

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:03,890

2
00:00:03,890 --> 00:00:07,910
This is a United States
Holocaust Memorial Museum

3
00:00:07,910 --> 00:00:15,560
interview with Mr. Peter
Gorog on June 25, 2020.

4
00:00:15,560 --> 00:00:20,360
And Mr. Gorog, I believe you
are in Potomac, Maryland.

5
00:00:20,360 --> 00:00:22,250
Is that correct?

6
00:00:22,250 --> 00:00:23,780
North Potomac, Maryland.

7
00:00:23,780 --> 00:00:24,410
Correct.

8
00:00:24,410 --> 00:00:26,570
In North Potomac, Maryland.

9
00:00:26,570 --> 00:00:30,570
And I am in Falls
Church, Virginia,

10
00:00:30,570 --> 00:00:33,020
so this interview
is being conducted

11
00:00:33,020 --> 00:00:36,830
remotely by telephone.

12
00:00:36,830 --> 00:00:40,940
And with that said, I
will say thank you, Mr

13
00:00:40,940 --> 00:00:43,850
Gorog, for agreeing to
speak with us today,

14
00:00:43,850 --> 00:00:48,980
for sharing what your life story
was, what your experiences were

15
00:00:48,980 --> 00:00:51,460
and that of your family.

16
00:00:51,460 --> 00:00:53,830
And my first question
is, could you

17
00:00:53,830 --> 00:00:57,700
tell me the date of your birth?

18
00:00:57,700 --> 00:01:00,830
March 10, 1941.

19
00:01:00,830 --> 00:01:01,330
OK.

20
00:01:01,330 --> 00:01:03,960
And where were you born?

21
00:01:03,960 --> 00:01:06,680
I was born in Budapest, Hungary.

22
00:01:06,680 --> 00:01:07,640
All right.

23
00:01:07,640 --> 00:01:10,600
What was your name at birth?

24
00:01:10,600 --> 00:01:14,400
My name was Grunwald Peter.

25
00:01:14,400 --> 00:01:17,430

In Hungarian, the first name is the last name

26
00:01:17,430 --> 00:01:19,740
and the last name is the first name.

27
00:01:19,740 --> 00:01:22,830
So Grunwald Peter, which is much more

28
00:01:22,830 --> 00:01:26,420
of a German-sounding last name.

29
00:01:26,420 --> 00:01:27,220
Correct.

30
00:01:27,220 --> 00:01:33,250
Jewish people in Europe mostly had German-sounding name,

31
00:01:33,250 --> 00:01:40,870
unless they changed it, like I had changed it in 1962.

32
00:01:40,870 --> 00:01:47,350
And why did you change your name in 1962?

33
00:01:47,350 --> 00:01:54,250
I changed it because of my mom's request.

34
00:01:54,250 --> 00:01:56,280
OK.

35
00:01:56,280 --> 00:02:00,930
Jewish sounding names in Hungary meant

36
00:02:00,930 --> 00:02:03,930
that you were most likely Jewish,

37

00:02:03,930 --> 00:02:10,229
although after the Holocaust
antisemitism wasn't

38

00:02:10,229 --> 00:02:12,680
visible in Hungary.

39

00:02:12,680 --> 00:02:18,990
Nevertheless, it existed, and
after the Holocaust experience

40

00:02:18,990 --> 00:02:24,810
of my mom, she thought that
it would be a good idea

41

00:02:24,810 --> 00:02:32,050
to change my name before I start
my studies at the Technical

42

00:02:32,050 --> 00:02:34,360
University of Budapest.

43

00:02:34,360 --> 00:02:39,760
So the summer before I
entered to the University,

44

00:02:39,760 --> 00:02:44,350
I changed my name from
Grunwald to Gorog.

45

00:02:44,350 --> 00:02:45,985
And why did you choose Gorog?

46

00:02:45,985 --> 00:02:48,580

47

00:02:48,580 --> 00:02:56,410
Well, in Hungarian it's a
very pleasant sounding name.

48

00:02:56,410 --> 00:03:01,210

And I just liked
the sound being--

49
00:03:01,210 --> 00:03:06,790
Gorog was not typically
chosen by Hungarian Jews

50
00:03:06,790 --> 00:03:11,860
as a Hungarian name when
they changed their names.

51
00:03:11,860 --> 00:03:14,880
There were more
commonly used ones,

52
00:03:14,880 --> 00:03:19,310
so I thought it
was a good choice.

53
00:03:19,310 --> 00:03:21,850
Of course, that
time I had no idea

54
00:03:21,850 --> 00:03:25,810
that one day I would end
up in the United States

55
00:03:25,810 --> 00:03:29,530
where the pronunciation
of my name

56
00:03:29,530 --> 00:03:31,686
will be a little bit difficult.

57
00:03:31,686 --> 00:03:33,430
[CHUCKLES]

58
00:03:33,430 --> 00:03:37,540
Have you ever thought of
going back to Grunwald?

59
00:03:37,540 --> 00:03:48,390
Yes, I did, and especially

my wife wanted--

60
00:03:48,390 --> 00:03:54,000
there are many reasons why I
didn't, if you are interested

61
00:03:54,000 --> 00:03:54,630
[INAUDIBLE].

62
00:03:54,630 --> 00:03:55,290
Yes, I am.

63
00:03:55,290 --> 00:03:57,660
Very much so.

64
00:03:57,660 --> 00:04:03,540
Well, one reason is
that I have five girls

65
00:04:03,540 --> 00:04:05,550
by the name of Gorog.

66
00:04:05,550 --> 00:04:07,260
Five daughters?

67
00:04:07,260 --> 00:04:09,450
Five daughters.

68
00:04:09,450 --> 00:04:17,760
And changing back my name
before all of them are married,

69
00:04:17,760 --> 00:04:23,640
and they will take
or they already

70
00:04:23,640 --> 00:04:27,870
took their husband's name, it
would have been a little bit

71
00:04:27,870 --> 00:04:34,980
confusing having different

names from my children's name.

72

00:04:34,980 --> 00:04:38,220

That was the major reason.

73

00:04:38,220 --> 00:04:45,570

Also, changing all the documents
[INAUDIBLE] IDs and passports,

74

00:04:45,570 --> 00:04:51,480

it's a long process
and [INAUDIBLE]..

75

00:04:51,480 --> 00:04:53,220

So you decided not to.

76

00:04:53,220 --> 00:04:55,740

You decided to keep--

77

00:04:55,740 --> 00:04:56,920

Correct.

78

00:04:56,920 --> 00:05:00,360

However, there is something
in the back of my mind

79

00:05:00,360 --> 00:05:03,330

when my last
daughter gets married

80

00:05:03,330 --> 00:05:10,020

and there will be no one
in the family by that name,

81

00:05:10,020 --> 00:05:13,330

I might just change
it back to Grunwald.

82

00:05:13,330 --> 00:05:16,670

Have you ever felt like a Gorog?

83

00:05:16,670 --> 00:05:17,330

Sorry?

84

00:05:17,330 --> 00:05:21,980

Have you ever felt your
identity to be as a Mr.

85

00:05:21,980 --> 00:05:25,740

Gorog rather than Mr. Grunwald?

86

00:05:25,740 --> 00:05:34,260

Well, I have [INAUDIBLE] long
answer to the short question.

87

00:05:34,260 --> 00:05:40,110

I reclaimed my Jewish
identity later in my life,

88

00:05:40,110 --> 00:05:43,200

and that's when I
started thinking

89

00:05:43,200 --> 00:05:47,530

about to have the
name of my father,

90

00:05:47,530 --> 00:05:50,020

who died during the Holocaust.

91

00:05:50,020 --> 00:05:54,300

And he died for one reason
and one reason only,

92

00:05:54,300 --> 00:05:59,770

because he was Jewish and
his name was Grunwald.

93

00:05:59,770 --> 00:06:02,110

Well, let's turn to that now.

94

00:06:02,110 --> 00:06:06,130

I wanted to find out more
about your parents, so let's

95

00:06:06,130 --> 00:06:11,290

start with your father and
what his first name was,

96

00:06:11,290 --> 00:06:15,950

and I'll go from there.

97

00:06:15,950 --> 00:06:18,370

His first name was *Árpád*.

98

00:06:18,370 --> 00:06:20,200

Árpád.

99

00:06:20,200 --> 00:06:22,680

No English equivalent.

100

00:06:22,680 --> 00:06:27,550

It's a very typical
Hungarian name.

101

00:06:27,550 --> 00:06:32,530

Actually, that was
the name of the leader

102

00:06:32,530 --> 00:06:41,376

of the Hungarian tribes who
came to Hungary from somewhere,

103

00:06:41,376 --> 00:06:46,036

the Ural Mountain
about 2,000 years ago.

104

00:06:46,036 --> 00:06:46,710

Hmm.

105

00:06:46,710 --> 00:06:49,530

So it's truly an ancient name.

106

00:06:49,530 --> 00:06:50,460

And-

107

00:06:50,460 --> 00:06:51,330
Correct.

108
00:06:51,330 --> 00:06:56,430
--was your father's
family from Budapest?

109
00:06:56,430 --> 00:06:57,600
Yes.

110
00:06:57,600 --> 00:07:02,850
My father was born in Budapest,
and his family, as far

111
00:07:02,850 --> 00:07:06,480
as I know, lived in Budapest.

112
00:07:06,480 --> 00:07:10,530
For about how many
generations would you think?

113
00:07:10,530 --> 00:07:13,440
I cannot tell you that.

114
00:07:13,440 --> 00:07:23,530
Unfortunately, I don't
know enough from my--

115
00:07:23,530 --> 00:07:27,340
about my family from
my father's side.

116
00:07:27,340 --> 00:07:30,790
Practically everybody
died during the Holocaust

117
00:07:30,790 --> 00:07:36,930
and there was nobody who
would tell me the story.

118
00:07:36,930 --> 00:07:42,750
And there are very
few documents which

119
00:07:42,750 --> 00:07:49,620
I was able to require and
find out as little as I

120
00:07:49,620 --> 00:07:52,150
have about my father's family.

121
00:07:52,150 --> 00:07:54,870
So in other words, there
was no living person.

122
00:07:54,870 --> 00:07:58,140
It would only been information
that you could have gotten

123
00:07:58,140 --> 00:08:01,770
from some kind of official
documents about himself

124
00:08:01,770 --> 00:08:04,290
or about his family.

125
00:08:04,290 --> 00:08:05,580
Correct.

126
00:08:05,580 --> 00:08:13,500
My mother preserved as much as
she could from the documents

127
00:08:13,500 --> 00:08:15,660
she had before the Holocaust.

128
00:08:15,660 --> 00:08:19,770
But, of course,
during that time,

129
00:08:19,770 --> 00:08:23,130
preserving documents
weren't easy.

130
00:08:23,130 --> 00:08:26,790

And because we
moved quite a lot,

131
00:08:26,790 --> 00:08:31,060
not many documents were left.

132
00:08:31,060 --> 00:08:34,929
Did you-- do you have a
photograph of your father?

133
00:08:34,929 --> 00:08:37,520
I have plenty of photographs.

134
00:08:37,520 --> 00:08:38,020
Yeah.

135
00:08:38,020 --> 00:08:43,360
That's what he gave to me
that I have photographs,

136
00:08:43,360 --> 00:08:50,080
but only photographs starting
from his marriage to my mom,

137
00:08:50,080 --> 00:08:53,200
or a little bit before that.

138
00:08:53,200 --> 00:08:56,380
So nothing of him
as a young boy?

139
00:08:56,380 --> 00:08:58,060
Nothing.

140
00:08:58,060 --> 00:09:06,640
I have a couple of documents of
his report cards from school,

141
00:09:06,640 --> 00:09:11,890
and he went to a
vocational school.

142

00:09:11,890 --> 00:09:17,210
And I have the certificate
that he finished it.

143
00:09:17,210 --> 00:09:22,310
I have some documents
from the work place

144
00:09:22,310 --> 00:09:30,780
he had worked before the war,
and I have an important paper.

145
00:09:30,780 --> 00:09:39,460
Unfortunately, it's not
something which is pleasant.

146
00:09:39,460 --> 00:09:45,190
He applied for the Law
school of Budapest.

147
00:09:45,190 --> 00:09:49,810
He wanted to be a lawyer,
and he was rejected.

148
00:09:49,810 --> 00:09:55,150
So I have his application and
the rejection stamped on it.

149
00:09:55,150 --> 00:09:57,190
Do you know why he might
have been rejected?

150
00:09:57,190 --> 00:09:59,840

151
00:09:59,840 --> 00:10:05,040
Nobody told me, and
from the document

152
00:10:05,040 --> 00:10:07,520
it's very hard to figure it out.

