

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:07,470
OK, so today is June 19th, 2020.

2
00:00:07,470 --> 00:00:11,850
We are continuing the USHMM
interview, the United States

3
00:00:11,850 --> 00:00:14,190
Holocaust Memorial
Museum interview,

4
00:00:14,190 --> 00:00:18,360
with Mr. Helmut von
Schweitzer, who is in London.

5
00:00:18,360 --> 00:00:21,600
And I, the interviewer, is
in Falls Church, Virginia,

6
00:00:21,600 --> 00:00:26,670
right outside Washington,
D.C. And this will follow up

7
00:00:26,670 --> 00:00:31,020
on our interview from June
18th, which was part one, where

8
00:00:31,020 --> 00:00:34,710
we talked about your
early childhood in Austria

9
00:00:34,710 --> 00:00:38,770
and some of the people who
were part of your world.

10
00:00:38,770 --> 00:00:41,580
Now, at the end of our
interview yesterday, we

11
00:00:41,580 --> 00:00:44,460
had already come to the
point where your family is

12
00:00:44,460 --> 00:00:46,500
moving to Germany.

13
00:00:46,500 --> 00:00:48,870
But there were a few
loose ends to tie up

14
00:00:48,870 --> 00:00:50,440
from your life in Austria.

15
00:00:50,440 --> 00:00:53,250
So let's start with
those right now.

16
00:00:53,250 --> 00:01:00,570
Tell us about your stepmother
whom you called Ulla Mutti

17
00:01:00,570 --> 00:01:06,995
and how she came into your life
after the death of your mother.

18
00:01:06,995 --> 00:01:07,495
OK.

19
00:01:07,495 --> 00:01:10,240

20
00:01:10,240 --> 00:01:12,700
Well, of course,
we hadn't really

21
00:01:12,700 --> 00:01:17,950
properly realized, because
of my father's care,

22
00:01:17,950 --> 00:01:21,280
that we had lost our mother.

23
00:01:21,280 --> 00:01:24,500
Because she just

wasn't there anymore

24

00:01:24,500 --> 00:01:29,320
and life went on otherwise
completely as normal so

25

00:01:29,320 --> 00:01:36,250
we kids just couldn't ask
the question, so to speak.

26

00:01:36,250 --> 00:01:42,460
But then about six, seven
months later, my father

27

00:01:42,460 --> 00:01:44,540
called the whole
family together,

28

00:01:44,540 --> 00:01:53,230
including Grandmother and Tila,
all in our children's room.

29

00:01:53,230 --> 00:01:58,120
And he said that he had
an important announcement

30

00:01:58,120 --> 00:02:05,700
to make that Ulla would be
our mother in the future.

31

00:02:05,700 --> 00:02:12,980
He would marry her and that
would take a few months.

32

00:02:12,980 --> 00:02:15,730
So that was a big family shock.

33

00:02:15,730 --> 00:02:20,260
But again, we children
really didn't fully take it.

34

00:02:20,260 --> 00:02:27,130
But I was so moved by it that

I jumped up from my little seat

35

00:02:27,130 --> 00:02:30,150
with my favorite
Grimm fairy tale book.

36

00:02:30,150 --> 00:02:32,740
And I gave it to my dad and
said, please take it to her

37

00:02:32,740 --> 00:02:34,620
when you see her.

38

00:02:34,620 --> 00:02:38,080
Aye, that was quite
a moving scene.

39

00:02:38,080 --> 00:02:44,170
And of course, when my dad
came back from another trip

40

00:02:44,170 --> 00:02:49,600
to Germany, he brought me an
even better Grimm's fairy tale

41

00:02:49,600 --> 00:02:53,360
book with a lot of
colored pictures in it,

42

00:02:53,360 --> 00:02:54,830
which I didn't have in mind.

43

00:02:54,830 --> 00:02:59,200
So that was a kind
of good start.

44

00:02:59,200 --> 00:03:01,870

45

00:03:01,870 --> 00:03:03,270
Can I ask a question here?

46

00:03:03,270 --> 00:03:03,770
Yeah.

47
00:03:03,770 --> 00:03:06,590
So when you say,
everyone was in the room,

48
00:03:06,590 --> 00:03:08,050
including Grandmother,
that means

49
00:03:08,050 --> 00:03:09,470
Lily, your father's mother.

50
00:03:09,470 --> 00:03:09,970
Yes.

51
00:03:09,970 --> 00:03:11,150
Is that correct?

52
00:03:11,150 --> 00:03:12,160
That is correct, yeah.

53
00:03:12,160 --> 00:03:15,520
And it also means your Aunt
Matilda, who you call Tily.

54
00:03:15,520 --> 00:03:16,472
Is this correct?

55
00:03:16,472 --> 00:03:17,230
Tila, yeah.

56
00:03:17,230 --> 00:03:20,700
Tila, who is your
father's sister?

57
00:03:20,700 --> 00:03:21,200
Yes.

58
00:03:21,200 --> 00:03:24,000
And she was, by

that time-- already

59

00:03:24,000 --> 00:03:27,400
had been taking full
charge of little Yumgard,

60

00:03:27,400 --> 00:03:34,780
baby Yumgard, who was still only
a few months old at that stage.

61

00:03:34,780 --> 00:03:40,530
But she became a kind
of mother to Yumgard.

62

00:03:40,530 --> 00:03:41,810
This is Tila?

63

00:03:41,810 --> 00:03:42,400
Tila, yeah.

64

00:03:42,400 --> 00:03:48,010
I think we talked about
that briefly yesterday.

65

00:03:48,010 --> 00:03:49,130
Yeah.

66

00:03:49,130 --> 00:03:52,480
And the year is 1930
when all of this happens?

67

00:03:52,480 --> 00:03:57,400
Yes, early January, 1930.

68

00:03:57,400 --> 00:03:58,270
Yeah, that's right.

69

00:03:58,270 --> 00:04:03,772
And of course, when
my dad talked to us

70

00:04:03,772 --> 00:04:05,740

about marrying Ulla,
that would have

71
00:04:05,740 --> 00:04:08,830
been probably September, 1940.

72
00:04:08,830 --> 00:04:09,975
1930.

73
00:04:09,975 --> 00:04:11,300
1930, sorry.

74
00:04:11,300 --> 00:04:11,800
Yeah.

75
00:04:11,800 --> 00:04:16,089
So your mother passes
away in January, 1930.

76
00:04:16,089 --> 00:04:17,829
And your father would
have talked to you

77
00:04:17,829 --> 00:04:21,190
by about September 1930.

78
00:04:21,190 --> 00:04:23,210
But Ulla was not in
the room with you.

79
00:04:23,210 --> 00:04:26,320
He didn't introduce you
to her at that time?

80
00:04:26,320 --> 00:04:29,415
No, he did not.

81
00:04:29,415 --> 00:04:34,600
He had met her at a agricultural
exhibition in Hanover,

82
00:04:34,600 --> 00:04:43,450

where he was joining
Ellen [PERSONAL NAME],,

83
00:04:43,450 --> 00:04:46,480
who was a cousin of his.

84
00:04:46,480 --> 00:04:55,520
But her father, a brother of
Lily, had moved to Germany,

85
00:04:55,520 --> 00:05:00,960
and married, and was a
married man in Germany.

86
00:05:00,960 --> 00:05:08,200
And then the daughter, Ellen,
joined the German civil service

87
00:05:08,200 --> 00:05:11,850
and was a household teacher.

88
00:05:11,850 --> 00:05:16,390
And Ulla was a pupil
of hers, and they were

89
00:05:16,390 --> 00:05:18,460
both at the same exhibition.

90
00:05:18,460 --> 00:05:24,580
And so my dad, Otto,
was introduced to Ulla.

91
00:05:24,580 --> 00:05:30,010
And then they seemed to
fall in love almost at once.

92
00:05:30,010 --> 00:05:33,900
Had you met Ulla by
that time or not at all?

93
00:05:33,900 --> 00:05:35,470
No, not at all.

94

00:05:35,470 --> 00:05:40,090

We had no idea who she
was and what she might be.

95

00:05:40,090 --> 00:05:44,800

But it was that announcement
by my father to the assembled

96

00:05:44,800 --> 00:05:49,525

family, if you like, that
suddenly brought that name

97

00:05:49,525 --> 00:05:51,160

into our lives.

98

00:05:51,160 --> 00:05:57,550

And as I say, very deeply,
I was touched by it.

99

00:05:57,550 --> 00:06:01,750

That is why I jumped up with
my favorite Grimm's fairy tale

100

00:06:01,750 --> 00:06:06,350

book to hand to my dad for her.

101

00:06:06,350 --> 00:06:08,630

That's a lovely gesture
for a little boy.

102

00:06:08,630 --> 00:06:09,990

It's a lovely gesture.

103

00:06:09,990 --> 00:06:10,970

Yeah.

104

00:06:10,970 --> 00:06:11,750

Yeah.

105

00:06:11,750 --> 00:06:16,940

So I have a few questions
about our Austrian discussion.

106
00:06:16,940 --> 00:06:23,960
And I want to touch on one of
the illustrious former owners

107
00:06:23,960 --> 00:06:25,240
and guests.

108
00:06:25,240 --> 00:06:30,880
And that is Ludwig van Beethoven
who had stayed at the house.

109
00:06:30,880 --> 00:06:35,600
Now yesterday,
after our interview,

110
00:06:35,600 --> 00:06:40,220
I looked up on Wikipedia
about Gneixendorf.

111
00:06:40,220 --> 00:06:43,280
And I saw that even
today, there is

112
00:06:43,280 --> 00:06:48,350
something called the
Beethovenhaus in Gneixendorf.

113
00:06:48,350 --> 00:06:51,020
And I wondered if
that is the same place

114
00:06:51,020 --> 00:06:52,730
or whether this
is something else.

115
00:06:52,730 --> 00:06:58,610
It's a place where people can
go and see where Beethoven was.

116
00:06:58,610 --> 00:06:59,810
Can you tell me about that?

117

00:06:59,810 --> 00:07:02,660

Was the schloss in the
middle of the city or are we

118

00:07:02,660 --> 00:07:04,628

talking about a different place?

119

00:07:04,628 --> 00:07:11,430

Well, that is again something
we didn't talk about--

120

00:07:11,430 --> 00:07:17,540

the dispute where Beethoven
and his younger brother

121

00:07:17,540 --> 00:07:21,070

actually stayed.

122

00:07:21,070 --> 00:07:23,920

There are two properties there.

123

00:07:23,920 --> 00:07:28,746

I can show you a picture.

124

00:07:28,746 --> 00:07:32,030

Where is it now?

125

00:07:32,030 --> 00:07:34,600

Can you see it?

126

00:07:34,600 --> 00:07:36,820

If you push it up a little bit.

127

00:07:36,820 --> 00:07:38,170

Pull it up.

128

00:07:38,170 --> 00:07:40,150

No, up in front of your face.

129

00:07:40,150 --> 00:07:43,780

Yes, I can see the

top half of it.

130
00:07:43,780 --> 00:07:45,400
That seems to have a church.

131
00:07:45,400 --> 00:07:47,940
The bottom half, I cannot see.

132
00:07:47,940 --> 00:07:48,790
OK.

133
00:07:48,790 --> 00:07:53,380
The bottom half is--
are these controversial?

134
00:07:53,380 --> 00:07:57,660
The one here on your
left side, I believe--

135
00:07:57,660 --> 00:07:59,725
You're going to have to
pull it up like this.

136
00:07:59,725 --> 00:08:08,070

137
00:08:08,070 --> 00:08:08,610
Perfect.

138
00:08:08,610 --> 00:08:11,910
So in the bottom part, yes?

139
00:08:11,910 --> 00:08:17,270
That one with a tower, that
is the one that is claimed

140
00:08:17,270 --> 00:08:23,400
and now, definitely again, the
one that is the Beethovenhaus.

141
00:08:23,400 --> 00:08:27,450
But the other one on

the left-hand side was,

142
00:08:27,450 --> 00:08:31,380
for a considerable time,
also a rival claim--

143
00:08:31,380 --> 00:08:33,280
certainly when I
was a young boy.

144
00:08:33,280 --> 00:08:38,309
And there's a personal
story involved with it.

145
00:08:38,309 --> 00:08:41,020

146
00:08:41,020 --> 00:08:45,150
Our neighbor had
established his claim

147
00:08:45,150 --> 00:08:49,560
and people would come to either
that house or the other house.

148
00:08:49,560 --> 00:08:53,370
And my parents were
not on talking terms

149
00:08:53,370 --> 00:08:58,120
with the Kneifel people
who were having it.

150
00:08:58,120 --> 00:09:04,170
But then one day,
the old man, Kneifel,

151
00:09:04,170 --> 00:09:07,350
invited me as a little
boy on a Sunday afternoon

152
00:09:07,350 --> 00:09:11,280
when all the people normally

when and had their afternoon

153

00:09:11,280 --> 00:09:27,090

sleep, and invited me
in and showed me this--

154

00:09:27,090 --> 00:09:31,420

you can see it here,
actually, in the middle.

155

00:09:31,420 --> 00:09:35,970

His grandfather,
who was a craftsman,

156

00:09:35,970 --> 00:09:42,020

had established a proper
Beethoven museum piece,

157

00:09:42,020 --> 00:09:42,520

if you like.

158

00:09:42,520 --> 00:09:45,030

159

00:09:45,030 --> 00:09:52,950

There was a small piano, and the
proper tapestries, and so on.

160

00:09:52,950 --> 00:09:56,340

And that is how the claim
appeared, their claim,

161

00:09:56,340 --> 00:10:00,060

and came to be.

162

00:10:00,060 --> 00:10:04,520

Whereas, in actual fact,
it is almost certain--

163

00:10:04,520 --> 00:10:08,280

with now documentary
certainties--

164

00:10:08,280 --> 00:10:10,890

that it was true
because where we

165

00:10:10,890 --> 00:10:15,690

was born-- in fact, the
children's room in which all

166

00:10:15,690 --> 00:10:18,030

the three generations
of Schweitzers that

167

00:10:18,030 --> 00:10:21,450

were born there
had been born, that

168

00:10:21,450 --> 00:10:23,210

was also the Beethoven room.

169

00:10:23,210 --> 00:10:25,470

And as far as the
Schweitzers were concerned,

170

00:10:25,470 --> 00:10:30,420

to have a Beethoven bust
on the children's wardrobe,

171

00:10:30,420 --> 00:10:34,710

that was all they would do.

172

00:10:34,710 --> 00:10:36,210

No further pretense.

173

00:10:36,210 --> 00:10:42,670

Because your original
furniture wasn't there anymore.

174

00:10:42,670 --> 00:10:49,420

And Beethoven's brother was not
at all a musician, and so on.

175

00:10:49,420 --> 00:10:51,730

In fact, the two brothers--

176

00:10:51,730 --> 00:10:54,890

particularly with the
brother's wife involved--

177

00:10:54,890 --> 00:10:56,490

were in constant arguments.

178

00:10:56,490 --> 00:11:02,460

And all these arguments have
been carefully recorded,

179

00:11:02,460 --> 00:11:15,930

to a large extent by, again,
some other relations of mine

180

00:11:15,930 --> 00:11:17,330

on the Kleine side.

181

00:11:17,330 --> 00:11:20,810

And a book has been
written about it.

182

00:11:20,810 --> 00:11:25,120

And of course, the whole thing
has become very publicized.

183

00:11:25,120 --> 00:11:34,730

And that in the end, of course,
led to the incident going back

184

00:11:34,730 --> 00:11:41,202

to Vienna of Ludwig and his--

185

00:11:41,202 --> 00:11:43,250

no, what do you call it?

186

00:11:43,250 --> 00:11:45,940

187

00:11:45,940 --> 00:11:48,440

Not his son but
his brother's son.

188
00:11:48,440 --> 00:11:51,160
His nephew.

189
00:11:51,160 --> 00:11:52,400
With his nephew.

190
00:11:52,400 --> 00:11:54,350
But that's--

191
00:11:54,350 --> 00:11:55,300
Nephew.

192
00:11:55,300 --> 00:11:59,200
--another brother's
son-- nephew.

193
00:11:59,200 --> 00:12:04,180
Which was in fact an
open carriage-- well,

194
00:12:04,180 --> 00:12:06,340
not a carriage-- cart, really.

195
00:12:06,340 --> 00:12:09,220
Because there was nothing
else available on the spur

196
00:12:09,220 --> 00:12:10,520
of the moment.

197
00:12:10,520 --> 00:12:17,560
And so three months later,
he died in early 1827.

198
00:12:17,560 --> 00:12:18,410
OK.

199
00:12:18,410 --> 00:12:24,300
So if I understand this

properly, that there are two,

200
00:12:24,300 --> 00:12:26,030
separate places--

201
00:12:26,030 --> 00:12:28,260
one, which would be
a castle, and one

202
00:12:28,260 --> 00:12:29,640
which was another house.

203
00:12:29,640 --> 00:12:30,750
Yeah.

204
00:12:30,750 --> 00:12:34,800
And the other place
was established

205
00:12:34,800 --> 00:12:39,300
by your neighbors, but not
neighbors in the sense of right

206
00:12:39,300 --> 00:12:40,835
next door to you?

207
00:12:40,835 --> 00:12:44,210
But actually, opposite.

208
00:12:44,210 --> 00:12:44,710
Yeah.

209
00:12:44,710 --> 00:12:48,147
As you can see,
these two buildings--

210
00:12:48,147 --> 00:12:48,980
if you can see them.

211
00:12:48,980 --> 00:12:50,110
Yes.

212
00:12:50,110 --> 00:12:51,070
I can see them.

213
00:12:51,070 --> 00:12:53,780
They're just
opposite each other.

214
00:12:53,780 --> 00:12:56,090
OK.

215
00:12:56,090 --> 00:12:59,660
So the building with the
tower, is that your home?

216
00:12:59,660 --> 00:13:00,698
Yeah.

217
00:13:00,698 --> 00:13:02,615
That's your home, the
building with the tower?

218
00:13:02,615 --> 00:13:03,390
Yeah.

219
00:13:03,390 --> 00:13:06,790
And that window
here, where my thumb

220
00:13:06,790 --> 00:13:13,480
is, that was what
generally has been thought

221
00:13:13,480 --> 00:13:16,370
was the definite Beethoven--

222
00:13:16,370 --> 00:13:17,640
Beethoven room.

223
00:13:17,640 --> 00:13:20,540
--where he stayed as a
guest of his brother.

224

00:13:20,540 --> 00:13:21,380

OK.

225

00:13:21,380 --> 00:13:25,760

And the house on the other side is your neighbor's house

226

00:13:25,760 --> 00:13:27,028

opposite?

227

00:13:27,028 --> 00:13:27,820

Yeah, that's right.

228

00:13:27,820 --> 00:13:28,850

OK.

229

00:13:28,850 --> 00:13:31,640

So what claim, besides fitting out a room

230

00:13:31,640 --> 00:13:33,410

that had a piano in it?

231

00:13:33,410 --> 00:13:36,560

Did Beethoven ever stay there?

232

00:13:36,560 --> 00:13:39,340

Well, they claim the same.

233

00:13:39,340 --> 00:13:45,880

And of course, in a sense, for the visitors,

234

00:13:45,880 --> 00:13:54,220

this other establishment was so much more of something to view.

235

00:13:54,220 --> 00:14:03,250

Because there, you had an apartment reconstructed,

236

00:14:03,250 --> 00:14:07,450
if you like, in
the same way as it

237
00:14:07,450 --> 00:14:11,200
was the fashion at
Beethoven's lifetime.

238
00:14:11,200 --> 00:14:20,170
Whereas, on our side, it was a
usually disorderly children's

239
00:14:20,170 --> 00:14:25,150
room with just a Beethoven
bust on the wardrobe, which

240
00:14:25,150 --> 00:14:28,570
doesn't look terribly
authentic, does it?

241
00:14:28,570 --> 00:14:30,260
No.

242
00:14:30,260 --> 00:14:36,520
But this explains something that
was a discrepancy in my mind.

243
00:14:36,520 --> 00:14:42,430
Because you had mentioned
yesterday that by the time

244
00:14:42,430 --> 00:14:47,320
World War II ended and the
various military presences--

245
00:14:47,320 --> 00:14:52,780
first from the German army and
then the Russians took over--

246
00:14:52,780 --> 00:14:55,690
and you said nothing
was left of the castle,

247

00:14:55,690 --> 00:14:57,727
that it was in ruins.

248
00:14:57,727 --> 00:14:58,810
And so there couldn't be--

249
00:14:58,810 --> 00:15:02,710
No, it wasn't in ruins but
it was dangerous to live in.

250
00:15:02,710 --> 00:15:13,780
It was officially condemned
as not safe to live in.

251
00:15:13,780 --> 00:15:16,510
So when we see today,
and today being

252
00:15:16,510 --> 00:15:20,170
2020, that in the
town of Gneixendorf,

253
00:15:20,170 --> 00:15:27,010
there is a Beethoven
museum that claims

254
00:15:27,010 --> 00:15:32,310
that he might have stayed
there, it was confusing to me.

255
00:15:32,310 --> 00:15:37,090
Because how could that be if
the castle had been condemned?

256
00:15:37,090 --> 00:15:39,520
So this explains it.

257
00:15:39,520 --> 00:15:43,600
But this place that has the
Beethoven museum currently,

258
00:15:43,600 --> 00:15:47,340
is that neighbor across

the way the opposite way?

259

00:15:47,340 --> 00:15:49,520

No, it's the other
way around, actually.

260

00:15:49,520 --> 00:15:50,620

I see.

261

00:15:50,620 --> 00:15:55,270

But during the wartime--

262

00:15:55,270 --> 00:15:59,090

ever since the
German army occupied

263

00:15:59,090 --> 00:16:09,640

what was the genuine
Beethoven room, if you like.

264

00:16:09,640 --> 00:16:13,510

There was a German army, and
afterwards, the Russian army,

265

00:16:13,510 --> 00:16:19,360

and afterwards, the family
who had bought it from us

266

00:16:19,360 --> 00:16:20,590

got it back.

267

00:16:20,590 --> 00:16:24,980

But they only could
temporarily live in it

268

00:16:24,980 --> 00:16:28,840

before it was also condemned.

269

00:16:28,840 --> 00:16:34,090

But when this new guy
with a lot of money,

270

00:16:34,090 --> 00:16:39,840
an architect from Vienna, bought
the property, I think in--

271
00:16:39,840 --> 00:16:44,095
I don't know the exact
date, but fairly recently--

272
00:16:44,095 --> 00:16:45,595
after it had been
totally condemned,

273
00:16:45,595 --> 00:16:47,800
he got it, obviously,
quite cheap.

274
00:16:47,800 --> 00:16:50,570

275
00:16:50,570 --> 00:16:58,200
In the meantime, the rival one
had been big on the internet

276
00:16:58,200 --> 00:17:00,980
and had a lot of visitors.

277
00:17:00,980 --> 00:17:06,790
But around about that time, the
building itself on their side

278
00:17:06,790 --> 00:17:11,470
was condemned as not fit
for anybody to live in.

279
00:17:11,470 --> 00:17:18,579
And the architect from
Vienna was very much

280
00:17:18,579 --> 00:17:22,300
an internationally-connected
person.

281
00:17:22,300 --> 00:17:26,140

He then produced a huge, glass--

282
00:17:26,140 --> 00:17:30,200

283
00:17:30,200 --> 00:17:31,570
Plaque.

284
00:17:31,570 --> 00:17:35,770
--plaque on the
outer wall of what

285
00:17:35,770 --> 00:17:44,740
was our original home with a
display of part of a quartet

286
00:17:44,740 --> 00:17:51,400
that Beethoven completed
while he was in Gneixendorf.

287
00:17:51,400 --> 00:17:54,010
And he had it introduced
in a very solemn way.

288
00:17:54,010 --> 00:17:56,530

289
00:17:56,530 --> 00:17:57,730
OK.

290
00:17:57,730 --> 00:18:08,410
He had it introduced by a
professional quartet playing

291
00:18:08,410 --> 00:18:14,050
that quartet to an invited
audience from Vienna

292
00:18:14,050 --> 00:18:15,730
and from elsewhere.

293
00:18:15,730 --> 00:18:20,500

The villagers were
completely ignored.

294
00:18:20,500 --> 00:18:21,250
OK.

295
00:18:21,250 --> 00:18:23,080
So thank you for that.

296
00:18:23,080 --> 00:18:27,760
At least we have covered
Beethoven's presence

297
00:18:27,760 --> 00:18:32,200
in Gneixendorf, in the schloss
that your family owned,

298
00:18:32,200 --> 00:18:33,880
the estate they owned.

299
00:18:33,880 --> 00:18:38,850
And now we go back to where
we left off yesterday.

300
00:18:38,850 --> 00:18:43,470
And that is, your
family moves to Hessen.

301
00:18:43,470 --> 00:18:46,310
And Hessen is a region
in Germany, yes?

302
00:18:46,310 --> 00:18:49,800

303
00:18:49,800 --> 00:18:52,410
I know it's been a
little bit up, and down,

304
00:18:52,410 --> 00:18:54,420
and back, and forward.

305

00:18:54,420 --> 00:19:00,510
We started off with
father announcing to us

306
00:19:00,510 --> 00:19:05,610
that he would marry
Ulla Roepke and that she

307
00:19:05,610 --> 00:19:06,810
would be our mother.

308
00:19:06,810 --> 00:19:10,590

309
00:19:10,590 --> 00:19:19,740
The background to that
was, in fact, his father

310
00:19:19,740 --> 00:19:23,190
immediately said,
on no account can

311
00:19:23,190 --> 00:19:31,050
I agree for Ulla to marry
this guy, Otto, from Austria.

312
00:19:31,050 --> 00:19:32,880
A, he is a Catholic.

313
00:19:32,880 --> 00:19:33,380
B--

314
00:19:33,380 --> 00:19:38,392

315
00:19:38,392 --> 00:19:39,380
He's got children?

316
00:19:39,380 --> 00:19:42,920
--he's got three children
from a first wife.

317

00:19:42,920 --> 00:19:47,810
And thirdly, although
he has got a title

318
00:19:47,810 --> 00:19:51,590
and he owns this estate,
as far as he's concerned,

319
00:19:51,590 --> 00:19:56,150
that estate doesn't
look very profitable.

320
00:19:56,150 --> 00:19:59,450
And so there doesn't seem
to be any real future

321
00:19:59,450 --> 00:20:05,180
for a gifted person like you,
my favorite daughter, Ulla.

322
00:20:05,180 --> 00:20:07,035
Well, we talked
about this yesterday.

323
00:20:07,035 --> 00:20:07,660
I think we did.

324
00:20:07,660 --> 00:20:10,730
I don't know if you remember but
we talked about this yesterday

325
00:20:10,730 --> 00:20:16,520
and how he became, who
had this reservation,

326
00:20:16,520 --> 00:20:21,710
like a stand-in grandfather
who was very much your champion

327
00:20:21,710 --> 00:20:25,580
and whom you were very close to.

328
00:20:25,580 --> 00:20:30,050

And so once she disagreed and
did what she wanted to do,

329
00:20:30,050 --> 00:20:31,710
he came around.

330
00:20:31,710 --> 00:20:33,290
Yeah, absolutely.

