --> 01:28:02,380 And I remember it had a stationary--

1998 01:28:02,380 --> 01:28:07,040

1999 01:28:07,040 --> 01:28:09,440 you could put the whole thing up,

2000 01:28:09,440 --> 01:28:13,130 and then you had a convertible.

2001 01:28:13,130 --> 01:28:16,070 But we used it very, very seldom because my father

2002 01:28:16,070 --> 01:28:18,810 felt it's too drafty for us.

2003 01:28:18,810 --> 01:28:26,900 Or we had some fur bags in the car

2004 01:28:26,900 --> 01:28:31,820 in wintertime, because obviously they hadn't heat.

2005 01:28:31,820 --> 01:28:32,870 That's right.

2006 01:28:32,870 --> 01:28:35,200 So you would have fur to put on your knees?

2007 01:28:35,200 --> 01:28:36,200 Yeah.

2008 01:28:36,200 --> 01:28:42,930 With the little sacks, where you put your whole feet in.

2009 01:28:42,930 --> 01:28:43,980 OK.

2010 01:28:43,980 --> 01:28:45,450 And did it do the trick?

2011 01:28:45,450 --> 01:28:46,870 Yeah, sure.

2012 01:28:46,870 --> 01:28:49,050 OK.

2013 01:28:49,050 --> 01:28:51,855 But at any rate, did the Mercedes disappear?

2014 01:28:51,855 --> 01:28:55,560 I really don't know where the Mercedes went up.

2015 01:28:55,560 --> 01:29:01,530 It might have been with the chauffeur to Berlin.

2016 01:29:01,530 --> 01:29:02,610 I don't know.

2017 01:29:02,610 --> 01:29:06,930 And as I said, my father didn't drive.

2018 01:29:06,930 --> 01:29:08,250 My mother didn't drive.

2019 01:29:08,250 --> 01:29:09,240 We were too young.

2020 01:29:09,240 --> 01:29:12,180 [LAUGHS]

2021 01:29:12,180 --> 01:29:15,000 When you move to Paradiesstrasse,

2022 01:29:15,000 --> 01:29:16,040 how old were you?

2023 01:29:16,040 --> 01:29:19,080 2024 01:29:19,080 --> 01:29:20,330 How old was I?

2025 01:29:20,330 --> 01:29:24,360

2026 01:29:24,360 --> 01:29:30,310 Must have been 16, 18, 18 years or something like this.

2027 01:29:30,310 --> 01:29:37,280 18 years means 1939.

2028 01:29:37,280 --> 01:29:37,820 OK.

2029 01:29:37,820 --> 01:29:39,110 [LAUGHS]