153
00:10:07,520 --> 00:10:16,910

But I know that in Hungary
from 1920 on, there was a law.

154
00:10:16,910 --> 00:10:20,870
It was called numerus
clausus, which

155
00:10:20,870 --> 00:10:29,590
meant that they restricted
the numbers of Jewish students

156
00:10:29,590 --> 00:10:33,520
in institutions of
higher education.

157
00:10:33,520 --> 00:10:34,180
Yeah.

158
00:10:34,180 --> 00:10:40,240
And the quota was that they
cannot have more Jewish

159
00:10:40,240 --> 00:10:46,850
students percentage wise
than the Jewish population

160
00:10:46,850 --> 00:10:54,700
in Hungary was at that
time, which was about 5%.

161
00:10:54,700 --> 00:10:56,210
I see.

162
00:10:56,210 --> 00:11:00,020
So yeah, nothing on the
documents, but a suspicion

163
00:11:00,020 --> 00:11:03,260
that it could have
been for this reason?

164
00:11:03,260 --> 00:11:08,570
No, because the stamp

of rejection faded off,

165
00:11:08,570 --> 00:11:15,030
and I think they are
referring to this document

166
00:11:15,030 --> 00:11:16,620
but I am not sure.

167
00:11:16,620 --> 00:11:22,460
It might be that he didn't
have the qualification.

168
00:11:22,460 --> 00:11:28,100
In that time in Hungary,
there were no entry exam

169
00:11:28,100 --> 00:11:33,710
to universities
or colleges, and I

170
00:11:33,710 --> 00:11:39,800
don't know exactly what the
criteria was that everybody

171
00:11:39,800 --> 00:11:47,390
was admitted who had a certain
grade finishing high school.

172
00:11:47,390 --> 00:11:48,380
I don't know.

173
00:11:48,380 --> 00:11:51,720
But, again, knowing
that he was Jewish,

174
00:11:51,720 --> 00:11:56,100
knowing that there were--

175
00:11:56,100 --> 00:12:04,330
this law in effect and law
school was very popular.

176

00:12:04,330 --> 00:12:08,250

So there were, I
don't know, maybe--

177

00:12:08,250 --> 00:12:15,330

I know at the time when
I wanted to be a lawyer,

178

00:12:15,330 --> 00:12:22,370

this year was one out of eight
applicants were admitted.

179

00:12:22,370 --> 00:12:24,940

I see.

180

00:12:24,940 --> 00:12:27,340

Do you know the year
of your father's birth?

181

00:12:27,340 --> 00:12:30,020

182

00:12:30,020 --> 00:12:31,260

His birth?

183

00:12:31,260 --> 00:12:31,760

Yeah.

184

00:12:31,760 --> 00:12:40,340

I do know he was born
on March 15, 1907.

185

00:12:40,340 --> 00:12:42,710

1907.

186

00:12:42,710 --> 00:12:49,850

So he was quite a
young man when--

187

00:12:49,850 --> 00:12:51,380

when the war started.

188

00:12:51,380 --> 00:12:54,380

I don't mean when the
Germans occupied Hungary,

189

00:12:54,380 --> 00:12:59,270

but he would have been
just 32 years old in 1939.

190

00:12:59,270 --> 00:13:00,560

Correct.

191

00:13:00,560 --> 00:13:01,760

OK.

192

00:13:01,760 --> 00:13:05,020

Do you know if he had
brothers and sisters?

193

00:13:05,020 --> 00:13:08,230

Yes, he had two brothers.

194

00:13:08,230 --> 00:13:11,910

OK, do you know
their first names?

195

00:13:11,910 --> 00:13:15,840

Lazlo and Imre.

196

00:13:15,840 --> 00:13:18,240

Lazlo and Imre.

197

00:13:18,240 --> 00:13:20,310

Well, both of them
sound like very--

198

00:13:20,310 --> 00:13:25,710

it sounds like all three boys
had very Hungarian names.

199

00:13:25,710 --> 00:13:27,750

Correct.

200

00:13:27,750 --> 00:13:36,510
Whether it was because my father
came from a Jewish family,

201

00:13:36,510 --> 00:13:38,970
which was--

202

00:13:38,970 --> 00:13:43,085
in Hungary, it was
called Neolog Jews.

203

00:13:43,085 --> 00:13:43,585
OK.

204

00:13:43,585 --> 00:13:50,620
And this was a branch
of Judaism which

205

00:13:50,620 --> 00:13:55,230
is similar to conservative
Judaism here in Hungary.

206

00:13:55,230 --> 00:14:02,830
So I believe that my
father's family were

207

00:14:02,830 --> 00:14:06,910
assimilated in a way that--

208

00:14:06,910 --> 00:14:11,610
[? actually, ?] I know
that my father ate bacon,

209

00:14:11,610 --> 00:14:21,720
because he's referring in one of
his cards he sent to my mother.

210

00:14:21,720 --> 00:14:30,220
So he didn't keep
kosher dietary law.

211

00:14:30,220 --> 00:14:30,970

OK.

212

00:14:30,970 --> 00:14:34,780

And now with the cards that
he sent to your mother,

213

00:14:34,780 --> 00:14:37,870

these are not cards from
when he was in forced labor?

214

00:14:37,870 --> 00:14:40,060

These are in other cards.

215

00:14:40,060 --> 00:14:45,100

No, actually all
the cards were sent

216

00:14:45,100 --> 00:14:50,315

from forced labor battalions.

217

00:14:50,315 --> 00:14:50,815

OK.

218

00:14:50,815 --> 00:14:55,260

219

00:14:55,260 --> 00:14:59,010

So it could have been that that
was the only thing that there

220

00:14:59,010 --> 00:14:59,760

was to eat.

221

00:14:59,760 --> 00:15:04,340

222

00:15:04,340 --> 00:15:11,960

Not really, because I think
he's referring to something

223

00:15:11,960 --> 00:15:22,270

from his earlier life with my

mom when they went to camping,

224

00:15:22,270 --> 00:15:27,280

and they had a campfire
and they had bacon--

225

00:15:27,280 --> 00:15:29,750

bacon roasted over the fire.

226

00:15:29,750 --> 00:15:30,980

Ah.

227

00:15:30,980 --> 00:15:31,700

OK.

228

00:15:31,700 --> 00:15:32,200

OK.

229

00:15:32,200 --> 00:15:34,810

So that's what tells you.

230

00:15:34,810 --> 00:15:36,160

I understand.

231

00:15:36,160 --> 00:15:39,850

So he's not in that card
referring to what kind of food

232

00:15:39,850 --> 00:15:42,160

he is getting while
he's on the battalion.

233

00:15:42,160 --> 00:15:45,250

He's referring to
the past, before he

234

00:15:45,250 --> 00:15:46,880

was in that battalion.

235

00:15:46,880 --> 00:15:48,260

Correct.

236

00:15:48,260 --> 00:15:52,790

That's true that he was
that kind of yearning for--

237

00:15:52,790 --> 00:15:53,290

Yeah.

238

00:15:53,290 --> 00:15:55,810

--that [? bacon. ?]

Because it meant--

239

00:15:55,810 --> 00:16:00,310

not probably the bacon
itself, but the company

240

00:16:00,310 --> 00:16:02,660

and the circumstances--

241

00:16:02,660 --> 00:16:03,160

Yeah.

242

00:16:03,160 --> 00:16:05,640

--for [INAUDIBLE] time.

243

00:16:05,640 --> 00:16:09,560

And we'll come and talk about
more detail in a little bit

244

00:16:09,560 --> 00:16:13,460

about this, but do you
know the year of his death

245

00:16:13,460 --> 00:16:16,100

or the date of his death?

246

00:16:16,100 --> 00:16:19,780

Here is what I know
about his death.

247

00:16:19,780 --> 00:16:22,820

248

00:16:22,820 --> 00:16:29,540

The Hungarian army-- his
forced labor battalion

249

00:16:29,540 --> 00:16:34,250

was attached to the
second Hungarian army,

250

00:16:34,250 --> 00:16:36,680

which invaded Ukraine.

251

00:16:36,680 --> 00:16:45,770

And in 1942, 1943 they went
to Ukraine, invading it

252

00:16:45,770 --> 00:16:50,090

with the Nazis, the
German [? troops, ?]

253

00:16:50,090 --> 00:16:55,670

and my father was
taken through Ukraine.

254

00:16:55,670 --> 00:17:01,100

And my mother got a
notification from the defense--

255

00:17:01,100 --> 00:17:07,250

Hungarian Ministry of Defense
that my father disappeared

256

00:17:07,250 --> 00:17:15,300

on January 15, I believe,
during war activities.

257

00:17:15,300 --> 00:17:22,530

And a month later,
they declared him dead.

258

00:17:22,530 --> 00:17:23,630

I see.

259

00:17:23,630 --> 00:17:28,790

So for official reason
because he didn't show up.

260

00:17:28,790 --> 00:17:37,550

They didn't know whether he was
a POW as some of the forced--

261

00:17:37,550 --> 00:17:40,340

the men in the forced
labor battalions

262

00:17:40,340 --> 00:17:45,410

were captured by
the Soviet Red Army.

263

00:17:45,410 --> 00:17:47,060

Yeah.

264

00:17:47,060 --> 00:17:52,850

The army declared him
dead in February 1943.

265

00:17:52,850 --> 00:17:57,835

Do you use a particular date
yourself when you have--

266

00:17:57,835 --> 00:18:02,770

if you have had to fill out his
date of death on any documents?

267

00:18:02,770 --> 00:18:10,890

I have a document somewhere that
actually I know where it is.

268

00:18:10,890 --> 00:18:13,890

I can look it up if necessary.

269

00:18:13,890 --> 00:18:20,010

My mom applied for
restitution in the 1960s,

270

00:18:20,010 --> 00:18:25,670

and she had to fill
out a form to prove

271
00:18:25,670 --> 00:18:34,190
that my father was in the forced
labor battalion and he died.

272
00:18:34,190 --> 00:18:40,410
So my mother got an
official notification

273
00:18:40,410 --> 00:18:46,740
from an organization in Hungary
which dealt with this kind

274
00:18:46,740 --> 00:18:50,260
of issues, who--

275
00:18:50,260 --> 00:18:54,610
with the exact dates
of his disappearance

276
00:18:54,610 --> 00:19:00,890
and his declaration of death.

277
00:19:00,890 --> 00:19:06,080
And that document
was based from data

278
00:19:06,080 --> 00:19:10,226
from the archive of the
Hungarian Minister of Defense.

279
00:19:10,226 --> 00:19:12,360
OK.

280
00:19:12,360 --> 00:19:15,180
So whichever date
it would have been,

281
00:19:15,180 --> 00:19:20,310
whether it's January
'43 or February '43,

282
00:19:20,310 --> 00:19:24,720
you are not yet two years
old by the time he dies.

283
00:19:24,720 --> 00:19:26,390
Correct.

284
00:19:26,390 --> 00:19:30,520
So you have no memories
of your father.

285
00:19:30,520 --> 00:19:36,670
Absolutely no memories,
other than a few pictures

286
00:19:36,670 --> 00:19:41,830
which were taken
with me when he was

287
00:19:41,830 --> 00:19:44,410
released for a long weekend.

288
00:19:44,410 --> 00:19:47,790

289
00:19:47,790 --> 00:19:54,330
And those few pictures
were taken at that time,

290
00:19:54,330 --> 00:19:56,310
and the other
memories, of course,

291
00:19:56,310 --> 00:20:02,070
are pictures of him which were
taken before the Holocaust.

292
00:20:02,070 --> 00:20:03,840
I see.

293
00:20:03,840 --> 00:20:08,190

Even-- I have at
least one picture

294
00:20:08,190 --> 00:20:14,190
of him being in the
forced labor battalion.

295
00:20:14,190 --> 00:20:16,170
Oh, really?

296
00:20:16,170 --> 00:20:16,710
Yes.

297
00:20:16,710 --> 00:20:19,030
It's a group picture.

298
00:20:19,030 --> 00:20:20,970
It was taken for--

299
00:20:20,970 --> 00:20:23,330
I don't know what occasion.

300
00:20:23,330 --> 00:20:30,770
And I use that picture
actually in my presentations.

301
00:20:30,770 --> 00:20:35,520
He's in the picture on
the top right corner.

302
00:20:35,520 --> 00:20:37,280
Mm-hmm.

303
00:20:37,280 --> 00:20:44,600
And was that probably the last
picture that was taken of him?

304
00:20:44,600 --> 00:20:46,100
Correct.

