1 00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:00,670

2 00:00:00,670 --> 00:00:02,420 There will be a little red button.

3 00:00:02,420 --> 00:00:04,620 There we are.

4 00:00:04,620 --> 00:00:08,830 And I'm going to say that this is the United States Holocaust

5 00:00:08,830 --> 00:00:14,020 Memorial Museum interview with Mr. Helmut Von Schweitzer,

6 00:00:14,020 --> 00:00:19,120 conducted on June 18, 2020.

7 00:00:19,120 --> 00:00:24,940 Remote, long distance between London, UK and Falls Church,

8 00:00:24,940 --> 00:00:27,220 Virginia.

9 00:00:27,220 --> 00:00:30,790 We are doing this during the time of coronavirus

10 00:00:30,790 --> 00:00:36,010 and having a remote interview this way via Google Meets.

11 00:00:36,010 --> 00:00:41,950 And I will start the interview with the most basic questions

12 00:00:41,950 --> 00:00:43,880 And we'll go from there.

13 00:00:43,880 --> 00:00:48,940 So my very first question to you, Mr. Helmut, is this.

14 00:00:48,940 --> 00:00:52,700 Can you tell me the date of your birth?

15 00:00:52,700 --> 00:00:53,200 Yes.

16 00:00:53,200 --> 00:00:54,540 I can do that.

17 00:00:54,540 --> 00:00:57,790 And I thank you very much for the invitation.

18 00:00:57,790 --> 00:01:05,170 And my actual birthday was the 14th of May, 1926.

19 00:01:05,170 --> 00:01:07,760 And tell me where were you born?

20 00:01:07,760 --> 00:01:12,730 I was born in Gneixendorf, Austria.

21 00:01:12,730 --> 00:01:15,810 How do you spell that?

22 00:01:15,810 --> 00:01:26,170 G-N-E-I-X-E-N-D-O-R-F. Now Gneixendorf is now incorporated

23 00:01:26,170 --> 00:01:29,660 in the city of Krems on the Danube. 00:01:29,660 --> 00:01:35,830 K-R-E-M-S, the city university.

25 00:01:35,830 --> 00:01:39,610 And tell me, what was your name at birth?

26 00:01:39,610 --> 00:01:47,105 My name at birth was Helmut Alfred Karl Maria Schweitzer.

27 00:01:47,105 --> 00:01:50,430

28 00:01:50,430 --> 00:01:54,390 How is it that you had so many names?

29 00:01:54,390 --> 00:02:04,350 Well, was from our founder, came from Italy,

30 00:02:04,350 --> 00:02:11,620 Maria was part of any name, with a man or a woman,

31 00:02:11,620 --> 00:02:24,300 Maria was the kind of, faith, thanks to God [INAUDIBLE]..

32 00:02:24,300 --> 00:02:35,430 The name-- Anyway, names change.

33 00:02:35,430 --> 00:02:39,810 And nowadays, of course, nobody in our family

34 00:02:39,810 --> 00:02:41,190 has Maria anymore.

35 00:02:41,190 --> 00:02:47,480 I think we, my two sisters and I were the last ones 36 00:02:47,480 --> 00:02:51,520 to have Maria attached to our name.

37 00:02:51,520 --> 00:02:56,040 But the other names are, of course, the grandparents

38 00:02:56,040 --> 00:03:03,500 or nephews and aunts who were sponsoring the child.

39 00:03:03,500 --> 00:03:08,020

40 00:03:08,020 --> 00:03:13,690 Can I ask you were you born into a Roman Catholic family?

41 00:03:13,690 --> 00:03:14,560 Yes.

42 00:03:14,560 --> 00:03:18,970 I was born into a Roman Catholic family, which wasn't

43 00:03:18,970 --> 00:03:21,160 a pure Roman Catholic family.

44 00:03:21,160 --> 00:03:23,650 That's another story.

45 00:03:23,650 --> 00:03:25,330 Please tell me.

46 00:03:25,330 --> 00:03:27,460 What's involved with that?

47 00:03:27,460 --> 00:03:46,900 Well, my grandfather who died quite young, in 1901 48 00:03:46,900 --> 00:03:51,460 was Carl Maria Von Schweitzer.

49 00:03:51,460 --> 00:03:54,150 He was still Von Schweitzer then, [INAUDIBLE] Von

50 00:03:54,150 --> 00:03:56,050 Schweitzer, even.

51 00:03:56,050 --> 00:04:06,600 And he married this Swedish [INAUDIBLE],,

52 00:04:06,600 --> 00:04:16,950 who was, of course, educated as a Lutheran child in Sweden.

53 00:04:16,950 --> 00:04:21,540 And then her mother was, in fact, an Austrian Catholic.

54 00:04:21,540 --> 00:04:24,900 But that's, again, a background story.

55 00:04:24,900 --> 00:04:28,380 My grandfather, my Swedish grandfather,

56 00:04:28,380 --> 00:04:38,820 Count Carl Gustav Von Wrangel who was in the mid-'50s, last

57 00:04:38,820 --> 00:04:43,920 century, a young officer.

58 00:04:43,920 --> 00:04:46,290 In Sweden, there were no wars.

59 00:04:46,290 --> 00:04:51,420 So he came to Austria to join the Austrian army,

60 00:04:51,420 --> 00:04:56,190 fighting the French at that time in Italy.

61 00:04:56,190 --> 00:05:04,010 With -- who was the leader, the boss of Italy.

62 00:05:04,010 --> 00:05:10,590 And he did well in one of the battles.

63 00:05:10,590 --> 00:05:16,260 But he also had an affair with his regimental commander's

64 00:05:16,260 --> 00:05:18,670 daughter, who was widowed.

65 00:05:18,670 --> 00:05:29,010 And then, the future father-in-law lay down the law.

66 00:05:29,010 --> 00:05:32,610 In Austria, there is no way that you

67 00:05:32,610 --> 00:05:39,180 can exist as an officer having had a child with somebody

68 00:05:39,180 --> 00:05:40,770 not married to.

69 00:05:40,770 --> 00:05:46,140 And he was ordered to leave Austria,

70 00:05:46,140 --> 00:05:50,050 was resigned from his

Austrian commission,

71

00:05:50,050 --> 00:05:56,810 and settled with his wife, hopefully then married,

72

00:05:56,810 --> 00:05:57,910 in Sweden.

73

00:05:57,910 --> 00:06:00,380 And that's what happened.

74

00:06:00,380 --> 00:06:02,360 He did it.

75

00:06:02,360 --> 00:06:09,080 So this is a story from the mid-19th century

76

00:06:09,080 --> 00:06:10,870 about your family?

77

00:06:10,870 --> 00:06:12,780 That's right.

78

00:06:12,780 --> 00:06:17,740 I mean, my family started, in fact, in a fairly grand sort

79

00:06:17,740 --> 00:06:24,950 of way in Frankfurt a century earlier, in 1750,

80

00:06:24,950 --> 00:06:33,760 when this young Italian lawyer arrived from Verona in Italy,

81

00:06:33,760 --> 00:06:39,970 in Frankfurt, and married the only daughter of the Arizina

82

00:06:39,970 --> 00:06:40,820

family.

83 00:06:40,820 --> 00:06:46,745 And then became-well, his name,

84 00:06:46,745 --> 00:06:51,050 his surname, but Suacaria, which was, of course,

85 00:06:51,050 --> 00:06:54,590 was for the German people peculiar and difficult

86 00:06:54,590 --> 00:06:56,060 to pronounce.

87 00:06:56,060 --> 00:06:59,330 So over the first 20 years before he

88 00:06:59,330 --> 00:07:02,660 was allowed to become a citizen of Frankfurt,

89 00:07:02,660 --> 00:07:10,430 he gradually sort of Germanized his name from Suacaria

90 00:07:10,430 --> 00:07:14,307 to Schweitzer, which means, in German, Swiss.

91 00:07:14,307 --> 00:07:18,780 [LAUGHTER]

92 00:07:18,780 --> 00:07:21,910 But explain to me this.

93 00:07:21,910 --> 00:07:25,050 And it's something I've always been curious about.

00:07:25,050 --> 00:07:29,700 How does one, in Germany, become a Von anybody.

95

00:07:29,700 --> 00:07:34,820 So a Von Schweitzer, a Von [PERSONAL NAME] a Von

96

00:07:34,820 --> 00:07:37,210 [PERSONAL NAME] and so on, and so forth.

97

00:07:37,210 --> 00:07:40,690 And then how did it become for your family?

98

00:07:40,690 --> 00:07:49,710 Well, as I said, this grand founder of our family,

99

00:07:49,710 --> 00:07:55,100 young and bright, married the only daughter

100

00:07:55,100 --> 00:07:57,950 of the Arizina family.

101

00:07:57,950 --> 00:08:00,820 And the Arizina family were already

102

00:08:00,820 --> 00:08:03,600 a long settled Italian family.

103

00:08:03,600 --> 00:08:08,890 It was a whole community of Italian traders in Frankfurt.

104

00:08:08,890 --> 00:08:14,270 And the Arizinas had a very prosperous kind of business 00:08:14,270 --> 00:08:17,730 in French silks and French fashions

106 00:08:17,730 --> 00:08:20,730 and that kind of thing.

107 00:08:20,730 --> 00:08:31,230 And so as my great-great-grandmother

108 00:08:31,230 --> 00:08:35,090 was the only daughter, the parents

109 00:08:35,090 --> 00:08:42,130 were anxious to completely have her husband in.

110 00:08:42,130 --> 00:08:47,650 So he then, when he was paying a lot of money

111 00:08:47,650 --> 00:08:53,330 to the Frankfurt community, made a citizen,

112 00:08:53,330 --> 00:08:56,456 he was then Arizina Von Schweitzer.

113 00:08:56,456 --> 00:08:59,450

114 00:08:59,450 --> 00:09:05,180 And of course, he was a very capable entrepreneur.

115 00:09:05,180 --> 00:09:08,060 And he made that Arizina business

116 00:09:08,060 --> 00:09:12,500 a very successful business during his lifetime,

117

00:09:12,500 --> 00:09:16,580 which the family then benefited for generations

118

00:09:16,580 --> 00:09:20,060 from the accumulated capital, [INAUDIBLE]

119

00:09:20,060 --> 00:09:22,000 certainly by the time of the First World War,

120

00:09:22,000 --> 00:09:24,115 had used it up completely.

121

00:09:24,115 --> 00:09:29,660 And that's when it became a different kind of story.

122

00:09:29,660 --> 00:09:30,710 OK.

123

00:09:30,710 --> 00:09:32,430 Well, this is very interesting.

124

00:09:32,430 --> 00:09:36,110 It means that your family has roots, really,

125

00:09:36,110 --> 00:09:38,470 very strong roots to Italy.

126

00:09:38,470 --> 00:09:39,320 Yes.

127

00:09:39,320 --> 00:09:42,040 Because the beginning comes from there.

128

00:09:42,040 --> 00:09:48,760 And also to Sweden, because there is a Swedish line.

129 00:09:48,760 --> 00:09:53,390 And the connection in Frankfurt, in the mid--

130 00:09:53,390 --> 00:09:55,970 what would have been the 18th century,

131 00:09:55,970 --> 00:09:58,980 it all starts in the mid-18th century?

132 00:09:58,980 --> 00:10:01,210 Yeah, absolutely.

133 00:10:01,210 --> 00:10:02,090 OK.

134 00:10:02,090 --> 00:10:10,100 And one becomes a Von, a more aristocratic person,

135 00:10:10,100 --> 00:10:11,520 in a variety of ways.

136 00:10:11,520 --> 00:10:16,130 And so this way was that he was allowed to be Von

137 00:10:16,130 --> 00:10:18,980 when he became a citizen.

138 00:10:18,980 --> 00:10:19,740 Is this correct?

139 00:10:19,740 --> 00:10:20,240 No.

140

00:10:20,240 --> 00:10:20,510 No.

141

00:10:20,510 --> 00:10:21,010 No.

142

00:10:21,010 --> 00:10:22,910 It wasn't as simple as that.

143

00:10:22,910 --> 00:10:28,490 You have to make a much bigger contribution to become a Von

144

00:10:28,490 --> 00:10:31,490 if you were coming from nowhere, if you weren't already

145

00:10:31,490 --> 00:10:34,310 a titled kind of person.

146

00:10:34,310 --> 00:10:39,520 He obviously very much improved the business.

147

00:10:39,520 --> 00:10:46,275 And he was a good time in the late 18th century,

148

00:10:46,275 --> 00:10:48,830 his fellow Italians moving around

149

00:10:48,830 --> 00:10:53,120 from all the different markets all over southern Germany

150

00:10:53,120 --> 00:10:57,220 to sell all these wonderful garments, material,

151

00:10:57,220 --> 00:11:02,120 that he was importing from Italy and from France.

152 00:11:02,120 --> 00:11:06,790 And then there was the king of Bavaria, who was then

153 00:11:06,790 --> 00:11:11,480 he was a king, who built all these astounding castles

154 00:11:11,480 --> 00:11:14,330 all over the place in Bavaria.

155 00:11:14,330 --> 00:11:16,700 He always needed a lot of money.

156 00:11:16,700 --> 00:11:21,770 And Schweitzer was the one, not perhaps the only one,

157 00:11:21,770 --> 00:11:25,610 who provided the king with the loans, and with the money

158 00:11:25,610 --> 00:11:26,495 to fund.

159 00:11:26,495 --> 00:11:34,630 So eventually, he became [INAUDIBLE] family became

160 00:11:34,630 --> 00:11:38,840 a Bavarian-titled family.

161 00:11:38,840 --> 00:11:42,950 Is this the mad King Leopold that they talk about so much?

162 00:11:42,950 --> 00:11:46,280 Is this that particular king who built all those castles?

163 00:11:46,280 --> 00:11:48,030 I think that is the one.

164

00:11:48,030 --> 00:11:50,300

I haven't checked up in my history books.

165

00:11:50,300 --> 00:11:53,870

But it certainly was at that time [INAUDIBLE]

166

00:11:53,870 --> 00:11:58,740

a great friend of Richard

Wagner at the time,

167

00:11:58,740 --> 00:12:03,440

or later, and

obviously, a bit manic.

168

00:12:03,440 --> 00:12:07,950

169

00:12:07,950 --> 00:12:09,870

Tell me this.

170

00:12:09,870 --> 00:12:14,760

In the beginning, it sounds

like pure Italian roots.

171

00:12:14,760 --> 00:12:19,320

And when was there intermarriage

with Germans or Austrians?

172

00:12:19,320 --> 00:12:22,170

And when did the family

move from Frankfurt

173

 $00:12:22,170 \longrightarrow 00:12:25,110$

to the place where

you were born?

174

00:12:25,110 --> 00:12:29,340

Well, I mean, our

family founder,

175 00:12:29,340 --> 00:12:34,230 he had 16 children and four boys.

176

00:12:34,230 --> 00:12:37,980 But because there was a lot of money

177

00:12:37,980 --> 00:12:43,320 and the boys wanted to become titled people in their own way,

178

00:12:43,320 --> 00:12:49,450 they had to join some sort of army as an officer to qualify.

179

00:12:49,450 --> 00:12:55,080 And so the eldest son joined the French army.

180

00:12:55,080 --> 00:12:59,520 And the second son joined the Russian army.

181

00:12:59,520 --> 00:13:01,800 And those became their--

182

00:13:01,800 --> 00:13:06,670 got their own titles in the process or in due course.

183

00:13:06,670 --> 00:13:12,120 The father's money was there to back them up in the meantime.

184

00:13:12,120 --> 00:13:16,020 And then the two youngest sons were

185

00:13:16,020 --> 00:13:18,360 left to help with the business.

00:13:18,360 --> 00:13:23,090 Because father was a very activist person right until he

187

00:13:23,090 --> 00:13:29,330 was 90 years old, when he actually died, and gave up.

188

00:13:29,330 --> 00:13:31,360 And he was very enterprising.

189

00:13:31,360 --> 00:13:34,670 He was a leading figure in Frankfurt.

190

00:13:34,670 --> 00:13:38,920 Curiously at that time, the Goethe family was in Frankfurt.

191

00:13:38,920 --> 00:13:40,910 The mother's parents were there.

192

00:13:40,910 --> 00:13:43,670 And the Goethe boys and the Schweitzer boys

193

00:13:43,670 --> 00:13:47,180 were sort of playing together.

194

00:13:47,180 --> 00:13:49,830 Goethe boys with Goethe--

195

00:13:49,830 --> 00:13:52,880 Wolfgang with Goethe-complaining that the Schweitzer

196

00:13:52,880 --> 00:13:55,730 boys were also always dragging him

197

00:13:55,730 --> 00:13:57,920 to various Catholic services.

198 00:13:57,920 --> 00:13:59,190 And he had to attend.

199

00:13:59,190 --> 00:14:01,141 He couldn't just run away.

200

00:14:01,141 --> 00:14:04,440 [LAUGHS]

201

00:14:04,440 --> 00:14:11,010 And another story about Goethe was that there

202

00:14:11,010 --> 00:14:12,600 was a golden wedding.

203

00:14:12,600 --> 00:14:19,290 The parents-in-law of our founder

204

00:14:19,290 --> 00:14:23,740 had their 50th wedding anniversary,

205

00:14:23,740 --> 00:14:26,700 which in those days was almost a miracle with people

206

00:14:26,700 --> 00:14:28,410 weren't as old as that.

207

00:14:28,410 --> 00:14:32,670 And being a kind of grand manager,

208

00:14:32,670 --> 00:14:36,790 he completely revamped a country seat

209

00:14:36,790 --> 00:14:39,750 they had near the Main River.

210 00:14:39,750 --> 00:14:42,900 And all the world was invited there.

211

00:14:42,900 --> 00:14:47,040 And young Goethe, who was then a lawyer,

212

00:14:47,040 --> 00:14:50,910 also was invited because of the family connection.

213

00:14:50,910 --> 00:14:52,520 And he got a medal.

214

00:14:52,520 --> 00:14:56,130 Everybody got a golden wedding--

215

00:14:56,130 --> 00:14:58,530 it was a silver medal.

216

00:14:58,530 --> 00:15:02,400 And then later on, Goethe had one of his moments

217

00:15:02,400 --> 00:15:07,440 when he escaped from the northern countries,

218

00:15:07,440 --> 00:15:08,910 and he went to Italy.

219

00:15:08,910 --> 00:15:12,210 And in Italy he did what he usually

220

00:15:12,210 --> 00:15:17,610 did, sketch some sort of interesting buildings.

221

00:15:17,610 --> 00:15:21,540

Happened to be a fortress.

222

00:15:21,540 --> 00:15:27,465

So he was arrested by the Italians.

223

00:15:27,465 --> 00:15:30,960

224

00:15:30,960 --> 00:15:36,300 And then we reduced it through the golden wedding coin.

225

00:15:36,300 --> 00:15:39,020

And he was released.

226

00:15:39,020 --> 00:15:41,394

Ha!

227

00:15:41,394 --> 00:15:46,770

And he wrote about it in

his memories, memorial.

228

00:15:46,770 --> 00:15:48,450

Isn't that interesting?

229

00:15:48,450 --> 00:15:48,950

Yeah.

230

00:15:48,950 --> 00:15:52,930

231

00:15:52,930 --> 00:15:56,100

So your family, it sounds like really

232

00:15:56,100 --> 00:16:04,790

was connected very closely with the epitome of German culture,

233

00:16:04,790 --> 00:16:09,550

with persons who became very

well-known in German culture.

234

00:16:09,550 --> 00:16:12,760 Whether this was Goethe, whether this was Wagner,

235

00:16:12,760 --> 00:16:19,930 whether this was other people in that strata.

236

00:16:19,930 --> 00:16:22,000 And how did you learn of these stories?

237

00:16:22,000 --> 00:16:25,630 Who told you these family stories from generations past?

238

00:16:25,630 --> 00:16:29,590 Well, they were all public stories, not only Goethe,

239

00:16:29,590 --> 00:16:32,980 but other people, particularly Frankfurt historians

240

00:16:32,980 --> 00:16:34,930 and so on wrote about it.

241

00:16:34,930 --> 00:16:37,850 But the biggest problem was, of course,

242

00:16:37,850 --> 00:16:41,770 that these were Italians, you know.

243

00:16:41,770 --> 00:16:42,960 The Italians?

244

00:16:42,960 --> 00:16:47,920 I mean, Germans were really looking down at the Italians.

00:16:47,920 --> 00:16:51,070 OK, they were artists and that kind of thing.

246

00:16:51,070 --> 00:16:55,590 But these Schweitzers weren't artists.

247

00:16:55,590 --> 00:16:57,040 They're in business.

248

00:16:57,040 --> 00:17:00,500 And that was part of the problem,

249

00:17:00,500 --> 00:17:05,410 why the whole Italian colony in Frankfurt was sort of--

250

00:17:05,410 --> 00:17:07,180 they weren't treated like Jewish people,

251

00:17:07,180 --> 00:17:10,760 but they were certainly just allowed to be there,

252

00:17:10,760 --> 00:17:13,510 not to be too much engaged.

253

00:17:13,510 --> 00:17:15,900 But gradually, of course they assimilated.

254

00:17:15,900 --> 00:17:18,569 And but the first few generations,

255

00:17:18,569 --> 00:17:22,579 they intermarried only.

256

00:17:22,579 --> 00:17:27,700 But then, Frankfurt became the center of a united Germany,

257

00:17:27,700 --> 00:17:29,930 in the mid-19th century.

258

00:17:29,930 --> 00:17:40,850 Some Poles -- [AUDIO DROP OUT]

259

 $00:17:40,850 \longrightarrow 00:17:42,570$ Something's happened with our sound.

260

00:17:42,570 --> 00:17:43,680 Can you hear me?

261

00:17:43,680 --> 00:17:46,020 Yes, I know.

262

 $00:17:46,020 \longrightarrow 00:17:47,860$ Sorry.

263

 $00:17:47,860 \longrightarrow 00:17:49,800$ that's-- go on now.

264

 $00:17:49,800 \longrightarrow 00:17:50,300$ OK.

265

 $00:17:50,300 \longrightarrow 00:17:52,850$ Something happened to interrupt your thought.

266

 $00:17:52,850 \longrightarrow 00:17:53,350$ Yeah.

267

00:17:53,350 --> 00:17:55,010 Well, no.

268

00:17:55,010 --> 00:17:56,450 There was a voice coming out.

00:17:56,450 --> 00:17:58,655 I didn't know whether you didn't hear it.

270

00:17:58,655 --> 00:17:59,420 Oh, yeah.

271

00:17:59,420 --> 00:18:00,830 No, I didn't hear it.

272

00:18:00,830 --> 00:18:02,040 The message.

273

00:18:02,040 --> 00:18:04,110 OK.

274

00:18:04,110 --> 00:18:05,760 Well, what happens, you know, I think

275

00:18:05,760 --> 00:18:09,330 people in the future who will be listening to our interview

276

00:18:09,330 --> 00:18:11,730 will forgive us that sometimes this is not

277

00:18:11,730 --> 00:18:14,870 the same as an in-studio interview,

278

00:18:14,870 --> 00:18:18,480 that there are some technical glitches occasionally,

279

00:18:18,480 --> 00:18:22,680 and unexpected types of interruptions.

280

00:18:22,680 --> 00:18:24,320

So--

00:18:24,320 --> 00:18:29,950 Frankfurt became the big center of the German renewal.

282

00:18:29,950 --> 00:18:37,440 And that was very much anti-Catholic, anti-Italian,

283

00:18:37,440 --> 00:18:43,270 anti-foreigners kind of movement in the 19th century.

284

00:18:43,270 --> 00:18:47,870 And so the Schweitzers were, and particularly our founder,

285

00:18:47,870 --> 00:18:53,140 was looked at with some sort of--

286

00:18:53,140 --> 00:18:56,280 he didn't quite fit the German picture.

287

00:18:56,280 --> 00:19:01,170 And in actual fact, after his death,

288

00:19:01,170 --> 00:19:05,460 some Germans, a researcher, came up

289

00:19:05,460 --> 00:19:10,050 with the idea, which was then made official

290

00:19:10,050 --> 00:19:22,420 that our founder's father was actually a German called--

291

00:19:22,420 --> 00:19:26,370

00:19:26,370 --> 00:19:27,390

what was his name?

293

00:19:27,390 --> 00:19:30,180

294

00:19:30,180 --> 00:19:31,410

I must think of it.

295

00:19:31,410 --> 00:19:33,030

At the moment I can't think of it.

296

00:19:33,030 --> 00:19:33,790

It's OK.

297

00:19:33,790 --> 00:19:42,930 Which was then Italianized

in Verona to Suacaria.