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2030
01:29:39,110 --> 01:29:40,020
It's OK.
```

2031 01:29:40,020 --> 01:29:40,790 Don't worry.

2032 01:29:40,790 --> 01:29:41,780 It's OK.

2033 01:29:41,780 --> 01:29:44,930 The questions that I ask, the ones that

2034 01:29:44,930 --> 01:29:49,160 are the most difficult to answer all have to do with chronology,

2035 01:29:49,160 --> 01:29:51,860 all have to do with times and dates.

2036

01:29:51,860 --> 01:29:54,320 And that's the hardest thing to remember.

2037

01:29:54,320 --> 01:29:57,170 So forgive me for doing this.

2038

01:29:57,170 --> 01:29:59,090 No, that's OK.

2039

01:29:59,090 --> 01:29:59,978 Forgive me--

2040 01:29:59,978 --> 01:30:00,520 No, come now.

2041 01:30:00,520 --> 01:30:02,720 --that I don't can answer.

2042 01:30:02,720 --> 01:30:06,740 The reason why I do it is because in trying to understand

2043 01:30:06,740 --> 01:30:09,740 what happened to you, I try to anchor it

2044 01:30:09,740 --> 01:30:13,100 in certain times and certain years,

2045 01:30:13,100 --> 01:30:16,670 because when someone will look at your interview,

2046 01:30:16,670 --> 01:30:21,290 they will know if you're talking in the late 1930s this and that

2047 01:30:21,290 --> 01:30:23,060 was going on at the time.

2048

01:30:23,060 --> 01:30:27,300 If we're talking 1940, this and that was going on at the time.

2049

01:30:27,300 --> 01:30:31,130 And that helps to orient them.

2050

01:30:31,130 --> 01:30:34,580 For example, do you remember Kristallnacht?

2051

01:30:34,580 --> 01:30:44,540 Oh, I was working in a store, in a pharmacy where they broke in.

2052

01:30:44,540 --> 01:30:46,190 So it was owned by someone Jewish?

2053

01:30:46,190 --> 01:30:46,770 I was there.

2054 01:30:46,770 --> 01:30:47,300 Yeah?

2055 01:30:47,300 --> 01:30:47,990 I was there.

2056

01:30:47,990 --> 01:30:54,470 I cleaned the glass still from the street.

2057

01:30:54,470 --> 01:30:57,620 So you were there while they were breaking the glass?

2058 01:30:57,620 --> 01:30:59,300 No, they broke it at night.

2059 01:30:59,300 --> 01:31:04,910 And when I came there in the morning or my boss,

2060 01:31:04,910 --> 01:31:06,860 we saw what they did.

2061

01:31:06,860 --> 01:31:13,290 And I remember the store had some kind of indirect lighting

2062

01:31:13,290 --> 01:31:14,990 around.

2063

01:31:14,990 --> 01:31:16,790 We found cameras.

2064

01:31:16,790 --> 01:31:19,440 They threw, instead of taking them.

2065

01:31:19,440 --> 01:31:21,200 They didn't know.

2066

01:31:21,200 --> 01:31:27,260 We found them up there underneath the roof.

2067

01:31:27,260 --> 01:31:29,550 So there were cameras in the store?

2068

01:31:29,550 --> 01:31:35,420 Yeah, well, pharmacies, drugstores in Germany

2069

01:31:35,420 --> 01:31:38,060 is something different.

2070 01:31:38,060 --> 01:31:48,000

You don't have medication, but you have whatever--

2071 01:31:48,000 --> 01:31:58,070 powder, personal--

what shall I say?

2072 01:31:58,070 --> 01:32:02,405 What do you say a pharmacy in Germany?

2073 01:32:02,405 --> 01:32:04,910

2074 01:32:04,910 --> 01:32:06,656 It is a Drogerie.

2075 01:32:06,656 --> 01:32:09,470 There you have beauty--

2076 01:32:09,470 --> 01:32:12,206 Products.

2077 01:32:12,206 --> 01:32:15,890 Yeah, it's like a Walgreens.

2078 01:32:15,890 --> 01:32:16,970 Similar.

2079 01:32:16,970 --> 01:32:25,550 And we had photograph where people brought their--

2080 01:32:25,550 --> 01:32:30,710 I worked in the photofinishing in the store.

2081 01:32:30,710 --> 01:32:31,460 OK.

2082 01:32:31,460 --> 01:32:35,000 So it was not an Apotheke.

2083 01:32:35,000 --> 01:32:36,200 No, it is not.

2084 01:32:36,200 --> 01:32:39,110

> This is a verbatim transcript of spoken word generated with 3Play Media. It is not the primary source, and it may contain errors in spelling or accuracy.

An Apotheke, which is where you go to get medicine.

2085 01:32:39,110 --> 01:32:39,860 No.

2086 01:32:39,860 --> 01:32:43,100 It was a Drogerie, where you don't get medicine,

2087 01:32:43,100 --> 01:32:44,790 but you get--

2088 01:32:44,790 --> 01:32:48,750 You could get cough drops and things like this.

2089 01:32:48,750 --> 01:32:50,125 Things that are over the counter?

2090 01:32:50,125 --> 01:32:53,390 And bandages and all kind of--

2091 01:32:53,390 --> 01:32:56,750 but no prescription medication.

2092 01:32:56,750 --> 01:32:59,330 But I was there.

2093 01:32:59,330 --> 01:33:01,857 And you worked in the developing,

2094 01:33:01,857 --> 01:33:02,690 the photofinishing--

2095 01:33:02,690 --> 01:33:02,990 Yes.

2096 01:33:02,990 --> 01:33:03,890 --developing lab? 2097 01:33:03,890 --> 01:33:07,370 We had the store on street level.

2098 01:33:07,370 --> 01:33:10,380 And I was in the middle.

2099 01:33:10,380 --> 01:33:13,040 And we had the other darkroom.

2100 01:33:13,040 --> 01:33:14,000 OK.

2101 01:33:14,000 --> 01:33:15,830 And what was the name of the pharmacy?

2102 01:33:15,830 --> 01:33:17,700 Do you remember?

2103 01:33:17,700 --> 01:33:20,210 Drogerie am Sonnenplatz.

2104 01:33:20,210 --> 01:33:22,730 Drogerie am Sonnenplatz.

2105 01:33:22,730 --> 01:33:23,870 And who owned it?

2106 01:33:23,870 --> 01:33:27,320

2107 01:33:27,320 --> 01:33:29,190 What was his name?

2108 01:33:29,190 --> 01:33:29,990 Ah, god.

2109 01:33:29,990 --> 01:33:33,050 2110 01:33:33,050 --> 01:33:38,040 He went after this to Berlin and disappeared.

2111 01:33:38,040 --> 01:33:40,830

2112 01:33:40,830 --> 01:33:43,180 What was his name?

2113 01:33:43,180 --> 01:33:46,540 And his father-in-law took over.

2114 01:33:46,540 --> 01:33:51,070 He was a Christian and could take the Drogerie.

2115 01:33:51,070 --> 01:33:54,790

2116 01:33:54,790 --> 01:33:58,800 The father-in-law, Pavel was his.

2117 01:33:58,800 --> 01:34:05,160 And he was-- gosh, it will come to me.

2118 01:34:05,160 --> 01:34:09,600 But it's the owner went, and they always

2119 01:34:09,600 --> 01:34:14,880 said don't look for them, because they want to disappear.

2120 01:34:14,880 --> 01:34:17,982 I don't know what happened to them.

2121 01:34:17,982 --> 01:34:18,690 Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection

I'm confused now.

2122

01:34:18,690 --> 01:34:19,410 Bruno.

2123 01:34:19,410 --> 01:34:22,280 I'm confused now.

2124 01:34:22,280 --> 01:34:27,990 After Kristallnacht, what did the owner do?

2125 01:34:27,990 --> 01:34:30,460 What did he do?

2126 01:34:30,460 --> 01:34:32,640 You said he went to Berlin?

2127 01:34:32,640 --> 01:34:39,910 He disappeared because they damaged his store.

2128 01:34:39,910 --> 01:34:43,440 And he had a Christian wife too.

2129 01:34:43,440 --> 01:34:47,490 And they disappeared to France.

2130 01:34:47,490 --> 01:34:53,670 And we were always told-- it was understood that you don't trace

2131 01:34:53,670 --> 01:34:55,350 them, because that's the way.

2132 01:34:55,350 --> 01:34:57,180 They don't want to be traced.

2133 01:34:57,180 --> 01:34:57,760 OK.

2134

01:34:57,760 --> 01:34:59,460 Because the way I understood it is

2135

01:34:59,460 --> 01:35:01,810 that he went to Berlin to complain that someone closes--

2136

01:35:01,810 --> 01:35:02,310 No.

2137

01:35:02,310 --> 01:35:03,330 --his store.

2138

 $01:35:03,330 \rightarrow 01:35:06,480$ And then he disappears because he's arrested.

2139

01:35:06,480 --> 01:35:07,530 OK.

2140

01:35:07,530 --> 01:35:15,150 We never knew if he had contact with his brother and with his--

2141

01:35:15,150 --> 01:35:16,560 what was it?

2142 01:35:16,560 --> 01:35:18,630 Brother-in-law.

2143 01:35:18,630 --> 01:35:22,950 Because he took care of the Drogerie it was.

2144 01:35:22,950 --> 01:35:23,820 OK.

2145 01:35:23,820 --> 01:35:25,270 Drogerie am Sonnenplatz?

2146 01:35:25,270 --> 01:35:27,330 Drogerie am Sonnenplatz.

2147

01:35:27,330 --> 01:35:30,090 And so did it change its name?

2148

01:35:30,090 --> 01:35:31,170 I don't--

2149

01:35:31,170 --> 01:35:31,830 No, after.

2150

01:35:31,830 --> 01:35:33,120 OK, fine.

2151

01:35:33,120 --> 01:35:35,350 No, it stayed that name.

2152

01:35:35,350 --> 01:35:35,850 OK.

2153 01:35:35,850 --> 01:35:36,900 It stayed that name.

2154

01:35:36,900 --> 01:35:40,710 So what happens is the owner senses the danger.

2155

 $01:35:40,710 \rightarrow 01:35:43,920$ And does he leave with his wife, or does he leave alone?

2156 01:35:43,920 --> 01:35:46,260 No, they didn't have children.

2157 01:35:46,260 --> 01:35:51,390 He left with his Christian wife to Berlin, they said.

2158 01:35:51,390 --> 01:35:57,090 And we never knew what happened, when he died, or what.

2159 01:35:57,090 --> 01:35:59,430 Or if he survived.

2160 01:35:59,430 --> 01:36:01,590 He survived, yeah.

2161 01:36:01,590 --> 01:36:03,100 We never knew.

2162 01:36:03,100 --> 01:36:04,050 We never knew.

2163 01:36:04,050 --> 01:36:08,740 And I worked with his brother-in-law.

2164 01:36:08,740 --> 01:36:09,240 OK.

2165 01:36:09,240 --> 01:36:10,990 Do you remember the brother-in-law's name?

2166 01:36:10,990 --> 01:36:13,440 Because he took over the Drogerie.

2167 01:36:13,440 --> 01:36:16,410 Do you remember the brother-in-law's name?

2168 01:36:16,410 --> 01:36:18,090 Waldemar Pavel.

2169 01:36:18,090 --> 01:36:20,610 Waldemar Pavel.

2170 01:36:20,610 --> 01:36:24,750 Because his wife's name was Pavel, and this Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection

01:36:24,750 --> 01:36:26,520 was his brother-in-law.

2172 01:36:26,520 --> 01:36:29,250 OK.

2173 01:36:29,250 --> 01:36:33,200 And how long had you been working at this Drogerie,

2174 01:36:33,200 --> 01:36:35,790 at this sort of like Walgreens or CVS?

2175 01:36:35,790 --> 01:36:43,230 Well, I worked till they took us for the camp.

2176 01:36:43,230 --> 01:36:46,080 When did you start working there?

2177 01:36:46,080 --> 01:36:47,550 I must have started--

2178 01:36:47,550 --> 01:36:54,120

2179 01:36:54,120 --> 01:36:55,710 '38 maybe.

2180 01:36:55,710 --> 01:36:56,880 OK.

2181 01:36:56,880 --> 01:36:59,370 Was this your first job after finishing Lyzeum?

2182 01:36:59,370 --> 01:37:00,850 Yeah, the only job.

2183 01:37:00,850 --> 01:37:02,430 The only job.

2184 01:37:02,430 --> 01:37:07,137 And about how many people were employed at the Drogerie

2185 01:37:07,137 --> 01:37:07,845 when you started?

2186 01:37:07,845 --> 01:37:10,420

2187 01:37:10,420 --> 01:37:22,680 We had another boy who did whatever was to be dispatched.

2188 01:37:22,680 --> 01:37:26,160 And he cleaned.

2189 01:37:26,160 --> 01:37:29,160 So was it a small place?

2190 01:37:29,160 --> 01:37:31,040 Not a big place, no.

2191 01:37:31,040 --> 01:37:32,220 OK.

2192 01:37:32,220 --> 01:37:36,030 And do you remember anything about his personality

2193 01:37:36,030 --> 01:37:38,940 as a boss, as an owner?

2194 01:37:38,940 --> 01:37:43,330 Oh, he-- well, obviously a nice guy.

2195 01:37:43,330 --> 01:37:48,960 He must have known my father, because through my father 2196 01:37:48,960 --> 01:37:54,880 I got there because I needed a job to earn some money.

2197 01:37:54,880 --> 01:37:59,280 And since I couldn't study and couldn't do--

2198 01:37:59,280 --> 01:38:00,750 that was a good--

2199 01:38:00,750 --> 01:38:02,940 it was an apprenticeship.

2200 01:38:02,940 --> 01:38:10,830 And I think the first year there were not too much money.

2201 01:38:10,830 --> 01:38:14,380 And this was at every year you got a little more.

2202 01:38:14,380 --> 01:38:16,150 But it was better than nothing.

2203 01:38:16,150 --> 01:38:16,650 Yeah.

2204 01:38:16,650 --> 01:38:20,130

2205 01:38:20,130 --> 01:38:23,850 And it sounds like his situation had a similarity

2206 01:38:23,850 --> 01:38:24,765 to your own parents.

2207 01:38:24,765 --> 01:38:29,820 Yes, and I learned photofinishing. 2208 01:38:29,820 --> 01:38:32,700 Because at that time, you took a picture,

2209 01:38:32,700 --> 01:38:34,710 and you brought it to--

2210 01:38:34,710 --> 01:38:36,540 your film had to be developed.

2211 01:38:36,540 --> 01:38:40,990 And the pictures had to be made.

2212 01:38:40,990 --> 01:38:42,300 So you could do that.

2213 01:38:42,300 --> 01:38:43,050 You could do that.

2214 01:38:43,050 --> 01:38:46,240 Yes, I still have an enlarged--

2215 01:38:46,240 --> 01:38:51,274 it's not in working condition-- for 35 millimeter.

2216 01:38:51,274 --> 01:38:56,600

2217 01:38:56,600 --> 01:39:00,410 And do you remember how old you were when your father had

2218 01:39:00,410 --> 01:39:02,525 to move out of Paradiesstrasse?

2219 01:39:02,525 --> 01:39:06,120

2220 01:39:06,120 --> 01:39:09,640 I must have been 18, 19, something this.

2221

01:39:09,640 --> 01:39:15,470 So 18 or 19 means either 1939 or 1940.

2222

01:39:15,470 --> 01:39:16,910 Yeah.

2223

01:39:16,910 --> 01:39:18,610 '39.

2224

01:39:18,610 --> 01:39:23,860 The war starts September 1, 1939.

2225

01:39:23,860 --> 01:39:25,120 Did your father have to move--

2226

01:39:25,120 --> 01:39:27,910 You know, actually, that my father had to move out

2227

01:39:27,910 --> 01:39:29,500 had nothing to do with the war.

2228 01:39:29,500 --> 01:39:30,310 Of course.

2229 01:39:30,310 --> 01:39:33,130 What I'm trying to establish is when did that

2230

01:39:33,130 --> 01:39:37,540 happen-- before it starts or after it starts.

2231 01:39:37,540 --> 01:39:43,690 Was he moving and living somewhere else for two years,

01:39:43,690 --> 01:39:46,630 for one year, for five months?

2233 01:39:46,630 --> 01:39:49,450 Do you have any idea how long it was

2234 01:39:49,450 --> 01:39:53,230 that he lived apart from you?

2235 01:39:53,230 --> 01:39:54,190 That he did what?

2236 01:39:54,190 --> 01:39:57,560 No, that your father lived apart from you.

2237 01:39:57,560 --> 01:40:02,810 Oh, that must've been maybe a year.

2238 01:40:02,810 --> 01:40:04,300 About a year.

2239 01:40:04,300 --> 01:40:05,710 Could be.

2240 01:40:05,710 --> 01:40:07,346 I think we need to stop.

2241 01:40:07,346 --> 01:40:08,715 It sounds like the pizza's here.

2242 01:40:08,715 --> 01:40:11,150 But yeah, she leans up, I can't see her anymore.

2243 01:40:11,150 --> 01:40:12,170 All right.

2244 01:40:12,170 --> 01:40:13,550 Somebody was at the door, no? 2245 01:40:13,550 --> 01:40:16,460 That's OK.

2246 01:40:16,460 --> 01:40:18,020 We're going to break in a minute.

2247

01:40:18,020 --> 01:40:21,170 But you're saying your father lived apart

2248

01:40:21,170 --> 01:40:22,740 from you in this rented room--

2249

01:40:22,740 --> 01:40:23,240 Yes.

2250

01:40:23,240 --> 01:40:25,610 --for about a year.

2251 01:40:25,610 --> 01:40:26,540 About a year.

2252

01:40:26,540 --> 01:40:27,200 Yeah, could be.

2253

01:40:27,200 --> 01:40:27,860 Could be.

2254

01:40:27,860 --> 01:40:32,840 And you and your mother and your sister were in Paradiesstrasse.

2255 01:40:32,840 --> 01:40:35,060 Next to that Nazi.

2256 01:40:35,060 --> 01:40:36,210 Next to that Nazi.

2257 01:40:36,210 --> 01:40:39,080

2258

01:40:39,080 --> 01:40:40,940 That's the trouble.

2259

 $01:40:40,940 \rightarrow 01:40:47,820$ His last name was Rudolf, while my father's name was Rudolf.

2260

01:40:47,820 --> 01:40:48,320 First name.

2261

01:40:48,320 --> 01:40:51,290 And at that time, we still got correspondence

2262

01:40:51,290 --> 01:40:55,640 from my family in the States here.

2263

01:40:55,640 --> 01:40:58,910 And this funny-it's not funny--

2264

01:40:58,910 --> 01:41:04,250 that our mail from the States always got first to Rudolf--

2265

01:41:04,250 --> 01:41:05,810 Herr Rudolf, Mr. Rudolf.

2266

01:41:05,810 --> 01:41:10,790 --because his last name was Rudolf, while my--

2267

01:41:10,790 --> 01:41:12,770 it was Rudolf Lindenberg.

2268

01:41:12,770 --> 01:41:16,730 But he arranged it and he looked.

2269

01:41:16,730 --> 01:41:22,040 And I'm pretty sure what he saw because it was English.

2270

01:41:22,040 --> 01:41:30,260 But he got the first sniff of our mail from the States.

2271

01:41:30,260 --> 01:41:31,290 Oh, how awful.

2272

01:41:31,290 --> 01:41:34,850

2273

01:41:34,850 --> 01:41:38,540 What a nasty kind of situation to be in.

2274

01:41:38,540 --> 01:41:39,350 Yeah.

2275

01:41:39,350 --> 01:41:43,580 They wanted to nail us down to something.

2276

01:41:43,580 --> 01:41:47,710

2277 01:41:47,710 --> 01:41:49,270 Let's take a break now.

2278 01:41:49,270 --> 01:41:50,900 And we'll continue this after lunch.

2279 01:41:50,900 --> 01:41:51,400 [LAUGHS]

2280 01:41:51,400 --> 01:41:53,990 Thank you.

2281 01:41:53,990 --> 01:41:54,530 2282 01:41:54,530 --> 01:41:55,700 Camera speeding.

2283 01:41:55,700 --> 01:41:57,470 OK.

2284 01:41:57,470 --> 01:41:59,840 So before lunch break, we were talking

2285 01:41:59,840 --> 01:42:06,800 about those final months when you were in Paradiesstrasse,

2286

01:42:06,800 --> 01:42:10,040 and your father lived separately from you.

2287

01:42:10,040 --> 01:42:12,270 And you said it was for about a year.

2288

01:42:12,270 --> 01:42:14,660 Yeah.

2289

01:42:14,660 --> 01:42:21,960 And did you ever know of anybody being deported before?

2290

01:42:21,960 --> 01:42:22,460 No.

2291 01:42:22,460 --> 01:42:25,010

2292

01:42:25,010 --> 01:42:29,870 No, actually no, because it was we

2293 01:42:29,870 --> 01:42:33,330

had such a tight-knit family.

2294

01:42:33,330 --> 01:42:36,560 And the problems in our family were enough.

2295

01:42:36,560 --> 01:42:40,910 We didn't want some outsider on top of it.

2296

01:42:40,910 --> 01:42:47,390 And my mother's friends, they didn't have this problem.

2297 01:42:47,390 --> 01:42:49,100 OK.

2298 01:42:49,100 --> 01:42:52,875 They weren't political people, in other words.

2299

01:42:52,875 --> 01:42:53,375 OK.

2300 01:42:53,375 --> 01:42:58,020

2301 01:42:58,020 --> 01:43:01,080 So tell me, walk me through that day

2302 01:43:01,080 --> 01:43:04,350 when you were bringing your father food.

2303 01:43:04,350 --> 01:43:05,310 Was it in the morning?

2304 01:43:05,310 --> 01:43:06,480 Was it in the afternoon?

2305 01:43:06,480 --> 01:43:07,210 Do you remember?

2306

01:43:07,210 --> 01:43:14,520 Well, I used to bring him his food to his rented home there.

2307

01:43:14,520 --> 01:43:17,100 And when I went there, that must have

2308

01:43:17,100 --> 01:43:21,210 been in the middle of the day.

2309

01:43:21,210 --> 01:43:23,130 The apartment was empty.

2310

01:43:23,130 --> 01:43:27,930 And when I knocked at the doors at the neighbors, they said,

2311

01:43:27,930 --> 01:43:30,460 "They were taken away."

2312

01:43:30,460 --> 01:43:36,660 But I had no idea where and where I could find out

2313 01:43:36,660 --> 01:43:39,420 where they had brought them.

2314 01:43:39,420 --> 01:43:40,900 And I don't know how--

2315 01:43:40,900 --> 01:43:45,160

2316 01:43:45,160 --> 01:43:48,670 no, I couldn't see him anymore.

2317 01:43:48,670 --> 01:43:51,100 Because when I went to the place where 2318 01:43:51,100 --> 01:43:56,590 they said they were brought to, they were already gone.

2319 01:43:56,590 --> 01:44:06,160 And as I said, the father from a school friend of mine,

2320 01:44:06,160 --> 01:44:09,940 he was a police.

2321 01:44:09,940 --> 01:44:13,150 He was in the transport of my father.

2322 01:44:13,150 --> 01:44:17,230 And obviously, they had a list of names.

2323 01:44:17,230 --> 01:44:21,250 And the name Lindenberg that she said, "Oh,

2324 01:44:21,250 --> 01:44:27,160 this is most likely the father of my daughter's friend."

2325 01:44:27,160 --> 01:44:32,380 And from there, from them, and through this girlfriend

2326 01:44:32,380 --> 01:44:39,790 or this school friend, I know that my father died on the way

2327 01:44:39,790 --> 01:44:41,780 to wherever they want to bring him.

2328 01:44:41,780 --> 01:44:43,300 It might have been Auschwitz. 2329 01:44:43,300 --> 01:44:44,990 I really don't know.

2330

01:44:44,990 --> 01:44:50,960 And that they were transported in these cattle wagons.

2331

01:44:50,960 --> 01:44:54,430 They have in the middle, a compartment they

2332

01:44:54,430 --> 01:44:57,070 lift if one of the cattle dies.

2333

01:44:57,070 --> 01:45:03,100 They have certain places on the rails where they opened this up

2334

01:45:03,100 --> 01:45:06,610 and they fall and goes.

2335

01:45:06,610 --> 01:45:10,510 And that's what they do if human beings--

2336

01:45:10,510 --> 01:45:13,000 and this is what they told me.

2337

01:45:13,000 --> 01:45:16,210 Most likely that's where my father wound up.

2338

01:45:16,210 --> 01:45:18,920 So he dies on the train.

2339

01:45:18,920 --> 01:45:23,350 He must have died on the way to--

2340

 $01:45:23,350 \rightarrow 01:45:26,540$ he had already problems with his stomach. 2341 01:45:26,540 --> 01:45:30,490 Most likely the aggravation or not--

2342 01:45:30,490 --> 01:45:31,480 I don't know.

2343 01:45:31,480 --> 01:45:33,320 Did he have an ulcer or something?

2344 01:45:33,320 --> 01:45:33,820 Pardon me?

2345 01:45:33,820 --> 01:45:36,900 Did he have an ulcer in his stomach?

2346 01:45:36,900 --> 01:45:39,220 I don't know.

2347 01:45:39,220 --> 01:45:41,480 He didn't discuss any--

2348 01:45:41,480 --> 01:45:44,200 the only thing-- excuse me--

2349 01:45:44,200 --> 01:45:48,370 he said certain food doesn't agree with him so well.

2350 01:45:48,370 --> 01:45:50,800 And that must have been something.

2351 01:45:50,800 --> 01:45:56,830 It might have been the whole situation.

2352 01:45:56,830 --> 01:45:58,180 Excuse me. 2353 01:45:58,180 --> 01:46:07,960 And I was thinking that this would have been in 1940 or 1941 2354 01:46:07,960 --> 01:46:09,235 when your father was taken. 2355 01:46:09,235 --> 01:46:09,870 Yeah. 2356 01:46:09,870 --> 01:46:10,165 Yes? 2357 01:46:10,165 --> 01:46:10,665 Yeah. 2358 01:46:10,665 --> 01:46:11,840 Something like that? 2359 01:46:11,840 --> 01:46:14,470 '41, '42. 2360 01:46:14,470 --> 01:46:18,220 So that means he's a 60-year-old man then. 2361 01:46:18,220 --> 01:46:20,350 Yeah. 2362 01:46:20,350 --> 01:46:23,140 He's not old, but he's not young anymore. 2363 $01:46:23,140 \rightarrow 01:46:23,740$ Yeah. 2364 01:46:23,740 --> 01:46:27,400 And do you think maybe he had a heart attack when he

2365

01:46:27,400 --> 01:46:30,590 would have been on the train?

2366

01:46:30,590 --> 01:46:35,890 At this paper, it said-- it is his death certificate--

2367

01:46:35,890 --> 01:46:39,750 that people his age, and they where

2368

01:46:39,750 --> 01:46:42,580 they felt they are useless for any kind

2369

01:46:42,580 --> 01:46:47,710 of work that they've disposed of them.

2370

 $01:46:47,710 \rightarrow 01:46:50,380$ We will look at that death certificate later.

2371 01:46:50,380 --> 01:46:52,270 You showed me before.

2372 01:46:52,270 --> 01:46:54,700 And we'll film that.

2373 01:46:54,700 --> 01:46:59,660 It's interesting that the date on it is 1954, which is--

2374 01:46:59,660 --> 01:47:00,160 No.

2375 01:47:00,160 --> 01:47:01,960 Oh, it's earlier?

2376 01:47:01,960 --> 01:47:04,090 No, I think it's '43. 01:47:04,090 --> 01:47:04,730 Is it?

2378 01:47:04,730 --> 01:47:05,230 OK.

2379 01:47:05,230 --> 01:47:07,240 Then I was wrong.

2380 01:47:07,240 --> 01:47:11,500 But then we'll have to take a closer look at that.

2381 01:47:11,500 --> 01:47:14,350 I thought it was after the war already.

2382 01:47:14,350 --> 01:47:15,940 OK.

2383 01:47:15,940 --> 01:47:16,465 My mistake.

2384 01:47:16,465 --> 01:47:20,794

2385 01:47:20,794 --> 01:47:25,780 Once you find that the place is empty and that he's been taken

2386 01:47:25,780 --> 01:47:26,680 and then you go--

2387 01:47:26,680 --> 01:47:30,040 The whole family with whom he was living there.

2388 01:47:30,040 --> 01:47:31,390 Was taken?

2389 01:47:31,390 --> 01:47:33,010 Yeah. 2390 01:47:33,010 --> 01:47:35,380 Was this then the first time you even

2391 01:47:35,380 --> 01:47:38,060 experienced that someone's been deported,