305
00:20:46,100 --> 00:20:48,020
OK.

306
00:20:48,020 --> 00:20:53,650
And he sent it to your
mother while he was still

307
00:20:53,650 --> 00:20:58,110
in the battalion, or she
got it in some other way?

308
00:20:58,110 --> 00:20:59,360
I don't know.

309
00:20:59,360 --> 00:21:05,120
I do know that it was
among my mom's papers

310
00:21:05,120 --> 00:21:12,230
and photos she gave me
later on, very much later.

311
00:21:12,230 --> 00:21:16,790
It's possible-- they
were in correspondence,

312
00:21:16,790 --> 00:21:19,760
so he could have sent it.

313
00:21:19,760 --> 00:21:26,770
He also could have given her
when they had an opportunity.

314
00:21:26,770 --> 00:21:30,070
They had an opportunity
a couple of times

315
00:21:30,070 --> 00:21:38,290
to meet even before I was
born, because they allowed--

316
00:21:38,290 --> 00:21:41,470
and I just learned this
one a couple of weeks

317

00:21:41,470 --> 00:21:44,710
ago from the papers
and letters I

318

00:21:44,710 --> 00:21:50,890
have that my mother had an
opportunity to visit him

319

00:21:50,890 --> 00:21:55,630
at the camp where he was at.

320

00:21:55,630 --> 00:22:00,050
And he could have passed
the picture at that time.

321

00:22:00,050 --> 00:22:01,900
So here is a question.

322

00:22:01,900 --> 00:22:05,470
Was he actually taken
for forced labor

323

00:22:05,470 --> 00:22:09,880
before you were born
on March 10 in 1941?

324

00:22:09,880 --> 00:22:12,310
Correct.

325

00:22:12,310 --> 00:22:20,520
He was taken, I believe,
around September 1940.

326

00:22:20,520 --> 00:22:24,490
So my father wasn't
there when I was born.

327

00:22:24,490 --> 00:22:26,012
Wow.

328

00:22:26,012 --> 00:22:27,980
Wow.

329
00:22:27,980 --> 00:22:29,870
How tough on all of you.

330
00:22:29,870 --> 00:22:36,140
He was still in
Hungary, and, again,

331
00:22:36,140 --> 00:22:44,250
I know that my mom visited him
at least once, but maybe more.

332
00:22:44,250 --> 00:22:50,170
That's what I glean from
the letters and postcards.

333
00:22:50,170 --> 00:22:54,060
So is the correspondence
that you have of your father,

334
00:22:54,060 --> 00:22:56,610
that is, the cards that
he sent to your mother

335
00:22:56,610 --> 00:23:01,950
while he's in forced labor,
is that the only kind

336
00:23:01,950 --> 00:23:05,610
of correspondence you
have that he wrote?

337
00:23:05,610 --> 00:23:08,250
In other words, letters
from that time but nothing

338
00:23:08,250 --> 00:23:12,160
from any other time of his life?

339
00:23:12,160 --> 00:23:19,650
Actually, I have, I believe,
one or two letters he

340

00:23:19,650 --> 00:23:25,740

sent to my mom, I
think around 1929.

341

00:23:25,740 --> 00:23:28,800

They already were
dating, but they

342

00:23:28,800 --> 00:23:31,780

weren't engaged or anything.

343

00:23:31,780 --> 00:23:38,050

So yeah, there are two
letters from these times.

344

00:23:38,050 --> 00:23:44,130

Otherwise, that was no reason
for them to correspond,

345

00:23:44,130 --> 00:23:48,060

because they got married
and they lived together.

346

00:23:48,060 --> 00:23:49,080

Sure.

347

00:23:49,080 --> 00:23:51,910

What year did they get married?

348

00:23:51,910 --> 00:23:54,100

1937.

349

00:23:54,100 --> 00:23:57,830

OK, so they had a
very long courtship.

350

00:23:57,830 --> 00:24:02,700

Yeah, I think it was
typical at that time.

351

00:24:02,700 --> 00:24:07,130

And the reason for

that, I don't know.

352

00:24:07,130 --> 00:24:10,340

Actually, there was a
long time between marriage

353

00:24:10,340 --> 00:24:13,250

and my being born.

354

00:24:13,250 --> 00:24:13,820

Yeah.

355

00:24:13,820 --> 00:24:15,260

It is quite a few years.

356

00:24:15,260 --> 00:24:17,950

That's true, too.

357

00:24:17,950 --> 00:24:20,710

Your mother-- I will
come back to the war

358

00:24:20,710 --> 00:24:23,050

experiences in a
minute, but let's

359

00:24:23,050 --> 00:24:25,900

fill in the picture a little
bit about your mother.

360

00:24:25,900 --> 00:24:28,690

When was she born?

361

00:24:28,690 --> 00:24:34,600

She was born on
October 25, 1907.

362

00:24:34,600 --> 00:24:35,500

Same year.

363

00:24:35,500 --> 00:24:36,280

Oh, I see.

364
00:24:36,280 --> 00:24:40,570
So there's only a half year
difference between them?

365
00:24:40,570 --> 00:24:41,740
Correct.

366
00:24:41,740 --> 00:24:42,860
OK.

367
00:24:42,860 --> 00:24:47,580
And what is your mother's
name and her maiden name?

368
00:24:47,580 --> 00:24:51,950
Her maiden name
was Olga SchÄ¶nfeld.

369
00:24:51,950 --> 00:24:53,330
SchÄ¶nfeld?

370
00:24:53,330 --> 00:24:54,580
SchÄ¶nfeld.

371
00:24:54,580 --> 00:24:55,280
OK.

372
00:24:55,280 --> 00:24:57,500
And her first name?

373
00:24:57,500 --> 00:24:58,340
Olga.

374
00:24:58,340 --> 00:24:59,290
Olga.

375
00:24:59,290 --> 00:25:01,220
Olga SchÄ¶nfeld.

376
00:25:01,220 --> 00:25:04,070

And was she born in Budapest?

377

00:25:04,070 --> 00:25:04,640

No.

378

00:25:04,640 --> 00:25:12,720

She was born in what was
in 1907 Ungvar, which

379

00:25:12,720 --> 00:25:20,740

is in Northeastern Hungary
during the Austrian Hungarian

380

00:25:20,740 --> 00:25:22,060

Empire.

381

00:25:22,060 --> 00:25:27,830

And after first World
War, part of Hungary

382

00:25:27,830 --> 00:25:32,870

was attached to the
surrounding countries,

383

00:25:32,870 --> 00:25:38,540

according to the
Trianon peace treaty

384

00:25:38,540 --> 00:25:42,620

and Ungvar became part
of Slovakia at that time.

385

00:25:42,620 --> 00:25:43,970

OK.

386

00:25:43,970 --> 00:25:55,310

And until Second World War
when the Soviets recaptured

387

00:25:55,310 --> 00:25:59,570

that region and it
became part of Ukraine.

388

00:25:59,570 --> 00:26:04,490

And now it's in Ukraine,
and it's called Uzhhorod.

389

00:26:04,490 --> 00:26:05,900

Uzhhorod.

390

00:26:05,900 --> 00:26:08,110

Yeah.

391

00:26:08,110 --> 00:26:14,050

Well, so many towns in
that area of the world,

392

00:26:14,050 --> 00:26:18,760

I have often said somebody could
have been born in that town,

393

00:26:18,760 --> 00:26:20,980

lived their entire
life in that town,

394

00:26:20,980 --> 00:26:24,940

never moved out and have
lived in four countries.

395

00:26:24,940 --> 00:26:29,560

Well, actually I have a very
close friend in the museum,

396

00:26:29,560 --> 00:26:33,760

a Holocaust survivor,
Marty Weiss,

397

00:26:33,760 --> 00:26:41,920

lived about 40 miles away from
the city that my mom was born,

398

00:26:41,920 --> 00:26:49,420

and it was Slovakia when he
was born in 1929, I believe.

399

00:26:49,420 --> 00:26:54,160
Then Hungarians
took over in 1940.

400
00:26:54,160 --> 00:27:02,300
And then the-- oh, that
[INAUDIBLE] sorry--

401
00:27:02,300 --> 00:27:08,300
was part of Czechoslovakia,
which was established in 1918,

402
00:27:08,300 --> 00:27:12,800
and then it became
part of Ukraine.

403
00:27:12,800 --> 00:27:13,880
Yeah.

404
00:27:13,880 --> 00:27:14,720
Yeah.

405
00:27:14,720 --> 00:27:18,950
So it's these shifting
borders brought

406
00:27:18,950 --> 00:27:24,440
so much, at the very least,
confusion, but often much, much

407
00:27:24,440 --> 00:27:28,070
more than that into the
lives of the people who

408
00:27:28,070 --> 00:27:30,751
lived in those areas.

409
00:27:30,751 --> 00:27:32,360
Yeah definitely.

410
00:27:32,360 --> 00:27:39,920
There were all kinds of
ethnic problems in those area,

411
00:27:39,920 --> 00:27:48,230
because those areas, even when
they were part of Hungary, it

412
00:27:48,230 --> 00:27:50,640
[? had ?] mixed population.

413
00:27:50,640 --> 00:27:53,600
Some people spoke Russian.

414
00:27:53,600 --> 00:27:56,000
Other people spoke Polish.

415
00:27:56,000 --> 00:27:57,070
Yeah.

416
00:27:57,070 --> 00:27:59,300
Others spoke Hungarian.

417
00:27:59,300 --> 00:28:00,890
Yeah.

418
00:28:00,890 --> 00:28:04,320
Your mother, did she have
brothers and sisters?

419
00:28:04,320 --> 00:28:04,870
Yes.

420
00:28:04,870 --> 00:28:08,640
She was one of nine siblings.

421
00:28:08,640 --> 00:28:11,250
That's a lot.

422
00:28:11,250 --> 00:28:16,320
And was her family a very
observant religious family?

423
00:28:16,320 --> 00:28:17,250

Yeah.

424
00:28:17,250 --> 00:28:19,860
She came from an
orthodox family,

425
00:28:19,860 --> 00:28:24,430
not ultra-orthodox
but very observant.

426
00:28:24,430 --> 00:28:30,720
It grandfather on--
her grandfather.

427
00:28:30,720 --> 00:28:35,070
Sorry if I mix up my his
and hers, because in Hungary

428
00:28:35,070 --> 00:28:36,756
we have only it.

429
00:28:36,756 --> 00:28:37,630
[LAUGHS]

430
00:28:37,630 --> 00:28:38,140
OK.

431
00:28:38,140 --> 00:28:39,160
[INAUDIBLE]

432
00:28:39,160 --> 00:28:46,860
Unfortunately, my brain is
not wired to switch quickly.

433
00:28:46,860 --> 00:28:47,940
This is fine.

434
00:28:47,940 --> 00:28:50,280
I'm not confused yet.

435
00:28:50,280 --> 00:28:52,200
Thank you.

436
00:28:52,200 --> 00:28:54,520
If I am confused,
I'll let you know.

437
00:28:54,520 --> 00:28:55,530
I'll ask.

438
00:28:55,530 --> 00:29:00,150
Yeah, please ask, because
it could be confusing.

439
00:29:00,150 --> 00:29:07,820
Anyway, her grandfather was
a rabbi in a small town.

440
00:29:07,820 --> 00:29:10,900
Today, it's called PreÅov.

441
00:29:10,900 --> 00:29:14,690
And then my mom was born, and
up until the First World War

442
00:29:14,690 --> 00:29:20,090
it was called Eperjes,
which a part of Slovakia.

443
00:29:20,090 --> 00:29:21,470
I see.

444
00:29:21,470 --> 00:29:26,150
And does this suggest
that your mother's family

445
00:29:26,150 --> 00:29:31,870
was from this general area
for several generations?

446
00:29:31,870 --> 00:29:33,400
Correct.

447
00:29:33,400 --> 00:29:40,630

Some of her cousins lived
in different cities.

448
00:29:40,630 --> 00:29:43,840
Actually, one of
my mom's cousin,

449
00:29:43,840 --> 00:29:47,320
I came to know in the '60s.

450
00:29:47,320 --> 00:29:49,876
They lived in that very
same town, Eperjes,

451
00:29:49,876 --> 00:29:56,430
PreÅov where my great
grandfather was a rabbi.

452
00:29:56,430 --> 00:30:00,630
Others lived in Bratislava.

453
00:30:00,630 --> 00:30:03,450
And yeah.

454
00:30:03,450 --> 00:30:09,150
My mom's family came
from that region.

455
00:30:09,150 --> 00:30:12,780
Of the nine siblings,
did you know any of them?

456
00:30:12,780 --> 00:30:15,590
These would have been
your aunts, your uncles.