298

00:19:42,930 --> 00:19:47,370

So in actual fact,

our founding family

299

00:19:47,370 --> 00:19:52,290

was, in fact, a

German immigrant.

300

00:19:52,290 --> 00:19:56,350

[LAUGHS]

301

00:19:56,350 --> 00:20:05,440

What a a convoluted kind

of circular explanation.

302

00:20:05,440 --> 00:20:08,620

But that was the

way it was then.

303

00:20:08,620 --> 00:20:10,780

I mean, it wasn't only

the Hitler time that

304 00:20:10,780 --> 00:20:14,380 started with Germany, on "we Germans

305 00:20:14,380 --> 00:20:22,520 are so much better, so much more cultured than everybody else."

306 00:20:22,520 --> 00:20:28,240 And so in fact there was also another.

307 00:20:28,240 --> 00:20:30,970 Our founder, of course, being also a very sort

308 00:20:30,970 --> 00:20:35,260 of outgoing kind of person.

309 00:20:35,260 --> 00:20:42,190 He built a huge Italian-style palais in Frankfurt.

310 00:20:42,190 --> 00:20:47,720 And the town--

311 00:20:47,720 --> 00:20:48,700 Does it still stand?

312 00:20:48,700 --> 00:20:49,795 Is it still in existence?

313 00:20:49,795 --> 00:20:52,720 Oh, no, no, no, no, no.

314 00:20:52,720 --> 00:20:56,280 Things went from bad to worse.

315 00:20:56,280 --> 00:20:59,680 See, the sons, the

younger sons who

316 00:20:59,680 --> 00:21:05,870 survived their father tried to get rid of it

317 00:21:05,870 --> 00:21:08,240 fairly quickly, because it just didn't

318 00:21:08,240 --> 00:21:12,515 fit the new mood in Frankfurt, and in their part of Germany.

319 00:21:12,515 --> 00:21:15,460

320 00:21:15,460 --> 00:21:20,870 And it was too big and too formidable to use.

321 00:21:20,870 --> 00:21:24,980 But a local butcher bought it and turned it into a famous

322 00:21:24,980 --> 00:21:31,090 hotel, the Hotel [PLACE NAME] And then,

323 00:21:31,090 --> 00:21:35,530 when in the mid-'50s, when all--

324 00:21:35,530 --> 00:21:40,290 the king of England, the Austrian emperor.

325 00:21:40,290 --> 00:21:43,650 And everybody now stayed at this beautiful hotel, who

326 00:21:43,650 --> 00:21:45,840 had a decent bathroom, and-- 327 00:21:45,840 --> 00:21:50,440 [LAUGHS]

328 00:21:50,440 --> 00:21:56,620 But then, these unity [INAUDIBLE] talks

329 00:21:56,620 --> 00:21:57,940 went on the rocks.

330 00:21:57,940 --> 00:22:06,850 There was a war between Prussia and Austria in 1863, I think.

331 00:22:06,850 --> 00:22:11,770 And still, the Austrians were beaten at [PLACE NAME]

332 00:22:11,770 --> 00:22:13,540 very solidly beaten.

333 00:22:13,540 --> 00:22:23,905 And Bismarck and [INAUDIBLE] the opportunity to occupy Frankfurt

334 00:22:23,905 --> 00:22:29,280 and annexed it as their border town, the southern border town.

335 00:22:29,280 --> 00:22:34,960 And of course, that was the end of the great time of Frankfurt.

336 00:22:34,960 --> 00:22:37,560 But what did stay in Frankfurt, and I

337 00:22:37,560 --> 00:22:39,720 think the Schweitzers had a partner here,

338 00:22:39,720 --> 00:22:43,735 is that it was a German financial center.

339

00:22:43,735 --> 00:22:45,730 Of course, it will also be Jewish.

340

00:22:45,730 --> 00:22:49,800

341

00:22:49,800 --> 00:22:50,850 People there.

342

00:22:50,850 --> 00:22:59,150 And Frankfurt still is the finance center of Germany.

343

00:22:59,150 --> 00:22:59,650 But--

344

00:22:59,650 --> 00:23:00,890 Then--

345

00:23:00,890 --> 00:23:02,890 Sorry.

346

00:23:02,890 --> 00:23:05,440 Does this mean-- excuse me for interrupting--

347

00:23:05,440 --> 00:23:09,580 does this mean that your family left Frankfurt

348

00:23:09,580 --> 00:23:11,860 after German reunification?

349

00:23:11,860 --> 00:23:16,850 And if my memory doesn't fail me, wasn't that around 1870

350

00:23:16,850 --> 00:23:18,610

that Germany was unified?

351 00:23:18,610 --> 00:23:19,110 Yeah.

352 00:23:19.110 --> 0

00:23:19,110 --> 00:23:20,780

Sometime around then?

353 00:23:20,780 --> 00:23:24,190 Well, you know, obviously by that time,

354 00:23:24,190 --> 00:23:28,175 the Schweitzer family was a fairly widespread kind

355 00:23:28,175 --> 00:23:28,675 of family.

356 00:23:28,675 --> 00:23:32,390

357 00:23:32,390 --> 00:23:39,870 Our particular ancestor left Frankfurt in 1850

358 00:23:39,870 --> 00:23:43,620 to have a military career in Austria,

359 00:23:43,620 --> 00:23:47,610 because Austria was busy having these wars, and in Italy.

360 00:23:47,610 --> 00:23:51,240 So there was some sort of heroism

361 00:23:51,240 --> 00:23:56,060 to be gained in those parts.

362 00:23:56,060 --> 00:24:11,390 But one of the cousins who stayed in Frankfurt,

363 00:24:11,390 --> 00:24:17,740 he was educated by the Franciscans in --

364 00:24:17,740 --> 00:24:21,760 And as a consequence, he became very anti-religious.

365 00:24:21,760 --> 00:24:23,530 He became a lawyer.

366 00:24:23,530 --> 00:24:26,020 And he became one of the great founders

367 00:24:26,020 --> 00:24:30,000 of the German Democratic Party.

368 00:24:30,000 --> 00:24:31,620 Which party?

369 00:24:31,620 --> 00:24:35,737 Would this be if we're talking current parties?

370 00:24:35,737 --> 00:24:36,570 [INTERPOSING VOICES]

371 00:24:36,570 --> 00:24:38,430 --now the 1860s.

372 00:24:38,430 --> 00:24:44,510 And he was the leader of the Social Democratic Party

373 00:24:44,510 --> 00:24:51,330 when Bismarck introduced a parliament-- 00:24:51,330 --> 00:24:55,910 a Prussian-German-- the new German parliament.

375 00:24:55,910 --> 00:24:57,470 Well, that's interesting.

376 00:24:57,470 --> 00:24:58,830 That's very interesting.

377 00:24:58,830 --> 00:25:03,650 So this is the branch of the family that stays in Frankfurt.

378 00:25:03,650 --> 00:25:05,150 One of the branches.

379 00:25:05,150 --> 00:25:08,300 Most of the branches sort of only

380 00:25:08,300 --> 00:25:10,680 survived not by the name of Schweitzer,

381 00:25:10,680 --> 00:25:17,960 but by the name of what the daughters married into.

382 00:25:17,960 --> 00:25:22,730 We are [? occupied. ?] By the First World War,

383 00:25:22,730 --> 00:25:27,466 our branch was the only surviving male line.

384 00:25:27,466 --> 00:25:29,360 And we were then, of course, In Austria.

385 00:25:29,360 --> 00:25:32,810 386 00:25:32,810 --> 00:25:37,420 Remind me again of the name of the founder of your family?

387 00:25:37,420 --> 00:25:40,220 I know you gave me the Italian name.

388 00:25:40,220 --> 00:25:42,860 But his first name-and let's spell it out.

389 00:25:42,860 --> 00:25:46,850 And then the name of your direct ancestor.

390 00:25:46,850 --> 00:25:50,750 Was that one of his younger sons?

391 00:25:50,750 --> 00:25:55,600 And what that ancestor's name was.

392 00:25:55,600 --> 00:26:02,095 Now I haven't got all my information immediately handy.

393 00:26:02,095 --> 00:26:09,680

394 00:26:09,680 --> 00:26:12,490 No, it isn't completely important.

395 00:26:12,490 --> 00:26:15,450 I just thought you might know off the top of your head

396 00:26:15,450 --> 00:26:21,358 the name of the original founder, and how we spell it. 397 00:26:21,358 --> 00:26:21,900 The Suacaria?

398

00:26:21,900 --> 00:26:22,820 The Italian.

399

00:26:22,820 --> 00:26:23,960 Yeah, yeah.

400

00:26:23,960 --> 00:26:24,750 Yeah.

401

00:26:24,750 --> 00:26:31,495 S-A-C-A-- no.

402

00:26:31,495 --> 00:26:40,250 S-U-A-C-A-R-I-A. Suacaria.

403

00:26:40,250 --> 00:26:43,180 And what was his first name?

404

00:26:43,180 --> 00:26:46,090 Yeah, what's his name first?

405

00:26:46,090 --> 00:26:47,837 Can't even think of that now.

406

00:26:47,837 --> 00:26:48,910 [INAUDIBLE]

407

00:26:48,910 --> 00:26:49,410 No.

408

00:26:49,410 --> 00:26:52,630

409

00:26:52,630 --> 00:26:54,010 I have to think of it, again.

410

00:26:54,010 --> 00:26:57,950 You know, but mainly his name is so uncertain.

411

00:26:57,950 --> 00:26:59,280 I don't know.

412

00:26:59,280 --> 00:27:00,150 It's OK.

413

00:27:00,150 --> 00:27:01,390 It's OK.

414

00:27:01,390 --> 00:27:04,210 I think it was Francisco.

415

00:27:04,210 --> 00:27:05,240 OK.

416

00:27:05,240 --> 00:27:08,050 OK.

417

00:27:08,050 --> 00:27:11,470 And then your direct ancestor, was he,

418

00:27:11,470 --> 00:27:13,840 as I say, one of those younger sons

419

00:27:13,840 --> 00:27:18,690 who had stayed in Frankfurt, if it was through the male line?

420

00:27:18,690 --> 00:27:20,170 You remember that you said he had

421

00:27:20,170 --> 00:27:23,140 four sons, one who joined the French Army,

422

00:27:23,140 --> 00:27:25,930 one who joined the Russian, and two who stayed

423

00:27:25,930 --> 00:27:27,470 to help with the business.

424

00:27:27,470 --> 00:27:27,970 No.

425

00:27:27,970 --> 00:27:30,955 My-- my ancestor--

426

00:27:30,955 --> 00:27:34,170 our particular ancestor-- was, in fact, the youngest son.

427

00:27:34,170 --> 00:27:37,550

428

00:27:37,550 --> 00:27:43,330 There is, in fact, a painting-- a huge painting--

429

00:27:43,330 --> 00:27:48,340 that has sort of gone from generation to generation

430

00:27:48,340 --> 00:27:53,430 to the eldest son, which is about 1 meter 60

431

00:27:53,430 --> 00:27:58,890 high, and at least 1 meter 20 wide,

432

00:27:58,890 --> 00:28:04,960 which shows the original Schweitzer family for part

433

00:28:04,960 --> 00:28:13,180 of it, that father Francisco at the back, with beautiful dress;

434 00:28:13,180 --> 00:28:25,990 his wife, Arizina, with a baby, holding a baby;

435 00:28:25,990 --> 00:28:31,260 and four other children who are dressed as soldiers, and that;

436 00:28:31,260 --> 00:28:35,920 and girls dressed in beautiful dresses around.

437 00:28:35,920 --> 00:28:38,646

438 00:28:38,646 --> 00:28:42,490 A very detailed painting.

439 00:28:42,490 --> 00:28:44,590 People really sort of look at you.

440 00:28:44,590 --> 00:28:48,010 You feel they're looking at you.

441 00:28:48,010 --> 00:28:56,150 The strange thing is that the painter of that is unknown.

442 00:28:56,150 --> 00:29:01,370 I mean, that painting came right down through the family to me.

443 00:29:01,370 --> 00:29:04,300 I had it even with us in South Africa.

444 00:29:04,300 --> 00:29:08,710 But when we were coming back from South Africa, 00:29:08,710 --> 00:29:14,345 the Frankfurt museum were so anxious to have it,

446 00:29:14,345 --> 00:29:17,870 that they had been loaned to them by my stepmother

447 00:29:17,870 --> 00:29:23,900 in Germany after the war It's a unique painting

448 00:29:23,900 --> 00:29:26,560 in many, many different ways.

449 00:29:26,560 --> 00:29:33,190 And so I made it over to the Frankfurt museum

450 00:29:33,190 --> 00:29:34,160 about 10 years ago.

451 00:29:34,160 --> 00:29:38,060

452 00:29:38,060 --> 00:29:41,890 Then clearly it's part of their holdings.

453 00:29:41,890 --> 00:29:43,443 Has it been displayed?

454 00:29:43,443 --> 00:29:43,985 Do you know--

455 00:29:43,985 --> 00:29:44,485 Yes--

456 00:29:44,485 --> 00:29:45,440 [INTERPOSING VOICES]

457 00:29:45,440 --> 00:29:46,940 It's on full display.

458 00:29:46,940 --> 00:29:50,680 I haven't been back to see it there on display.

459 00:29:50,680 --> 00:29:55,150 But it's obviously a magnificent piece.

460 00:29:55,150 --> 00:29:57,650 And I mean, how we ever fitted it,

461 00:29:57,650 --> 00:30:00,280 particularly in the early post-war years,

462 00:30:00,280 --> 00:30:02,330 how my mother-in-law actually managed

463 00:30:02,330 --> 00:30:06,620 to fit it into all the different places

464 00:30:06,620 --> 00:30:10,550 the family then lived in is totally amazing.

465 00:30:10,550 --> 00:30:15,390 I mean, she came from a well-to-do family.

466 00:30:15,390 --> 00:30:19,490 Her father was one of the greatest lung

467 00:30:19,490 --> 00:30:22,170 surgeons in Germany.

468 00:30:22,170 --> 00:30:27,910 And he was a very, very money-saving guy.

469

00:30:27,910 --> 00:30:32,195 So she had, in fact,

did the whole painting--

470

00:30:32,195 --> 00:30:35,094

471

00:30:35,094 --> 00:30:37,424

what do you--

472

00:30:37,424 --> 00:30:38,476

Restored.

473

00:30:38,476 --> 00:30:39,370

Yeah, restored.

474

00:30:39,370 --> 00:30:39,900

Yes.

475

 $00:30:39,900 \longrightarrow 00:30:41,720$

Restored after the war.

476

00:30:41,720 --> 00:30:43,340

Paid a lot of money for it.

477

00:30:43,340 --> 00:30:46,820

I've got all the

details of that.

478

00:30:46,820 --> 00:30:50,000

And so the Frankfurt

museum they were only too

479

 $00:30:50,000 \longrightarrow 00:30:54,260$

happy then to have it, because it was done by somebody

it was dolle by sollicbody

480

00:30:54,260 --> 00:30:57,150

they would have also

trusted to restore

481 00:30:57,150 --> 00:31:00,111 it, some artist in Frankfurt, actually.

482 00:31:00,111 --> 00:31:02,940

483 00:31:02,940 --> 00:31:08,700 What a unique and in many ways telling

484 00:31:08,700 --> 00:31:15,360 symbol artifact of your own family history,

485 00:31:15,360 --> 00:31:17,910 a painting such as this.

486 00:31:17,910 --> 00:31:21,520 And there are few people--

487 00:31:21,520 --> 00:31:22,740 I mean, there are some.

488 00:31:22,740 --> 00:31:28,560 But there are few people who are so closely acquainted

489 00:31:28,560 --> 00:31:30,720 with the history and the personalities

490 00:31:30,720 --> 00:31:32,630 of their ancestors.

491 00:31:32,630 --> 00:31:35,670 You seem to know much more about even those who would be

492 00:31:35,670 --> 00:31:41,160 great-great-great-grandfather or grandmother than many of us do

493

00:31:41,160 --> 00:31:44,310 way back into the 18th century.

494

00:31:44,310 --> 00:31:47,700 And not only that they existed, but what kind of people

495

00:31:47,700 --> 00:31:52,260 they were, that the founder was a large, magnanimous,

496

00:31:52,260 --> 00:31:57,810 successful, open kind of extroverted personality

497

00:31:57,810 --> 00:32:02,460 who has a 50th anniversary where he gives Goethe a medal that

498

00:32:02,460 --> 00:32:05,310 gets him out of prison.

499

00:32:05,310 --> 00:32:06,660 This is a story!

500

00:32:06,660 --> 00:32:08,030 This is quite a story!

501

00:32:08,030 --> 00:32:10,090 It's an amazing story.

502

00:32:10,090 --> 00:32:12,480 It's an amazing story.

503

00:32:12,480 --> 00:32:15,150 And I mean, he did a lot of other things.

504

00:32:15,150 --> 00:32:20,115 I mean he introduced Italian ice cream to Frankfurt.

505 00:32:20,115 --> 00:32:25,050 [LAUGHTER]

506

00:32:25,050 --> 00:32:28,230 So then bring us more up to date.

507

00:32:28,230 --> 00:32:30,510 So your family settles.

508

00:32:30,510 --> 00:32:36,570 The youngest son joins the Austro-Hungarian Army.

509

00:32:36,570 --> 00:32:39,050 Do you need to pay attention to something else?

510

00:32:39,050 --> 00:32:40,310 No, it's not the son.

511

00:32:40,310 --> 00:32:42,138 It's the grandson.

512

00:32:42,138 --> 00:32:42,680 The grandson.

513

00:32:42,680 --> 00:32:46,570

514

00:32:46,570 --> 00:32:47,070 Yeah.

515

00:32:47,070 --> 00:32:49,740

516

00:32:49,740 --> 00:32:56,660

He was the son of the

youngest son of the founder.

00:32:56,660 --> 00:32:59,240 And who is he to you.

518

00:32:59,240 --> 00:33:03,092 The grandson of the founder was your grandfather,

519

00:33:03,092 --> 00:33:04,165 or great-grandmother.

520

00:33:04,165 --> 00:33:06,170 My great-grandfather.

521

00:33:06,170 --> 00:33:10,790 Or maybe even my great-great grandfather.

522

00:33:10,790 --> 00:33:16,850 I'm a little bit uncertain how to work it all out.

523

00:33:16,850 --> 00:33:24,580

524

00:33:24,580 --> 00:33:25,550 Let's see.

525

00:33:25,550 --> 00:33:31,850 So he's the one who becomes part of the Austro-Hungarian Army.

526

00:33:31,850 --> 00:33:35,000 And eventually does he settle in the village where

527

00:33:35,000 --> 00:33:37,390 you were born, or the town where you want?

528

00:33:37,390 --> 00:33:38,120

Well, no.

00:33:38,120 --> 00:33:42,880 I mean he became an officer.

530 $00:33:42,880 \longrightarrow 00:33:44,610$ I'm not quite sure whether it was

531

00:33:44,610 --> 00:33:49,460 a captain or a major in the army, part

532

00:33:49,460 --> 00:33:52,800 of the Austrian Army.

533

 $00:33:52,800 \longrightarrow 00:33:57,680$ And with that, he could then make a professional appearance

534

00:33:57,680 --> 00:33:58,810 in Vienna.

535

00:33:58,810 --> 00:34:05,970 And in Vienna he was obviously looking

536

00:34:05,970 --> 00:34:11,760 for a wife who would meet his personal now new established

537

00:34:11,760 --> 00:34:13,080 standing.

538

 $00:34:13,080 \longrightarrow 00:34:17,780$ And so he met my great-grandmother,

539

 $00:34:17,780 \longrightarrow 00:34:22,500$ Ida [PERSONAL NAME] Her father was the first treasurer,

540

 $00:34:22,500 \longrightarrow 00:34:29,460$

or first imperial treasurer

of the Austrian Empire.

541

00:34:29,460 --> 00:34:33,060 And then married him.

542

00:34:33,060 --> 00:34:35,860

543

00:34:35,860 --> 00:34:41,469 Her father, later, when he had retired,

544

00:34:41,469 --> 00:34:45,070 he bought up a Schloss--

545

00:34:45,070 --> 00:34:48,100 castle-- no, not castle.

546

00:34:48,100 --> 00:34:53,360 An estate 70 k's outside Vienna--

547

00:34:53,360 --> 00:34:55,520 Gneixendorf.

548

00:34:55,520 --> 00:35:00,440 And which was then a Schloss.

549

00:35:00,440 --> 00:35:03,150 Gneixendorf it was named for.

550

00:35:03,150 --> 00:35:10,400 And with that, of course, my great-grandfather,

551

00:35:10,400 --> 00:35:15,860 he inevitably became, actually, co-owner, because his wife

552

00:35:15,860 --> 00:35:18,890 kept possession of her castle.

00:35:18,890 --> 00:35:23,660 But our family, their children grew up--

554

00:35:23,660 --> 00:35:26,570 were born and grew up in Gneixendorf.

555

00:35:26,570 --> 00:35:30,330

556

00:35:30,330 --> 00:35:35,460 Tell me a little bit about Gneixendorf.

557

00:35:35,460 --> 00:35:38,880 Tell me what does it look like.

558

00:35:38,880 --> 00:35:39,970 Is it a village?

559

00:35:39,970 --> 00:35:40,890 Is it a town?

560

00:35:40,890 --> 00:35:46,140 Is it just a castle and some surrounding forests?

561

00:35:46,140 --> 00:35:48,270 Describe it for me a little bit.

562

00:35:48,270 --> 00:35:53,670 Well, the castle and the village are sort of connected.

563

00:35:53,670 --> 00:35:59,610 I mean, in the 14th, 15th century

564

00:35:59,610 --> 00:36:03,480

this was a sort of a boundary area

565 00:36:03,480 --> 00:36:09,240 between Eastern influences, the Hungarian, Turkish--

566 00:36:09,240 --> 00:36:14,520 I mean, Vienna, I think, was twice

567 00:36:14,520 --> 00:36:22,200 surrounded by the Turkish empire people.

568 00:36:22,200 --> 00:36:26,080 And the Catholic orders--

569 00:36:26,080 --> 00:36:30,820 [INAUDIBLE] brothers-- the Catholic brothers-- were then

570 00:36:30,820 --> 00:36:34,430 sort of regaining the land.

571 00:36:34,430 --> 00:36:39,710 And they [INAUDIBLE] building their [INAUDIBLE] in that

572 00:36:39,710 --> 00:36:48,740 particular area along the Danube there are a lot of these

573 00:36:48,740 --> 00:36:51,770 [? cloister ?] [PLACE NAME],, [? cloister ?] [PLACE NAME],,

574 00:36:51,770 --> 00:36:58,560 huge, enormous monasteries on rocks, you know, built.

575 00:36:58,560 --> 00:37:03,710 And this place in Gneixendorf, it was actually called 576 00:37:03,710 --> 00:37:04,820 Wasserhof--

577 00:37:04,820 --> 00:37:07,850 Water-hof-- which was a rather ironical thing,

578 00:37:07,850 --> 00:37:11,020 because if there's one thing that was scarce up there,

579 00:37:11,020 --> 00:37:12,708 it was water.

580 00:37:12,708 --> 00:37:16,800 [LAUGHTER]

581 00:37:16,800 --> 00:37:20,330

582 00:37:20,330 --> 00:37:28,090 So that was then established, and became.

583 00:37:28,090 --> 00:37:30,760 And obviously, a village grew around it

584 00:37:30,760 --> 00:37:33,140 with the people having their holdings,

585 00:37:33,140 --> 00:37:41,595 and having to make deliveries to the landowners that was first

586 00:37:41,595 --> 00:37:43,300 in monasteries.

587 00:37:43,300 --> 00:37:48,400 But when Napoleon reigned in the early 19th century, 588 00:37:48,400 --> 00:37:51,255 and all that was--

589 00:37:51,255 --> 00:37:53,040 what do you call it?--

590 00:37:53,040 --> 00:37:58,716 not naturalized, but definitely the--

591 00:37:58,716 --> 00:38:00,150 Confiscated!

592 00:38:00,150 --> 00:38:01,590 [LAUGHS]

593 00:38:01,590 --> 00:38:06,180 [INAUDIBLE] the nuns and the monks

594 00:38:06,180 --> 00:38:12,410 went back to their standard places.

595 00:38:12,410 --> 00:38:18,650 And it became then something to be bought by people.

596 00:38:18,650 --> 00:38:21,270 And this Schloss Gneixendorf was then

597 00:38:21,270 --> 00:38:26,360 bought by a guy called Beethoven.

598 00:38:26,360 --> 00:38:27,540 No!

599 00:38:27,540 --> 00:38:28,490 Yeah. 600 00:38:28,490 --> 00:38:29,740 Really?