2392 01:47:38,060 --> 01:47:39,240 someone's been taken away?

2393 01:47:39,240 --> 01:47:42,760 No, we heard already that people disappeared.

2394 01:47:42,760 --> 01:47:46,420 As they say, "they disappeared."

2395 01:47:46,420 --> 01:47:51,940 But to where and to where they brought them.

2396 01:47:51,940 --> 01:47:53,500 Did you have the sense that they--

2397 01:47:53,500 --> 01:47:56,920 did you know of places like Dachau or Buchenwald?

2398 01:47:56,920 --> 01:47:58,990 Well, we heard about it, yes.

2399 01:47:58,990 --> 01:48:00,770 You had heard about it at that time?

2400 01:48:00,770 --> 01:48:01,270 Yeah.

2401 01:48:01,270 --> 01:48:02,500 OK.

2402

2402 01:48:02,500 --> 01:48:07,690 Because political prisoners were taken sometimes to those

2403

01:48:07,690 --> 01:48:08,490 places.

2404

01:48:08,490 --> 01:48:12,520 You know, even Catholic priests.

2405

01:48:12,520 --> 01:48:19,170 They had sometimes-- they went the same way as Jews.

2406

01:48:19,170 --> 01:48:20,580 Did you know any?

2407

01:48:20,580 --> 01:48:21,385 No.

2408 01:48:21,385 --> 01:48:21,885 OK.

2409 01:48:21,885 --> 01:48:24,750

2410

01:48:24,750 --> 01:48:28,210 So those names were not unfamiliar to you?

2411

01:48:28,210 --> 01:48:30,600 No.

2412 01:48:30,600 --> 01:48:32,220 Well, we heard.

2413 01:48:32,220 --> 01:48:35,880 And of course, they were-- 01:48:35,880 --> 01:48:39,240 I don't how we heard about it.

2415

01:48:39,240 --> 01:48:41,910 But you knew that they existed.

2416 01:48:41,910 --> 01:48:44,970 Bergen-Belsen, Auschwitz.

2417

01:48:44,970 --> 01:48:46,650 OK.

2418 01:48:46,650 --> 01:48:51,054 So do you remember when you got home that day--

2419

01:48:51,054 --> 01:48:53,130 what you told your mother, how she reacted?

2420

01:48:53,130 --> 01:49:00,480 Well, I told my mother the whole family is gone and father too.

2421

01:49:00,480 --> 01:49:02,670 And what did she do?

2422

01:49:02,670 --> 01:49:06,390 We couldn't do-- you couldn't do anything,

2423

01:49:06,390 --> 01:49:08,370 because where would you go?

2424 01:49:08,370 --> 01:49:11,340

2425 01:49:11,340 --> 01:49:13,980 I don't know how I--

2426 01:49:13,980 --> 01:49:17,190 I tried to find out where. 2427 01:49:17,190 --> 01:49:18,690 And I went to a place.

2428 01:49:18,690 --> 01:49:21,030 They told me they might be there.

2429 01:49:21,030 --> 01:49:25,350 But when I went there, they weren't there anymore.

2430 01:49:25,350 --> 01:49:29,190 And was this place like a jail or was it

2431 01:49:29,190 --> 01:49:32,470 a kind of railway st-- do you know what kind of place

2432 01:49:32,470 --> 01:49:33,990 it was that you were?

2433 01:49:33,990 --> 01:49:34,680 No?

2434 01:49:34,680 --> 01:49:36,150 No idea.

2435 01:49:36,150 --> 01:49:40,080 They had some kind of a collecting places.

2436 01:49:40,080 --> 01:49:40,980 Point.

2437 01:49:40,980 --> 01:49:44,290 And then they dispose--

2438 01:49:44,290 --> 01:49:44,790 Yeah. 2439 01:49:44,790 --> 01:49:47,790

2440

01:49:47,790 --> 01:49:50,430 Well, then how did life go on for you?

2441

01:49:50,430 --> 01:49:53,490 How did life go on for you and your mother and your sister?

2442

01:49:53,490 --> 01:49:56,710

2443

01:49:56,710 --> 01:49:59,110 We had to go on.

2444

01:49:59,110 --> 01:50:00,370 How?

2445

01:50:00,370 --> 01:50:02,030 What did you do?

2446

01:50:02,030 --> 01:50:03,370 I had a little--

2447

01:50:03,370 --> 01:50:09,340 I had this apprenticeship where I had earned something.

2448 01:50:09,340 --> 01:50:11,440 And my sister too.

2449 01:50:11,440 --> 01:50:12,500 What was she doing?

2450 01:50:12,500 --> 01:50:20,860 She worked as a secretary because she learned shorthand.

2451 01:50:20,860 --> 01:50:23,720 2452 01:50:23,720 --> 01:50:25,780 A secretary.

2453 01:50:25,780 --> 01:50:31,750 And had a job that were acquaintances from my father

2454 01:50:31,750 --> 01:50:32,960 too.

2455 01:50:32,960 --> 01:50:35,080 And I don't know.

2456 01:50:35,080 --> 01:50:37,606 It was Lobocz.

2457 01:50:37,606 --> 01:50:38,106 Lobocz?

2458 01:50:38,106 --> 01:50:39,850 [LAUGHS] Lobocz.

2459 01:50:39,850 --> 01:50:41,890 I don't know the name.

2460 01:50:41,890 --> 01:50:43,570 It's not a German name.

2461 01:50:43,570 --> 01:50:47,260 But this company she worked for was Lobocz.

2462 01:50:47,260 --> 01:50:48,250 OK.

2463 01:50:48,250 --> 01:50:51,110 Do you know what their business was, what kind of business

2464

01:50:51,110 --> 01:50:51,610 it was?

2465

01:50:51,610 --> 01:50:55,780 I think they had a real estate--

2466

01:50:55,780 --> 01:50:56,740 not real estate.

2467 01:50:56,740 --> 01:50:59,900

2468 01:50:59,900 --> 01:51:02,840 How do you call it?

2469

01:51:02,840 --> 01:51:05,390 Excuse me, can we cut for a second?

2470

01:51:05,390 --> 01:51:07,540 Ready.

2471 01:51:07,540 --> 01:51:08,720 OK.

2472 01:51:08,720 --> 01:51:10,920 So you were working.

2473 01:51:10,920 --> 01:51:12,980 Your sister was working.

2474 01:51:12,980 --> 01:51:17,050 Were you expecting to get news from your father?

2475 01:51:17,050 --> 01:51:18,020 No.

2476 01:51:18,020 --> 01:51:25,130 We knew that there were never news from these transports. 2477 01:51:25,130 --> 01:51:26,240 OK.

2478 01:51:26,240 --> 01:51:31,670 So that policeman that guarded that transport,

2479

01:51:31,670 --> 01:51:34,310 when did he come to tell you of what

2480

01:51:34,310 --> 01:51:36,200 had happened, what he had seen?

2481 01:51:36,200 --> 01:51:38,960 He was the father of a school--

2482

01:51:38,960 --> 01:51:39,800 Friend, yes.

2483

01:51:39,800 --> 01:51:40,430 --friend.

2484

01:51:40,430 --> 01:51:46,790 And she told me, "I think my father today had"--

2485

01:51:46,790 --> 01:51:49,370 well, I don't know if it was today day.

2486

01:51:49,370 --> 01:51:56,600 But he knew that my father was on a transport and he died.

2487

01:51:56,600 --> 01:52:00,290 So you found out fairly soon that your father had died?

2488 01:52:00,290 --> 01:52:01,520 Yes. 2489 01:52:01,520 --> 01:52:02,510 Oh, I see.

2490 01:52:02,510 --> 01:52:06,470 So you didn't even expect to hear anything.

2491 01:52:06,470 --> 01:52:09,125 No, because you never heard anything.

2492 01:52:09,125 --> 01:52:09,625 OK.

2493 01:52:09,625 --> 01:52:12,440

2494 01:52:12,440 --> 01:52:16,700 And did you keep in touch with his relatives,

2495 01:52:16,700 --> 01:52:21,800 your father's relatives in LÃ¹/₄neburg and abroad?

2496 01:52:21,800 --> 01:52:27,050 Had you had contact with them as things started going bad?

2497 01:52:27,050 --> 01:52:28,850 Frankly, later.

2498 01:52:28,850 --> 01:52:33,170 And there wasn't any of his family living anymore,

2499 01:52:33,170 --> 01:52:38,825 because that was quite, quite later that we visited $L\tilde{A}^{1/4}$ neburg.

2500 01:52:38,825 --> 01:52:41,330 2501 01:52:41,330 --> 01:52:44,630 And interesting now, as I said, two years ago,

2502 01:52:44,630 --> 01:52:52,100 that museum picked up my grandfather's

2503 01:52:52,100 --> 01:52:54,320 family and his history.

2504 01:52:54,320 --> 01:52:56,270 I see.

2505 01:52:56,270 --> 01:52:58,190 But at that time, your grandfather

2506 01:52:58,190 --> 01:53:01,070 had he passed away by 1941?

2507 01:53:01,070 --> 01:53:02,130 Yes.

2508 01:53:02,130 --> 01:53:03,710 He didn't live anymore.

2509 01:53:03,710 --> 01:53:04,340 OK.

2510 01:53:04,340 --> 01:53:05,570 And Greten?

2511 01:53:05,570 --> 01:53:07,900 She was in England?

2512 01:53:07,900 --> 01:53:13,610 Greten, she lived with us for a while

2513

01:53:13,610 --> 01:53:18,140 when she came to the States and later was

2514

01:53:18,140 --> 01:53:21,620 companion to Mrs. Bulova.

2515

01:53:21,620 --> 01:53:23,270 Of the Bulova watch people?

2516

01:53:23,270 --> 01:53:23,930 Yes.

2517 01:53:23,930 --> 01:53:24,810 No kidding?

2518 01:53:24,810 --> 01:53:25,310 Yeah.

2519 01:53:25,310 --> 01:53:26,602 OK, but this is in the United--

2520 01:53:26,602 --> 01:53:30,440 And you know it turned out what Mr. Bulova claimed his wife.

2521 01:53:30,440 --> 01:53:32,070 She wasn't his wife.

2522 01:53:32,070 --> 01:53:33,580 She was his companion.

2523 01:53:33,580 --> 01:53:40,040 And my aunt was her companion.

2524 01:53:40,040 --> 01:53:41,250 Isn't that interesting.

2525 01:53:41,250 --> 01:53:42,110 Yeah.

2526

01:53:42,110 --> 01:53:45,110 But that's after the war and in the States.

2527

01:53:45,110 --> 01:53:48,230 Yes, that was after the war.

2528

01:53:48,230 --> 01:53:55,200 We came here in '43, '44.

2529

01:53:55,200 --> 01:53:57,030 OK.

2530

01:53:57,030 --> 01:53:58,080 We'll come to that.

2531

01:53:58,080 --> 01:53:59,474 Right now, I'm still--

2532

01:53:59,474 --> 01:54:01,120 In the '20s.

2533 01:54:01,120 --> 01:54:01,620 Well, no.

2534 01:54:01,620 --> 01:54:02,740 I've passed to the 1940s.

2535 01:54:02,740 --> 01:54:03,240 [LAUGHS]

2536 01:54:03,240 --> 01:54:05,640 I'm into the 1940s.

2537 01:54:05,640 --> 01:54:07,530 So we're 1941.

2538 01:54:07,530 --> 01:54:11,010 Your father is taken.

2539 01:54:11,010 --> 01:54:14,160 Your school friend's father is a guard,

2540

01:54:14,160 --> 01:54:17,880 or a policeman, that is guarding this transport,

2541

01:54:17,880 --> 01:54:20,730 finds out your father has died on the way,

2542

01:54:20,730 --> 01:54:21,990 lets his daughter know.

2543

01:54:21,990 --> 01:54:25,950 His daughter tells you fairly quickly.

2544

01:54:25,950 --> 01:54:29,280 And it's at this point that I'm asking,

2545

01:54:29,280 --> 01:54:33,180 were there any Jewish relatives of yours living in Germany

2546

01:54:33,180 --> 01:54:36,040 from your father's side at the time?

2547

01:54:36,040 --> 01:54:39,360 There might be in his hometown $L\tilde{A}^{1/4}$ neburg.

2548

 $01:54:39,360 \rightarrow 01:54:45,570$ But LÃ¹/4neburg and Breslau is such a difference that we had

2549 01:54:45,570 --> 01:54:51,540 at that time no connection with

LÃ¹/4neburg and not [GERMAN]----

2550 01:54:51,540 --> 01:54:54,870

This is a verbatim transcript of spoken word generated with 3Play Media. It is not the primary source, and it may contain errors in spelling or accuracy. 2551 01:54:54,870 --> 01:54:56,790 close relatives.

2552 01:54:56,790 --> 01:54:57,540 OK.

2553 01:54:57,540 --> 01:54:58,380 I've got it.

2554 01:54:58,380 --> 01:55:02,190 But Greten, you had mentioned, had gone with her older sister

2555 01:55:02,190 --> 01:55:05,340 to England in 1938.

2556 01:55:05,340 --> 01:55:06,050 Is that correct?

2557 01:55:06,050 --> 01:55:06,550 Yeah.

2558 01:55:06,550 --> 01:55:07,200 Yes, OK.

2559 01:55:07,200 --> 01:55:09,390 So she's out of the picture.

2560 01:55:09,390 --> 01:55:12,420 She's not in Germany during the war.

2561 01:55:12,420 --> 01:55:13,980 No, she was not.

2562 01:55:13,980 --> 01:55:17,370 But how she came, I don't know how.

2563

01:55:17,370 --> 01:55:21,240 Because when she came to the States here,

2564 01:55:21,240 --> 01:55:23,580 she didn't have any place to live.

2565 01:55:23,580 --> 01:55:29,790 And the way we lived were these old railroad apartments.

2566 01:55:29,790 --> 01:55:30,810 I don't know if you--

2567 01:55:30,810 --> 01:55:32,040 I've been in them, yes.

2568 01:55:32,040 --> 01:55:35,658 Railroad apartment is one room into the next room

2569 01:55:35,658 --> 01:55:36,450 into the next room.

2570 01:55:36,450 --> 01:55:38,010 The light just goes right here.

2571 01:55:38,010 --> 01:55:41,040 And when we got to this--

2572 01:55:41,040 --> 01:55:43,350 in Long Island-to this house that

2573 01:55:43,350 --> 01:55:45,990 was actually condemned because they

2574 01:55:45,990 --> 01:55:49,560 weren't allowed that one bathroom is for two people. Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection

2575 01:55:49,560 --> 01:55:53,970 It was just the toilet, not the shower or anything.

2576 01:55:53,970 --> 01:55:58,650 We had in the kitchen one of these big tubs

2577 01:55:58,650 --> 01:56:01,890 or whatever you want to call it, where we

2578 01:56:01,890 --> 01:56:04,620 took our showers or our bath.

2579 01:56:04,620 --> 01:56:07,170 Well, the old-fashioned apartments in New York

2580 01:56:07,170 --> 01:56:07,870 were like that.

2581 01:56:07,870 --> 01:56:08,930 Yeah, I know.

2582 01:56:08,930 --> 01:56:09,720 Many of them.

2583 01:56:09,720 --> 01:56:10,680 Yeah.

2584 01:56:10,680 --> 01:56:12,180 But this is after the war.

2585 01:56:12,180 --> 01:56:13,720 I'm still in the war--

2586 01:56:13,720 --> 01:56:14,220 In the war.

2587 01:56:14,220 --> 01:56:17,190 --and the beginning of the war at the time of your father's

2588 01:56:17,190 --> 01:56:17,700 death.

2589 01:56:17,700 --> 01:56:21,570 And I want to get a sense of where was his family whatever

2590 01:56:21,570 --> 01:56:23,920 was left of it at that time.

2591 01:56:23,920 --> 01:56:25,500 We had no connections.

2592 01:56:25,500 --> 01:56:26,500 You didn't know.

2593 01:56:26,500 --> 01:56:28,200 We had no connections.

2594 01:56:28,200 --> 01:56:35,040 And strange enough, from my great aunt in Chicago,

2595 01:56:35,040 --> 01:56:37,860 who was friends with--

2596 01:56:37,860 --> 01:56:38,550 Helen Keller.

2597 01:56:38,550 --> 01:56:43,200 --Helen Keller, she through the Red Cross

2598 01:56:43,200 --> 01:56:47,525 found out where my mother was.

2599 01:56:47,525 --> 01:56:51,410 The Red Cross was something that was so remarkable, 2600 01:56:51,410 --> 01:56:53,090 you have no idea.

2601 01:56:53,090 --> 01:56:58,340 And she found out that it was Vilsbiburg.

2602 01:56:58,340 --> 01:57:02,300 Vilsbiburg is a little town close to Munich.

2603 01:57:02,300 --> 01:57:05,210 But since she spelled it so differently,

2604 01:57:05,210 --> 01:57:09,920 we thought that isn't a German town and looked for in Holland

2605 01:57:09,920 --> 01:57:13,400 till we said, "No, wait a minute, there is a Vilsbiburg."

2606 01:57:13,400 --> 01:57:16,070 And there we found my mother.

2607 01:57:16,070 --> 01:57:17,390 This is after the war.

2608 01:57:17,390 --> 01:57:19,460 Or this further on.

2609 01:57:19,460 --> 01:57:23,060 That is in the war still while we were in the camp.

2610 01:57:23,060 --> 01:57:24,890 But we haven't gotten to the camp yet.

2611 01:57:24,890 --> 01:57:25,740 2612 01:57:25,740 --> 01:57:27,230 [LAUGHS]

2613 01:57:27,230 --> 01:57:32,450 What I'm interested in is that in 1941 or '42,

2614 01:57:32,450 --> 01:57:37,250 when you lose your father, what other connections there were,

2615 01:57:37,250 --> 01:57:41,085 what other news you had of other relatives.

2616 01:57:41,085 --> 01:57:43,210 And what you're saying is that you didn't have any.

2617 01:57:43,210 --> 01:57:43,710 No.

2618 01:57:43,710 --> 01:57:44,900 You didn't have any.

2619 01:57:44,900 --> 01:57:49,160 So at this point, things go on.

2620 01:57:49,160 --> 01:57:52,460 And you are working as an apprentice.

2621 01:57:52,460 --> 01:57:56,240 Your sister is working as a secretary.

2622 01:57:56,240 --> 01:58:00,020 And your mother is still at home in Paradiesstrasse.

2623

01:58:00,020 --> 01:58:03,770 Yeah, she had to work someplace.

2624 01:58:03,770 --> 01:58:05,600 That was something.

2625 01:58:05,600 --> 01:58:07,590 They told her she had to do something.

2626 01:58:07,590 --> 01:58:08,540 OK.

2627 01:58:08,540 --> 01:58:12,740 So do you remember what this Paradiesstrasse apartment

2628 01:58:12,740 --> 01:58:13,340 looked like?

2629 01:58:13,340 --> 01:58:16,160

2630 01:58:16,160 --> 01:58:17,570 Yes.

2631 01:58:17,570 --> 01:58:19,475 It was something--

2632 01:58:19,475 --> 01:58:22,250

2633 01:58:22,250 --> 01:58:27,010 I think still in New York exists.

2634 01:58:27,010 --> 01:58:28,280 Paradiesstrasse?

2635 01:58:28,280 --> 01:58:29,540 Paradiesstrasse, yeah. 2636 01:58:29,540 --> 01:58:30,540 Yeah, that apartment.

2637 01:58:30,540 --> 01:58:31,040 Yeah.

2638 01:58:31,040 --> 01:58:31,550 OK.

2639 01:58:31,550 --> 01:58:33,758 Because you were talking about New York for a minute.

2640 01:58:33,758 --> 01:58:38,540 When you came from the street, you opened your door,

2641 01:58:38,540 --> 01:58:41,420 and you came to the kitchen.

2642 01:58:41,420 --> 01:58:43,990 That had no--

2643 01:58:43,990 --> 01:58:44,740 No entrance.

2644 01:58:44,740 --> 01:58:46,490 No entrance or something.

2645 01:58:46,490 --> 01:58:48,400 You came to the kitchen.

2646 01:58:48,400 --> 01:58:53,920 And then to the right was the living room.

2647 01:58:53,920 --> 01:58:57,490 And on the back there was a little Kabinett,

2648 01:58:57,490 --> 01:59:00,495 as we called this, where you had storage.

2649 01:59:00.495 --> 01:59:05.

01:59:00,495 --> 01:59:05,680

2650 01:59:05,680 --> 01:59:06,280 Closet?

2651 01:59:06,280 --> 01:59:07,510 Closets.

2652 01:59:07,510 --> 01:59:08,530 They weren't closets.

2653 01:59:08,530 --> 01:59:14,020 They were Schranker.

2654 01:59:14,020 --> 01:59:15,760 Oh, they were--

2655 01:59:15,760 --> 01:59:16,600 Wardrobes.

2656 01:59:16,600 --> 01:59:17,410 Wardrobes, yeah.

2657 01:59:17,410 --> 01:59:18,640 Wardrobes.

2658 01:59:18,640 --> 01:59:24,520 And from then, there was a little room, I slept.

2659 01:59:24,520 --> 01:59:31,690 And my sister slept in the other main bedroom with my mother.

2660 01:59:31,690 --> 01:59:33,630 And that was what Paradiesstrasse looked like? 2661 01:59:33,630 --> 01:59:35,710 That's what Paradiesstrasse.

2662

01:59:35,710 --> 01:59:39,166 We always said this is our idea of a paradise.

2663

01:59:39,166 --> 01:59:41,110 [LAUGHS]

2664 01:59:41.110 --> 01:59:43.690

It was quite a step down from--

2665

01:59:43,690 --> 01:59:45,170 Many steps down.

2666

01:59:45,170 --> 01:59:46,540 Yeah.

2667

01:59:46,540 --> 01:59:48,260 And it had the nasty neighbor.

2668

01:59:48,260 --> 01:59:48,760 Yeah.

2669 01:59:48,760 --> 01:59:50,710 And this has the nasty neighbor.

2670 01:59:50,710 --> 01:59:58,150 And at that time still, my father collected glass--

2671 01:59:58,150 --> 02:00:00,940 they were famous.

2672 02:00:00,940 --> 02:00:10,485 And some of them went to the Paris expo.

2673 02:00:10,485 --> 02:00:13,270 2674 02:00:13,270 --> 02:00:19,870 They were from Professor Benner in Czechoslovakia.

2675 02:00:19,870 --> 02:00:21,670 They were famous for their glasses.

2676 02:00:21,670 --> 02:00:22,990 So was it a kind of crystal?

2677 02:00:22,990 --> 02:00:25,180 Crystal glasses, yes.

2678 02:00:25,180 --> 02:00:32,400 And I remember at that time in Germany you had these kind of--

2679 02:00:32,400 --> 02:00:37,070 you traveled with these, what you have there.

2680 02:00:37,070 --> 02:00:38,180 What do you call this?

2681 02:00:38,180 --> 02:00:41,100

2682 02:00:41,100 --> 02:00:42,230 Excuse me?

2683 02:00:42,230 --> 02:00:44,700 A big case?

2684 02:00:44,700 --> 02:00:46,430 What do you call them?

2685 02:00:46,430 --> 02:00:47,460 A suitcase?

2686

02:00:47,460 --> 02:00:48,840 A briefcase?

2687 02:00:48,840 --> 02:00:51,872 Suitcases or-- no.

2688 02:00:51,872 --> 02:00:52,830 Suitcases or something.

2689 02:00:52,830 --> 02:00:53,310 OK.

2690 02:00:53,310 --> 02:00:53,810 A suitcase.

2691 02:00:53,810 --> 02:00:55,980 But ours was a little bigger.

2692 02:00:55,980 --> 02:01:00,840 And we had these glasses in our bed--

2693 02:01:00,840 --> 02:01:02,290 they were Plumeaus.

2694 02:01:02,290 --> 02:01:04,350 I don't know if you know a Plumeau

2695 02:01:04,350 --> 02:01:11,610 That was a special cushion for wintertime on your feet.

2696 02:01:11,610 --> 02:01:15,810 And that was that's where we had our--

2697 02:01:15,810 --> 02:01:22,950 these glasses, down in [GERMAN].

2698 02:01:22,950 --> 02:01:24,060 In the basement. 2699 02:01:24,060 --> 02:01:25,750 In the basement.

2700 02:01:25,750 --> 02:01:30,630 But the bomb fell off and that's where

2701 02:01:30,630 --> 02:01:34,840 all the house and all this--

2702 02:01:34,840 --> 02:01:36,680 So the Paradiesstrasse apartment.

2703 02:01:36,680 --> 02:01:39,190 In the Paradiesstrasse didn't exist anymore.

2704 02:01:39,190 --> 02:01:41,770 So when did the bomb fall on it?

2705 02:01:41,770 --> 02:01:45,450 Well, that must have been '41, '42--

2706 02:01:45,450 --> 02:01:50,070

2707 02:01:50,070 --> 02:01:50,910 in the war.

2708 02:01:50,910 --> 02:01:53,640 All right, when that happened, were you still

2709 02:01:53,640 --> 02:01:55,380 living in the apartment?

2710 02:01:55,380 --> 02:01:57,150 No, we were in camp. 2711 02:01:57,150 --> 02:01:58,500 So tell me about that.

2712 02:01:58,500 --> 02:02:01,080 What happened between the time your father leaves,

2713 02:02:01,080 --> 02:02:04,020 your father is deported, and you end up in the camp?

2714 02:02:04,020 --> 02:02:05,490 What happened?

2715 02:02:05,490 --> 02:02:10,210 Well, there was still a time where we lived with my mother.

2716 02:02:10,210 --> 02:02:16,470 And I think these people say when we came to the camp--

2717 02:02:16,470 --> 02:02:21,010 in December to January.

2718 02:02:21,010 --> 02:02:24,970 Yeah, but this is a little later.

2719 02:02:24,970 --> 02:02:28,120 But we were taken.

2720 02:02:28,120 --> 02:02:31,160 Why and how, frankly, I don't know.

2721 02:02:31,160 --> 02:02:35,050 The only thing I know, my poor mother was all by herself

2722 02:02:35,050 --> 02:02:36,430 all of a sudden. 2723 02:02:36,430 --> 02:02:41,440 And her brother lived close to Munich.

2724 02:02:41,440 --> 02:02:46,360 And he obviously said come and live with us.

2725 02:02:46,360 --> 02:02:50,920 So were you at home when you were taken with your sister?

2726 02:02:50,920 --> 02:02:53,440 Were you at your apartment in Paradiesstrasse

2727 02:02:53,440 --> 02:02:54,700 when you had to leave?

2728 02:02:54,700 --> 02:02:56,860 Yeah.

2729 02:02:56,860 --> 02:02:58,960 Tell me how it happened.

2730 02:02:58,960 --> 02:03:01,510 They told you, you have to be there

2731 02:03:01,510 --> 02:03:06,310 at an X time in the morning or afternoon.

2732 02:03:06,310 --> 02:03:08,020 I don't remember any more.

2733 02:03:08,020 --> 02:03:12,970 And you better be there because if you didn't, they

2734 02:03:12,970 --> 02:03:13,930 looked for you.

2735

02:03:13,930 --> 02:03:20,770 And we were told if you don't, you go to the KZ right away.

2736 02:03:20,770 --> 02:03:21,270 OK.

2737 02:03:21,270 --> 02:03:23,410 KZ means concentration camp.

2738 02:03:23,410 --> 02:03:25,580 Concentration camp, yes.

2739 02:03:25,580 --> 02:03:27,970 So you get a notice through the mail.

2740 02:03:27,970 --> 02:03:32,830 No, there was somebody who came and said we have to be there.

2741 02:03:32,830 --> 02:03:35,200 OK, but they didn't take you at that moment?

2742 02:03:35,200 --> 02:03:36,460 No.

2743 02:03:36,460 --> 02:03:38,350 We have to go there.

2744 02:03:38,350 --> 02:03:41,800 I don't remember how we got there--

2745 02:03:41,800 --> 02:03:44,230 either with a tram--

2746 02:03:44,230 --> 02:03:49,160 because it was a little further on the outskirts.

2747

02:03:49,160 --> 02:03:49,660 OK.

2748

02:03:49,660 --> 02:03:51,355 But it was you and your sister together?

2749

02:03:51,355 --> 02:03:52,540 Yeah.

2750 02:03:52,540 --> 02:03:58,120 And did you both realize that this is something ominous?

2751

02:03:58,120 --> 02:04:02,290 Yeah, we realized that was something not too kosher.

2752

02:04:02,290 --> 02:04:04,750 OK.

2753

02:04:04,750 --> 02:04:06,910 And your mother, was she there?

2754

02:04:06,910 --> 02:04:09,880 And my mother was all by herself all of a sudden.

2755

02:04:09,880 --> 02:04:12,380 But she was there when the person came to give the notice?

2756 02:04:12,380 --> 02:04:13,750 Yes.

2757 02:04:13,750 --> 02:04:16,540 Did she see you off, or did you just--

2758 02:04:16,540 --> 02:04:17,080 2759 02:04:17,080 --> 02:04:17,830 No.

2760 02:04:17,830 --> 02:04:21,970 I think the only thing, as I said,