457
00:30:15,590 --> 00:30:20,640
Only those who
survived the Holocaust.

458
00:30:20,640 --> 00:30:27,450
Those were-- I had an aunt
who immigrated to the United

459
00:30:27,450 --> 00:30:36,428
States, I believe, in 1938, an
uncle who emigrated in 1941.

460
00:30:36,428 --> 00:30:38,140
Mm-hmm.

461
00:30:38,140 --> 00:30:47,060
And I knew two of her
sisters who lived in Budapest

462
00:30:47,060 --> 00:30:49,340
and survived the Holocaust.

463
00:30:49,340 --> 00:30:52,270
Do you know their first names?

464
00:30:52,270 --> 00:30:54,310
Yes.

465
00:30:54,310 --> 00:31:01,480
The surviving sisters
was Ibolya SchÅ¶nfeld.

466
00:31:01,480 --> 00:31:04,630
How do I spell her first name?

467
00:31:04,630 --> 00:31:12,100
I-B-O-L-Y-A as in Apple.

468
00:31:12,100 --> 00:31:14,590
I've never heard
that name before.

469
00:31:14,590 --> 00:31:20,200
In Hungarian, it's the
name of the flower, which

470
00:31:20,200 --> 00:31:22,960
we call in English violet.

471
00:31:22,960 --> 00:31:24,010
Oh.

472
00:31:24,010 --> 00:31:25,030
I see.

473
00:31:25,030 --> 00:31:28,660
So she would have-- if she had translated her name if she had

474
00:31:28,660 --> 00:31:30,940
lived in the United States,
it would have been Violet

475
00:31:30,940 --> 00:31:32,420
SchÅ¶nfeld.

476
00:31:32,420 --> 00:31:34,380
If she chose, yes.

477
00:31:34,380 --> 00:31:35,770
If she chooses to.

478
00:31:35,770 --> 00:31:36,970
OK.

479
00:31:36,970 --> 00:31:40,900
All right, and the other
sister who was in Budapest?

480
00:31:40,900 --> 00:31:47,200
Her name, maiden name
was Gabriela SchÅ¶nfeld.

481
00:31:47,200 --> 00:31:53,080
And she was married by the
time I was born, actually.

482
00:31:53,080 --> 00:31:58,150
One of my cousins were
born a couple of weeks

483

00:31:58,150 --> 00:32:07,130

earlier than I was
born in February 1941.

484

00:32:07,130 --> 00:32:20,734

She was married to a gentleman
called Leopold Winter.

485

00:32:20,734 --> 00:32:23,050

OK.

486

00:32:23,050 --> 00:32:27,910

So she was Gabriela
SchÄ¶nfeld Winter.

487

00:32:27,910 --> 00:32:32,110

Well, actually she didn't
keep the SchÄ¶nfeld.

488

00:32:32,110 --> 00:32:37,090

So once she got
married her name was--

489

00:32:37,090 --> 00:32:40,930

actually, in Hungary,
you don't even

490

00:32:40,930 --> 00:32:43,870

keep your first
name, maiden name.

491

00:32:43,870 --> 00:32:47,710

You take the full
name of your husband

492

00:32:47,710 --> 00:32:51,710

and you put an N-E at the end.

493

00:32:51,710 --> 00:33:02,290

So the wife of Winter Leopold
would be Winter Leopoldne.

494

00:33:02,290 --> 00:33:07,600

Oh, so Leopold is his
first name, right?

495

00:33:07,600 --> 00:33:10,730

But in Hungarian
that's the second name,

496

00:33:10,730 --> 00:33:14,500

so you attach the N-E.

497

00:33:14,500 --> 00:33:15,760

To the first name.

498

00:33:15,760 --> 00:33:16,960

I mean, to the--

499

00:33:16,960 --> 00:33:18,190

I know.

500

00:33:18,190 --> 00:33:22,090

So a person's first
name is always

501

00:33:22,090 --> 00:33:27,100

said in the second
position in Hungarian.

502

00:33:27,100 --> 00:33:28,540

Is that correct?

503

00:33:28,540 --> 00:33:29,440

Correct.

504

00:33:29,440 --> 00:33:34,810

So instead of having the
ending of her married name

505

00:33:34,810 --> 00:33:40,000

be Winter N-E it is Leopold N-E.

506

00:33:40,000 --> 00:33:40,630

Correct.

507

00:33:40,630 --> 00:33:43,000

Whereas in many
Slavic languages,

508

00:33:43,000 --> 00:33:47,860

it would be a change
in the actual surname.

509

00:33:47,860 --> 00:33:48,360

You know--

510

00:33:48,360 --> 00:33:51,650

Yeah, I think they
put a V and an A.

511

00:33:51,650 --> 00:33:52,750

Yeah.

512

00:33:52,750 --> 00:33:54,550

Or let's say

513

00:33:54,550 --> 00:33:55,630

[INAUDIBLE]

514

00:33:55,630 --> 00:33:56,530

Yeah.

515

00:33:56,530 --> 00:34:01,780

Like if somebody is named Ivan,
Ivanov, Ivanova, or Ivanovna,

516

00:34:01,780 --> 00:34:03,820

or something like that.

517

00:34:03,820 --> 00:34:04,930

[INAUDIBLE]

518

00:34:04,930 --> 00:34:06,100

Yeah.

519

00:34:06,100 --> 00:34:09,310

So this is how she was
known as her married name.

520

00:34:09,310 --> 00:34:11,350

What about the
aunt who immigrated

521

00:34:11,350 --> 00:34:14,530

in 1938 to the United States?

522

00:34:14,530 --> 00:34:18,389

Her name was Elona SchÅ¶infeld.

523

00:34:18,389 --> 00:34:19,659

Elona.

524

00:34:19,659 --> 00:34:21,560

OK.

525

00:34:21,560 --> 00:34:33,415

And she was married to somebody
who is last name was Jacobs,

526

00:34:33,415 --> 00:34:38,028

the first name might have
been David, but I am not sure.

527

00:34:38,028 --> 00:34:41,020

OK.

528

00:34:41,020 --> 00:34:43,360

And your uncle?

529

00:34:43,360 --> 00:34:46,480

And my uncle, his name was--

530

00:34:46,480 --> 00:34:53,320

while he was in Hungary until
1941, was Lazlo SchÅ¶infeld.

531

00:34:53,320 --> 00:34:55,889
Lazlo SchÅ¶nfeld.

532
00:34:55,889 --> 00:34:59,010
And did it change when
it came to the States?

533
00:34:59,010 --> 00:35:00,240
Yes.

534
00:35:00,240 --> 00:35:04,050
He changed his first
name to Lester.

535
00:35:04,050 --> 00:35:05,160
OK.

536
00:35:05,160 --> 00:35:20,360
And he changed his last name
spelling, S-C-H-O-E-N-F-E-L-D.

537
00:35:20,360 --> 00:35:23,360
Ah, he got rid of the umlaut.

538
00:35:23,360 --> 00:35:25,220
Yeah.

539
00:35:25,220 --> 00:35:27,080
And put an extra E--

540
00:35:27,080 --> 00:35:27,870
Yeah.

541
00:35:27,870 --> 00:35:32,480
[? --after ?] the O, so it
sounds like SchÅ¶nfeld when you

542
00:35:32,480 --> 00:35:33,850
try to pronounce it.

543
00:35:33,850 --> 00:35:35,210
Yeah.

544
00:35:35,210 --> 00:35:38,640
Now-- OK.

545
00:35:38,640 --> 00:35:41,970
So as you're growing
up and you are--

546
00:35:41,970 --> 00:35:43,740
and I'm talking now
just a little bit

547
00:35:43,740 --> 00:35:46,160
in the post-war years.

548
00:35:46,160 --> 00:35:50,960
You-- do you know your
two aunts in Budapest?

549
00:35:50,960 --> 00:35:54,520
Are they part of
your early life?

550
00:35:54,520 --> 00:35:55,780
Yes, they were.

551
00:35:55,780 --> 00:35:56,890
OK.

552
00:35:56,890 --> 00:36:02,290
And the American aunt
and uncle, is there--

553
00:36:02,290 --> 00:36:06,310
did you have correspondence with
them as you were growing up,

554
00:36:06,310 --> 00:36:08,820
or any knowledge of them?

555
00:36:08,820 --> 00:36:19,610
Well, I didn't correspond them

until probably the late '70s.

556
00:36:19,610 --> 00:36:23,540
Actually, I'm not even
sure that I directly

557
00:36:23,540 --> 00:36:29,000
corresponded with them, other
than sending and receiving

558
00:36:29,000 --> 00:36:30,311
birthday cards.

559
00:36:30,311 --> 00:36:30,811
Mm-hmm.

560
00:36:30,811 --> 00:36:33,810

561
00:36:33,810 --> 00:36:38,850
But my mother was constant
communication with them,

562
00:36:38,850 --> 00:36:45,390
specifically around
1946 after the war

563
00:36:45,390 --> 00:36:51,940
when we wanted to immigrate
to the United States.

564
00:36:51,940 --> 00:36:57,780
And my aunt and uncle
were the sponsors,

565
00:36:57,780 --> 00:37:02,760
and so they had to figure
out all kinds of things,

566
00:37:02,760 --> 00:37:08,520
how to get papers and proofs
and certificates and tickets

567

00:37:08,520 --> 00:37:11,030
and everything else.

568

00:37:11,030 --> 00:37:16,280
And why is it that you did
not leave Hungary in 1946?

569

00:37:16,280 --> 00:37:22,130
No, because we had
a Hungarian passport

570

00:37:22,130 --> 00:37:25,490
which would have allowed
us to leave the country,

571

00:37:25,490 --> 00:37:29,190
but we didn't have
an American visa.

572

00:37:29,190 --> 00:37:36,300
As you know there was
a quota system and just

573

00:37:36,300 --> 00:37:39,240
a certain number of
people were allowed

574

00:37:39,240 --> 00:37:44,080
to come to the United
States, even after the war.

575

00:37:44,080 --> 00:37:49,700
And, of course, those quotas
filled up very quickly,

576

00:37:49,700 --> 00:37:55,120
especially survivors
who lived in camps

577

00:37:55,120 --> 00:38:03,550
after the war was over, and
they wanted to rejoin to family.

578

00:38:03,550 --> 00:38:09,030

So we were waiting
for our American visa

579

00:38:09,030 --> 00:38:14,850

when in 1949, the Hungarian
Communist Party took over

580

00:38:14,850 --> 00:38:17,930

the government and
closed the borders,

581

00:38:17,930 --> 00:38:22,210

so our immigration
never happened.

582

00:38:22,210 --> 00:38:23,640

I see.

583

00:38:23,640 --> 00:38:28,920

So it was really
an American block.

584

00:38:28,920 --> 00:38:31,650

I won't say an
American rejection,

585

00:38:31,650 --> 00:38:37,350

but it was not enough
places for the demand.

586

00:38:37,350 --> 00:38:40,050

The supply did not
meet the demand.

587

00:38:40,050 --> 00:38:41,170

Yeah, correct.

588

00:38:41,170 --> 00:38:46,020

The same quota
which prevented us

589

00:38:46,020 --> 00:38:53,540
from coming to the United
States helped my uncle Lester,

590
00:38:53,540 --> 00:38:57,740
who came in 1941
when it was really

591
00:38:57,740 --> 00:39:03,665
hard to get out from Europe
and get into the United States.

592
00:39:03,665 --> 00:39:10,520
But because his family were
moving from Ungvár to other

593
00:39:10,520 --> 00:39:15,800
places when he was born,
and I am not sure what city,

594
00:39:15,800 --> 00:39:19,430
but that city was
Czechoslovakia.

595
00:39:19,430 --> 00:39:23,080
So he came to the US
under a Czech quota?

596
00:39:23,080 --> 00:39:24,050
Exactly.

597
00:39:24,050 --> 00:39:24,590
I see.

598
00:39:24,590 --> 00:39:29,960
And, [? of course, ?] the
Czech quota was not filled.

599
00:39:29,960 --> 00:39:31,760
At that time, the--

600
00:39:31,760 --> 00:39:35,300
Czechoslovakia was

a thriving country

601
00:39:35,300 --> 00:39:38,720
and Jews weren't
discriminated against.

602
00:39:38,720 --> 00:39:39,630
Yeah.

603
00:39:39,630 --> 00:39:45,470
So he got on the top of
the list very easily,

604
00:39:45,470 --> 00:39:50,780
and he was able to leave
Europe just the last minute.

605
00:39:50,780 --> 00:39:53,180
So when-- but he was not in--

606
00:39:53,180 --> 00:39:56,840
the borders of
Czechoslovakia in 1941?