331
00:20:33,290 --> 00:20:33,920
OK.

332
00:20:33,920 --> 00:20:37,820
So now, we are on the train.

333
00:20:37,820 --> 00:20:39,560
We're going to Germany.

334
00:20:39,560 --> 00:20:43,450
Your sister's doll
is taken away.

335
00:20:43,450 --> 00:20:50,150
There is still-- because
my stepmother married

336
00:20:50,150 --> 00:20:55,110
in a Lutheran way
back in Melsungen

337
00:20:55,110 --> 00:21:00,530
and the history isn't sure
whether her father actually

338
00:21:00,530 --> 00:21:05,330
attended that wedding or not
but the rest of the family

339
00:21:05,330 --> 00:21:06,680
certainly did.

340
00:21:06,680 --> 00:21:12,530

And then they had a Catholic wedding in Linz on the way

341
00:21:12,530 --> 00:21:15,360
back.

342
00:21:15,360 --> 00:21:21,110
Because she had to accept that the children would have

343
00:21:21,110 --> 00:21:25,550
to be Catholics and that my dad certainly

344
00:21:25,550 --> 00:21:29,330
didn't want to have that broadcast in any big way

345
00:21:29,330 --> 00:21:30,860
around the village.

346
00:21:30,860 --> 00:21:34,800
So as far as weddings were concerned,

347
00:21:34,800 --> 00:21:37,800
nothing happened in the village of Gneixendorf

348
00:21:37,800 --> 00:21:43,640
and nothing was apparent to the little children either.

349
00:21:43,640 --> 00:21:49,040
But then she came, and she certainly turned the place

350
00:21:49,040 --> 00:21:53,660
around, and modernized it, and so on.

351
00:21:53,660 --> 00:21:55,730
And of course, her family--

352
00:21:55,730 --> 00:21:59,510
I think I mentioned
yesterday, she

353
00:21:59,510 --> 00:22:02,810
was the eldest of six people.

354
00:22:02,810 --> 00:22:08,570
They all came to Gneixendorf and
she certainly turned it around.

355
00:22:08,570 --> 00:22:16,280
And we lived, from 1932, still
three years in Gneixendorf.

356
00:22:16,280 --> 00:22:18,740
And they certainly
were dramatic years

357
00:22:18,740 --> 00:22:24,710
as far as the turnaround was
concerned and as far as--

358
00:22:24,710 --> 00:22:28,670
for us children, a
complete change from--

359
00:22:28,670 --> 00:22:32,120
all these servants that
had been the establishment

360
00:22:32,120 --> 00:22:37,370
before, except for the
cook, were sent packing

361
00:22:37,370 --> 00:22:39,670
or pensioned off.

362
00:22:39,670 --> 00:22:43,980
Because, as far as Ulla was
concerned, you do it yourself.

363

00:22:43,980 --> 00:22:49,430

The family does it yourself,
as I did at home, and so on.

364

00:22:49,430 --> 00:22:51,930

And we children, we
were directly involved.

365

00:22:51,930 --> 00:22:53,900

We all had to play our part.

366

00:22:53,900 --> 00:22:57,710

We had to clean up
our shoes and things.

367

00:22:57,710 --> 00:23:01,850

368

00:23:01,850 --> 00:23:04,490

She would do it first
with you and then

369

00:23:04,490 --> 00:23:07,860

you were expected
to do it yourself.

370

00:23:07,860 --> 00:23:14,420

So it was, as far as our
family lifestyle was concerned,

371

00:23:14,420 --> 00:23:16,940

it was a complete
change from being

372

00:23:16,940 --> 00:23:23,580

the aristocratic kind of setup
to a proper family setup.

373

00:23:23,580 --> 00:23:27,660

374

00:23:27,660 --> 00:23:30,750

I would like to ask
you, if you could--

375
00:23:30,750 --> 00:23:33,480
I'm sorry-- just sit
back a little bit.

376
00:23:33,480 --> 00:23:36,720
Because I cannot
see your full image.

377
00:23:36,720 --> 00:23:39,360
Yes, that's much better.

378
00:23:39,360 --> 00:23:40,480
Thank you so much.

379
00:23:40,480 --> 00:23:41,340
Yeah.

380
00:23:41,340 --> 00:23:46,140
Then we catch more
of you in the screen.

381
00:23:46,140 --> 00:23:50,400

382
00:23:50,400 --> 00:23:54,030
Ulla, was she successful
in turning the farm around

383
00:23:54,030 --> 00:23:55,000
with these kinds of--

384
00:23:55,000 --> 00:23:56,010
Not the farm.

385
00:23:56,010 --> 00:23:58,240
The household was
completely turned around.

386
00:23:58,240 --> 00:24:01,030

387
00:24:01,030 --> 00:24:08,590
My father was still struggling
on the farm side of it.

388
00:24:08,590 --> 00:24:12,480
And I think we fairly well
covered it all, didn't we--

389
00:24:12,480 --> 00:24:14,370
Yeah.

390
00:24:14,370 --> 00:24:17,530
--with the eggs and
with the Jewish--

391
00:24:17,530 --> 00:24:18,940
did we talk about that?

392
00:24:18,940 --> 00:24:19,860
No, we didn't.

393
00:24:19,860 --> 00:24:21,100
Tell me about that.

394
00:24:21,100 --> 00:24:22,015
About eggs, you say?

395
00:24:22,015 --> 00:24:22,515
Yes.

396
00:24:22,515 --> 00:24:25,300

397
00:24:25,300 --> 00:24:28,240
Quite apart from having
the combine harvesters

398
00:24:28,240 --> 00:24:33,310
and the tractors, I mean,
he reduced the regular staff

399
00:24:33,310 --> 00:24:37,990
of the farm from what it was
originally-- about 20 workers--

400
00:24:37,990 --> 00:24:40,570
to about four men.

401
00:24:40,570 --> 00:24:41,920
And it was all mechanized.

402
00:24:41,920 --> 00:24:44,920

403
00:24:44,920 --> 00:24:52,840
Then, additionally, he had
these, again, American White

404
00:24:52,840 --> 00:24:54,030
chickens--

405
00:24:54,030 --> 00:24:58,720
2,000 chicks that he imported.

406
00:24:58,720 --> 00:25:08,530
And again, they were also
bred on a electric breeding

407
00:25:08,530 --> 00:25:12,290
station in our cellar.

408
00:25:12,290 --> 00:25:16,220
So the chickens didn't
breed their own eggs.

409
00:25:16,220 --> 00:25:19,710
They were then bred and--

410
00:25:19,710 --> 00:25:22,360
That sounds kind of
bizarre that a chicken--

411

00:25:22,360 --> 00:25:26,880

It was the completely
modern establishment.

412

00:25:26,880 --> 00:25:32,430

But with the economic
disaster of 1932,

413

00:25:32,430 --> 00:25:39,080

the complete
international breakdown,

414

00:25:39,080 --> 00:25:44,330

it just wasn't enough
to save the property.

415

00:25:44,330 --> 00:25:48,980

And he had to sell, every two
years or so, a piece of land

416

00:25:48,980 --> 00:25:52,160

to keep the bank--

417

00:25:52,160 --> 00:25:54,630

not happy but at least--

418

00:25:54,630 --> 00:25:56,420

Off his back.

419

00:25:56,420 --> 00:25:58,600

Off his back, yeah.

420

00:25:58,600 --> 00:26:01,700

But you mentioned
something about chickens

421

00:26:01,700 --> 00:26:04,010

and you mentioned
the word Jewish.

422

00:26:04,010 --> 00:26:06,000

So what's involved there?

423
00:26:06,000 --> 00:26:08,300
Was there someone who
purchased the eggs?

424
00:26:08,300 --> 00:26:14,030
There was a dramatic scene that
took place which was completely

425
00:26:14,030 --> 00:26:15,235
out of the ordinary.

426
00:26:15,235 --> 00:26:18,380

427
00:26:18,380 --> 00:26:24,890
A Jewish guy with a
little, motorized cart

428
00:26:24,890 --> 00:26:26,420
had arrived from Vienna.

429
00:26:26,420 --> 00:26:29,570
He had caftan on
and he was just as

430
00:26:29,570 --> 00:26:33,770
if he'd come straight
from Russia or somewhere.

431
00:26:33,770 --> 00:26:36,230
And he wanted to
buy eggs, which was

432
00:26:36,230 --> 00:26:37,400
totally out of the ordinary.

433
00:26:37,400 --> 00:26:39,680
It wasn't an ordinary customer.

434
00:26:39,680 --> 00:26:43,700
So my dad personally saw to him.

435
00:26:43,700 --> 00:26:46,490
And he said what he wanted.

436
00:26:46,490 --> 00:26:48,980
They agreed on a price for eggs.

437
00:26:48,980 --> 00:26:55,720
And then my dad brought a
cart from the chicken area

438
00:26:55,720 --> 00:26:57,560
with the proper cartons of--

439
00:26:57,560 --> 00:26:59,450
I don't know what they were--

440
00:26:59,450 --> 00:27:05,150
50 eggs in each carton,
safely, separately fixed.

441
00:27:05,150 --> 00:27:09,530
And this guy was
busy fitting them

442
00:27:09,530 --> 00:27:12,230
into this rickety, little cart.

443
00:27:12,230 --> 00:27:15,060

444
00:27:15,060 --> 00:27:17,790
And of course Dad
kept the count on--

445
00:27:17,790 --> 00:27:20,690
and I happened to be
around there at the time.

446
00:27:20,690 --> 00:27:22,910
And it was that such
an unusual scene

447
00:27:22,910 --> 00:27:25,910
that even the little
boy got a little bit

448
00:27:25,910 --> 00:27:28,040
attracted to what
was going on there.

449
00:27:28,040 --> 00:27:34,330

450
00:27:34,330 --> 00:27:37,600
Well, the guy said,
look, I'm now full up.

451
00:27:37,600 --> 00:27:39,760
So then my dad
said, well, you had

452
00:27:39,760 --> 00:27:49,078
40 carts at the agreed price,
and that's so many hundred--

453
00:27:49,078 --> 00:27:51,260
what was it-- shillings.

454
00:27:51,260 --> 00:27:57,950
And the guy said, look, I've
only got not 200 shillings.

455
00:27:57,950 --> 00:28:01,390
I have only 150 shillings.

456
00:28:01,390 --> 00:28:06,430
So my dad said, well, how
can you come and do business

457
00:28:06,430 --> 00:28:09,940
with me, and then you
haven't got the right money,

458

00:28:09,940 --> 00:28:11,650
and you've agreed to the price?

459
00:28:11,650 --> 00:28:14,130
He said, yeah, I
agreed to the price

460
00:28:14,130 --> 00:28:21,760
but now I've got all
these extra cartons here.

461
00:28:21,760 --> 00:28:25,110
And so my dad had a
furious scene with him

462
00:28:25,110 --> 00:28:27,635
and then sent him off.

463
00:28:27,635 --> 00:28:30,420
He said, I don't want
to see you ever again.

464
00:28:30,420 --> 00:28:32,590
Did he ever show up again?

465
00:28:32,590 --> 00:28:33,510
Not that I know of.

466
00:28:33,510 --> 00:28:36,500

467
00:28:36,500 --> 00:28:40,750
Had this been the first time
you had seen a Jewish person?

468
00:28:40,750 --> 00:28:41,850
Well, no.

469
00:28:41,850 --> 00:28:44,020
I'd seen a Jewish person before.

470
00:28:44,020 --> 00:28:52,780

I talked to you yesterday about
the lady from Krems who came.

471
00:28:52,780 --> 00:28:53,530
What was her name?

472
00:28:53,530 --> 00:28:56,470

473
00:28:56,470 --> 00:28:59,114
My memory.

474
00:28:59,114 --> 00:29:01,100
[INAUDIBLE]

475
00:29:01,100 --> 00:29:01,850
It's OK.

476
00:29:01,850 --> 00:29:05,860
Just tell me about the lady
because I don't remember her.

477
00:29:05,860 --> 00:29:13,520
It's the one who gave the
black doll to my sister,

478
00:29:13,520 --> 00:29:15,050
Baby Schmidt.

479
00:29:15,050 --> 00:29:16,970
Baby Schmidt.

480
00:29:16,970 --> 00:29:18,830
Her first name was Baby?

481
00:29:18,830 --> 00:29:23,090
Well, that was the
way they talked.

482
00:29:23,090 --> 00:29:23,620
It wasn't.

483

00:29:23,620 --> 00:29:28,280

It probably was some other name.

484

00:29:28,280 --> 00:29:30,590

But we didn't know that.

485

00:29:30,590 --> 00:29:33,050

And tell me again,
what kind of connection

486

00:29:33,050 --> 00:29:35,730

did she have to your family?

487

00:29:35,730 --> 00:29:39,380

Well, she was a great
friend of my late mother.

488

00:29:39,380 --> 00:29:44,990

And she was married
to a shoe manufacturer

489

00:29:44,990 --> 00:29:47,060

down in the Krems area.

490

00:29:47,060 --> 00:29:49,866

491

00:29:49,866 --> 00:29:52,080

But she came from Hungary.

492

00:29:52,080 --> 00:29:54,310

And did you continue?

493

00:29:54,310 --> 00:29:59,340

So she gives the
doll to your sister.

494

00:29:59,340 --> 00:30:02,760

And did you continue
having connections to her

495

00:30:02,760 --> 00:30:06,240
after your mother's passing?

496
00:30:06,240 --> 00:30:10,455
Yeah, definitely.

497
00:30:10,455 --> 00:30:13,740
They were part of
the main family.

498
00:30:13,740 --> 00:30:18,540
And Ulla Mutti would
deal with them as well.

499
00:30:18,540 --> 00:30:21,783
It was a continuous friendship.

500
00:30:21,783 --> 00:30:26,130

501
00:30:26,130 --> 00:30:29,670
Do you remember when she
gave the doll to your sister?

502
00:30:29,670 --> 00:30:31,297
Was it right before
leaving for Germany

503
00:30:31,297 --> 00:30:32,630
or was it some time before that?

504
00:30:32,630 --> 00:30:33,660
No.

505
00:30:33,660 --> 00:30:36,810
I would guess about six
months or a year before--

506
00:30:36,810 --> 00:30:39,290
Christmas, or something,
or a birthday.

507

00:30:39,290 --> 00:30:44,100

It's something that
I don't know exactly

508

00:30:44,100 --> 00:30:48,000

when because I hadn't
really taken so much

509

00:30:48,000 --> 00:30:50,610

notice of this doll.

510

00:30:50,610 --> 00:30:53,940

Girls have dolls but
boys just don't really

511

00:30:53,940 --> 00:30:56,460

get involved with
the dolls too much.

512

00:30:56,460 --> 00:30:56,960

Yeah.

513

00:30:56,960 --> 00:30:59,700

514

00:30:59,700 --> 00:31:04,890

So tell me this,
Ulla Mutti succeeds

515

00:31:04,890 --> 00:31:10,260

in turning the household into
a more efficiently running

516

00:31:10,260 --> 00:31:11,170

operation.

517

00:31:11,170 --> 00:31:11,670

Yeah.

518

00:31:11,670 --> 00:31:18,990

Your father tries various ways
to modernize and financially

519

00:31:18,990 --> 00:31:21,360

have the farm be
a going concern.

520

00:31:21,360 --> 00:31:23,350

But that doesn't work.

521

00:31:23,350 --> 00:31:28,530

And so when you sell
the farm and then

522

00:31:28,530 --> 00:31:33,030

are on that train to Germany,
do you know where you are going?

523

00:31:33,030 --> 00:31:38,910

Do you know if you have a final,
at least temporary destination

524

00:31:38,910 --> 00:31:40,800

where you will be staying?

525

00:31:40,800 --> 00:31:43,650

Well, the parents knew.

526

00:31:43,650 --> 00:31:45,990

We kids, of course,
were just taken along.

527

00:31:45,990 --> 00:31:48,930

528

00:31:48,930 --> 00:31:50,730

And where was that place?

529

00:31:50,730 --> 00:31:53,790

Where was the place
that you ended up?

530

00:31:53,790 --> 00:32:03,055

We ended up at a first station
at the big, huge sanatorium,

531
00:32:03,055 --> 00:32:07,820
[INAUDIBLE] Sanatorium,
which Ulla's father

532
00:32:07,820 --> 00:32:10,310
was the director of.

533
00:32:10,310 --> 00:32:12,050
And where was that located?

534
00:32:12,050 --> 00:32:15,450
What was the name of the
town, the place, the area?

535
00:32:15,450 --> 00:32:21,950
That town was called Melsungen,
which was a district town.

536
00:32:21,950 --> 00:32:30,680
And this lung clinic was
on top of a hill that

537
00:32:30,680 --> 00:32:33,470
belonged to that city
that the city had

538
00:32:33,470 --> 00:32:38,300
granted the grounds for the
building of it around about--

539
00:32:38,300 --> 00:32:41,280
just before the First World War.

540
00:32:41,280 --> 00:32:51,350
Because Otto Roepke was one of
these great, new doctors that

541
00:32:51,350 --> 00:32:57,025
conquered all these lung
diseases at the time, which

542

00:32:57,025 --> 00:33:03,650
the key of it was not to leave
the people in their beds.

543
00:33:03,650 --> 00:33:09,040
Get them out of their beds, get
them walking, sit in the sun,

544
00:33:09,040 --> 00:33:10,760
and have exercises--

545
00:33:10,760 --> 00:33:13,850
and all that quite apart
from the medication.

546
00:33:13,850 --> 00:33:19,880
That was the new, great,
international novelty

547
00:33:19,880 --> 00:33:27,325
which solved a lot of
deaths in lung diseases.

548
00:33:27,325 --> 00:33:29,520
[INAUDIBLE]

549
00:33:29,520 --> 00:33:33,140
OK, so he had become someone
at the forefront of this.

550
00:33:33,140 --> 00:33:34,730
Yeah.

551
00:33:34,730 --> 00:33:38,060
And so, was his
sanatorium a huge place?

552
00:33:38,060 --> 00:33:39,360
Was it rather large?

553
00:33:39,360 --> 00:33:39,860
Yeah.

554

00:33:39,860 --> 00:33:41,750

It belonged to the railways.

555

00:33:41,750 --> 00:33:45,850

And you can imagine,
the railway,

556

00:33:45,850 --> 00:33:50,000

all the steam rail
services, basically

557

00:33:50,000 --> 00:33:55,760

anybody who was working
there as a driver, or a cook,

558

00:33:55,760 --> 00:34:01,340

or assistant driver of
these coal trains soon

559

00:34:01,340 --> 00:34:07,460

got a lung disease with all
the coal dust and everything.

560

00:34:07,460 --> 00:34:08,659

That makes sense.

561

00:34:08,659 --> 00:34:10,219

Yes, it makes sense
that that would

562

00:34:10,219 --> 00:34:13,730

be something that could
be part of the railway

563

00:34:13,730 --> 00:34:18,409

service as a health aspect.

564

00:34:18,409 --> 00:34:21,020

But tell me again, how
do I spell the name

565

00:34:21,020 --> 00:34:23,960

of that place, Melsungen?

566
00:34:23,960 --> 00:34:25,370
How do I spell it?

567
00:34:25,370 --> 00:34:31,480
M-E-L-S-U-N-G-E-N.

568
00:34:31,480 --> 00:34:32,500
Melsungen.

569
00:34:32,500 --> 00:34:33,130
Yeah.

570
00:34:33,130 --> 00:34:35,492
And it is a spa town.

571
00:34:35,492 --> 00:34:36,159
I'm looking up--

572
00:34:36,159 --> 00:34:36,960
No.

573
00:34:36,960 --> 00:34:37,460
It's not?

574
00:34:37,460 --> 00:34:38,920
It's not a spa town.

575
00:34:38,920 --> 00:34:44,500
It's a district--
in Germany, you

576
00:34:44,500 --> 00:34:46,360
have what they call a kreise.

577
00:34:46,360 --> 00:34:51,969
It is a district where this
was a market town, if you like.

578
00:34:51,969 --> 00:34:56,080

And then there may be one
other, little town and the rest

579
00:34:56,080 --> 00:34:57,250
are just villages.

580
00:34:57,250 --> 00:35:01,830
Or at least that's how it
was in the Hessen area, where

581
00:35:01,830 --> 00:35:04,460
all this house was.

582
00:35:04,460 --> 00:35:07,900
So you went to the Hessen area.

583
00:35:07,900 --> 00:35:14,080
That's where it was located,
Melsungen. And was there

584
00:35:14,080 --> 00:35:19,000
a difference between
what you saw in Austria

585
00:35:19,000 --> 00:35:21,400
and what you came to in Germany?

586
00:35:21,400 --> 00:35:25,960
In other words, in Austria,
when you leave in 1935,

587
00:35:25,960 --> 00:35:29,950
there is no Nazi government yet.

588
00:35:29,950 --> 00:35:32,560
But when you come into
Germany, there is.

589
00:35:32,560 --> 00:35:34,900
It had been there since '33.

590
00:35:34,900 --> 00:35:37,930

Was there a difference in
what you see on the street

591
00:35:37,930 --> 00:35:43,540
and what you saw on the
railway station in what you see

592
00:35:43,540 --> 00:35:45,250
in, let's say, the public life?

593
00:35:45,250 --> 00:35:48,340

594
00:35:48,340 --> 00:35:53,160
I think that just seeing
what everybody expected--

595
00:35:53,160 --> 00:35:56,700
and certainly the Germans
hotly believed in--

596
00:35:56,700 --> 00:36:01,410
was that in Germany, everything
was tidier, more punctual,

597
00:36:01,410 --> 00:36:04,450
better organized by tradition.

598
00:36:04,450 --> 00:36:08,910
In particular, of course, the
Prussian, north German outlook.

599
00:36:08,910 --> 00:36:12,210
You must have experienced
that when you were in Berlin.

600
00:36:12,210 --> 00:36:16,820
It was that they were
just very orderly people.

601
00:36:16,820 --> 00:36:21,010
And those Austrians down there--
well, you couldn't be sure.

602
00:36:21,010 --> 00:36:23,250
They may be very charming.

603
00:36:23,250 --> 00:36:27,570
But whether they were
punctual-- not so sure.

604
00:36:27,570 --> 00:36:29,460
Were the trains running on time?

605
00:36:29,460 --> 00:36:30,810
Maybe, maybe not.

606
00:36:30,810 --> 00:36:32,980
That kind of thing.

607
00:36:32,980 --> 00:36:35,489
So did you notice
that difference?

608
00:36:35,489 --> 00:36:35,989
Yeah.

609
00:36:35,989 --> 00:36:36,489
Right.

610
00:36:36,489 --> 00:36:39,040
Did you notice the
difference when you--

611
00:36:39,040 --> 00:36:39,540
Yeah.

612
00:36:39,540 --> 00:36:40,920
I certainly noticed it--

613
00:36:40,920 --> 00:36:44,070
particularly, of course,
in the Roepke household.

614

00:36:44,070 --> 00:36:49,830
Because Father Roepke was a
very strict organizer, not just

615
00:36:49,830 --> 00:36:56,320
of his family but also of this
huge sanatorium and anything

616
00:36:56,320 --> 00:36:58,530
he had to deal with.

617
00:36:58,530 --> 00:37:03,630
But he had worked this up from
absolutely nowhere in what

618
00:37:03,630 --> 00:37:06,865
was then Prussian Poland--

619
00:37:06,865 --> 00:37:12,520
Poznan now, the
area not the city--

620
00:37:12,520 --> 00:37:16,870
and had come across and thus--

621
00:37:16,870 --> 00:37:22,320
So he had left the Poznan
area and moved to Hesse

622
00:37:22,320 --> 00:37:23,270
to Melsungen--

623
00:37:23,270 --> 00:37:24,550
No, he didn't.

624
00:37:24,550 --> 00:37:28,290
No, it wasn't as simple as that.

625
00:37:28,290 --> 00:37:32,290
His father had a
village pub in--

626

00:37:32,290 --> 00:37:33,750
You mentioned that
yesterday, yes.

627
00:37:33,750 --> 00:37:36,650
Yeah, I mentioned that story.

628
00:37:36,650 --> 00:37:38,600
Yeah.

629
00:37:38,600 --> 00:37:42,080
But what I'm
interested in is that--

630
00:37:42,080 --> 00:37:46,240
for example, when
you cross the border,

631
00:37:46,240 --> 00:37:49,120
do you suddenly see
a lot of swastikas?

632
00:37:49,120 --> 00:37:52,210
Do you see flags?

633
00:37:52,210 --> 00:37:54,700
Because that's the image
that we have today,

634
00:37:54,700 --> 00:38:02,072
that once Hitler comes to power,
the towns are draped in flags,

635
00:38:02,072 --> 00:38:06,340
that there is much greater
presence of the Nazi Party

636
00:38:06,340 --> 00:38:11,170
in public places, that there
are soldiers, and stormtroopers,

637
00:38:11,170 --> 00:38:12,550
and whatever else it is.

638
00:38:12,550 --> 00:38:14,130
Did you see that?

639
00:38:14,130 --> 00:38:21,330
Well, that was only in
the process of becoming.

640
00:38:21,330 --> 00:38:24,550
When you think of it,
Hitler only came to power

641
00:38:24,550 --> 00:38:29,030
in 1933 and only just.

642
00:38:29,030 --> 00:38:34,390
And he then had still got
to do a lot of sorting out,

643
00:38:34,390 --> 00:38:35,080
including--

644
00:38:35,080 --> 00:38:38,630

645
00:38:38,630 --> 00:38:39,960
Yes, that's right.

646
00:38:39,960 --> 00:38:44,350
--his own troops that
had been, shall we say,

647
00:38:44,350 --> 00:38:48,400
battling with the communists
and communist crowds

648
00:38:48,400 --> 00:38:49,840
in the city streets.

649
00:38:49,840 --> 00:38:51,460
And we're talking
the big cities.

650
00:38:51,460 --> 00:38:53,930
The small towns
like Melsungen, they

651
00:38:53,930 --> 00:38:57,450
were way off the beaten
track and hardly--

652
00:38:57,450 --> 00:39:01,000
well, they incidentally
knew from the newspapers

653
00:39:01,000 --> 00:39:02,880
what happens in Berlin.

654
00:39:02,880 --> 00:39:10,990
But they were historically and
mentally miles and miles away

655
00:39:10,990 --> 00:39:14,595
from what happened in
Berlin, and in Munich,

656
00:39:14,595 --> 00:39:17,650
and in the big cities.

657
00:39:17,650 --> 00:39:26,110
But was there views expressed
towards both the Hitler

658
00:39:26,110 --> 00:39:30,174
regime and the Nazi Party?

659
00:39:30,174 --> 00:39:35,290
If Ulla's father
has this sanatorium,

660
00:39:35,290 --> 00:39:39,880
I'm sure he came under pressure
to do one or another thing

661

00:39:39,880 --> 00:39:43,540
or institute one
or another policy

662
00:39:43,540 --> 00:39:49,310
from the ruling regime which
then got into everybody's life.

663
00:39:49,310 --> 00:39:54,370
Well, at that time, I think
that wasn't so fully developed.