2761 02:04:21,970 --> 02:04:26,770 she went with her brother, because her brother said come.

2762 02:04:26,770 --> 02:04:28,750 She was all by herself all of a sudden.

2763 02:04:28,750 --> 02:04:30,565 How did you know this?

2764 02:04:30,565 --> 02:04:32,080 This we learned later.

2765 02:04:32,080 --> 02:04:33,340 OK.

2766 02:04:33,340 --> 02:04:34,880 So at the time--

2767 02:04:34,880 --> 02:04:37,750 We didn't know what's the matter with my mother.

2768 02:04:37,750 --> 02:04:38,530 OK.

2769 02:04:38,530 --> 02:04:43,120 So you and your sister go to a certain place.

2770 02:04:43,120 --> 02:04:44,780 What is this place that you go to?

2771

02:04:44,780 --> 02:04:50,890 That was working camp.

2772 02:04:50,890 --> 02:04:52,510 We got some wooden shoes.

2773 02:04:52,510 --> 02:04:54,100 A labor camp?

2774 02:04:54,100 --> 02:04:56,020 Kind of a labor camp, yes.

2775 02:04:56,020 --> 02:04:58,810 The only thing not so drastic--

2776 02:04:58,810 --> 02:05:02,620 even so, it didn't have-- it has a latrine.

2777 02:05:02,620 --> 02:05:04,000 You know what a latrine is?

2778 02:05:04,000 --> 02:05:06,190 Tell us.

2779 02:05:06,190 --> 02:05:13,000 And we slept on the floor on straw, some kind of straw mats.

2780 02:05:13,000 --> 02:05:16,990 So were you in barracks?

2781 02:05:16,990 --> 02:05:20,140 They took restaurants there.

2782 02:05:20,140 --> 02:05:25,180 And where we-- the females lived in one restaurant. 02:05:25,180 --> 02:05:29,380 And I think I have it in this--

2784 02:05:29,380 --> 02:05:32,640 In restaurants?

2785 02:05:32,640 --> 02:05:34,210 In restaurants.

2786 02:05:34,210 --> 02:05:35,450 Ich weiss nicht was dass ist.

2787 02:05:35,450 --> 02:05:38,420

2788 02:05:38,420 --> 02:05:41,770 Restaurants, they were--

2789 02:05:41,770 --> 02:05:43,900 What do they do there at the--

2790 02:05:43,900 --> 02:05:45,940 Well, they had to take us.

2791 02:05:45,940 --> 02:05:49,060 And females, we are in that place.

2792 02:05:49,060 --> 02:05:51,310 We were in one restaurant.

2793 02:05:51,310 --> 02:05:56,350 And we slept on the dance floor, on the floor.

2794 02:05:56,350 --> 02:06:00,730 And the males slept on another one.

2795 02:06:00,730 --> 02:06:06,790 So all right-- what kind of-- 2796 02:06:06,790 --> 02:06:09,430 this wasn't a restaurant where you go to eat?

2797 02:06:09,430 --> 02:06:14,230 [LAUGHS] That was once a restaurant where you eat.

2798 02:06:14,230 --> 02:06:23,700 But they were obliged to take these people to accommodate

2799 02:06:23,700 --> 02:06:24,300 them.

2800 02:06:24,300 --> 02:06:25,980 And we went.

2801 02:06:25,980 --> 02:06:29,120 That was some kind of a labor--

2802 02:06:29,120 --> 02:06:32,370 yeah, you can say labor camp, because we

2803 02:06:32,370 --> 02:06:37,740 had to go out and cut little trees and limbs

2804 02:06:37,740 --> 02:06:41,310 and make some kind of what they called Faschinen.

2805 02:06:41,310 --> 02:06:45,960 That was something where the--

2806 02:06:45,960 --> 02:06:48,360 how do you call this?

2807 02:06:48,360 --> 02:06:50,280 Argh. 2808 02:06:50,280 --> 02:06:57,120 They're made during the war that these big trucks--

2809 02:06:57,120 --> 02:06:59,670 no, they are not trucks.

2810 02:06:59,670 --> 02:07:01,170 Tanks?

2811 02:07:01,170 --> 02:07:02,790 Tanks.

2812 02:07:02,790 --> 02:07:06,180 They couldn't go through these big--

2813 02:07:06,180 --> 02:07:06,930 Ditches?

2814 02:07:06,930 --> 02:07:08,400 --ditches.

2815 02:07:08,400 --> 02:07:13,320 And we made these kind of Faschinen

2816 02:07:13,320 --> 02:07:18,810 as they called it, with little tree trims and limbs

2817 02:07:18,810 --> 02:07:21,240 and with other.

2818 02:07:21,240 --> 02:07:25,320 We had to-- you know, to line these--

2819 02:07:25,320 --> 02:07:31,890 that the tanks could go through this. 2820 02:07:31,890 --> 02:07:33,210 A ditch.

2821 02:07:33,210 --> 02:07:34,140 Through this ditch.

2822 02:07:34,140 --> 02:07:38,010 That was more wishful thinking than we never

2823 02:07:38,010 --> 02:07:42,710 saw and felt that ever--

2824 02:07:42,710 --> 02:07:47,130 we never saw a tank going through these ditches.

2825 02:07:47,130 --> 02:07:49,480 They were quite big.

2826 02:07:49,480 --> 02:07:51,240 So what you're saying is that you

2827 02:07:51,240 --> 02:07:55,620 were creating these sorts of plank type of things that would

2828 02:07:55,620 --> 02:07:58,740 be laid in front of tanks.

2829 02:07:58,740 --> 02:08:04,350 They looked like kind of these walls,

2830 02:08:04,350 --> 02:08:08,340 like something, which was supposed to line

2831 02:08:08,340 --> 02:08:11,910 these ditches that the trunks-- 2832 02:08:11,910 --> 02:08:12,690 The tanks.

2833 02:08:12,690 --> 02:08:16,440 --the tanks could go over.

2834 02:08:16,440 --> 02:08:17,130 I don't know.

2835 02:08:17,130 --> 02:08:17,910 I never saw.

2836 02:08:17,910 --> 02:08:19,440 We never saw any.

2837 02:08:19,440 --> 02:08:24,330 And we were just busy doing something like this.

2838 02:08:24,330 --> 02:08:29,570 Did anybody tell you why you

Did anybody tell you why you were taken to this labor camp?

2839 02:08:29,570 --> 02:08:30,530 No.

2840 02:08:30,530 --> 02:08:32,540 Do you know why you were taken?

2841 02:08:32,540 --> 02:08:39,500 Well, we went there because we were not friends of the Nazis.

2842 02:08:39,500 --> 02:08:42,920 And how was it that you're not friends of the Nazis?

2843 02:08:42,920 --> 02:08:44,990 Because of my Jewish father.

2844 02:08:44,990 --> 02:08:46,410 011.

2845 02:08:46,410 --> 02:08:48,620 So it was because you were half Jewish?

2846 02:08:48,620 --> 02:08:49,730 Yeah.

2847 02:08:49,730 --> 02:08:52,940 You were Mischling first grade.

2848 02:08:52,940 --> 02:08:54,900 Were there different classes of Mischling?

2849 02:08:54,900 --> 02:08:55,670 Definitely.

2850 02:08:55,670 --> 02:08:58,310

2851 02:08:58,310 --> 02:09:00,840 If it is both, you were Jewish.

2852 02:09:00,840 --> 02:09:04,760 If it was just one part, you were first.

2853 02:09:04,760 --> 02:09:08,900 If it was just one part of your grandparents, you were second.

2854 02:09:08,900 --> 02:09:10,670 And this goes on.

2855 02:09:10,670 --> 02:09:12,680 That was the classification.

2856 02:09:12,680 --> 02:09:16,766 And we were, as we said, of course we are first class. 2857 02:09:16,766 --> 02:09:18,080 [LAUGHS]

2858 02:09:18,080 --> 02:09:19,790 OK.

2859 02:09:19,790 --> 02:09:22,910 So nobody tells you why you are taken.

2860 02:09:22,910 --> 02:09:24,270 It is clear to you.

2861 02:09:24,270 --> 02:09:29,060 That was absolutely understood why they were taking us.

2862 02:09:29,060 --> 02:09:29,810 OK.

2863 02:09:29,810 --> 02:09:33,110 Did you meet other people too when

2864 02:09:33,110 --> 02:09:34,970 you were gathered together?

2865 02:09:34,970 --> 02:09:37,370 Well, we had a whole group.

2866 02:09:37,370 --> 02:09:41,810 And you know my sister and her later husband--

2867 02:09:41,810 --> 02:09:43,040 they married.

2868 02:09:43,040 --> 02:09:45,630 And I married.

2869

02:09:45,630 --> 02:09:47,480 That wasn't a good marriage.

2870 02:09:47,480 --> 02:09:53,030 And my first marriage was divorced, because these were--

2871 02:09:53,030 --> 02:09:58,350

2872 02:09:58,350 --> 02:09:59,530 what shall I say?

2873 02:09:59,530 --> 02:10:04,640 You got somebody in normal life, then

2874 02:10:04,640 --> 02:10:10,900 you felt that isn't the right match anymore.

2875 02:10:10,900 --> 02:10:13,560 So if you had been in your normal situation--

2876 02:10:13,560 --> 02:10:14,260 You wouldn't.

2877 02:10:14,260 --> 02:10:14,918 You wouldn't.

2878 02:10:14,918 --> 02:10:15,460 You wouldn't.

2879 02:10:15,460 --> 02:10:16,110 OK.

2880 02:10:16,110 --> 02:10:19,380 So was your husband and your sister's husband also

2881 02:10:19,380 --> 02:10:20,070

Mischlinge?

2882

02:10:20,070 --> 02:10:21,270 Yes.

2883 02:10:21,270 --> 02:10:22,890 The same.

2884

02:10:22,890 --> 02:10:26,160 And you met them there in these labor camps?

2885 02:10:26,160 --> 02:10:34,080 Funny enough, Hans Pils, my sister's later husband,

2886 02:10:34,080 --> 02:10:37,980 he was a very good friend of my first husband

2887 02:10:37,980 --> 02:10:41,064 from the tennis club in Breslau.

2888 02:10:41,064 --> 02:10:43,750 [LAUGHS]

2889

02:10:43,750 --> 02:10:46,360 And your first husband's name was what?

2890 02:10:46,360 --> 02:10:47,650 Frank Weber.

2891 02:10:47,650 --> 02:10:50,440 Frank Weber.

2892 02:10:50,440 --> 02:10:55,270 And he had a Jewish father and a Christian mother.

2893 02:10:55,270 --> 02:10:59,890 And there is a long story about my sister-in-law that

2894

02:10:59,890 --> 02:11:01,420 doesn't belong to my--

2895 02:11:01,420 --> 02:11:05,710 [CHUCKLES] But it is now.

2896

02:11:05,710 --> 02:11:12,520 When the Russians came, the Russians took her.

2897

02:11:12,520 --> 02:11:15,430 And she had a little boy, which she later--

2898

02:11:15,430 --> 02:11:21,760 which she, as a baby, left because the mother said

2899

02:11:21,760 --> 02:11:22,630 leave him.

2900

02:11:22,630 --> 02:11:25,330 And this baby now--

2901

02:11:25,330 --> 02:11:28,750 I am very, very familiar now, and we

2902

02:11:28,750 --> 02:11:35,320 are in close contact with this Moishe in Israel.

2903 02:11:35,320 --> 02:11:37,060

U2:11:35,320 --> 02:11:37,060 His name is Moishe?

2904 02:11:37,060 --> 02:11:39,670 His name was Mikhail.

2905 02:11:39,670 --> 02:11:45,400 But his father, he was Jewish Russian--

2906

02:11:45,400 --> 02:11:47,200 Soldier?

2907

02:11:47,200 --> 02:11:48,160 --officer.

2908

02:11:48,160 --> 02:11:49,465 He called him Moishe.

2909

02:11:49,465 --> 02:11:51,970

2910 02:11:51,970 --> 02:11:55,330 And when I looked for this Moishe,

2911 02:11:55,330 --> 02:11:57,310 I looked at the wrong name, because he

2912 02:11:57,310 --> 02:11:59,540 wasn't Grieback anymore.

2913 02:11:59,540 --> 02:12:02,020 He is now De Baruch.

2914 02:12:02,020 --> 02:12:03,280 What was his first name?

2915 02:12:03,280 --> 02:12:04,510 Grieback?

2916 02:12:04,510 --> 02:12:05,230 Ryback.

2917 02:12:05,230 --> 02:12:06,760 Ryback.

2918 02:12:06,760 --> 02:12:11,080 And Ryback obviously is a very common name in Russia.

2919 02:12:11,080 --> 02:12:11,740 OK.

2920 02:12:11,740 --> 02:12:13,960 And what is his name now?

2921 02:12:13,960 --> 02:12:17,710 Now his name is Moishe de Baruch.

2922 02:12:17,710 --> 02:12:18,640 Debau?

2923 02:12:18,640 --> 02:12:19,630 De Baruch.

2924 02:12:19,630 --> 02:12:20,560 De Baruch.

2925 02:12:20,560 --> 02:12:21,280 OK.

2926 02:12:21,280 --> 02:12:26,440 And he has a travel agency [LAUGHS] in Israel.

2927 02:12:26,440 --> 02:12:32,830 But he was your first husband's sister's child?

2928 02:12:32,830 --> 02:12:38,020 Yes, which she left because the mother said, "Come,

2929 02:12:38,020 --> 02:12:39,850 we leave him."

2930 02:12:39,850 --> 02:12:41,260 Leave him with whom? 2931 02:12:41,260 --> 02:12:43,590 With the father.

2932 02:12:43,590 --> 02:12:46,080 With the Russian father.

2933

02:12:46,080 --> 02:12:54,210 And the Russian father took him via Switzerland to Israel.

2934

02:12:54,210 --> 02:12:59,670 And now, about a little more maybe than a year,

2935

02:12:59,670 --> 02:13:04,700 I got in touch with him through internet.

2936

02:13:04,700 --> 02:13:05,420 OK.

2937 02:13:05,420 --> 02:13:08,268 So this Russian father who was the officer--

2938 02:13:08,268 --> 02:13:08,768 Yeah.

2939 02:13:08,768 --> 02:13:14,120

2940 02:13:14,120 --> 02:13:17,370 When your husband's sister--

2941 02:13:17,370 --> 02:13:19,010 Yeah, my sister-in-law.

2942 02:13:19,010 --> 02:13:23,480 --your sister-in-law left the child, 2943 02:13:23,480 --> 02:13:26,850 was this right at the end of the war that she left the child?

2944 02:13:26,850 --> 02:13:28,340 Yeah, that was after the war.

2945 02:13:28,340 --> 02:13:29,177 Right after the war.

2946 02:13:29,177 --> 02:13:30,260 Yeah, right after the war.

2947 02:13:30,260 --> 02:13:34,370 And then this Russian officer goes to Switzerland

2948 02:13:34,370 --> 02:13:35,150 at that time?

2949 02:13:35,150 --> 02:13:38,480 He deserted the Russian army.

2950 02:13:38,480 --> 02:13:41,240 And that's why we couldn't trace him,

2951 02:13:41,240 --> 02:13:45,830 because he didn't want any trace of his life.

2952 02:13:45,830 --> 02:13:46,670 His name.

2953 02:13:46,670 --> 02:13:48,130 I see.

2954 02:13:48,130 --> 02:13:49,700 That's a story.

2955 02:13:49,700 --> 02:13:51,290

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Yes, it is a story.

2956

02:13:51,290 --> 02:13:52,620 That's another story.

2957

02:13:52,620 --> 02:13:58,890 And about now, a year ago, I met this Moishe.

2958

02:13:58,890 --> 02:14:04,250 And the funniest thing, he looks exactly like my first husband.

2959

02:14:04,250 --> 02:14:04,910 Really?

2960

02:14:04,910 --> 02:14:07,640 Because these two, my sister-in-law

2961

02:14:07,640 --> 02:14:10,100 and my first husband, they looked very much alike.

2962

02:14:10,100 --> 02:14:13,850 And this-- now he is 70--

2963

02:14:13,850 --> 02:14:17,510 he looks exactly-nothing Jewish.

2964

02:14:17,510 --> 02:14:19,430 [LAUGHS]

2965

02:14:19,430 --> 02:14:24,560 So had you known your first husband before you

2966 02:14:24,560 --> 02:14:26,630 got to the labor camp?

2967 02:14:26,630 --> 02:14:27,380

2968 02:14:27,380 --> 02:14:36,850 The only thing-- no, I knew him in camp.

2969 02:14:36,850 --> 02:14:37,450 OK.

2970 02:14:37,450 --> 02:14:38,500 In the camp.

2971 02:14:38,500 --> 02:14:43,630 And then it turned out that through a tennis club

2972

02:14:43,630 --> 02:14:52,210 my sister's later husband, they too knew each other.

2973

02:14:52,210 --> 02:14:56,450 How long were you in the labor camp?

2974

02:14:56,450 --> 02:14:59,190 I think 10 months or something like this.

2975 02:14:59,190 --> 02:15:03,450 So do you remember what year you were taken?

2976 02:15:03,450 --> 02:15:06,680 Do you remember how old you were when you were taken?

2977 02:15:06,680 --> 02:15:09,110 How old was I?

2978 02:15:09,110 --> 02:15:12,860 20, 21, something like-- no.

2979

02:15:12,860 --> 02:15:13,790 I have it in--

2980

02:15:13,790 --> 02:15:14,660 [LAUGHS]

2981

02:15:14,660 --> 02:15:15,160 OK.

2982

02:15:15,160 --> 02:15:17,720

2983

02:15:17,720 --> 02:15:20,240 So it was about 10 months that you were there?

2984

02:15:20,240 --> 02:15:21,130 Yes.

2985

02:15:21,130 --> 02:15:23,700 Yeah, well, then the war ended.

2986

02:15:23,700 --> 02:15:29,300 You know where our camp was, close to the Polish border.

2987

02:15:29,300 --> 02:15:34,880 And when the Russians took over, pushed over the Poland,

2988 02:15:34,880 --> 02:15:38,610 and the Poles came to Silesia.

2989

02:15:38,610 --> 02:15:43,410 That's where our guards then left.

2990 02:15:43,410 --> 02:15:46,410 Did your camp have a name?

2991 02:15:46,410 --> 02:15:48,270 I think it was Gross-Rosen. 2992 02:15:48,270 --> 02:15:49,260 Gross-Rosen?

2993 02:15:49,260 --> 02:15:49,980 Yeah.

2994

02:15:49,980 --> 02:15:51,260 You were in Gross-Rosen?

2995

02:15:51,260 --> 02:15:53,490 Yeah.

2996

02:15:53,490 --> 02:15:58,290 And when the Russians came, our guards left.

2997

02:15:58,290 --> 02:15:58,850 I see.

2998

02:15:58,850 --> 02:16:04,620 And that's when my sister--

2999

02:16:04,620 --> 02:16:09,480 she went to-- because her husband's family

3000

02:16:09,480 --> 02:16:12,060 came from Leipzig.

3001 02:16:12,060 --> 02:16:13,920 And she went to Leipzig.

3002 02:16:13,920 --> 02:16:20,270 And I went to look for my mother and brother.

3003 02:16:20,270 --> 02:16:21,950 When you were at this camp--

3004 02:16:21,950 --> 02:16:25,070 and you say you were there for just about 10 months, so

3005 02:16:25,070 --> 02:16:26,540 not a full year--

3006 02:16:26,540 --> 02:16:29,960 how soon after you got there did you

3007 02:16:29,960 --> 02:16:33,380 pair up with the person who became your first husband?

3008 02:16:33,380 --> 02:16:37,490

3009 02:16:37,490 --> 02:16:42,100 Well, we were all together working with these Faschinen

3010 02:16:42,100 --> 02:16:43,600 or whatever.

3011 02:16:43,600 --> 02:16:49,059 And it turned out that we came both from the same town--

3012 02:16:49,059 --> 02:16:52,959 and Hans, my brother-in-law.

3013 02:16:52,959 --> 02:16:57,670 So people who came from Breslau, they kind of

3014 02:16:57,670 --> 02:16:59,840 tried to get together.

3015 02:16:59,840 --> 02:17:01,120 OK.

3016 02:17:01,120 --> 02:17:03,459 And where did you marry?

3017

02:17:03,459 --> 02:17:06,790 I married in Linz Am Bindermichl.

3018 02:17:06,790 --> 02:17:08,200

Linz Am Bindermichl.

3019

02:17:08,200 --> 02:17:09,460 Is that the one in Austria?

3020

02:17:09,460 --> 02:17:10,209 Austria.

3021

02:17:10,209 --> 02:17:11,360 In Austria.

3022

02:17:11,360 --> 02:17:11,860 OK.

3023

02:17:11,860 --> 02:17:13,660 So this is after liberation?

3024

02:17:13,660 --> 02:17:14,410 Yeah.

3025

02:17:14,410 --> 02:17:15,129 All right.

3026

02:17:15,129 --> 02:17:18,580 So do you leave Frank?

3027

02:17:18,580 --> 02:17:22,540 And when you are liberated, do you go together someplace,

3028 02:17:22,540 --> 02:17:25,750 or do you go separately to look for your mother?

02:17:25,750 --> 02:17:29,270 My sister went to Leipzig.

3030 02:17:29,270 --> 02:17:29,770 Right.

3031 02:17:29,770 --> 02:17:33,610 And I went to look for my mother.

3032

02:17:33,610 --> 02:17:35,680 By yourself?

3033 02:17:35,680 --> 02:17:40,600 No, because at that time I think he wasn't my husband yet.

3034

02:17:40,600 --> 02:17:42,280 He looked for my mother.

3035

02:17:42,280 --> 02:17:43,160 He was with you?

3036

02:17:43,160 --> 02:17:43,660 Yeah.

3037

02:17:43,660 --> 02:17:46,150 He was with you.

3038

02:17:46,150 --> 02:17:49,180 There was something I still regret,

3039

02:17:49,180 --> 02:17:53,709 because I left because he said, "Come,

3040 02:17:53,709 --> 02:17:55,600 we don't want to talk about it."

3041 02:17:55,600 --> 02:17:59,740 And I left my sister actually with her,

3042 02:17:59,740 --> 02:18:03,520 at that time, not husband but friend.

3043 02:18:03,520 --> 02:18:09,180 And this is still something that hurts me,

3044

02:18:09,180 --> 02:18:13,200 because I left her without saying, "Now I go

3045 02:18:13,200 --> 02:18:14,850 to Breslau and look for my"--

3046 02:18:14,850 --> 02:18:17,549

3047 02:18:17,549 --> 02:18:22,210 when she woke up the next morning, I wasn't there.

3048

02:18:22,210 --> 02:18:22,980 And why?

3049

02:18:22,980 --> 02:18:24,330 Oh, why was that?

3050

02:18:24,330 --> 02:18:27,450 Well, because my, at the time, husband said,

3051 02:18:27,450 --> 02:18:31,000 "I don't want to spread this that we disappear."

3052 02:18:31,000 --> 02:18:33,020 Oh.

3053 02:18:33,020 --> 02:18:37,049 So you were still living in that situation?

3054

02:18:37,049 --> 02:18:39,280 Yeah.

3055 02:18:39,280 --> 02:18:42,530 In this camp or--

3056 02:18:42,530 --> 02:18:43,559 This restaurant?

3057 02:18:43,559 --> 02:18:46,450 Yeah, this restaurant on the floor.

3058 02:18:46,450 --> 02:18:48,490 What a weird kind of place.

3059 02:18:48,490 --> 02:18:49,780 It sounds weird.

3060 02:18:49,780 --> 02:18:52,840 [LAUGHS] Yeah, well, they didn't know

3061 02:18:52,840 --> 02:18:56,150 what to do with all these people all of a sudden.

3062 02:18:56,150 --> 02:18:58,450 And we were not paying guests.

3063 02:18:58,450 --> 02:19:00,939 No, you weren't.

3064 02:19:00,939 --> 02:19:02,469 Here's a question though--

3065 02:19:02,469 --> 02:19:07,860 Did your situation in the camp stay the same? 3066 02:19:07,860 --> 02:19:11,059 In other words, did things get worse?

3067 02:19:11,059 --> 02:19:16,930 As the war is being lost, was there any change

3068 02:19:16,930 --> 02:19:19,650 in what they asked you to do or how--

3069 02:19:19,650 --> 02:19:28,030 No, actually we were so included in this with no way outside.

3070 02:19:28,030 --> 02:19:31,430 There was no radio, no anything.

3071 02:19:31,430 --> 02:19:33,250 You were isolated.

3072 02:19:33,250 --> 02:19:34,930 Completely isolated.

3073 02:19:34,930 --> 02:19:37,600 We went in the morning to someplace

3074 02:19:37,600 --> 02:19:41,850 where they told us to cut the little branches of trees

3075 02:19:41,850 --> 02:19:46,719 to knit them or whatever you want to call it.

3076 02:19:46,719 --> 02:19:50,980 And at night--

3077 02:19:50,980 --> 02:19:55,330 Did anybody get sick in the camp?

3078 02:19:55,330 --> 02:19:56,590 We didn't get sick.

3079 02:19:56,590 --> 02:19:59,590 But yes, there were people who went sick because

3080 02:19:59,590 --> 02:20:04,480 of the hygienic situation.

3081 02:20:04,480 --> 02:20:07,580 If you ever knew what a latrine is.

3082 02:20:07,580 --> 02:20:10,360 Well, I take it it's a common bathroom.

3083 02:20:10,360 --> 02:20:12,314 Well, it is a--

3084 02:20:12,314 --> 02:20:12,814 [LAUGHS]

3085 02:20:12,814 --> 02:20:14,005 OK.

3086 02:20:14,005 --> 02:20:17,260 Was there opportunity to have showers?

3087 02:20:17,260 --> 02:20:23,285 No, we had some water running and pots to--

3088 02:20:23,285 --> 02:20:23,785 OK.

3089 02:20:23,785 --> 02:20:27,280

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3090 02:20:27,280 --> 02:20:30,100 But the water was cold.

3091 02:20:30,100 --> 02:20:32,170 Oy.

3092 02:20:32,170 --> 02:20:33,130 Not fun.

3093 02:20:33,130 --> 02:20:35,740 But better than nothing.

3094 02:20:35,740 --> 02:20:37,210 And did you have soap?

3095 02:20:37,210 --> 02:20:40,105

3096 02:20:40,105 --> 02:20:43,330 I really don't know what we used as soap,

3097 02:20:43,330 --> 02:20:48,670 because we got during the war, it was rationed.

3098 02:20:48,670 --> 02:20:51,550 And we had little something.

3099 02:20:51,550 --> 02:20:54,430 This is something I don't know what we did.

3100 02:20:54,430 --> 02:20:55,210 OK.

3101 02:20:55,210 --> 02:20:56,278 And what about food? 02:20:56,278 --> 02:20:57,820 What kind of food did you have there?

3103 02:20:57,820 --> 02:21:01,150 We had in this little town, there

3104 02:21:01,150 --> 02:21:06,400 was a baker who was very, very friendly with us.

3105 02:21:06,400 --> 02:21:11,140 And he told us when he made

fresh breads, come and get

3106 02:21:11,140 --> 02:21:11,680 some.

3107 02:21:11,680 --> 02:21:17,380 And I still remember them warm in the pocket

3108 02:21:17,380 --> 02:21:21,130 from these overalls we had.

3109 02:21:21,130 --> 02:21:25,030 So you were able to have contact with somebody local?

3110 02:21:25,030 --> 02:21:26,720 It wasn't like you were complete--

3111 02:21:26,720 --> 02:21:27,700 Just the baker.

3112 02:21:27,700 --> 02:21:28,660 Just the baker.

3113 02:21:28,660 --> 02:21:30,710 Just the baker. 3114 02:21:30,710 --> 02:21:33,310 But other than that, where my mother

3115 02:21:33,310 --> 02:21:37,210 where, where was the rest of the family, nothing--

3116 02:21:37,210 --> 02:21:43,360 because telecommunication weren't so like it is today.

3117 02:21:43,360 --> 02:21:44,500 No.

3118 02:21:44,500 --> 02:21:47,950 But if you're in a labor camp, and if you're working on these

3119 02:21:47,950 --> 02:21:50,410 things, and if it's involuntary-- that is,

3120 02:21:50,410 --> 02:21:52,990 you didn't ask to go there--

3121 02:21:52,990 --> 02:21:54,380 No, definitely not.

3122 02:21:54,380 --> 02:21:59,575 Yeah, so I am thinking that it's more or less like a prison.

3123 02:21:59,575 --> 02:22:03,190 In a certain way, yes, because we are not free.

3124 02:22:03,190 --> 02:22:08,440 Free we were when, as I said, the Russians came too close,

3125 02:22:08,440 --> 02:22:12,162 and our guards didn't like.

3126

02:22:12,162 --> 02:22:13,870 Of course, they didn't want to meet them.

3127

02:22:13,870 --> 02:22:16,810 They don't want to--