607
00:39:56,840 --> 00:39:57,440
Correct.

608
00:39:57,440 --> 00:40:00,240
He was living in
Budapest, number one.

609
00:40:00,240 --> 00:40:00,740
OK.

610
00:40:00,740 --> 00:40:05,270
He was conscripted into
forced labor battalion,

611
00:40:05,270 --> 00:40:07,490
just like my father.

612
00:40:07,490 --> 00:40:15,620

And one day when he was released
for a visit back to Budapest

613
00:40:15,620 --> 00:40:18,620
to his family, he
never went back.

614
00:40:18,620 --> 00:40:24,210
He used his passport
and left the country.

615
00:40:24,210 --> 00:40:25,800
Wow.

616
00:40:25,800 --> 00:40:29,670
What a smart man that
he could have done that.

617
00:40:29,670 --> 00:40:33,000
Not only smart, but
he was very brave.

618
00:40:33,000 --> 00:40:35,410
Number one, he
deserted the army.

619
00:40:35,410 --> 00:40:35,910
Yeah.

620
00:40:35,910 --> 00:40:41,730
Number two, he had to travel
through Nazi-occupied Europe

621
00:40:41,730 --> 00:40:46,410
to get all the way
to Portugal to catch

622
00:40:46,410 --> 00:40:49,920
a ship which left for New York.

623
00:40:49,920 --> 00:40:56,370
And he traveled through Nazi
Germany and Nazi-occupied

624
00:40:56,370 --> 00:41:02,355
France and Spain,
but he got here.

625
00:41:02,355 --> 00:41:04,810
That's actually quite amazing.

626
00:41:04,810 --> 00:41:09,690
I have interviewed many people
who came to the United States,

627
00:41:09,690 --> 00:41:12,660
some as late as
1941, though that's

628
00:41:12,660 --> 00:41:16,770
rare, but of those
people none of them

629
00:41:16,770 --> 00:41:20,460
had been in a forced
labor battalion, you know?

630
00:41:20,460 --> 00:41:23,730
It was-- those people who
came were successfully

631
00:41:23,730 --> 00:41:27,780
able to evade such things.

632
00:41:27,780 --> 00:41:30,810
There might have been--
if they were from Germany,

633
00:41:30,810 --> 00:41:34,020
some experience
after Kristallnacht

634
00:41:34,020 --> 00:41:38,730
in a concentration
camp for a week or two,

635

00:41:38,730 --> 00:41:42,450

but generally there
were fewer people

636

00:41:42,450 --> 00:41:44,550

who came to the
US who had already

637

00:41:44,550 --> 00:41:49,050

felt on their own backs
what these policies were.

638

00:41:49,050 --> 00:41:50,280

They knew of them.

639

00:41:50,280 --> 00:41:52,830

They suspected they're
coming on the way,

640

00:41:52,830 --> 00:41:55,470

and that's what
propelled them to leave.

641

00:41:55,470 --> 00:41:58,620

But this is highly unusual.

642

00:41:58,620 --> 00:42:03,330

For clarification, the
forced labor battalions,

643

00:42:03,330 --> 00:42:07,950

which were set up for
Jews, were specifically

644

00:42:07,950 --> 00:42:09,730

a Hungarian institution.

645

00:42:09,730 --> 00:42:14,200

So-- in no other country
used the Jews in that way.

646

00:42:14,200 --> 00:42:17,250

So the Jews who were
persecuted, they

647
00:42:17,250 --> 00:42:23,040
were arrested and sent to
camps immediately from where

648
00:42:23,040 --> 00:42:25,740
they could not leave.

649
00:42:25,740 --> 00:42:29,770
But those who had
waited to be deported,

650
00:42:29,770 --> 00:42:33,010
they found their way
out of the country,

651
00:42:33,010 --> 00:42:36,690
so that's just
for clarification.

652
00:42:36,690 --> 00:42:38,820
Well, I'm glad you
clarified that.

653
00:42:38,820 --> 00:42:44,460
And this is a very unusual
circumstance for Hungary

654
00:42:44,460 --> 00:42:48,195
in the sense that there
is a common belief,

655
00:42:48,195 --> 00:42:51,750
and I've had people also
who are from Hungary

656
00:42:51,750 --> 00:42:55,410
who survived who testified,
Jewish survivors who say,

657
00:42:55,410 --> 00:42:59,790

we didn't know it was
so bad until 1944.

658
00:42:59,790 --> 00:43:02,700
Sometimes, they would
get word from Poland,

659
00:43:02,700 --> 00:43:06,540
or somebody who had escaped from
Poland who comes into Hungary

660
00:43:06,540 --> 00:43:08,400
and tells them
things and they don't

661
00:43:08,400 --> 00:43:11,310
know if they should believe
it, if that person is making it

662
00:43:11,310 --> 00:43:14,700
up, or so on.

663
00:43:14,700 --> 00:43:19,560
So there is this general
feeling that Hungarian Jews

664
00:43:19,560 --> 00:43:26,070
were spared these types
of horrific experiences.

665
00:43:26,070 --> 00:43:28,590
But at the same time,
what you are talking

666
00:43:28,590 --> 00:43:30,870
about in the forced
labor battalions

667
00:43:30,870 --> 00:43:33,400
was going on at the same time.

668
00:43:33,400 --> 00:43:36,720
So it was going on before 1944.

669
00:43:36,720 --> 00:43:40,200
However, not implemented
directly through Germany

670
00:43:40,200 --> 00:43:44,340
but directly through the
Hungarian authorities.

671
00:43:44,340 --> 00:43:48,330
All these are facts.

672
00:43:48,330 --> 00:43:52,970
But a couple of more
facts, if I may say.

673
00:43:52,970 --> 00:43:54,170
Please.

674
00:43:54,170 --> 00:43:56,360
If I'm saying this
in a wrong way,

675
00:43:56,360 --> 00:43:58,460
if I'm not getting context--

676
00:43:58,460 --> 00:44:01,240
Everything you said
was the right way.

677
00:44:01,240 --> 00:44:01,740
OK.

678
00:44:01,740 --> 00:44:06,980
But here are a couple
of other facts,

679
00:44:06,980 --> 00:44:09,800
namely that
antisemitism in Hungary

680
00:44:09,800 --> 00:44:16,410

was as bad as in
Nazi-occupied Europe.

681
00:44:16,410 --> 00:44:21,350
Jews were kicked out from
their job, like my father was.

682
00:44:21,350 --> 00:44:26,390
Jews were not able
to marry non-Jews.

683
00:44:26,390 --> 00:44:30,560
Their things were confiscated.

684
00:44:30,560 --> 00:44:36,140
Really, until 1944, March
19, when Nazi Germany

685
00:44:36,140 --> 00:44:41,210
occupied Hungary, Hungarian--
most of the Hungarian Jews

686
00:44:41,210 --> 00:44:42,830
survived.

687
00:44:42,830 --> 00:44:45,230
It wasn't an ideal situation.

688
00:44:45,230 --> 00:44:49,640
They were already discriminated
against in many ways,

689
00:44:49,640 --> 00:44:54,440
but they survived until
the Nazis came in.

690
00:44:54,440 --> 00:45:00,380
And in a matter of three
months or four months,

691
00:45:00,380 --> 00:45:02,810
three fourths of
the Hungarian Jews

692
00:45:02,810 --> 00:45:06,800
were shipped to the
concentration camps and died.

693
00:45:06,800 --> 00:45:07,490
Yeah.

694
00:45:07,490 --> 00:45:12,740
So that's, again, that's
the other side of the coin.

695
00:45:12,740 --> 00:45:13,790
Mm-hmm.

696
00:45:13,790 --> 00:45:20,210
Even until 1944,
March 19, 40,000

697
00:45:20,210 --> 00:45:25,070
Jews died because they
were in the forced labor

698
00:45:25,070 --> 00:45:31,490
battalions, because they were
taken to the Soviet Union

699
00:45:31,490 --> 00:45:34,460
to fight against the Russians.

700
00:45:34,460 --> 00:45:37,130
And out of the 100--

701
00:45:37,130 --> 00:45:40,340
approximately 100,000
Hungarians who

702
00:45:40,340 --> 00:45:45,080
served in those labor
battalions, 40,000 never

703
00:45:45,080 --> 00:45:46,160

came back.

704

00:45:46,160 --> 00:45:48,790

Well, that's a huge percentage.

705

00:45:48,790 --> 00:45:50,980

That's a very high percentage.

706

00:45:50,980 --> 00:45:55,930

But, again, compared with the overall Jewish population,

707

00:45:55,930 --> 00:46:01,930

which included at that time by the occupied territories

708

00:46:01,930 --> 00:46:06,640

or reclaimed territories from the surrounding countries,

709

00:46:06,640 --> 00:46:10,540

there was approximately 800,000 Jews.

710

00:46:10,540 --> 00:46:16,330

So 40,000, it's a relatively small number

711

00:46:16,330 --> 00:46:24,170

until after 1944 when more than 600,000 Jews perished.

712

00:46:24,170 --> 00:46:26,090

Yeah.

713

00:46:26,090 --> 00:46:32,800

So I want to go back to your father for a moment.

714

00:46:32,800 --> 00:46:34,840

What I'm trying to get a sense of

715

00:46:34,840 --> 00:46:41,000

is the quantity of
documentation that you have.

716

00:46:41,000 --> 00:46:44,590

And so you have two letters
that he wrote to your mother

717

00:46:44,590 --> 00:46:45,624

in the 19--

718

00:46:45,624 --> 00:46:47,900

in 1929.

719

00:46:47,900 --> 00:46:51,490

And you have a number
of cards that he wrote

720

00:46:51,490 --> 00:46:54,340

when he was in forced labor.

721

00:46:54,340 --> 00:46:56,950

Do you know how many this
was? was it very few?

722

00:46:56,950 --> 00:46:57,790

Was it a lot?

723

00:46:57,790 --> 00:46:59,820

Did you count it up?

724

00:46:59,820 --> 00:47:05,040

I actually haven't counted,
but I would say anywhere

725

00:47:05,040 --> 00:47:09,820

between 30 and 40.

726

00:47:09,820 --> 00:47:11,950

Do you know whether
he was limited

727

00:47:11,950 --> 00:47:14,590
to how many he could write?

728

00:47:14,590 --> 00:47:16,510
Correct.

729

00:47:16,510 --> 00:47:21,110
From the dates-- sometimes
he put the date on the card.

730

00:47:21,110 --> 00:47:25,780
Sometimes I got the date
from the post stamp--

731

00:47:25,780 --> 00:47:27,400
Yeah.

732

00:47:27,400 --> 00:47:29,300
--the post office stamp.

733

00:47:29,300 --> 00:47:29,800
Yeah.

734

00:47:29,800 --> 00:47:32,550

735

00:47:32,550 --> 00:47:37,920
He wrote maybe one a
week, sometimes two.

736

00:47:37,920 --> 00:47:49,428
And actually the cards are
going from 1940 to end of 1942.

737

00:47:49,428 --> 00:47:50,730
OK.

738

00:47:50,730 --> 00:47:56,620
And approximately one a week.

739

00:47:56,620 --> 00:47:57,120

OK.

740
00:47:57,120 --> 00:48:00,230

741
00:48:00,230 --> 00:48:05,540
So this builds up to my next
question is, through the paper,

742
00:48:05,540 --> 00:48:08,140
through the
documents, do you have

743
00:48:08,140 --> 00:48:13,120
any sense of what kind of
a person your father was?

744
00:48:13,120 --> 00:48:15,190
Yes.

745
00:48:15,190 --> 00:48:26,190
Number one, I have
another written document

746
00:48:26,190 --> 00:48:28,240
from my father.

747
00:48:28,240 --> 00:48:32,730
He was an outdoor man,
and from the pictures

748
00:48:32,730 --> 00:48:35,250
I know that they were--

749
00:48:35,250 --> 00:48:36,270
they went camping.

750
00:48:36,270 --> 00:48:40,300
They went kayaking.

751
00:48:40,300 --> 00:48:42,760
They went skiing.

752
00:48:42,760 --> 00:48:47,380
One year, he took a
ski trip to Austria.

753
00:48:47,380 --> 00:48:48,292
Mm-hmm.

754
00:48:48,292 --> 00:48:56,460
And he wrote a diary, typed it
out, and he actually bonded it.

755
00:48:56,460 --> 00:48:59,580
And it has a hard
cover, and it was

756
00:48:59,580 --> 00:49:03,540
illustrated with pictures
and all the stories

757
00:49:03,540 --> 00:49:06,930
they had from the ski trip.