601 00:38

00:38:29,740 --> 00:38:34,330 It wasn't a composer, but it was his younger brother,

602 00:38:34,330 --> 00:38:37,510 who had made a lot of money supplying

603 00:38:37,510 --> 00:38:43,480 all these various armies during the wars with their bandages

604 00:38:43,480 --> 00:38:49,165 and whatever medical requirements they had.

605 00:38:49,165 --> 00:38:51,860 So he was basically rich.

606 00:38:51,860 --> 00:38:54,610 So he bought Schloss Gneixendorf.

607 00:38:54,610 --> 00:39:00,220 And he invited his brother later in his brother's life actually

608 00:39:00,220 --> 00:39:01,170 to Gneixendorf.

609 00:39:01,170 --> 00:39:04,166 And that's another story that--

610 00:39:04,166 --> 00:39:08,020 Well, I'm going to want to hear it so.

611 00:39:08,020 --> 00:39:16,240 So in other words, Ludwig van Beethoven was in your castle.

612

00:39:16,240 --> 00:39:17,920 Lived in your castle.

613

00:39:17,920 --> 00:39:22,965 Yeah, that's right, for about three months.

614

00:39:22,965 --> 00:39:24,340 And then, of course, by that time

615

00:39:24,340 --> 00:39:28,120 he was already almost--well, we was deaf by then,

616

00:39:28,120 --> 00:39:29,290 because it was later.

617

00:39:29,290 --> 00:39:34,480 It was 1826.

618

00:39:34,480 --> 00:39:40,520 And so every conversation had to be written down to be--

619

00:39:40,520 --> 00:39:44,360 it was in writing, for him to be able to play

620

00:39:44,360 --> 00:39:45,960 a part in the conversation.

621

00:39:45,960 --> 00:39:51,730 And all those books notes have been left.

622

00:39:51,730 --> 00:39:55,030 And of course after

Beethoven's death,

623 00:39:55,030 --> 00:39:57,910 they became a holy treasure-- not

624 00:39:57,910 --> 00:40:02,860 of the Schweitzer's, but with his associates in Vienna.

625 00:40:02,860 --> 00:40:08,050

626 00:40:08,050 --> 00:40:08,800 Unbelievable.

627 00:40:08,800 --> 00:40:10,090 Truly unbelievable.

628 00:40:10,090 --> 00:40:15,340 So the von Schweitzers have interactions with Beethoven,

629 00:40:15,340 --> 00:40:17,666 with Goethe.

630 00:40:17,666 --> 00:40:18,327 I know.

631 00:40:18,327 --> 00:40:18,827 Yeah.

632 00:40:18,827 --> 00:40:19,721 Overwhelming.

633 00:40:19,721 --> 00:40:22,260

634 00:40:22,260 --> 00:40:29,920 So when did Ludwig's younger brother sell the castle,

635 00:40:29,920 --> 00:40:33,820 and when did your great-grandfather buy it?

636 00:40:33,820 --> 00:40:37,900 Do you know approximately when that was?

637 00:40:37,900 --> 00:40:41,440 I think he brought it in--

638 00:40:41,440 --> 00:40:44,500 I mean, I'm speaking now off the record.

639 00:40:44,500 --> 00:40:47,162 I think in 1847 he bought it.

640 00:40:47,162 --> 00:40:52,000 I can take it up, and we can correct it if necessary.

641 00:40:52,000 --> 00:41:01,770 But I mean he was retiring from being the treasurer

642 00:41:01,770 --> 00:41:03,420 of the [INAUDIBLE].

643 00:41:03,420 --> 00:41:05,960 But before he'd become the treasurer,

644 00:41:05,960 --> 00:41:10,720 he had been administrator of huge imperial estates

645 00:41:10,720 --> 00:41:12,620 in Moravia.

646 00:41:12,620 --> 00:41:16,850 And so he was a very experienced agriculturalist.

00:41:16,850 --> 00:41:20,680 And he certainly made his mark on the land, and of course

648

00:41:20,680 --> 00:41:23,260 on the village, because automatically he became

649

00:41:23,260 --> 00:41:24,680 the major of the village.

650

00:41:24,680 --> 00:41:26,230 And he sorted them out.

651

00:41:26,230 --> 00:41:29,530 But then he died before his daughter--

652

00:41:29,530 --> 00:41:32,860 his only daughter-- married the Schweitzer [INAUDIBLE]...

653

00:41:32,860 --> 00:41:39,230 So he then had that [INAUDIBLE],, which of course ladies

654

00:41:39,230 --> 00:41:41,660 weren't allowed to do anything serious--

655

00:41:41,660 --> 00:41:44,220 studying or learning, so on.

656

00:41:44,220 --> 00:41:48,870 So my

 $great\hbox{-} great\hbox{-} great\hbox{-} grand father$

657

00:41:48,870 --> 00:41:50,000 wasn't also.

658

00:41:50,000 --> 00:41:54,740

I mean, he had no

agricultural beginning.

659 00:41:54,740 --> 00:41:58,250 But the father-in-law, having set it up well.

660 00:41:58,250 --> 00:42:01,640 So then they had some administrators

661 00:42:01,640 --> 00:42:02,960 to run it for them.

662 00:42:02,960 --> 00:42:05,810 And of course there was the money from Frankfurt anyway.

663 00:42:05,810 --> 00:42:08,840 So there wasn't any particular urgency

664 00:42:08,840 --> 00:42:13,970 to make money out of the estate at that stage.

665 00:42:13,970 --> 00:42:17,660 But then my grandfather, unfortunately, he

666 00:42:17,660 --> 00:42:20,210 died very young.

667 00:42:20,210 --> 00:42:22,860 He also became a lawyer.

668 00:42:22,860 --> 00:42:25,120 Again, that was a Schweitzer tradition,

669 00:42:25,120 --> 00:42:29,040 that every other generation became lawyers. 670 00:42:29,040 --> 00:42:32,810 And some of the people I haven't mentioned,

671 00:42:32,810 --> 00:42:37,360 some of the brothers, became, after the first generation,

672 00:42:37,360 --> 00:42:43,145 second generation, became mayors and leading Frankfurt citizens.

673 00:42:43,145 --> 00:42:45,760

674 00:42:45,760 --> 00:42:51,590 But gradually they were absorbed in the German landscape.

675 00:42:51,590 --> 00:42:55,580

676 00:42:55,580 --> 00:42:58,310 The gentleman whose daughter marries

677 00:42:58,310 --> 00:43:01,820 into the Schweitzer family, the one who buys

678 00:43:01,820 --> 00:43:04,400 this, what was his last name?

679 00:43:04,400 --> 00:43:07,020 The one who bought the castle?

680 00:43:07,020 --> 00:43:10,550 The Schloss in Gneixendorf?

681 00:43:10,550 --> 00:43:11,800 Because it wasn't Schweitzer.

00:43:11,800 --> 00:43:13,770 It was something else.

683

00:43:13,770 --> 00:43:15,080 That's right he was a Kaleyle.

684

00:43:15,080 --> 00:43:18,952

685

00:43:18,952 --> 00:43:20,570 He gave me his first name.

686

00:43:20,570 --> 00:43:23,635

687

00:43:23,635 --> 00:43:24,770 That's OK.

688

00:43:24,770 --> 00:43:26,490 How do I spell the last name?

689

00:43:26,490 --> 00:43:31,430 Kaleyle-- K-A-L-E-Y-L-E.

690

00:43:31,430 --> 00:43:32,200 Kaleyle.

691

00:43:32,200 --> 00:43:34,130 OK.

692

00:43:34,130 --> 00:43:36,830 I mean, we know much about the family.

693

00:43:36,830 --> 00:43:41,960 I mean, they originally pub owners in a village in Baden,

694

00:43:41,960 --> 00:43:45,830 on the Black Forest, on the [INAUDIBLE] other side

695 00:43:45,830 --> 00:43:48,350 of the Black Forest.

696 00:43:48,350 --> 00:43:53,010 That was, in fact, an Austrian possession.

697 00:43:53,010 --> 00:43:58,140 And so, obviously, it was natural for an upstart

698 00:43:58,140 --> 00:44:04,050 from a well-to-do village pub to go to Vienna.

699 00:44:04,050 --> 00:44:06,570 And he was then administrator-- in fact,

700 00:44:06,570 --> 00:44:09,480 there were two generations who were administrators

701 00:44:09,480 --> 00:44:12,420 for various archdukes, mainly in Moravia,

702 00:44:12,420 --> 00:44:17,280 which was a kind of honey or breadbasket

703 00:44:17,280 --> 00:44:20,031 of the Austrian empire in those days.

704 00:44:20,031 --> 00:44:26,940 And so that's how the Kaleyles came in.

705 00:44:26,940 --> 00:44:29,730 But they also became fairly renown. 706 00:44:29,730 --> 00:44:32,190 If you go to Wikipedia and so on,

707 00:44:32,190 --> 00:44:42,385 you can look up a lot of people, like grandfather, Count--

708 00:44:42,385 --> 00:44:47,470

709 00:44:47,470 --> 00:44:48,660 It'll come.

710 00:44:48,660 --> 00:44:52,060 It'll come to you.

711 00:44:52,060 --> 00:44:54,590 It's amazing, the Frankfurt people.

712 00:44:54,590 --> 00:45:01,270 Yeah, Wikipedia, a lot of my records I got from Wikipedia,

713 00:45:01,270 --> 00:45:08,530 because there are official records or paintings that that

714 00:45:08,530 --> 00:45:12,640 obviously have been royalty of, --

715 00:45:12,640 --> 00:45:14,500 including, of course, that painting

716 00:45:14,500 --> 00:45:20,970 of the original founder with the children. 00:45:20,970 --> 00:45:23,640 I mean, that [INAUDIBLE] itself, painting with children.

718 00:45:23,640 --> 00:45:26,110 I mean that wasn't done in those days.

719 00:45:26,110 --> 00:45:28,010 I mean children.

720 00:45:28,010 --> 00:45:32,050 [LAUGHS]

721 00:45:32,050 --> 00:45:33,600 Only royal children.

722 00:45:33,600 --> 00:45:38,400 Only royal children were painted in those days.

723 00:45:38,400 --> 00:45:40,600 Not anybody else's.

724 00:45:40,600 --> 00:45:41,830 So this is quite unusual.

725 00:45:41,830 --> 00:45:45,850

726 00:45:45,850 --> 00:45:49,620 Being again head of the what you might

727 00:45:49,620 --> 00:45:54,090 call the Catholic minority of Frankfurt,

728 00:45:54,090 --> 00:45:55,440 which had a big cathedral--

729 00:45:55,440 --> 00:45:58,160 730 00:45:58,160 --> 00:46:02,800 emperor kind of cathedrals, from going back

731 00:46:02,800 --> 00:46:05,950 to the 12th century and all that.

732 00:46:05,950 --> 00:46:08,740 And the Schweitzer family had--

733 00:46:08,740 --> 00:46:11,770 I remember as a schoolboy I went there--

734 00:46:11,770 --> 00:46:18,840 had a huge tableau, a black big stone,

735 00:46:18,840 --> 00:46:24,190 had a tableau on one of the side walls,

736 00:46:24,190 --> 00:46:29,820 which was totally out of line with the saints,

737 00:46:29,820 --> 00:46:35,830 and the past bishops and so on, whose figures

738 00:46:35,830 --> 00:46:39,940 were all over the place too.

739 00:46:39,940 --> 00:46:46,840 But in the war, the last war, this thing was damaged.

740 00:46:46,840 --> 00:46:50,580 So I remember when I went there after the war, 741 00:46:50,580 --> 00:46:52,750 there's a big crack right through.

742

00:46:52,750 --> 00:46:58,060 And then, when I went the last time to the cathedral,

743

00:46:58,060 --> 00:46:59,270 I couldn't find it anywhere.

744

00:46:59,270 --> 00:47:01,530 It was gone.

745

00:47:01,530 --> 00:47:06,910 But they had now a small little black

746

00:47:06,910 --> 00:47:10,390 in the main body of the church on the side

747

00:47:10,390 --> 00:47:13,940 where all the seats were.

748

00:47:13,940 --> 00:47:18,560 So are you saying it was moved from one part of the church

749

00:47:18,560 --> 00:47:19,640 to another.

750

00:47:19,640 --> 00:47:22,520 This block, was it like a stone?

751

00:47:22,520 --> 00:47:28,830 It was replaced completely by a small kind of--

752

00:47:28,830 --> 00:47:34,780 not much bigger than

a book-sized tablet,

753 00:47:34,780 --> 00:47:37,610 which more or less summarized what

754 00:47:37,610 --> 00:47:40,390 was on that big thing, and big golden figures.

755 00:47:40,390 --> 00:47:44,690

756 00:47:44,690 --> 00:47:47,810 So let's go back.

757 00:47:47,810 --> 00:47:49,980 We're getting closer to your generation.

758 00:47:49,980 --> 00:47:50,480 Yes.

759 00:47:50,480 --> 00:47:51,313 [INTERPOSING VOICES]

760 00:47:51,313 --> 00:47:53,120 So your grandfather-yeah it's fine.

761 00:47:53,120 --> 00:47:54,300 This is interesting.

762 00:47:54,300 --> 00:47:57,210 This is really interesting.

763 00:47:57,210 --> 00:48:00,320 So your grandfather is a lawyer.

764 00:48:00,320 --> 00:48:02,370 And he dies young.

00:48:02,370 --> 00:48:05,180 He dies young.

766

00:48:05,180 --> 00:48:15,710 Well, of course, he became a civil servant

767

00:48:15,710 --> 00:48:18,560 in Vienna, or around Vienna.

768

00:48:18,560 --> 00:48:22,520 And he was looking around for a wife.

769

00:48:22,520 --> 00:48:38,930 And he met this Lilly Wrangel, who was the daughter of that

770

00:48:38,930 --> 00:48:42,770 Swedish guy who had to take his kids back,

771

00:48:42,770 --> 00:48:47,080 because he developed and became--

772

00:48:47,080 --> 00:48:49,580 you can look him up in Wikipedia--

773

00:48:49,580 --> 00:49:00,280 he became a leading writer, journalist, and hippologist.

774

00:49:00,280 --> 00:49:03,830 He was one of the, just before the cars came,

775

00:49:03,830 --> 00:49:05,870 and the horses were being replaced,

776

00:49:05,870 --> 00:49:10,640 he published a sort of Europe-wide famous book

777 00:49:10,640 --> 00:49:13,280 called Das Buch vom Pferde, which

778 00:49:13,280 --> 00:49:17,360 had many translations, and many things.

779 00:49:17,360 --> 00:49:19,170 It's an astounding book.

780 00:49:19,170 --> 00:49:20,310 I've got it.

781 00:49:20,310 --> 00:49:22,330 It means The Book of Horses?

782 00:49:22,330 --> 00:49:24,340 Is that what it is?

783 00:49:24,340 --> 00:49:26,990 Das Buch vom Pferde, yeah.

784 00:49:26,990 --> 00:49:29,300 Anyway, and so he was after.

785 00:49:29,300 --> 00:49:30,920 So very successful.

786 00:49:30,920 --> 00:49:34,880 Why he ever wanted to be a soldier, I wouldn't know.

787 00:49:34,880 --> 00:49:37,790 He was much better as a public person.

788 00:49:37,790 --> 00:49:41,510 But it meant that his wife, let's face it,

789 00:49:41,51

00:49:41,510 --> 00:49:43,490

the marriage was sort of a forced

790

00:49:43,490 --> 00:49:46,270 marriage through

his father-in-law,

791

00:49:46,270 --> 00:49:47,310

or the other father.

792

00:49:47,310 --> 00:49:50,430

793

00:49:50,430 --> 00:49:51,830

It became too much for her.

794

00:49:51,830 --> 00:49:56,180

He was in and out of the

country on heaven knows.

795

00:49:56,180 --> 00:50:00,590

I mean, he was a very

beautiful man too.

796

00:50:00,590 --> 00:50:02,030

Excuse me that I'm interrupting.

797

00:50:02,030 --> 00:50:06,260

I'm a little lost here as far

as how the family tree is going.

798

00:50:06,260 --> 00:50:10,580

We are talking now about your grandfather,

799

00:50:10,580 --> 00:50:14,360

who married someone who

was a countess von Wrangel.

00:50:14,360 --> 00:50:16,400 Is that correct?

801

00:50:16,400 --> 00:50:17,710 Yes, that's right.

802

00:50:17,710 --> 00:50:18,480 Yes, that's right.

803

00:50:18,480 --> 00:50:23,600 And then you talked about her father, who was from Sweden.

804

00:50:23,600 --> 00:50:26,340 Is that correct?

805

00:50:26,340 --> 00:50:27,530 Countess von Wrangel.

806

00:50:27,530 --> 00:50:29,940 And then you talked about the man who wrote--

807

00:50:29,940 --> 00:50:38,250 Sorry, the original Wrangel I mentioned in connection with-

808

00:50:38,250 --> 00:50:38,860 with what?

809

 $00:50:38,860 \longrightarrow 00:50:42,420$

810

00:50:42,420 --> 00:50:46,895

He was the father--

811

00:50:46,895 --> 00:50:49,190

he is the father of my grandfather--

812

00:50:49,190 --> 00:50:53,645

813 00:50:53,645 --> 00:50:55,580 from my great-grandfather.

814 00:50:55,580 --> 00:50:57,200 And then, of course, his daughter--

815 00:50:57,200 --> 00:51:00,710 and that is what we are-- who we are talking about now--

816 00:51:00,710 --> 00:51:03,380 was then brought by their mother back.

817 00:51:03,380 --> 00:51:06,890 They were, in fact, three children--

818 00:51:06,890 --> 00:51:10,970 two boys and my grandmother, Lilly.

819 00:51:10,970 --> 00:51:17,660 Came back to Vienna after the divorce.

820 00:51:17,660 --> 00:51:20,600 And the mother went back with the kids, who were then

821 00:51:20,600 --> 00:51:23,910 teenagers, back to Vienna.

822 00:51:23,910 --> 00:51:26,750 And they had to establish them in Vienna.

823 00:51:26,750 --> 00:51:28,080 So this is when you--

00:51:28,080 --> 00:51:32,720 OK, this is your maternal side of the family, is that correct?

825

00:51:32,720 --> 00:51:34,920 Father's side.

826

00:51:34,920 --> 00:51:36,190 Your father's--

827

00:51:36,190 --> 00:51:37,200 Yeah.

828

00:51:37,200 --> 00:51:41,310 My father's mother was ex-Swedish Lilly,

829

00:51:41,310 --> 00:51:42,760 Countess Wrangel.

830

00:51:42,760 --> 00:51:43,530 OK.

831

00:51:43,530 --> 00:51:44,250 OK.

832

00:51:44,250 --> 00:51:45,680 OK.

833

00:51:45,680 --> 00:51:49,660 I mean, I have known my grandmother very well.

834

00:51:49,660 --> 00:51:54,290 And I have more to say about her a little later.

835

00:51:54,290 --> 00:51:57,360 But she was the immigrant.

836

00:51:57,360 --> 00:52:01,220

And of course his father, Carl's father,

837

00:52:01,220 --> 00:52:06,540 the guy who came from Frankfurt, and had married a [INAUDIBLE]

838

00:52:06,540 --> 00:52:11,250 lady, he was totally upset when the son comes and says,

839

00:52:11,250 --> 00:52:17,770 I want to marry Lilly girl Wrangel--

840

00:52:17,770 --> 00:52:20,990 a Protestant.

841

00:52:20,990 --> 00:52:21,490 Divorce.

842

00:52:21,490 --> 00:52:24,920

843

00:52:24,920 --> 00:52:25,700 Shocking.

844

00:52:25,700 --> 00:52:26,940 Shocking.

845

00:52:26,940 --> 00:52:28,790 And no money to bring in.

846

00:52:28,790 --> 00:52:36,500 I mean, [LAUGHS] Ah, impossible.

847

00:52:36,500 --> 00:52:39,290 And of course he walked out.

848

00:52:39,290 --> 00:52:43,250 He bought himself another Schloss next door to, 849 00:52:43,250 --> 00:52:48,990 or 5 kilometers up the road from Gneixendorf place,

850 00:52:48,990 --> 00:52:52,170 and sort of settled down there.

851 00:52:52,170 --> 00:52:54,740 I mean, he's sort of a [audio freeze].

852 00:52:54,740 --> 00:52:57,590 But his mother--

853 00:52:57,590 --> 00:52:59,540 I mean his wife--

854 00:52:59,540 --> 00:53:03,950 she immediately said, you marry her,

855 00:53:03,950 --> 00:53:08,530 and I'll give you my Schloss Gneixendorf.

856 00:53:08,530 --> 00:53:10,597 You can live there.

857 00:53:10,597 --> 00:53:11,430 That's what she did.

858 00:53:11,430 --> 00:53:14,240

859 00:53:14,240 --> 00:53:19,250 So let's come now to your parents.

860 00:53:19,250 --> 00:53:22,480 Your grandfather has how many children? 861 00:53:22,480 --> 00:53:25,460 Your paternal grandfather has how many children?

862 00:53:25,460 --> 00:53:30,800 And where in that group does your father fit?

863 00:53:30,800 --> 00:53:37,820 Well, my grandfather had two children-- a boy and a girl.

864 00:53:37,820 --> 00:53:43,380 The boy was Carl, who married then Lilly--

865 00:53:43,380 --> 00:53:45,720 Lilly Wrangel.

866 00:53:45,720 --> 00:53:55,600 And she married into another sort of family, with an estate

867 00:53:55,600 --> 00:53:59,600 in [INAUDIBLE].

868 00:53:59,600 --> 00:54:01,260 This is your aunt.

869 00:54:01,260 --> 00:54:03,080 Yeah, my great aunt, yeah.

870 00:54:03,080 --> 00:54:04,010 Your great aunt.

871 00:54:04,010 --> 00:54:05,420 And what was her name?

872 00:54:05,420 --> 00:54:08,377 Your great aunt's name? 873 00:54:08,377 --> 00:54:09,210 [INTERPOSING VOICES]

874 00:54:09,210 --> 00:54:09,820 Don't worry.

875 00:54:09,820 --> 00:54:10,320 It's OK.

876 00:54:10,320 --> 00:54:11,210 It's OK.

877 00:54:11,210 --> 00:54:14,120 Listen, I asked this simply because I

878 00:54:14,120 --> 00:54:16,400 assume you might have it at the tip of your tongue.

879 00:54:16,400 --> 00:54:19,100 But if you don't know, that's perfectly fine.

880 00:54:19,100 --> 00:54:20,390 I've got it.

881 00:54:20,390 --> 00:54:23,390 All my life I've had a poor memory for names.

882 00:54:23,390 --> 00:54:27,940 And it shows up in old age even more than before.

883 00:54:27,940 --> 00:54:30,185 But I've got it written down everywhere Yes,

884 00:54:30,185 --> 00:54:32,240 and I will remember too. 885

00:54:32,240 --> 00:54:32,870

Of course.

886

00:54:32,870 --> 00:54:35,100

Of course-- just

five hours from now.

887

00:54:35,100 --> 00:54:36,458

That's the way it always goes.

888

00:54:36,458 --> 00:54:37,000

That's right.

889

00:54:37,000 --> 00:54:38,810

Yeah.

890

00:54:38,810 --> 00:54:43,060

Can you bring that green

book with the family --?

891

00:54:43,060 --> 00:54:44,260

It's right on top.

892

00:54:44,260 --> 00:54:45,910

You brought it already.

893

00:54:45,910 --> 00:54:48,800

So your grandfather, when we're talking about your grandfather,

894

00:54:48,800 --> 00:54:50,560

his name is Carl.

895

 $00:54:50,560 \longrightarrow 00:54:52,590$

And he has a sister.

896

 $00:54:52,590 \longrightarrow 00:54:56,930$

And then your

grandfather marries who,

897

00:54:56,930 --> 00:55:00,048

who becomes your father's mother?

898

00:55:00,048 --> 00:55:00,715

In other words--

899

00:55:00,715 --> 00:55:03,370

900

00:55:03,370 --> 00:55:07,030

He was introducing

Lilly, Countess Wrangel,

901

00:55:07,030 --> 00:55:10,450

to his father.

902

 $00:55:10,450 \longrightarrow 00:55:13,250$

And the father

then blew his top.

903

 $00:55:13,250 \longrightarrow 00:55:19,670$

About the daughter being able

to divorce family, no money,

904

 $00:55:19,670 \longrightarrow 00:55:21,490$

and Lutheran.

905

00:55:21,490 --> 00:55:26,330

I mean, it's just

impossible that in Vienna

906

 $00:55:26,330 \longrightarrow 00:55:30,510$

in the 19th century.

907

00:55:30,510 --> 00:55:33,080

So she becomes your grandmother.

908

00:55:33,080 --> 00:55:33,580

Yes.