664
00:39:54,370 --> 00:39:56,620
I think that what
you're talking about,

665
00:39:56,620 --> 00:40:01,420
that only happened when the war
was imminent, and particularly

666
00:40:01,420 --> 00:40:03,080
during the war, of course.

667
00:40:03,080 --> 00:40:09,670
But before that, the Nazi Party
hadn't hardly established.

668
00:40:09,670 --> 00:40:11,080
They were all newcomers.

669
00:40:11,080 --> 00:40:13,543
And certainly in
the countryside,

670
00:40:13,543 --> 00:40:14,710
there were very few of them.

671
00:40:14,710 --> 00:40:17,170
Because people hadn't
caught on to what

672
00:40:17,170 --> 00:40:19,660
was going on in the big cities.

673
00:40:19,660 --> 00:40:22,400

674
00:40:22,400 --> 00:40:26,790
So when you come to Germany,
you don't feel that presence.

675
00:40:26,790 --> 00:40:28,700
You don't feel that--

676
00:40:28,700 --> 00:40:30,410
No.

677
00:40:30,410 --> 00:40:35,555
Certainly, we kids didn't feel
that presence until later.

678
00:40:35,555 --> 00:40:38,476

679
00:40:38,476 --> 00:40:42,680
In the following year, when
suddenly there became a Hitler

680
00:40:42,680 --> 00:40:49,250
order that all children, male
or female, from the year 10

681
00:40:49,250 --> 00:40:52,730
must be part of the
Jungvolk and Jungmadel.

682
00:40:52,730 --> 00:40:58,110
And then Hitler
Youth from 14 to 18.

683
00:40:58,110 --> 00:41:00,990
And that was
completely novel then.

684
00:41:00,990 --> 00:41:08,180

And you were told
that the kids could

685
00:41:08,180 --> 00:41:12,840
buy their uniform from a
certain shop in town, of course.

686
00:41:12,840 --> 00:41:15,860
So that was, again,
a major problem

687
00:41:15,860 --> 00:41:17,870
I had to deal with
when I was suddenly

688
00:41:17,870 --> 00:41:21,350
told I was the village
leader because I

689
00:41:21,350 --> 00:41:26,090
was the only boy going to
high school in the small town

690
00:41:26,090 --> 00:41:31,910
nearby, which wasn't the
same class as Melsungen--

691
00:41:31,910 --> 00:41:33,470
not a kreise.

692
00:41:33,470 --> 00:41:38,580
It was only just an
ordinary, little town.

693
00:41:38,580 --> 00:41:39,540
What was it called?

694
00:41:39,540 --> 00:41:43,370

695
00:41:43,370 --> 00:41:44,930
Lichtenau.

696
00:41:44,930 --> 00:41:46,240
Lichtenau?

697
00:41:46,240 --> 00:41:47,390
Yeah, Lichtenau.

698
00:41:47,390 --> 00:41:52,955
But it was kreise Witzenhausen.

699
00:41:52,955 --> 00:41:54,010
That was it.

700
00:41:54,010 --> 00:41:56,890
Witzenhausen was a
town right at end.

701
00:41:56,890 --> 00:42:00,100
We were right at the
southern end of this kreise.

702
00:42:00,100 --> 00:42:07,200
And Witzenhausen was on the
north side, 30 kilometers away.

703
00:42:07,200 --> 00:42:13,590
And that was more like a town
like Melsungen. And we kids,

704
00:42:13,590 --> 00:42:17,930
or even my father, hardly
ever had ever got anything

705
00:42:17,930 --> 00:42:19,550
to do in Witzenhausen.

706
00:42:19,550 --> 00:42:23,280
It was just way off
our beaten track.

707
00:42:23,280 --> 00:42:26,390
The nearest big city was Kassel.

708

00:42:26,390 --> 00:42:29,360

Kassel was only
25 kilometers away

709

00:42:29,360 --> 00:42:33,625

and there was a train
service from Lichtenau.

710

00:42:33,625 --> 00:42:39,020

711

00:42:39,020 --> 00:42:51,880

Kassel was in the next higher
class of city, in particular.

712

00:42:51,880 --> 00:42:54,300

They were a regional city.

713

00:42:54,300 --> 00:42:57,560

And wasn't Kassel where
the Brothers Grimm were

714

00:42:57,560 --> 00:42:59,190

born and grew up, I believe?

715

00:42:59,190 --> 00:43:00,102

Yes, that's right.

716

00:43:00,102 --> 00:43:01,670

Yes, in that area.

717

00:43:01,670 --> 00:43:03,690

Yes, quite true.

718

00:43:03,690 --> 00:43:06,410

719

00:43:06,410 --> 00:43:08,500

[INAUDIBLE] and all that.

720

00:43:08,500 --> 00:43:12,250

721
00:43:12,250 --> 00:43:15,250
So you're in Lichtenau?

722
00:43:15,250 --> 00:43:16,658
That is where you go to school.

723
00:43:16,658 --> 00:43:17,200
Is this true?

724
00:43:17,200 --> 00:43:18,410
That's right.

725
00:43:18,410 --> 00:43:23,230
At high school, where I
went from 10 years on.

726
00:43:23,230 --> 00:43:26,590
So it's called high
school and from 10 years,

727
00:43:26,590 --> 00:43:27,570
it was a gymnasium?

728
00:43:27,570 --> 00:43:28,420
Or was it--

729
00:43:28,420 --> 00:43:31,150

730
00:43:31,150 --> 00:43:34,030
Well, shall we say,
the old-fashioned name

731
00:43:34,030 --> 00:43:35,420
was gymnasium.

732
00:43:35,420 --> 00:43:43,630
But during my time, it
was called oberschule.

733
00:43:43,630 --> 00:43:44,200
Of course.

734
00:43:44,200 --> 00:43:45,670
And "ober" means "higher".

735
00:43:45,670 --> 00:43:46,410
Yeah.

736
00:43:46,410 --> 00:43:47,843
High school.

737
00:43:47,843 --> 00:43:49,960
High school.

738
00:43:49,960 --> 00:43:51,550
And it went from 10 years on.

739
00:43:51,550 --> 00:43:53,020
So you come from Austria--

740
00:43:53,020 --> 00:43:55,070
It went from 10
to 18, basically.

741
00:43:55,070 --> 00:43:56,470
OK.

742
00:43:56,470 --> 00:43:58,660
You come from Austria.

743
00:43:58,660 --> 00:44:06,380
And in Austria, you had finished
how many years of schooling?

744
00:44:06,380 --> 00:44:09,880
Four years or three
and a half years.

745
00:44:09,880 --> 00:44:13,310
I can't remember now exactly.

746
00:44:13,310 --> 00:44:18,400
I think it was just about
four years, from six to 10.

747
00:44:18,400 --> 00:44:20,770
And did school differ much?

748
00:44:20,770 --> 00:44:24,020
Was that jarring for you?

749
00:44:24,020 --> 00:44:26,800
School was so different.

750
00:44:26,800 --> 00:44:31,420
Austria was so old-fashioned.

751
00:44:31,420 --> 00:44:39,250
You didn't have any paper
and pens to write on.

752
00:44:39,250 --> 00:44:42,400
You had tablets.

753
00:44:42,400 --> 00:44:45,690

754
00:44:45,690 --> 00:44:46,690
Slate.

755
00:44:46,690 --> 00:44:48,110
Slate.

756
00:44:48,110 --> 00:44:50,110
Slate tablets.

757
00:44:50,110 --> 00:44:52,360
One side's writing.

758
00:44:52,360 --> 00:44:55,840
The other side's arithmetic.

759
00:44:55,840 --> 00:44:57,880
So you used chalk?

760
00:44:57,880 --> 00:45:00,600
In other words, you used
chalk to write on the tablet?

761
00:45:00,600 --> 00:45:02,890
Well, yes.

762
00:45:02,890 --> 00:45:04,950
We had chalk there, yeah.

763
00:45:04,950 --> 00:45:05,680
OK.

764
00:45:05,680 --> 00:45:08,900
And then you'd erase it and
then use the same tablet again.

765
00:45:08,900 --> 00:45:09,980
Is that right?

766
00:45:09,980 --> 00:45:14,080
Yeah, that was the
Australian way.

767
00:45:14,080 --> 00:45:17,320
And of course, you had
the old-fashioned German

768
00:45:17,320 --> 00:45:18,820
handwriting as well.

769
00:45:18,820 --> 00:45:21,040
I don't know whether
you ever came across--

770
00:45:21,040 --> 00:45:23,850
very angular.

771
00:45:23,850 --> 00:45:30,810
Well, I don't know if you're
referring to that Gothic script

772
00:45:30,810 --> 00:45:35,520
that we see in printed books.

773
00:45:35,520 --> 00:45:38,860
I don't know what it's called,
but there's a script that is

774
00:45:38,860 --> 00:45:41,490
very old-fashioned that
is hard to read even when

775
00:45:41,490 --> 00:45:43,590
it's printed--

776
00:45:43,590 --> 00:45:45,230
whether that's the same thing.

777
00:45:45,230 --> 00:45:47,630
It could be that that is one.

778
00:45:47,630 --> 00:45:50,930

779
00:45:50,930 --> 00:45:57,390
But that script was also still
the one for ordinary schooling

780
00:45:57,390 --> 00:45:58,590
in Germany.

781
00:45:58,590 --> 00:46:03,660
But in Germany, obviously,
you had writing books

782
00:46:03,660 --> 00:46:05,610
and you wrote with a pen.

783

00:46:05,610 --> 00:46:09,870

784

00:46:09,870 --> 00:46:12,230

Was it different
in any other way?

785

00:46:12,230 --> 00:46:13,540

Can you hear me?

786

00:46:13,540 --> 00:46:15,360

Yes, it was very different.

787

00:46:15,360 --> 00:46:21,860

But of course, the essential
knowledge of knowing your ABCs,

788

00:46:21,860 --> 00:46:24,455

knowing your numbers and basic--

789

00:46:24,455 --> 00:46:27,230

790

00:46:27,230 --> 00:46:31,980

obviously, that kind of
drill was much the same.

791

00:46:31,980 --> 00:46:39,530

Although to start with, we had
to go to the city of Melsungen

792

00:46:39,530 --> 00:46:46,100

to do the schooling, which of
course had separate classrooms

793

00:46:46,100 --> 00:46:49,130

for every age group, which
of course in the village

794

00:46:49,130 --> 00:46:53,776

school in Gneixendorf, all of
us kids were in the same room--

795

00:46:53,776 --> 00:46:58,970
the youngest in the front
and the highest class

796

00:46:58,970 --> 00:47:02,180
at the end of a large room.

797

00:47:02,180 --> 00:47:07,550
And in Retterode, in the
village where our farm was,

798

00:47:07,550 --> 00:47:10,920
it was the same kind of thing.

799

00:47:10,920 --> 00:47:14,280
But in Melsungen, of
course, being a town,

800

00:47:14,280 --> 00:47:18,780
it was so much more
modern, the school system.

801

00:47:18,780 --> 00:47:20,640
And of course, the
kids used to have

802

00:47:20,640 --> 00:47:24,930
fun with our Austrian
pronunciation

803

00:47:24,930 --> 00:47:27,310
and made fun of us.

804

00:47:27,310 --> 00:47:33,410
[SPEAKING GERMAN]

805

00:47:33,410 --> 00:47:41,460
So in other words, it wasn't
seamless in the sense as if you

806

00:47:41,460 --> 00:47:44,020
as if you're moving from

within in the same country.

807

00:47:44,020 --> 00:47:46,690

You're actually coming
from a different country,

808

00:47:46,690 --> 00:47:51,340

and in the school,
it's noticeable.

809

00:47:51,340 --> 00:47:54,340

And of course, the
Melsungen school

810

00:47:54,340 --> 00:47:59,900

was a state school,
whereas in Gneixendorf, it

811

00:47:59,900 --> 00:48:02,440

was very much a church school.

812

00:48:02,440 --> 00:48:06,280

Well, everything in
Austria was Roman Catholic

813

00:48:06,280 --> 00:48:07,870

in some way or other.

814

00:48:07,870 --> 00:48:09,910

Whereas in Germany,
and particularly

815

00:48:09,910 --> 00:48:15,580

in Lutheran Germany, the
schools were sort of neutral.

816

00:48:15,580 --> 00:48:16,630

Tell me this.

817

00:48:16,630 --> 00:48:21,550

We didn't talk about this much,
but you were born Catholic.

818

00:48:21,550 --> 00:48:23,710

And I assume that
all of the rites that

819

00:48:23,710 --> 00:48:28,150

go with bringing
children up in the church

820

00:48:28,150 --> 00:48:29,800

were things you
were introduced to,

821

00:48:29,800 --> 00:48:32,920

but was your family
particularly religious?

822

00:48:32,920 --> 00:48:35,170

Did you go to church on Sundays?

823

00:48:35,170 --> 00:48:38,080

Did you have catechism classes?

824

00:48:38,080 --> 00:48:42,110

Did you have any other
special instruction

825

00:48:42,110 --> 00:48:44,080

in the Catholic religion?

826

00:48:44,080 --> 00:48:47,920

How much was it an impact
in your own family?

827

00:48:47,920 --> 00:48:50,140

Well, very marginal.

828

00:48:50,140 --> 00:48:54,430

Because with Lily
having been brought up

829

00:48:54,430 --> 00:48:58,000

in Sweden in a Lutheran way--

830
00:48:58,000 --> 00:49:01,482

831
00:49:01,482 --> 00:49:06,670
and that was fairly
limited to, shall we say,

832
00:49:06,670 --> 00:49:11,010
the Major Festival,
Easter, and Christmas,

833
00:49:11,010 --> 00:49:15,610
and that kind of
thing, and obviously

834
00:49:15,610 --> 00:49:22,030
going to church for christenings
and Christmas maybe,

835
00:49:22,030 --> 00:49:25,180
and New Year, and
other festivals.

836
00:49:25,180 --> 00:49:28,620
But, again, we
were fairly casual.

837
00:49:28,620 --> 00:49:37,570
And a big change had come in
with my real mother, who had

838
00:49:37,570 --> 00:49:43,390
been educated in a Catholic--

839
00:49:43,390 --> 00:49:46,840
in Prague in high school.

840
00:49:46,840 --> 00:49:52,330
And she wasn't
originally but she

841

00:49:52,330 --> 00:49:56,965
had been converted, shall we
say, to be a serious Christian.

842
00:49:56,965 --> 00:50:00,330

843
00:50:00,330 --> 00:50:02,590
But she was here
such a short time

844
00:50:02,590 --> 00:50:06,980
so the direct influence
wasn't all that great.

845
00:50:06,980 --> 00:50:14,090
But Dad had also been sort of
activated in a Catholic sense

846
00:50:14,090 --> 00:50:15,770
through her enthusiasm.

847
00:50:15,770 --> 00:50:18,380

848
00:50:18,380 --> 00:50:21,080
I told you, I think,
that he would take us

849
00:50:21,080 --> 00:50:24,770
to Krems on Sundays if the
weather wasn't too bad.

850
00:50:24,770 --> 00:50:32,620
He wouldn't go to our
neighboring village,

851
00:50:32,620 --> 00:50:35,770
where the main church
or the priest was.

852
00:50:35,770 --> 00:50:42,580
But certainly, as far as the

whole family is concerned--

853

00:50:42,580 --> 00:50:47,980

except for my mother
during her short stay--

854

00:50:47,980 --> 00:50:51,030

there wasn't any
serious observance.

855

00:50:51,030 --> 00:50:59,910

But when we were in our
farm in Wallbachsmuehle,,

856

00:50:59,910 --> 00:51:06,230

30 kilometers south
of Witzenhausen,

857

00:51:06,230 --> 00:51:11,620

the only Roman Catholic
church in that whole kreise

858

00:51:11,620 --> 00:51:14,830

was, in fact, in Witzenhausen.

859

00:51:14,830 --> 00:51:16,760

And when it came to being--

860

00:51:16,760 --> 00:51:21,737

what is it when you're being--

861

00:51:21,737 --> 00:51:22,445

Was it confirmed?

862

00:51:22,445 --> 00:51:23,620

--confirmed.

863

00:51:23,620 --> 00:51:28,750

Being confirmed, we had to spend
the weekend in Witzenhausen

864

00:51:28,750 --> 00:51:33,460

to attend the celebration
and pass the test.

865
00:51:33,460 --> 00:51:36,270

866
00:51:36,270 --> 00:51:38,100
So you have been confirmed.

867
00:51:38,100 --> 00:51:40,740
So I'm assuming you
got First Communion,

868
00:51:40,740 --> 00:51:43,270
you got Confirmation,
all of those things.

869
00:51:43,270 --> 00:51:44,310
Yeah.

870
00:51:44,310 --> 00:51:51,270
That all was crammed into a
short weekend in Witzenhausen,

871
00:51:51,270 --> 00:51:54,500
for want of any better solution.

872
00:51:54,500 --> 00:51:58,820
And we formally became
Roman Catholics.

873
00:51:58,820 --> 00:52:04,460
And the only one of us who's
ever been a little bit more

874
00:52:04,460 --> 00:52:09,110
persistent as an adult was,
again, my sister, Rosemary.

875
00:52:09,110 --> 00:52:13,160
But even there, it was only a--

876

00:52:13,160 --> 00:52:16,240

877

00:52:16,240 --> 00:52:20,660

So when you mention this
distinction which was

878

00:52:20,660 --> 00:52:26,270

a distinction between
German-speaking areas,

879

00:52:26,270 --> 00:52:29,900

Catholic German-speaking areas,
and Protestant German-speaking

880

00:52:29,900 --> 00:52:33,530

areas, it doesn't sound so much
you're talking about religious

881

00:52:33,530 --> 00:52:36,680

differences--

882

00:52:36,680 --> 00:52:38,540

but tell me if I'm wrong here--

883

00:52:38,540 --> 00:52:43,670

as much as approaches
to life, approaches

884

00:52:43,670 --> 00:52:46,610

to how one lives one's life?

885

00:52:46,610 --> 00:52:47,420

Absolutely.

886

00:52:47,420 --> 00:52:52,370

887

00:52:52,370 --> 00:52:57,050

The north of Germany
was passion-marked,

888

00:52:57,050 --> 00:53:03,830
and the passions were people
who were hardworking people kept

889
00:53:03,830 --> 00:53:07,280
on time with everything.

890
00:53:07,280 --> 00:53:09,260
There was a proper
way of doing things,

891
00:53:09,260 --> 00:53:11,870
and you were sticking to
it, and you were doing it--

892
00:53:11,870 --> 00:53:12,960
that kind of thing.

893
00:53:12,960 --> 00:53:16,340
In Sweden, it was also, to
a certain extent, like that.

894
00:53:16,340 --> 00:53:23,030
I don't know what your Berlin
experience was but if you had

895
00:53:23,030 --> 00:53:26,690
come from Berlin to
Vienna-- maybe you have--

896
00:53:26,690 --> 00:53:29,960
you feel a kind of different
tone, a different way

897
00:53:29,960 --> 00:53:37,222
of approaching people,
being more easy

898
00:53:37,222 --> 00:53:38,180
and that kind of thing.

899
00:53:38,180 --> 00:53:42,320

900
00:53:42,320 --> 00:53:43,190
OK.

901
00:53:43,190 --> 00:53:44,570
The question is this.

902
00:53:44,570 --> 00:53:47,240
Did you ever not feel Austrian?

903
00:53:47,240 --> 00:53:49,970
Or were you an
Austrian in Germany?

904
00:53:49,970 --> 00:53:52,230
Or did you ever feel German?

905
00:53:52,230 --> 00:53:53,740
Were you ever German?

906
00:53:53,740 --> 00:53:56,490
I was definitely an
Austrian in Germany

907
00:53:56,490 --> 00:53:58,300
for the rest of
my life, I think.

908
00:53:58,300 --> 00:54:00,720

909
00:54:00,720 --> 00:54:01,220
OK.

910
00:54:01,220 --> 00:54:03,180
That's what I wanted to know.

911
00:54:03,180 --> 00:54:06,800
Did you ever feel like
you had become German?

912

00:54:06,800 --> 00:54:08,900
And the answer
I'm getting is no.

913
00:54:08,900 --> 00:54:10,810
You were always Austrian.

914
00:54:10,810 --> 00:54:11,870
Yeah.

915
00:54:11,870 --> 00:54:12,500
OK.

916
00:54:12,500 --> 00:54:17,720
Which meant I took liberties
where a north German

917
00:54:17,720 --> 00:54:28,190
or my only actual grandfather
who helped me is concerned.

918
00:54:28,190 --> 00:54:30,020
I took liberties.

919
00:54:30,020 --> 00:54:32,690
Such as?

920
00:54:32,690 --> 00:54:40,360
Well, not being punctual
or trying something new

921
00:54:40,360 --> 00:54:42,300
and doing it differently.

922
00:54:42,300 --> 00:54:48,980
Whereas, as far as the
tone in Prussia was,

923
00:54:48,980 --> 00:54:51,500
you know that
there's the right way

924

00:54:51,500 --> 00:54:53,920
and you're doing it the
right way, and that's it.

925
00:54:53,920 --> 00:54:55,380
That's the end of it.

926
00:54:55,380 --> 00:55:00,610
Yes, I was always
exploring alternatives.

927
00:55:00,610 --> 00:55:04,180
Does this mean you
were not quite obedient

928
00:55:04,180 --> 00:55:08,530
or you were mischievous?

929
00:55:08,530 --> 00:55:13,190
Is this in childhood terms,
that growing up as a teenager,

930
00:55:13,190 --> 00:55:17,270
that in those terms you were
doing things differently

931
00:55:17,270 --> 00:55:19,310
than what was prescribed?

932
00:55:19,310 --> 00:55:19,810
Yes.

933
00:55:19,810 --> 00:55:23,170

934
00:55:23,170 --> 00:55:28,600
I wasn't the type to
automatically cause a showdown.

935
00:55:28,600 --> 00:55:32,050
I'd much rather find a way
of getting around things

936

00:55:32,050 --> 00:55:36,520
without upsetting anybody,
which meant usually doing things

937

00:55:36,520 --> 00:55:41,870
behind people's backs or
going outside the house

938

00:55:41,870 --> 00:55:45,550
altogether-- which, of
course, I was the first kid,

939

00:55:45,550 --> 00:55:51,370
I think, in Gneixendorf from
the schloss who was regularly

940

00:55:51,370 --> 00:55:54,460
going out and
playing with the kids

941

00:55:54,460 --> 00:56:01,120
from the village, which had
not been the tradition at all.

942

00:56:01,120 --> 00:56:06,640
But my Dad never interfered,
never put his foot down.

943

00:56:06,640 --> 00:56:10,590

944

00:56:10,590 --> 00:56:12,540
I nearly drowned
actually on one occasion.

945

00:56:12,540 --> 00:56:14,940
I should have mentioned.

946

00:56:14,940 --> 00:56:21,610
Kneifel had a deep pond at
the back of their thing,

947

00:56:21,610 --> 00:56:23,850
and it wasn't fenced in.

948
00:56:23,850 --> 00:56:28,650
So in the winter, it was
obviously frozen over.

949
00:56:28,650 --> 00:56:30,960
And we kids used to
go there because it

950
00:56:30,960 --> 00:56:33,740
had a nice, steep approach.

951
00:56:33,740 --> 00:56:38,790
And you could run the
sleds in, onto the ice,

952
00:56:38,790 --> 00:56:41,800
and right across
to the other side--

953
00:56:41,800 --> 00:56:44,430
beautiful.

954
00:56:44,430 --> 00:56:51,000
And I had inherited a rather
heavy, big thing, again,

955
00:56:51,000 --> 00:56:53,320
from my dad's childhood.

956
00:56:53,320 --> 00:56:57,540
So we could load three
or four of us kids on it,

957
00:56:57,540 --> 00:57:01,200
and charge down, and
be ever so much faster.

958
00:57:01,200 --> 00:57:03,870
And, of course, we
did on one occasion

959

00:57:03,870 --> 00:57:06,490

and crashed in the
middle of the lake.

960

00:57:06,490 --> 00:57:12,600

We went in, and I was the
first one in the front.

961

00:57:12,600 --> 00:57:14,900

And I just grabbed what
ice I could and it broke,

962

00:57:14,900 --> 00:57:16,500

and it broke, and it broke.

963

00:57:16,500 --> 00:57:19,530

But gradually, I dragged
myself onto the ice.

964

00:57:19,530 --> 00:57:23,160

And the other kids went
sideways and backwards.

965

00:57:23,160 --> 00:57:24,910

All escaped.

966

00:57:24,910 --> 00:57:28,380

But of course it caused
a terrible rumpus

967

00:57:28,380 --> 00:57:31,980

with the parents, particularly
as my eldest brother had

968

00:57:31,980 --> 00:57:34,450

already died, as I told you.

969

00:57:34,450 --> 00:57:35,620

Trouble.

970

00:57:35,620 --> 00:57:36,120

Yeah.

971
00:57:36,120 --> 00:57:38,760

972
00:57:38,760 --> 00:57:42,850
So now, the farm that
you eventually settle in

973
00:57:42,850 --> 00:57:49,050
is close in the same
area as the sanatorium

974
00:57:49,050 --> 00:57:51,915
that Ulla's father has.

975
00:57:51,915 --> 00:57:53,940
Is that correct?

976
00:57:53,940 --> 00:57:55,230
That is correct.

977
00:57:55,230 --> 00:58:01,350
And in our whole
family life, it has

978
00:58:01,350 --> 00:58:04,480
been that whenever
women were involved,

979
00:58:04,480 --> 00:58:09,630
they were staying more or
less, or as close as possible,

980
00:58:09,630 --> 00:58:12,240
to the place where
they were born.

981
00:58:12,240 --> 00:58:15,600
And the boys were the
ones who went out and were

982

00:58:15,600 --> 00:58:17,160
all over the place.

983
00:58:17,160 --> 00:58:26,400
All my boys are, well,
all over the place.

984
00:58:26,400 --> 00:58:31,440
Well, our youngest son
lives in Australia.

985
00:58:31,440 --> 00:58:35,510
My son from my first marriage,
he stayed in England, but--

986
00:58:35,510 --> 00:58:40,080

987
00:58:40,080 --> 00:58:47,220
So when we go back to the farm,
can you describe that farm

988
00:58:47,220 --> 00:58:50,430
for me a little bit?

989
00:58:50,430 --> 00:58:52,410
How many hectares was it?

990
00:58:52,410 --> 00:58:53,860
And what was grown there?

991
00:58:53,860 --> 00:58:58,500
What was your father trying
to accomplish with this farm?

992
00:58:58,500 --> 00:59:02,760
What was its main
way of sustenance?

993
00:59:02,760 --> 00:59:10,890
Well, it was a much
more hilly farm,

994
00:59:10,890 --> 00:59:13,830
with all the hills
covered by state forests.

995
00:59:13,830 --> 00:59:16,350

996
00:59:16,350 --> 00:59:17,130
Was it logging?

997
00:59:17,130 --> 00:59:20,090

998
00:59:20,090 --> 00:59:21,100
That was the state.

999
00:59:21,100 --> 00:59:24,720
The state forests were
owned by the state

1000
00:59:24,720 --> 00:59:29,280
and run by the foresters, which
was part of Dad's problem.