758
00:49:06,930 --> 00:49:13,680
He was part of a tourist
club with my mom,

759
00:49:13,680 --> 00:49:23,440
and they had regular tours or
trips during the year, summer

760
00:49:23,440 --> 00:49:26,230
or winter, it didn't
really matter.

761
00:49:26,230 --> 00:49:29,680
And most of the
friends you knew about

762
00:49:29,680 --> 00:49:34,930
or mentioned in the
documents I have,

763

00:49:34,930 --> 00:49:37,600
they were mostly Jewish people.

764

00:49:37,600 --> 00:49:39,460
I don't know if they Jew--

765

00:49:39,460 --> 00:49:43,060
the club was
specifically for Jews.

766

00:49:43,060 --> 00:49:45,340
Mm-hmm.

767

00:49:45,340 --> 00:49:50,830
I think without exception I
know about, they were Jewish.

768

00:49:50,830 --> 00:49:51,620
I see.

769

00:49:51,620 --> 00:49:52,120
I see.

770

00:49:52,120 --> 00:49:55,480
And at the time and
place, it's probably

771

00:49:55,480 --> 00:50:00,190
Jews weren't allowed to join
non-Jewish clubs and vice

772

00:50:00,190 --> 00:50:01,890
versa.

773

00:50:01,890 --> 00:50:07,560
And were these trips within
the borders of Hungary?

774

00:50:07,560 --> 00:50:09,360
No.

775

00:50:09,360 --> 00:50:13,300

Austria was an
independent country,

776

00:50:13,300 --> 00:50:16,290

and so they went there.

777

00:50:16,290 --> 00:50:21,390

They went, I believe, hiking
to the Tatra Mountains,

778

00:50:21,390 --> 00:50:24,480

which at that time was
part of Czechoslovakia.

779

00:50:24,480 --> 00:50:27,130

Now it's part of Slovakia.

780

00:50:27,130 --> 00:50:27,870

Yeah.

781

00:50:27,870 --> 00:50:30,090

OK.

782

00:50:30,090 --> 00:50:33,930

But it was, one could
say, within the borders

783

00:50:33,930 --> 00:50:38,100

of the old
Austro-Hungarian Empire.

784

00:50:38,100 --> 00:50:38,790

Yeah.

785

00:50:38,790 --> 00:50:40,450

You may say that.

786

00:50:40,450 --> 00:50:42,690

OK.

787

00:50:42,690 --> 00:50:45,940

Simply because, and
I may be wrong here,

788
00:50:45,940 --> 00:50:48,330
but when I hear of
tourism, of course

789
00:50:48,330 --> 00:50:52,440
I think of it as from the
perspective that I have known,

790
00:50:52,440 --> 00:50:54,940
and that's an
American perspective.

791
00:50:54,940 --> 00:50:56,730
And when I think
of tourism, I think

792
00:50:56,730 --> 00:51:00,870
of international tourism and
one that crosses continents.

793
00:51:00,870 --> 00:51:02,670
Because the world
has grown smaller,

794
00:51:02,670 --> 00:51:06,600
and we have international
trips much more.

795
00:51:06,600 --> 00:51:09,930
But in those days,
it was different.

796
00:51:09,930 --> 00:51:16,860
In a sense, yes and no, because
Hungary is a small country.

797
00:51:16,860 --> 00:51:22,560
So you-- that time, you took
the train and in three hours

798

00:51:22,560 --> 00:51:24,670
you were in Vienna, Austria.

799
00:51:24,670 --> 00:51:25,330
True.

800
00:51:25,330 --> 00:51:25,830
True.

801
00:51:25,830 --> 00:51:31,570
In five or six hours, you were
in Prague, Czechoslovakia.

802
00:51:31,570 --> 00:51:35,400
And so people did travel.

803
00:51:35,400 --> 00:51:37,590
They weren't
tourists, in a sense.

804
00:51:37,590 --> 00:51:41,580
They didn't go to
cities and they didn't

805
00:51:41,580 --> 00:51:44,670
go to see museums and churches.

806
00:51:44,670 --> 00:51:49,080
They went hiking and skiing.

807
00:51:49,080 --> 00:51:50,710
So they--

808
00:51:50,710 --> 00:51:53,430
They were more athletic.

809
00:51:53,430 --> 00:51:55,000
Yeah.

810
00:51:55,000 --> 00:51:55,810
OK.

811

00:51:55,810 --> 00:51:59,470
And that diary, which is quite
a commemoration of such a trip,

812

00:51:59,470 --> 00:52:02,500
it meant that it was something
that was important to him.

813

00:52:02,500 --> 00:52:05,050

814

00:52:05,050 --> 00:52:06,070
Yes.

815

00:52:06,070 --> 00:52:11,710
And going back to the original
question, from the diary,

816

00:52:11,710 --> 00:52:15,130
from the pictures,
from the cards,

817

00:52:15,130 --> 00:52:26,210
I know that he loved nature,
and he loved everything outdoor.

818

00:52:26,210 --> 00:52:33,130
So that's one thing I know
about him from the documents.

819

00:52:33,130 --> 00:52:40,560
And, of course, I know how much
he loved his mom and father.

820

00:52:40,560 --> 00:52:46,120
I know how much he
loved my mom, his wife,

821

00:52:46,120 --> 00:52:48,460
and how much he loved me.

822

00:52:48,460 --> 00:52:50,340

Oh.

823

00:52:50,340 --> 00:52:56,925

All of the cards he
sent after I was born,

824

00:52:56,925 --> 00:53:01,880

are addressed to Grunwald
Arpadne and Grunwald

825

00:53:01,880 --> 00:53:07,670

Petike, which is the diminutive
for Peter in Hungarian.

826

00:53:07,670 --> 00:53:10,190

827

00:53:10,190 --> 00:53:13,010

Was-- was there a
big hole in your life

828

00:53:13,010 --> 00:53:14,390

because he wasn't in it?

829

00:53:14,390 --> 00:53:18,760

830

00:53:18,760 --> 00:53:25,390

I heard this question in
various forms in the past,

831

00:53:25,390 --> 00:53:27,370

and it's very hard to explain.

832

00:53:27,370 --> 00:53:29,920

833

00:53:29,920 --> 00:53:31,600

If you don't have something--

834

00:53:31,600 --> 00:53:33,355

I didn't lose my father.

835
00:53:33,355 --> 00:53:36,910
It didn't happen that
I had a father one day

836
00:53:36,910 --> 00:53:41,290
and then I didn't
have the next day.

837
00:53:41,290 --> 00:53:43,580
I never knew him.

838
00:53:43,580 --> 00:53:50,130
So the hole wasn't bad,
as far as I can remember,

839
00:53:50,130 --> 00:53:54,510
because I didn't know
that there should

840
00:53:54,510 --> 00:53:57,480
be a father in our apartment.

841
00:53:57,480 --> 00:54:05,800
Of course, I was three years
old or 4 and 1/2 years old

842
00:54:05,800 --> 00:54:09,430
when we were liberated.

843
00:54:09,430 --> 00:54:11,290
Mm-hmm.

844
00:54:11,290 --> 00:54:15,890
So my mom tried to protect
me as much as possible.

845
00:54:15,890 --> 00:54:20,830
And I don't know
when she started

846
00:54:20,830 --> 00:54:25,000

to talk about my father,
but obviously, number one,

847
00:54:25,000 --> 00:54:30,700
in general, people
don't remember anything

848
00:54:30,700 --> 00:54:32,350
before age three.

849
00:54:32,350 --> 00:54:36,490
There are some exemptions,
but in general.

850
00:54:36,490 --> 00:54:37,960
Yes, that's true.

851
00:54:37,960 --> 00:54:43,525
And also there was another
fact that the families we were

852
00:54:43,525 --> 00:54:49,370
in touch with in various
[? forms, ?] they were Jewish

853
00:54:49,370 --> 00:54:52,010
families and the
fathers [? were ?] dead.

854
00:54:52,010 --> 00:54:56,960
So I didn't see fathers
in other families.

855
00:54:56,960 --> 00:55:00,260
So, again, the hole wasn't bad.

856
00:55:00,260 --> 00:55:04,000
It's really just
with hindsight that I

857
00:55:04,000 --> 00:55:08,560
think about how I
would have turned out

858
00:55:08,560 --> 00:55:15,820
had my father lived and came
back from the forced labor

859
00:55:15,820 --> 00:55:17,080
battalion.

860
00:55:17,080 --> 00:55:22,820
It just-- imagination.

861
00:55:22,820 --> 00:55:27,560
I think I am
healthy, emotionally,

862
00:55:27,560 --> 00:55:36,280
spiritually so that's my
answer to the quote unquote

863
00:55:36,280 --> 00:55:39,280
hole in my life.

864
00:55:39,280 --> 00:55:42,610
Again, knowing what
I know about him,

865
00:55:42,610 --> 00:55:45,175
he [? would ?] have
been a terrific father.

866
00:55:45,175 --> 00:55:47,830

867
00:55:47,830 --> 00:55:53,150
He would have been the one who
would have taught me how to ski

868
00:55:53,150 --> 00:55:55,660
or swim or kayak.

869
00:55:55,660 --> 00:56:00,140
I got into all of

those things on my own,

870
00:56:00,140 --> 00:56:02,750
with later on my stepfather.

871
00:56:02,750 --> 00:56:07,800
But-- so I don't
think I'm missing out

872
00:56:07,800 --> 00:56:11,970
what I could have
learned from my father,

873
00:56:11,970 --> 00:56:20,110
but definitely the emotional
support wasn't bad.

874
00:56:20,110 --> 00:56:21,310
That's--

875
00:56:21,310 --> 00:56:23,480
Well, that's what-- it is a--

876
00:56:23,480 --> 00:56:25,460
thank you for that answer.

877
00:56:25,460 --> 00:56:26,810
Thank you for that answer.

878
00:56:26,810 --> 00:56:28,800
It is a tough question.

879
00:56:28,800 --> 00:56:31,100
I knew that it was
a tough question,

880
00:56:31,100 --> 00:56:37,190
and I asked it because
I kind of wanted

881
00:56:37,190 --> 00:56:39,680
to have a sense for

myself, but also

882
00:56:39,680 --> 00:56:44,030
for all those who are going to
be listening to our interview

883
00:56:44,030 --> 00:56:47,930
is, what does that mean?

884
00:56:47,930 --> 00:56:50,820
How do we count up losses?

885
00:56:50,820 --> 00:56:56,640
And what kind of ramifications
do they have in a person's life

886
00:56:56,640 --> 00:56:59,790
and how is that felt?

887
00:56:59,790 --> 00:57:01,380
How is that understood?

888
00:57:01,380 --> 00:57:04,560
How much does it last?

889
00:57:04,560 --> 00:57:08,610
I mean, it's beautiful
to know that he loved you

890
00:57:08,610 --> 00:57:10,110
and that you knew that.

891
00:57:10,110 --> 00:57:12,510
In some ways, that's
the thing that we

892
00:57:12,510 --> 00:57:14,580
need to know about
our parents the most

893
00:57:14,580 --> 00:57:16,110
is that we were loved by them.

894
00:57:16,110 --> 00:57:18,850

895
00:57:18,850 --> 00:57:23,040
And that is, to me, that sounds
like a gift that comes through,

896
00:57:23,040 --> 00:57:27,630
even if that-- if you never
had the physical presence

897
00:57:27,630 --> 00:57:30,480
of the person.

898
00:57:30,480 --> 00:57:35,490
But I know it's personal, and
I thank you for being so open

899
00:57:35,490 --> 00:57:38,920
and addressing that.

900
00:57:38,920 --> 00:57:40,960
So how shall I go on now?

901
00:57:40,960 --> 00:57:43,920

902
00:57:43,920 --> 00:57:48,260
Why don't we go towards
some of the chronology.

903
00:57:48,260 --> 00:57:53,380
So you were born in March 1941.

904
00:57:53,380 --> 00:57:57,710
Your father by this time is
in a forced labor battalion.

905
00:57:57,710 --> 00:58:00,380
And what does your
mother do, and what

906
00:58:00,380 --> 00:58:02,240
did he do before he was taken?

907
00:58:02,240 --> 00:58:03,605
How did he support the family?

908
00:58:03,605 --> 00:58:06,140

909
00:58:06,140 --> 00:58:14,180
My father was an office manager
at the publishing company

910
00:58:14,180 --> 00:58:16,370
in Budapest.

911
00:58:16,370 --> 00:58:22,210
Interestingly, it was called
Franklin Publishing Company.

912
00:58:22,210 --> 00:58:28,180
He was a clerk.