909

00:55:33,580 --> 00:55:34,080

She--

910 00:55:34,080 --> 00:55:35,790 [INTERPOSING VOICES]

911

00:55:35,790 --> 00:55:39,550 And she had a major influence certainly on my life

912

00:55:39,550 --> 00:55:44,880 too, because her husband Carl died quite young,

913

00:55:44,880 --> 00:55:46,600 probably about 33.

914

00:55:46,600 --> 00:55:51,620 My father was only about 60 years old at the time.

915

00:55:51,620 --> 00:55:56,200 And so she had to feed the family

916

00:55:56,200 --> 00:56:02,100 through without a father, because she didn't remarry.

917

00:56:02,100 --> 00:56:06,390

918

00:56:06,390 --> 00:56:07,660 Ancestors.

919

00:56:07,660 --> 00:56:09,526 The print --

920

00:56:09,526 --> 00:56:12,170

921

00:56:12,170 --> 00:56:14,742 So your father is an only child? 922

00:56:14,742 --> 00:56:15,450

Or did he have--?

923

00:56:15,450 --> 00:56:16,350

No, no, no.

924

00:56:16,350 --> 00:56:18,010

They were three children.

925

 $00:56:18,010 \longrightarrow 00:56:21,420$

I can show you even a picture of them as young children,

of them as young children,

926

00:56:21,420 --> 00:56:24,550

if I turn the laptop around.

927

00:56:24,550 --> 00:56:26,410

But I won't do it just now.

928

00:56:26,410 --> 00:56:28,390

No, no, no.

929

00:56:28,390 --> 00:56:30,910

Then you have an

aunt or an uncle?

930

00:56:30,910 --> 00:56:33,310

Or do you have two

uncles, two aunts?

931

 $00:56:33,310 \longrightarrow 00:56:40,110$

Well, I had an uncle

and an aunt, yes.

932

 $00:56:40,110 \longrightarrow 00:56:42,170$

And my father was the youngest.

933

00:56:42,170 --> 00:56:46,930

Otto, my father, was the

youngest of three children.

934

00:56:46,930 --> 00:56:50,800 And what were the names of your aunt and your uncle?

935

00:56:50,800 --> 00:56:53,260 Georg was the oldest.

936

00:56:53,260 --> 00:56:56,530 I think he was born in 1891.

937

00:56:56,530 --> 00:57:05,330 Then Matilda-- Tila, as we called her-- was born in 1892.

938

00:57:05,330 --> 00:57:13,340 And my father Otto, Otto Bernhardt, was born in 1894.

939

00:57:13,340 --> 00:57:17,400 And when did your grandfather--

940

00:57:17,400 --> 00:57:19,260 the one who was young--

941

00:57:19,260 --> 00:57:21,000 died young-- when did he die?

942

00:57:21,000 --> 00:57:22,560 What year did he die?

943

00:57:22,560 --> 00:57:27,020 1901.

944

00:57:27,020 --> 00:57:31,230 So your grandmother is really left with young children

945

00:57:31,230 --> 00:57:36,280 to bring up, from 6 years old to 12, 13 years old.

946

00:57:36,280 --> 00:57:39,360

Yeah, that's right.

947

00:57:39,360 --> 00:57:47,210 That of course before he died, Carl, great-grandfather Carl,

948

00:57:47,210 --> 00:57:52,050 ordained that a friend of his would

949

00:57:52,050 --> 00:57:59,170 be the male head of the family until the two sons will

950

00:57:59,170 --> 00:58:04,150 reach their 21 years old.

951

00:58:04,150 --> 00:58:06,980 OK.

952

00:58:06,980 --> 00:58:13,980 And-- oh, I just had-- yeah.

953

00:58:13,980 --> 00:58:17,520 I just had a question on the tip of my tongue with your dad.

954

00:58:17,520 --> 00:58:18,900 What did he die of?

955

00:58:18,900 --> 00:58:20,190 Do you know?

956

00:58:20,190 --> 00:58:20,980 At age 33?

957

00:58:20,980 --> 00:58:30,610

958

00:58:30,610 --> 00:58:34,920 I think that my father wrote a complete story

959 00:58:34,920 --> 00:58:39,783 about the family, including that.

960 00:58:39,783 --> 00:58:40,700 Something to do with--

961 00:58:40,700 --> 00:58:44,660

962 00:58:44,660 --> 00:58:45,620 again.

963 00:58:45,620 --> 00:58:46,280 It's OK.

964 00:58:46,280 --> 00:58:47,290 It's OK.

965 00:58:47,290 --> 00:58:50,120 I'm asking too many questions that are distracting,

966 00:58:50,120 --> 00:58:51,620 and forgive me for that.

967 00:58:51,620 --> 00:58:52,770 Yeah, yeah.

968 00:58:52,770 --> 00:58:53,270 No, no.

969 00:58:53,270 --> 00:58:56,690 It's just that I have that poor memory,

970 00:58:56,690 --> 00:59:00,640 and I should have had these things at my side.

971

00:59:00,640 --> 00:59:05,761 No, the green-backed file with all the ancestors.

972 00:59:05,761 --> 00:59:08,410 [someone in background - INAUDIBLE].

973

00:59:08,410 --> 00:59:10,500 Oh, it's here.

974

00:59:10,500 --> 00:59:11,360 Oh!

975

00:59:11,360 --> 00:59:12,735 Thank goodness I've got the file.

976 00:59:12,735 --> 00:59:15,530

977 00:59:15,530 --> 00:59:19,040 Yeah, thank you.

978 00:59:19,040 --> 00:59:24,830 Anyway, I've got-- hello?

979 00:59:24,830 --> 00:59:25,610 Yes, I'm here.

980 00:59:25,610 --> 00:59:28,280 I'm here.

981 00:59:28,280 --> 00:59:29,731 I can look things up now.

982 00:59:29,731 --> 00:59:34,350

983 00:59:34,350 --> 00:59:36,930 You know what I think we should do with that, 984 00:59:36,930 --> 00:59:44,640 is if later, if you have some sort of like family tree that

985 00:59:44,640 --> 00:59:47,370 is sketched out or something like that,

986 00:59:47,370 --> 00:59:50,310 if you can send me a photocopy, we can put it together

987 00:59:50,310 --> 00:59:51,450 with your file.

988 00:59:51,450 --> 00:59:53,490 And then people will know what are

989 00:59:53,490 --> 00:59:55,080 the names of various people.

990 00:59:55,080 --> 00:59:56,230 Yeah, definitely.

991 00:59:56,230 --> 00:59:58,890 I think that's a very good idea.

992 00:59:58,890 --> 00:59:59,760 OK.

993 00:59:59,760 --> 01:00:06,670 So shall we go on for the time being?

994 01:00:06,670 --> 01:00:09,480 Yes, let's go on for the time being.

995 01:00:09,480 --> 01:00:14,590 As I say, I can give you now some details,

996

01:00:14,590 --> 01:00:21,000 look them up on these family trees that I've got here.

997

01:00:21,000 --> 01:00:26,980 But I don't want to hold up the actual talk any more than you--

998

01:00:26,980 --> 01:00:27,880 OK.

999

01:00:27,880 --> 01:00:28,380 OK.

1000

01:00:28,380 --> 01:00:30,210 Well, when you're ready, we'll come back,

1001

01:00:30,210 --> 01:00:32,030 and I'll start asking questions.

1002

01:00:32,030 --> 01:00:32,530 OK.

1003

01:00:32,530 --> 01:00:35,760

1004

01:00:35,760 --> 01:00:36,390 Right.

1005

01:00:36,390 --> 01:00:37,710 Now where do we go?

1006

01:00:37,710 --> 01:00:40,970 What's the next question?

1007

01:00:40,970 --> 01:00:42,120 All right.

 \mathcal{C}

1008

01:00:42,120 --> 01:00:50,030 You know, the three children sort of grew up in Gneixendorf.

1009 01:00:50,030 --> 01:00:55,880 But again, there's enough money in the family left.

1010 01:00:55,880 --> 01:01:00,890 They only stayed in the Schloss Gneixendorf

1011 01:01:00,890 --> 01:01:05,420 during the spring and summer, a bit of the autumn time.

1012 01:01:05,420 --> 01:01:10,970 In the winter, they moved down into Krems,

1013 01:01:10,970 --> 01:01:20,900 in a comfortable kind of house, because the castle was--

1014 01:01:20,900 --> 01:01:24,710 I mean, you had sort of stoves in each room.

1015 01:01:24,710 --> 01:01:26,480 But there were big rooms.

1016 01:01:26,480 --> 01:01:29,450 And I remember from my early use,

1017 01:01:29,450 --> 01:01:33,900 I mean, in the winter in particular you would be--

1018 01:01:33,900 --> 01:01:36,140 if there's only one place you could be--

1019

01:01:36,140 --> 01:01:38,710 close to the stove.

1020

01:01:38,710 --> 01:01:40,550 Yeah.

1021

01:01:40,550 --> 01:01:44,050 So I'm going to just repeat a little bit of what

1022

01:01:44,050 --> 01:01:45,580 I understand from this.

1023

01:01:45,580 --> 01:01:48,160 Your father is Otto.

1024

01:01:48,160 --> 01:01:50,770 He's born in 1894.

1025

01:01:50,770 --> 01:01:54,970 You had an Aunt Matilda, whom you called Tilly.

1026

01:01:54,970 --> 01:01:57,680 And then you had an uncle Georg--

1027

01:01:57,680 --> 01:01:58,210 George.

1028

01:01:58,210 --> 01:02:03,460 And Georg was the oldest, born in 1890 was it that you said?

1029

01:02:03,460 --> 01:02:06,430 Or 1878?

1030

01:02:06,430 --> 01:02:07,780 At any rate, there are--

1031

01:02:07,780 --> 01:02:08,920 1891, yes.

1891, yes

1032 01:02:08,920 --> 01:02:10,450 1891.

1033

01:02:10,450 --> 01:02:12,280 And Tilda was born when?

1034

01:02:12,280 --> 01:02:15,040 What year?

1035

01:02:15,040 --> 01:02:17,640 1892?

1036

01:02:17,640 --> 01:02:19,980 She was born in 1892--

1037

01:02:19,980 --> 01:02:22,710 21st of April 1892.

1038

01:02:22,710 --> 01:02:23,590 OK.

1039

01:02:23,590 --> 01:02:25,930 And Otto is your father.

1040

01:02:25,930 --> 01:02:31,810 And your grandmother is Countess von Wrangel, Lilly.

1041

01:02:31,810 --> 01:02:38,860 And her husband was Carl, who dies young, at age 33.

1042

01:02:38,860 --> 01:02:43,150 Now let's turn to your mother's side of the family.

1043

01:02:43,150 --> 01:02:44,500 What was your mother's name?

1044

01:02:44,500 --> 01:02:47,790

1045 01:02:47,790 --> 01:02:53,790 My mother's name was Margarete von Mossig.

1046 01:02:53,790 --> 01:02:55,110 How do I spell her last name?

1047 01:02:55,110 --> 01:02:56,370 Mossig?

1048 01:02:56,370 --> 01:03:05,400 M-O double-S I-G. It was a true Viennese family, that

1049 01:03:05,400 --> 01:03:15,040 had worked its way up from being property owner in the city.

1050 01:03:15,040 --> 01:03:21,698 And her grandfather, I don't know.

1051 01:03:21,698 --> 01:03:23,331 Her great-grandfather--

1052 01:03:23,331 --> 01:03:27,100

1053 01:03:27,100 --> 01:03:41,180 Anyway, her grandfather became a very senior Austrian officer

1054 01:03:41,180 --> 01:03:45,020 in charge of the fortresses of the Austrian empire.

1055 01:03:45,020 --> 01:03:47,730

1056 01:03:47,730 --> 01:03:50,840 He retired as a field marshal lieutenant--

1057 01:03:50,840 --> 01:03:52,392 whatever that means.

1058 01:03:52,392 --> 01:03:54,710 But he was a field marshal.

1059 01:03:54,710 --> 01:03:58,865 And he was a very personable kind of person.

1060 01:03:58,865 --> 01:04:05,030 I've got a very nice photograph painting from him.

1061 01:04:05,030 --> 01:04:07,580 He loved Italy.

1062 01:04:07,580 --> 01:04:09,680 And he married an Italian--

1063 01:04:09,680 --> 01:04:12,410

1064 01:04:12,410 --> 01:04:15,200 French-Italian lady.

1065 01:04:15,200 --> 01:04:20,900 Her father had been a consultant and doctor of the sultan

1066 01:04:20,900 --> 01:04:24,100 of Constantinople.

1067 01:04:24,100 --> 01:04:25,180 Oh, my goodness.

1068 01:04:25,180 --> 01:04:27,910 And all this took place in Florence. 1069 01:04:27,910 --> 01:04:34,190

1070 01:04:34,190 --> 01:04:36,155 Did your mother have brothers and sister?

1071 01:04:36,155 --> 01:04:38,740

1072 01:04:38,740 --> 01:04:40,480 Yes, they had two sisters.

1073 01:04:40,480 --> 01:04:44,990 But she was the eldest of three.

1074 01:04:44,990 --> 01:04:49,550 What are the names of her-- so she's Margarete.

1075 01:04:49,550 --> 01:04:51,740 Margarete, yeah.

1076 01:04:51,740 --> 01:04:58,010 And the others were Evelyn, who was the second child,

1077 01:04:58,010 --> 01:05:00,305 and then Helga was the youngest.

1078 01:05:00,305 --> 01:05:05,370 Helga is still alive, lives in Vienna.

1079 01:05:05,370 --> 01:05:06,750 How old is Helga?

1080 01:05:06,750 --> 01:05:09,730 01:05:09,730 --> 01:05:12,790 Helga's a bit younger than I am.

1082

01:05:12,790 --> 01:05:14,485 But her husband was 96.

1083

01:05:14,485 --> 01:05:19,640

1084

01:05:19,640 --> 01:05:21,730 So you have an aunt?

1085

01:05:21,730 --> 01:05:23,950 She is technically your aunt?

1086

01:05:23,950 --> 01:05:25,850 No, she's my --

1087

01:05:25,850 --> 01:05:29,360 Well, maybe I've got myself mixed up.

1088

01:05:29,360 --> 01:05:32,360 No, she's my niece.

1089

01:05:32,360 --> 01:05:33,470 OK, she's your niece.

1090

01:05:33,470 --> 01:05:37,160 So in other words, your mother has two sisters, one of whom

1091

01:05:37,160 --> 01:05:38,120 is--

1092

01:05:38,120 --> 01:05:39,700 I forgot their names.

1093

01:05:39,700 --> 01:05:41,180

Your mother's Margarete.

1094

01:05:41,180 --> 01:05:42,985 Then who is the second one?

1095 01:05:42,985 --> 01:05:47,110 The second was Evelina.

1096 01:05:47,110 --> 01:05:48,080 Evelina.

1097 01:05:48,080 --> 01:05:56,140 And the third one was living --

1098 01:05:56,140 --> 01:05:59,330 Spain with her-- no, I can't think of the name right now.

1099 01:05:59,330 --> 01:05:59,910 It's crazy.

1100 01:05:59,910 --> 01:06:02,500

1101 01:06:02,500 --> 01:06:05,230 Did you know these aunts very well?

1102 01:06:05,230 --> 01:06:09,420 Yes, very, very well, because they used to come--

1103 01:06:09,420 --> 01:06:12,820 I mean, when they were living in Vienna,

1104 01:06:12,820 --> 01:06:16,390 in the summer they would always come to Gneixendorf

1105 01:06:16,390 --> 01:06:17,500 for their summer holiday.

1106 01:06:17,500 --> 01:06:20,490 1107 01:06:20,490 --> 01:06:22,870 So --

1108 01:06:22,870 --> 01:06:26,560 And is Helga the child of one of these aunts?

1109 01:06:26,560 --> 01:06:27,310 Yes, that's right.

1110 01:06:27,310 --> 01:06:28,080 She's the child.

1111 01:06:28,080 --> 01:06:33,940 She is, in fact, the youngest of all the children.

1112 01:06:33,940 --> 01:06:38,528 Must have been born in 1929 or something like that.

1113 01:06:38,528 --> 01:06:41,660

1114 01:06:41,660 --> 01:06:44,040 OK.

1115 01:06:44,040 --> 01:06:49,290 So your mother comes from a family called von Mossig.

1116 01:06:49,290 --> 01:06:53,910 And when did she and your father get married?

1117 01:06:53,910 --> 01:06:55,200 And how did they meet?

1118 01:06:55,200 --> 01:06:57,750 Do you know much about that? 1119 01:06:57,750 --> 01:06:58,633 A lot.

1120 01:06:58,633 --> 01:07:14,920 [LAUGHS] My grandfather, Margarete's father, apparently

1121 01:07:14,920 --> 01:07:19,070 that's a kind of family saga.

1122 01:07:19,070 --> 01:07:21,530 He ran away from home.

1123 01:07:21,530 --> 01:07:25,010 He didn't like the Italian set-up,

1124 01:07:25,010 --> 01:07:33,820 and he came back to Vienna, and wanted to join the cavalry.

1125 01:07:33,820 --> 01:07:39,700 Of course, without the financial backing of his parents,

1126 01:07:39,700 --> 01:07:41,420 he had a problem.

1127 01:07:41,420 --> 01:07:44,290 So he married into a rich bohemian

1128 01:07:44,290 --> 01:07:47,570 family, my grandmother.

1129 01:07:47,570 --> 01:07:52,390 And to see if that sails through.

1130 01:07:52,390 --> 01:07:59,130 1131 01:07:59,130 --> 01:08:06,160 He was one of the best riders of the Austrian cavalry, which

1132 01:08:06,160 --> 01:08:08,620 really, in the First World War, wasn't all that much

1133 01:08:08,620 --> 01:08:12,710 of a necessity anymore.

1134 01:08:12,710 --> 01:08:18,130 And the other thing is he was definitely renowned

1135 01:08:18,130 --> 01:08:19,602 to be the best bridge player.

1136 01:08:19,602 --> 01:08:23,680

1137 01:08:23,680 --> 01:08:25,040 Always important.

1138 01:08:25,040 --> 01:08:26,270 Always important.

1139 01:08:26,270 --> 01:08:26,770 Yeah.

1140 01:08:26,770 --> 01:08:29,649

1141 01:08:29,649 --> 01:08:35,830 He just survived long enough to be at my christening.

1142 01:08:35,830 --> 01:08:39,278 But then, very soon, died. 01:08:39,278 --> 01:08:46,330 So I haven't, personally don't remember him at all.

1144 01:08:46,330 --> 01:08:48,500 Only from photographs.

1145 01:08:48,500 --> 01:08:51,950 So how is it that your parents meet?

1146 01:08:51,950 --> 01:08:57,569 Well, my dad-- because that's, of course, the other story.

1147 01:08:57,569 --> 01:09:00,890 When the war came, my dad had just

1148 01:09:00,890 --> 01:09:09,670 finished his university entrance exam at the Krems gymnasium.

1149 01:09:09,670 --> 01:09:12,689 So that means the First World War, 1914.

1150 01:09:12,689 --> 01:09:14,760 The First World War.

1151 01:09:14,760 --> 01:09:22,950 So he joined the Austrian Army as an officer cadet.

1152 01:09:22,950 --> 01:09:27,540 And Georg had already, being two years older,

1153 01:09:27,540 --> 01:09:31,494 he was already a established lieutenant

1154 01:09:31,494 --> 01:09:32,970 in the Austrian Army.

1155

01:09:32,970 --> 01:09:35,430 So he was a staff officer.

1156

01:09:35,430 --> 01:09:37,090 He was that kind of person.

1157

01:09:37,090 --> 01:09:37,590 Staff.

1158

01:09:37,590 --> 01:09:41,040

1159

01:09:41,040 --> 01:09:48,609 But Otto sort of went out with the cavalry

1160

01:09:48,609 --> 01:09:57,860 into Russian Poland, along the [PLACE NAME] River.

1161

01:09:57,860 --> 01:10:05,390 And to cut a long story short, he was very soon

1162

01:10:05,390 --> 01:10:07,100 a Russian prisoner of war.

1163

01:10:07,100 --> 01:10:13,550 And he spent six years in Siberia before coming back.

1164

01:10:13,550 --> 01:10:14,860 This is your father.

1165

01:10:14,860 --> 01:10:16,670 My father, yeah.

1166

01:10:16,670 --> 01:10:17,570

Oh, my goodness.

1167

01:10:17,570 --> 01:10:22,910 So that means he was in Siberia in prisoner of war camps--

1168

01:10:22,910 --> 01:10:25,520 Tsarist prisoner of war camps.

1169

01:10:25,520 --> 01:10:27,740 Which also means that he was there

1170

01:10:27,740 --> 01:10:29,690 during the Russian Revolution.

1171

01:10:29,690 --> 01:10:30,860 Absolutely.

1172

01:10:30,860 --> 01:10:33,710 And I mean, that's why they were held up.

1173

01:10:33,710 --> 01:10:42,770 I mean Russia surrendered to Germany in early 1918,

1174

01:10:42,770 --> 01:10:48,650 before Germany surrendered to the Allies.

1175

01:10:48,650 --> 01:10:52,700 And these prisoners just couldn't make their way back

1176

01:10:52,700 --> 01:10:54,730 along the Siberian railway.

1177

01:10:54,730 --> 01:10:57,980 And that took years.

1178

01:10:57,980 --> 01:11:01,500 And the thing is, when he came back, 1179 01:11:01,500 --> 01:11:03,750 there's a photograph of him as he looked

1180

01:11:03,750 --> 01:11:05,641 when he came back, in rags.

1181

01:11:05,641 --> 01:11:08,938

1182

01:11:08,938 --> 01:11:13,355 His mother-- Lilly--

1183

01:11:13,355 --> 01:11:16,470 said, now you must sit down, and we write down

1184

01:11:16,470 --> 01:11:20,370 the whole story of your prisoner-of-war [INAUDIBLE]..

1185

01:11:20,370 --> 01:11:21,680 Did he do it?

1186

01:11:21,680 --> 01:11:22,950 Did he do that?

1187

01:11:22,950 --> 01:11:25,550 He did it, and she did it too.

1188

01:11:25,550 --> 01:11:27,720 We've got two versions of it.

1189

01:11:27,720 --> 01:11:29,660

Did we ever find out?

1190

01:11:29,660 --> 01:11:33,570 Not until my dad had died, that all these things turned up.

1191

1192

01:11:36,860 --> 01:11:39,050 Oh, my goodness.

1193

01:11:39,050 --> 01:11:39,920 Oh, my goodness.

1194

01:11:39,920 --> 01:11:43,310 I mean, it's an amazingly detailed day to day and week

1195

01:11:43,310 --> 01:11:49,070 to week story of what happened, how they got on.

1196

01:11:49,070 --> 01:11:52,090 And I want to [INAUDIBLE] here.

1197

01:11:52,090 --> 01:11:56,360 I want it translate it you know It's a wonderful story.

1198

01:11:56,360 --> 01:11:58,952

1199

01:11:58,952 --> 01:12:00,035 Have you had it published?

1200

01:12:00,035 --> 01:12:03,230 Do you still have the manuscript?

1201

01:12:03,230 --> 01:12:07,330 I've got both manuscripts.

1202

01:12:07,330 --> 01:12:11,373 But it's a huge job.

1203

01:12:11,373 --> 01:12:12,290

I was going to write--

1204

01:12:12,290 --> 01:12:13,040 But it's unique.

1205

01:12:13,040 --> 01:12:15,770 It's very unique to be able to--

1206

01:12:15,770 --> 01:12:16,490 yeah.

1207

01:12:16,490 --> 01:12:19,290 It's totally unique, yeah.

1208

01:12:19,290 --> 01:12:28,920 So he comes back after World War I having spent six years

1209

01:12:28,920 --> 01:12:30,210 as a prisoner of war.

1210

 $01:12:30,210 \longrightarrow 01:12:32,760$

1211

01:12:32,760 --> 01:12:35,560 And he comes back in rags, you say.

1212

01:12:35,560 --> 01:12:36,120 Yeah.

1213

01:12:36,120 --> 01:12:42,290 And I mean they had to make sure in particular

1214

01:12:42,290 --> 01:12:46,110 the final stages, Moscow, Saint Petersburg, where they were

1215

01:12:46,110 --> 01:12:53,430 finally released, he wouldn't be reported as an officer,

1216 01:12:53,430 --> 01:12:57,168 because communists would

because communists would take out all the officers

1217 01:12:57,168 --> 01:12:58,960 and put them into their concentration camp.

1218 01:12:58,960 --> 01:13:02,800

1219 01:13:02,800 --> 01:13:07,720 Did your father ever tell you stories of Siberia

1220 01:13:07,720 --> 01:13:11,380 when you were growing up, or this time there?