3128

02:22:16,810 --> 02:22:17,410 Right.

3129 02:22:17,410 --> 02:22:20,860 But if you had guards, did they let

3130

02:22:20,860 --> 02:22:24,760 you go and meet common people in the surrounding area?

3131 02:22:24,760 --> 02:22:29,130 Or were you under lock and key?

3132 02:22:29,130 --> 02:22:30,910 Not lock and keys.

3133

02:22:30,910 --> 02:22:33,280 And I would say that we could get

3134 02:22:33,280 --> 02:22:37,660 to this baker walking a few--

3135 02:22:37,660 --> 02:22:40,840 I really don't know how we did it, because they learned it.

3136 02:22:40,840 --> 02:22:45,220 And they said this certain baker he makes us

3137 02:22:45,220 --> 02:22:47,650 some bread, some rolls.

3138 02:22:47,650 --> 02:22:48,400 OK.

3139 02:22:48,400 --> 02:22:50,140 So you were allowed.

3140 02:22:50,140 --> 02:22:51,895 It wasn't that you were inside.

3141 02:22:51,895 --> 02:22:54,520 We when not-- no.

3142 02:22:54,520 --> 02:22:57,298

3143 02:22:57,298 --> 02:22:59,410 We could go to the bakery.

3144 02:22:59,410 --> 02:23:02,020 Yeah, which a prisoner generally couldn't.

3145 02:23:02,020 --> 02:23:04,120 And frankly, we didn't have money.

3146 02:23:04,120 --> 02:23:07,000 He must have made money.

3147 02:23:07,000 --> 02:23:10,860 And I still remember these warm little breads,

3148 02:23:10,860 --> 02:23:11,770 these little rolls.

3149 02:23:11,770 --> 02:23:13,180 Yeah, in your pockets. 02:23:13,180 --> 02:23:14,830 Semmeln as we called them.

3151 02:23:14,830 --> 02:23:16,810 Yeah.

3152 02:23:16,810 --> 02:23:19,810 It makes a huge difference when you are hungry.

3153 02:23:19,810 --> 02:23:24,160 [LAUGHS] And you didn't care that nothing else was on it.

3154 02:23:24,160 --> 02:23:25,495 It was nice, warm.

3155 02:23:25,495 --> 02:23:28,150

3156 02:23:28,150 --> 02:23:32,050 What kind of food did they feed you within the camp itself?

3157 02:23:32,050 --> 02:23:34,090 This was some kind of soup.

3158 02:23:34,090 --> 02:23:35,440 We had some container.

3159 02:23:35,440 --> 02:23:39,310

3160 02:23:39,310 --> 02:23:41,830 It must have been a kitchen with big pots.

3161 02:23:41,830 --> 02:23:43,510 And we got--

3162 02:23:43,510 --> 02:23:46,955 And did you have a uniform you had to wear?

3163 02:23:46,955 --> 02:23:48,080 No.

3164 02:23:48,080 --> 02:23:52,250 The only thing we got were these wooden shoes.

3165 02:23:52,250 --> 02:23:58,280 And in wintertime, the snow got stuck on this,

3166 02:23:58,280 --> 02:24:00,500 because if you go with--

3167 02:24:00,500 --> 02:24:01,130 Wooden shoes.

3168 02:24:01,130 --> 02:24:03,260 --with these wooden shoes, I remember

3169 02:24:03,260 --> 02:24:08,710 that we little axe um these branches zu hacken.

3170 02:24:08,710 --> 02:24:11,330 We went like this to--

3171 02:24:11,330 --> 02:24:12,080 To knock the snow.

3172 02:24:12,080 --> 02:24:14,030 --to knock the snow off.

3173 02:24:14,030 --> 02:24:16,700

3174 02:24:16,700 --> 02:24:19,560 And did anybody die while you were in the camp? 3175 02:24:19,560 --> 02:24:20,270 No.

3176 02:24:20,270 --> 02:24:20,930 No.

3177 02:24:20,930 --> 02:24:23,900 We had one who was a little something.

3178 02:24:23,900 --> 02:24:29,700 He ate, I think, some mushrooms, and he died.

3179 02:24:29,700 --> 02:24:31,715 But that was his fault.

3180 02:24:31,715 --> 02:24:32,840 It was his food poisoning--

3181 02:24:32,840 --> 02:24:33,340 Yeah.

3182 02:24:33,340 --> 02:24:34,970 --of some kind.

3183 02:24:34,970 --> 02:24:37,100 And do you remember what it was like when

3184 02:24:37,100 --> 02:24:40,800 the Russians came to liberate?

3185 02:24:40,800 --> 02:24:44,820 No, because we left before they came.

3186 02:24:44,820 --> 02:24:50,700 Because the guards left, and this opened the gates 3187 02:24:50,700 --> 02:24:52,670 before the Russians came in.

3188 02:24:52,670 --> 02:24:53,520 OK.

3189 02:24:53,520 --> 02:24:55,500 When you say you left then, was that

3190 02:24:55,500 --> 02:24:57,420 when you went to look for your mother,

3191 02:24:57,420 --> 02:24:59,850 or do you live together with your sister?

3192 02:24:59,850 --> 02:25:02,360

3193 02:25:02,360 --> 02:25:06,630 This is something a little dark what I feel,

3194 02:25:06,630 --> 02:25:12,720 because I left with my, at that time, not husband or friend.

3195 02:25:12,720 --> 02:25:20,550 And my sister went with her, at that time, not husband yet

3196 02:25:20,550 --> 02:25:21,840 to another family.

3197 02:25:21,840 --> 02:25:24,270 So we kind of split.

3198 02:25:24,270 --> 02:25:27,420 And it took a while before we-- 3199 02:25:27,420 --> 02:25:30,540 I don't know how we got together again,

3200 02:25:30,540 --> 02:25:36,510 because her part was in the Russian part of Germany.

3201 02:25:36,510 --> 02:25:38,190 And I went to--

3202 02:25:38,190 --> 02:25:40,680 I was in the American.

3203 02:25:40,680 --> 02:25:46,870 So when you went to Breslau, did you go back to Paradiesstrasse?

3204 02:25:46,870 --> 02:25:49,140 No.

3205 02:25:49,140 --> 02:25:55,750 How I got from Breslau, which I went and realized

3206 02:25:55,750 --> 02:26:00,120 the house wasn't there anymore, through something

3207 02:26:00,120 --> 02:26:01,650 I really don't know.

3208 02:26:01,650 --> 02:26:06,990 My, at that time, mother-in-law and my sister-in-law,

3209 02:26:06,990 --> 02:26:10,000 they lived in a little town.

3210 02:26:10,000 --> 02:26:12,510 I don't remember the name. 3211 02:26:12,510 --> 02:26:15,660 They had Russian occupation.

3212 02:26:15,660 --> 02:26:21,570 And this Russian soldier, who made friends with her,

3213 02:26:21,570 --> 02:26:24,660 they married some kind of-- and this is

3214 02:26:24,660 --> 02:26:27,600 the Moishe I'm now in contact.

3215 02:26:27,600 --> 02:26:30,360

3216 02:26:30,360 --> 02:26:34,080 He looked for us in Breslau.

3217 02:26:34,080 --> 02:26:38,220 And at that time, you marked your house

3218 02:26:38,220 --> 02:26:41,100 you are moving at this direction or you

3219 02:26:41,100 --> 02:26:48,480 can people with his name, you can get information about that.

3220 02:26:48,480 --> 02:26:52,770 That was the only way you could find information,

3221 02:26:52,770 --> 02:26:54,660 because nothing else worked.

3222 02:26:54,660 --> 02:26:56,830 Well, let me understand this properly. 3223 02:26:56,830 --> 02:27:00,090 You would go to somebody's house or your own house.

3224 02:27:00,090 --> 02:27:03,870 And you would say, I am looking for so-and-so.

3225 02:27:03,870 --> 02:27:06,210 You said I'm this and this.

3226 02:27:06,210 --> 02:27:09,630 You can find me under this and this.

3227 02:27:09,630 --> 02:27:11,160 On the old place, wherever--

3228 02:27:11,160 --> 02:27:15,000 Wherever you-- because telephone didn't work either.

3229 02:27:15,000 --> 02:27:18,660 That was the name of something.

3230 02:27:18,660 --> 02:27:21,670 So your house in Paradiesstrasse is bombed?

3231 02:27:21,670 --> 02:27:25,710 That didn't-- but the house of my, at that time--

3232 02:27:25,710 --> 02:27:27,330 Boyfriend.

3233 02:27:27,330 --> 02:27:30,240 --boyfriend, that stood still.

3234 02:27:30,240 --> 02:27:33,360 And this had the marks-- 3235 02:27:33,360 --> 02:27:34,650 From the Russian officer.

3236 02:27:34,650 --> 02:27:38,370 --from where the Russian officer found us.

3237 02:27:38,370 --> 02:27:39,480 I see.

3238 02:27:39,480 --> 02:27:42,500 In the house where he had lived.

3239 02:27:42,500 --> 02:27:46,230 Yeah, we went to that house.

3240 02:27:46,230 --> 02:27:49,140 It was damaged, but it stood.

3241 02:27:49,140 --> 02:27:51,480 And we could be there.

3242 02:27:51,480 --> 02:27:56,820 And we had outside here this [GERMAN]..

3243 02:27:56,820 --> 02:27:57,870 And he found you there?

3244 02:27:57,870 --> 02:27:59,850 And he found us there.

3245 02:27:59,850 --> 02:28:00,900 I see.

3246 02:28:00,900 --> 02:28:05,070 And when your mother-in-law, even though she wasn't

3247 02:28:05,070 --> 02:28:07,770 your mother-in-law yet, when your sister-in-law had

3248 02:28:07,770 --> 02:28:13,820 the baby, and your mother says leave him, where was she going?

3249 02:28:13,820 --> 02:28:15,070 Where was the mother and the--

3250 02:28:15,070 --> 02:28:17,040 She went with friends.

3251 02:28:17,040 --> 02:28:21,150 And this was in Munich, where she had her baby.

3252 02:28:21,150 --> 02:28:25,570 And her child was six--

3253 02:28:25,570 --> 02:28:26,670 wait a minute.

3254 02:28:26,670 --> 02:28:28,950 My Frank was born in November.

3255 02:28:28,950 --> 02:28:34,100 And this Moishe was born in July the next year.

3256 02:28:34,100 --> 02:28:36,480 Is a month older.

3257 02:28:36,480 --> 02:28:38,880 So did you have a son named Frank?

3258 02:28:38,880 --> 02:28:39,720 Yeah.

3259 02:28:39,720 --> 02:28:40,440 I see. 3260 02:28:40,440 --> 02:28:40,940 OK.

3261 02:28:40,940 --> 02:28:41,935 That was my oldest son.

3262 02:28:41,935 --> 02:28:42,435 OK.

3263 02:28:42,435 --> 02:28:45,660

3264 02:28:45,660 --> 02:28:48,070 All right, so I'm jumping ahead of the story.

3265 02:28:48,070 --> 02:28:50,430 So let's go back to the Russian officer.

3266 02:28:50,430 --> 02:28:51,690 He finds you.

3267 02:28:51,690 --> 02:28:53,670 And then what happens?

3268 02:28:53,670 --> 02:28:55,800 You're all still around in Breslau.

3269 02:28:55,800 --> 02:29:02,790 He brought me to where they lived.

3270 02:29:02,790 --> 02:29:11,130 And he had facilities because of my sister-in-law.

3271 02:29:11,130 --> 02:29:17,640 He deserted the army because that was the only way. 3272 02:29:17,640 --> 02:29:19,530 And we went--

3273 02:29:19,530 --> 02:29:21,750 That's quite a big risk for him.

3274 02:29:21,750 --> 02:29:23,110 Well, wait a minute.

3275 02:29:23,110 --> 02:29:25,920

3276 02:29:25,920 --> 02:29:28,320 He was still a Russian officer.

3277 02:29:28,320 --> 02:29:33,720 When we went from that German little town

3278 02:29:33,720 --> 02:29:37,080 through Czechoslovakia, he always

3279 02:29:37,080 --> 02:29:40,350 had to go the Russian occupation.

3280 02:29:40,350 --> 02:29:43,920 And this brought us through Czechoslovakia,

3281 02:29:43,920 --> 02:29:46,110 through Austria.

3282 02:29:46,110 --> 02:29:51,090 And Austria and Linz had one part Russian.

3283 02:29:51,090 --> 02:29:52,500 And over the bridge-- 3284 02:29:52,500 --> 02:29:54,000 I have the bridge.

3285 02:29:54,000 --> 02:29:58,970 I just sent him the photo of that bridge.

3286 02:29:58,970 --> 02:30:03,030 The other, was Linz, that was American.

3287 02:30:03,030 --> 02:30:04,020 Interesting.

3288 02:30:04,020 --> 02:30:11,340 And this way, I still remember, to be with his wife,

3289 02:30:11,340 --> 02:30:12,210 that didn't--

3290 02:30:12,210 --> 02:30:14,100 was too long.

3291 02:30:14,100 --> 02:30:19,190 When he deserted, we gave him my, at that time, husband's,

3292 02:30:19,190 --> 02:30:24,690 or friend's, suit because he went as a private person--

3293 02:30:24,690 --> 02:30:25,440 Across the bridge?

3294 02:30:25,440 --> 02:30:26,790 --over that bridge.

3295 02:30:26,790 --> 02:30:28,510 He deserted.

3296

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02:30:28,510 --> 02:30:34,360 And [LAUGHS] that's the story.

3297 02:30:34,360 --> 02:30:35,550 Did you see that?

3298 02:30:35,550 --> 02:30:37,180 Were you with him when that happened?

3299

02:30:37,180 --> 02:30:39,990 Yeah, we were all together there.

3300 02:30:39,990 --> 02:30:41,730 Oh, how interesting.

3301 02:30:41,730 --> 02:30:42,810 How interesting.

3302 02:30:42,810 --> 02:30:48,840 And is this interesting now for my sister-in-law's baby

3303 02:30:48,840 --> 02:30:51,630 she left with that man.

3304 02:30:51,630 --> 02:30:53,490 Was your sister-in-law with him when

3305 02:30:53,490 --> 02:30:56,190 he crossed over the bridge?

3306 02:30:56,190 --> 02:30:59,650 No, they stayed.

3307 02:30:59,650 --> 02:31:02,920 They stayed in that little town.

3308 02:31:02,920 --> 02:31:04,690 I really don't know where. 3309 02:31:04,690 --> 02:31:07,690 The little town near Breslau?

3310 02:31:07,690 --> 02:31:09,550 It wasn't too close to Breslau.

3311 02:31:09,550 --> 02:31:12,010 OK, but it's still back there?

3312 02:31:12,010 --> 02:31:14,800 Yeah, it was.

3313 02:31:14,800 --> 02:31:17,740 And so she did not travel with you?

3314 02:31:17,740 --> 02:31:19,060 She did not travel.

3315 02:31:19,060 --> 02:31:25,375 The only thing I remember that we traveled with was Grischa.

3316 02:31:25,375 --> 02:31:27,470 He later changed his name.

3317 02:31:27,470 --> 02:31:27,970 OK.

3318 02:31:27,970 --> 02:31:30,610 But his name was Grischa?

3319 02:31:30,610 --> 02:31:31,960 It was Grischa.

3320 02:31:31,960 --> 02:31:37,720 Now his son said he had another name, Baruch or whatever,

3321 02:31:37,720 --> 02:31:40,480 because he had to break--

3322

02:31:40,480 --> 02:31:42,000 He to cover his tracks.

3323

02:31:42,000 --> 02:31:42,790 Yeah.

3324

02:31:42,790 --> 02:31:43,810 OK.

3325

02:31:43,810 --> 02:31:45,880 Well, yes, that's quite a story.

3326

02:31:45,880 --> 02:31:47,870 It is a story in itself.

3327

02:31:47,870 --> 02:31:49,510 We went through all this.

3328

02:31:49,510 --> 02:31:51,670 And Grischa, as a Russian officer,

3329

02:31:51,670 --> 02:31:56,440 he had the whole arm for wristwatches.

3330

02:31:56,440 --> 02:32:01,720 And wherever they asked silly questions, as he said,

3331 02:32:01,720 --> 02:32:02,920 he, "What?

3332 02:32:02,920 --> 02:32:04,900 Which watch you like?"

3333 02:32:04,900 --> 02:32:10,060 [LAUGHS] And whatever they decided, that was free.

3334 02:32:10,060 --> 02:32:12,580

3335 02:32:12,580 --> 02:32:13,970 He knew the system.

3336 02:32:13,970 --> 02:32:14,470 [LAUGHS]

3337 02:32:14,470 --> 02:32:16,250 He knew the system.

3338 02:32:16,250 --> 02:32:17,890 Definitely.

3339 02:32:17,890 --> 02:32:19,060 My goodness.

3340 02:32:19,060 --> 02:32:21,430 My goodness.

3341 02:32:21,430 --> 02:32:23,560 That was black market at that time.

3342 02:32:23,560 --> 02:32:24,610 Yeah.

3343 02:32:24,610 --> 02:32:26,320 And it worked.

3344 02:32:26,320 --> 02:32:27,460 Perfect.

3345 02:32:27,460 --> 02:32:31,435 So it was you, Frank, and Grischa who were traveling.

3346 02:32:31,435 --> 02:32:33,700 Now, Frank-- wait a minute. 3347 02:32:33,700 --> 02:32:35,350 Frank wasn't born at this time.

3348 02:32:35,350 --> 02:32:38,540 No, I'm sorry, I thought your husband's name was Frank.

3349

02:32:38,540 --> 02:32:44,460 No, my husband's name was Fred, Fredegar.

3350

02:32:44,460 --> 02:32:45,420 Fred Weber.

3351

02:32:45,420 --> 02:32:46,120 Fred Weber.

3352 02:32:46,120 --> 02:32:46,620 OK.

3353 02:32:46,620 --> 02:32:47,700 So Fred Weber.

3354 02:32:47,700 --> 02:32:52,050 So it was you, Fred, and Grischa.

3355 02:32:52,050 --> 02:32:54,090 The three of you were traveling?

3356 02:32:54,090 --> 02:32:57,210 With the Russian--

3357 02:32:57,210 --> 02:32:58,990 Forces, whatever they were.

3358 02:32:58,990 --> 02:33:04,710 Yeah, because these were kind of Jeeps, but bigger Jeeps.

3359 02:33:04,710 --> 02:33:08,580 And I remember we were always in the back,

3360 02:33:08,580 --> 02:33:11,790 and they were covered.

3361 02:33:11,790 --> 02:33:16,140 They never saw us, or we didn't see any--

3362 02:33:16,140 --> 02:33:20,610 because that was a Russian vehicle,

3363 02:33:20,610 --> 02:33:26,740 they didn't want some not Russian sitting in there.

3364 02:33:26,740 --> 02:33:29,340 So it sounds like Grischa organized

3365 02:33:29,340 --> 02:33:32,250 that you would be traveling this way

3366 02:33:32,250 --> 02:33:35,630 and bribing somebody on Russian military transport.

3367 02:33:35,630 --> 02:33:36,960 Yeah.

3368 02:33:36,960 --> 02:33:41,100 But those other soldiers and other military personnel

3369 02:33:41,100 --> 02:33:43,590 didn't know you were there.

3370 02:33:43,590 --> 02:33:46,800 Or they pretended not to know you were there, because he 3371 02:33:46,800 --> 02:33:47,780 had a lot of watches.

3372 02:33:47,780 --> 02:33:48,090 Most likely they got--

3373 02:33:48,090 --> 02:33:48,590 The watches.

3374 02:33:48,590 --> 02:33:49,530 [LAUGHS]

3375 02:33:49,530 --> 02:33:50,610 They got the watches.

3376 02:33:50,610 --> 02:33:51,690 Got it.

3377 02:33:51,690 --> 02:33:53,790 How interesting.

3378 02:33:53,790 --> 02:33:58,380 The nice way, I still see, how Grischa lifted his--

3379 02:33:58,380 --> 02:33:59,320 "Which one?"

3380 02:33:59,320 --> 02:34:02,080 [LAUGHTER]

3381 02:34:02,080 --> 02:34:03,000

3382 02:34:03,000 --> 02:34:06,930 And then in Linz, Linz seems to be an important place

3383 02:34:06,930 --> 02:34:08,610 for a lot of reasons for you. 3384 02:34:08,610 --> 02:34:12,130 Yeah, Frank was born in Linz.

3385 02:34:12,130 --> 02:34:14,610 I thought you said he was born in Munich.

3386 02:34:14,610 --> 02:34:15,390 No.

3387 02:34:15,390 --> 02:34:16,170 Born in Linz.

3388 02:34:16,170 --> 02:34:18,900

3389 02:34:18,900 --> 02:34:21,310 Moishe was born in Munich.

3390 02:34:21,310 --> 02:34:22,980 Frank was born in Linz.

3391 02:34:22,980 --> 02:34:25,095 So you were pregnant when you were traveling.

3392 02:34:25,095 --> 02:34:25,800 Yes.

3393 02:34:25,800 --> 02:34:27,373 Oh, that was no fun.

3394 02:34:27,373 --> 02:34:27,873 No.

3395 02:34:27,873 --> 02:34:29,730 [LAUGHTER]

3396 02:34:29,730 --> 02:34:30,660 Jeepers. 3397 02:34:30,660 --> 02:34:32,850 And did you get married in Linz?

3398 02:34:32,850 --> 02:34:33,660 Yes.

3399 02:34:33,660 --> 02:34:34,590 OK.

3400

02:34:34,590 --> 02:34:36,810 On the Russian side or the American side?

3401

02:34:36,810 --> 02:34:39,000 On the American side.

3402

02:34:39,000 --> 02:34:39,510 OK.

3403

02:34:39,510 --> 02:34:43,410 So when you cross the bridge, how did you cross?

3404

02:34:43,410 --> 02:34:45,000 You know, this is something.

3405

02:34:45,000 --> 02:34:49,350 That bridge, they must have had somebody in the middle,

3406

02:34:49,350 --> 02:34:54,000 because that bridge was half Russian and half American.

3407

02:34:54,000 --> 02:34:57,660 I really don't remember how we-- because we

3408

02:34:57,660 --> 02:35:02,640 came from the Russian part and went over this bridge 3409 02:35:02,640 --> 02:35:05,970 to the American side.

3410 02:35:05,970 --> 02:35:11,820 And I'm pretty sure in the middle must have sat somebody.

3411 02:35:11,820 --> 02:35:13,270 But you don't remember?

3412 02:35:13,270 --> 02:35:15,780 This I don't remember.

3413 02:35:15,780 --> 02:35:21,120 I just remember that Grischa, he was a little heavier

3414 02:35:21,120 --> 02:35:22,200 than my husband.

3415 02:35:22,200 --> 02:35:27,060 And the suit we lent him, that was everything.

3416 02:35:27,060 --> 02:35:29,250 He burst out of all seams.

3417 02:35:29,250 --> 02:35:32,160 [LAUGHS]

3418 02:35:32,160 --> 02:35:33,600 Oh, my goodness.

3419 02:35:33,600 --> 02:35:35,130 Oh, my goodness.

3420 02:35:35,130 --> 02:35:37,695 What happened to your husband's Jewish father?

3421

3422

02:35:41,090 --> 02:35:44,090 He died.

3423 02:35:44,090 --> 02:35:47,140 I never knew him.

3424 02:35:47,140 --> 02:35:48,070 I never knew him.

3425 02:35:48,070 --> 02:35:51,890 But I don't think he was killed by the Nazis.

3426 02:35:51,890 --> 02:35:53,740 He died--

3427 02:35:53,740 --> 02:35:54,790 A natural death?

3428 02:35:54,790 --> 02:35:55,980 Natural death.

3429 02:35:55,980 --> 02:35:58,250 OK.

3430 02:35:58,250 --> 02:36:00,700 And were there any other brothers and sisters

3431 02:36:00,700 --> 02:36:04,030 beyond the sister who--

3432 02:36:04,030 --> 02:36:05,275 He had an older sister.

3433 02:36:05,275 --> 02:36:09,220 02:36:09,220 --> 02:36:10,540 She was never married.

3435 02:36:10,540 --> 02:36:12,430 She lived with somebody.

3436 02:36:12,430 --> 02:36:17,920 We never knew was it the father figure or--

3437 02:36:17,920 --> 02:36:20,620 You didn't know.

3438 02:36:20,620 --> 02:36:23,552 These were times where you didn't ask.

3439 02:36:23,552 --> 02:36:26,320 [LAUGHS]

3440 02:36:26,320 --> 02:36:30,820 So when you're crossing the bridge, you're still pregnant.

3441 02:36:30,820 --> 02:36:35,620 Yes, because Frank was born in Linz.

3442 02:36:35,620 --> 02:36:36,790 In the American side?

3443 02:36:36,790 --> 02:36:38,050 In the American side.

3444 02:36:38,050 --> 02:36:40,000 And you know something?

3445 02:36:40,000 --> 02:36:43,000 That was the insane asylum.

3446 02:36:43,000 --> 02:36:44,050 No. 3447 02:36:44,050 --> 02:36:46,620 They took over.

3448 02:36:46,620 --> 02:36:54,850 The actual hospital was taken by the Americans.

3449 02:36:54,850 --> 02:37:01,150 And this facility like a hospital facility

3450 02:37:01,150 --> 02:37:05,630 for the rest of it was actually an insane asylum.

3451 02:37:05,630 --> 02:37:06,820 And it's so funny.

3452 02:37:06,820 --> 02:37:09,820

3453 02:37:09,820 --> 02:37:13,610 When Tito said Frank was born in the insane asylum,

3454 02:37:13,610 --> 02:37:16,930 I said you don't talk, because you were

3455 02:37:16,930 --> 02:37:18,730 born in the sugar factory--

3456 02:37:18,730 --> 02:37:21,310 [LAUGHTER]

3457 02:37:21,310 --> 02:37:22,450 --in Venezuela.

3458 02:37:22,450 --> 02:37:27,550 And that hospital or that doctor he was born 3459 02:37:27,550 --> 02:37:30,602 belonged to the sugar factory in Venezuela.

3460 02:37:30,602 --> 02:37:32,350 [LAUGHS]

3461 02:37:32,350 --> 02:37:35,330 But neither of them were born in a usual place.

3462 02:37:35,330 --> 02:37:35,830 No.

3463 02:37:35,830 --> 02:37:37,990 [LAUGHTER]

3464 02:37:37,990 --> 02:37:39,290 How Interesting.

3465 02:37:39,290 --> 02:37:40,180 How interesting.

3466 02:37:40,180 --> 02:37:46,070 But we always laugh because one you may be--

3467 02:37:46,070 --> 02:37:49,750 and then it's like, I always said, are you sure

3468 02:37:49,750 --> 02:37:51,410 you are not the sweet one?

3469 02:37:51,410 --> 02:37:54,350 [LAUGHS]

3470 02:37:54,350 --> 02:37:55,870

3471

02:37:55,870 --> 02:38:00,190 So Linz has these important moments.

3472 02:38:00,190 --> 02:38:02,620 It has a birth and a marriage.

3473 02:38:02,620 --> 02:38:05,290 Did you stay in Linz?

3474 02:38:05,290 --> 02:38:13,210 Not too long, because from Linz we went to Munich.

3475 02:38:13,210 --> 02:38:13,810 OK.

3476 02:38:13,810 --> 02:38:16,900 And in Munich, did you find-where did you find your mother?

3477 02:38:16,900 --> 02:38:19,450

3478 02:38:19,450 --> 02:38:20,830 Because in Munich--

3479 02:38:20,830 --> 02:38:26,020 I don't know when I learned that my mother was close to Munich,

3480 02:38:26,020 --> 02:38:28,450 in Vilsbiburg.

3481 02:38:28,450 --> 02:38:29,400 Vilsbiburg?

3482 02:38:29,400 --> 02:38:33,520 Yeah, this town, which my great aunt in Chicago

3483 02:38:33,520 --> 02:38:35,650 pronounced so funny, well, we thought

3484

02:38:35,650 --> 02:38:40,360 it was Holland more than anything else.

3485

02:38:40,360 --> 02:38:43,060 And yeah, I met her.

3486

02:38:43,060 --> 02:38:45,220 She stayed with her brother.

3487

02:38:45,220 --> 02:38:50,710 And did she tell you of what had happened with her?

3488

02:38:50,710 --> 02:38:52,540 Well, she lost everything.

3489

02:38:52,540 --> 02:38:59,710 And her brother, who lived a little outside of Breslau,

3490

02:38:59,710 --> 02:39:03,190 said come with us because she was all by herself.

3491

02:39:03,190 --> 02:39:10,960 And he had a big family and still lived in a decent house.

3492

02:39:10,960 --> 02:39:12,460 OK.

3493 02:39:12,460 --> 02:39:13,570 Outside Munich?

3494 02:39:13,570 --> 02:39:14,630 Outside Munich.

3495 02:39:14,630 --> 02:39:15,130

This is a verbatim transcript of spoken word generated with 3Play Media. It is not the primary source, and it may contain errors in spelling or accuracy. 011.

3496 02:39:15,130 --> 02:39:17,800 Would have this been from his wife's side?

3497 02:39:17,800 --> 02:39:18,880 Pardon me?