1001
00:59:29,280 --> 00:59:34,050
Because obviously, the
deer would come across

1002
00:59:34,050 --> 00:59:38,070
into the fields and
not just eat a lot

1003
00:59:38,070 --> 00:59:43,290
but trample down a
lot of wheat or--

1004
00:59:43,290 --> 00:59:44,910
What did he grow mostly?

1005
00:59:44,910 --> 00:59:46,500
What did he grow on the farm?

1006
00:59:46,500 --> 00:59:48,270
A mixed farm.

1007
00:59:48,270 --> 00:59:49,320
It was half and half.

1008
00:59:49,320 --> 00:59:55,680

1009
00:59:55,680 --> 00:59:58,120
Well, let me think.

1010
00:59:58,120 --> 01:00:02,290
There was a main stream
going from south to north

1011
01:00:02,290 --> 01:00:04,070
in the main valley.

1012
01:00:04,070 --> 01:00:08,330
That was the Esse, which
was quite a lively stream.

1013
01:00:08,330 --> 01:00:12,170
And there were, from
our farm area, three,

1014
01:00:12,170 --> 01:00:15,680
minor streams coming into it--

1015
01:00:15,680 --> 01:00:18,770
two from the west and
one from the east.

1016
01:00:18,770 --> 01:00:19,340
Excuse me.

1017
01:00:19,340 --> 01:00:22,040
Could I ask you to sit
back again a little bit?

1018

01:00:22,040 --> 01:00:25,080
Because your face gets cut
off and I would like to--

1019
01:00:25,080 --> 01:00:25,580
No.

1020
01:00:25,580 --> 01:00:26,710
--have it all on there.

1021
01:00:26,710 --> 01:00:27,750
Yes.

1022
01:00:27,750 --> 01:00:28,250
OK.

1023
01:00:28,250 --> 01:00:31,660

1024
01:00:31,660 --> 01:00:35,650
So you're saying that there
was a stream that came

1025
01:00:35,650 --> 01:00:39,220
that cut the lands of the farm.

1026
01:00:39,220 --> 01:00:40,990
Is that what you're saying?

1027
01:00:40,990 --> 01:00:43,140
Yeah.

1028
01:00:43,140 --> 01:00:45,530
The main stream, the Esse--

1029
01:00:45,530 --> 01:00:47,470
there wasn't only the stream.

1030
01:00:47,470 --> 01:00:55,330
There was also a main road which
went right past the main house.

1031

01:00:55,330 --> 01:00:59,200

And in fact, when you wanted
to get to the farming area,

1032

01:00:59,200 --> 01:01:02,800

you had to cross the
main road and the Esse

1033

01:01:02,800 --> 01:01:07,060

streams through little bridges
to get to the actual farming

1034

01:01:07,060 --> 01:01:08,620

area on the other side.

1035

01:01:08,620 --> 01:01:16,150

1036

01:01:16,150 --> 01:01:21,440

As far as around the main
stream, it was a very wet--

1037

01:01:21,440 --> 01:01:24,930

it was a grassy area, and
the grass would be cut

1038

01:01:24,930 --> 01:01:27,970

or the cattle would
be grazing there.

1039

01:01:27,970 --> 01:01:32,650

1040

01:01:32,650 --> 01:01:35,890

But further up,
you had the fields.

1041

01:01:35,890 --> 01:01:39,430

And then, of course,
along these side arms,

1042

01:01:39,430 --> 01:01:44,230

apparently, after the
Thirty Years' War,

1043
01:01:44,230 --> 01:01:47,950
there had been
two villages there

1044
01:01:47,950 --> 01:01:52,330
along each of these
little streams

1045
01:01:52,330 --> 01:01:56,830
and, again, a fairly flat
area surrounded by the woods.

1046
01:01:56,830 --> 01:02:00,490

1047
01:02:00,490 --> 01:02:03,370
But do you remember
what your father grew?

1048
01:02:03,370 --> 01:02:07,060
Do you remember what he
tried to produce, and sell,

1049
01:02:07,060 --> 01:02:11,060
and make the farm a
financially good concern?

1050
01:02:11,060 --> 01:02:21,610
Well, it was mixed
farming-- potatoes, turnips,

1051
01:02:21,610 --> 01:02:22,945
all the different corns.

1052
01:02:22,945 --> 01:02:24,100
Was there wheat?

1053
01:02:24,100 --> 01:02:25,700
Did he grow wheat?

1054

01:02:25,700 --> 01:02:34,870
Yeah, wheat, rye, and barley,
and very general, normal, mixed

1055

01:02:34,870 --> 01:02:36,340
farming.

1056

01:02:36,340 --> 01:02:40,660
And was it a large farm in the
sense of, do you know how many

1057

01:02:40,660 --> 01:02:42,320
hectares it was?

1058

01:02:42,320 --> 01:02:45,790
Well, it's 350 hectares or more.

1059

01:02:45,790 --> 01:02:48,640

1060

01:02:48,640 --> 01:02:50,310
That's a substantial-size farm.

1061

01:02:50,310 --> 01:02:53,260
Well, obviously, it
was a substantial farm.

1062

01:02:53,260 --> 01:03:01,060
And then they tried to have
about 30 cows which turned out

1063

01:03:01,060 --> 01:03:06,820
to be a problem because they
picked a pure, Friesian type

1064

01:03:06,820 --> 01:03:14,320
which obviously wasn't, being
in the northern part of Germany

1065

01:03:14,320 --> 01:03:20,642
by the seaside where
they were at home, and--

1066
01:03:20,642 --> 01:03:22,380
But this was the
middle of Germany.

1067
01:03:22,380 --> 01:03:23,630
This is the middle of Germany.

1068
01:03:23,630 --> 01:03:25,000
It's a mountainous area.

1069
01:03:25,000 --> 01:03:32,260
And in fact, the milk
herder, or the specialist

1070
01:03:32,260 --> 01:03:34,870
who was looking after our--

1071
01:03:34,870 --> 01:03:48,780
it was a specially-bought high
classer that came from the Alps

1072
01:03:48,780 --> 01:03:51,780
where you had the
Simmental cattle,

1073
01:03:51,780 --> 01:03:57,910
which our relations
in Southwest Africa,

1074
01:03:57,910 --> 01:04:06,300
where my sister went to later
enormous success with Simmental

1075
01:04:06,300 --> 01:04:10,180
cattle in the rougher
areas of South Africa--

1076
01:04:10,180 --> 01:04:13,500
I think if my dad,
at the time, would

1077

01:04:13,500 --> 01:04:20,910
have picked the Simmental
rather than the Friesian,

1078
01:04:20,910 --> 01:04:22,830
it could have made
a lot of difference.

1079
01:04:22,830 --> 01:04:27,140

1080
01:04:27,140 --> 01:04:31,110
The special herd that
he got from Friesland

1081
01:04:31,110 --> 01:04:32,550
had nothing but trouble.

1082
01:04:32,550 --> 01:04:41,745
They got foot and mouth disease,
which meant that we had--

1083
01:04:41,745 --> 01:04:43,020
what do you call it?

1084
01:04:43,020 --> 01:04:44,035
Locked off now.

1085
01:04:44,035 --> 01:04:44,910
What have we got now?

1086
01:04:44,910 --> 01:04:45,750
Quarantine?

1087
01:04:45,750 --> 01:04:47,940
Lock jaw?

1088
01:04:47,940 --> 01:04:50,280
Quarantine-- and
of course, couldn't

1089
01:04:50,280 --> 01:04:54,580

sell the milk for a year or so.

1090

01:04:54,580 --> 01:05:03,810

And then they had
another infection

1091

01:05:03,810 --> 01:05:07,840

of calving dead
calves all the time.

1092

01:05:07,840 --> 01:05:11,460

And so these were
major contributors

1093

01:05:11,460 --> 01:05:16,540

why my parents couldn't
make a success of that farm.

1094

01:05:16,540 --> 01:05:20,860

But there was also this question
of all the wild animals coming

1095

01:05:20,860 --> 01:05:22,810

in from the forests.

1096

01:05:22,810 --> 01:05:27,130

And the foresters,
they were very strong,

1097

01:05:27,130 --> 01:05:34,510

particularly because Goring
loved forests, and hunting,

1098

01:05:34,510 --> 01:05:35,170

and all that.

1099

01:05:35,170 --> 01:05:39,010

And they all had to report to
him and he had major influence.

1100

01:05:39,010 --> 01:05:42,340

So they were like a
police, these foresters.

1101
01:05:42,340 --> 01:05:44,740
And my dad had, of
course, the right

1102
01:05:44,740 --> 01:05:51,460
to shoot animals when
they were on his grounds.

1103
01:05:51,460 --> 01:05:54,300
They were mostly there at night.

1104
01:05:54,300 --> 01:06:02,680
But if you shot something
with a promising, young deer,

1105
01:06:02,680 --> 01:06:06,115
immediately, he would be in
danger of losing his license.

1106
01:06:06,115 --> 01:06:10,250

1107
01:06:10,250 --> 01:06:11,510
So it was a hell.

1108
01:06:11,510 --> 01:06:18,200
So in other words, this
political kind of system

1109
01:06:18,200 --> 01:06:21,612
made itself felt in a
very unusual way, one

1110
01:06:21,612 --> 01:06:24,035
that we wouldn't have expected.

1111
01:06:24,035 --> 01:06:34,970
That, instead of party ideology,
we're going by proclivities.

1112
01:06:34,970 --> 01:06:37,080

So Goring likes forests.

1113
01:06:37,080 --> 01:06:39,140
That's one of
these proclivities.

1114
01:06:39,140 --> 01:06:44,990
And therefore, in any kind of
tension with the foresters,

1115
01:06:44,990 --> 01:06:49,730
your father is more nervous
that he could lose, rather than

1116
01:06:49,730 --> 01:06:51,590
have things dealt fairly.

1117
01:06:51,590 --> 01:06:53,950
Absolutely.

1118
01:06:53,950 --> 01:07:00,070
Yeah, the whole main electricity
line went right past the farm

1119
01:07:00,070 --> 01:07:02,180
along the valley.

1120
01:07:02,180 --> 01:07:08,360
But could we get any electricity
connection to the farm?

1121
01:07:08,360 --> 01:07:09,700
Could you?

1122
01:07:09,700 --> 01:07:13,100
The electricity authority
virtually refused

1123
01:07:13,100 --> 01:07:16,760
or they told him that the
price would be something

1124

01:07:16,760 --> 01:07:20,760
astronomical to make
a separate connection,

1125
01:07:20,760 --> 01:07:25,370
and transformer, and all that,
that the farm could never

1126
01:07:25,370 --> 01:07:26,480
afford.

1127
01:07:26,480 --> 01:07:31,770
So although the whole general--

1128
01:07:31,770 --> 01:07:34,580
particularly at that
time, was that Germany

1129
01:07:34,580 --> 01:07:38,165
was the land of the
farmers, do it yourself,

1130
01:07:38,165 --> 01:07:42,140
we provide all our food.

1131
01:07:42,140 --> 01:07:48,770
Well, the farmers were the
heart and gold of the nation,

1132
01:07:48,770 --> 01:07:50,460
and all that kind of thing.

1133
01:07:50,460 --> 01:07:55,645
But in actual fact, it
wasn't quite like that.

1134
01:07:55,645 --> 01:07:57,020
Well, it doesn't
sound like there

1135
01:07:57,020 --> 01:08:03,870
were any kind of
special exemptions,

1136
01:08:03,870 --> 01:08:10,110
special arrangements to
foster agricultural, let's

1137
01:08:10,110 --> 01:08:14,520
say, financial health,
in this case, your father

1138
01:08:14,520 --> 01:08:17,010
buying a farm, and
trying to establish it,

1139
01:08:17,010 --> 01:08:20,700
and make a go of it in
this part of Germany.

1140
01:08:20,700 --> 01:08:25,950
As far as the party line was
concerned, what my parents did

1141
01:08:25,950 --> 01:08:31,120
was just wonderful, just
what the nation wants.

1142
01:08:31,120 --> 01:08:35,490
But when it came to
actually living with it,

1143
01:08:35,490 --> 01:08:39,800
then you ran up against
all these difficulties.

1144
01:08:39,800 --> 01:08:42,930
OK, they make their own
mistakes and they were badly

1145
01:08:42,930 --> 01:08:48,420
advised by Mutti's
various experts,

1146
01:08:48,420 --> 01:08:50,590
but the strange

thing was the farm

1147
01:08:50,590 --> 01:08:55,410
was only, as the crow
flies, 20 kilometers away

1148
01:08:55,410 --> 01:08:58,689
from where she was born.

1149
01:08:58,689 --> 01:09:09,130
And in later life, during
the war, she and her brother

1150
01:09:09,130 --> 01:09:15,130
settled down on the other
side of the river, Fulda,

1151
01:09:15,130 --> 01:09:21,910
and also about 20 kilometers
away from Melsungen,

1152
01:09:21,910 --> 01:09:22,990
from the farm.

1153
01:09:22,990 --> 01:09:27,450
It's amazing, the family
clinging together.

1154
01:09:27,450 --> 01:09:31,529

1155
01:09:31,529 --> 01:09:35,569
So did your father
have any feelings

1156
01:09:35,569 --> 01:09:41,090
about Goring because of the
foresters and the strength

1157
01:09:41,090 --> 01:09:44,420
that they had knowing that
they have his backing?

1158

01:09:44,420 --> 01:09:47,600

Did he have any feelings
about the Nazi Party?

1159

01:09:47,600 --> 01:09:51,979

Did he ever express any
kind of views or opinion

1160

01:09:51,979 --> 01:09:56,330

during those years where he's
trying to make a go of it?

1161

01:09:56,330 --> 01:10:05,220

Well, what he wasn't the
kind of having hatreds.

1162

01:10:05,220 --> 01:10:08,330

1163

01:10:08,330 --> 01:10:09,200

He was a nice guy.

1164

01:10:09,200 --> 01:10:11,730

1165

01:10:11,730 --> 01:10:16,400

But he would see
Hitler as somebody

1166

01:10:16,400 --> 01:10:23,170

who didn't know what was
going on at his level.

1167

01:10:23,170 --> 01:10:25,100

He was somewhere in the clouds.

1168

01:10:25,100 --> 01:10:32,420

1169

01:10:32,420 --> 01:10:34,430

You could become a party member.

1170

01:10:34,430 --> 01:10:37,045

1171

01:10:37,045 --> 01:10:40,050

A lot of people would
do it so that they

1172

01:10:40,050 --> 01:10:42,150

would have a standing
when they would come

1173

01:10:42,150 --> 01:10:46,370

to the various authorities.

1174

01:10:46,370 --> 01:10:49,230

And that's what he was.

1175

01:10:49,230 --> 01:10:54,990

1176

01:10:54,990 --> 01:10:58,160

You paid your
membership subscription

1177

01:10:58,160 --> 01:11:02,520

and you could wear
your little badge

1178

01:11:02,520 --> 01:11:06,160

but you didn't have a uniform
or anything like that.

1179

01:11:06,160 --> 01:11:09,510

But when you came to
big meetings and so on,

1180

01:11:09,510 --> 01:11:13,680

you were sort of
part of society.

1181

01:11:13,680 --> 01:11:17,400

So in other words, he

joins the Nazi Party.

1182

01:11:17,400 --> 01:11:18,370

Is this correct?

1183

01:11:18,370 --> 01:11:22,580

Admitted, He was a
nominal party member.

1184

01:11:22,580 --> 01:11:24,770

What about Ulla?

1185

01:11:24,770 --> 01:11:28,945

Was she a member of the party?

1186

01:11:28,945 --> 01:11:29,570

Why should she?

1187

01:11:29,570 --> 01:11:34,790

Because if her husband
is a party member then,

1188

01:11:34,790 --> 01:11:36,470

I'm a sort of member too.

1189

01:11:36,470 --> 01:11:44,960

As far as that was concerned,
in the normal kind of life,

1190

01:11:44,960 --> 01:11:48,890

she was just Otto's
wife and that was that.

1191

01:11:48,890 --> 01:11:52,160

What about her father
who ran the sanatorium?

1192

01:11:52,160 --> 01:11:53,880

Did he join the party?

1193

01:11:53,880 --> 01:11:56,060

No, he did not join the party.

1194
01:11:56,060 --> 01:11:59,240

1195
01:11:59,240 --> 01:12:01,400
Of course, he was
the older generation.

1196
01:12:01,400 --> 01:12:05,030
He was highly
successful in his way.

1197
01:12:05,030 --> 01:12:08,760
He couldn't see
anything in Hitler.

1198
01:12:08,760 --> 01:12:11,360
Did he ever express
those views of Hitler?

1199
01:12:11,360 --> 01:12:16,020
No, he didn't but he certainly
never joined the party.

1200
01:12:16,020 --> 01:12:17,940
OK.

1201
01:12:17,940 --> 01:12:21,610
And did many people in--

1202
01:12:21,610 --> 01:12:24,910
where was it now, Lichtenau,
that you were living in?

1203
01:12:24,910 --> 01:12:26,550
Yeah.

1204
01:12:26,550 --> 01:12:31,440
Did the party establish
a foothold in Lichtenau?

1205
01:12:31,440 --> 01:12:34,740

Yeah, there you
had organization.

1206
01:12:34,740 --> 01:12:37,590
How many people were active?

1207
01:12:37,590 --> 01:12:38,540
That's another story.

1208
01:12:38,540 --> 01:12:41,490

1209
01:12:41,490 --> 01:12:43,440
What do people do usually?

1210
01:12:43,440 --> 01:12:46,630
Try and adapt and avoid trouble.

1211
01:12:46,630 --> 01:12:53,340
And if you were in the
city administration,

1212
01:12:53,340 --> 01:12:56,580
you obviously were under
pressure to be a party member

1213
01:12:56,580 --> 01:13:02,270
or to be a member of one of the
party organizations, the SA,

1214
01:13:02,270 --> 01:13:10,635
or the SS, or whatever, to
show that you're aligned.

1215
01:13:10,635 --> 01:13:19,460

1216
01:13:19,460 --> 01:13:22,100
You mentioned before,
there was a Catholic church

1217
01:13:22,100 --> 01:13:24,330

in Witzenhausen?

1218
01:13:24,330 --> 01:13:24,830
Yeah.

1219
01:13:24,830 --> 01:13:26,240
Yes.

1220
01:13:26,240 --> 01:13:28,650
Were there many
Catholics in the area?

1221
01:13:28,650 --> 01:13:29,150
No.

1222
01:13:29,150 --> 01:13:35,770

1223
01:13:35,770 --> 01:13:40,030
Witzenhausen-- obviously, there
were a few more Catholics.

1224
01:13:40,030 --> 01:13:43,040
But in our particular
area, there

1225
01:13:43,040 --> 01:13:46,000
was virtually nobody--
in Kassel, yes.

1226
01:13:46,000 --> 01:13:52,250
There were definitely also
at least one Catholic church.

1227
01:13:52,250 --> 01:13:53,960
But we weren't
connected with that

1228
01:13:53,960 --> 01:13:56,060
because we were
kreise Witzenhausen

1229

01:13:56,060 --> 01:13:59,830
We weren't kreise Kassel.

1230
01:13:59,830 --> 01:14:02,470
And were most of your
neighbors and most

1231
01:14:02,470 --> 01:14:06,340
of the people around you
then Protestant, Lutheran?

1232
01:14:06,340 --> 01:14:08,470
Yes, that's right.

1233
01:14:08,470 --> 01:14:10,870
Were there any
Jewish communities,

1234
01:14:10,870 --> 01:14:12,660
any Jewish families?

1235
01:14:12,660 --> 01:14:15,760
Not in these country areas.

1236
01:14:15,760 --> 01:14:18,640
So you never came across
anybody who was Jewish

1237
01:14:18,640 --> 01:14:21,370
while you were living there?

1238
01:14:21,370 --> 01:14:23,850
That's right.

1239
01:14:23,850 --> 01:14:24,930
That's correct and true.

1240
01:14:24,930 --> 01:14:28,060

1241
01:14:28,060 --> 01:14:34,650
But there may have been the

odd Jewish person in Lichtenau

1242
01:14:34,650 --> 01:14:38,530
but we weren't too
involved with Lichtenau.

1243
01:14:38,530 --> 01:14:41,330

1244
01:14:41,330 --> 01:14:44,750
The only thing famous
about Lichtenau I learned

1245
01:14:44,750 --> 01:14:53,410
was that the Lutheran priest
of the big, Lutheran church

1246
01:14:53,410 --> 01:14:57,020
in Lichtenau was the
brother of the general who

1247
01:14:57,020 --> 01:14:59,660
had led the Germans in--

1248
01:14:59,660 --> 01:15:03,370

1249
01:15:03,370 --> 01:15:08,520
what was it called, the
big, Russian surrender?

1250
01:15:08,520 --> 01:15:12,090

1251
01:15:12,090 --> 01:15:13,243
World War I?

1252
01:15:13,243 --> 01:15:14,660
Are you talking
about World War I?

1253
01:15:14,660 --> 01:15:15,913

No, World War II.

1254

01:15:15,913 --> 01:15:18,480

1255

01:15:18,480 --> 01:15:18,980

Come on.

1256

01:15:18,980 --> 01:15:20,280

What was it called?

1257

01:15:20,280 --> 01:15:22,620

[INAUDIBLE]

1258

01:15:22,620 --> 01:15:23,622

Stalingrad.

1259

01:15:23,622 --> 01:15:25,330

Well, Stalingard was
where the Russians--

1260

01:15:25,330 --> 01:15:28,200

He was the German
commander of Stalingrad.

1261

01:15:28,200 --> 01:15:30,390

He was a general of some sort.

1262

01:15:30,390 --> 01:15:33,360

Well, Stalingrad was not
where the Russians surrendered

1263

01:15:33,360 --> 01:15:36,330

but where the
Germans surrendered.

1264

01:15:36,330 --> 01:15:37,130

Exactly.

1265

01:15:37,130 --> 01:15:39,180

He was the one who surrendered.

1266

01:15:39,180 --> 01:15:41,820

And of course,
Hitler immediately

1267

01:15:41,820 --> 01:15:43,740

condemned him totally.

1268

01:15:43,740 --> 01:15:45,930

I think his name was Paulus.

1269

01:15:45,930 --> 01:15:46,980

That's right.

1270

01:15:46,980 --> 01:15:51,660

And Paulus was the
name of the priest

1271

01:15:51,660 --> 01:15:55,322

of the church in Lichtenau.

1272

01:15:55,322 --> 01:15:59,230

1273

01:15:59,230 --> 01:16:02,080

Did you have a radio at home?

1274

01:16:02,080 --> 01:16:02,830

Yes.

1275

01:16:02,830 --> 01:16:05,200

Everybody had a radio.

1276

01:16:05,200 --> 01:16:07,600

Do you remember any
kind of the broadcasts

1277

01:16:07,600 --> 01:16:12,380

that you would listen to
or hear over the radio?

1278

01:16:12,380 --> 01:16:15,100

Well, yes, sure.

1279

01:16:15,100 --> 01:16:17,160

You would listen to the news.

1280

01:16:17,160 --> 01:16:20,370

And the whole family usually
listened to the news.

1281

01:16:20,370 --> 01:16:23,910

And if there was a famous
speech like Goebbels,

1282

01:16:23,910 --> 01:16:30,900

or Goring, or even Hitler,
somebody would, at least,

1283

01:16:30,900 --> 01:16:32,530

listen to it--

1284

01:16:32,530 --> 01:16:37,420

so some of the time,
not necessary at all.

1285

01:16:37,420 --> 01:16:42,730

But there was nothing compelling
about it or nobody said,

1286

01:16:42,730 --> 01:16:44,410

you must do this or
must not do this.

1287

01:16:44,410 --> 01:16:46,630

Yeah, but did you discuss it?

1288

01:16:46,630 --> 01:16:53,470

Let's say there was a
speech and Hitler was upset

1289

01:16:53,470 --> 01:16:59,740

about one or another event,
or presents a new policy,

1290

01:16:59,740 --> 01:17:01,890
or anything like that?

1291

01:17:01,890 --> 01:17:04,720
If the family listened to it,
did they then comment on it

1292

01:17:04,720 --> 01:17:07,780
afterwards amongst yourselves?

1293

01:17:07,780 --> 01:17:11,185
Well, I expect they
would but certainly not

1294

01:17:11,185 --> 01:17:13,150
with the children.

1295

01:17:13,150 --> 01:17:21,900
And by and large, it
wasn't the done thing

1296

01:17:21,900 --> 01:17:23,690
to talk politics in our family.

1297

01:17:23,690 --> 01:17:26,430

1298

01:17:26,430 --> 01:17:31,080
So if you started
talking politics,

1299

01:17:31,080 --> 01:17:36,270
you were a risk to be ignored,
or people would walk away,

1300

01:17:36,270 --> 01:17:38,560
or something like that.

1301

01:17:38,560 --> 01:17:41,230
Why?

1302

01:17:41,230 --> 01:17:47,261
Because Georg, your uncle, you
said he was clearly a Nazi.

1303
01:17:47,261 --> 01:17:48,223
Yeah.

1304
01:17:48,223 --> 01:17:52,090
But did I ever hear
him make a speech?

1305
01:17:52,090 --> 01:17:52,980
No, I didn't.

1306
01:17:52,980 --> 01:18:00,430

1307
01:18:00,430 --> 01:18:02,975
He knew that in the family--

1308
01:18:02,975 --> 01:18:09,800

1309
01:18:09,800 --> 01:18:14,390
I never understood
him but he never

1310
01:18:14,390 --> 01:18:19,970
wore any kind of sign,
or order, or uniform,

1311
01:18:19,970 --> 01:18:21,300
or anything like that.

1312
01:18:21,300 --> 01:18:24,845
He was always the elegant,
English-type civilian.

1313
01:18:24,845 --> 01:18:27,896

1314
01:18:27,896 --> 01:18:31,120

But the Austrians
kept arresting him

1315
01:18:31,120 --> 01:18:37,050
so he must have been
rather active as a Nazi

1316
01:18:37,050 --> 01:18:43,970
or he had enemies in Austria
that he couldn't get rid of.

1317
01:18:43,970 --> 01:18:50,300
And funnily enough,
one of his cousins--

1318
01:18:50,300 --> 01:18:53,840
because my grandfather
had a sister and she

1319
01:18:53,840 --> 01:18:57,890
married in another family.

1320
01:18:57,890 --> 01:19:02,870
Well, one of their sons was
an Austrian civil servant,

1321
01:19:02,870 --> 01:19:08,900
and a genuine,
Austrian-believing civil

1322
01:19:08,900 --> 01:19:09,950
servant.

1323
01:19:09,950 --> 01:19:15,650
And when the Nazis
took over in 1938,

1324
01:19:15,650 --> 01:19:21,760
he was arrested because
he was against Hitler

1325
01:19:21,760 --> 01:19:24,470
succeeding in Austria.

1326

01:19:24,470 --> 01:19:29,180
And then when the new Austria,
at the end of the war,

1327

01:19:29,180 --> 01:19:32,930
came into existence, and
Uncle Georg was immediately

1328

01:19:32,930 --> 01:19:38,630
put into prison, he was made the
first ambassador to Yugoslavia.