1221 01:13:11,380 --> 01:13:12,400 Not seriously.

1222 01:13:12,400 --> 01:13:18,790

1223 01:13:18,790 --> 01:13:21,360 My father had some very great friends,

1224 01:13:21,360 --> 01:13:25,290 and one was Kurt [? Weindorf, ?] from Germany.

1225 01:13:25,290 --> 01:13:28,270 Also a German.

1226 01:13:28,270 --> 01:13:29,210 His same age.

1227 01:13:29,210 --> 01:13:32,560 1228

01:13:32,560 --> 01:13:40,030 The family were the owners of Pelican writing gear,

1229

01:13:40,030 --> 01:13:48,130 which was, in the pre-war time, the place for pens--

1230

01:13:48,130 --> 01:13:51,810 fountain pens, everything you wanted to buy.

1231

01:13:51,810 --> 01:13:56,860 And he came from that family.

1232

01:13:56,860 --> 01:14:01,500 And the two boys, I mean, Uncle Kurt and my dad,

1233

01:14:01,500 --> 01:14:05,980 they were just wonderful friends.

1234

01:14:05,980 --> 01:14:07,410 And for me--

1235

01:14:07,410 --> 01:14:08,990 Where they prisoners together?

1236

01:14:08,990 --> 01:14:12,220 Had they been prisoners of war together?

1237

01:14:12,220 --> 01:14:15,220 They were together for most of the time.

1238

01:14:15,220 --> 01:14:18,640 But at a later stage, the Germans

1239

01:14:18,640 --> 01:14:21,130

were given some sort of priority.

1240

01:14:21,130 --> 01:14:22,880 They were supposed to--

1241

01:14:22,880 --> 01:14:27,370 well, Kurt did get back to Germany, probably six months

1242

01:14:27,370 --> 01:14:29,860 before my dad.

1243

01:14:29,860 --> 01:14:33,340 Depended whether you were allowed

1244

01:14:33,340 --> 01:14:38,370 on one of the few trains that were running.

1245

01:14:38,370 --> 01:14:41,410 And the Germans were then unloaded first,

1246

01:14:41,410 --> 01:14:43,660 and the Austrians stay behind.

1247

01:14:43,660 --> 01:14:47,490

1248

01:14:47,490 --> 01:14:51,600 So I ask again, did he, as you were growing up,

1249

01:14:51,600 --> 01:14:54,630 would he ever tell you stories, or is it

1250

01:14:54,630 --> 01:14:57,900 that you would hear him speak with his friend Kurt,

1251

01:14:57,900 --> 01:15:00,150 and you would pick up things that way,

1252

01:15:00,150 --> 01:15:03,500 through what they were talking to with the one another.

1253

01:15:03,500 --> 01:15:12,820 No, when my dad felt that we had to have some Catholic church

1254

01:15:12,820 --> 01:15:14,140 attendance.

1255

01:15:14,140 --> 01:15:17,260 And the local village in Gneixendorf

1256

01:15:17,260 --> 01:15:21,860 had a church, but not a priest.

1257

01:15:21,860 --> 01:15:23,625 And that was a neighboring village.

1258

01:15:23,625 --> 01:15:27,160 And of course, neighbors don't like each other.

1259

01:15:27,160 --> 01:15:31,390

1260

01:15:31,390 --> 01:15:35,700 No, those Catholics priests in those villages weren't exactly

1261

01:15:35,700 --> 01:15:37,200 the most--

1262

01:15:37,200 --> 01:15:37,770

Christian!

1263 01:15:37,770 --> 01:15:42,660 [LAUGHTER]

1264 01:15:42,660 --> 01:15:47,700 But dad certainly, you know for formal occasions,

1265

01:15:47,700 --> 01:15:50,310 we would [INAUDIBLE],, - audio/video freeze which was

1266 01:15:50,310 --> 01:15:51,990 a 2 kilometer walk.

1267 01:15:51,990 --> 01:15:58,380 But I mean for Sunday service, when the weather was OK,

1268 01:15:58,380 --> 01:16:02,010 we would walk down 4 kilometers to Krems,

1269 01:16:02,010 --> 01:16:06,420 to one of those beautiful Catholic churches, yeah.

1270 01:16:06,420 --> 01:16:09,670

1271 01:16:09,670 --> 01:16:13,500 But then Dad would sort of--

1272 01:16:13,500 --> 01:16:15,690 my dad wasn't a big talker anyway.

1273 01:16:15,690 --> 01:16:20,510 But then he would sort of talk about being a prisoner of war

1274 01:16:20,510 --> 01:16:28,210 in Siberia, making windows, covers for farmers,

1275

01:16:28,210 --> 01:16:30,040 and that kind of thing.

1276

01:16:30,040 --> 01:16:35,580 But having now read the greater part of his story,

1277

01:16:35,580 --> 01:16:37,980 the real story is quite different.

1278

01:16:37,980 --> 01:16:41,280 But he and Kurt [? Wandorf ?] definitely

1279

01:16:41,280 --> 01:16:49,590 became a kind of technical workshop in the officer camp,

1280

01:16:49,590 --> 01:16:52,990 making their own home, and making

1281

01:16:52,990 --> 01:16:59,130 theater arrangements, which apparently was a great thing.

1282

01:16:59,130 --> 01:17:01,380 And the Russians were totally fake.

1283

01:17:01,380 --> 01:17:07,140 They would fill the auditorium time and time again

1284

01:17:07,140 --> 01:17:11,346 when these Austrians had their theater performance.

1285

01:17:11,346 --> 01:17:15,000

And Dad and [? Wandorf--?] Kurt [? Wandorf, ?] were doing all

1286

01:17:15,000 --> 01:17:18,760 the mechanical side of it.

1287

01:17:18,760 --> 01:17:21,390 Making their own tools.

1288

01:17:21,390 --> 01:17:22,830 Well, they came--

1289

01:17:22,830 --> 01:17:26,040 I mean there's many aspects to this, and we won't go into--

1290

01:17:26,040 --> 01:17:28,470 I mean, I'm fascinated, but we won't

1291

01:17:28,470 --> 01:17:32,160 go into the Siberian story here, only to note

1292

01:17:32,160 --> 01:17:33,645 that there's an awful lot there.

1293

01:17:33,645 --> 01:17:37,860

1294

01:17:37,860 --> 01:17:44,220 But quite honestly we children didn't seriously know about it

1295

01:17:44,220 --> 01:17:45,645 until after his death.

1296

01:17:45,645 --> 01:17:48,410 He's died in 1891.

1297

01:17:48,410 --> 01:17:51,210 No, your father didn't die in--

1298

01:17:51,210 --> 01:17:54,030 1991, sorry.

1299

01:17:54,030 --> 01:17:55,680 My goodness.

1300

01:17:55,680 --> 01:17:56,820 That is--

1301

01:17:56,820 --> 01:18:00,120 A very recent kind of knowledge.

1302

01:18:00,120 --> 01:18:02,550 I mean, we knew that he had been in Siberia,

1303

01:18:02,550 --> 01:18:08,540 but that wasn't a subject that was talked about.

1304

01:18:08,540 --> 01:18:11,100 Do you think it influenced him?

1305

01:18:11,100 --> 01:18:15,110 Because it comes at a crucial point in his life

1306

01:18:15,110 --> 01:18:16,940 when he's a young man.

1307

01:18:16,940 --> 01:18:21,110 He has just come of age, and then enters the army.

1308

01:18:21,110 --> 01:18:25,160 And as he enters, he gets arrested and sent there.

1309

01:18:25,160 --> 01:18:27,920 I mean, when he leaves he's still a young man.

1310

01:18:27,920 --> 01:18:32,690 He's still 25, 26 or whatever.

1311

01:18:32,690 --> 01:18:36,710 Whenever he gets back, he hasn't yet hit 30 years old.

1312

01:18:36,710 --> 01:18:43,090 He was only 20 years old when he joined the Austrian Army.

1313

01:18:43,090 --> 01:18:48,200 So he was, obviously, still 20 years old when he was caught,

1314

01:18:48,200 --> 01:18:51,410 a prisoner of war.

1315

01:18:51,410 --> 01:18:54,800 What kind of personality do you remember your father

1316

01:18:54,800 --> 01:18:57,530 having when you were a young boy?

1317

01:18:57,530 --> 01:18:59,810 Was he someone who was more distant?

1318

01:18:59,810 --> 01:19:02,270 Was he someone who was reserved?

1319

01:19:02,270 --> 01:19:06,260 Was he someone who seemed traumatized now in hindsight?

1320

01:19:06,260 --> 01:19:07,560 He wasn't traumatized.

1321

01:19:07,560 --> 01:19:10,730

I mean, he had two most fantastic wives,

1322

01:19:10,730 --> 01:19:13,310 and two wonderful friends.

1323

01:19:13,310 --> 01:19:18,425 I mean, sometimes friendships [that you know I stood

1324

01:19:18,425 --> 01:19:19,440 in awe of.

1325

01:19:19,440 --> 01:19:22,250 And one, of course, was Kurt [? Wandorf. ?]

1326

01:19:22,250 --> 01:19:24,710 And the other one was a Viennese friend who

1327

01:19:24,710 --> 01:19:27,500 introduced him to my mother.

1328

01:19:27,500 --> 01:19:31,770

1329

01:19:31,770 --> 01:19:34,620 So it was a Viennese friend who introduces him

1330

01:19:34,620 --> 01:19:36,840 to Margarete von Mossig.

1331

01:19:36,840 --> 01:19:38,270 Yes.

1332

01:19:38,270 --> 01:19:45,820 And he, I think he was also in love with Margarete von Mossig.

1333

01:19:45,820 --> 01:19:48,190

When did your parents marry?

1334 01:19:48,190 --> 01:19:51,130 1922-- November 1923--

1335

01:19:51,130 --> 01:19:56,050 just when there was the inflation, which virtually

1336

01:19:56,050 --> 01:20:01,730 erased all money [INAUDIBLE] in Germany and Austria

1337

01:20:01,730 --> 01:20:02,780 particularly.

1338

01:20:02,780 --> 01:20:05,660

1339

01:20:05,660 --> 01:20:09,800 And did they settle then in Gneixendorf?

1340

01:20:09,800 --> 01:20:12,540 They did settle in Gneixendorf.

1341

01:20:12,540 --> 01:20:20,610 And Grita turned Gneixendorf around.

1342

01:20:20,610 --> 01:20:24,240 She was a real Viennese girl.

1343

01:20:24,240 --> 01:20:27,760 She was the first girl in her family-- don't forget,

1344

01:20:27,760 --> 01:20:31,240 girls didn't go to school in those days.

1345

01:20:31,240 --> 01:20:33,190

It was first generation.

1346 01:20:33,190 --> 01:20:36,450 She was the first generation who graduated

1347 01:20:36,450 --> 01:20:41,110 for university entrance in Prague of all places.

1348 01:20:41,110 --> 01:20:42,520 This is your mother?

1349 01:20:42,520 --> 01:20:44,170 My mother, yeah-- Grita.

1350 01:20:44,170 --> 01:20:45,580 Wow.

1351 01:20:45,580 --> 01:20:48,490 Yeah, she is a very bright--

1352 01:20:48,490 --> 01:20:49,600 bright woman.

1353 01:20:49,600 --> 01:20:54,850 And of course, when the war finished, and was lost,

1354 01:20:54,850 --> 01:20:58,090 and her dad went back to Vienna, didn't

1355 01:20:58,090 --> 01:21:00,020 want to go to work anymore.

1356 01:21:00,020 --> 01:21:02,300 So there wasn't much money in the family.

1357 01:21:02,300 --> 01:21:08,980 She went out and created a club for society youngsters

1358 01:21:08,980 --> 01:21:14,290 for reading books--

1359 01:21:14,290 --> 01:21:19,390 famous books, and generally sort of a social club.

1360 01:21:19,390 --> 01:21:22,770 She was a clairvoyant kind of person.

1361 01:21:22,770 --> 01:21:24,460 But nobody talked about it.

1362 01:21:24,460 --> 01:21:27,670 We only found out, again, behind the times.

1363 01:21:27,670 --> 01:21:34,570 But she was quite an amazing kind of person.

1364 01:21:34,570 --> 01:21:36,850 And of course, Schloss Gneixendorf

1365 01:21:36,850 --> 01:21:39,640 was the ideal place.

1366 01:21:39,640 --> 01:21:43,780 She would have paying guests and family guests.

1367 01:21:43,780 --> 01:21:48,030 The house was always full of guests, and so on.

1368 01:21:48,030 --> 01:21:52,750 And that's what I remember when I was just a little boy. 1369 01:21:52,750 --> 01:21:57,610 Amazing, amazing people there, who were there for a time;

1370 01:21:57,610 --> 01:21:59,470 of course, the regulars.

1371 01:21:59,470 --> 01:22:02,380 And in particular, of course, that friend,

1372 01:22:02,380 --> 01:22:03,940 the great inventor--

1373 01:22:03,940 --> 01:22:09,370

1374 01:22:09,370 --> 01:22:10,110 Don't worry.

1375 01:22:10,110 --> 01:22:11,040 It will come.

1376 01:22:11,040 --> 01:22:11,890 It will come.

1377 01:22:11,890 --> 01:22:12,830 It will come.

1378 01:22:12,830 --> 01:22:18,640

1379 01:22:18,640 --> 01:22:21,770 He was a count of something.

1380 01:22:21,770 --> 01:22:22,340 Riemesberg.

1381 01:22:22,340 --> 01:22:25,630 Count Riemesberg. 1382 01:22:25,630 --> 01:22:30,520 He was a magic person, with photography.

1383 01:22:30,520 --> 01:22:33,790 And of course, my mother loved being photographed,

1384 01:22:33,790 --> 01:22:36,100 being a beautiful person.

1385 01:22:36,100 --> 01:22:39,140 She also had a lot of painter friends who would paint.

1386 01:22:39,140 --> 01:22:41,400 So they had all these paintings and photographs

1387 01:22:41,400 --> 01:22:47,040 which to some extent still around the family.

1388 01:22:47,040 --> 01:22:50,710 But she was a sort of heart and soul of the party.

1389 01:22:50,710 --> 01:22:54,670 And suddenly my dad, who was basically,

1390 01:22:54,670 --> 01:22:58,270 as far as the rest of the family is concerned,

1391 01:22:58,270 --> 01:22:59,560 he was the youngest.

1392 01:22:59,560 --> 01:23:03,940 He had trouble getting through the gymnasium.

01:23:03,940 --> 01:23:09,280 So Georg passed, [? took ?] colors, and so on.

1394 01:23:09,280 --> 01:23:12,640 He was a prisoner of war in Russia.

1395 01:23:12,640 --> 01:23:13,450 I mean come on.

1396 01:23:13,450 --> 01:23:20,570 I mean, what can you expect from that youngster?

1397 01:23:20,570 --> 01:23:24,250 So he had a hard time reasserting himself.

1398 01:23:24,250 --> 01:23:28,915 But Grita, his wife did a fantastic [INAUDIBLE]..

1399 01:23:28,915 --> 01:23:32,350 But she was only there for a short time.

1400 01:23:32,350 --> 01:23:34,430 Tell me what happened.

1401 01:23:34,430 --> 01:23:36,137 What happened with Grita.

1402 01:23:36,137 --> 01:23:38,940 Well, he was-- hello?

1403 01:23:38,940 --> 01:23:40,920 Where are you?

1404 01:23:40,920 --> 01:23:42,680 Can you see me?

01:23:42,680 --> 01:23:45,660 Yeah, now I can see you.

1406 01:23:45,660 --> 01:23:50,652 He had, very quickly, four children.

1407 01:23:50,652 --> 01:23:53,910 And then she died of blood poisoning

1408 01:23:53,910 --> 01:23:57,240 when I was about three years old.

1409 01:23:57,240 --> 01:23:59,880 So you don't have many memories of her.

1410 01:23:59,880 --> 01:24:03,900 I have only got just a few.

1411 01:24:03,900 --> 01:24:08,430 But I'm the only one of us kids who has any physical memories.

1412 01:24:08,430 --> 01:24:11,490 But we-- particularly with my sister, Rosemarie,

1413 01:24:11,490 --> 01:24:13,890 who is next to me--

1414 01:24:13,890 --> 01:24:16,720 a year and a half younger than I am--

1415 01:24:16,720 --> 01:24:20,358 we've been really in a way possessed by her.

1416 01:24:20,358 --> 01:24:23,170 1417 01:24:23,170 --> 01:24:25,270 Not at first, because we didn't even

1418 01:24:25,270 --> 01:24:30,970 know she died, because Dad was absolutely--

1419 01:24:30,970 --> 01:24:34,890 he ruled that nobody would talk about her.

1420 01:24:34,890 --> 01:24:36,940 She just, next morning, she wasn't there.

1421 01:24:36,940 --> 01:24:40,660

1422 01:24:40,660 --> 01:24:45,520 Maybe my first clear memory was one evening,

1423 01:24:45,520 --> 01:24:47,840 when at night my parents at [? least ?]

1424 01:24:47,840 --> 01:24:53,580 nightly picked me up from the bed in the children's room,

1425 01:24:53,580 --> 01:24:55,960 and walked me to their bedroom.

1426 01:24:55,960 --> 01:25:00,550 And there was my mother was lying there in the bed.

1427 01:25:00,550 --> 01:25:01,330 And she kissed me.

01:25:01,330 --> 01:25:03,414 She only kissed us on the [INAUDIBLE]..

1429 01:25:03,414 --> 01:25:06,550

1430 01:25:06,550 --> 01:25:07,300 Kissed me.

1431 01:25:07,300 --> 01:25:08,140 No words spoken.

1432 01:25:08,140 --> 01:25:11,770 Dad took me back to the bedroom.

1433 01:25:11,770 --> 01:25:14,800 I am certain I can't say it--

1434 01:25:14,800 --> 01:25:16,240 I can't be sure--

1435 01:25:16,240 --> 01:25:21,260 that that was the night she died, because we didn't see her

1436 01:25:21,260 --> 01:25:22,260 anymore.

1437 01:25:22,260 --> 01:25:26,080 And servants were carrying on as normal.

1438 01:25:26,080 --> 01:25:28,730 We were being fed and so on.

1439 01:25:28,730 --> 01:25:32,110 The only thing is Fila and my grandmother

1440 01:25:32,110 --> 01:25:35,740 would be much more around with us children,

1441 01:25:35,740 --> 01:25:38,250 and Fila, of course, then took charge of Imgard

1442

01:25:38,250 --> 01:25:41,320 who was only a few weeks old.

1443

01:25:41,320 --> 01:25:44,220 And she, in a way, became her mother.

1444

01:25:44,220 --> 01:25:46,930 The two children and her [? maid ?]

1445

01:25:46,930 --> 01:25:49,030 were mother and daughter.

1446

01:25:49,030 --> 01:25:54,380

1447

01:25:54,380 --> 01:25:57,530 For a child, I can't imagine what

1448

01:25:57,530 --> 01:25:59,960 it is like, because you experience,

1449

01:25:59,960 --> 01:26:03,550 at that age, the world through your emotions,

1450

01:26:03,550 --> 01:26:05,960 and completely through your emotions.

1451

01:26:05,960 --> 01:26:09,350 So here is a presence, and then it's gone, 1452 01:26:09,350 --> 01:26:12,110 and no explanation as to what happened.

1453 01:26:12,110 --> 01:26:16,040

1454 01:26:16,040 --> 01:26:20,300 And this happens to you when you're three years old.

1455 01:26:20,300 --> 01:26:22,850 And you had two younger sisters?

1456 01:26:22,850 --> 01:26:24,460 Yeah, two younger.

1457 01:26:24,460 --> 01:26:25,100 OK.

1458 01:26:25,100 --> 01:26:27,560 One of them is Rosemarie, did you say?

1459 01:26:27,560 --> 01:26:28,820 Yeah, Rosemarie.

1460 01:26:28,820 --> 01:26:30,470 Rosemarie and I were very close.

1461 01:26:30,470 --> 01:26:33,360

1462 01:26:33,360 --> 01:26:38,640 And we were both, in a sense, realizing,

1463 01:26:38,640 --> 01:26:42,880 as we grew up, that we, in some way, possessed our mother.

01:26:42,880 --> 01:26:44,960 It's very strange.

1465

01:26:44,960 --> 01:26:46,400 How do you explain that?

1466

01:26:46,400 --> 01:26:48,230 How does it manifest itself?

1467

01:26:48,230 --> 01:26:51,000 In what ways would you be--?

1468

01:26:51,000 --> 01:26:55,430 Well, OK.

1469

01:26:55,430 --> 01:26:58,190 One of the obvious things, my sister Rosemarie,

1470

01:26:58,190 --> 01:27:01,490 who was [INAUDIBLE] at the moment.

1471

01:27:01,490 --> 01:27:05,860 She's made it a definitely ruling long, long ago

1472

01:27:05,860 --> 01:27:09,350 that she'll be buried in the same grave

1473

01:27:09,350 --> 01:27:13,205 as my mother in Gneixendorf.

1474

01:27:13,205 --> 01:27:18,640

1475

01:27:18,640 --> 01:27:20,470 We never really

seriously discussed.

1476

01:27:20,470 --> 01:27:24,390

I mean, she obviously collected anything

1477 01:27:24,390 --> 01:27:29,640 that could be found from our mother, she would collect.

1478 01:27:29,640 --> 01:27:33,180 And she was in Germany the whole time.

1479 01:27:33,180 --> 01:27:37,430 So she obviously had a much better chance of me,

1480 01:27:37,430 --> 01:27:41,040 who was staying after the war in England,

1481 01:27:41,040 --> 01:27:43,260 and then in South Africa later.

1482 01:27:43,260 --> 01:27:47,980

1483 01:27:47,980 --> 01:27:50,200 But even without--

1484 01:27:50,200 --> 01:27:53,230 I could [INAUDIBLE] she would do something

1485 01:27:53,230 --> 01:27:56,110 that I would have wanted her to do without having actually

1486 01:27:56,110 --> 01:27:57,202 asked her.

1487 01:27:57,202 --> 01:27:59,000 And it was that kind of thing.

01:27:59,000 --> 01:28:09,360 And before we went to South Africa,

1489 01:28:09,360 --> 01:28:13,770 I was working for ITT, huge American

1490 01:28:13,770 --> 01:28:16,710 combine for the German-speaking countries.

1491 01:28:16,710 --> 01:28:21,540 And we were living in kind of a medieval little town

1492 01:28:21,540 --> 01:28:24,730 called Markgroningen, outside of Stuttgart.

1493 01:28:24,730 --> 01:28:28,860 And Pam had insisted that our children

1494 01:28:28,860 --> 01:28:31,448 would be born in England.

1495 01:28:31,448 --> 01:28:37,980 And so our daughter was born before we left England.

1496 01:28:37,980 --> 01:28:47,460 But Carl was-- she especially went back to that hospital,

1497 01:28:47,460 --> 01:28:51,910 where she'd made friends with nurses, to have him.

1498 01:28:51,910 --> 01:28:58,590 And then she brought the baby back to Markgroningen.

01:28:58,590 --> 01:29:02,550 And then she persuaded the sister

1500 01:29:02,550 --> 01:29:09,090 who was helping with the birth to live with us,

1501 01:29:09,090 --> 01:29:13,170 looking after the baby, because she was going out to work.

1502 01:29:13,170 --> 01:29:16,740 Pam was never one for staying behind.

1503 01:29:16,740 --> 01:29:22,075 And then she said she was a medium.

1504 01:29:22,075 --> 01:29:22,950 So we said all right.

1505 01:29:22,950 --> 01:29:24,990 One evening we'll have a session.

1506 01:29:24,990 --> 01:29:29,400 We had this medium, this board, Ouija board or something.

1507 01:29:29,400 --> 01:29:30,880 What's it called?

1508 01:29:30,880 --> 01:29:33,420 And so we have this session.

1509 01:29:33,420 --> 01:29:36,190 And of course, in no time at all who comes up?

1510 01:29:36,190 --> 01:29:38,780 My mom. 1511 01:29:38,780 --> 01:29:47,985 And she doesn't stop talking about us being in Johannesburg.

1512 01:29:47,985 --> 01:29:53,430 But Johannesburg, South Africa, were not on our program at all.

1513 01:29:53,430 --> 01:29:55,660 We didn't like what was going on there.

1514 01:29:55,660 --> 01:30:00,650 And so in the end, I said to Mary,

1515 01:30:00,650 --> 01:30:02,610 for heaven's sake let's stop.

1516 01:30:02,610 --> 01:30:03,310 So we stopped.

1517 01:30:03,310 --> 01:30:06,190

1518 01:30:06,190 --> 01:30:11,480 And two years later we were in Johannesburg.