3498 02:39:18,880 --> 02:39:21,770 Her brother, you said had a big family.

3499 02:39:21,770 --> 02:39:22,270 Yeah.

3500 02:39:22,270 --> 02:39:25,780 Would this have been from his wife's side?

3501 02:39:25,780 --> 02:39:28,300 Because if it was his big family,

3502 02:39:28,300 --> 02:39:32,130 it would have been her big family too.

3503 02:39:32,130 --> 02:39:33,430 Well, it was her--

3504 02:39:33,430 --> 02:39:37,410

3505 02:39:37,410 --> 02:39:41,648 Uncle Walter-- no, it was my mother's family.

3506 02:39:41,648 --> 02:39:42,815 It was your mother's family?

3507 02:39:42,815 --> 02:39:44,610

> This is a verbatim transcript of spoken word generated with 3Play Media. It is not the primary source, and it may contain errors in spelling or accuracy.

Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection

Yeah, my mother's brother.

3508 02:39:44,610 --> 02:39:45,410 OK.

3509 02:39:45,410 --> 02:39:47,120 Your mother's brother.

3510 02:39:47,120 --> 02:39:49,050 And he had a big family near Munich.

3511 02:39:49,050 --> 02:39:49,550 Yeah.

3512 02:39:49,550 --> 02:39:53,470 Did that mean your mother had a big family near Munich,

3513 02:39:53,470 --> 02:39:55,160 because they were brother and sister?

3514 02:39:55,160 --> 02:39:55,660 No.

3515 02:39:55,660 --> 02:39:57,320 My mother, no.

3516 02:39:57,320 --> 02:40:00,550 My mother had--

3517 02:40:00,550 --> 02:40:01,210 OK.

3518 02:40:01,210 --> 02:40:02,650 I think I'm not being clear.

3519 02:40:02,650 --> 02:40:05,170 02:40:05,170 --> 02:40:09,040 I got the impression that when your brother says

3521

02:40:09,040 --> 02:40:11,080 to your mother "come with me"--

3522

02:40:11,080 --> 02:40:11,890 Yeah.

3523

02:40:11,890 --> 02:40:13,150 We were in camp, we two.

3524

02:40:13,150 --> 02:40:13,690 I know.

3525

02:40:13,690 --> 02:40:14,650 I know.

3526

02:40:14,650 --> 02:40:18,760 But you're saying he, your uncle,

3527

02:40:18,760 --> 02:40:20,960 had a big family near Munich.

3528

02:40:20,960 --> 02:40:21,700 Yeah.

3529

02:40:21,700 --> 02:40:24,790 But because your mother is his sister,

3530

02:40:24,790 --> 02:40:27,820 wouldn't that also be her family in Munich?

3531 02:40:27,820 --> 02:40:30,380 Yeah, well, it was her family.

3532 02:40:30,380 --> 02:40:31,600 OK. 3533 02:40:31,600 --> 02:40:33,760 That's all I wanted to establish.

3534 02:40:33,760 --> 02:40:35,150 It was her family.

3535 02:40:35,150 --> 02:40:36,070 It was her family.

3536 02:40:36,070 --> 02:40:40,960 My father's family, we had no contact whatsoever.

3537 02:40:40,960 --> 02:40:46,770 It was the only thing then the grand aunt in Chicago--

3538 02:40:46,770 --> 02:40:47,800 That's right.

3539 02:40:47,800 --> 02:40:50,900 --through the Red Cross.

3540 02:40:50,900 --> 02:40:51,970 Who found you then?

3541 02:40:51,970 --> 02:40:52,690 Yes.

3542 02:40:52,690 --> 02:40:55,330 And through the Red Cross.

3543 02:40:55,330 --> 02:41:00,940 And this was really something that was remarkable.

3544 02:41:00,940 --> 02:41:06,070 If you think, where we were, I never saw her. 3545 02:41:06,070 --> 02:41:09,280 I just knew that she existed.

3546 02:41:09,280 --> 02:41:10,780 But I never met her.

3547 02:41:10,780 --> 02:41:12,440 We never met her.

3548 02:41:12,440 --> 02:41:16,750 And all through the Red Cross she employed.

3549 02:41:16,750 --> 02:41:20,710 And did she send you packages?

3550 02:41:20,710 --> 02:41:23,140 Yes, she sent us.

3551 02:41:23,140 --> 02:41:27,010 When we came to New York, that was the first time where

3552 02:41:27,010 --> 02:41:30,410 we got her little packages.

3553 02:41:30,410 --> 02:41:36,040 So what was her purpose in finding you in Germany?

3554 02:41:36,040 --> 02:41:37,600 What did she want to do?

3555 02:41:37,600 --> 02:41:40,900 Well, because she knew her--

3556 02:41:40,900 --> 02:41:43,240 it was her great--

3557 02:41:43,240 --> 02:41:43,960 wait a minute. 3558 02:41:43,960 --> 02:41:45,370 What was it?

3559 02:41:45,370 --> 02:41:46,600 Her nephew.

3560 02:41:46,600 --> 02:41:47,510 Your father?

3561 02:41:47,510 --> 02:41:48,040 My father.

3562 02:41:48,040 --> 02:41:51,640

3563 02:41:51,640 --> 02:41:55,330 She knew that he didn't exist anymore

3564 02:41:55,330 --> 02:41:58,960 and that we needed help.

3565 02:41:58,960 --> 02:42:04,360 And my mother came very late to the States.

3566 02:42:04,360 --> 02:42:10,210 Did this particular aunt sponsor you into the United States?

3567 02:42:10,210 --> 02:42:10,990 No.

3568 02:42:10,990 --> 02:42:15,000 We came through the--

3569 02:42:15,000 --> 02:42:16,210 what was it?

3570 02:42:16,210 --> 02:42:19,780 There were three-- the highest was Jewish,

3571

02:42:19,780 --> 02:42:24,450 the Caritas were Catholic, and we were--

3572

02:42:24,450 --> 02:42:25,350 what was our?

3573 02:42:25,350 --> 02:42:30,750

3574 02:42:30,750 --> 02:42:32,220 It has another name.

3575 02:42:32,220 --> 02:42:32,970 Was it a Lutheran?

3576 02:42:32,970 --> 02:42:36,840 There were three organizations that came.

3577 02:42:36,840 --> 02:42:39,370 As I said, the highest was Jewish.

3578 02:42:39,370 --> 02:42:42,300 The Caritas was Catholic.

3579 02:42:42,300 --> 02:42:45,420 And ours-- how was ours called?

3580 02:42:45,420 --> 02:42:46,770 But was it Protestant?

3581 02:42:46,770 --> 02:42:48,030 Protestant, yes.

3582 02:42:48,030 --> 02:42:49,200 And Lutheran? 3583 02:42:49,200 --> 02:42:49,710 Yes.

3584 02:42:49,710 --> 02:42:52,290 OK.

3585 02:42:52,290 --> 02:42:55,835 And so it was a religious organization that sponsors you.

3586 02:42:55,835 --> 02:42:56,335 Yes.

3587 02:42:56,335 --> 02:43:01,140

3588 02:43:01,140 --> 02:43:03,840 Because I had family in New York,

3589 02:43:03,840 --> 02:43:06,090 we could stay in New York.

3590 02:43:06,090 --> 02:43:08,970 But not with the family?

3591 02:43:08,970 --> 02:43:12,300 My family, that was the great aunt.

3592 02:43:12,300 --> 02:43:17,970 And even though they had a big house, we couldn't be there.

3593 02:43:17,970 --> 02:43:18,870 OK.

3594 02:43:18,870 --> 02:43:22,530 And this was another great aunt, not the one from Chicago? 02:43:22,530 --> 02:43:25,040 No, that is another one.

3596 02:43:25,040 --> 02:43:26,610 OK.

3597 02:43:26,610 --> 02:43:31,200 So they had nothing to do with your official ability

3598 02:43:31,200 --> 02:43:32,790 to come to the United States?

3599 02:43:32,790 --> 02:43:33,940 No, no.

3600 02:43:33,940 --> 02:43:39,590 It was-- god, how was our called?

3601 02:43:39,590 --> 02:43:44,020 There were three organizations.

3602 02:43:44,020 --> 02:43:46,120 But what was ours?

3603 02:43:46,120 --> 02:43:54,440 We still owed them, and we paid them the passage.

3604 02:43:54,440 --> 02:43:57,460 It was a little rough for us, but we could.

3605 02:43:57,460 --> 02:43:59,800 I think it was \$900 or something.

3606 02:43:59,800 --> 02:44:03,460 That was a huge sum.

3607 02:44:03,460 --> 02:44:04,030 3608 02:44:04,030 --> 02:44:05,140 It was.

3609 02:44:05,140 --> 02:44:07,750 It was.

3610 02:44:07,750 --> 02:44:11,050 But nevertheless, when you're in Munich,

3611 02:44:11,050 --> 02:44:14,730 you find your mother, who's in this small little town.

3612 02:44:14,730 --> 02:44:18,460 Your great aunt from Chicago finds you

3613 02:44:18,460 --> 02:44:21,820 through the Red Cross.

3614 02:44:21,820 --> 02:44:25,795 And then how long do you stay in that part of Germany?

3615 02:44:25,795 --> 02:44:30,140

3616 02:44:30,140 --> 02:44:37,930 Because we applied for the immigration here to the States.

3617 02:44:37,930 --> 02:44:41,150 I really don't know how long it took us.

3618 02:44:41,150 --> 02:44:43,940 It didn't take us too long, because we

02:44:43,940 --> 02:44:48,210 were one of the first batch after the war he

3620 02:44:48,210 --> 02:44:51,110 could come to the States.

3621 02:44:51,110 --> 02:44:57,740 All who were not in camp and were regular citizens,

3622 02:44:57,740 --> 02:45:03,290 they could come later, quite later on, through Canada.

3623 02:45:03,290 --> 02:45:05,705 This is true.

3624 02:45:05,705 --> 02:45:07,880 There were millions of refugees.

3625 02:45:07,880 --> 02:45:10,940 And not all of the refugees had been in concentration camps

3626 02:45:10,940 --> 02:45:11,930 or labor camps.

3627 02:45:11,930 --> 02:45:13,280 Yeah.

3628 02:45:13,280 --> 02:45:14,420 They came through.

3629 02:45:14,420 --> 02:45:18,670 There was the only way they came through to Canada.

3630 02:45:18,670 --> 02:45:24,320 So did you live in a displaced persons camp in Munich,

02:45:24,320 --> 02:45:26,810 or did you live together with your mother and your uncle?

3632

02:45:26,810 --> 02:45:30,172 In Linz that was a displaced people camp.

3633

02:45:30,172 --> 02:45:31,130 That's where you lived.

3634

02:45:31,130 --> 02:45:31,630 Yeah.

3635

02:45:31,630 --> 02:45:32,540 OK.

3636

02:45:32,540 --> 02:45:34,880 But you didn't stay there?

3637

02:45:34,880 --> 02:45:36,140 In Linz?

3638

02:45:36,140 --> 02:45:40,740 We stayed there till we could get to Munich.

3639

02:45:40,740 --> 02:45:41,900 And it was so funny.

3640

02:45:41,900 --> 02:45:44,450 They had all the written in Hebrew.

3641 02:45:44,450 --> 02:45:49,490 And we didn't know anything in Hebrew.

3642 02:45:49,490 --> 02:45:53,690 Even though both of you are half Jewish.

02:45:53,690 --> 02:45:58,130 Who-- in Germany, nobody speaks the Hebrew.

3644 02:45:58,130 --> 02:45:58,725 Or Yiddish.

3645 02:45:58,725 --> 02:45:59,850 It could have been Yiddish.

3646 02:45:59,850 --> 02:46:02,090 Or Yiddish, yeah.

3647 02:46:02,090 --> 02:46:05,810 So you end up in Munich.

3648

02:46:05,810 --> 02:46:10,040 How old was your son Frank when you came to the United States?

3649

02:46:10,040 --> 02:46:14,450 Oh, he was a year old, or was he?

3650

02:46:14,450 --> 02:46:17,030 No, I don't think he was a year old yet.

3651

02:46:17,030 --> 02:46:19,610 So that means you must have come in 1946.

3652

02:46:19,610 --> 02:46:22,820 Yeah, in March 1946.

3653

02:46:22,820 --> 02:46:26,330 And he was born in November '45.

3654 02:46:26,330 --> 02:46:27,080 Wow.

3655 02:46:27,080 --> 02:46:28,790 3656

02:46:28,790 --> 02:46:29,960 And my friend--

3657 02:46:29,960 --> 02:46:34,400

3658

02:46:34,400 --> 02:46:37,550 I don't know where we got Steffi.

3659 02:46:37,550 --> 02:46:39,980 She came here with the first boat

3660 02:46:39,980 --> 02:46:45,230 because we were delayed from Germany in Bremerhaven

3661 02:46:45,230 --> 02:46:48,110 because they had a coal strike here.

3662 02:46:48,110 --> 02:46:54,360 And they had not a coal strike-- a strike for something.

3663 02:46:54,360 --> 02:47:02,160 I think it was petrol, where the coal--

3664 02:47:02,160 --> 02:47:03,300 In the United States?

3665 02:47:03,300 --> 02:47:06,420 Here, yes, in '46.

3666 02:47:06,420 --> 02:47:14,010 And they had preferences to our boats who came with immigrants.

02:47:14,010 --> 02:47:16,492 They had a strike of--

3668 02:47:16,492 --> 02:47:18,770 it must have been petrol.

3669 02:47:18,770 --> 02:47:19,280 OK.

3670 02:47:19,280 --> 02:47:21,660 What significance does this have for your journey?

3671 02:47:21,660 --> 02:47:25,700 Yeah, well, because we were delayed with coming in.

3672 02:47:25,700 --> 02:47:29,750 These boats they needed for other transportation.

3673 02:47:29,750 --> 02:47:30,620 I see.

3674 02:47:30,620 --> 02:47:32,240 I see.

3675 02:47:32,240 --> 02:47:33,710 Why did you want to leave Germany?

3676 02:47:33,710 --> 02:47:36,380

3677 02:47:36,380 --> 02:47:40,080 There was nothing there to--

3678 02:47:40,080 --> 02:47:41,120 it was my mother.

3679 02:47:41,120 --> 02:47:47,280 And we always had the Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection

idea with Nazi Germany,

3680

02:47:47,280 --> 02:47:51,020 we weren't too friendly with the Germans.

3681 02:47:51,020 --> 02:47:55,130 So you had mentioned earlier in our interview

3682

02:47:55,130 --> 02:47:59,990 that your father's relatives in the United States

3683

02:47:59,990 --> 02:48:03,080 didn't think that situation was so bad.

3684 02:48:03,080 --> 02:48:08,540 Because of his Christian wife.

3685 02:48:08,540 --> 02:48:13,460 So did they offer to help or not offer to help?

3686

02:48:13,460 --> 02:48:20,900 Unfortunately, obviously not, because this great aunt

3687 02:48:20,900 --> 02:48:22,170 in Chicago--

3688 02:48:22,170 --> 02:48:24,560 but later on, when we came here, I

3689 02:48:24,560 --> 02:48:27,410 remember the first \$1,000 check.

3690 02:48:27,410 --> 02:48:29,636 That was something ah. 02:48:29,636 --> 02:48:31,400 It was huge.

3692 02:48:31,400 --> 02:48:33,440 That was really huge.

3693 02:48:33,440 --> 02:48:37,130 We could buy some things to sleep on.

3694

02:48:37,130 --> 02:48:39,230 And that was really--

3695 02:48:39,230 --> 02:48:42,500

3696

02:48:42,500 --> 02:48:46,070 They felt my father was protected

3697

02:48:46,070 --> 02:48:48,980 with his Christian family.

3698

02:48:48,980 --> 02:48:52,085 And obviously not.

3699

02:48:52,085 --> 02:48:53,420 No.

3700

02:48:53,420 --> 02:48:56,750 And did your mother come with you?

3701

02:48:56,750 --> 02:49:01,910 No, my mother stayed in Germany quite, quite a while.

3702 02:49:01,910 --> 02:49:06,140 And she was delayed because of the X-ray.

3703 02:49:06,140 --> 02:49:08,850 3704 02:49:08,850 --> 02:49:11,300 They did something with her X-ray.

3705 02:49:11,300 --> 02:49:14,030 And that showed that she might have had something

3706 02:49:14,030 --> 02:49:15,560 from her lungs.

3707 02:49:15,560 --> 02:49:17,870 It turned out the X-ray--

3708 02:49:17,870 --> 02:49:18,560 Was wrong.

3709 02:49:18,560 --> 02:49:19,520 --was wrong.

3710 02:49:19,520 --> 02:49:20,282 Yeah.

3711 02:49:20,282 --> 02:49:21,740 Well, of course, they were checking

3712 02:49:21,740 --> 02:49:25,070 all refugees for tuberculosis and whether they'd

3713 02:49:25,070 --> 02:49:26,180 be coming with a disease.

3714 02:49:26,180 --> 02:49:28,700

3715 02:49:28,700 --> 02:49:30,560 But she also wanted to leave Germany. 3716 02:49:30,560 --> 02:49:31,380 Is that correct?

3717 02:49:31,380 --> 02:49:32,150 Yes.

3718 02:49:32,150 --> 02:49:36,110 She wanted to live with us.

3719 02:49:36,110 --> 02:49:39,380 But it didn't work out with my first husband.

3720 02:49:39,380 --> 02:49:43,180 And she went back to Germany.

3721 02:49:43,180 --> 02:49:48,575 Besides language wasn't-she didn't get the language.

3722 02:49:48,575 --> 02:49:51,650

3723 02:49:51,650 --> 02:49:52,520 She went back.

3724 02:49:52,520 --> 02:49:54,680 So it was better for her.

3725 02:49:54,680 --> 02:49:57,740 And then I remarried and went to Venezuela.

3726 02:49:57,740 --> 02:50:00,980 And that would have been something up in the mountains.

3727 02:50:00,980 --> 02:50:04,640 That would not have been for her. 3728 02:50:04,640 --> 02:50:08,500 Your sister, what was her route?

3729 02:50:08,500 --> 02:50:13,740 She went from the camp that you were working in.

3730

02:50:13,740 --> 02:50:18,590 She went to Leipzig to her later husband's family.

3731

02:50:18,590 --> 02:50:24,050 And frankly, I don't know where my brother-in-law

3732

02:50:24,050 --> 02:50:28,130 was, because they didn't go together.

3733

02:50:28,130 --> 02:50:33,010 I think he was still drafted as a young man,

3734

02:50:33,010 --> 02:50:41,200 because in Germany, what young man wasn't in the army or--

3735

02:50:41,200 --> 02:50:43,335 Well, you said they met in labor camp.

3736

02:50:43,335 --> 02:50:48,520 Yeah, well-- so I think he was drafted to--

3737

02:50:48,520 --> 02:50:55,330 what was this French labor organization?

3738

02:50:55,330 --> 02:50:55,950 I don't know.

3740

02:50:59,770 --> 02:51:04,060 I think he was drafted for a few months in this labor--

3741

02:51:04,060 --> 02:51:05,740 and that was in France.

3742

02:51:05,740 --> 02:51:08,330

3743 02:51:08,330 --> 02:51:09,190 OK.

3744

02:51:09,190 --> 02:51:10,090 TOT.

3745

02:51:10,090 --> 02:51:11,260 TOT.

3746 02:51:11,260 --> 02:51:12,010 T-O-T?

3747 02:51:12,010 --> 02:51:15,105 T-O-T. Ich weiss nicht...

3748

02:51:15,105 --> 02:51:18,115 I think I've heard of it, but I'll have to look it up

3749 02:51:18,115 --> 02:51:18,990 to see what it means.

3750 02:51:18,990 --> 02:51:21,430 Yeah, I think it was TOT Organization.

3751 02:51:21,430 --> 02:51:22,690 OK. 3752 02:51:22,690 --> 02:51:24,520 So what happened with your sister?

3753 02:51:24,520 --> 02:51:28,300 She goes to Leipzig, and she stays there?

3754 02:51:28,300 --> 02:51:33,310 She went-- since this was a Russian sector,

3755 02:51:33,310 --> 02:51:37,330 she had trouble then coming into the States.

3756 02:51:37,330 --> 02:51:38,717 Well, did she go to Munich?

3757 02:51:38,717 --> 02:51:39,800 Did she go somewhere else?

3758 02:51:39,800 --> 02:51:40,430 She couldn't.

3759 02:51:40,430 --> 02:51:41,305 OK, where did she go?

3760 02:51:41,305 --> 02:51:44,230 She couldn't because at that time,

3761 02:51:44,230 --> 02:51:47,110 you couldn't come from the Russian sector

3762 02:51:47,110 --> 02:51:50,750 to the American sector.

3763 02:51:50,750 --> 02:51:54,950 Right, well, you went via Austria and the bridge. 3764 02:51:54,950 --> 02:51:55,872 And you had Grischa.

3765 02:51:55,872 --> 02:51:57,950 [LAUGHS]

3766 02:51:57,950 --> 02:51:58,880 And his watches.

3767 02:51:58,880 --> 02:52:01,280 [LAUGHTER]

3768 02:52:01,280 --> 02:52:04,550 But did your sister leave Leipzig

3769 02:52:04,550 --> 02:52:06,050 or did she stay in Leipzig?

3770 02:52:06,050 --> 02:52:07,370 She stayed in Leipzig.

3771 02:52:07,370 --> 02:52:09,870 For how long?

3772 02:52:09,870 --> 02:52:12,560 For quite a while because we were here

3773 02:52:12,560 --> 02:52:16,910 already in the States, I think, at least an hour

3774 02:52:16,910 --> 02:52:19,130 or something-more than an hour.

3775 02:52:19,130 --> 02:52:20,330 You mean a year.

02:52:20,330 --> 02:52:21,750 A year.

3777 02:52:21,750 --> 02:52:24,440 A year.

3778 02:52:24,440 --> 02:52:29,300 Because from this, I don't know when

3779 02:52:29,300 --> 02:52:33,830 she was able to come from the Russian sector,

3780 02:52:33,830 --> 02:52:37,310 because at that time, they weren't too friendly.

3781 02:52:37,310 --> 02:52:38,300 Of course not.

3782 02:52:38,300 --> 02:52:38,930 Of course not.

3783 02:52:38,930 --> 02:52:41,790 The question, though, is does she eventually do that?

3784 02:52:41,790 --> 02:52:42,332 Yes, she did.

3785 02:52:42,332 --> 02:52:42,832 They did.

3786 02:52:42,832 --> 02:52:43,400 OK.

3787 02:52:43,400 --> 02:52:46,020 And where do they go to?

3788 02:52:46,020 --> 02:52:48,890 They stayed for a while in my house.

3789

02:52:48,890 --> 02:52:50,000 In Munich?

3790

02:52:50,000 --> 02:52:50,570 No.

3791

02:52:50,570 --> 02:52:52,070 Outside Munich?

3792

02:52:52,070 --> 02:52:52,820 No, no.

3793

02:52:52,820 --> 02:52:55,230 I was already here in the States.

3794

02:52:55,230 --> 02:52:55,730 OK.

3795 02:52:55,730 --> 02:52:57,380 Before they get to the United States,

3796 02:52:57,380 --> 02:52:59,640 they don't go from Leipzig to New York.

3797 02:52:59,640 --> 02:53:01,880 They have to go to someplace western in Europe.

3798 02:53:01,880 --> 02:53:05,090

3799 02:53:05,090 --> 02:53:11,990 No, she came from Leipzig, when she was able to, to New York.

3800 02:53:11,990 --> 02:53:14,030 Directly? 3801 02:53:14,030 --> 02:53:15,950 It's impossible.

3802 02:53:15,950 --> 02:53:18,185 After the war?

3803 02:53:18,185 --> 02:53:21,230 [INAUDIBLE] [LAUGHS]

3804 02:53:21,230 --> 02:53:21,780 OK.

3805 02:53:21,780 --> 02:53:24,990 It means you don't remember it to me or you didn't know.

3806 02:53:24,990 --> 02:53:25,770 And that's OK.

3807 02:53:25,770 --> 02:53:29,650 No, because I know when she came to the States,

3808

02:53:29,650 --> 02:53:36,840 she stayed in my apartment, in our apartment in Long Island.

3809 02:53:36,840 --> 02:53:39,980 Did she come from Bremerhaven?

3810 02:53:39,980 --> 02:53:41,270 Obviously.

3811 02:53:41,270 --> 02:53:44,400 So she had to get from Leipzig to Bremerhaven.

3812 02:53:44,400 --> 02:53:47,040 And that means going from the Russian to the American sector. 3813 02:53:47,040 --> 02:53:48,300 Yeah, it must have.

3814 02:53:48,300 --> 02:53:55,470 It must have, because it was at least maybe two years later,

3815 02:53:55,470 --> 02:53:56,850 when this was open.

3816 02:53:56,850 --> 02:53:57,600 OK.

3817 02:53:57,600 --> 02:53:59,850 Well, I don't know how open it was.

3818 02:53:59,850 --> 02:54:03,030 But there was a lot of smuggling going on.

3819 02:54:03,030 --> 02:54:06,225 There was a lot of illegal crossings.

3820 02:54:06,225 --> 02:54:09,720 There was a lot of different ways that people--

3821 02:54:09,720 --> 02:54:13,500 I still don't remember how she got from Leipzig,

3822 02:54:13,500 --> 02:54:15,250 that she wound up-- but--

3823 02:54:15,250 --> 02:54:16,680 But she got there.

3824 02:54:16,680 --> 02:54:18,180 She got to New York. 3825 02:54:18,180 --> 02:54:21,120 She got to New York.

3826

02:54:21,120 --> 02:54:26,190 So it was your sister, her husband, you, your husband,

3827

02:54:26,190 --> 02:54:28,570 and your baby Frank.

3828

02:54:28,570 --> 02:54:29,460 Yeah.

3829

02:54:29,460 --> 02:54:35,520 And your sister-in-law was still in Munich?

3830

02:54:35,520 --> 02:54:38,880 The one who had Moishe, had she come to the States?

3831 02:54:38,880 --> 02:54:41,550

3832

02:54:41,550 --> 02:54:48,220 I don't know when she came to the States,

3833 02:54:48,220 --> 02:54:51,670 because we lost kind of contact.

3834 02:54:51,670 --> 02:54:58,236 And this baby Moishe, I only [LAUGHS] met about a year ago.

3835 02:54:58,236 --> 02:55:02,410 That's an incredible thing that he appears,

3836 02:55:02,410 --> 02:55:05,650 you find him in your life, half a century later. 3837 02:55:05,650 --> 02:55:08,200 And for him, it was something because I

3838 02:55:08,200 --> 02:55:11,980 could fill in his first years, because he

3839 02:55:11,980 --> 02:55:18,340 remembered the woman his father was married to

3840 02:55:18,340 --> 02:55:20,920 wasn't his mother.

3841 02:55:20,920 --> 02:55:26,780 And he said only when he was 17 years old that the father said,

3842 02:55:26,780 --> 02:55:30,610 "You know, my wife isn't your mother."

3843 02:55:30,610 --> 02:55:33,430 And he said he always had the feeling

3844 02:55:33,430 --> 02:55:35,230 that this isn't my mother--

3845 02:55:35,230 --> 02:55:38,530 the way she treated him.

3846 02:55:38,530 --> 02:55:42,910 Because he had half brothers or sisters,

3847 02:55:42,910 --> 02:55:47,990 and he said he always had the feeling there's something.

02:55:47,990 --> 02:55:52,910 But he said he had to be 17 years before his father told

3849 02:55:52,910 --> 02:55:57,670 him "my wife isn't your mother."

3850 02:55:57,670 --> 02:55:58,720 Wow.

3851 02:55:58,720 --> 02:56:05,950 And that's why he said I filled in his first years of his life,

3852 02:56:05,950 --> 02:56:07,390 because he didn't know--

3853 02:56:07,390 --> 02:56:08,800 Who his mother was.

3854 02:56:08,800 --> 02:56:09,940 Did he ever contact?

3855 02:56:09,940 --> 02:56:11,500 --where was my mother?

3856 02:56:11,500 --> 02:56:13,450 Who was my mother?

3857 02:56:13,450 --> 02:56:15,950 Yeah.

3858 02:56:15,950 --> 02:56:17,120 That's a sad thing.

3859 02:56:17,120 --> 02:56:20,930

3860 02:56:20,930 --> 02:56:24,110 Let's finish up a little bit. 02:56:24,110 --> 02:56:26,630 You're in New York.

3862 02:56:26,630 --> 02:56:28,985 How long did you stay married to your first husband?

3863 02:56:28,985 --> 02:56:32,680

3864 02:56:32,680 --> 02:56:36,810 How long were you married to your first husband?

3865 02:56:36,810 --> 02:56:37,980 12 years.

3866 02:56:37,980 --> 02:56:39,120 OK.