1329

01:19:38,630 --> 01:19:43,640

1330

01:19:43,640 --> 01:19:48,410
And the joke in the family
was that Georg was always

1331

01:19:48,410 --> 01:19:52,790
complaining that Edward was
not doing anything for him

1332

01:19:52,790 --> 01:19:58,460
when he was in prison and
Edward was complaining

1333

01:19:58,460 --> 01:20:01,070
that Georg was not
doing anything for him

1334

01:20:01,070 --> 01:20:01,990
when he was in prison.

1335

01:20:01,990 --> 01:20:06,460

1336

01:20:06,460 --> 01:20:10,570
The impression I have-- and
it may not be a fair one,

1337

01:20:10,570 --> 01:20:16,060
but tell me whether or not any
part of it has some relevance--

1338
01:20:16,060 --> 01:20:27,250
and that is that when it comes
to really seminal, important

1339
01:20:27,250 --> 01:20:32,350
issues and events
for your family,

1340
01:20:32,350 --> 01:20:36,450
there is a silence
that descends.

1341
01:20:36,450 --> 01:20:41,470
When your mother died, there
was a silence about her

1342
01:20:41,470 --> 01:20:44,310
and no reference to her later.

1343
01:20:44,310 --> 01:20:44,810
Yeah.

1344
01:20:44,810 --> 01:20:47,568

1345
01:20:47,568 --> 01:20:57,350
The coming of and the takeover
in Germany of Hitler in 1933

1346
01:20:57,350 --> 01:21:01,610
seeped into every
aspect of German life

1347
01:21:01,610 --> 01:21:04,370
and it is quite central.

1348
01:21:04,370 --> 01:21:07,010
And yet, the sense that
I am getting from you

1349
01:21:07,010 --> 01:21:10,160
is that it was a see
no evil, hear no evil,

1350
01:21:10,160 --> 01:21:12,230
speak no evil kind
of situation--

1351
01:21:12,230 --> 01:21:14,650
That's right.

1352
01:21:14,650 --> 01:21:15,150
Yeah.

1353
01:21:15,150 --> 01:21:21,670
--and so therefore,
an avoidance of coming

1354
01:21:21,670 --> 01:21:28,760
into contact or an avoidance of
dealing with the implications.

1355
01:21:28,760 --> 01:21:30,780
Is this correct?

1356
01:21:30,780 --> 01:21:34,160
I think that's very true, yeah.

1357
01:21:34,160 --> 01:21:35,920
So that was true
for your family--

1358
01:21:35,920 --> 01:21:36,700
Yeah.

1359
01:21:36,700 --> 01:21:37,230
--you'd say?

1360
01:21:37,230 --> 01:21:43,380

1361
01:21:43,380 --> 01:21:43,880
OK.

1362
01:21:43,880 --> 01:21:52,300

1363
01:21:52,300 --> 01:21:56,590
You tried, in yourself,
to be a decent person,

1364
01:21:56,590 --> 01:21:59,380
to do the right thing
in your own mind

1365
01:21:59,380 --> 01:22:02,830
as long as you didn't interfere.

1366
01:22:02,830 --> 01:22:06,370
If you have a powerful
father, you obviously

1367
01:22:06,370 --> 01:22:08,030
try not to offend him--

1368
01:22:08,030 --> 01:22:10,060
that kind of thing.

1369
01:22:10,060 --> 01:22:18,840
My father was honored in
that kind of way, yes.

1370
01:22:18,840 --> 01:22:19,527
Excuse me.

1371
01:22:19,527 --> 01:22:20,610
I didn't quite understand.

1372
01:22:20,610 --> 01:22:21,390
What did you mean?

1373
01:22:21,390 --> 01:22:23,130

Your father was a
powerful father?

1374
01:22:23,130 --> 01:22:26,610
Or you're referring to
Hitler and how you tried--

1375
01:22:26,610 --> 01:22:30,420
My father was a powerful
father in the sense

1376
01:22:30,420 --> 01:22:34,200
that he didn't speak
much or shout aloud

1377
01:22:34,200 --> 01:22:36,330
unless he was really upset.

1378
01:22:36,330 --> 01:22:38,280
And then he did it in a big way.

1379
01:22:38,280 --> 01:22:43,270

1380
01:22:43,270 --> 01:22:47,290
Like Grandfather
Otto Roepke too,

1381
01:22:47,290 --> 01:22:54,090
he would expect you to do
the right thing in a way

1382
01:22:54,090 --> 01:22:58,470
that you couldn't really resist.

1383
01:22:58,470 --> 01:23:01,790
Well, some people
would have questioned--

1384
01:23:01,790 --> 01:23:04,430
I mean, you would have
to make a big scene.

1385

01:23:04,430 --> 01:23:13,010

And that was really something
that rarely happened.

1386

01:23:13,010 --> 01:23:17,443

Grandfather Roepke had his
problem because he was a, shall

1387

01:23:17,443 --> 01:23:23,060

we say, a particular
authoritarian person.

1388

01:23:23,060 --> 01:23:30,200

He reckoned that having himself
become a doctor from absolutely

1389

01:23:30,200 --> 01:23:35,645

nowhere with no kind
of initial support,

1390

01:23:35,645 --> 01:23:41,630

apart from his mother's money,
that his children should

1391

01:23:41,630 --> 01:23:48,050

be quite capable, in the
much more easy doctor's home

1392

01:23:48,050 --> 01:23:50,510

atmosphere in
which they grew up,

1393

01:23:50,510 --> 01:23:54,680

to all become-- all the boys,
definitely-- becoming doctors.

1394

01:23:54,680 --> 01:23:58,880

And so Heinz, the second boy--

1395

01:23:58,880 --> 01:24:02,180

all of us, the first born.

1396

01:24:02,180 --> 01:24:06,020
But she was a great
girl anyway so he really

1397
01:24:06,020 --> 01:24:07,490
liked his daughter.

1398
01:24:07,490 --> 01:24:11,570
And Heinz was told,
you become a doctor.

1399
01:24:11,570 --> 01:24:13,680
Well, he became a doctor.

1400
01:24:13,680 --> 01:24:16,070
And he was that
sort of tough guy--

1401
01:24:16,070 --> 01:24:20,930
not particularly brainy but
tough guy in the sense of,

1402
01:24:20,930 --> 01:24:22,880
right, I've got to do it.

1403
01:24:22,880 --> 01:24:24,070
I will do it.

1404
01:24:24,070 --> 01:24:30,620
And the second son, Jurgen,
was some sort of a playboy,

1405
01:24:30,620 --> 01:24:34,700
much more than
his elder brother.

1406
01:24:34,700 --> 01:24:41,300
So when Father said,
you go where Heinz is

1407
01:24:41,300 --> 01:24:45,780
and Heinz will look after you
while you do your studies.

1408
01:24:45,780 --> 01:24:49,790
So being a bright guy, he
managed to become a doctor.

1409
01:24:49,790 --> 01:24:55,280
Unfortunately, he died
young and that was that.

1410
01:24:55,280 --> 01:25:00,560
But then the other two boys,
they were country lads.

1411
01:25:00,560 --> 01:25:05,070
Otto, although he had
the same name as his dad,

1412
01:25:05,070 --> 01:25:10,290
was a country job kind of boy.

1413
01:25:10,290 --> 01:25:15,450
No way was he interested in
anything to do with university.

1414
01:25:15,450 --> 01:25:19,000
He was a bit of a
ruffian, really.

1415
01:25:19,000 --> 01:25:30,280
And then Wolfgang, the
youngest, I learned from him

1416
01:25:30,280 --> 01:25:37,940
that he passed his
university entrance

1417
01:25:37,940 --> 01:25:42,940
exam at least, whereas Otto
never even came to that.

1418
01:25:42,940 --> 01:25:47,530
He was sent out to South
Africa on the farms.

1419
01:25:47,530 --> 01:25:52,720
But they all came back
when the war was imminent.

1420
01:25:52,720 --> 01:25:57,090
And of course, they lost
their lives in Russia.

1421
01:25:57,090 --> 01:25:57,730
Did they?

1422
01:25:57,730 --> 01:26:00,010
These are all Ulla's
brothers and--

1423
01:26:00,010 --> 01:26:08,560
Well, Otto and Wolfgang got
killed during the Russian war.

1424
01:26:08,560 --> 01:26:11,110
You mean on the Eastern Front?

1425
01:26:11,110 --> 01:26:12,550
On the Eastern Front.

1426
01:26:12,550 --> 01:26:18,530
And Jurgen died immediately
before his son was born.

1427
01:26:18,530 --> 01:26:22,240
He was a doctor in
the German army.

1428
01:26:22,240 --> 01:26:25,660
And he had some
trouble with his--

1429
01:26:25,660 --> 01:26:26,590
not appendix.

1430
01:26:26,590 --> 01:26:29,340

What was it?

1431
01:26:29,340 --> 01:26:37,310
Anyway, he stayed on doing
duties at the hospital

1432
01:26:37,310 --> 01:26:38,930
until it was too late.

1433
01:26:38,930 --> 01:26:41,900
And then the operation
failed and he

1434
01:26:41,900 --> 01:26:45,806
died before his son was born.

1435
01:26:45,806 --> 01:26:46,880
Appendicitis.

1436
01:26:46,880 --> 01:26:48,330
Appendicitis, yes.

1437
01:26:48,330 --> 01:26:49,710
Sorry.

1438
01:26:49,710 --> 01:26:50,260
I see.

1439
01:26:50,260 --> 01:26:53,500

1440
01:26:53,500 --> 01:26:58,940
So in other words, what you're
saying is that the issue

1441
01:26:58,940 --> 01:27:01,790
for you at those years--

1442
01:27:01,790 --> 01:27:06,320
and you're giving me the
example of your step-uncles--

1443

01:27:06,320 --> 01:27:11,720

is that you follow what
your father is saying,

1444

01:27:11,720 --> 01:27:16,010

you try not to
displease him, and you

1445

01:27:16,010 --> 01:27:21,170

try not to introduce
conflict, and that there

1446

01:27:21,170 --> 01:27:26,000

is a great deal of what we say
in Germany, [SPEAKING GERMAN]..

1447

01:27:26,000 --> 01:27:28,170

People are obedient.

1448

01:27:28,170 --> 01:27:29,740

They obey.

1449

01:27:29,740 --> 01:27:30,680

They don't question.

1450

01:27:30,680 --> 01:27:32,660

They obey.

1451

01:27:32,660 --> 01:27:34,290

Yeah.

1452

01:27:34,290 --> 01:27:40,550

And if they don't obey, they
usually get into more trouble

1453

01:27:40,550 --> 01:27:45,800

like Otto and Wolfgang did.

1454

01:27:45,800 --> 01:27:47,660

And how did they
get into trouble?

1455
01:27:47,660 --> 01:27:50,840
Otto involved them?

1456
01:27:50,840 --> 01:27:51,420
Well, no.

1457
01:27:51,420 --> 01:27:55,570
OK, they had to be serving
in the German army anyway.

1458
01:27:55,570 --> 01:28:01,850
But they obviously weren't
in a particularly favorable

1459
01:28:01,850 --> 01:28:02,960
position.

1460
01:28:02,960 --> 01:28:08,360
Most soldiers in war who
die are not the officers

1461
01:28:08,360 --> 01:28:12,890
but the front guys would
really meet the enemy.

1462
01:28:12,890 --> 01:28:16,910
And they were that kind.

1463
01:28:16,910 --> 01:28:20,720
So you're saying that had they
been more in line with what

1464
01:28:20,720 --> 01:28:23,420
their father would
have wanted for them,

1465
01:28:23,420 --> 01:28:28,340
they would have been able
to avoid such a fate.

1466
01:28:28,340 --> 01:28:36,540
Well, all the military doctors

were definitely not immediately

1467

01:28:36,540 --> 01:28:39,050
front line victims.

1468

01:28:39,050 --> 01:28:45,077
They were looking after people
who were wounded or injured,

1469

01:28:45,077 --> 01:28:45,785
somewhere behind.

1470

01:28:45,785 --> 01:28:48,560

1471

01:28:48,560 --> 01:28:54,560
I want to go back to what
you were saying earlier.

1472

01:28:54,560 --> 01:28:57,610
By the way, let me ask
one other question.

1473

01:28:57,610 --> 01:28:59,810
Did your father
get any newspapers?

1474

01:28:59,810 --> 01:29:01,640
Was he a newspaper reader?

1475

01:29:01,640 --> 01:29:03,230
Did he subscribe to any?

1476

01:29:03,230 --> 01:29:10,490
Yes, he subscribed to the
main, national newspaper

1477

01:29:10,490 --> 01:29:13,820
called Volkischer Beobachter,
which was definitely

1478

01:29:13,820 --> 01:29:16,600

a Nazi publication.

1479

01:29:16,600 --> 01:29:19,900

And did he ever comment
on any of the articles

1480

01:29:19,900 --> 01:29:21,980

that he would read in there?

1481

01:29:21,980 --> 01:29:24,150

Hardly ever.

1482

01:29:24,150 --> 01:29:25,050

And what about you?

1483

01:29:25,050 --> 01:29:26,820

Did you read the paper?

1484

01:29:26,820 --> 01:29:30,930

I looked into them,
sure, because I wanted

1485

01:29:30,930 --> 01:29:34,110

to find out more about it.

1486

01:29:34,110 --> 01:29:41,440

But it really didn't
affect me as a schoolboy

1487

01:29:41,440 --> 01:29:42,920

to any great extent.

1488

01:29:42,920 --> 01:29:45,380

And obviously, the
great victories that

1489

01:29:45,380 --> 01:29:47,410

were at the
beginning of the war,

1490

01:29:47,410 --> 01:29:50,450

and the great successes of

getting full employment,

1491
01:29:50,450 --> 01:29:51,340
and so on--

1492
01:29:51,340 --> 01:29:53,880
that all sounded
pretty wonderful.

1493
01:29:53,880 --> 01:29:55,810
OK.

1494
01:29:55,810 --> 01:30:03,210
And what about the
anti-Jewish articles,

1495
01:30:03,210 --> 01:30:09,190
anti-Jewish broadcasts,
and things like that?

1496
01:30:09,190 --> 01:30:10,590
Were they memorable for you?

1497
01:30:10,590 --> 01:30:12,298
Do you remember hearing
things like that?

1498
01:30:12,298 --> 01:30:14,010
I remember hearing them.

1499
01:30:14,010 --> 01:30:18,390
And everybody in our
family or in our circles

1500
01:30:18,390 --> 01:30:23,850
said, it's a whole, terrible
rubbish and just ignore it.

1501
01:30:23,850 --> 01:30:25,830
That was the attitude.

1502
01:30:25,830 --> 01:30:28,830

They said, that's the worst
part of the Nazi Party

1503
01:30:28,830 --> 01:30:33,000
and at least they saved
us from the communists.

1504
01:30:33,000 --> 01:30:37,110
We have to put up with
this kind of thing.

1505
01:30:37,110 --> 01:30:39,630
Now, let me go
back a little bit.

1506
01:30:39,630 --> 01:30:44,370
Do you think that your father's
experiences during World War

1507
01:30:44,370 --> 01:30:48,630
I and being in
Siberia for six years

1508
01:30:48,630 --> 01:30:54,340
would have influenced
him when he's in Germany?

1509
01:30:54,340 --> 01:30:56,680
Because you just mentioned
this, at least they

1510
01:30:56,680 --> 01:30:59,160
saved us from the communists.

1511
01:30:59,160 --> 01:31:02,710
In the evaluation of
things in your family,

1512
01:31:02,710 --> 01:31:04,510
would it have been
that the communists

1513
01:31:04,510 --> 01:31:07,590

are worse than the fascists?

1514

01:31:07,590 --> 01:31:10,150

Definitely, 10 times over.

1515

01:31:10,150 --> 01:31:13,060

No question about it.

1516

01:31:13,060 --> 01:31:13,690

OK.

1517

01:31:13,690 --> 01:31:18,640

So there was some sort of
political point of view.

1518

01:31:18,640 --> 01:31:20,455

It wasn't entirely neutral.

1519

01:31:20,455 --> 01:31:23,280

1520

01:31:23,280 --> 01:31:26,230

No, I think if
there was any kind

1521

01:31:26,230 --> 01:31:32,500

of definite, majority
spirit in Germany,

1522

01:31:32,500 --> 01:31:39,790

it was that if it came to
fighting or beating Russia,

1523

01:31:39,790 --> 01:31:42,430

everybody was for it.

1524

01:31:42,430 --> 01:31:46,160

Russia was the
danger to the world.

1525

01:31:46,160 --> 01:31:51,800

I remember when I was a soldier

with the Waffen-SS, which

1526

01:31:51,800 --> 01:31:54,390

was, of course, a
proscribed part of me.

1527

01:31:54,390 --> 01:31:58,580

But we can talk
about that later.

1528

01:31:58,580 --> 01:32:08,620

Because the rumors
that went around

1529

01:32:08,620 --> 01:32:13,100

when I was actually
fighting and so on

1530

01:32:13,100 --> 01:32:18,020

was that the
Americans and British

1531

01:32:18,020 --> 01:32:21,370

have come to a conclusion
that the real-world enemy are

1532

01:32:21,370 --> 01:32:22,490

the Russians.

1533

01:32:22,490 --> 01:32:26,090

They are making a secret
peace with Germany

1534

01:32:26,090 --> 01:32:29,600

and then join forces
against Russia

1535

01:32:29,600 --> 01:32:36,830

to kill or exterminate
communism altogether.

1536

01:32:36,830 --> 01:32:40,340

That was the rumours

that went around.

1537

01:32:40,340 --> 01:32:41,420

That's interesting.

1538

01:32:41,420 --> 01:32:43,260

[INAUDIBLE]

1539

01:32:43,260 --> 01:32:45,860

Yeah, that's interesting.

1540

01:32:45,860 --> 01:32:50,510

Eventually, towards the
end of the 19th century,

1541

01:32:50,510 --> 01:32:54,080

that's exactly sort of what
happened, but not like that.

1542

01:32:54,080 --> 01:32:57,488

You mean at the end
of the 20th century.

1543

01:32:57,488 --> 01:32:58,280

That's right, yeah.

1544

01:32:58,280 --> 01:32:58,780

Yeah.

1545

01:32:58,780 --> 01:33:01,370

But not in a military way.

1546

01:33:01,370 --> 01:33:02,510

It was a different way.

1547

01:33:02,510 --> 01:33:06,620

You're talking about the
fall of communism in 1991.

1548

01:33:06,620 --> 01:33:07,590

Yeah.

1549

01:33:07,590 --> 01:33:11,900

But what I'm talking
about here is not--

1550

01:33:11,900 --> 01:33:15,200

yes, it's important
to know about what

1551

01:33:15,200 --> 01:33:17,240

was the sentiment in Germany.

1552

01:33:17,240 --> 01:33:22,220

But within your own family,
was your father's experiences

1553

01:33:22,220 --> 01:33:24,140

during World War
I, do you think,

1554

01:33:24,140 --> 01:33:27,950

something that formed
his experiences

1555

01:33:27,950 --> 01:33:35,570

and the way he looked at the
rise of fascism and the fight

1556

01:33:35,570 --> 01:33:38,060

against communism?

1557

01:33:38,060 --> 01:33:39,620

Definitely.

1558

01:33:39,620 --> 01:33:44,390

He had seen Russia at
the worst possible time

1559

01:33:44,390 --> 01:33:46,460

when the Reds and
the Whites were

1560

01:33:46,460 --> 01:33:49,950

killing each other senselessly.

1561
01:33:49,950 --> 01:33:52,460
And then, of course,
the prisoners of war

1562
01:33:52,460 --> 01:33:59,510
were involved or got
involved in that total chaos.

1563
01:33:59,510 --> 01:34:02,890
As far as he's concerned, no
time for Russia or anything

1564
01:34:02,890 --> 01:34:03,890
Russian.

1565
01:34:03,890 --> 01:34:07,460
Although, by strange
coincidence, when

1566
01:34:07,460 --> 01:34:13,340
we had this farm,
[INAUDIBLE],, the one worker

1567
01:34:13,340 --> 01:34:18,170
who was residing on the
premises was a Russian prisoner

1568
01:34:18,170 --> 01:34:27,160
of war of the First World War
who had married a German girl,

1569
01:34:27,160 --> 01:34:28,860
Herr Polotov.

1570
01:34:28,860 --> 01:34:32,410
Herr Bruderoff was his name?

1571
01:34:32,410 --> 01:34:34,060
Polotov.

1572

01:34:34,060 --> 01:34:35,380
Polotov.

1573
01:34:35,380 --> 01:34:39,730
And did she get on
with your father?

1574
01:34:39,730 --> 01:34:42,190
Yeah, he did.

1575
01:34:42,190 --> 01:34:46,655
He was a pleasant
guy and quite the--

1576
01:34:46,655 --> 01:34:50,490

1577
01:34:50,490 --> 01:34:52,460
OK, I'm going to
ask something else.

1578
01:34:52,460 --> 01:34:54,950
It's much more on
the political line.

1579
01:34:54,950 --> 01:34:58,550
So when Germany concludes
a non-aggression pact with

1580
01:34:58,550 --> 01:35:00,063
the Soviet Union--

1581
01:35:00,063 --> 01:35:02,780
and that's in 1939--

1582
01:35:02,780 --> 01:35:06,148
did news of that filter out to
where your family was living?

1583
01:35:06,148 --> 01:35:07,190
Because all of a sudden--

1584

01:35:07,190 --> 01:35:09,470
Yeah.

1585
01:35:09,470 --> 01:35:16,750
It was broadcast in a big way
on all the state media, yeah.

1586
01:35:16,750 --> 01:35:18,250
And did anybody
raise an eyebrow?

1587
01:35:18,250 --> 01:35:20,920

1588
01:35:20,920 --> 01:35:25,190
Look, in a sense, Hitler
was a bit like Trump now.

1589
01:35:25,190 --> 01:35:30,200
Anything to attract
his greatness,

1590
01:35:30,200 --> 01:35:31,790
it would be grabbed at.

1591
01:35:31,790 --> 01:35:33,830
And Goebbels certainly
would see to it

1592
01:35:33,830 --> 01:35:38,080
that he would be painted
out and developed

1593
01:35:38,080 --> 01:35:40,790
to throw the most
wonderful light on him.

1594
01:35:40,790 --> 01:35:47,230
So it was a genius of diplomacy,
this treaty with Russia.

1595
01:35:47,230 --> 01:35:51,070
And how did people react

to it in your circle?

1596
01:35:51,070 --> 01:35:57,970
Well, in a sense,
people were relieved

1597
01:35:57,970 --> 01:36:02,877
that there was a sign that
the war would be finishing.

1598
01:36:02,877 --> 01:36:04,210
But the war hadn't even started.

1599
01:36:04,210 --> 01:36:06,410
[INAUDIBLE]

1600
01:36:06,410 --> 01:36:06,910
I mean--

1601
01:36:06,910 --> 01:36:09,670

1602
01:36:09,670 --> 01:36:12,330
Well, let me back up a bit.

1603
01:36:12,330 --> 01:36:13,300
Sorry, yes.

1604
01:36:13,300 --> 01:36:14,080
You're right.

1605
01:36:14,080 --> 01:36:16,150
It hadn't started yet.

1606
01:36:16,150 --> 01:36:18,880
But it started right
away because of the pact.

1607
01:36:18,880 --> 01:36:25,060
That is, the pact is
concluded on August 23rd.

1608

01:36:25,060 --> 01:36:25,850

On September 3rd--

1609

01:36:25,850 --> 01:36:28,360

1610

01:36:28,360 --> 01:36:32,270

On the face of it, it was taken
as a peaceful process when

1611

01:36:32,270 --> 01:36:35,860

in actual fact, it was
a way of killing off

1612

01:36:35,860 --> 01:36:37,660

Poland and splitting it up.

1613

01:36:37,660 --> 01:36:40,330

1614

01:36:40,330 --> 01:36:42,850

Yeah, that was the
immediate effect.

1615

01:36:42,850 --> 01:36:46,540

Again, that was something
that, certainly, the population

1616

01:36:46,540 --> 01:36:49,292

hadn't expected.

1617

01:36:49,292 --> 01:36:51,830

OK.

1618

01:36:51,830 --> 01:36:56,480

Let's go back a little bit to
before the war and talk about

1619

01:36:56,480 --> 01:37:02,360

when you join these various
groups, when it's mandatory--

1620

01:37:02,360 --> 01:37:03,500
is that correct--

1621

01:37:03,500 --> 01:37:05,555
to join the Hitler-Jugend.

1622

01:37:05,555 --> 01:37:09,320
And tell me what that was
like-- how old you were,

1623

01:37:09,320 --> 01:37:14,250
how it came about, and what kind
of activities these groups had.

1624

01:37:14,250 --> 01:37:24,960
Well, it came just
about out in 1936.

1625

01:37:24,960 --> 01:37:27,150
I was 10 years old.

1626

01:37:27,150 --> 01:37:28,740
That's when it came out.

1627

01:37:28,740 --> 01:37:36,210
And the instructions
from the top

1628

01:37:36,210 --> 01:37:41,940
was that all 10 to 14
years would be Jungvolk.

1629

01:37:41,940 --> 01:37:49,120
And so there was then some
sort of leader appointed

1630

01:37:49,120 --> 01:37:55,320
in Lichtenau to see
that the villages were

1631

01:37:55,320 --> 01:37:57,610
doing that same sort of thing.

1632
01:37:57,610 --> 01:38:05,260
So this guy, who was
actually a very nice guy--

1633
01:38:05,260 --> 01:38:09,150
I got to know him quite well--

1634
01:38:09,150 --> 01:38:14,780
went around to the
local burgermeister

1635
01:38:14,780 --> 01:38:23,520
or if there was a Hitler party
personally in the village

1636
01:38:23,520 --> 01:38:27,370
and said, make sure that
those boys get organized.

1637
01:38:27,370 --> 01:38:30,180
And, is there any
one of these boys

1638
01:38:30,180 --> 01:38:35,190
that should be the local leader?

1639
01:38:35,190 --> 01:38:39,850
And so the next
question then was,

1640
01:38:39,850 --> 01:38:44,520
we are particularly looking for
boys who are high school boys

1641
01:38:44,520 --> 01:38:47,560
and who will come to
Lichtenau on a regular basis

1642
01:38:47,560 --> 01:38:51,610
so we can have
contact with them.

1643

01:38:51,610 --> 01:38:52,860

I happened to be the only one.

1644

01:38:52,860 --> 01:38:56,650

Although, I was the youngest of all the 10 to 14-year-old boys.

1645

01:38:56,650 --> 01:38:59,980

I was only just 10 years old.

1646

01:38:59,980 --> 01:39:02,150

And new to the area.

1647

01:39:02,150 --> 01:39:04,770

And I was new to the area.

1648

01:39:04,770 --> 01:39:08,890

That didn't bother this guy.

1649

01:39:08,890 --> 01:39:13,620

He said, look, we've got a shop now organized in Lichtenau

1650

01:39:13,620 --> 01:39:15,220

that sells the uniforms.

1651

01:39:15,220 --> 01:39:20,790

They're quite simple uniforms but they cost money.

1652

01:39:20,790 --> 01:39:23,250

And also you had to--

1653

01:39:23,250 --> 01:39:24,140

What color was it?