913
00:58:28,180 --> 00:58:35,170
At one point, he was the
treasurer of that company,

914
00:58:35,170 --> 00:58:37,810
not necessarily
at the top level,

915
00:58:37,810 --> 00:58:46,180
but I don't know how to
translate into English what

916
00:58:46,180 --> 00:58:47,410
his position was.

917
00:58:47,410 --> 00:58:57,360
But he was kind of the person
who was accountable to--

918
00:58:57,360 --> 00:58:59,570
accountable.

919
00:58:59,570 --> 00:59:00,800
sorry.

920
00:59:00,800 --> 00:59:07,550
He was in charge of financial
matters, especially cash flow.

921
00:59:07,550 --> 00:59:08,720
Mm-hmm.

922
00:59:08,720 --> 00:59:12,320
People needed the
cash, they went to him.

923
00:59:12,320 --> 00:59:20,210
And they paid-- whenever
they had to pay with cash,

924
00:59:20,210 --> 00:59:22,040
they paid to him.

925
00:59:22,040 --> 00:59:26,510
And he did all the
financial recordings.

926
00:59:26,510 --> 00:59:28,890
That's [? what ?] I understand.

927
00:59:28,890 --> 00:59:33,150
Again, he couldn't
tell me about it.

928
00:59:33,150 --> 00:59:36,010
I didn't talk to my
mom specifically.

929
00:59:36,010 --> 00:59:40,090
So just from the

documents I have,

930

00:59:40,090 --> 00:59:44,900

I know that he worked
for the company.

931

00:59:44,900 --> 00:59:56,040

He was paid about 220 pengÅ‘,
which was a kind of medium

932

00:59:56,040 --> 00:59:57,900

salary at that time.

933

00:59:57,900 --> 01:00:03,780

They were able to, on that
money plus what my mom earned,

934

01:00:03,780 --> 01:00:11,120

to have a nice apartment in the
inner part of the city, which

935

01:00:11,120 --> 01:00:13,160

was the good part at that time.

936

01:00:13,160 --> 01:00:15,950

And it's, again, the good part.

937

01:00:15,950 --> 01:00:19,910

That's where my mom
set up her shop.

938

01:00:19,910 --> 01:00:25,430

She was trained as a
milliner, a female hat maker.

939

01:00:25,430 --> 01:00:27,080

Oh, OK.

940

01:00:27,080 --> 01:00:32,570

And in the 1930s, it
was a very good job.

941

01:00:32,570 --> 01:00:39,330
Hats were in fashion,
and she did a great job.

942
01:00:39,330 --> 01:00:48,330
So even after my father
was fired from his job,

943
01:00:48,330 --> 01:00:55,280
she was able to support
us from the money she

944
01:00:55,280 --> 01:00:56,900
made as a hat maker.

945
01:00:56,900 --> 01:01:01,870
And actually, when my
father was taken away,

946
01:01:01,870 --> 01:01:06,760
she was the breadwinner
plus mother.

947
01:01:06,760 --> 01:01:11,240
She hired a nanny
and [INAUDIBLE] could

948
01:01:11,240 --> 01:01:14,230
afford the nanny
who took care of me

949
01:01:14,230 --> 01:01:16,870
while she was in the shop.

950
01:01:16,870 --> 01:01:20,210
And the shop was in our
apartment, actually.

951
01:01:20,210 --> 01:01:21,356
Mm-hmm.

952
01:01:21,356 --> 01:01:24,640
One of the room was

set aside, and that's

953

01:01:24,640 --> 01:01:26,420
where the customers came.

954

01:01:26,420 --> 01:01:28,260
That's where she made the hats.

955

01:01:28,260 --> 01:01:33,210
It's-- you don't need a
lot of equipment for that.

956

01:01:33,210 --> 01:01:34,800
But--

957

01:01:34,800 --> 01:01:36,000
What was the address?

958

01:01:36,000 --> 01:01:39,030
Do you remember the
address of this apartment?

959

01:01:39,030 --> 01:01:39,600
Yeah.

960

01:01:39,600 --> 01:01:42,540
I exactly remember.

961

01:01:42,540 --> 01:01:49,800
It was Budapest
Petőfi Sándor Utca 10.

962

01:01:49,800 --> 01:01:50,340
OK.

963

01:01:50,340 --> 01:01:53,090
How would I spell
the street name?

964

01:01:53,090 --> 01:02:03,540
The street name is
P-E-T-O with umlaut, F-I.

965
01:02:03,540 --> 01:02:05,400
OK.

966
01:02:05,400 --> 01:02:09,000
The second word is SÁjndor, S--

967
01:02:09,000 --> 01:02:10,220
OK, so--

968
01:02:10,220 --> 01:02:12,720
--with an apostrophe over it--

969
01:02:12,720 --> 01:02:13,560
Mm-hmm.

970
01:02:13,560 --> 01:02:23,270
--N-D-O-R. PetÁ'fi SÁjndor is
the most famous Hungarian poet,

971
01:02:23,270 --> 01:02:26,730
and it was named after him.

972
01:02:26,730 --> 01:02:30,766
And we lived on that number 10.

973
01:02:30,766 --> 01:02:32,630
OK.

974
01:02:32,630 --> 01:02:36,180
Was it an apartment building?

975
01:02:36,180 --> 01:02:38,820
It's an apartment building.

976
01:02:38,820 --> 01:02:47,370
The apartment was built
in 1898, I believe.

977
01:02:47,370 --> 01:02:52,480
Know it because there is

a mosaic at the ground

978

01:02:52,480 --> 01:02:56,970

floor when you came in
at the main entrance,

979

01:02:56,970 --> 01:03:02,700

so everybody knows when
the building was built.

980

01:03:02,700 --> 01:03:04,990

And the building is still there.

981

01:03:04,990 --> 01:03:09,150

It's still in our
family's possession.

982

01:03:09,150 --> 01:03:11,100

Really?

983

01:03:11,100 --> 01:03:11,880

Really.

984

01:03:11,880 --> 01:03:12,540

Wow.

985

01:03:12,540 --> 01:03:15,170

That's so unusual.

986

01:03:15,170 --> 01:03:20,430

It's a long story,
but if we have time

987

01:03:20,430 --> 01:03:24,180

I can tell, or
later on when we get

988

01:03:24,180 --> 01:03:26,790

to a later part of the story.

989

01:03:26,790 --> 01:03:30,360

But anyway, that's where my

parents lived at the time

990
01:03:30,360 --> 01:03:31,800
when I was born.

991
01:03:31,800 --> 01:03:34,290
Did they own the
apartment, or did they

992
01:03:34,290 --> 01:03:36,430
own the whole building?

993
01:03:36,430 --> 01:03:37,090
Oh, no.

994
01:03:37,090 --> 01:03:40,930
The building is a
four story building

995
01:03:40,930 --> 01:03:47,740
with 15 feet high ceilings
in the apartments.

996
01:03:47,740 --> 01:03:54,070
It was a good old fashioned
European apartments

997
01:03:54,070 --> 01:03:58,050
are approximately--

998
01:03:58,050 --> 01:04:06,720
I would say at every level there
are about 40 to 50 apartments.

999
01:04:06,720 --> 01:04:08,100
Mm-hmm.

1000
01:04:08,100 --> 01:04:12,780
And it's very hard to condemn,
because originally they

1001
01:04:12,780 --> 01:04:16,530

were one, two, three
bedroom apartments.

1002
01:04:16,530 --> 01:04:23,340
But after the war was over and
many buildings were bombed out,

1003
01:04:23,340 --> 01:04:29,370
the government forced families
who had more than one bedroom

1004
01:04:29,370 --> 01:04:31,560
to take in other families.

1005
01:04:31,560 --> 01:04:32,590
Yes.

1006
01:04:32,590 --> 01:04:37,620
And so sometimes strangers,
sometimes who were lucky,

1007
01:04:37,620 --> 01:04:39,480
family members occupied.

1008
01:04:39,480 --> 01:04:43,980
But there was a quota
for number per apartment.

1009
01:04:43,980 --> 01:04:46,980
And also, the big
apartments were broken up

1010
01:04:46,980 --> 01:04:54,825
to two apartments, so
approximately 40 to 50.

1011
01:04:54,825 --> 01:04:56,565
OK.

1012
01:04:56,565 --> 01:05:01,010
[INAUDIBLE] and
rented by my parents.

1013

01:05:01,010 --> 01:05:02,810

They didn't own.

1014

01:05:02,810 --> 01:05:06,770

So when you say they were
rented by your parents,

1015

01:05:06,770 --> 01:05:07,640

they didn't own it.

1016

01:05:07,640 --> 01:05:10,430

It was their
particular apartment.

1017

01:05:10,430 --> 01:05:13,370

And when you're talking about
it's still in your possession

1018

01:05:13,370 --> 01:05:18,140

today, does that mean something
as an apartment that is rented,

1019

01:05:18,140 --> 01:05:21,210

or one that is now owned?

1020

01:05:21,210 --> 01:05:21,710

No.

1021

01:05:21,710 --> 01:05:23,030

Here is what happened.

1022

01:05:23,030 --> 01:05:29,420

In 1949, the Communists
took over the government

1023

01:05:29,420 --> 01:05:34,790

and the whole economy, they
confiscated any and all

1024

01:05:34,790 --> 01:05:36,870

properties.

1025

01:05:36,870 --> 01:05:42,460

So the government
became the landlord.

1026

01:05:42,460 --> 01:05:43,210

That's right.

1027

01:05:43,210 --> 01:05:46,600

For all socialist governments,
this is pretty much common.

1028

01:05:46,600 --> 01:05:48,040

Yes.

1029

01:05:48,040 --> 01:05:51,290

Eastern European communist
socialist, I mean.

1030

01:05:51,290 --> 01:05:52,360

Yeah.

1031

01:05:52,360 --> 01:05:58,510

So we paid the rent
after it was taken.

1032

01:05:58,510 --> 01:06:01,675

I think it was owned
by a bank, usually

1033

01:06:01,675 --> 01:06:06,740

a bank owned most of
the apartment buildings.

1034

01:06:06,740 --> 01:06:10,980

And so we paid the
rent to the government,

1035

01:06:10,980 --> 01:06:15,410

which was quite
reasonable, according

1036

01:06:15,410 --> 01:06:18,530

to communist or
socialist standards.

1037
01:06:18,530 --> 01:06:19,530
Mm-hmm.

1038
01:06:19,530 --> 01:06:27,510
Then in 1989 when the
communist system collapsed,

1039
01:06:27,510 --> 01:06:32,220
the government didn't want to
take care of all the apartment

1040
01:06:32,220 --> 01:06:39,420
buildings, so they sold it
to the people who actually

1041
01:06:39,420 --> 01:06:41,670
rented those apartments.

1042
01:06:41,670 --> 01:06:42,720
Right.

1043
01:06:42,720 --> 01:06:47,400
And that was a
good deal for those

1044
01:06:47,400 --> 01:06:52,260
who were lucky enough to rent an
apartment from the government.

1045
01:06:52,260 --> 01:06:56,590
And my mom was able to buy it.

1046
01:06:56,590 --> 01:07:03,620
And this is why I am saying
now that it's in the family.

1047
01:07:03,620 --> 01:07:06,100
That's-- it's quite interesting.

1048

01:07:06,100 --> 01:07:11,110
So your mother lived her
entire life in that apartment?

1049
01:07:11,110 --> 01:07:16,120
Except when all the
Jews were forced in 1944

1050
01:07:16,120 --> 01:07:19,630
to leave their
homes and move into

1051
01:07:19,630 --> 01:07:26,620
the government-appointed,
so-called yellow-star houses

1052
01:07:26,620 --> 01:07:29,160
or the Budapest Ghetto.

1053
01:07:29,160 --> 01:07:29,820
OK.

1054
01:07:29,820 --> 01:07:30,825
So at this point--

1055
01:07:30,825 --> 01:07:33,340

1056
01:07:33,340 --> 01:07:37,140
I'll finish up my
thread about 1989.

1057
01:07:37,140 --> 01:07:41,910
But as your mother
stayed in Hungary until--

1058
01:07:41,910 --> 01:07:46,380
I mean, did she finish
your life in Hungary,

1059
01:07:46,380 --> 01:07:49,170
or did she ever come
to the United States,

1060
01:07:49,170 --> 01:07:50,390
as well, to live?

1061
01:07:50,390 --> 01:07:53,640

1062
01:07:53,640 --> 01:07:57,060
She lived for the rest
of her life in Hungary.

1063
01:07:57,060 --> 01:07:59,490
She was a Hungarian citizen.

1064
01:07:59,490 --> 01:08:04,710
She came to visit
us very frequently.