```
3867
02:56:39,120 --> 02:56:42,890
So you divorced sometime
in the mid '50s?
```

3868 02:56:42,890 --> 02:56:43,920 Yeah.

3869 02:56:43,920 --> 02:56:45,300 OK.

3870 02:56:45,300 --> 02:56:47,460 And when did you marry your second husband?

3871 02:56:47,460 --> 02:56:50,370

3872 02:56:50,370 --> 02:56:54,980 The funny thing, he got divorced from his wife too.

3873 02:56:54,980 --> 02:56:57,270 But this had nothing to do with it,

3874 02:56:57,270 --> 02:56:59,890 because we weren't that close together.

3875 02:56:59,890 --> 02:57:02,410

3876 02:57:02,410 --> 02:57:04,450 But when did you marry your second husband?

3877 02:57:04,450 --> 02:57:06,520 When did we marry?

3878 02:57:06,520 --> 02:57:10,180 Tito was born in '56.

3879 02:57:10,180 --> 02:57:11,660 '55, no?

3880 02:57:11,660 --> 02:57:13,840 No.

3881 02:57:13,840 --> 02:57:15,430 '56 you were married.

3882 02:57:15,430 --> 02:57:17,240 You were born '56.

3883 02:57:17,240 --> 02:57:18,310 '57.

3884 02:57:18,310 --> 02:57:19,660 Oh, OK.

3885 02:57:19,660 --> 02:57:22,840 Then we were married in '56.

02:57:22,840 --> 02:57:23,860 OK.

3887

02:57:23,860 --> 02:57:28,110 And when did you leave for Venezuela?

3888

02:57:28,110 --> 02:57:30,215 When did I leave for Venezuela?

3889

02:57:30,215 --> 02:57:31,480 '56.

3890

02:57:31,480 --> 02:57:33,450 '56.

3891

02:57:33,450 --> 02:57:34,170 OK.

3892

02:57:34,170 --> 02:57:35,880 So the same year you get married,

3893

02:57:35,880 --> 02:57:37,590 you leave for Venezuela.

3894

02:57:37,590 --> 02:57:42,660 And your second son, what is his name?

3895 02:57:42,660 --> 02:57:44,160 Rudolf Schuessler.

3896 02:57:44,160 --> 02:57:44,910 No.

3897 02:57:44,910 --> 02:57:46,920 Your second son is Rudolf Schuessler?

3898 02:57:46,920 --> 02:57:47,430 Yeah.

3899 02:57:47,430 --> 02:57:48,030 OK.

3900 02:57:48,030 --> 02:57:49,690 And does he have a nickname?

3901 02:57:49,690 --> 02:57:50,190 Hmm?

3902 02:57:50,190 --> 02:57:52,300 Does he have a nickname?

3903 02:57:52,300 --> 02:57:53,060 A nickname?

3904 02:57:53,060 --> 02:57:53,740 Yeah.

3905 02:57:53,740 --> 02:57:56,380 Excuse me, can we cut the camera for a little bit?

3906

02:57:56,380 --> 02:58:00,070 So explain to me, because you've been referring to your son

3907

02:58:00,070 --> 02:58:02,170 as Tito, so I thought that's his nickname.

3908

02:58:02,170 --> 02:58:05,440 Yeah, because the Spanish is chiquito, hijito.

3909 02:58:05,440 --> 02:58:07,870 And he called himself Tito.

3910 02:58:07,870 --> 02:58:08,710 I see.

02:58:08,710 --> 02:58:09,520 I see.

3912

02:58:09,520 --> 02:58:14,405 And so your son was named after your father Rudolf?

3913 02:58:14,405 --> 02:58:14,980 Yes.

3914 02:58:14,980 --> 02:58:15,790 OK.

3915 02:58:15,790 --> 02:58:16,975 And your husband's--

3916

02:58:16,975 --> 02:58:19,510 And since my husband's name was too Rudolf.

3917

02:58:19,510 --> 02:58:21,640 Even though the writing is a little different,

3918

02:58:21,640 --> 02:58:23,160 but it is Rudolf still.

3919

02:58:23,160 --> 02:58:24,250 OK.

3920

02:58:24,250 --> 02:58:31,590 And so from 1956 until when did you live in Venezuela?

3921

02:58:31,590 --> 02:58:33,430 Till 35 years ago.

3922

02:58:33,430 --> 02:58:34,650 So 1984?

3923 02:58:34,650 --> 02:58:35,870 Yeah.

3924 02:58:35,870 --> 02:58:39,710 And what were you doing in Venezuela with your husband?

3925 02:58:39,710 --> 02:58:42,230

3926 02:58:42,230 --> 02:58:44,510 I was a housewife.

3927 02:58:44,510 --> 02:58:47,720 But what kind of business did he have?

3928 02:58:47,720 --> 02:58:49,190 We had the plantation.

3929 02:58:49,190 --> 02:58:50,780 What kind of plantation was this?

3930 02:58:50,780 --> 02:58:52,040 A coffee plantation.

3931 02:58:52,040 --> 02:58:53,258 OK.

3932 02:58:53,258 --> 02:58:54,425 You had a coffee plantation?

3933 02:58:54,425 --> 02:58:55,850 [LAUGHS] Yeah.

3934 02:58:55,850 --> 02:59:02,030 And was this a family-owned business?

3935 02:59:02,030 --> 02:59:05,540 No, that was his family.

02:59:05,540 --> 02:59:10,610 It was 1881 created.

3937

02:59:10,610 --> 02:59:13,430 From your second husband's family?

3938

02:59:13,430 --> 02:59:14,690 Yes.

3939

02:59:14,690 --> 02:59:16,550 And the brothers took over.

3940 02:59:16,550 --> 02:59:18,860 He had another brother.

3941 02:59:18,860 --> 02:59:23,840 And Hans died in '61, I think.

3942 02:59:23,840 --> 02:59:29,120 And your second husband, how did he end up in the United States?

3943 02:59:29,120 --> 02:59:31,280 Because his first wife--

3944 02:59:31,280 --> 02:59:35,140

3945 02:59:35,140 --> 02:59:38,940 well, in Germany, you had a Trennt

3946

02:59:38,940 --> 02:59:42,780 if you were able to get out of it.

3947 02:59:42,780 --> 02:59:47,280 And his first wife was half Jewish too.

3948 02:59:47,280 --> 02:59:50,010 So he came.

3949

02:59:50,010 --> 02:59:53,440 We came, I think, on the same boat even.

3950 02:59:53,440 --> 02:59:56,685 So he was born in Germany, your second husband?

3951 02:59:56,685 --> 02:59:58,755 Yes.

3952 02:59:58,755 --> 03:00:00,930 He was born in Germany.

3953 03:00:00,930 --> 03:00:02,310 He was German.

3954 03:00:02,310 --> 03:00:04,110 OK.

3955 03:00:04,110 --> 03:00:06,185 It wasn't that he was born in Venezuela--

3956 03:00:06,185 --> 03:00:06,685 No.

3957 03:00:06,685 --> 03:00:08,590 --and had to come to the United States?

3958 03:00:08,590 --> 03:00:10,920 OK.

3959 03:00:10,920 --> 03:00:12,930 Did you ever go back to Germany?

3960 03:00:12,930 --> 03:00:13,890 No. 3961 03:00:13,890 --> 03:00:15,585 Never?

3962 03:00:15,585 --> 03:00:17,880 Well, I was in Germany.

3963 03:00:17,880 --> 03:00:18,420 Yes.

3964 03:00:18,420 --> 03:00:22,650 I have a little something with my daughter-in-law,

3965 03:00:22,650 --> 03:00:29,130 as I told you, because she has a feeling I favored my son Tito

3966 03:00:29,130 --> 03:00:35,385 and neglected my other son, which is absolutely--

3967 03:00:35,385 --> 03:00:37,260 it's not the case.

3968 03:00:37,260 --> 03:00:39,990 Your older son, does he live in Germany?

3969 03:00:39,990 --> 03:00:42,690 He lives-- he died five years ago.

3970 03:00:42,690 --> 03:00:44,140 I see.

3971 03:00:44,140 --> 03:00:46,188 And would you go back to visit him?

3972 03:00:46,188 --> 03:00:46,980 Was that the thing? 3973 03:00:46,980 --> 03:00:51,410 I visited him quite, quite often.

3974 03:00:51,410 --> 03:00:56,610 And it was just shortly before his death

3975 03:00:56,610 --> 03:00:59,370 that we had such a misunderstanding,

3976 03:00:59,370 --> 03:01:04,860 because he felt I gave the house to Tito, which isn't the truth,

3977 03:01:04,860 --> 03:01:06,240 because it's still my house.

3978 03:01:06,240 --> 03:01:10,000

3979 03:01:10,000 --> 03:01:11,775 Well, those things happen in families.

3980 03:01:11,775 --> 03:01:15,220 Yeah, well, it happens in the best of families, as we say.

3981 03:01:15,220 --> 03:01:16,870 Yes.

3982 03:01:16,870 --> 03:01:20,500 But you never went back to Breslau, or did you?

3983 03:01:20,500 --> 03:01:21,160 No.

3984 03:01:21,160 --> 03:01:22,480 I never went. 3985 03:01:22,480 --> 03:01:25,690 I have a good friend-oh, she died too.

3986 03:01:25,690 --> 03:01:30,716 She went to Breslau because she came from Breslau too.

3987 03:01:30,716 --> 03:01:33,010 And she said you wouldn't believe it.

3988 03:01:33,010 --> 03:01:35,080 Wherever I thought--

3989 03:01:35,080 --> 03:01:37,280 Excuse me, can we cut?

3990 03:01:37,280 --> 03:01:38,405 Turn it off.

3991 03:01:38,405 --> 03:01:39,480 OK, rolling.

3992 03:01:39,480 --> 03:01:40,100 OK.

3993 03:01:40,100 --> 03:01:42,020 All right, so you did have a friend

3994 03:01:42,020 --> 03:01:44,120 who did go back to Breslau.

3995 03:01:44,120 --> 03:01:46,430 But--

3996 03:01:46,430 --> 03:01:50,660 She said it's not our town.

03:01:50,660 --> 03:01:55,110 First of all, everything is in Polish, which I can't read.

3998 03:01:55,110 --> 03:01:55,610 Yeah.

3999 03:01:55,610 --> 03:01:58,340

4000 03:01:58,340 --> 03:02:00,050 OK.

4001 03:02:00,050 --> 03:02:03,560 Did your children ask you much about your life before the war,

4002

03:02:03,560 --> 03:02:05,390 about what happened to you, about what

4003

03:02:05,390 --> 03:02:06,560 happened to your father?

4004

03:02:06,560 --> 03:02:11,150 My son Frank always said, "Why don't you write this down

4005

03:02:11,150 --> 03:02:12,860 when we have conversation?

4006

03:02:12,860 --> 03:02:15,310 Why don't you write it down?"

4007

03:02:15,310 --> 03:02:17,540 [LAUGHS]

4008 03:02:17,540 --> 03:02:19,120 So you talk to them about this.

4009 03:02:19,120 --> 03:02:20,000 Yeah. 4010 03:02:20,000 --> 03:02:21,590 Yeah.

4011 03:02:21,590 --> 03:02:25,020 Well, I'm glad that you've talked to us today.

4012 03:02:25,020 --> 03:02:26,210 Thank you.

4013 03:02:26,210 --> 03:02:28,790 Is there anything else I haven't asked

4014 03:02:28,790 --> 03:02:32,900 that you would want to add to our story, to what we've taped?

4015 03:02:32,900 --> 03:02:33,725 I wouldn't know.

4016 03:02:33,725 --> 03:02:34,225 OK.

4017 03:02:34,225 --> 03:02:36,780

4018 03:02:36,780 --> 03:02:37,880 It's a long day.

4019 03:02:37,880 --> 03:02:38,870 I realize that.

4020 03:02:38,870 --> 03:02:41,330 I know but I enjoyed it.

4021 03:02:41,330 --> 03:02:42,590 I'm glad you did.

4022 03:02:42,590 --> 03:02:43,550 Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection

I'm glad you did.

4023

03:02:43,550 --> 03:02:47,600 And I am very grateful that you decided to say yes

4024

03:02:47,600 --> 03:02:48,437 and said yes.

4025

03:02:48,437 --> 03:02:49,520 Does it help you a little?

4026

03:02:49,520 --> 03:02:50,930 Oh, absolutely.

4027

03:02:50,930 --> 03:02:52,520 Absolutely.

4028

03:02:52,520 --> 03:02:54,800 Through every single person's life,

4029

03:02:54,800 --> 03:02:58,370 you get an insight into what was the situation

4030

03:02:58,370 --> 03:02:59,900 that people were under.

4031

03:02:59,900 --> 03:03:02,780 What was the situation for somebody

4032

03:03:02,780 --> 03:03:06,350 who comes from different religious traditions?

4033 03:03:06,350 --> 03:03:12,680 And yet, you have your formative years under a dictatorship.

4034 03:03:12,680 --> 03:03:16,100 And how can you move?

4035

03:03:16,100 --> 03:03:16,955 How do you survive?

4036

03:03:16,955 --> 03:03:20,780 And as you see, you can adapt, because my life

4037

03:03:20,780 --> 03:03:24,350 was roller coast.

4038

 $03:03:24,350 \rightarrow 03:03:28,870$ What do you call this where you go up and down?

4039

03:03:28,870 --> 03:03:30,080 A roller coaster.

4040

03:03:30,080 --> 03:03:30,985 Oh, a roller coaster.

4041 03:03:30,985 --> 03:03:32,480 A roller coaster.

4042 03:03:32,480 --> 03:03:34,530 Yeah.

4043 03:03:34,530 --> 03:03:37,040 And it was outside of your control.

4044 03:03:37,040 --> 03:03:38,060 Absolutely.

4045 03:03:38,060 --> 03:03:40,580 You only have to make the best, as I

4046 03:03:40,580 --> 03:03:47,330 do right now, because they are different birds right now here.

4047 03:03:47,330 --> 03:03:49,370 Yeah, it's true.

4048 03:03:49,370 --> 03:03:50,750 It's true.

4049 03:03:50,750 --> 03:03:51,800 Well, thank you.

4050 03:03:51,800 --> 03:03:53,450 Thank you again.

4051 03:03:53,450 --> 03:03:57,950 And I will say then that this concludes the United States

4052 03:03:57,950 --> 03:04:02,120 Holocaust Memorial Museum interview with Mrs. Helga

4053 03:04:02,120 --> 03:04:09,170 Schuessler on May 22, 2019 in Oviedo, Florida.

4054 03:04:09,170 --> 03:04:09,830 Thank you.

4055 03:04:09,830 --> 03:04:11,450 And I enjoy it.

4056 03:04:11,450 --> 03:04:12,050 Thank you.

4057 03:04:12,050 --> 03:04:14,373

4058 03:04:14,373 --> 03:04:15,290 OK, camera is rolling.

4059 03:04:15,290 --> 03:04:18,110 That's the way to look at photos too.

4060

03:04:18,110 --> 03:04:20,120 But it's kind of a little complicated.

4061

03:04:20,120 --> 03:04:22,100 I won't with my way.

4062

03:04:22,100 --> 03:04:23,237 Isn't that cool?

4063

03:04:23,237 --> 03:04:24,320 All right, are we rolling?

4064

03:04:24,320 --> 03:04:26,330 We're rolling.

4065

03:04:26,330 --> 03:04:26,840 OK.

4066 03:04:26,840 --> 03:04:28,370 Mrs. Helga, tell me.

4067 03:04:28,370 --> 03:04:30,170 What is this photograph of?

4068 03:04:30,170 --> 03:04:34,910 This was when they got engaged.

4069 03:04:34,910 --> 03:04:37,030 Your parents' engagement party?

4070 03:04:37,030 --> 03:04:38,780 Yes.

4071 03:04:38,780 --> 03:04:44,990 And that is my grandfather, grandmother mother's side. 03:04:44,990 --> 03:04:47,240 That's her brother.

4073 03:04:47,240 --> 03:04:47,852 OK.

4074 03:04:47,852 --> 03:04:48,560 Hang on a second.

4075 03:04:48,560 --> 03:04:49,850 I'm going to explain this.

4076 03:04:49,850 --> 03:04:52,580 On the very left of your mother, who is in the middle,

4077 03:04:52,580 --> 03:04:53,930 is her mother.

4078 03:04:53,930 --> 03:04:57,643 And on the very right of your father is her father.

4079 03:04:57,643 --> 03:04:58,310 The grandfather.

4080 03:04:58,310 --> 03:04:59,255 On your mother's side.

4081 03:04:59,255 --> 03:04:59,870 Yeah.

4082 03:04:59,870 --> 03:05:01,760 And his name was what?

4083 03:05:01,760 --> 03:05:05,110 Your grandfather's name.

4084 03:05:05,110 --> 03:05:06,130 Grandpa?

03:05:06,130 --> 03:05:07,210 Yeah, grandpa.

4086 03:05:07,210 --> 03:05:08,050 That was his name.

4087 03:05:08,050 --> 03:05:09,220 [LAUGHTER]

4088 03:05:09,220 --> 03:05:09,940 OK.

4089 03:05:09,940 --> 03:05:10,720 And your mother--

4090 03:05:10,720 --> 03:05:11,740 She is Helena.

4091 03:05:11,740 --> 03:05:17,430 And he is-- you got me.

4092 03:05:17,430 --> 03:05:18,920 Grandpa.

4093 03:05:18,920 --> 03:05:20,070 Grandpa.

4094 03:05:20,070 --> 03:05:20,670 OK.

4095 03:05:20,670 --> 03:05:24,510 And in the middle smiling shyly with the flower

4096 03:05:24,510 --> 03:05:27,180 in his lapel, who's that?

4097 03:05:27,180 --> 03:05:30,870 That's my father and my mother engagement.

03:05:30,870 --> 03:05:33,900 Up there is her brother.

4099 03:05:33,900 --> 03:05:36,120 But I'm repeating this so that people

4100 03:05:36,120 --> 03:05:37,680 would know who you're talking about,

4101 03:05:37,680 --> 03:05:39,138 because they can't see your finger.

4102 03:05:39,138 --> 03:05:40,590 Oh.

4103 03:05:40,590 --> 03:05:45,310 This person right here who's kind of balding is your father.

4104 03:05:45,310 --> 03:05:46,695 Yes.

4105 03:05:46,695 --> 03:05:50,160 He had a very, very close haircut.

4106 03:05:50,160 --> 03:05:51,090 He was not--

4107 03:05:51,090 --> 03:05:52,120 He was not bald?

4108 03:05:52,120 --> 03:05:53,300 No, nothing.

4109 03:05:53,300 --> 03:05:53,800 OK.

4110 03:05:53,800 --> 03:06:00,840 So his hair was cut off entirely for that occasion--

4111 03:06:00,840 --> 03:06:03,300 or maybe not that occasion, but at that time.

4112 03:06:03,300 --> 03:06:06,300 And then next to him is your mother, Erna.

4113 03:06:06,300 --> 03:06:09,630 So this was your father Rudolf and your mother Erna.

4114 03:06:09,630 --> 03:06:15,240 And standing right behind them is her brother.

4115 03:06:15,240 --> 03:06:16,470 That's her brother, yes.

4116 03:06:16,470 --> 03:06:20,920 And was that the brother who had the German uniform on--

4117 03:06:20,920 --> 03:06:21,420 Yeah.

4118 03:06:21,420 --> 03:06:22,720 --and who had the two sons?

4119 03:06:22,720 --> 03:06:23,220 Yeah.

4120 03:06:23,220 --> 03:06:26,460 And one of them was in the bodyguards for Adolf Hitler.

4121 03:06:26,460 --> 03:06:27,250 That's correct.

03:06:27,250 --> 03:06:27,750 OK.

4123 03:06:27,750 --> 03:06:30,000 And this brother's first name was what?

4124 03:06:30,000 --> 03:06:33,335

4125 03:06:33,335 --> 03:06:35,110 We had Nugel.

4126 03:06:35,110 --> 03:06:35,950 We called him Nugel.

4127 03:06:35,950 --> 03:06:36,450 Nugel?

4128 03:06:36,450 --> 03:06:40,440 But [LAUGHS] it was--

4129 03:06:40,440 --> 03:06:41,970 Did you say Albrecht or Albert?

4130 03:06:41,970 --> 03:06:44,890

4131 03:06:44,890 --> 03:06:47,530 Oh, good grief.

4132 03:06:47,530 --> 03:06:52,150 He had such a nickname.

4133 03:06:52,150 --> 03:06:55,720 What was his name?

4134 03:06:55,720 --> 03:06:56,405 Arthur.

4135 03:06:56,405 --> 03:06:56,905

4136 03:06:56,905 --> 03:06:57,490 Yeah.

4137 03:06:57,490 --> 03:06:58,210 You think Arthur?

4138 03:06:58,210 --> 03:06:58,930 OK.

4139 03:06:58,930 --> 03:07:02,050 Otherwise, we could have said uncle who's related to grandpa.

4140 03:07:02,050 --> 03:07:03,300 [LAUGHTER]

4141 03:07:03,300 --> 03:07:04,425 You can say that too.

4142 03:07:04,425 --> 03:07:05,300 You can say that too.

4143

03:07:05,300 --> 03:07:06,780 I only know him Nugel.

4144 03:07:06,780 --> 03:07:08,470

Nugel.

4145

03:07:08,470 --> 03:07:10,648 And it looks like a very happy party,

4146

03:07:10,648 --> 03:07:12,190 as a matter of fact, this engagement.

4147

03:07:12,190 --> 03:07:13,440 It looks like it, yes.

03:07:13,440 --> 03:07:14,200 Yeah.

4149 03:07:14,200 --> 03:07:15,670 OK, thank you very much.

4150 03:07:15,670 --> 03:07:17,200 We'll come to the next photograph.

4151 03:07:17,200 --> 03:07:19,780 Do you want me to cut?

4152 03:07:19,780 --> 03:07:20,990 Camera's rolling.

4153 03:07:20,990 --> 03:07:21,850 OK.

4154 03:07:21,850 --> 03:07:24,150 Mrs. Helga, tell me who is this a picture of?

4155 03:07:24,150 --> 03:07:25,210 That's my father.

4156 03:07:25,210 --> 03:07:25,810 Your father.

4157 03:07:25,810 --> 03:07:28,390 And this, they called Vater Morder.

4158 03:07:28,390 --> 03:07:30,610 Vater Morder, these sort of collars?

4159 03:07:30,610 --> 03:07:31,550 [LAUGHS]

4160 03:07:31,550 --> 03:07:35,320 Which is a father murderer, murderer of father.

4161 03:07:35,320 --> 03:07:37,810 Sort of like the thing that chokes their necks.

4162 03:07:37,810 --> 03:07:39,767 And you know, they were detachable?

4163 03:07:39,767 --> 03:07:40,350 Oh, were they?

4164 03:07:40,350 --> 03:07:45,220 And you used these to change every day,

4165 03:07:45,220 --> 03:07:47,500 but I think not the shirt underneath.

4166 03:07:47,500 --> 03:07:48,320 Oh, I see.

4167 03:07:48,320 --> 03:07:48,820 [LAUGHS]

4168 03:07:48,820 --> 03:07:52,580 So the collar would be changed, but the rest remains.

4169 03:07:52,580 --> 03:07:53,500 Yeah, that was--

4170 03:07:53,500 --> 03:07:54,560 Well, who saw it?

4171 03:07:54,560 --> 03:07:56,140 Nobody.

4172 03:07:56,140 --> 03:07:59,790 About what year do you think this one was taken?

4173

03:07:59,790 --> 03:08:01,487 This I can't tell you.

4174 03:08:01,487 --> 03:08:02,320 I really don't know.

4175

03:08:02,320 --> 03:08:04,465 Do you remember your father like this?

4176

03:08:04,465 --> 03:08:07,080 Is this the father picture you have in your mind?

4177

03:08:07,080 --> 03:08:07,620 Yes.

4178

03:08:07,620 --> 03:08:08,120 Yes?

4179 03:08:08,120 --> 03:08:08,620 Yeah.

4180 03:08:08,620 --> 03:08:10,570 Because he looks a little older here,

4181 03:08:10,570 --> 03:08:12,280 like he could be around 50 or something.

4182 03:08:12,280 --> 03:08:17,830 Yeah, well, I don't remember him as a very, very young man,

4183 03:08:17,830 --> 03:08:19,930 because he wasn't a very young man.

4184 03:08:19,930 --> 03:08:21,970 That's right.

4185 03:08:21,970 --> 03:08:24,646 OK, thank you.

4186 03:08:24,646 --> 03:08:25,980 Camera rolling.

4187 03:08:25,980 --> 03:08:28,570 OK, Mrs. Helga, who is this picture of?

4188 03:08:28,570 --> 03:08:29,850 That's my mother.

4189 03:08:29,850 --> 03:08:31,030 Erna, yeah?

4190 03:08:31,030 --> 03:08:31,640 Erna.

4191 03:08:31,640 --> 03:08:33,660 And what was her maiden name?

4192 03:08:33,660 --> 03:08:34,220 Jordan.

4193 03:08:34,220 --> 03:08:34,730 Jordan.

4194 03:08:34,730 --> 03:08:35,520 That's right.

4195 03:08:35,520 --> 03:08:39,970 And about when do you think this picture was taken?

4196 03:08:39,970 --> 03:08:40,820 '15.

4197 03:08:40,820 --> 03:08:41,320

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4198 03:08:41,320 --> 03:08:42,650 1915.