1654

01:39:24,140 --> 01:39:25,140

What did they look like?

1655

01:39:25,140 --> 01:39:34,540

Well, you had black

shorts and a khaki shirt.

1656
01:39:34,540 --> 01:39:36,430
That was it.

1657
01:39:36,430 --> 01:39:41,080
You had a tie, a funny
sort of black cloth

1658
01:39:41,080 --> 01:39:48,650
tie with a roundabout kind
of knot, a real plastic knot.

1659
01:39:48,650 --> 01:39:51,850

1660
01:39:51,850 --> 01:39:56,190
And then, of course,
you had a cap.

1661
01:39:56,190 --> 01:39:58,200
And then you had a
winter uniform, which

1662
01:39:58,200 --> 01:40:04,050
was more like a training suit.

1663
01:40:04,050 --> 01:40:06,690
You mean like a training
suit that we would normally

1664
01:40:06,690 --> 01:40:08,280
look at today or--

1665
01:40:08,280 --> 01:40:10,620
Yeah, sort of that
kind of thing.

1666
01:40:10,620 --> 01:40:13,520

1667
01:40:13,520 --> 01:40:24,740

It's long, black trousers
and a pullover jacket on top.

1668

01:40:24,740 --> 01:40:29,690

It had to be very simple because
people couldn't afford much.

1669

01:40:29,690 --> 01:40:34,310

Even at that time,
collecting the contribution

1670

01:40:34,310 --> 01:40:37,250

was one of my worst
jobs when I was first

1671

01:40:37,250 --> 01:40:39,200

appointed to village leader.

1672

01:40:39,200 --> 01:40:44,090

Because a lot of the kids
couldn't get their parents

1673

01:40:44,090 --> 01:40:45,560

to find the money.

1674

01:40:45,560 --> 01:40:49,490

And it was silly
amount, so many pfennig.

1675

01:40:49,490 --> 01:40:56,250

But you had to put a
stamp into their passport.

1676

01:40:56,250 --> 01:41:01,370

It was a silly
bit of bureaucracy

1677

01:41:01,370 --> 01:41:05,950

that was, within
a year, abolished.

1678

01:41:05,950 --> 01:41:09,895

So you were a member without

having to pay any contribution.

1679
01:41:09,895 --> 01:41:13,080

1680
01:41:13,080 --> 01:41:15,060
Did you ever know
of any people who

1681
01:41:15,060 --> 01:41:21,030
resisted and didn't want their
children to join the Jungvolk?

1682
01:41:21,030 --> 01:41:32,631
Not in Retterode, although
there were some people who

1683
01:41:32,631 --> 01:41:36,040
showed definitely,
without actually making

1684
01:41:36,040 --> 01:41:37,960
a clear statement,
that they didn't

1685
01:41:37,960 --> 01:41:40,990
want their kids to join this.

1686
01:41:40,990 --> 01:41:44,085
They needed them
at home and they

1687
01:41:44,085 --> 01:41:46,300
had better things to
do-- going to school

1688
01:41:46,300 --> 01:41:47,620
and that kind of thing.

1689
01:41:47,620 --> 01:41:48,910
Definitely.

1690

01:41:48,910 --> 01:41:52,190
But although I am a shy guy--

1691
01:41:52,190 --> 01:41:54,670
or was a very shy guy--

1692
01:41:54,670 --> 01:41:59,140
they never let off
about it to me.

1693
01:41:59,140 --> 01:42:02,020
And eventually, in
that first year,

1694
01:42:02,020 --> 01:42:06,850
I somehow coaxed these people
to actually pay these pfennige

1695
01:42:06,850 --> 01:42:09,330
for contribution.

1696
01:42:09,330 --> 01:42:16,290
It completely spoiled
any positive ideas

1697
01:42:16,290 --> 01:42:19,710
I had about being
a Jungvolk leader

1698
01:42:19,710 --> 01:42:21,720
because that kind of thing--

1699
01:42:21,720 --> 01:42:23,810
chasing after the
odd bit of money--

1700
01:42:23,810 --> 01:42:26,610
and you know
they're hard up too.

1701
01:42:26,610 --> 01:42:30,320
Some pretended more
than others but there

1702
01:42:30,320 --> 01:42:35,250
was nobody in the village who
had a lot of money to spend.

1703
01:42:35,250 --> 01:42:37,835
It's a hard thing to put
on a 10-year-old boy.

1704
01:42:37,835 --> 01:42:38,335
Yeah.

1705
01:42:38,335 --> 01:42:41,610

1706
01:42:41,610 --> 01:42:46,340
But I was obviously very
impressed by that leader

1707
01:42:46,340 --> 01:42:47,520
in Lichtenau.

1708
01:42:47,520 --> 01:42:50,960
And I certainly wanted
to be in his good books.

1709
01:42:50,960 --> 01:42:55,690

1710
01:42:55,690 --> 01:42:59,311
What are some of
the other activities

1711
01:42:59,311 --> 01:43:03,430
that was involved in being
a member of the Jungvolk.

1712
01:43:03,430 --> 01:43:08,350
Well, basically, you
had an official meeting

1713
01:43:08,350 --> 01:43:10,830

every Saturday morning
because there was

1714
01:43:10,830 --> 01:43:12,970
no school on Saturday mornings.

1715
01:43:12,970 --> 01:43:17,080
So you then had to
assemble your group.

1716
01:43:17,080 --> 01:43:25,440
And you had the options then
of a political lecture--

1717
01:43:25,440 --> 01:43:28,890
which I wasn't really
capable of doing.

1718
01:43:28,890 --> 01:43:32,670
But sport was a big
thing because just

1719
01:43:32,670 --> 01:43:39,570
at that time 1935, 1936,
Olympic Games was a big thing.

1720
01:43:39,570 --> 01:43:52,230
And the Hitler government
had decided that physical--

1721
01:43:52,230 --> 01:43:52,730
Training?

1722
01:43:52,730 --> 01:43:54,710
What?

1723
01:43:54,710 --> 01:43:57,530
Physical training
became a main subject.

1724
01:43:57,530 --> 01:44:00,260
In other words, you had
as many school hours

1725
01:44:00,260 --> 01:44:03,830
as you got for
maths, or arithmetic,

1726
01:44:03,830 --> 01:44:09,950
and German was all also
allocated to sport activities

1727
01:44:09,950 --> 01:44:12,710
outdoors and indoors--

1728
01:44:12,710 --> 01:44:15,430
whatever was
available-- so running,

1729
01:44:15,430 --> 01:44:18,295
and high jump, low jump.

1730
01:44:18,295 --> 01:44:23,270
All that athletic things
became very much single.

1731
01:44:23,270 --> 01:44:28,850
We were all, in a sense,
training for the Olympics.

1732
01:44:28,850 --> 01:44:35,300
And this 1936 Olympics,
certainly at my level,

1733
01:44:35,300 --> 01:44:40,220
became a very popular affair--

1734
01:44:40,220 --> 01:44:41,300
very successful.

1735
01:44:41,300 --> 01:44:46,224

1736
01:44:46,224 --> 01:44:51,980
And I needed it particularly

because after my foot

1737
01:44:51,980 --> 01:44:58,700
operations, I'd been
having this toe problem.

1738
01:44:58,700 --> 01:45:00,310
I needed it particularly.

1739
01:45:00,310 --> 01:45:04,130
And I was inclined to be
a little bit sitting back

1740
01:45:04,130 --> 01:45:07,010
kind of guy anyway.

1741
01:45:07,010 --> 01:45:09,740
Remind me again about what
happened with your toes.

1742
01:45:09,740 --> 01:45:11,720
I think we mentioned
it yesterday.

1743
01:45:11,720 --> 01:45:13,015
Yes, we did.

1744
01:45:13,015 --> 01:45:15,890
But tell me again what it was.

1745
01:45:15,890 --> 01:45:21,740
It was maybe also a bit of
the cause of my mother's death

1746
01:45:21,740 --> 01:45:23,660
where she got the
blood poisoning.

1747
01:45:23,660 --> 01:45:24,500
That's right.

1748
01:45:24,500 --> 01:45:25,000

Yeah.

1749

01:45:25,000 --> 01:45:28,170

1750

01:45:28,170 --> 01:45:32,025

Did you make friends
in the group?

1751

01:45:32,025 --> 01:45:33,520

Yeah, we made friends.

1752

01:45:33,520 --> 01:45:35,700

That was a thing,
of course, that you

1753

01:45:35,700 --> 01:45:38,830

had another way of meeting up.

1754

01:45:38,830 --> 01:45:40,155

You went to school together.

1755

01:45:40,155 --> 01:45:45,900

1756

01:45:45,900 --> 01:45:49,950

Again, at the school, the boys--

1757

01:45:49,950 --> 01:45:52,110

to a great extent,
you were trying

1758

01:45:52,110 --> 01:45:55,260

to play your little games
while the teacher was

1759

01:45:55,260 --> 01:46:00,720

dealing with the other kids
of the different levels.

1760

01:46:00,720 --> 01:46:02,310

And so we do it.

1761
01:46:02,310 --> 01:46:08,730
We did a lot of drawing
at the back of our books.

1762
01:46:08,730 --> 01:46:12,190
And I was very good
at drawing tanks.

1763
01:46:12,190 --> 01:46:14,660
And everybody wanted
tanks so I had

1764
01:46:14,660 --> 01:46:16,460
to draw, for the
other lads, tanks.

1765
01:46:16,460 --> 01:46:19,890
And they would draw, for me,
airplanes or fighter planes

1766
01:46:19,890 --> 01:46:21,090
and that kind of thing.

1767
01:46:21,090 --> 01:46:23,760

1768
01:46:23,760 --> 01:46:28,440
And that's really what
the essence of my Jungvolk

1769
01:46:28,440 --> 01:46:29,530
leadership.

1770
01:46:29,530 --> 01:46:32,670
We were a gang.

1771
01:46:32,670 --> 01:46:36,690
And as a gang, you did
all kinds of things

1772
01:46:36,690 --> 01:46:40,680

that weren't in the book and
that the leaders in Lichtenau

1773
01:46:40,680 --> 01:46:41,940
didn't know about.

1774
01:46:41,940 --> 01:46:45,840
We used to play robbers
and gangster games

1775
01:46:45,840 --> 01:46:50,925
in the woods with torches.

1776
01:46:50,925 --> 01:46:53,870
If you shone the
torch at somebody,

1777
01:46:53,870 --> 01:46:56,910
he was dead and
out of the game--

1778
01:46:56,910 --> 01:46:58,050
that kind of thing--

1779
01:46:58,050 --> 01:47:01,890
whoever shot first and all
kinds of games like that.

1780
01:47:01,890 --> 01:47:03,330
And that was great fun.

1781
01:47:03,330 --> 01:47:06,300

1782
01:47:06,300 --> 01:47:11,190
Because we were successful
and we got on well together

1783
01:47:11,190 --> 01:47:12,950
as a group, I said, look.

1784
01:47:12,950 --> 01:47:15,380

When these guys
come from Lichtenau

1785
01:47:15,380 --> 01:47:17,820
or we have to
parade in Lichtenau,

1786
01:47:17,820 --> 01:47:20,340
then we've also got
to show like as if you

1787
01:47:20,340 --> 01:47:22,495
were one of the
soldiers and appear

1788
01:47:22,495 --> 01:47:28,140
all smart and
beautifully dressed.

1789
01:47:28,140 --> 01:47:30,330
Jump around.

1790
01:47:30,330 --> 01:47:32,730
And so that was
then quite fun too.

1791
01:47:32,730 --> 01:47:36,720
Because that then also
was a kind of game.

1792
01:47:36,720 --> 01:47:40,050
A, we were actually
proving that we

1793
01:47:40,050 --> 01:47:42,990
were the better kids
from the other villages

1794
01:47:42,990 --> 01:47:44,520
or from Lichtenau.

1795
01:47:44,520 --> 01:47:48,030
And at the same time, we

knew that we were just

1796

01:47:48,030 --> 01:47:52,230
playing the game to show
them that we could do it

1797

01:47:52,230 --> 01:47:55,560
but we certainly weren't playing
that game when we were together

1798

01:47:55,560 --> 01:47:56,540
normally--

1799

01:47:56,540 --> 01:47:57,420
type of thing.

1800

01:47:57,420 --> 01:48:00,710

1801

01:48:00,710 --> 01:48:03,860
Was there anybody who
was not in the group?

1802

01:48:03,860 --> 01:48:07,190
Were there children who
were not part of these games

1803

01:48:07,190 --> 01:48:10,965
because they had not joined
the Jungvolk or for whatever

1804

01:48:10,965 --> 01:48:11,465
reason?

1805

01:48:11,465 --> 01:48:15,080

1806

01:48:15,080 --> 01:48:19,970
Well, there were just those
people who weren't fit,

1807

01:48:19,970 --> 01:48:23,120

who had a lame leg.

1808
01:48:23,120 --> 01:48:26,030
And in those days
in the villages,

1809
01:48:26,030 --> 01:48:29,180
there were a lot of kids
that weren't completely fit.

1810
01:48:29,180 --> 01:48:34,190
The doctor was far away,
couldn't be afforded anyway.

1811
01:48:34,190 --> 01:48:42,720
And every year, you
had these things like--

1812
01:48:42,720 --> 01:48:48,430

1813
01:48:48,430 --> 01:48:52,830
what are all these
children's sicknesses?

1814
01:48:52,830 --> 01:48:58,060
They would come around and most
of the village would get then

1815
01:48:58,060 --> 01:49:00,218
diphtheria and--

1816
01:49:00,218 --> 01:49:01,600
The measles and--

1817
01:49:01,600 --> 01:49:02,350
Measles and so on.

1818
01:49:02,350 --> 01:49:05,150
--chickenpox and
things like that.

1819

01:49:05,150 --> 01:49:07,370

There were all these
kids that died of it.

1820

01:49:07,370 --> 01:49:13,630

It wasn't as safe
as it was later.

1821

01:49:13,630 --> 01:49:16,790

It was just the beginning
on having the injections.

1822

01:49:16,790 --> 01:49:19,500

1823

01:49:19,500 --> 01:49:20,482

But apparently--

1824

01:49:20,482 --> 01:49:21,835

Vaccinations.

1825

01:49:21,835 --> 01:49:22,737

What?

1826

01:49:22,737 --> 01:49:23,640

Vaccinations.

1827

01:49:23,640 --> 01:49:28,660

The vaccinations were only
beginning in those years.

1828

01:49:28,660 --> 01:49:32,060

In Austria, I don't think
we had any vaccinations

1829

01:49:32,060 --> 01:49:33,200

while we were there.

1830

01:49:33,200 --> 01:49:37,270

But in Germany, it was
already more advanced there.

1831

01:49:37,270 --> 01:49:45,080

1832

01:49:45,080 --> 01:49:48,920

So for how long did
this situation last?

1833

01:49:48,920 --> 01:49:53,150

How many years were
you part of Jungvolk?

1834

01:49:53,150 --> 01:49:56,300

How long were you
going to school?

1835

01:49:56,300 --> 01:50:05,380

And any other events during
this time before the war starts?

1836

01:50:05,380 --> 01:50:10,260

So obviously there was
quite a bit going on.

1837

01:50:10,260 --> 01:50:13,190

1838

01:50:13,190 --> 01:50:18,860

Before the war, the whole
of the Kassel district

1839

01:50:18,860 --> 01:50:23,405

had summer camps for
the Jungvolk people,

1840

01:50:23,405 --> 01:50:28,880

that you could join those if
you were, of course, a Jungvolk

1841

01:50:28,880 --> 01:50:33,350

member, and particularly
if you were a leader.

1842

01:50:33,350 --> 01:50:36,240

But the parents
had to pay for it.

1843
01:50:36,240 --> 01:50:44,030
And so in 1937, I was on a
camp on the Isle of Langeoog

1844
01:50:44,030 --> 01:50:50,380
on the North Sea for the first
time in my life seeing the sea.

1845
01:50:50,380 --> 01:50:52,580
And it was a great experience.

1846
01:50:52,580 --> 01:50:56,690
And of course, there were
kids from all over the Kassel

1847
01:50:56,690 --> 01:50:59,850
district and, particularly
also, the city.

1848
01:50:59,850 --> 01:51:03,410
So it was a much better
crowd than just the village

1849
01:51:03,410 --> 01:51:08,330
boys, a much more lively,
and much more varied crowd.

1850
01:51:08,330 --> 01:51:16,160
And the leaders were senior
guys, university student types

1851
01:51:16,160 --> 01:51:19,820
who definitely had
some story to tell

1852
01:51:19,820 --> 01:51:25,120
and something
[INAUDIBLE] to be with.

1853
01:51:25,120 --> 01:51:28,010

1854
01:51:28,010 --> 01:51:30,295
What were some of the stories
that they were telling?

1855
01:51:30,295 --> 01:51:34,090

1856
01:51:34,090 --> 01:51:40,460
Well, about the
diving in the sea,

1857
01:51:40,460 --> 01:51:44,870
and seeing the fish,
and what they were,

1858
01:51:44,870 --> 01:51:46,700
and going on marches along.

1859
01:51:46,700 --> 01:51:50,470

1860
01:51:50,470 --> 01:51:55,910
There was always a military
drill element involved

1861
01:51:55,910 --> 01:52:01,700
which was the rock bottom of--

1862
01:52:01,700 --> 01:52:03,710
some of the leaders
didn't know what to do

1863
01:52:03,710 --> 01:52:07,520
and I found that very much later
when I was with the Waffen-SS.

1864
01:52:07,520 --> 01:52:10,820
At least then, you would be
called on a parade and they

1865

01:52:10,820 --> 01:52:12,580
would check something--

1866
01:52:12,580 --> 01:52:16,610
check the cleanliness of
your gun, or check anything

1867
01:52:16,610 --> 01:52:19,640
and find fault with it, and
then send you on something.

1868
01:52:19,640 --> 01:52:23,840
You had to do so many dive-ups
or whatever punishment.

1869
01:52:23,840 --> 01:52:29,940
And then that was a kind of--

1870
01:52:29,940 --> 01:52:34,250
the militarization
was indirectly,

1871
01:52:34,250 --> 01:52:36,990
slowly taking place.

1872
01:52:36,990 --> 01:52:42,870
And I was always trying to
avoid it, or prevent it,

1873
01:52:42,870 --> 01:52:45,300
or not to join it.

1874
01:52:45,300 --> 01:52:47,760
But of course, I had to
do it to a certain extent.

1875
01:52:47,760 --> 01:52:50,880

1876
01:52:50,880 --> 01:52:53,410
Why did you want to avoid
it, the militarization?

1877

01:52:53,410 --> 01:52:55,750

I just hated it.

1878

01:52:55,750 --> 01:52:57,570

I wanted to do my own thing.

1879

01:52:57,570 --> 01:53:01,890

And just standing in a
row, stiff and still,

1880

01:53:01,890 --> 01:53:06,720

and then turn left or right
on an order, it was so stupid.

1881

01:53:06,720 --> 01:53:08,700

It was.

1882

01:53:08,700 --> 01:53:13,710

So when you were talking
earlier about marching smartly

1883

01:53:13,710 --> 01:53:15,420

when you're in
Lichtenau with some

1884

01:53:15,420 --> 01:53:20,190

of the boys from your
area, was that fun

1885

01:53:20,190 --> 01:53:23,300

to do or was that just a show?

1886

01:53:23,300 --> 01:53:25,430

Well, it was to some extent.

1887

01:53:25,430 --> 01:53:31,070

It was usually some sort
of special occasion.

1888

01:53:31,070 --> 01:53:35,310

I remember one in particular--
the opening of a big swimming

1889
01:53:35,310 --> 01:53:37,200
pool in Lichtenau.

1890
01:53:37,200 --> 01:53:38,910
That was a glorious thing.

1891
01:53:38,910 --> 01:53:43,610
And then my immediate leader--

1892
01:53:43,610 --> 01:53:47,010
it so impressed me.

1893
01:53:47,010 --> 01:53:49,530
Well, the crowd was
standing around.

1894
01:53:49,530 --> 01:53:54,270
He swam underwater the whole
length of this new swimming

1895
01:53:54,270 --> 01:53:58,020
pool, 33 and 1/3 meters.

1896
01:53:58,020 --> 01:54:03,420
For the rest of my youth
and part of my later life,

1897
01:54:03,420 --> 01:54:06,650
that is what I
was trying to do--

1898
01:54:06,650 --> 01:54:11,730
when I was swimming,
to swim the length

1899
01:54:11,730 --> 01:54:13,830
of a swimming pool underwater.

1900
01:54:13,830 --> 01:54:14,700
It's amazing.

1901

01:54:14,700 --> 01:54:18,350

It became a kind of--

1902

01:54:18,350 --> 01:54:21,670

A kind of challenge.

1903

01:54:21,670 --> 01:54:23,545

A permanent challenge.

1904

01:54:23,545 --> 01:54:27,790

But that's the sort of
thing that I picked up.

1905

01:54:27,790 --> 01:54:32,660

1906

01:54:32,660 --> 01:54:35,660

OK, during this time,
what's happening

1907

01:54:35,660 --> 01:54:40,460

is that you are growing up from
being a boy into a teenager.

1908

01:54:40,460 --> 01:54:47,060

And in the late '30s,
you become more involved

1909

01:54:47,060 --> 01:54:50,210

in these groups or that
is, you take part in them

1910

01:54:50,210 --> 01:54:52,370

and the athletic
aspect is something

1911

01:54:52,370 --> 01:54:53,860

that is very appealing.

1912

01:54:53,860 --> 01:54:54,680

Yeah.

1913

01:54:54,680 --> 01:54:59,735

Was there talk at
the same time of war?

1914

01:54:59,735 --> 01:55:02,860

1915

01:55:02,860 --> 01:55:06,680

When you're talking about
the militarization of even

1916

01:55:06,680 --> 01:55:15,420

the Jungvolk, was there any
talk of war going on locally--

1917

01:55:15,420 --> 01:55:18,720

again, in your
family, in the area.

1918

01:55:18,720 --> 01:55:22,650

I'm not necessarily talking
Germany at large but now

1919

01:55:22,650 --> 01:55:28,530

how much of it filtered down
to your life and your family's

1920

01:55:28,530 --> 01:55:29,640

life?

1921

01:55:29,640 --> 01:55:30,570

Well, it did.

1922

01:55:30,570 --> 01:55:36,080

Because my dad was called up.

1923

01:55:36,080 --> 01:55:45,396

I think it must have
been in 1936 or 1937.

1924

01:55:45,396 --> 01:55:50,040

Being still of an age, he

had to be sort of fitted

1925

01:55:50,040 --> 01:55:53,790
into the German Army
or Reserve Army.

1926

01:55:53,790 --> 01:56:03,880
And he went on a autumn course
with a lot of other guys.

1927

01:56:03,880 --> 01:56:08,400
And he came back as a captain
in the German Reserve Army

1928

01:56:08,400 --> 01:56:10,350
which, of course, he
was terribly proud of.

1929

01:56:10,350 --> 01:56:14,200

1930

01:56:14,200 --> 01:56:19,140
And it was a whole
crowd of them who

1931

01:56:19,140 --> 01:56:21,990
were there and sort of
became friends through it

1932

01:56:21,990 --> 01:56:24,300
from all over the place.

1933

01:56:24,300 --> 01:56:30,300
And so that definitely
was a positive thing.

1934

01:56:30,300 --> 01:56:35,845
And the whole family was
thrilled because he had not

1935

01:56:35,845 --> 01:56:38,520
been an appointed
officer when he became

1936
01:56:38,520 --> 01:56:40,950
a Russian prisoner of war.

1937
01:56:40,950 --> 01:56:42,270
In World War I?

1938
01:56:42,270 --> 01:56:44,650
In World War I.

1939
01:56:44,650 --> 01:56:45,150
OK.

1940
01:56:45,150 --> 01:56:49,750

1941
01:56:49,750 --> 01:56:50,650
When was he born?

1942
01:56:50,650 --> 01:56:52,650
18--

1943
01:56:52,650 --> 01:56:54,030
1894.

1944
01:56:54,030 --> 01:56:54,940
1894.

1945
01:56:54,940 --> 01:56:58,520
So that makes him 37 plus 6.

1946
01:56:58,520 --> 01:57:01,560
So he's about 43 years old
when he becomes a captain.

1947
01:57:01,560 --> 01:57:03,600
Yeah, definitely in the--

1948
01:57:03,600 --> 01:57:10,790
I think it was
after 50 years, you

1949

01:57:10,790 --> 01:57:13,220
weren't called up automatically.

1950

01:57:13,220 --> 01:57:15,740
OK.

1951

01:57:15,740 --> 01:57:18,090
Tell me, was he a
gentleman farmer?

1952

01:57:18,090 --> 01:57:18,590
Yeah.

1953

01:57:18,590 --> 01:57:20,570
When you moved to
this place, did he

1954

01:57:20,570 --> 01:57:23,780
actually go out and do
any farming or was it

1955

01:57:23,780 --> 01:57:28,790
all that he had to
hire someone to manage

1956

01:57:28,790 --> 01:57:33,185
either the entire farm
or various aspects?

1957

01:57:33,185 --> 01:57:38,060
Even in Austria, he may have
been nominally a gentleman

1958

01:57:38,060 --> 01:57:41,960
farmer but he was
certainly a working farmer

1959

01:57:41,960 --> 01:57:46,770
with the other boys, with the
other men, the tractor drivers.

1960

01:57:46,770 --> 01:57:51,230
And he probably could do any
of the other workers' jobs

1961
01:57:51,230 --> 01:57:53,660
well because that was his life.

1962
01:57:53,660 --> 01:57:55,970
He was a practical guy.

1963
01:57:55,970 --> 01:57:58,130
So that means that
when he was called up

1964
01:57:58,130 --> 01:58:05,690
for this kind of
reserve training,

1965
01:58:05,690 --> 01:58:08,160
his job was a gap in the farm.

1966
01:58:08,160 --> 01:58:10,430
Yeah, that's right.

1967
01:58:10,430 --> 01:58:13,910
There was a gap left there
and somebody couldn't

1968
01:58:13,910 --> 01:58:16,940
step in and take it over.

1969
01:58:16,940 --> 01:58:20,810
It wasn't like he was
at a distance of it--

1970
01:58:20,810 --> 01:58:23,960
X jobs didn't get done
because he was off.

1971
01:58:23,960 --> 01:58:24,460
No.

1972

01:58:24,460 --> 01:58:31,760

But of course, working with
a small group of people,

1973

01:58:31,760 --> 01:58:36,740

most of them could do, to some
extent, the other's work which,

1974

01:58:36,740 --> 01:58:39,110

of course, was very
important anyway.

1975

01:58:39,110 --> 01:58:43,940

Because if somebody
was sick, then somebody

1976

01:58:43,940 --> 01:58:49,520

obviously had to fill
in for that guy who

1977

01:58:49,520 --> 01:58:51,890

was on his sickbed.

1978

01:58:51,890 --> 01:58:55,040

Did you have chores on the farm?

1979

01:58:55,040 --> 01:58:58,530

Not regular chores,
only additional.

1980

01:58:58,530 --> 01:59:03,130

And I certainly wasn't
a great volunteer.