1519 01:30:11,480 --> 01:30:16,970 Well, there are some of us who believe in things

1520 01:30:16,970 --> 01:30:18,410 that we can't explain.

1521 01:30:18,410 --> 01:30:21,860 It is part of Catholicism too, a kind of mystical--

1522 01:30:21,860 --> 01:30:24,200 I mean though most priests would not approve

1523

01:30:24,200 --> 01:30:28,010 of any kind of Ouija board.

1524

01:30:28,010 --> 01:30:31,580 But there's a mystical aspect to the faith

1525

01:30:31,580 --> 01:30:35,950 of people who believe in things they can't explain,

1526

01:30:35,950 --> 01:30:40,910 and other people who dismiss it as, well, this

1527

01:30:40,910 --> 01:30:44,150 is all some sort of snake oil.

1528

01:30:44,150 --> 01:30:49,040 But for you, when you mentioned that your mother had

1529

01:30:49,040 --> 01:30:53,570 clairvoyant tendencies, did your medium, when

1530

01:30:53,570 --> 01:30:57,390 you spoke with her, this lady who took care of your children,

1531

01:30:57,390 --> 01:30:58,400 did she know that?

1532

01:30:58,400 --> 01:31:02,840 Did you share any details about your mother at all with her?

1533

01:31:02,840 --> 01:31:03,760 No, not at all.

01:31:03,760 --> 01:31:06,800

1535

01:31:06,800 --> 01:31:11,610 We didn't really know then that she was a medium.

1536

01:31:11,610 --> 01:31:14,900 That only then sort of gradually emerged from there.

1537

01:31:14,900 --> 01:31:17,210 And Rosie asked Dad--

1538

01:31:17,210 --> 01:31:18,990 our father-- some questions.

1539

01:31:18,990 --> 01:31:22,510 And he said, yeah, she was a bit clairvoyant,

1540

01:31:22,510 --> 01:31:24,500 but then changed the subject.

1541

01:31:24,500 --> 01:31:27,590 It wasn't something the family talked about.

1542

01:31:27,590 --> 01:31:34,190 Then of course, when his sister, who kept diaries, died,

1543

01:31:34,190 --> 01:31:37,100 we found all her diaries.

1544

01:31:37,100 --> 01:31:39,710 She was horrified about Grita's ability

1545

01:31:39,710 --> 01:31:42,430 to influence other people--

1546 01:31:42,430 --> 01:31:43,590 the fellows and so on.

1547 01:31:43,590 --> 01:31:46,320

1548 01:31:46,320 --> 01:31:49,550 She never said it to my Dad, but she said --

1549 01:31:49,550 --> 01:31:52,810 Otto should never marry her, [INAUDIBLE]..

1550 01:31:52,810 --> 01:31:54,350 This is your aunt Matilda.

1551 01:31:54,350 --> 01:31:56,300 Yeah, she wrote that in her diary

1552 01:31:56,300 --> 01:31:59,740 that she certainly wasn't the person to stand up to Dad

1553 01:31:59,740 --> 01:32:01,860 and tell him what he must do.

1554 01:32:01,860 --> 01:32:06,450 But the boys told her what to do.

1555 01:32:06,450 --> 01:32:09,440 And she didn't marry the guy who wanted to marry her.

1556 01:32:09,440 --> 01:32:12,695 I don't know to what extent they were in love or not.

1557 01:32:12,695 --> 01:32:18,450 But the boys didn't think he was the right [? guy. ?]

1558 01:32:18,450 --> 01:32:20,460 Tell me, who is your youngest sister?

1559

01:32:20,460 --> 01:32:21,870 You had yet another sister.

1560

01:32:21,870 --> 01:32:23,340 Is that correct?

1561

01:32:23,340 --> 01:32:25,690 Yes, Imgard.

1562

01:32:25,690 --> 01:32:36,040 She was the one who was about six weeks when her mother died.

1563

01:32:36,040 --> 01:32:40,190 And she and my dad have always been at, sort of,

1564

01:32:40,190 --> 01:32:44,750 loggerheads, because she always felt that that Dad was

1565

01:32:44,750 --> 01:32:49,560 blaming her for what happened.

1566

01:32:49,560 --> 01:32:50,480 Did he?

1567

01:32:50,480 --> 01:32:53,000 She talked [INAUDIBLE] psychologists about him

1568

01:32:53,000 --> 01:32:53,910 and so on.

1569

01:32:53,910 --> 01:32:57,920 But I think the real cause was

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probably the wound that I had.

1570 01:32:57,920 --> 01:33:01,300

1571 01:33:01,300 --> 01:33:01,960 What is that?

1572 01:33:01,960 --> 01:33:04,390 What do you mean by the wound that you had?

1573 01:33:04,390 --> 01:33:07,090 The real cause--

1574 01:33:07,090 --> 01:33:12,760 We had all these Victorian toys, which my parents had.

1575 01:33:12,760 --> 01:33:14,860 They were sort of passed on to us,

1576 01:33:14,860 --> 01:33:18,430 because they couldn't afford to buy us new toys.

1577 01:33:18,430 --> 01:33:27,850 And a toy elephant that was on wheels, and heavy iron things.

1578 01:33:27,850 --> 01:33:33,790 And I crushed my toe on my left foot.

1579 01:33:33,790 --> 01:33:37,390 And I got this osteomyelitis which in those days

1580 01:33:37,390 --> 01:33:38,976 was incurable.

01:33:38,976 --> 01:33:43,450 I had two operations in the hospital in Krems,

1582 01:33:43,450 --> 01:33:48,030 and footbaths forever more.

1583 01:33:48,030 --> 01:33:49,690 But eventually did it did heel.

1584 01:33:49,690 --> 01:33:51,800 The doctors-- the [INAUDIBLE] doctors-- said,

1585 01:33:51,800 --> 01:33:53,760 I can't believe it.

1586 01:33:53,760 --> 01:33:59,000 In post-war it would have been no real problem.

1587 01:33:59,000 --> 01:34:02,650 So was this, let's say, lead paint on that truck?

1588 01:34:02,650 --> 01:34:06,400 Was there some sort of chemical that infected

1589 01:34:06,400 --> 01:34:09,730 your toe that caused blood poisoning, like you

1590 01:34:09,730 --> 01:34:11,400 said it was with your mother?

1591 01:34:11,400 --> 01:34:16,950 I mean, nobody was, at that time, trying to find out that.

1592 01:34:16,950 --> 01:34:19,570 I mean my mother had blood poisoned, 1593 01:34:19,570 --> 01:34:24,460 and the doctor couldn't rescue her, and that was that.

1594 01:34:24,460 --> 01:34:29,427 And then my dad, the way he is, once a person is dead,

1595 01:34:29,427 --> 01:34:30,260 don't talk about it.

1596 01:34:30,260 --> 01:34:37,100

1597 01:34:37,100 --> 01:34:40,040 That must have been very hard for children.

1598 01:34:40,040 --> 01:34:41,950 For some adults maybe they can adjust,

1599 01:34:41,950 --> 01:34:47,150 but for children, as I said earlier, there was a presence,

1600 01:34:47,150 --> 01:34:49,280 and then there is no person.

1601 01:34:49,280 --> 01:34:50,720 What happened to them?

1602 01:34:50,720 --> 01:34:53,020 And particularly it's your mother.

1603 01:34:53,020 --> 01:35:00,310 So it's a key person, if not the key person in your life.

1604 01:35:00,310 --> 01:35:04,390 Well, I mean, in a sense, our mother got--

1605

01:35:04,390 --> 01:35:06,500 I mean, or we got our own back--

1606

01:35:06,500 --> 01:35:10,060 because we were influenced by her all our life.

1607

01:35:10,060 --> 01:35:16,070 There are plenty of other instances of Rosie and I,

1608

01:35:16,070 --> 01:35:20,300 and also the way we sort of, without talking about it,

1609

01:35:20,300 --> 01:35:22,750 she would do something that I would have liked to do,

1610

01:35:22,750 --> 01:35:24,850 or vice versa.

1611

01:35:24,850 --> 01:35:32,696 I mean, I translated her latest book into English,

1612

01:35:32,696 --> 01:35:34,980 just before she died.

1613

01:35:34,980 --> 01:35:38,750 We together, over the--

1614

01:35:38,750 --> 01:35:39,350 Excuse me.

1615

01:35:39,350 --> 01:35:42,650 Does this mean your mother wrote a book, or Rosie wrote--

01:35:42,650 --> 01:35:43,340 Rosie.

1617

01:35:43,340 --> 01:35:48,650 I mean Rosie became a famous professor in Germany.

1618

01:35:48,650 --> 01:35:49,970 What was her full name then?

1619

01:35:49,970 --> 01:35:51,770 Did she marry?

1620

01:35:51,770 --> 01:35:52,880 No, she didn't marry.

1621

01:35:52,880 --> 01:35:55,350 So it was von Schweitzer.

1622

01:35:55,350 --> 01:35:56,850

Rosemarie von--

1623

01:35:56,850 --> 01:35:59,650 Doctor Rosemarie von Schweitzer.

1624

01:35:59,650 --> 01:36:00,560 OK.

1625

01:36:00,560 --> 01:36:01,580 OK.

1626

01:36:01,580 --> 01:36:05,960 And the image that I'm getting of your father

1627

01:36:05,960 --> 01:36:12,230 is that he was a little harsh, or a little bit

1628

01:36:12,230 --> 01:36:16,900 cut off from emotions, cut off from whatever feeling.

1629 01:36:16,900 --> 01:36:19,580 It must have been very hard for him to lose his wife.

1630 01:36:19,580 --> 01:36:21,800 If he was the one who has been in the shadow,

1631 01:36:21,800 --> 01:36:25,430 and she was the shining star, and all of a sudden she's gone,

1632 01:36:25,430 --> 01:36:29,990 it's like the shining star is gone, and it's very painful.

1633 01:36:29,990 --> 01:36:30,500 Yeah.

1634 01:36:30,500 --> 01:36:36,710 Well, he fell in love with my wonderful stepmother

1635 01:36:36,710 --> 01:36:41,950 not much more than six months after my mother died.

1636 01:36:41,950 --> 01:36:43,350 OK.

1637 01:36:43,350 --> 01:36:50,030 And it was not something that he deliberately brought about.

1638 01:36:50,030 --> 01:36:58,370 But he went to an agricultural exhibition in Germany.

1639 01:36:58,370 --> 01:37:03,070 And he met there his cousin Rango, 1640 01:37:03,070 --> 01:37:09,870 from one of her grandmother's siblings,

1641 01:37:09,870 --> 01:37:14,850 who had married into the German family.

1642 01:37:14,850 --> 01:37:16,390 And who was there?

1643 01:37:16,390 --> 01:37:17,610 Ula Ripke.

1644 01:37:17,610 --> 01:37:20,130 And the two fell in love with each other.

1645 01:37:20,130 --> 01:37:25,230 And of course, there again, there was that kind of scene

1646 01:37:25,230 --> 01:37:30,350 that her father said, if you marry this guy,

1647 01:37:30,350 --> 01:37:33,850 we won't talk anymore.

1648 01:37:33,850 --> 01:37:37,450 So what was wrong with your father in his eyes,

1649 01:37:37,450 --> 01:37:39,850 in Ula Ripke's father's eyes?

1650 01:37:39,850 --> 01:37:41,620 What was wrong with your father there?

1651 01:37:41,620 --> 01:37:43,040 Because he had three kids? 1652 01:37:43,040 --> 01:37:45,880 First of all, he was a Catholic.

1653 01:37:45,880 --> 01:37:48,000 Secondly, he had already three children

1654 01:37:48,000 --> 01:37:49,990 from a different marriage.

1655 01:37:49,990 --> 01:37:56,170 And third, his estate sounded OK,

1656 01:37:56,170 --> 01:38:01,465 but it wasn't particularly economically viable,

1657 01:38:01,465 --> 01:38:02,340 which is all correct.

1658 01:38:02,340 --> 01:38:05,480

1659 01:38:05,480 --> 01:38:09,770 But she married him anyway.

1660 01:38:09,770 --> 01:38:11,010 Married him anyway.

1661 01:38:11,010 --> 01:38:12,950 And afterwards he was--

1662 01:38:12,950 --> 01:38:16,280 I didn't have any real grandfathers.

1663 01:38:16,280 --> 01:38:18,650 But he was a true grandfather to me. 1664

01:38:18,650 --> 01:38:22,700

1665

01:38:22,700 --> 01:38:23,810

How nice.

1666

01:38:23,810 --> 01:38:25,040

How nice.

1667

01:38:25,040 --> 01:38:27,020

So tell me about all--

1668

01:38:27,020 --> 01:38:30,500

He was completely,

I mean, outraged.

1669

01:38:30,500 --> 01:38:32,330

Because he was the sort of guy--

1670

 $01:38:32,330 \longrightarrow 01:38:34,170$

he came from Poland.

1671

01:38:34,170 --> 01:38:36,410

And he came.

1672

01:38:36,410 --> 01:38:41,180

He had, the parents

again, village pub.

1673

01:38:41,180 --> 01:38:42,440

Father dies.

1674

01:38:42,440 --> 01:38:45,070

Mother has the

pub now, suddenly.

1675

01:38:45,070 --> 01:38:47,020

She's got this.

1676

01:38:47,020 --> 01:38:47,910

Only two children.

1677 01:38:47,910 --> 01:38:50,660 One, the girl, gets married.

1678 01:38:50,660 --> 01:38:52,870 She's got a son and three sisters.

1679 01:38:52,870 --> 01:38:55,460 Look, that boy is so gifted.

1680 01:38:55,460 --> 01:38:57,186 He must go to high school.

1681 01:38:57,186 --> 01:39:01,050 So she sells the farm to the pub.

1682 01:39:01,050 --> 01:39:05,820 And so he can go to the symposium, to the gymnasium.

1683 01:39:05,820 --> 01:39:07,980 He goes to the gymnasium, in Posnan.

1684 01:39:07,980 --> 01:39:14,820 He goes off to Freiberg in Germany,

1685 01:39:14,820 --> 01:39:17,800 becomes a young doctor.

1686 01:39:17,800 --> 01:39:20,110 I mean he just went from strength.

1687 01:39:20,110 --> 01:39:23,550 He was the kind of guy who was totally

1688 01:39:23,550 --> 01:39:25,230 devoted to what he was doing.

1689 01:39:25,230 --> 01:39:29,360

1690 01:39:29,360 --> 01:39:32,630 When I knew him, he was on the point of retiring.

1691 01:39:32,630 --> 01:39:38,250 He was heading a huge [INAUDIBLE] sanatorium

1692 01:39:38,250 --> 01:39:44,040 on the top of a hillside in central Germany.

1693 01:39:44,040 --> 01:39:45,780 And he'd written books.

1694 01:39:45,780 --> 01:39:50,190 He was contributing to medical periodicals.

1695 01:39:50,190 --> 01:39:52,070 I think he's been translated.

1696 01:39:52,070 --> 01:39:57,140 At the time he was probably one of the leading lung

1697 01:39:57,140 --> 01:39:59,690 surgeons in the world.

1698 01:39:59,690 --> 01:40:03,830 Of course, the war sort of cut everything off.

1699 01:40:03,830 --> 01:40:06,256 You're talking about World War II, now, or--?

01:40:06,256 --> 01:40:08,230 Yes, World War II, yeah.

1701 01:40:08,230 --> 01:40:10,510 But I went through, for one year,

1702 01:40:10,510 --> 01:40:15,420 in 1940 to '41, when he was retired in Wiesbaden,

1703 01:40:15,420 --> 01:40:16,610 in Germany.

1704 01:40:16,610 --> 01:40:20,950 And that was the first time when I went to a city high school.

1705 01:40:20,950 --> 01:40:33,394 And I had good marks on my local high school thing.

1706 01:40:33,394 --> 01:40:36,620 But the headmaster said, I don't know

1707 01:40:36,620 --> 01:40:41,210 what these countryside [? city ?] towns do.

1708 01:40:41,210 --> 01:40:46,640 I think you got to take tests in all the main subjects.

1709 01:40:46,640 --> 01:40:49,020 I said tests in all these subjects.

1710 01:40:49,020 --> 01:40:52,640 I failed all of them.

1711 01:40:52,640 --> 01:40:56,600 So I went back to Grosspapa, and I said, look.

1712 01:40:56,600 --> 01:40:58,060 I mean, this is terrible.

1713 01:40:58,060 --> 01:41:03,790 I don't want to start with one year back in high school.

1714 01:41:03,790 --> 01:41:08,350 And he said, no, we'll show them.

1715 01:41:08,350 --> 01:41:12,980 Professor Doctor Ripke with me, headmaster bowed.

1716 01:41:12,980 --> 01:41:17,156 [LAUGHS]

1717 01:41:17,156 --> 01:41:22,570 And the headmaster said, now look, we can reconsider,

1718 01:41:22,570 --> 01:41:32,310 if you, a professor will see to it that your nephew will get

1719 01:41:32,310 --> 01:41:36,720 the necessary study help, we'll accept him provisionally,

1720 01:41:36,720 --> 01:41:38,480 and we'll see at the end of the year

1721 01:41:38,480 --> 01:41:41,130 whether he'll make the grades, which is what happened

1722 01:41:41,130 --> 01:41:43,250 [? with him. ?] 1723 01:41:43,250 --> 01:41:47,840 So this your stepmother's father--

1724 01:41:47,840 --> 01:41:48,866 [INAUDIBLE]

1725 01:41:48,866 --> 01:41:51,130 --who is like your Grandpapa.

1726 01:41:51,130 --> 01:41:58,130 Who violently argued against his daughter marrying my dad.

1727 01:41:58,130 --> 01:42:02,420 But once the marriage was done, the typical Prussian way,

1728 01:42:02,420 --> 01:42:08,860 then I was part of the family, no matter what.

1729 01:42:08,860 --> 01:42:10,570 Did they have children?

1730 01:42:10,570 --> 01:42:13,420 Did Ula and your father have children?

1731 01:42:13,420 --> 01:42:15,790 Not Ula.

1732 01:42:15,790 --> 01:42:22,850 Funny enough, her mother was Margarete,

1733 01:42:22,850 --> 01:42:26,290 and his name was Otto, exactly like my parents--

1734 01:42:26,290 --> 01:42:27,540 name, first names. 1735 01:42:27,540 --> 01:42:30,370

1736 01:42:30,370 --> 01:42:34,670 So you didn't have any stepbrothers and sisters?

1737 01:42:34,670 --> 01:42:38,340 Oh, no.

1738 01:42:38,340 --> 01:42:41,060 They were our stepmother's--

1739 01:42:41,060 --> 01:42:43,620 they were siblings.

1740 01:42:43,620 --> 01:42:48,770 They were four boys and two girls.

1741 01:42:48,770 --> 01:42:52,160 So you're saying that she had brothers and sisters.

1742 01:42:52,160 --> 01:42:55,420 Yes, we were the eldest child.

1743 01:42:55,420 --> 01:43:00,840 And then there were three boys and one girl,

1744 01:43:00,840 --> 01:43:03,640 and then [INAUDIBLE].

1745 01:43:03,640 --> 01:43:04,660 OK.

1746 01:43:04,660 --> 01:43:06,030 OK.

01:43:06,030 --> 01:43:10,600 Most of the boys died in the war.

1748 01:43:10,600 --> 01:43:11,890 World War II.

1749 01:43:11,890 --> 01:43:12,575 World War II.

1750 01:43:12,575 --> 01:43:16,380

1751 01:43:16,380 --> 01:43:19,610 How many years did you live in Gneixendorf?

1752 01:43:19,610 --> 01:43:23,930 How long was your childhood there?

1753 01:43:23,930 --> 01:43:26,500 '26 to '35-- nine years.

1754 01:43:26,500 --> 01:43:29,450 Well, eight years something.

1755 01:43:29,450 --> 01:43:31,300 And why did you leave?

1756 01:43:31,300 --> 01:43:33,160 Why did the family leave?

1757 01:43:33,160 --> 01:43:39,640 Because as grandfather Ripke already foresaw,

1758 01:43:39,640 --> 01:43:43,520 it just wasn't possible.

1759 01:43:43,520 --> 01:43:45,820 And then it was 1932. 1760 01:43:45,820 --> 01:43:51,022 It was still during the big world Depression.

1761 01:43:51,022 --> 01:43:53,870 And that definitely sort of finally

1762 01:43:53,870 --> 01:43:56,570 killed over my dad's effort to--

1763 01:43:56,570 --> 01:43:59,420 I mean, he sort of turned the farm around

1764 01:43:59,420 --> 01:44:01,070 into something American-style.

1765 01:44:01,070 --> 01:44:07,240 Just be a huge chicken farm, and--

1766 01:44:07,240 --> 01:44:10,992

1767 01:44:10,992 --> 01:44:11,700 what's it called?

1768 01:44:11,700 --> 01:44:12,640 [NON-ENGLISH].

1769 01:44:12,640 --> 01:44:15,520 What--

1770 01:44:15,520 --> 01:44:16,940 What was the word that you--

1771 01:44:16,940 --> 01:44:19,010 Combine harvester.

01:44:19,010 --> 01:44:20,560 Oh, OK.

1773

01:44:20,560 --> 01:44:21,390 Yeah.

1774

01:44:21,390 --> 01:44:21,890 Yeah.

1775

01:44:21,890 --> 01:44:24,320 So it was really mechanized farming there.

1776

01:44:24,320 --> 01:44:28,160

1777

01:44:28,160 --> 01:44:32,660 And then, of course, there was Ula Mutti is saying look,

1778

01:44:32,660 --> 01:44:33,160 you know.

1779

01:44:33,160 --> 01:44:34,130 I've got connections.

1780

01:44:34,130 --> 01:44:38,500 She was a household teacher, trained household teacher.

1781 01:44:38,500 --> 01:44:42,820 She was the other person, woman, in the family who

1782 01:44:42,820 --> 01:44:47,240 had a full up to university education,

1783 01:44:47,240 --> 01:44:50,380 for the first time in the family.

01:44:50,380 --> 01:44:53,390 And she was a very, very capable person.

1785 01:44:53,390 --> 01:44:58,150 So tell me about her personality a little bit.

1786 01:44:58,150 --> 01:45:03,280 I mean, I hesitate to say it, but also did

1787 01:45:03,280 --> 01:45:04,660 she replace the mother?

1788 01:45:04,660 --> 01:45:06,480 Was she really like the mother?

1789 01:45:06,480 --> 01:45:08,210 No, she was totally different.

1790 01:45:08,210 --> 01:45:11,560 But she was an outstanding mother, that's for sure.

1791 01:45:11,560 --> 01:45:13,410 She made everybody work.

1792 01:45:13,410 --> 01:45:15,520 Everybody had to do something.

1793 01:45:15,520 --> 01:45:17,230 There was no let-up.

1794 01:45:17,230 --> 01:45:22,070 You had to learn things, do things, so on.

1795 01:45:22,070 --> 01:45:24,280 I mean, but she was also a good entertainer.

01:45:24,280 --> 01:45:27,130 I mean, particularly also [INAUDIBLE]

1797 01:45:27,130 --> 01:45:31,950 way she picked up from my first mother,

1798 01:45:31,950 --> 01:45:35,650 all her relations and so on, she kept up all the relations.

1799 01:45:35,650 --> 01:45:39,460

1800 01:45:39,460 --> 01:45:43,960 But she had that managerial ability,

1801 01:45:43,960 --> 01:45:47,910 which I don't think my real mother had.

1802 01:45:47,910 --> 01:45:49,860 Was she kind?

1803 01:45:49,860 --> 01:45:51,390 Yeah, very kind.

1804 01:45:51,390 --> 01:45:53,820 She was tough, but very kind.

1805 01:45:53,820 --> 01:45:56,520

1806 01:45:56,520 --> 01:45:57,860 She involved you in it.

1807 01:45:57,860 --> 01:46:01,560 You had to do things with her, and run with her,

01:46:01,560 --> 01:46:07,020 and do this, and go, and so on, which sometimes, I mean,

1809 01:46:07,020 --> 01:46:10,920 I often tried to escape it, to get into the library.

1810 01:46:10,920 --> 01:46:14,040 Nobody was looking [INAUDIBLE] me.

1811 01:46:14,040 --> 01:46:15,460 That was the thing.

1812 01:46:15,460 --> 01:46:17,960 But there was no let up with her.

1813 01:46:17,960 --> 01:46:18,890 She was a--

1814 01:46:18,890 --> 01:46:22,180 [LAUGHS]

1815 01:46:22,180 --> 01:46:26,130 And so you described the castle to me.

1816 01:46:26,130 --> 01:46:29,250 You described the town a little bit, the village.

1817 01:46:29,250 --> 01:46:31,770 And Krems is nearby.