```
4199
03:08:42,650 --> 03:08:43,150
OK.
```

4200

03:08:43,150 --> 03:08:46,170 So she was a young woman, around 24, 25.

4201

03:08:46,170 --> 03:08:48,940 Yeah, well, that's how they looked.

4202

03:08:48,940 --> 03:08:49,570 Yeah.

4203

03:08:49,570 --> 03:08:51,490 But before she married your father?

4204

03:08:51,490 --> 03:08:52,840 Yeah.

4205

03:08:52,840 --> 03:08:53,590 I think so.

4206

03:08:53,590 --> 03:08:54,420 Yeah.

4207

03:08:54,420 --> 03:08:57,460 OK, thank you.

4208

03:08:57,460 --> 03:08:58,260 OK.

4209 03:08:58,260 --> 03:08:59,950 Are we rolling?

03:08:59,950 --> 03:09:03,230 So tell me, Mrs. Helga, who is this?

4211 03:09:03,230 --> 03:09:04,340 Who is this picture of?

4212 03:09:04,340 --> 03:09:06,730 That's my uncle Arthur.

4213 03:09:06,730 --> 03:09:12,310 And your uncle Arthur is in uniform, in German uniform.

4214 03:09:12,310 --> 03:09:13,960 Do you know what rank he had?

4215 03:09:13,960 --> 03:09:14,840 No.

4216 03:09:14,840 --> 03:09:16,030 Frankly, no.

4217 03:09:16,030 --> 03:09:19,570 But it is some kind of an officer, a low--

4218 03:09:19,570 --> 03:09:21,610 I don't know how low.

4219 03:09:21,610 --> 03:09:23,050 I really don't know.

4220 03:09:23,050 --> 03:09:23,740 OK.

4221 03:09:23,740 --> 03:09:26,140 And he had how many sons?

4222 03:09:26,140 --> 03:09:26,770 Two. 4223 03:09:26,770 --> 03:09:29,140 And what were their names?

4224 03:09:29,140 --> 03:09:30,610 Wolfgang und Dieter.

4225 03:09:30,610 --> 03:09:31,450 Und Dieter.

4226 03:09:31,450 --> 03:09:33,520 And which one was the one--

4227 03:09:33,520 --> 03:09:37,210 Wolfgang was in the Leibstandarte Adolf Hitler.

4228 03:09:37,210 --> 03:09:40,570 Wolfgang was in the Leibstandarte Adolf Hitler,

4229 03:09:40,570 --> 03:09:43,053 which means he was in the security guard, the bodyguards

4230 03:09:43,053 --> 03:09:43,720 of Adolf Hitler.

4231 03:09:43,720 --> 03:09:46,570 Yeah, well, because he was very tall

4232 03:09:46,570 --> 03:09:49,060 and it was an honor at that time.

4233 03:09:49,060 --> 03:09:53,970 And which one was the son that died very young at age 19?

4234 03:09:53,970 --> 03:09:55,030 That was Wolfgang. 4235 03:09:55,030 --> 03:09:55,910 That was Wolfgang?

4236 03:09:55,910 --> 03:09:56,410 Yeah.

4237 03:09:56,410 --> 03:09:59,320 So he wasn't much of a guard for himself, was he?

4238 03:09:59,320 --> 03:10:05,200 No-- he was one of the very first casualties in the Second

4239 03:10:05,200 --> 03:10:05,860 World War.

4240 03:10:05,860 --> 03:10:06,730 Yeah.

4241 03:10:06,730 --> 03:10:08,180 And Dieter?

4242 03:10:08,180 --> 03:10:10,195 And Dieter still lived--

4243 03:10:10,195 --> 03:10:10,880 I don't know.

4244 03:10:10,880 --> 03:10:13,390 I lost contact.

4245 03:10:13,390 --> 03:10:14,830 But he survived.

4246 03:10:14,830 --> 03:10:19,390 And he had a family with, I think, two girls.

4247 03:10:19,390 --> 03:10:21,040 But I never-- 4248 03:10:21,040 --> 03:10:22,510 And this was your mother's brother?

4249 03:10:22,510 --> 03:10:22,750 Yes.

4250 03:10:22,750 --> 03:10:24,917 All comes from your mother's brother, Arthur Jordan.

4251 03:10:24,917 --> 03:10:25,480 Yeah.

4252 03:10:25,480 --> 03:10:27,430 Or "Yordan," as they would say.

4253 03:10:27,430 --> 03:10:29,190 OK, thank you very much.

4254 03:10:29,190 --> 03:10:29,930 He is a Jordan.

4255 03:10:29,930 --> 03:10:30,990 He is a Jordan.

4256 03:10:30,990 --> 03:10:33,070 Yeah, OK.

4257 03:10:33,070 --> 03:10:34,120 Rolling.

4258 03:10:34,120 --> 03:10:35,230 OK.

4259 03:10:35,230 --> 03:10:35,770 Cut.

4260 03:10:35,770 --> 03:10:38,324 Cut. 4261 03:10:38,324 --> 03:10:39,180 Rolling.

4262 03:10:39,180 --> 03:10:39,930 OK.

4263 03:10:39,930 --> 03:10:42,820 So tell me what is this that you have here.

4264 03:10:42,820 --> 03:10:47,790 This I got from the American Army in MÃ¹/₄nchen.

4265 03:10:47,790 --> 03:10:53,100 That was one of the rare certificates,

4266 03:10:53,100 --> 03:10:55,740 because later on they sold it.

4267 03:10:55,740 --> 03:10:58,920 They sold them?

4268 03:10:58,920 --> 03:11:01,630 Or they stopped making them?

4269 03:11:01,630 --> 03:11:04,537 There were people, they liked it.

4270 03:11:04,537 --> 03:11:06,620 Oh, that means they were sold on the black market?

4271 03:11:06,620 --> 03:11:07,980 Yeah.

4272 03:11:07,980 --> 03:11:11,430 And it is only because this has a very low number 4273 03:11:11,430 --> 03:11:14,790 that it is still legitimate.

4274 03:11:14,790 --> 03:11:18,780 Oh my god, so this is a real one that you really have

4275 03:11:18,780 --> 03:11:22,890 that you really were there and that you didn't acquire

4276 03:11:22,890 --> 03:11:25,350 by some financial means.

4277 03:11:25,350 --> 03:11:29,970 Because this was something you could represent and get

4278 03:11:29,970 --> 03:11:31,588 the favors.

4279 03:11:31,588 --> 03:11:32,130 That's right.

4280 03:11:32,130 --> 03:11:34,950 You could get some sort of priority.

4281 03:11:34,950 --> 03:11:42,970 But when they start to sell this, they had other numbers.

4282 03:11:42,970 --> 03:11:47,020 So here I see on what is the right-hand side,

4283 03:11:47,020 --> 03:11:48,690 it says in English on the bottom,

4284 03:11:48,690 --> 03:11:51,090 "Official certificate for former,"

4285

03:11:51,090 --> 03:11:54,720 and it probably says, "inmates of concentration camps

4286

03:11:54,720 --> 03:11:59,790 and similar Nazi penal institutions."

4287

03:11:59,790 --> 03:12:00,990 That's what it looks like.

4288 03:12:00,990 --> 03:12:02,490 In German it would be--

4289 03:12:02,490 --> 03:12:04,365 [SPEAKING GERMAN]

4290 03:12:04,365 --> 03:12:12,060

4291 03:12:12,060 --> 03:12:13,290 Yeah, OK.

4292

03:12:13,290 --> 03:12:16,980 And so I see that at some point it's void on this side.

4293

03:12:16,980 --> 03:12:19,110 And at some point, the military government

4294

03:12:19,110 --> 03:12:21,660 Munich Public Welfare office is taken off.

4295

03:12:21,660 --> 03:12:26,850 Because they tried to handle this.

03:12:26,850 --> 03:12:27,570 Oh, I see.

4297

03:12:27,570 --> 03:12:31,080 So they tried to black-market it?

4298

03:12:31,080 --> 03:12:32,010 Yeah, black-marketing.

4299

03:12:32,010 --> 03:12:35,230 By they, you don't mean the military government, or do you?

4300 03:12:35,230 --> 03:12:36,300 No.

4301

03:12:36,300 --> 03:12:40,470 I don't know where, but this is one of the rare ones.

4302

03:12:40,470 --> 03:12:41,340 OK.

4303

03:12:41,340 --> 03:12:45,300 And now we're going to flip it and show the other side.

4304

03:12:45,300 --> 03:12:47,680 We'll cut the camera and flip it.

4305

03:12:47,680 --> 03:12:48,690 It's OK.

4306

03:12:48,690 --> 03:12:49,650 You rolling?

4307

03:12:49,650 --> 03:12:51,120 OK.

4308 03:12:51,120 --> 03:12:55,770

This is a verbatim transcript of spoken word generated with 3Play Media. It is not the primary source, and it may contain errors in spelling or accuracy. So this is the other side of that certificate.

4309 03:12:55,770 --> 03:12:58,140 And tell me about this.

4310 03:12:58,140 --> 03:13:00,005 Who is this lovely girl in the picture?

4311 03:13:00,005 --> 03:13:00,505 Yeah, well.

4312 03:13:00,505 --> 03:13:01,523 [LAUGHTER]

4313 03:13:01,523 --> 03:13:02,290 Who is that?

4314 03:13:02,290 --> 03:13:02,790 That's I.

4315 03:13:02,790 --> 03:13:03,690 That's you.

4316 03:13:03,690 --> 03:13:04,500 That's you.

4317 03:13:04,500 --> 03:13:07,300 And it has all kinds of information.

4318 03:13:07,300 --> 03:13:08,820 It says that you--

4319 03:13:08,820 --> 03:13:12,250 it bears the registered number of 1485.

4320 03:13:12,250 --> 03:13:12,750 Yeah. 4321 03:13:12,750 --> 03:13:14,955 And you're saying that's one of those low numbers?

4322 03:13:14,955 --> 03:13:15,780 Yeah.

4323

03:13:15,780 --> 03:13:17,520 That's exactly.

4324

03:13:17,520 --> 03:13:18,540 OK.

4325

03:13:18,540 --> 03:13:25,080 And it's issued on August 23, 1946

4326

03:13:25,080 --> 03:13:31,200 to you, Helga Weber, now married, geborene Lindenberg.

4327 03:13:31,200 --> 03:13:33,250 And it tells your birth date.

4328

03:13:33.250 --> 03:13:34.800 It tells what you were before.

4329

03:13:34,800 --> 03:13:38,250 You were Drogistin.

4330

03:13:38,250 --> 03:13:39,735 And it says where you live.

4331 03:13:39,735 --> 03:13:42,540 Ah, and you have Leinthalerstrasse 8.

4332 03:13:42,540 --> 03:13:44,430 Yeah, in Munich.

4333 03:13:44,430 --> 03:13:49,300 And that you were in Lager L-Trachenberg up here.

4334

03:13:49,300 --> 03:13:50,880 So was that the DP camp?

4335

03:13:50,880 --> 03:13:51,600 Yeah.

4336

03:13:51,600 --> 03:13:52,950 OK.

4337 03:13:52,950 --> 03:13:58,830 Oh no, you were in a couple of them-- from Lager Trachenberg.

4338

03:13:58,830 --> 03:14:02,420 They changed the name later.

4339

03:14:02,420 --> 03:14:06,030 I really don't know that we had two names, because we

4340

03:14:06,030 --> 03:14:07,800 were actually just in one--

4341

03:14:07,800 --> 03:14:08,490 Place.

4342

03:14:08,490 --> 03:14:09,730 --in one place.

4343

03:14:09,730 --> 03:14:10,450 OK.

4344

03:14:10,450 --> 03:14:12,150 So let's look at these dates.

4345

03:14:12,150 --> 03:14:17,280 It says that it's from 10.8.1944, Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection

4346 03:14:17,280 --> 03:14:22,620 which means it would have been August 10, 1944 until October

4347 03:14:22,620 --> 03:14:23,856 20.

4348 03:14:23,856 --> 03:14:28,440 And then from October 20, this is KZ-Grossrosen,

4349 03:14:28,440 --> 03:14:39,210 as you mentioned, until January 22, 1945, which gives us--

4350 03:14:39,210 --> 03:14:41,550 how many months now?

4351 03:14:41,550 --> 03:14:44,550 About half a year, something like that.

4352 03:14:44,550 --> 03:14:51,290 It says from 10th of 8th, of August until--

4353 03:14:51,290 --> 03:14:51,920 Yeah.

4354 03:14:51,920 --> 03:14:54,110 So it's through the rest of the summer,

4355 03:14:54,110 --> 03:14:59,830 throughout the entire fall, and into the first month of January

4356 03:14:59,830 --> 03:15:01,100 '45.

4357 03:15:01,100 --> 03:15:06,950 And then [GERMAN],, that you were imprisoned

4358

03:15:06,950 --> 03:15:09,830 because of racial reasons.

4359 03:15:09,830 --> 03:15:12,060 [GERMAN]

4360 03:15:12,060 --> 03:15:14,060

4361

03:15:14,060 --> 03:15:21,950 And the date of your last release was January 22, '45.

4362

03:15:21,950 --> 03:15:24,110 Very interesting document.

4363

03:15:24,110 --> 03:15:25,830 That's when the Russians came.

4364 03:15:25,830 --> 03:15:26,330 [LAUGHS]

4365

03:15:26,330 --> 03:15:28,290 That's when the Russians came.

4366

03:15:28,290 --> 03:15:31,250 But the only Russian it sounds like you really had interaction

4367

03:15:31,250 --> 03:15:32,140 with was Grischa.

4368

03:15:32,140 --> 03:15:34,490 [LAUGHTER] Yeah.

4369 03:15:34,490 --> 03:15:37,250 Thank you very much.

4370 03:15:37,250 --> 03:15:40,960 That's on the way to the camp.

4371

03:15:40,960 --> 03:15:43,840 So, Mrs. Helga, yeah, tell me what is this photograph of?

4372

03:15:43,840 --> 03:15:48,710 That's where we were transported to the camp.

4373

03:15:48,710 --> 03:15:50,180 Trachenberg and then Gross-Rosen.

4374 03:15:50,180 --> 03:15:50,570 Yeah.

4375 03:15:50,570 --> 03:15:51,530 Those were their names.

4376

03:15:51,530 --> 03:15:54,020 And you are the person--

4377

03:15:54,020 --> 03:15:56,210 tell me where you are.

4378

03:15:56,210 --> 03:16:02,690 That's you, the second from the left on the bottom row

4379

03:16:02,690 --> 03:16:06,500 next to the gentleman who has a hat and white kerchief.

4380 03:16:06,500 --> 03:16:08,420 So that's you right next to him.

4381 03:16:08,420 --> 03:16:11,460 And I think my sister is all the way on the right.

4382 03:16:11,460 --> 03:16:11,960

OK.

4383

03:16:11,960 --> 03:16:15,170 So she's the first on the right, again, on the bottom side.

4384 03:16:15,170 --> 03:16:18,800 She's with a kerchief looking away--

4385 03:16:18,800 --> 03:16:21,800 not at the camera, but looking away to the side.

4386 03:16:21,800 --> 03:16:23,450 And do you know who took this picture?

4387 03:16:23,450 --> 03:16:26,370

4388 03:16:26,370 --> 03:16:29,280 I don't even know where the others are.

4389

03:16:29,280 --> 03:16:31,410 Do you know who the other people are?

4390 03:16:31,410 --> 03:16:32,110 No.

4391 03:16:32,110 --> 03:16:32,790 No.

4392 03:16:32,790 --> 03:16:33,630 OK.

4393 03:16:33,630 --> 03:16:37,150 But all of you were somehow Mischlinge?

03:16:37,150 --> 03:16:38,940 Yes, definitely.

4395 03:16:38,940 --> 03:16:41,280 OK.

4396 03:16:41,280 --> 03:16:44,550 That's interesting to have such a photograph

4397

03:16:44,550 --> 03:16:47,910 and very interesting how it came to be taken.

4398 03:16:47,910 --> 03:16:51,810

I don't know how, who took it because nobody else has

4399

03:16:51,810 --> 03:16:53,370 a picture like this.

4400 03:16:53,370 --> 03:16:55,680 And how you got that picture.

4401 03:16:55,680 --> 03:16:57,180 But you remember it, yeah?

4402 03:16:57,180 --> 03:17:00,000 I don't remember who took it.

4403 03:17:00,000 --> 03:17:03,480 And I'm the only one who has this.

4404 03:17:03,480 --> 03:17:06,180 My sister said she never saw it.

4405 03:17:06,180 --> 03:17:10,440 And do you know was this from the train station at Breslau?

4406 03:17:10,440 --> 03:17:13,738 That must be somewhere.

4407

03:17:13,738 --> 03:17:14,530 You don't remember.

4408 03:17:14,530 --> 03:17:19,590 GÃ¹/4terbahnhof we called this, because this is

4409

03:17:19,590 --> 03:17:22,650 a transportation that's not for humans.

4410

03:17:22,650 --> 03:17:23,340 No, it isn't.

4411

03:17:23,340 --> 03:17:27,660 It is a cattle wagon for sure or a freight train, a freight

4412

03:17:27,660 --> 03:17:28,950 wagon.

4413 03:17:28,950 --> 03:17:29,760 Thank you.

4414 03:17:29,760 --> 03:17:32,600 Thank you very much, Mrs. Helga.