1981

01:59:03,130 --> 01:59:07,330

1982

01:59:07,330 --> 01:59:10,520

So that was one of
the reasons why Dad--

1983

01:59:10,520 --> 01:59:14,330

my sister, Rosemary,

was much more

1984

01:59:14,330 --> 01:59:18,850

eager to jump in
anywhere than I.

1985

01:59:18,850 --> 01:59:25,400

I'd much rather stick
with my books or--

1986

01:59:25,400 --> 01:59:25,900

I'm sorry.

1987

01:59:25,900 --> 01:59:26,890

I'm interrupting again.

1988

01:59:26,890 --> 01:59:29,290

But your father comes back.

1989

01:59:29,290 --> 01:59:32,540

And he is now a captain
and that's a big thing,

1990

01:59:32,540 --> 01:59:34,150

whereas it wasn't before.

1991

01:59:34,150 --> 01:59:38,770

But the implications is that,
what is he a captain for?

1992

01:59:38,770 --> 01:59:40,750

Is he going to be called up?

1993

01:59:40,750 --> 01:59:43,330

Did the question come
up of, could this ever

1994

01:59:43,330 --> 01:59:46,510

be put into practice,
and would there

1995

01:59:46,510 --> 01:59:51,010

be ever a place where he
would have to be fighting?

1996
01:59:51,010 --> 01:59:52,880
Did that come up?

1997
01:59:52,880 --> 01:59:56,740
Well, yeah-- and obviously,
nothing's certain.

1998
01:59:56,740 --> 02:00:07,000
But by that time, by 1936,
1937, the Hitler regime

1999
02:00:07,000 --> 02:00:11,440
was definitely getting
more and more aggressive.

2000
02:00:11,440 --> 02:00:16,930
And the army was being
increased the whole time,

2001
02:00:16,930 --> 02:00:20,320
and strengthened,
and modern weapons--

2002
02:00:20,320 --> 02:00:21,350
all that kind of thing.

2003
02:00:21,350 --> 02:00:27,460
So the whole thing was
in the air as a potential

2004
02:00:27,460 --> 02:00:30,370
without any certainty.

2005
02:00:30,370 --> 02:00:37,150
And that was one of
the reasons also why

2006
02:00:37,150 --> 02:00:43,240
the parents made their decision
to sell the farm before the--

2007

02:00:43,240 --> 02:00:46,290

it actually was already
the beginning of the war.

2008

02:00:46,290 --> 02:00:52,260

But they could see
that if the war went on

2009

02:00:52,260 --> 02:00:56,760

for any length of time,
he would be called up.

2010

02:00:56,760 --> 02:01:01,150

And Ulla Mutti, with six,
small children-- well,

2011

02:01:01,150 --> 02:01:03,090

young children--

2012

02:01:03,090 --> 02:01:09,100

was off the beaten track,
not even in a village

2013

02:01:09,100 --> 02:01:11,630

but way outside one--

2014

02:01:11,630 --> 02:01:16,500

it was not a very good
place for the family to be.

2015

02:01:16,500 --> 02:01:19,090

So that was all part of it.

2016

02:01:19,090 --> 02:01:21,330

So what did they do?

2017

02:01:21,330 --> 02:01:22,350

Walk me through that.

2018

02:01:22,350 --> 02:01:25,350

They sold the farm

and moved where?

2019

02:01:25,350 --> 02:01:27,120

Well, they didn't move anywhere.

2020

02:01:27,120 --> 02:01:27,870

They split up.

2021

02:01:27,870 --> 02:01:33,090

2022

02:01:33,090 --> 02:01:33,990

I'm confused.

2023

02:01:33,990 --> 02:01:36,570

What does that mean, they didn't
move anywhere they split up?

2024

02:01:36,570 --> 02:01:41,240

Well, my dad was,
in fact, called up.

2025

02:01:41,240 --> 02:01:48,180

And then he was in France,
basically looking after

2026

02:01:48,180 --> 02:01:54,600

a farming area in the Ardennes
to see that the farmers were

2027

02:01:54,600 --> 02:01:57,270

doing a proper job--
the French farmers--

2028

02:01:57,270 --> 02:02:02,470

and delivering the goods,
and that kind of thing.

2029

02:02:02,470 --> 02:02:07,080

So that means he was called up
and his duties in the military

2030

02:02:07,080 --> 02:02:11,960
were to ensure requisitions
of agricultural goods

2031
02:02:11,960 --> 02:02:13,560
for the German Army.

2032
02:02:13,560 --> 02:02:14,740
Is that correct?

2033
02:02:14,740 --> 02:02:20,760
Not just for the army but for
the common good, if you like.

2034
02:02:20,760 --> 02:02:23,580
So that means, when
France is taken over?

2035
02:02:23,580 --> 02:02:24,580
Yeah.

2036
02:02:24,580 --> 02:02:27,150
So when France is taken over.

2037
02:02:27,150 --> 02:02:31,260
And was he then within the army?

2038
02:02:31,260 --> 02:02:35,310
Or what was the institution
within which he was working?

2039
02:02:35,310 --> 02:02:41,810

2040
02:02:41,810 --> 02:02:48,210
He was in the army, but in
a specialist organization

2041
02:02:48,210 --> 02:02:53,760
that was looking after the
agricultural administration

2042

02:02:53,760 --> 02:02:55,130
of the occupied country.

2043
02:02:55,130 --> 02:02:57,780

2044
02:02:57,780 --> 02:02:59,220
OK.

2045
02:02:59,220 --> 02:03:01,650
And where was Ulla Mutti?

2046
02:03:01,650 --> 02:03:06,210
Well, Ulla Mutti was
the one who just didn't

2047
02:03:06,210 --> 02:03:08,100
know exactly where to go.

2048
02:03:08,100 --> 02:03:15,060
And she had a distant cousin
who said, in her family,

2049
02:03:15,060 --> 02:03:15,600
there was--

2050
02:03:15,600 --> 02:03:19,630

2051
02:03:19,630 --> 02:03:21,345
I can't give you
the name exactly.

2052
02:03:21,345 --> 02:03:23,970

2053
02:03:23,970 --> 02:03:30,750
He had just been appointed
to be the deputy minister

2054
02:03:30,750 --> 02:03:36,200
in another Hitler area

for the food production

2055

02:03:36,200 --> 02:03:39,650
and nourishment altogether.

2056

02:03:39,650 --> 02:03:46,040
And they had an
estate near Hanover

2057

02:03:46,040 --> 02:03:54,320
and they needed somebody to
look after the main house

2058

02:03:54,320 --> 02:04:01,310
and the home there while the
family was stuck in Berlin.

2059

02:04:01,310 --> 02:04:06,290
And Ulla Mutti with the
two, small children--

2060

02:04:06,290 --> 02:04:09,590
smallest, the babies-- all
three of them, I think.

2061

02:04:09,590 --> 02:04:12,590

2062

02:04:12,590 --> 02:04:16,890
Her three children went
there for about a year

2063

02:04:16,890 --> 02:04:20,550
and looked after it while
they were in Berlin.

2064

02:04:20,550 --> 02:04:23,580
And during my holidays, I
was staying in Wiesbaden

2065

02:04:23,580 --> 02:04:27,150
with my grandfather,
going to high school.

2066
02:04:27,150 --> 02:04:29,910
I would come to them.

2067
02:04:29,910 --> 02:04:31,730
[INAUDIBLE]

2068
02:04:31,730 --> 02:04:33,360
Yeah, so that was
my next question.

2069
02:04:33,360 --> 02:04:40,880
So that means that you move to
Ulla Mutti's father's house--

2070
02:04:40,880 --> 02:04:41,810
is that correct--

2071
02:04:41,810 --> 02:04:43,260
in Wiesbaden?

2072
02:04:43,260 --> 02:04:44,810
It was there a time and--

2073
02:04:44,810 --> 02:04:48,546

2074
02:04:48,546 --> 02:04:49,230
Take a sip.

2075
02:04:49,230 --> 02:04:51,800

2076
02:04:51,800 --> 02:04:56,580
--their retirement
apartment in Wiesbaden.

2077
02:04:56,580 --> 02:05:00,180
And what about your sisters,
Rosemary and Yumgard?

2078

02:05:00,180 --> 02:05:05,040
Rosemary and Yumgard went to
relations in Sudetenland who

2079
02:05:05,040 --> 02:05:09,790
had children of similar age.

2080
02:05:09,790 --> 02:05:13,480
So does this mean that
when the farm is sold,

2081
02:05:13,480 --> 02:05:16,060
the family splits
apart in the sense

2082
02:05:16,060 --> 02:05:19,660
that you were saying
your father is called up,

2083
02:05:19,660 --> 02:05:24,490
Ulla Mutti goes to be sort of
like a housekeeper-caretaker

2084
02:05:24,490 --> 02:05:31,240
of another large home, you
go to her father's retirement

2085
02:05:31,240 --> 02:05:34,180
apartment in Wiesbaden,
and your two, younger

2086
02:05:34,180 --> 02:05:38,680
sisters go to paternal
relatives in Sudetenland.

2087
02:05:38,680 --> 02:05:40,080
Is that correct?

2088
02:05:40,080 --> 02:05:40,590
Yeah.

2089
02:05:40,590 --> 02:05:44,470
And I was only there in

Wiesbaden for one year

2090

02:05:44,470 --> 02:05:47,080
and then I went
to another branch

2091

02:05:47,080 --> 02:05:53,540
of relations in Sudetenland
until I was called up.

2092

02:05:53,540 --> 02:05:54,070
OK.

2093

02:05:54,070 --> 02:05:58,000
So let's talk about
a few things here.

2094

02:05:58,000 --> 02:06:01,930
Do you remember where you
were when the war started?

2095

02:06:01,930 --> 02:06:05,135
And that would have been
September 1st, '39, when

2096

02:06:05,135 --> 02:06:06,885
Germany marches into Poland.

2097

02:06:06,885 --> 02:06:09,340
No, definitely.

2098

02:06:09,340 --> 02:06:13,060
We were on the farm
and there was no sign

2099

02:06:13,060 --> 02:06:15,040
that we would leave the farm.

2100

02:06:15,040 --> 02:06:17,340
But we were struggling.

2101

02:06:17,340 --> 02:06:21,760

We were under quarantine with
the foot and mouth disease.

2102
02:06:21,760 --> 02:06:34,600
And we had milk and cream
to eat all day long and also

2103
02:06:34,600 --> 02:06:35,230
dear meat.

2104
02:06:35,230 --> 02:06:40,720
Because Dad had to do something
about all these deer coming in.

2105
02:06:40,720 --> 02:06:45,340
And he would get up at 3
o'clock in the morning,

2106
02:06:45,340 --> 02:06:51,070
and creep up to these
animals, and somehow got away

2107
02:06:51,070 --> 02:06:54,760
without having shot one
of the promising animals.

2108
02:06:54,760 --> 02:06:59,080
And I think later, he had
also reasonable relations

2109
02:06:59,080 --> 02:07:00,640
with the foresters.

2110
02:07:00,640 --> 02:07:05,680
They wouldn't unnecessarily
cause him trouble.

2111
02:07:05,680 --> 02:07:13,180
I remember he took me
once to a foresters party.

2112
02:07:13,180 --> 02:07:15,190
And that was a

very jolly affair.

2113

02:07:15,190 --> 02:07:20,020

And he was obviously treated as if he was one of the foresters.

2114

02:07:20,020 --> 02:07:23,800

So he obviously managed to have good relations with them.

2115

02:07:23,800 --> 02:07:30,230

And then the question of whether that animal was beyond--

2116

02:07:30,230 --> 02:07:33,040

Beyond saving?

2117

02:07:33,040 --> 02:07:35,138

Yeah.

2118

02:07:35,138 --> 02:07:38,714

You know, you could--

2119

02:07:38,714 --> 02:07:40,900

You could come to an understanding.

2120

02:07:40,900 --> 02:07:42,020

An understanding.

2121

02:07:42,020 --> 02:07:47,390

And in the Nazi time, that was just as prevalent everywhere.

2122

02:07:47,390 --> 02:07:51,050

If you had reasonable relations, whether you

2123

02:07:51,050 --> 02:07:56,390

were a follower or not a follower,

2124

02:07:56,390 --> 02:07:58,910
if you had the good
relations, that was all that

2125
02:07:58,910 --> 02:08:00,000
mattered in the end.

2126
02:08:00,000 --> 02:08:04,320

2127
02:08:04,320 --> 02:08:07,020
So you are on the
farm, quarantined--

2128
02:08:07,020 --> 02:08:09,000
hoof and mouth disease--

2129
02:08:09,000 --> 02:08:13,140
venison to eat, lots of dairy
products, cream, and milk,

2130
02:08:13,140 --> 02:08:16,080
and so on, and
World War II starts.

2131
02:08:16,080 --> 02:08:18,632
How did everybody react?

2132
02:08:18,632 --> 02:08:25,930
Well, again, we children
weren't told much in advance.

2133
02:08:25,930 --> 02:08:31,150
It was always a shock,
Dad or Mutti saying, well,

2134
02:08:31,150 --> 02:08:33,520
I think we've got to
start now packing up

2135
02:08:33,520 --> 02:08:35,540
because we're all moving out.

2136

02:08:35,540 --> 02:08:40,180

And it was put over
as a cheerful thing,

2137

02:08:40,180 --> 02:08:42,610

like another holiday.

2138

02:08:42,610 --> 02:08:47,865

Yeah, that's the
parents way of--

2139

02:08:47,865 --> 02:08:49,560

Of handling it.

2140

02:08:49,560 --> 02:08:51,470

--of handling it, yeah.

2141

02:08:51,470 --> 02:08:54,760

And it worked with us children.

2142

02:08:54,760 --> 02:08:57,540

So these two events collide.

2143

02:08:57,540 --> 02:09:01,690

The war starts and
you sell the farm.

2144

02:09:01,690 --> 02:09:04,450

They come very close
to one another.

2145

02:09:04,450 --> 02:09:08,040

So in your mind,
are they conflated?

2146

02:09:08,040 --> 02:09:09,870

When you think of
the war starting,

2147

02:09:09,870 --> 02:09:13,852

is it really, for you, that's
when the family splits?

2148
02:09:13,852 --> 02:09:20,885
Well, it was really only
after the first year

2149
02:09:20,885 --> 02:09:23,200
that this happened.

2150
02:09:23,200 --> 02:09:31,260
The Polish War was
over in no time at all.

2151
02:09:31,260 --> 02:09:39,805

2152
02:09:39,805 --> 02:09:44,250
And then in 1940, I think
it became more serious

2153
02:09:44,250 --> 02:09:45,560
with France.

2154
02:09:45,560 --> 02:09:49,535
But then my dad really
could be pretty certain

2155
02:09:49,535 --> 02:09:52,370
if they want land.

2156
02:09:52,370 --> 02:09:55,820
Again, a manufacturer
from the rural area

2157
02:09:55,820 --> 02:09:59,690
was very keen to buy
a country estate.

2158
02:09:59,690 --> 02:10:01,190
Obviously, that was
the clever thing

2159
02:10:01,190 --> 02:10:09,190

to do when bombing
of cities was likely.

2160
02:10:09,190 --> 02:10:12,950
You buy yourself
a country reserve.

2161
02:10:12,950 --> 02:10:17,930
And so they sold the farm
in very little effort.

2162
02:10:17,930 --> 02:10:21,170

2163
02:10:21,170 --> 02:10:24,170
Was there enough money
to take care of everybody

2164
02:10:24,170 --> 02:10:26,670
from that sale?

2165
02:10:26,670 --> 02:10:32,200
Well, I would say,
theoretically, yes.

2166
02:10:32,200 --> 02:10:39,070
The only thing is that
the deposit in the banks

2167
02:10:39,070 --> 02:10:47,684
was automatically converted
into German rearmament

2168
02:10:47,684 --> 02:10:49,850
and securities.

2169
02:10:49,850 --> 02:10:53,300
So in other words, the
monies that you deposit,

2170
02:10:53,300 --> 02:10:54,935
it's Reichsmark.

2171
02:10:54,935 --> 02:10:56,650
Yeah.

2172
02:10:56,650 --> 02:11:00,230
So was it then
requisitioned by the banks?

2173
02:11:00,230 --> 02:11:03,720
It was requisitioned
by the government

2174
02:11:03,720 --> 02:11:15,210
and converted my Reichsmark into
these, so-called, government

2175
02:11:15,210 --> 02:11:15,930
securities.

2176
02:11:15,930 --> 02:11:20,360

2177
02:11:20,360 --> 02:11:22,010
And could you draw on that?

2178
02:11:22,010 --> 02:11:23,975
Could you used those
government securities?

2179
02:11:23,975 --> 02:11:30,590
I think they're worth, probably,
some allowance to draw on it

2180
02:11:30,590 --> 02:11:32,870
or to borrow from it.

2181
02:11:32,870 --> 02:11:35,300
I can't remember
whether I was being

2182
02:11:35,300 --> 02:11:38,090
told any details about it.

2183

02:11:38,090 --> 02:11:44,810

But in any case, the family
was split up in such a way

2184

02:11:44,810 --> 02:11:50,690

that the housekeeping
money wasn't a big issue

2185

02:11:50,690 --> 02:11:54,160

because we were with relations.

2186

02:11:54,160 --> 02:11:59,450

Ulla Mutti, of course,
was on a paid job there,

2187

02:11:59,450 --> 02:12:02,160

looking after that estate.

2188

02:12:02,160 --> 02:12:03,913

Yeah.

2189

02:12:03,913 --> 02:12:05,330

The other thing,
though, it sounds

2190

02:12:05,330 --> 02:12:10,920

like is that these securities
that the money was converted

2191

02:12:10,920 --> 02:12:15,830

into means that by the end of
the war, when Germany loses,

2192

02:12:15,830 --> 02:12:18,680

if there was any money
left, did you have anything?

2193

02:12:18,680 --> 02:12:19,910

Or was it all gone?

2194

02:12:19,910 --> 02:12:23,630

Our money was completely

worthless, obviously,

2195

02:12:23,630 --> 02:12:25,880
at the end of the war.

2196

02:12:25,880 --> 02:12:34,530
But when Germany resurrected
itself with the D-Mark--

2197

02:12:34,530 --> 02:12:37,580

2198

02:12:37,580 --> 02:12:40,440
what was it, 10
years later or more?

2199

02:12:40,440 --> 02:12:44,150
1945?

2200

02:12:44,150 --> 02:12:48,490
No, it was 20 years later.

2201

02:12:48,490 --> 02:12:49,210
I should know it.

2202

02:12:49,210 --> 02:12:50,170
I remember.

2203

02:12:50,170 --> 02:12:52,510
Because I remember
the D-Mark came

2204

02:12:52,510 --> 02:12:55,900
in when I was released
as a prisoner of war,

2205

02:12:55,900 --> 02:13:07,010
which was in June, '48.

2206

02:13:07,010 --> 02:13:11,450
So after 1948, when there
was a German government,

2207

02:13:11,450 --> 02:13:19,530
they paid out the nominal
value of that original deposit

2208

02:13:19,530 --> 02:13:23,605
in D-Mark, which in
other words meant,

2209

02:13:23,605 --> 02:13:28,330
1/10th of the value
of the Reichsmark

2210

02:13:28,330 --> 02:13:30,830
in which it was issued.

2211

02:13:30,830 --> 02:13:34,440
So they got their money
back without interest.

2212

02:13:34,440 --> 02:13:41,230
But in Austria, where Uncle
Georg had sold the Lengenfeld

2213

02:13:41,230 --> 02:13:48,290
estate on the same
sort of basis during--

2214

02:13:48,290 --> 02:13:53,610
the new Austrian government
never paid anybody back for--

2215

02:13:53,610 --> 02:13:54,780
OK.

2216

02:13:54,780 --> 02:14:01,500
So with your parents,
it was a 10 to 1,

2217

02:14:01,500 --> 02:14:03,960
but at least it was something.

2218

02:14:03,960 --> 02:14:05,820
It was not just one thing.

2219
02:14:05,820 --> 02:14:10,380
It was a real value because
that 10 to 1 conversion--

2220
02:14:10,380 --> 02:14:20,100
in reality, the D-Mark was
worth much more than 10

2221
02:14:20,100 --> 02:14:21,960
times the Reichsmark.

2222
02:14:21,960 --> 02:14:25,450
It was a totally different
kind of currency.

2223
02:14:25,450 --> 02:14:28,070

2224
02:14:28,070 --> 02:14:28,820
OK.

2225
02:14:28,820 --> 02:14:31,310
So thank you.

2226
02:14:31,310 --> 02:14:33,560
That's something that we
normally wouldn't have known,

2227
02:14:33,560 --> 02:14:39,410
what happens when your assets
are turned into armaments

2228
02:14:39,410 --> 02:14:40,880
and then government securities?

2229
02:14:40,880 --> 02:14:42,690
What does that really mean?

2230
02:14:42,690 --> 02:14:48,710

And you were able to enlighten us a little bit about that.

2231
02:14:48,710 --> 02:14:52,400
At that stage, when
the war really started,

2232
02:14:52,400 --> 02:14:57,200
then everything was
war and everything else

2233
02:14:57,200 --> 02:14:58,370
was a side issue.

2234
02:14:58,370 --> 02:15:03,380

2235
02:15:03,380 --> 02:15:06,487
And the government obviously
was a dictatorship.

2236
02:15:06,487 --> 02:15:07,800
Yeah.

2237
02:15:07,800 --> 02:15:13,850
So I would say, let's go
onto one more aspect today.

2238
02:15:13,850 --> 02:15:17,600
And that would be
your year in Wiesbaden

2239
02:15:17,600 --> 02:15:19,430
and what was that like?

2240
02:15:19,430 --> 02:15:21,480
And then, I think,
we wrap-up for today.

2241
02:15:21,480 --> 02:15:24,500
And we'll start
again another day

2242
02:15:24,500 --> 02:15:27,500
to talk about, what was
Sudetenland like and take

2243
02:15:27,500 --> 02:15:28,730
things further.

2244
02:15:28,730 --> 02:15:30,380
How does that sound to you?

2245
02:15:30,380 --> 02:15:32,370
Yes, fair enough.

2246
02:15:32,370 --> 02:15:34,490
OK.

2247
02:15:34,490 --> 02:15:39,380
So tell me about
moving to Wiesbaden,

2248
02:15:39,380 --> 02:15:45,700
and going to school there,
and how was that different,

2249
02:15:45,700 --> 02:15:47,570
and what was life
like in a city?

2250
02:15:47,570 --> 02:15:52,010
Because Wiesbaden is a
city, not a country town.

2251
02:15:52,010 --> 02:15:59,990
Maybe I can just fit
in the summer holiday

2252
02:15:59,990 --> 02:16:04,400
when we left the farm,
obviously, my mother

2253
02:16:04,400 --> 02:16:10,770
with the two, little ones

went to this distant relation

2254
02:16:10,770 --> 02:16:11,270
people.

2255
02:16:11,270 --> 02:16:18,130

2256
02:16:18,130 --> 02:16:25,540
And I was ordered to take
young Peter, my step-brother,

2257
02:16:25,540 --> 02:16:30,160
to Lengenfeld, back to
Austria, and stay with Aunt

2258
02:16:30,160 --> 02:16:36,639
Emmy for the summer holiday.

2259
02:16:36,639 --> 02:16:40,120
Obviously, with
Uncle Georg there, it

2260
02:16:40,120 --> 02:16:46,930
was one of the few times when I
regularly met-up with him when

2261
02:16:46,930 --> 02:16:47,870
he wasn't in Vienna.

2262
02:16:47,870 --> 02:16:52,240
And in fact, during that time,
he once took me for a weekend

2263
02:16:52,240 --> 02:16:53,299
to Vienna.

2264
02:16:53,299 --> 02:16:57,450
But he was doing their own thing
and I was doing my own thing.

2265
02:16:57,450 --> 02:16:58,719

There wasn't any--

2266

02:16:58,719 --> 02:17:00,610

Was this the first
time you were back in

2267

02:17:00,610 --> 02:17:02,728

Austria since having left it?

2268

02:17:02,728 --> 02:17:03,270

That's right.

2269

02:17:03,270 --> 02:17:05,889

It was the first
time we were back.

2270

02:17:05,889 --> 02:17:07,510

And Peter and I--

2271

02:17:07,510 --> 02:17:14,590

Is this the summer of 1940?

2272

02:17:14,590 --> 02:17:15,410

Yeah, that's right.

2273

02:17:15,410 --> 02:17:18,209

2274

02:17:18,209 --> 02:17:20,940

OK.

2275

02:17:20,940 --> 02:17:22,860

So it's the summer of 1940.

2276

02:17:22,860 --> 02:17:28,379

That means Germany has
been in Austria since 1938,

2277

02:17:28,379 --> 02:17:29,325

I believe it was.

2278

02:17:29,325 --> 02:17:35,730

2279

02:17:35,730 --> 02:17:37,559

Austria has changed.

2280

02:17:37,559 --> 02:17:39,480

What did you notice?

2281

02:17:39,480 --> 02:17:42,660

No, not much in Lengenfeld.

2282

02:17:42,660 --> 02:17:44,700

It was very similar.

2283

02:17:44,700 --> 02:17:47,850

Obviously Uncle Georg
was not in prison.

2284

02:17:47,850 --> 02:17:52,469

He was working in Vienna and he
would be back at the weekends.

2285

02:17:52,469 --> 02:17:57,980

He had a little flat, which I
obviously stayed with him there

2286

02:17:57,980 --> 02:18:02,299

when I was in Vienna.

2287

02:18:02,299 --> 02:18:04,250

Do you know what he was doing?

2288

02:18:04,250 --> 02:18:05,299

No.

2289

02:18:05,299 --> 02:18:06,590

He would never talk about it.

2290

02:18:06,590 --> 02:18:10,110

2291

02:18:10,110 --> 02:18:12,209

Was he part of the Gestapo?

2292

02:18:12,209 --> 02:18:16,650

Was he part of a
civil service unit?

2293

02:18:16,650 --> 02:18:18,270

Did he wear a uniform?

2294

02:18:18,270 --> 02:18:20,219

No, never wore a uniform--

2295

02:18:20,219 --> 02:18:22,379

always as a civilian.

2296

02:18:22,379 --> 02:18:27,150

I think he was a kind of
cover, and a respectable cover

2297

02:18:27,150 --> 02:18:31,450

for what was going
on behind the scenes.

2298

02:18:31,450 --> 02:18:34,834

2299

02:18:34,834 --> 02:18:41,969

He never did a legal degree
but he had studied law

2300

02:18:41,969 --> 02:18:43,170

at the university.

2301

02:18:43,170 --> 02:18:50,280

So he was a sort of
administrative cover

2302

02:18:50,280 --> 02:18:51,959

for the Nazi Party.

2303

02:18:51,959 --> 02:18:54,059
That's my guess.

2304
02:18:54,059 --> 02:18:56,850
I've never really learned much.

2305
02:18:56,850 --> 02:19:00,990
My dad really just wanted to
wash his hands of anything

2306
02:19:00,990 --> 02:19:02,700
Georg was doing.