1818 01:46:31,770 --> 01:46:33,870 Did you have a lot of interaction

1819 01:46:33,870 --> 01:46:37,020 with your neighbors, with the neighborhood kids, 1820 01:46:37,020 --> 01:46:41,700 with people in both of these places?

1821 01:46:41,700 --> 01:46:43,510 Or this world that you have describe

1822 01:46:43,510 --> 01:46:46,170 for me sounds so full, and so many

1823 01:46:46,170 --> 01:46:49,290 different adult characters with their very

1824 01:46:49,290 --> 01:46:52,310 interesting biographies.

1825 01:46:52,310 --> 01:46:53,910 Was that enough?

1826 01:46:53,910 --> 01:46:59,720 Well, in Austria, the thing was, of course, the Schloss people

1827 01:46:59,720 --> 01:47:02,270 wouldn't mix with the villagers.

1828 01:47:02,270 --> 01:47:04,100 But I took the liberty.

1829 01:47:04,100 --> 01:47:06,200 I think I was the first boy.

1830 01:47:06,200 --> 01:47:09,410 I just wandered out, and played with a [INAUDIBLE],,

1831 01:47:09,410 --> 01:47:15,220 and met boys and girls,

basically children

1832 01:47:15,220 --> 01:47:18,920 of our workers, and then the other children.

1833 01:47:18,920 --> 01:47:22,000 And then, of course, I had to join, for the first time

1834 01:47:22,000 --> 01:47:30,690 again with the family, the local primary school.

1835 01:47:30,690 --> 01:47:34,100 So again, met with a firmer, further kind

1836 01:47:34,100 --> 01:47:39,290 of range of village people-- the lower village,

1837 01:47:39,290 --> 01:47:40,880 not just the upper village.

1838 01:47:40,880 --> 01:47:43,640

1839 01:47:43,640 --> 01:47:47,730 I think that my sisters--

1840 01:47:47,730 --> 01:47:51,960 well, Rosie also had to go to the village school.

1841 01:47:51,960 --> 01:47:57,570 So that was a break from the previous generation,

1842 01:47:57,570 --> 01:48:02,190 that where we [INAUDIBLE],, especially the girls, not -- 1843

01:48:02,190 --> 01:48:04,754 only had home education anyway.

1844

01:48:04,754 --> 01:48:06,320 Nothing proper schooling.

1845

01:48:06,320 --> 01:48:10,350

1846

01:48:10,350 --> 01:48:13,230 Was this an entirely Catholic place?

1847

01:48:13,230 --> 01:48:14,310 Yes.

1848

01:48:14,310 --> 01:48:16,810 Yeah.

1849

01:48:16,810 --> 01:48:19,380 Did you ever meet any Jewish people

1850

01:48:19,380 --> 01:48:22,107 in these years when you were living there?

1851

01:48:22,107 --> 01:48:27,665 [LAUGHS] Yes.

1852

01:48:27,665 --> 01:48:34,700 I mean, when my real mother was, and she had all these guests

1853

01:48:34,700 --> 01:48:36,700 in-- paying guests and otherwise--

and otherwise

1854 01:48:36,700 --> 01:48:39,350

01:48:39,350 --> 01:48:42,860 there were Jewish people among them.

1856 01:48:42,860 --> 01:48:47,240 I remember a Jewish artist who was making

1857 01:48:47,240 --> 01:48:52,960 these small figures of people--

1858 01:48:52,960 --> 01:48:54,700 men, women, and children--

1859 01:48:54,700 --> 01:49:01,222 in traditional dresses, for Tyvol

1860 01:49:01,222 --> 01:49:05,140 and different parts of the country.

1861 01:49:05,140 --> 01:49:11,030 My dad put one of his chicken stable things,

1862 01:49:11,030 --> 01:49:13,100 and it had to sort of special [INAUDIBLE],,

1863 01:49:13,100 --> 01:49:16,360 which we pull along onto the tractor.

1864 01:49:16,360 --> 01:49:19,350 He put that up behind our garden.

1865 01:49:19,350 --> 01:49:21,205 And he had that as a studio.

1866 01:49:21,205 --> 01:49:23,730 1867 01:49:23,730 --> 01:49:29,100 Oh, so this person, he had an enlarged chicken coop

1868 01:49:29,100 --> 01:49:30,540 as a studio?

1869 01:49:30,540 --> 01:49:31,350 Yeah, that's right.

1870 01:49:31,350 --> 01:49:35,710

1871 01:49:35,710 --> 01:49:38,280 But this is a time when you were three years old.

1872 01:49:38,280 --> 01:49:39,252 Yeah, that's right.

1873 01:49:39,252 --> 01:49:39,960 And you remember.

1874 01:49:39,960 --> 01:49:43,050 You have this-- yeah.

1875 01:49:43,050 --> 01:49:50,140 Back then there was another lady, a Hungarian lady,

1876 01:49:50,140 --> 01:50:01,210 who was married to a local manufacturer [INAUDIBLE],,

1877 01:50:01,210 --> 01:50:03,780 to a manufacturer.

1878 01:50:03,780 --> 01:50:04,530 What was her name?

01:50:04,530 --> 01:50:07,480

1880

01:50:07,480 --> 01:50:09,060

--

1881

01:50:09,060 --> 01:50:16,150 Anyway, she was a beautiful, black haired youth

1882

01:50:16,150 --> 01:50:17,800 married to him.

1883

01:50:17,800 --> 01:50:22,000 Anyway, and she was one of a family

1884

01:50:22,000 --> 01:50:26,620 that my mother had introduced to Gneixendorf.

1885

01:50:26,620 --> 01:50:35,910 And she was the sort of life and soul of the party, very lively,

1886

01:50:35,910 --> 01:50:42,050 very, very much my mother's type person.

1887

01:50:42,050 --> 01:50:49,850 And she gave Rosie a black doll as a present.

1888

01:50:49,850 --> 01:50:51,950 And for some reason, that black doll

1889

01:50:51,950 --> 01:50:54,280 meant an awful lot to Rosie.

1890

01:50:54,280 --> 01:50:59,390 And when we were on the train to resettle in Germany, 1891 01:50:59,390 --> 01:51:02,320 she was clutching her black doll.

1892 01:51:02,320 --> 01:51:04,500 And the parents were getting more and more

1893 01:51:04,500 --> 01:51:07,760 anxious before the German border.

1894 01:51:07,760 --> 01:51:10,700 This means your father and your stepmother?

1895 01:51:10,700 --> 01:51:11,810 Stepmother.

1896 01:51:11,810 --> 01:51:18,590 And my stepmother had bought a beautiful white doll for her,

1897 01:51:18,590 --> 01:51:21,710 and tried to sort of hand it to her.

1898 01:51:21,710 --> 01:51:25,610 And she was refusing to hold her.

1899 01:51:25,610 --> 01:51:30,680 In the end, my dad, just before we got to the frontier,

1900 01:51:30,680 --> 01:51:33,350 just grabbed the doll-the black doll-- from her

1901 01:51:33,350 --> 01:51:36,660 and took it away. 1902 01:51:36,660 --> 01:51:42,430 And Rosie was so upset, screamed and cried.

1903 01:51:42,430 --> 01:51:43,850 Can't believe it.

1904 01:51:43,850 --> 01:51:46,910 And even as a university professor,

1905 01:51:46,910 --> 01:51:48,975 she would come up with how terrible

1906 01:51:48,975 --> 01:51:54,290 it was when that baby doll was dragged off.

1907 01:51:54,290 --> 01:51:56,410 It was amazing.

1908 01:51:56,410 --> 01:51:59,210 A university professor saw this and came up--

1909 01:51:59,210 --> 01:52:00,400 oh, are you saying your--

1910 01:52:00,400 --> 01:52:04,310 Rosie becomes a university professor.

1911 01:52:04,310 --> 01:52:08,320 She had become a university professor.

1912 01:52:08,320 --> 01:52:12,150 And she still was suffering from that blow.

1913 01:52:12,150 --> 01:52:16,390 And Dad just grabbed that black doll from her.

1914

01:52:16,390 --> 01:52:19,070 Why do you think he did that?

1915

01:52:19,070 --> 01:52:20,740 Because of the German frontier.

1916

01:52:20,740 --> 01:52:25,350 Could you imagine the Nazi kind of inspectors, what would they

1917

01:52:25,350 --> 01:52:25,850 have done?

1918

01:52:25,850 --> 01:52:28,340 I mean, they would have made a big scene about it.

1919

01:52:28,340 --> 01:52:33,600 And we were trying to immigrate to Germany

1920

01:52:33,600 --> 01:52:35,570 with a clean kind of ticket.

1921

01:52:35,570 --> 01:52:39,010

1922

01:52:39,010 --> 01:52:42,220 So I want to go back a little bit here.

1923

01:52:42,220 --> 01:52:49,120 The one part that you told me that sounded so jarring

1924

01:52:49,120 --> 01:52:53,740 is when you said that you had gotten some kind of infection

01:52:53,740 --> 01:52:57,730 and poisoning in your toe because of toys that had been

1926 01:52:57,730 --> 01:53:00,940 handed down from Victorian era.

1927 01:53:00,940 --> 01:53:03,820 And the reason why they're handed down

1928 01:53:03,820 --> 01:53:06,280 is that your parents don't have enough money

1929 01:53:06,280 --> 01:53:08,680 to buy new toys for you.

1930 01:53:08,680 --> 01:53:10,450 Is that correct?

1931 01:53:10,450 --> 01:53:12,130 Yeah, that is correct.

1932 01:53:12,130 --> 01:53:16,180 Because I mean with a big castle like that,

1933 01:53:16,180 --> 01:53:19,930 and the economic situation, and my dad

1934 01:53:19,930 --> 01:53:24,670 having to take over from people who were supposed

1935 01:53:24,670 --> 01:53:30,660 to look after the farming side during the war, who

1936 01:53:30,660 --> 01:53:34,210 weren't qualified, and who grabbed stuff for their own. 1937 01:53:34,210 --> 01:53:35,960 I mean my dad said something.

1938 01:53:35,960 --> 01:53:38,560 there were weeds all over the place.

1939 01:53:38,560 --> 01:53:41,710 And it's in a terrible state, the estate,

1940 01:53:41,710 --> 01:53:43,900 because there were no--

1941 01:53:43,900 --> 01:53:46,930 there was no man around to deal with it.

1942 01:53:46,930 --> 01:53:50,470 There were servants who were supposedly

1943 01:53:50,470 --> 01:53:52,160 looking after the estate.

1944 01:53:52,160 --> 01:53:55,810

1945 01:53:55,810 --> 01:53:59,290 So is this what you mean when you

1946 01:53:59,290 --> 01:54:03,100 say that the founder from the 18th century

1947 01:54:03,100 --> 01:54:06,430 had created a fortune that by the time

1948 01:54:06,430 --> 01:54:10,270 you are born most of it has been dissipated.

1949 01:54:10,270 --> 01:54:12,010 Most of it has disappeared.

1950 01:54:12,010 --> 01:54:14,600

1951 01:54:14,600 --> 01:54:17,840 Yeah, definitely completely disappeared.

1952 01:54:17,840 --> 01:54:21,640 And then of course the inflation wiped out any sort

1953 01:54:21,640 --> 01:54:24,700 of bank money altogether.

1954 01:54:24,700 --> 01:54:29,500 So everything had to be done from square one again.

1955 01:54:29,500 --> 01:54:32,130

1956 01:54:32,130 --> 01:54:34,448 And of course they weren't used to it.

1957 01:54:34,448 --> 01:54:35,240 That's the problem.

1958 01:54:35,240 --> 01:54:39,370 And they'd been living, growing old,

1959 01:54:39,370 --> 01:54:42,470 in a totally different place.

1960 01:54:42,470 --> 01:54:44,530 Yeah.

1961 01:54:44,530 --> 01:54:45,160 You're right.

1962

01:54:45,160 --> 01:54:52,090 I mean the whole transformation of one kind of society

1963 01:54:52,090 --> 01:54:54,820 in the early part

of the 20th century

1964

01:54:54,820 --> 01:54:58,360 to a different kind of society, and how people were then

1965

01:54:58,360 --> 01:55:01,090 going to make their living and make ends meet,

1966

01:55:01,090 --> 01:55:04,320 it just completely went upside down.

1967

01:55:04,320 --> 01:55:08,740 But if you were, for example, from a noble family,

1968

01:55:08,740 --> 01:55:12,000 you didn't have to think about things like that

1969

01:55:12,000 --> 01:55:14,560 in such a business way before.

1970

01:55:14,560 --> 01:55:18,130 The trouble is a noble family with money is OK.

1971

01:55:18,130 --> 01:55:21,400 Without money it's even worse off than other people,

1972 01:55:21,400 --> 01:55:23,750 because you haven't learned to work hard.

1973 01:55:23,750 --> 01:55:27,750

1974 01:55:27,750 --> 01:55:34,080 But my dad of course, he had to carry

1975 01:55:34,080 --> 01:55:41,840 this change, because Georg, his elder brother, was no good.

1976 01:55:41,840 --> 01:55:44,150 Why was Georg no good at this?

1977 01:55:44,150 --> 01:55:44,900 He was a know-all.

1978 01:55:44,900 --> 01:55:48,540

1979 01:55:48,540 --> 01:55:50,700 He was a total failure.

1980 01:55:50,700 --> 01:55:56,270 I mean, he was a kind of Nazi, but then we, the family,

1981 01:55:56,270 --> 01:55:57,740 didn't know what he was.

1982 01:55:57,740 --> 01:55:59,250 He was just a [? figure ?] man.

1983 01:55:59,250 --> 01:56:03,075 But I mean he didn't have any children.

1984

01:56:03,075 --> 01:56:06,410

1985

01:56:06,410 --> 01:56:08,180 Did he not marry?

1986

01:56:08,180 --> 01:56:08,960 Yeah, he married.

1987

01:56:08,960 --> 01:56:17,250 But he saw a beautiful girl on the tram in Vienna

1988

01:56:17,250 --> 01:56:24,080 while he was studying law, which he never finished.

1989

01:56:24,080 --> 01:56:29,300 And he fell in love with her just like that.

1990

01:56:29,300 --> 01:56:30,940 She married him.

1991

01:56:30,940 --> 01:56:36,470 And You know Tilla wrote in her diary, not our kind.

1992

01:56:36,470 --> 01:56:38,780 But aunt Emmie, as she turned out to be,

1993

01:56:38,780 --> 01:56:41,810 was a wonderful aunt.

1994

01:56:41,810 --> 01:56:44,270 I mean she represented everything

1995

01:56:44,270 --> 01:56:46,090 that Georg didn't represent.

1996 01:56:46,090 --> 01:56:50,910 And he [? stole ?] off my dad, and he just

1997 01:56:50,910 --> 01:56:51,900 couldn't get on at all.

1998 01:56:51,900 --> 01:56:55,260

1999 01:56:55,260 --> 01:56:58,540 Was there any friction as to inheritance?

2000 01:56:58,540 --> 01:57:01,530 Because there are the three children, and your father

2001 01:57:01,530 --> 01:57:02,520 is the youngest.

2002 01:57:02,520 --> 01:57:05,970 And usually the youngest does not inherit things.

2003 01:57:05,970 --> 01:57:14,510 Well, I mean, Georg had at least Langenfeld.

2004 01:57:14,510 --> 01:57:21,890 That was his grandfather had decided, because he so

2005 01:57:21,890 --> 01:57:26,220 disapproved of his son's wedding that he

2006 01:57:26,220 --> 01:57:33,120 had made it a legal deal that his son, his children,

2007 01:57:33,120 --> 01:57:38,370 would not be able to inherit Langenfeld--

2008

01:57:38,370 --> 01:57:39,990 Schloss Langenfeld.

2009

01:57:39,990 --> 01:57:43,470 They could only utilize it.

2010

01:57:43,470 --> 01:57:51,170 The first person to inherit it would be the eldest grandson

2011

01:57:51,170 --> 01:57:53,600 when he reached the age of 21.

2012

01:57:53,600 --> 01:57:56,275 And that happened to be me, that 21.

2013

01:57:56,275 --> 01:57:58,780

2014

01:57:58,780 --> 01:57:59,310 OK.

2015

01:57:59,310 --> 01:58:03,200 Langenfeld is something that we haven't spoken about.

2016

01:58:03,200 --> 01:58:05,540 So I'm a little bit confused.

2017

01:58:05,540 --> 01:58:08,680 But the point of it, that you're saying here,

2018

01:58:08,680 --> 01:58:16,360 is that there was another family property, and your uncle--

2019

01:58:16,360 --> 01:58:19,810

your father's older brother--

2020

01:58:19,810 --> 01:58:21,430 gets this property.

2021

01:58:21,430 --> 01:58:25,960 So it means that he is not in line

2022

01:58:25,960 --> 01:58:31,180 for the Schloss Gneixendorf.

2023

01:58:31,180 --> 01:58:32,060 Did I say it right?

2024

01:58:32,060 --> 01:58:32,560 Gneixendorf?

2025

01:58:32,560 --> 01:58:41,920 No, I think because he had the use of Schloss Langenfeld,

2026

01:58:41,920 --> 01:58:49,810 he stepped aside for Otto to sort all the problem, which

2027

01:58:49,810 --> 01:58:52,960 was one of the few good things he did in his life,

2028

01:58:52,960 --> 01:58:55,510 because Otto was the person to do it.

2029

01:58:55,510 --> 01:58:58,660 Georg certainly wasn't that kind of person.

2030

01:58:58,660 --> 01:59:00,910 He wanted to be a diplomat.

2031

01:59:00,910 --> 01:59:03,970

He wanted to charge about Vienna.

2032

01:59:03,970 --> 01:59:05,530 He became a Nazi.

2033

01:59:05,530 --> 01:59:10,090 He was imprisoned when Dollfuss was killed.

2034

01:59:10,090 --> 01:59:19,340 He became imprisoned again, of course, at the end of the war.

2035

01:59:19,340 --> 01:59:22,410 And the new Austria immediately imprisoned him.

2036

01:59:22,410 --> 01:59:25,910 And of course the Schloss Langenfeld was confiscated.

2037

01:59:25,910 --> 01:59:29,940 There was no Schweitzers about to protest about it.

2038

01:59:29,940 --> 01:59:32,440 And that was that.

2039

01:59:32,440 --> 01:59:34,020 So this is something that we're going

2040

01:59:34,020 --> 01:59:37,480 to want to talk about later, in a bit more detail.

2041

01:59:37,480 --> 01:59:42,210 But for our purposes right now, you've

2042

01:59:42,210 --> 01:59:47,640

described a little bit

about your uncle Georg.

2043 01:59:47,640 --> 01:59:51,120 One of the things that is of interest to me

2044

01:59:51,120 --> 01:59:58,320 is when 1933 comes around, and Hitler comes to power,

2045

01:59:58,320 --> 02:00:00,180 you are seven years old.

2046

02:00:00,180 --> 02:00:01,170 Is that correct?

2047

02:00:01,170 --> 02:00:04,490 Six, seven years old?

2048

02:00:04,490 --> 02:00:06,060 Do you remember that?

2049

02:00:06,060 --> 02:00:09,620 Do you remember any talk about that at home

2050

02:00:09,620 --> 02:00:12,980 or in the neighborhood amongst people,

2051

02:00:12,980 --> 02:00:17,210 amongst your father and your stepmother, your grandmother,

2052

02:00:17,210 --> 02:00:18,710 and so on?

2053

02:00:18,710 --> 02:00:24,330 Any kind of knowledge of what is happening there?

2054

02:00:24,330 --> 02:00:28,050

Well, indirectly yes.

2055 02:00:28,050 --> 02:00:39,960 I mean, obviously, the Austrian president didn't

2056 02:00:39,960 --> 02:00:44,510 want to join at that stage--

2057 02:00:44,510 --> 02:00:47,108

2058 02:00:47,108 --> 02:00:47,650 think it was.

2059 02:00:47,650 --> 02:00:50,500

2060 02:00:50,500 --> 02:00:53,080 I'm asking now about 1933.

2061 02:00:53,080 --> 02:00:55,130 This is in Germany, not in Austria.

2062 02:00:55,130 --> 02:00:59,260 1933, obviously, Hitler took over Germany.

2063 02:00:59,260 --> 02:01:02,320 But by that time, Hitler wasn't--

2064 02:01:02,320 --> 02:01:07,150 I mean I think the rest of the world thought, well, here's

2065 02:01:07,150 --> 02:01:08,140 another one.

2066 02:01:08,140 --> 02:01:12,160 You know, they had a whole series of changes.

2067 02:01:12,160 --> 02:01:16,900 And then this Hitler boy, I mean, from nowhere, I mean,

2068

02:01:16,900 --> 02:01:18,640 he hasn't got a chance.

2069

02:01:18,640 --> 02:01:21,010 That was that kind of atmosphere.

2070

02:01:21,010 --> 02:01:26,290 Is this what you remember from the conversations at home?

2071

02:01:26,290 --> 02:01:28,030 Or were there conversations at home?

2072

02:01:28,030 --> 02:01:31,270 Well, politics with not a subject the family

2073

02:01:31,270 --> 02:01:33,230 talked about in public--

2074

02:01:33,230 --> 02:01:37,010 certainly not with children.

2075

02:01:37,010 --> 02:01:38,840 Did you know that there was such a thing

2076

02:01:38,840 --> 02:01:42,012 as a Herr Hitler in Germany?

2077

02:01:42,012 --> 02:01:43,520 Well, later on, yes.

2078

02:01:43,520 --> 02:01:44,990

But at that time, no.

2079 02:01:44,990 --> 02:01:49,940

2080 02:01:49,940 --> 02:01:52,410 I mean, the whole family wasn't politically minded.

2081 02:01:52,410 --> 02:01:55,370 So you know, it was a --

2082 02:01:55,370 --> 02:02:00,020 I mean, Georg was the political guy.

2083 02:02:00,020 --> 02:02:02,170 But I mean, he was mostly in Vienna.

2084 02:02:02,170 --> 02:02:09,670 And he would talk down, certainly not to children,

2085 02:02:09,670 --> 02:02:10,980 for heaven's sake.

2086 02:02:10,980 --> 02:02:12,400 OK.

2087 02:02:12,400 --> 02:02:15,190 Did you ever hear him speak to your father,

2088 02:02:15,190 --> 02:02:17,960 and you witnessed his those types of--

2089 02:02:17,960 --> 02:02:22,380 They avoided speaking to each other as much as they could.

02:02:22,380 --> 02:02:23,840 They didn't like each other, then.

2091 02:02:23,840 --> 02:02:25,630 No.

2092 02:02:25,630 --> 02:02:26,590 OK.

2093 02:02:26,590 --> 02:02:27,970 OK.

2094 02:02:27,970 --> 02:02:29,070 And was this personal?

2095 02:02:29,070 --> 02:02:32,610 In other words, was it because they just never

2096 02:02:32,610 --> 02:02:33,690 had gotten along?

2097 02:02:33,690 --> 02:02:35,940 They were brothers?

2098 02:02:35,940 --> 02:02:39,510 They were just totally different people.

2099 02:02:39,510 --> 02:02:47,490 And Georg had that habit of putting people down.

2100 02:02:47,490 --> 02:02:49,350 He was the great guy.

2101 02:02:49,350 --> 02:02:55,410 And you really, with Otto having a trouble

2102 02:02:55,410 --> 02:03:01,010 to get his Matura at the high school,

2103 02:03:01,010 --> 02:03:05,190 and being interested in farming, for heaven's sake.

2104 02:03:05,190 --> 02:03:08,430 And then, being a prisoner of war [INAUDIBLE]..

2105 02:03:08,430 --> 02:03:11,040 And then losing his eldest son.

2106 02:03:11,040 --> 02:03:15,030 I mean for heaven's sake, I mean Otto was just no good at all as

2107 02:03:15,030 --> 02:03:17,160 far as he was concerned.

2108 02:03:17,160 --> 02:03:21,690 Who was the oldest son that Otto loses?

2109 02:03:21,690 --> 02:03:23,330 Gottfried.

2110 02:03:23,330 --> 02:03:28,250 Gottfried was the first, my older brother.

2111 02:03:28,250 --> 02:03:30,290 Again, he was never talked about.

2112 02:03:30,290 --> 02:03:33,210

2113 02:03:33,210 --> 02:03:37,560 The family was having a big garden party, 2114 02:03:37,560 --> 02:03:40,820 and suddenly Gottfried was missing.

2115 02:03:40,820 --> 02:03:46,070 They found him drowned in a rain water collecting.

2116 02:03:46,070 --> 02:03:49,290

2117 02:03:49,290 --> 02:03:50,210 Thing.