2307
02:19:02,700 --> 02:19:07,049
But he took him back when he
was sick and out of prison

2308
02:19:07,049 --> 02:19:08,389
after the war.

2309
02:19:08,389 --> 02:19:14,070
Ulla and him took him back
and he died in their home

2310
02:19:14,070 --> 02:19:16,360
in Germany.

2311
02:19:16,360 --> 02:19:19,059
OK.

2312
02:19:19,059 --> 02:19:20,830
You wanted to talk
about this summer

2313
02:19:20,830 --> 02:19:25,090
that you had gone to Lengenfeld
with Peter and Aunt Emmy

2314
02:19:25,090 --> 02:19:28,000
so you visited her there.

2315
02:19:28,000 --> 02:19:28,990

Describe it for me.

2316
02:19:28,990 --> 02:19:31,720
What was that summer like?

2317
02:19:31,720 --> 02:19:33,799
Well, I believe we were
just building bridges

2318
02:19:33,799 --> 02:19:36,190
to come across the
little river that

2319
02:19:36,190 --> 02:19:40,959
was going across their garden.

2320
02:19:40,959 --> 02:19:44,410
Their estate or their castle
was right in the center

2321
02:19:44,410 --> 02:19:47,379
of the village
with a crossroads.

2322
02:19:47,379 --> 02:19:51,600
And there was obviously
the usual village stream.

2323
02:19:51,600 --> 02:19:55,880
And that went through their
park-like little garden which

2324
02:19:55,880 --> 02:19:56,380
was--

2325
02:19:56,380 --> 02:19:58,270
Was that also Lengenfeld?

2326
02:19:58,270 --> 02:20:02,610
Was it all the village
called Lengenfeld?

2327

02:20:02,610 --> 02:20:05,370
Lengenfeld.

2328
02:20:05,370 --> 02:20:09,490
So would that be
spelled, L-E-N-G-E--

2329
02:20:09,490 --> 02:20:11,320
G-E-N-- feld--

2330
02:20:11,320 --> 02:20:13,150
F-E-L-D.

2331
02:20:13,150 --> 02:20:13,650
OK.

2332
02:20:13,650 --> 02:20:16,830

2333
02:20:16,830 --> 02:20:20,640
Was there anything else
memorable from that summer

2334
02:20:20,640 --> 02:20:24,040
that you wanted--

2335
02:20:24,040 --> 02:20:27,520
Peter and I once
went on a long walk

2336
02:20:27,520 --> 02:20:30,730
to Gneixendorf to
see what it was like.

2337
02:20:30,730 --> 02:20:33,220
And of course, the
German army had really

2338
02:20:33,220 --> 02:20:37,180
taken over the schloss and
there was a military guard

2339

02:20:37,180 --> 02:20:40,240
in front of it.

2340
02:20:40,240 --> 02:20:46,350
But otherwise, not
much had changed.

2341
02:20:46,350 --> 02:20:51,580
And we felt a bit
lost and walked back.

2342
02:20:51,580 --> 02:20:55,790
So Lengenfeld was within
walking distance of Gneixendorf?

2343
02:20:55,790 --> 02:21:00,420
Yeah, a 5K's walk.

2344
02:21:00,420 --> 02:21:03,860
So after the summer,
where did you go?

2345
02:21:03,860 --> 02:21:06,180
Well, then of course,
I went to Wiesbaden

2346
02:21:06,180 --> 02:21:08,940
and had started
high school there.

2347
02:21:08,940 --> 02:21:12,660
And of course, I think
I've mentioned it to you--

2348
02:21:12,660 --> 02:21:19,260
maybe not-- that I was joyfully
going to join my next level

2349
02:21:19,260 --> 02:21:23,590
class but that the
headmaster said,

2350
02:21:23,590 --> 02:21:25,920

I think we have to have a test.

2351
02:21:25,920 --> 02:21:26,800
You must be tested.

2352
02:21:26,800 --> 02:21:31,080

2353
02:21:31,080 --> 02:21:35,250
And you were tested and the
grades were found wanting?

2354
02:21:35,250 --> 02:21:38,870
I had failed in all
the main subjects.

2355
02:21:38,870 --> 02:21:42,660
So then Uncle Dr.
Grosspapa said, right.

2356
02:21:42,660 --> 02:21:45,590
We are now going to
see the headmaster.

2357
02:21:45,590 --> 02:21:49,400
And of course, the headmaster
bowed to Herr Professor Dr.

2358
02:21:49,400 --> 02:21:50,570
Roepke.

2359
02:21:50,570 --> 02:21:54,320
And he said, well, I'm
very sorry and sure we

2360
02:21:54,320 --> 02:21:56,460
can do something about it.

2361
02:21:56,460 --> 02:21:59,480
And her professor
said, well, look.

2362

02:21:59,480 --> 02:22:02,680
Let him in then, and in
his normal, extra class,

2363
02:22:02,680 --> 02:22:04,840
he will work his way through.

2364
02:22:04,840 --> 02:22:11,280
And they presented this to the
headmaster, who said, well,

2365
02:22:11,280 --> 02:22:14,930
if you're sure that he will
get all the extra lessons

2366
02:22:14,930 --> 02:22:22,240
and support to
manage to do it, then

2367
02:22:22,240 --> 02:22:29,090
we accept him
provisionally in his class.

2368
02:22:29,090 --> 02:22:33,010
Obviously, he had no intention
of giving me [INAUDIBLE]

2369
02:22:33,010 --> 02:22:35,780
or arranging any extra lessons.

2370
02:22:35,780 --> 02:22:38,810
He reckoned, I think, rightly.

2371
02:22:38,810 --> 02:22:42,430
Because I also felt that,
if I can't manage that,

2372
02:22:42,430 --> 02:22:46,020
then I am stupid.

2373
02:22:46,020 --> 02:22:49,490
Well, then it was
just the tests,

2374
02:22:49,490 --> 02:22:51,640
but the class work
itself was something

2375
02:22:51,640 --> 02:22:52,670
that you could handle?

2376
02:22:52,670 --> 02:22:55,060
Well, I had to catch
up with it, definitely.

2377
02:22:55,060 --> 02:23:00,610
Because the teaching
in Lichtenau

2378
02:23:00,610 --> 02:23:04,930
just wasn't up to
their standards.

2379
02:23:04,930 --> 02:23:09,880
So in Wiesbaden, how different
was it going to school there

2380
02:23:09,880 --> 02:23:11,440
versus Lichtenau?

2381
02:23:11,440 --> 02:23:12,820
Were you still a stranger?

2382
02:23:12,820 --> 02:23:15,580
Were you still an
Austrian amongst Germans?

2383
02:23:15,580 --> 02:23:20,350
Or had your accent improved
and gotten a Lichtenau twist

2384
02:23:20,350 --> 02:23:22,150
in between?

2385
02:23:22,150 --> 02:23:27,550

Definitely, I wasn't a little Austrian anymore.

2386
02:23:27,550 --> 02:23:32,920
But I was certainly the country idiot kind of person.

2387
02:23:32,920 --> 02:23:40,240
And headmaster-headmaster-[INAUDIBLE]
for master, Dr. Sputz,

2388
02:23:40,240 --> 02:23:45,460
had a very sharp wit.

2389
02:23:45,460 --> 02:23:51,600
Of course, for the city, I didn't have the right clothing

2390
02:23:51,600 --> 02:23:53,260
when I went to Wiesbaden.

2391
02:23:53,260 --> 02:23:58,160

2392
02:23:58,160 --> 02:24:02,710
So Kurt Bandorf,
father's great friend

2393
02:24:02,710 --> 02:24:07,420
in Hanover with the pelican, his son

2394
02:24:07,420 --> 02:24:10,000
was two years older than I had.

2395
02:24:10,000 --> 02:24:15,550
And obviously, his suits didn't exactly fit mine.

2396
02:24:15,550 --> 02:24:21,520
But they were certainly the suitable kind of suits for me.

2397

02:24:21,520 --> 02:24:23,860

And I inherited it.

2398

02:24:23,860 --> 02:24:27,700

And Dr. Sputz had tremendous fun because they obviously

2399

02:24:27,700 --> 02:24:29,620

didn't fit me properly.

2400

02:24:29,620 --> 02:24:33,370

And so I was always the country yokel.

2401

02:24:33,370 --> 02:24:35,710

But he was such a brilliant teacher.

2402

02:24:35,710 --> 02:24:41,440

And every now and then, he would stop the Latin drill

2403

02:24:41,440 --> 02:24:48,430

and he would talk about what the Latin empire was really like,

2404

02:24:48,430 --> 02:24:52,780

the institutions and the law.

2405

02:24:52,780 --> 02:25:01,150

And he obviously was in love with the Latin period,

2406

02:25:01,150 --> 02:25:04,220

although they had killed each other too often enough.

2407

02:25:04,220 --> 02:25:06,190

You're talking about the Roman Empire.

2408

02:25:06,190 --> 02:25:07,500

The Roman Empire.

2409

02:25:07,500 --> 02:25:09,400

And he was talking
about the Roman

2410

02:25:09,400 --> 02:25:11,980

Empire in such fervid terms.

2411

02:25:11,980 --> 02:25:15,460

In retrospect, I sometimes
think he just wanted to tell us,

2412

02:25:15,460 --> 02:25:17,770

look, this Nazi
outfit that you've got

2413

02:25:17,770 --> 02:25:21,060

now is no touch on
what the Romans did.

2414

02:25:21,060 --> 02:25:22,540

And look what the Romans did.

2415

02:25:22,540 --> 02:25:26,060

They also killed each other.

2416

02:25:26,060 --> 02:25:30,250

Does that mean he was
like an anti-Nazi?

2417

02:25:30,250 --> 02:25:33,080

Is that what you
took away from it?

2418

02:25:33,080 --> 02:25:35,290

Well, I didn't
take it fully away.

2419

02:25:35,290 --> 02:25:37,920

It only gradually dawned on me.

2420

02:25:37,920 --> 02:25:44,200
But I was totally fascinated
by his personality.

2421
02:25:44,200 --> 02:25:48,100
He said, at the end
of the day, when

2422
02:25:48,100 --> 02:25:51,460
we had the final
notes of the year,

2423
02:25:51,460 --> 02:25:55,080
he said, well, you're
certainly a tough guy

2424
02:25:55,080 --> 02:25:56,640
and you've passed through.

2425
02:25:56,640 --> 02:25:58,310
Congratulations.

2426
02:25:58,310 --> 02:26:05,110
That, to me, was like
being praised, reverence.

2427
02:26:05,110 --> 02:26:07,030
This raises a
question that I should

2428
02:26:07,030 --> 02:26:09,010
have asked earlier as well.

2429
02:26:09,010 --> 02:26:13,450
Were any of your teachers,
from what you could sense,

2430
02:26:13,450 --> 02:26:19,160
fervent Nazis or
fervent anti-Nazis?

2431
02:26:19,160 --> 02:26:22,430
I didn't have any

high school teachers

2432
02:26:22,430 --> 02:26:27,350
who were fervent Nazis, but
certainly sympathizers, I

2433
02:26:27,350 --> 02:26:30,000
would guess.

2434
02:26:30,000 --> 02:26:38,700
By and large, my teachers
didn't get into politics at all.

2435
02:26:38,700 --> 02:26:43,640
In fact, one of my
most admired teachers,

2436
02:26:43,640 --> 02:26:53,971
right at the end in
1943, 1944, in Hohenelbe,

2437
02:26:53,971 --> 02:26:55,880
he taught us history.

2438
02:26:55,880 --> 02:26:59,930
But he told us, definitely,
Austrian history, not Prussian.

2439
02:26:59,930 --> 02:27:05,480

2440
02:27:05,480 --> 02:27:09,196
He made a point of it
but he was brilliant.

2441
02:27:09,196 --> 02:27:16,720
And to me, to learn how
controversial history is,

2442
02:27:16,720 --> 02:27:22,190
and politics, that made an
immense impression on me.

2443

02:27:22,190 --> 02:27:28,070

2444

02:27:28,070 --> 02:27:34,810

History and geography were
my best subjects in school.

2445

02:27:34,810 --> 02:27:38,230

So by the time
you're in Wiesbaden--

2446

02:27:38,230 --> 02:27:42,250

well, I also asked this earlier,
but particularly Wiesbaden--

2447

02:27:42,250 --> 02:27:45,310

were there any Jewish
kids in your classes?

2448

02:27:45,310 --> 02:27:48,400

Did you ever come in contact
with any Jewish kids?

2449

02:27:48,400 --> 02:27:52,150

I don't know.

2450

02:27:52,150 --> 02:27:53,310

The issue never arose.

2451

02:27:53,310 --> 02:27:56,280

2452

02:27:56,280 --> 02:28:04,020

The only time of any Jewish kind
of experience, if you like--

2453

02:28:04,020 --> 02:28:06,780

when I came to
Wiesbaden, I was often

2454

02:28:06,780 --> 02:28:14,220

transferred as a Hitler

Youth, lower-level leader.

2455

02:28:14,220 --> 02:28:24,130

So in the area I was living,
which was the spa area,

2456

02:28:24,130 --> 02:28:29,370

there was no Hitler Youth
organization at all.

2457

02:28:29,370 --> 02:28:33,520

So I was given an
appointment in Schierstein,

2458

02:28:33,520 --> 02:28:38,010

which is the suburb
of Wiesbaden,

2459

02:28:38,010 --> 02:28:43,590

towards the Mainz area,
a working class area,

2460

02:28:43,590 --> 02:28:45,810

and some factories there.

2461

02:28:45,810 --> 02:28:49,370

So once a week, I had
to make my way there.

2462

02:28:49,370 --> 02:28:52,610

And I had a group
there and did it.

2463

02:28:52,610 --> 02:28:55,380

In Wiesbaden, it
was so organized.

2464

02:28:55,380 --> 02:28:58,410

We always got, from
the local government,

2465

02:28:58,410 --> 02:29:01,650

a job to do-- to

clean up a street,

2466

02:29:01,650 --> 02:29:07,020

or to do some sort
of ordinary job.

2467

02:29:07,020 --> 02:29:12,210

So for three hours,
my group would

2468

02:29:12,210 --> 02:29:16,280

clean up a particular
area, or cut some grass,

2469

02:29:16,280 --> 02:29:19,280

or whatever job needed doing.

2470

02:29:19,280 --> 02:29:23,370

And then at weekends,
you were supposed

2471

02:29:23,370 --> 02:29:29,280

to collect Winterhilfe.

2472

02:29:29,280 --> 02:29:32,580

The idea was, on
Saturday, the family

2473

02:29:32,580 --> 02:29:36,840

would just have a
thick soup for a meal.

2474

02:29:36,840 --> 02:29:43,200

And the difference between the
thick soup and the full dinner,

2475

02:29:43,200 --> 02:29:48,570

you would give for the help
to the poor, to the needy.

2476

02:29:48,570 --> 02:29:53,915

And we would have to collect
a house-to-house collection.

2477
02:29:53,915 --> 02:29:56,520
And I thought to
myself, living now

2478
02:29:56,520 --> 02:30:00,510
in the expensive
part of Wiesbaden,

2479
02:30:00,510 --> 02:30:01,590
I could do my collection.

2480
02:30:01,590 --> 02:30:03,600
I wouldn't have to go
to the working class

2481
02:30:03,600 --> 02:30:05,820
district in Schierstein.

2482
02:30:05,820 --> 02:30:08,880
I could do it
around my own area.

2483
02:30:08,880 --> 02:30:11,100
And the people had more money.

2484
02:30:11,100 --> 02:30:12,870
Maybe they would
give me more money

2485
02:30:12,870 --> 02:30:18,770
and I'd get good marks
for returning it.

2486
02:30:18,770 --> 02:30:20,920
So I started that.

2487
02:30:20,920 --> 02:30:24,850
And then I suddenly
found, every now and then,

2488
02:30:24,850 --> 02:30:27,500

I had the door
slammed in my face

2489
02:30:27,500 --> 02:30:31,370
because I was there
in my uniform.

2490
02:30:31,370 --> 02:30:35,960
Or somebody would throw the
money at me, or something else,

2491
02:30:35,960 --> 02:30:39,800
and then slam the door shut--

2492
02:30:39,800 --> 02:30:42,260
something I couldn't understand.

2493
02:30:42,260 --> 02:30:47,280
And I was so
petrified and put off.

2494
02:30:47,280 --> 02:30:50,690
So I went to
Grandmother and I said,

2495
02:30:50,690 --> 02:30:53,320
I'm trying to do these
Winterhilfe collections

2496
02:30:53,320 --> 02:30:57,440
that most people gladly give
for and I get these people.

2497
02:30:57,440 --> 02:30:58,700
She said, look.

2498
02:30:58,700 --> 02:31:01,930
She said, I think there
are some Jewish people here

2499
02:31:01,930 --> 02:31:02,890
in Wiesbaden.

2500

02:31:02,890 --> 02:31:08,160

And when you come in your
uniform, they really see red.

2501

02:31:08,160 --> 02:31:11,760

They don't like you.

2502

02:31:11,760 --> 02:31:15,300

So I stopped my collections.

2503

02:31:15,300 --> 02:31:18,397

Did she explain why
they may not like you?

2504

02:31:18,397 --> 02:31:19,730

Did she say what the reason was?

2505

02:31:19,730 --> 02:31:23,480

No, she said, they are in
trouble, the poor Jews.

2506

02:31:23,480 --> 02:31:31,040

But you can't just go there
and ask them for money.

2507

02:31:31,040 --> 02:31:32,880

She was right.

2508

02:31:32,880 --> 02:31:40,080

By the way, one of the events
that I missed asking about,

2509

02:31:40,080 --> 02:31:46,380

chronologically, was in
November 1938 in Kristallnacht.

2510

02:31:46,380 --> 02:31:48,570

Did Kristallnacht
come to Lichtenau?

2511

02:31:48,570 --> 02:31:51,830

2512
02:31:51,830 --> 02:31:52,580
I don't know.

2513
02:31:52,580 --> 02:31:57,110

2514
02:31:57,110 --> 02:32:04,322
I knew Kristallnacht was made,
obviously, a huge publicity all

2515
02:32:04,322 --> 02:32:05,030
over the country.

2516
02:32:05,030 --> 02:32:11,600

2517
02:32:11,600 --> 02:32:15,590
I think all of my
part of Germany

2518
02:32:15,590 --> 02:32:19,010
was totally upset about it.

2519
02:32:19,010 --> 02:32:21,320
We were all getting
more full employment.

2520
02:32:21,320 --> 02:32:23,390
We're all doing things better.

2521
02:32:23,390 --> 02:32:28,310
And then this rampage which was
worse than the communists ever

2522
02:32:28,310 --> 02:32:33,556
did when they were
roaming the streets,

2523
02:32:33,556 --> 02:32:37,150
it was a complete letdown.

2524

02:32:37,150 --> 02:32:39,370

So in other words,
what you're saying

2525

02:32:39,370 --> 02:32:43,600

is that there was sympathy
for the Jewish businesses

2526

02:32:43,600 --> 02:32:47,050

and the Jewish institutions
that were ransacked,

2527

02:32:47,050 --> 02:32:53,410

rather than any ransacking
within your local community?

2528

02:32:53,410 --> 02:32:57,610

Well, there wasn't
anything in Retterode.

2529

02:32:57,610 --> 02:33:01,210

And as far as I know, there
wasn't anything happening

2530

02:33:01,210 --> 02:33:02,740

in Lichtenau.

2531

02:33:02,740 --> 02:33:04,750

Otherwise, I would have
known about it because

2532

02:33:04,750 --> 02:33:07,490

of being a school boy there.

2533

02:33:07,490 --> 02:33:09,340

But the newspapers
were only talking

2534

02:33:09,340 --> 02:33:12,740

about Berlin, and Munich,
and the big cities--

2535

02:33:12,740 --> 02:33:19,720
which is, of course, where
the worst was happening.

2536
02:33:19,720 --> 02:33:24,730
Well, it was happening wherever
there happened to be Jews.

2537
02:33:24,730 --> 02:33:26,740
So if there was a
Jewish business,

2538
02:33:26,740 --> 02:33:28,420
if there was a Jewish
presence, if there

2539
02:33:28,420 --> 02:33:30,970
was a Jewish community,
then there was a target.

2540
02:33:30,970 --> 02:33:34,100

2541
02:33:34,100 --> 02:33:38,980
I think I honestly, personally,
didn't know for sure.

2542
02:33:38,980 --> 02:33:42,070
In Lichtenau, if there
was a Jewish person,

2543
02:33:42,070 --> 02:33:44,045
I think they would have
handled it quietly.

2544
02:33:44,045 --> 02:33:47,110

2545
02:33:47,110 --> 02:33:50,010
Certainly, the Hitler
Youth, or the SA,

2546
02:33:50,010 --> 02:33:52,810

or whatever
organization, wouldn't

2547
02:33:52,810 --> 02:34:00,260
have made a big rampage about
as they did in the big cities.

2548
02:34:00,260 --> 02:34:00,780
I see.

2549
02:34:00,780 --> 02:34:03,650

2550
02:34:03,650 --> 02:34:06,200
I have a note here that
says I should ask you

2551
02:34:06,200 --> 02:34:11,630
about an excursion to Frankfurt
during your time in Wiesbaden.

2552
02:34:11,630 --> 02:34:15,800

2553
02:34:15,800 --> 02:34:18,302
That's a strange question.

2554
02:34:18,302 --> 02:34:19,010
I don't think I--

2555
02:34:19,010 --> 02:34:20,010
You didn't recall it.

2556
02:34:20,010 --> 02:34:20,510
OK.

2557
02:34:20,510 --> 02:34:25,350
Where you see the plaque of
ancestors and the ghetto,

2558
02:34:25,350 --> 02:34:27,270
was that something that

happened at that time?

2559

02:34:27,270 --> 02:34:31,140

Did you go to Frankfurt to
see where your ancestors had

2560

02:34:31,140 --> 02:34:33,810

lived, the old family?

2561

02:34:33,810 --> 02:34:44,640

That was my first organized
cycling tour in my life.

2562

02:34:44,640 --> 02:34:48,390

That was from Lichtenau
from our schul.

2563

02:34:48,390 --> 02:34:49,800

We were in Lichtenau.

2564

02:34:49,800 --> 02:34:57,240

We finished off in 1940
at the highest point

2565

02:34:57,240 --> 02:35:00,960

of what the school would go to.

2566

02:35:00,960 --> 02:35:02,970

And from there on,
we would have had

2567

02:35:02,970 --> 02:35:05,700

to go to Kassel to
finish high school.

2568

02:35:05,700 --> 02:35:09,620

2569

02:35:09,620 --> 02:35:12,410

Well, most of the boys--

2570

02:35:12,410 --> 02:35:15,250

I said, why don't we
go on a cycle tour?

2571
02:35:15,250 --> 02:35:19,230

2572
02:35:19,230 --> 02:35:25,150
This was just after the
French War was over.

2573
02:35:25,150 --> 02:35:29,110
And so, I asked my parents.

2574
02:35:29,110 --> 02:35:32,950
And the parents said,
well, we are in a war

2575
02:35:32,950 --> 02:35:37,600
and you're going to go
right next to France

2576
02:35:37,600 --> 02:35:40,260
when you go down the Rhine.

2577
02:35:40,260 --> 02:35:41,670
It's a bit dicey.

2578
02:35:41,670 --> 02:35:46,690
But they said, yes,
just be careful.

2579
02:35:46,690 --> 02:35:50,500
And so we did our cycling tour.

2580
02:35:50,500 --> 02:36:01,080
And we avoided anything to do
with police, or Hitler Youth,

2581
02:36:01,080 --> 02:36:02,770
or Hitler things.

2582
02:36:02,770 --> 02:36:09,010

We stayed secretly in farm
sheds and things like that--

2583
02:36:09,010 --> 02:36:16,150
no youth hostels, not to
be turned back or so on.

2584
02:36:16,150 --> 02:36:20,410
And so it was quite
a hair-raising trip

2585
02:36:20,410 --> 02:36:21,530
in that sense.

2586
02:36:21,530 --> 02:36:26,290
But in Wiesbaden, of course, we
stayed with the Roepke parents

2587
02:36:26,290 --> 02:36:28,130
in the basement.

2588
02:36:28,130 --> 02:36:31,870
They had a basement and
we stayed there and had

2589
02:36:31,870 --> 02:36:34,450
wonderful, Italian ice cream.

2590
02:36:34,450 --> 02:36:38,710
And then from there, on the
way back, we went to Frankfurt.

2591
02:36:38,710 --> 02:36:41,230
And of course, my
dad had told me

2592
02:36:41,230 --> 02:36:50,240
about that big, plaque stone.

2593
02:36:50,240 --> 02:36:52,760
That you told me about
yesterday, I believe.

2594

02:36:52,760 --> 02:36:54,640

Yes, in the cathedral there.

2595

02:36:54,640 --> 02:36:56,590

Yeah, that's right.

2596

02:36:56,590 --> 02:37:00,420

And from then onwards,
we cycled back

2597

02:37:00,420 --> 02:37:04,190

but it became a bit of
an uphill kind of job.

2598

02:37:04,190 --> 02:37:08,050

So we jumped with
our bikes on a train

2599

02:37:08,050 --> 02:37:12,160

to cut out the [INAUDIBLE].

2600

02:37:12,160 --> 02:37:17,150

And then we eventually got
back home at the weekend.

2601

02:37:17,150 --> 02:37:18,940

Yeah, we did that trip.

2602

02:37:18,940 --> 02:37:27,100

And that was the
first of many outings

2603

02:37:27,100 --> 02:37:33,702

like that I organized, privately
and also as part of the Hitler

2604

02:37:33,702 --> 02:37:38,630

Youth-- always outings and camps
rather than just hanging around

2605

02:37:38,630 --> 02:37:40,190

at home.

2606
02:37:40,190 --> 02:37:41,810
OK.

2607
02:37:41,810 --> 02:37:47,420
Well, I think that, for
today, we can wrap-up.

2608
02:37:47,420 --> 02:37:50,720
And when we talk
next, we will speak

2609
02:37:50,720 --> 02:37:54,500
about your time in
the Sudetenland,

2610
02:37:54,500 --> 02:38:02,048
and everything that comes after,
and see how far we go there,

2611
02:38:02,048 --> 02:38:06,320
and continue for as long as
you have something to say.

2612
02:38:06,320 --> 02:38:11,600
And I'm very interested and
fascinated by all of it.

2613
02:38:11,600 --> 02:38:12,770
Thank you.

2614
02:38:12,770 --> 02:38:14,690
Thank you so much.

2615
02:38:14,690 --> 02:38:18,490
I'm sorry that my memory's
often trapping me,

2616
02:38:18,490 --> 02:38:25,310
but that's what
happened [INAUDIBLE]..

2617

02:38:25,310 --> 02:38:27,590
You're doing wonderfully.

2618
02:38:27,590 --> 02:38:31,430
So I will turn the
recording off now,

2619
02:38:31,430 --> 02:38:34,440
and then we can speak
a little bit more.

2620
02:38:34,440 --> 02:38:39,020
But this then concludes
part two of my interview

2621
02:38:39,020 --> 02:38:45,130
with Mr. Helmut von
Schweitzer on June 19th, 2020.

2622
02:38:45,130 --> 02:38:49,000