2118 02:03:50,210 --> 02:03:54,500 Sadly-- I've learned that later from different sources--

2119 02:03:54,500 --> 02:03:59,210 little boys are apt, when their face goes underwater,

2120 02:03:59,210 --> 02:04:04,450 to stay under water and remain still, not to struggle.

2121 02:04:04,450 --> 02:04:08,620 And that's happened just virtually around the corner,

2122 02:04:08,620 --> 02:04:12,880 with the whole family having tea and chatting away.

2123 02:04:12,880 --> 02:04:16,360 So there were lots of things that uncle Georg looked down

2124 02:04:16,360 --> 02:04:18,670 upon your father on.

2125 02:04:18,670 --> 02:04:22,790 It was from nature, you know, right from early youth.

2126 02:04:22,790 --> 02:04:35,026 I mean, there was a huge letter from you

2127 02:04:35,026 --> 02:04:40,525 know from Tilla which is written by Lilly's father.

2128 02:04:40,525 --> 02:04:44,890

2129 02:04:44,890 --> 02:04:55,000 Lilly, one thing she did, when her mother either already

2130 02:04:55,000 --> 02:04:57,010 had died or something like that, she

2131 02:04:57,010 --> 02:05:00,910 got in touch with her father again, and said,

2132 02:05:00,910 --> 02:05:03,980 we will come and visit you this summer.

2133 02:05:03,980 --> 02:05:06,640

2134 02:05:06,640 --> 02:05:11,460 So they went to [PLACE NAME] Sweden, Lilly

2135 02:05:11,460 --> 02:05:16,090 with her three children, and stayed the whole summer there.

2136 02:05:16,090 --> 02:05:24,322 And then, at the end of the year,

2137 02:05:24,322 --> 02:05:28,790 grandfather brought her this amazing letter--

2138 02:05:28,790 --> 02:05:33,950 [INAUDIBLE]---- an amazing letter, saying what a wonderful

2139 02:05:33,950 --> 02:05:37,640 experience it was to meet her again.

2140 02:05:37,640 --> 02:05:39,580 Obviously, she was his favorite daughter.

2141 02:05:39,580 --> 02:05:43,740

2142 02:05:43,740 --> 02:05:49,550 And all the weeks together.

2143 02:05:49,550 --> 02:05:53,090 But then he sort of says, well, you're lovely children,

2144 02:05:53,090 --> 02:06:02,610 but he says, well, Georg, he's a very nosy and know-all kind

2145 02:06:02,610 --> 02:06:03,360 of guy.

2146 02:06:03,360 --> 02:06:06,240

2147 02:06:06,240 --> 02:06:09,720 He wants to be a diplomat, but really, he's

02:06:09,720 --> 02:06:14,010 got to learn to be friends with people.

2149 02:06:14,010 --> 02:06:17,170 He found him very, very different.

2150 02:06:17,170 --> 02:06:22,872 Tilla, well, she's such a nice girl, but she's so lazy.

2151 02:06:22,872 --> 02:06:32,580 [LAUGHS] She hasn't got any will to do anything.

2152 02:06:32,580 --> 02:06:37,160 But Otto, when he comes in the room,

2153 02:06:37,160 --> 02:06:39,430 everything is [INAUDIBLE],, and it's wonderful.

2154 02:06:39,430 --> 02:06:41,844 He is the most amazing, lovely child.

2155 02:06:41,844 --> 02:06:45,640

2156 02:06:45,640 --> 02:06:47,410 How interesting.

2157 02:06:47,410 --> 02:06:48,410 How interesting.

2158 02:06:48,410 --> 02:06:52,660 So this is from his Swedish grandfather,

2159 02:06:52,660 --> 02:06:54,610 who had not met him before. 2160 02:06:54,610 --> 02:06:59,341 And about how old do you think Georg was at that time?

2161 02:06:59,341 --> 02:07:04,720 Around 7-- 16.

2162 02:07:04,720 --> 02:07:08,050 Oh, my goodness that can be such a difficult age.

2163 02:07:08,050 --> 02:07:11,220 When someone is 16 years old and they know everything.

2164 02:07:11,220 --> 02:07:14,870

2165 02:07:14,870 --> 02:07:16,090 But it's telling.

2166 02:07:16,090 --> 02:07:18,310 It's telling that this is something

2167 02:07:18,310 --> 02:07:21,970 that you, that various members of your family

2168 02:07:21,970 --> 02:07:25,450 see, the older generations, and then

2169 02:07:25,450 --> 02:07:30,190 your own perception, and then your father's and your uncle's,

2170 02:07:30,190 --> 02:07:31,690 you know, that they don't get along;

02:07:31,690 --> 02:07:34,080 they're too different of personalities.

2172 02:07:34,080 --> 02:07:37,180 And that your uncle has some sort of arrogance

2173 02:07:37,180 --> 02:07:41,870 to him, some abrasiveness, some arrogance do his personality.

2174 02:07:41,870 --> 02:07:44,060 I mean, to me he wasn't abrasive.

2175 02:07:44,060 --> 02:07:46,960 But indifferent.

2176 02:07:46,960 --> 02:07:49,530

2177 02:07:49,530 --> 02:07:54,000 I mean, we went with my stepbrother,

2178 02:07:54,000 --> 02:08:03,730 we spent a summer holiday at Langenfeld, 1941.

2179 02:08:03,730 --> 02:08:04,510 No.

2180 02:08:04,510 --> 02:08:05,440 1940.

2181 02:08:05,440 --> 02:08:06,640 1940.

2182 02:08:06,640 --> 02:08:08,170 Who is your stepbrother? 02:08:08,170 --> 02:08:10,160 I didn't think you had a stepbrother.

2184

02:08:10,160 --> 02:08:12,800 Yeah, Peter.

2185

02:08:12,800 --> 02:08:15,970 My stepmother had also three children.

2186

02:08:15,970 --> 02:08:18,221 So we were a total of six children.

2187

02:08:18,221 --> 02:08:19,320 OK.

2188

02:08:19,320 --> 02:08:20,800 OK.

2189

02:08:20,800 --> 02:08:22,990 So Peter and you spent a summer there

2190

02:08:22,990 --> 02:08:25,190 with Uncle Georg at Langenfeld.

2191

02:08:25,190 --> 02:08:28,870 I mean, it was aunt Emmie, really, we spent the time with.

2192

02:08:28,870 --> 02:08:35,080 Uncle Greg, well, he took me, when he went hunting,

2193

02:08:35,080 --> 02:08:36,430 he took me with him.

2194

02:08:36,430 --> 02:08:38,940 But there was very little talk.

02:08:38,940 --> 02:08:43,780 You had to be quiet anyway, not to disturb the--

2196 02:08:43,780 --> 02:08:50,620 And he took me on a weekend I think to Vienna.

2197 02:08:50,620 --> 02:08:53,660 He had a flat in Vienna.

2198 02:08:53,660 --> 02:08:55,360 He never had a uniform.

2199 02:08:55,360 --> 02:08:58,150 He was supposed to be a Nazi, but he certainly

2200 02:08:58,150 --> 02:08:59,050 didn't talk about it.

2201 02:08:59,050 --> 02:09:02,140

2202 02:09:02,140 --> 02:09:05,390 But, you know I was in the Hitler Youth

2203 02:09:05,390 --> 02:09:09,040 then, in the Jungvolk, a junior kind of leader.

2204 02:09:09,040 --> 02:09:11,320 But would he talk to me about it?

2205 02:09:11,320 --> 02:09:13,380 Not for any thing.

2206 02:09:13,380 --> 02:09:15,550 If the whole family--

02:09:15,550 --> 02:09:18,730 I mean, obviously, Otto and he wouldn't talk much.

2208 02:09:18,730 --> 02:09:22,610 But the rest of the family, and aunt Emmie,

2209 02:09:22,610 --> 02:09:25,570 who was a nice, talkative person,

2210 02:09:25,570 --> 02:09:28,700 knew nothing too much about Georg.

2211 02:09:28,700 --> 02:09:32,350 But I mean as soon as the Nazis were gone,

2212 02:09:32,350 --> 02:09:35,440 he was put into prison.

2213 02:09:35,440 --> 02:09:37,840 You had mentioned that he was arrested

2214 02:09:37,840 --> 02:09:42,310 when Dollfuss was assassinated.

2215 02:09:42,310 --> 02:09:43,390 Is that right?

2216 02:09:43,390 --> 02:09:44,580 Yeah.

2217 02:09:44,580 --> 02:09:47,110 He must've been in some way associated

2218 02:09:47,110 --> 02:09:49,900 with the group who had, including 2219 02:09:49,900 --> 02:09:52,060 that guy who actually shot him.

2220

02:09:52,060 --> 02:09:56,430 I don't remember or know exactly what kind of guy it was we're

2221

02:09:56,430 --> 02:09:57,420 talking.

2222

02:09:57,420 --> 02:10:01,370 But it was obviously a underground, undercover Nazi

2223

02:10:01,370 --> 02:10:02,410 group.

2224

02:10:02,410 --> 02:10:05,650 So this would have been in the mid '30s.

2225

02:10:05,650 --> 02:10:06,820 [INTERPOSING VOICES]

2226

02:10:06,820 --> 02:10:08,392 I think it's 1936.

2227

02:10:08,392 --> 02:10:09,100 I'll check it up.

2228

02:10:09,100 --> 02:10:12,190

2229

02:10:12,190 --> 02:10:13,990 One of the curious things, though--

2230

02:10:13,990 --> 02:10:16,810 so when your parents leave--

02:10:16,810 --> 02:10:19,180 that is, your stepmother and your father

2232

02:10:19,180 --> 02:10:20,890 and the six of you--

2233

02:10:20,890 --> 02:10:25,090 leave Austria, and you're on your way to Germany,

2234

02:10:25,090 --> 02:10:27,250 do you sell the castle?

2235

02:10:27,250 --> 02:10:29,330 Do you just leave the castle?

2236

02:10:29,330 --> 02:10:32,460 Well, the castle is yet another big story.

2237

02:10:32,460 --> 02:10:35,710

2238

02:10:35,710 --> 02:10:42,700 The castle was actually sold, yes, to a Viennese paint

2239

02:10:42,700 --> 02:10:46,342 manufacturer.

2240

02:10:46,342 --> 02:10:52,500 And that when the Nazis took over,

2241

02:10:52,500 --> 02:10:56,110 the paint manufacturer may have been a Nazi himself.

2242

02:10:56,110 --> 02:11:00,220 I'm not connected or sure about it.

02:11:00,220 --> 02:11:05,260 But when the Nazis took over Austria.

2244

02:11:05,260 --> 02:11:08,345 the German Army took over Schloss Gneixendorf,

2245

02:11:08,345 --> 02:11:11,980 and made a deal with this paint manufacturer, who really wanted

2246

02:11:11,980 --> 02:11:14,830 the Schloss, because he had a lot of spare money,

2247

02:11:14,830 --> 02:11:18,510 rather than actually live there.

2248

02:11:18,510 --> 02:11:23,770 And so it was taken over by the German Army.

2249

02:11:23,770 --> 02:11:34,770 And they put a big water pump kind of thing from the Danube

2250

02:11:34,770 --> 02:11:35,700 there.

2251

02:11:35,700 --> 02:11:38,700 They put an airport or a airfield

2252

02:11:38,700 --> 02:11:41,460 there, because it's fairly flat ground.

2253

02:11:41,460 --> 02:11:47,460 And in the war, it was one of the biggest German prisoner 02:11:47,460 --> 02:11:48,310 of war camps--

2255

02:11:48,310 --> 02:11:53,660 that is Russian prisoners and French prisoners, [INAUDIBLE],

2256

02:11:53,660 --> 02:11:55,170 and English.

2257

02:11:55,170 --> 02:11:57,860 Americans in the end.

2258

02:11:57,860 --> 02:12:00,210 [INTERPOSING VOICES]

2259

02:12:00,210 --> 02:12:07,080 The Americans in the end made a big movie about this camp.

2260

02:12:07,080 --> 02:12:09,310 Was it also called Gneixendorf?

2261

02:12:09,310 --> 02:12:10,200 No.

2262

02:12:10,200 --> 02:12:13,700 It was called--

what was it called?

2263

02:12:13,700 --> 02:12:14,830 I'll have to look it up.

2264

02:12:14,830 --> 02:12:15,330 I'm sorry!

2265

02:12:15,330 --> 02:12:22,550 [LAUGHS] But it was one of those big postwar monumental American

2266

02:12:22,550 --> 02:12:29,630 movie, with, of course, American

prisoners, or a couple of them,

2267

02:12:29,630 --> 02:12:32,560 escaping and being [INAUDIBLE].

2268

02:12:32,560 --> 02:12:34,245

Wow.

2269

02:12:34,245 --> 02:12:34,745

Wow.

2270

02:12:34,745 --> 02:12:37,280

2271

02:12:37,280 --> 02:12:41,000

So another question

that I have--

2272

02:12:41,000 --> 02:12:43,340

so in other words,

the castle is sold.

2273

02:12:43,340 --> 02:12:46,850

It leaves your family after

having been in your family

2274

02:12:46,850 --> 02:12:50,150

almost a century,

not quite a century.

2275

02:12:50,150 --> 02:12:50,930

83 years.

2276

02:12:50,930 --> 02:12:51,700

Yeah.

2277

02:12:51,700 --> 02:12:53,250

Yeah.

2278

02:12:53,250 --> 02:12:56,240

And is it sold when

you moved to Germany,

02:12:56,240 --> 02:12:58,520

or is it sold for or--?

2280

02:12:58,520 --> 02:12:59,363

OK.

2281

02:12:59,363 --> 02:13:00,290

OK.

2282

02:13:00,290 --> 02:13:00,920

When we moved.

2283

02:13:00,920 --> 02:13:03,980

SO that was all sort

of simultaneous.

2284

02:13:03,980 --> 02:13:08,500

But then we moved in '36.

2285

02:13:08,500 --> 02:13:15,950

And in 1938, Germany occupied Austria.

2286

02:13:15,950 --> 02:13:19,260

You know, it was welcomed

in a big way, of course.

2287

02:13:19,260 --> 02:13:26,310

And then built, made it in a

big army station and prisoner

2288

02:13:26,310 --> 02:13:28,180

of war camp during the war.

2289

02:13:28,180 --> 02:13:30,330

And then, of course,

at the end of the war,

2290

02:13:30,330 --> 02:13:36,600

it was part of the Russian

zone of occupation of Austria.

02:13:36,600 --> 02:13:43,840 And of course, the Russian Army occupied the place.

2292

02:13:43,840 --> 02:13:48,340 When the [PERSONAL NAME] family, what was left of it,

2293

02:13:48,340 --> 02:13:53,960 got the thing back, it was hardly inhabitable.

2294

02:13:53,960 --> 02:14:01,510 There was one of these obviously not the [INAUDIBLE]

2295

02:14:01,510 --> 02:14:06,350 that they bought the place.

2296

02:14:06,350 --> 02:14:12,460 But one of the children, one of the sons, who was a bit queer,

2297

02:14:12,460 --> 02:14:14,390 he had moved in there.

2298

02:14:14,390 --> 02:14:17,560 He was a lonely kind of fella.

2299

02:14:17,560 --> 02:14:22,465 The way he made things pay for him, he was looking after--

2300

02:14:22,465 --> 02:14:28,900

2301

02:14:28,900 --> 02:14:31,560 how you call it?--

2302

02:14:31,560 --> 02:14:37,590 mentally sick people

who were strong enough

2303

02:14:37,590 --> 02:14:42,450 to sort of, under control, live their own lives,

2304

02:14:42,450 --> 02:14:46,320 rather than stay in a sanatorium.

2305

02:14:46,320 --> 02:14:50,504 And were sort of disabled, as they called it.

2306

02:14:50,504 --> 02:14:53,490 And they were moving around there.

2307

02:14:53,490 --> 02:15:01,140 And that sort of gave him enough cash to stay there.

2308

02:15:01,140 --> 02:15:05,580 But everything was obviously falling sadly to pieces.

2309

02:15:05,580 --> 02:15:10,120 And then we as youngsters went visiting there.

2310

02:15:10,120 --> 02:15:15,130 He's kind of nice guy, if you could find him.

2311

02:15:15,130 --> 02:15:20,610 But to see that place gradually sort of going to seed.

2312

02:15:20,610 --> 02:15:30,450 And then eventually it was officially ordered to be--

2313

02:15:30,450 --> 02:15:31,772

I mean [INAUDIBLE].

2314

02:15:31,772 --> 02:15:35,210

2315

02:15:35,210 --> 02:15:36,800 What was his last name?

2316

02:15:36,800 --> 02:15:39,440

You had mentioned it.

2317

02:15:39,440 --> 02:15:44,810 The people who bought the

castle from your family?

2318

02:15:44,810 --> 02:15:47,930

What was their last name?

2319

02:15:47,930 --> 02:15:49,910

This paint company?

2320

02:15:49,910 --> 02:15:50,570

Yeah, I know.

2321

02:15:50,570 --> 02:15:53,250

2322

02:15:53,250 --> 02:15:55,470

It's so stupid.

2323

02:15:55,470 --> 02:15:56,420

It's OK.

2324

02:15:56,420 --> 02:16:01,190

Listen, I don't want to make

you feel bad about that.

2325

02:16:01,190 --> 02:16:04,560

These are just details

that come to my mind.

02:16:04,560 --> 02:16:06,830 And if you don't remember, it's OK.

2327

02:16:06,830 --> 02:16:09,420 I can easily look it up again.

2328

02:16:09,420 --> 02:16:12,570 And I have to look it up to find out.

2329

02:16:12,570 --> 02:16:15,890 But it all takes time, that looking up.

2330

02:16:15,890 --> 02:16:17,060 And you know something.

2331

02:16:17,060 --> 02:16:19,310 What it will be is that we're going to have

2332

02:16:19,310 --> 02:16:21,500 many parts of this interview.

2333

02:16:21,500 --> 02:16:26,180 And so some of these maybe we can, after we finish here,

2334

02:16:26,180 --> 02:16:29,060 before we have the next one, you can jot down,

2335

02:16:29,060 --> 02:16:32,400 and we just mention them when we start up again.

2336

02:16:32,400 --> 02:16:32,931 Yes.

2337

02:16:32,931 --> 02:16:35,719 OK.

02:16:35,719 --> 02:16:39,530 So here's another question, before we go to Germany.

2339

02:16:39,530 --> 02:16:44,610 And it's my final Austrian-related question, is--

2340

02:16:44,610 --> 02:16:48,350 was there any trepidation on the part

2341

02:16:48,350 --> 02:16:53,690 of your father and your stepmother, Ula, and any of you

2342

02:16:53,690 --> 02:16:57,500 to move to Germany, actually because

2343

02:16:57,500 --> 02:17:01,070 of the political situation?

2344

02:17:01,070 --> 02:17:06,830 Not at that stage, because I think Hitler at that stage

2345

02:17:06,830 --> 02:17:09,889 was successful.

2346

02:17:09,889 --> 02:17:15,920 He sort of moved it back to the Saarland.

2347

02:17:15,920 --> 02:17:18,940 He played a big, big role.

2348

02:17:18,940 --> 02:17:24,139 He fully caused the employment to increase again.

2349

02:17:24,139 --> 02:17:26,420

He built up the economy.

2350

02:17:26,420 --> 02:17:33,110 Everything was sort of running in a amazingly, positive way.

2351

02:17:33,110 --> 02:17:36,139

2352

02:17:36,139 --> 02:17:39,799 Certainly our parents weren't--

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02:17:39,799 --> 02:17:47,280 compared with good old Austria, that was really the rock bottom

2354

02:17:47,280 --> 02:17:50,670 at that stage, with Dollfuss having being killed,

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02:17:50,670 --> 02:17:56,870 and neither was Schuschnigg, who was a make-do kind of leader.

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02:17:56,870 --> 02:18:00,770 And of course the whole country completely divided

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02:18:00,770 --> 02:18:08,719 between the socialists and the church,

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02:18:08,719 --> 02:18:15,760 traditional conservative people.

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02:18:15,760 --> 02:18:18,549 A kind of hopeless dilemma.

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02:18:18,549 --> 02:18:22,230

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02:18:22,230 --> 02:18:24,030

So in other words--

2362 02:18:24,030 --> 02:18:25,780 If you haven't got any better choice,

2363

02:18:25,780 --> 02:18:29,850 Germany was definitely the place to move to.

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02:18:29,850 --> 02:18:32,879 So that means that it was in some ways

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02:18:32,879 --> 02:18:36,900 the land of economic opportunity in the mid '30s.

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02:18:36,900 --> 02:18:40,260 In the mid 1930s, it is, compared

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02:18:40,260 --> 02:18:43,350 to where you're coming from, impoverished nobility,

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02:18:43,350 --> 02:18:45,930 unable to run a farm economically,

2369

02:18:45,930 --> 02:18:47,959 castle going down.

2370

02:18:47,959 --> 02:18:48,920 Yeah.

2371

02:18:48,920 --> 02:18:51,430 OK.

2372

02:18:51,430 --> 02:18:58,360 So what kind of opportunity then presented itself

02:18:58,360 --> 02:19:02,020 in Germany for your father that he would go there?

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02:19:02,020 --> 02:19:03,780 What was the specific--?

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02:19:03,780 --> 02:19:10,930 Well, to find a farm that they could [INAUDIBLE] in Germany,

2376

02:19:10,930 --> 02:19:16,236 that could be a family farm in place of Gneixendorf.

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02:19:16,236 --> 02:19:18,860

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02:19:18,860 --> 02:19:24,900 And with Ula Mutti and all her friends,

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02:19:24,900 --> 02:19:29,830 and aunt Ellen Wrangel, who was very much involved--

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02:19:29,830 --> 02:19:35,990 she introduced my dad to Ula Mutti anyway--

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02:19:35,990 --> 02:19:41,260 that all these wise people would help

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02:19:41,260 --> 02:19:45,549 to find a kind of ideal farm in Germany

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02:19:45,549 --> 02:19:49,940 where the family, the Schweitzer family, could settle down.

02:19:49,940 --> 02:19:51,950 Did they find that farm?

2385

02:19:51,950 --> 02:19:53,716 They found a farm.

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02:19:53,716 --> 02:19:56,400 But it was another disaster.

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02:19:56,400 --> 02:19:59,760

2388

02:19:59,760 --> 02:20:03,940 Everybody blamed everybody else of course.

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02:20:03,940 --> 02:20:16,440 And so that's why it was sold in 1940, beginning of the war.

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02:20:16,440 --> 02:20:23,370 So in other words, you moved to this farm in 1935 in Germany.

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02:20:23,370 --> 02:20:26,350 And you lived there for five years.

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02:20:26,350 --> 02:20:28,290 And then it sold.

2393

02:20:28,290 --> 02:20:29,250 Yeah.

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02:20:29,250 --> 02:20:37,420 So I would say that perhaps we stop our interview here

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02:20:37,420 --> 02:20:38,590 for today

for today.

2396 02:20:38,590 --> 02:20:41,830 We've been speaking for 2 and 1/2 hours.

2397 02:20:41,830 --> 02:20:46,450 And it's one phase of your life where

2398 02:20:46,450 --> 02:20:53,500 we covered wonderful aspects of your family history,

2399 02:20:53,500 --> 02:20:59,530 of what you know of your ancestors, and who they were,

2400 02:20:59,530 --> 02:21:05,260 and how things developed, who some of the great-grandparents

2401 02:21:05,260 --> 02:21:06,154 were.

2402 02:21:06,154 --> 02:21:12,010 And I found that really so unique and so

2403 02:21:12,010 --> 02:21:16,160 wonderful to listen to, and to learn about.

2404 02:21:16,160 --> 02:21:21,890 And then your own early childhood in Gneixendorf.

2405 02:21:21,890 --> 02:21:25,870 And now we'll come to a different phase

2406 02:21:25,870 --> 02:21:27,150 when we start again.

2407 02:21:27,150 --> 02:21:28,360 Absolutely. 2408 02:21:28,360 --> 02:21:30,850 It will be 1935.

2409 02:21:30,850 --> 02:21:33,940 And we'll talk then, the next time,

2410 02:21:33,940 --> 02:21:36,640 about things that developed from there.

2411 02:21:36,640 --> 02:21:38,710 Yeah.

2412 02:21:38,710 --> 02:21:43,210 So I will say for right now I'm going to pause

2413 02:21:43,210 --> 02:21:45,230 and turn the recording off.

2414 02:21:45,230 --> 02:21:45,730 Yeah.

2415 02:21:45,730 --> 02:21:47,410 And we'll come back to this.

2416 02:21:47,410 --> 02:21:48,170 Yeah.

2417 02:21:48,170 --> 02:21:51,180 And I've turned the recording off.

2418 02:21:51,180 --> 02:21:52,000