1065
01:08:04,710 --> 01:08:11,100
And she died when she
was actually visiting us.

1066
01:08:11,100 --> 01:08:13,800
She came to celebrate.

1067
01:08:13,800 --> 01:08:23,560
We invited her to celebrate her
90th birthday here, in 1997.

1068
01:08:23,560 --> 01:08:29,830
And she died in January 1998--

1069
01:08:29,830 --> 01:08:33,330
January 2, 1998.

1070
01:08:33,330 --> 01:08:36,320
She died here, and she's buried.

1071
01:08:36,320 --> 01:08:39,029
She's here in a
cemetery in Olney.

1072
01:08:39,029 --> 01:08:40,020
I see.

1073
01:08:40,020 --> 01:08:41,040
OK.

1074
01:08:41,040 --> 01:08:41,850
Thank you.

1075
01:08:41,850 --> 01:08:46,260
Thank you for filling
that, or providing

1076
01:08:46,260 --> 01:08:48,460
that piece of information.

1077
01:08:48,460 --> 01:08:52,060
So this apartment--
I'm going back to it--

1078
01:08:52,060 --> 01:08:54,720
I would take it
you wouldn't have

1079
01:08:54,720 --> 01:09:01,529
many memories, or any
memories of it before 1944.

1080
01:09:01,529 --> 01:09:02,220
No.

1081
01:09:02,220 --> 01:09:15,160
Because again we actually moved
the apartment in early 1944.

1082
01:09:15,160 --> 01:09:17,920
Well, the Germans
march in in March.

1083
01:09:17,920 --> 01:09:20,580
Was it March 9, or 11?

1084
01:09:20,580 --> 01:09:22,410
March 19.

1085
01:09:22,410 --> 01:09:23,609
It was March 19th?

1086
01:09:23,609 --> 01:09:24,479
OK.

1087
01:09:24,479 --> 01:09:28,830
And it was, I think, around
April when they forced

1088
01:09:28,830 --> 01:09:34,529
the Jews out of their apartment
and into this houses, which

1089
01:09:34,529 --> 01:09:36,930
were marked with
a Star of David.

1090
01:09:36,930 --> 01:09:40,950
Those horses were
all over Budapest.

1091
01:09:40,950 --> 01:09:45,581
You can see a map of
it if you Google it.

1092
01:09:45,581 --> 01:09:50,430
And the people who lived
in those apartments

1093
01:09:50,430 --> 01:09:53,150
and were not Jewish,
they had to move out

1094
01:09:53,150 --> 01:09:55,020
and Jews had to move in.

1095
01:09:55,020 --> 01:09:58,590
So it was like a

concentration within the city,

1096

01:09:58,590 --> 01:10:02,590

that the Jews are being
gathered in several areas,

1097

01:10:02,590 --> 01:10:04,500

but to concentrate them.

1098

01:10:04,500 --> 01:10:05,670

Correct.

1099

01:10:05,670 --> 01:10:06,780

OK.

1100

01:10:06,780 --> 01:10:11,430

And so in April 1944, your
mother has to leave her home--

1101

01:10:11,430 --> 01:10:15,530

her apartment-- with
you and move there.

1102

01:10:15,530 --> 01:10:20,490

And do you have any
memories of that?

1103

01:10:20,490 --> 01:10:20,990

Yes.

1104

01:10:20,990 --> 01:10:23,730

1105

01:10:23,730 --> 01:10:26,580

Actually, I have
a little memory,

1106

01:10:26,580 --> 01:10:34,590

because the apartment hasn't
changed since my childhood.

1107

01:10:34,590 --> 01:10:38,730

So I remember where
the furniture were.

1108
01:10:38,730 --> 01:10:42,990
Actually, the furniture,
that's a long story.

1109
01:10:42,990 --> 01:10:48,195
But furniture, my parents
bought when they got married,

1110
01:10:48,195 --> 01:10:51,000
it's still in the apartment.

1111
01:10:51,000 --> 01:10:53,170
No kidding?

1112
01:10:53,170 --> 01:10:56,020
Yeah, that's another
miraculous story.

1113
01:10:56,020 --> 01:11:01,450
Again, this building
was among the very few

1114
01:11:01,450 --> 01:11:07,450
which were not bombed out
during the war to begin with.

1115
01:11:07,450 --> 01:11:11,020
We're lucky enough
that the people who

1116
01:11:11,020 --> 01:11:15,010
moved into our apartment
when we had to move out,

1117
01:11:15,010 --> 01:11:16,900
they preserved everything.

1118
01:11:16,900 --> 01:11:20,890
And not only they
preserved it, but when

1119
01:11:20,890 --> 01:11:25,390
we were liberated
in January 1945

1120
01:11:25,390 --> 01:11:30,340
and moved back to the apartment,
or went back to the apartment

1121
01:11:30,340 --> 01:11:35,035
to reclaim it, the family agreed
that, OK, it's your apartment,

1122
01:11:35,035 --> 01:11:38,670
your furniture, we're going
to move somewhere else.

1123
01:11:38,670 --> 01:11:40,650
But not many families--

1124
01:11:40,650 --> 01:11:43,590
Jewish families--
were this lucky,

1125
01:11:43,590 --> 01:11:47,880
because some of the
apartments weren't occupied

1126
01:11:47,880 --> 01:11:52,200
by another family,
and they were looted,

1127
01:11:52,200 --> 01:11:57,260
or the owners couldn't find
anything when they went back.

1128
01:11:57,260 --> 01:12:01,220
Or it happened many
times they went back

1129
01:12:01,220 --> 01:12:05,030
and the people who moved in
said, it's not your apartment,

1130
01:12:05,030 --> 01:12:06,350
it's our apartment.

1131
01:12:06,350 --> 01:12:10,580
And they didn't let the
original owners to move in.

1132
01:12:10,580 --> 01:12:15,080
Those were the rented apartment.

1133
01:12:15,080 --> 01:12:17,950
What happened when
somebody owned it,

1134
01:12:17,950 --> 01:12:20,000
that was a different
issue, because you

1135
01:12:20,000 --> 01:12:22,190
had a legal standing.

1136
01:12:22,190 --> 01:12:26,370
But the rented apartment,
that was nothing.

1137
01:12:26,370 --> 01:12:30,660
Well, do you still remember
the name of that family?

1138
01:12:30,660 --> 01:12:31,740
Yes I do.

1139
01:12:31,740 --> 01:12:33,630
I remember the family.

1140
01:12:33,630 --> 01:12:36,800
Their name was [? Fryfogel. ?]

1141
01:12:36,800 --> 01:12:38,130
[? Fryfogel. ?]

1142
01:12:38,130 --> 01:12:42,660
It means free bird in German.

1143
01:12:42,660 --> 01:12:43,440
That's true.

1144
01:12:43,440 --> 01:12:44,790
That's right.

1145
01:12:44,790 --> 01:12:50,700
And they were a
[? Slabisch ?] family--

1146
01:12:50,700 --> 01:12:59,310
a Jewish ethnic group
from Southern Germany--

1147
01:12:59,310 --> 01:13:00,618
Schwabs.

1148
01:13:00,618 --> 01:13:01,410
Yeah, that's right.

1149
01:13:01,410 --> 01:13:07,500
It's from Baden-Wuerttemberg, I
think, is Schwaben in Germany.

1150
01:13:07,500 --> 01:13:10,200
In Hungary-- they
came to Hungary

1151
01:13:10,200 --> 01:13:12,910
in the 17th, 18th century.

1152
01:13:12,910 --> 01:13:18,100
They were mostly craftsmen
and in all kinds of trades.

1153
01:13:18,100 --> 01:13:26,080
And so Hungary had a significant
German ethnic minority.

1154

01:13:26,080 --> 01:13:29,770

And this family they
happen to be one.

1155

01:13:29,770 --> 01:13:36,460

And the interesting thing is
that some of these Schwabs,

1156

01:13:36,460 --> 01:13:41,500

during the Nazi occupation, they
joined the SS and they served

1157

01:13:41,500 --> 01:13:46,690

the Germans [? as ?] [INAUDIBLE]
[? war. ?] Not only those who

1158

01:13:46,690 --> 01:13:50,500

personally attached
to the Nazis,

1159

01:13:50,500 --> 01:13:56,680

but the Schwabs as a whole
group were evicted from Hungary,

1160

01:13:56,680 --> 01:13:59,310

and they had to go
back to Germany.

1161

01:13:59,310 --> 01:14:02,780

They lived in Hungary
for hundreds of years.

1162

01:14:02,780 --> 01:14:03,980

It didn't matter.

1163

01:14:03,980 --> 01:14:08,480

It was a kind of
reverse discrimination.

1164

01:14:08,480 --> 01:14:11,230

And is that what happened
to the [? Fryfogels, ?]

1165

01:14:11,230 --> 01:14:13,120
who had been in your apartment?

1166

01:14:13,120 --> 01:14:14,980
I don't know.

1167

01:14:14,980 --> 01:14:19,240
That part I don't
know, because we

1168

01:14:19,240 --> 01:14:23,470
went back right after we were
liberated in the Budapest

1169

01:14:23,470 --> 01:14:24,340
ghetto.

1170

01:14:24,340 --> 01:14:30,730
And that time this
sending them to exile,

1171

01:14:30,730 --> 01:14:34,600
I think didn't happen
until '46, '47--

1172

01:14:34,600 --> 01:14:36,350
so much later.

1173

01:14:36,350 --> 01:14:41,830
So unless they had family in
Germany and wanted to go back.

1174

01:14:41,830 --> 01:14:46,570
But at that time, Germany was in
much worse state than Hungary.

1175

01:14:46,570 --> 01:14:48,700
Of course, of course.

1176

01:14:48,700 --> 01:14:51,580
Well, what you're
talking about also

1177
01:14:51,580 --> 01:14:57,000
happened in the
Sudetenland, because that

1178
01:14:57,000 --> 01:15:00,810
was the part of
Czechoslovakia that

1179
01:15:00,810 --> 01:15:03,800
had a large German minority.

1180
01:15:03,800 --> 01:15:06,210
The Czechs after the war--

1181
01:15:06,210 --> 01:15:09,696

1182
01:15:09,696 --> 01:15:11,700
Evicted the Germans, yes.

1183
01:15:11,700 --> 01:15:12,900
Yeah, they evicted them.

1184
01:15:12,900 --> 01:15:17,250
And I think there's some
bitter feelings to this day,

1185
01:15:17,250 --> 01:15:19,530
on both sides, because--

1186
01:15:19,530 --> 01:15:20,070
Oh yeah.

1187
01:15:20,070 --> 01:15:21,660
I can understand it.

1188
01:15:21,660 --> 01:15:24,040
And actually,
interestingly enough,

1189

01:15:24,040 --> 01:15:26,760
I had a college classmate--

1190
01:15:26,760 --> 01:15:30,330
a very good friend of mine--

1191
01:15:30,330 --> 01:15:34,500
he came from Schwabisch family.

1192
01:15:34,500 --> 01:15:38,910
His name is Schon,
which is pretty--

1193
01:15:38,910 --> 01:15:41,010
Means pretty, yeah.

1194
01:15:41,010 --> 01:15:41,920
--in German.

1195
01:15:41,920 --> 01:15:48,270
Anyway, at one point, we
got into a discussion.

1196
01:15:48,270 --> 01:15:49,890
It wasn't argument.

1197
01:15:49,890 --> 01:15:54,630
But somehow he
brought up how much

1198
01:15:54,630 --> 01:15:58,650
his family suffered, because
they were Schwabisch,

1199
01:15:58,650 --> 01:16:00,720
after the war.

1200
01:16:00,720 --> 01:16:05,730
And then I had to tell him
how much my family suffered,

1201
01:16:05,730 --> 01:16:08,490

because during the war
[INAUDIBLE] [? that ?]

1202
01:16:08,490 --> 01:16:11,640
[? they ?] [? were-- ?]
because we were Jewish.

1203
01:16:11,640 --> 01:16:15,480
But I told him that I have
good memories of Schwabs,

1204
01:16:15,480 --> 01:16:17,580
because this family.

1205
01:16:17,580 --> 01:16:22,560
Actually, I don't know if my
mom took all those pictures

1206
01:16:22,560 --> 01:16:27,270
and [? memorabilias ?] with
her, because she could only take

1207
01:16:27,270 --> 01:16:30,280
a few things when we left--

1208
01:16:30,280 --> 01:16:35,630
a little suitcase-- because she
had to carry me [INAUDIBLE]..

1209
01:16:35,630 --> 01:16:36,550
That's right.

1210
01:16:36,550 --> 01:16:39,090
Everything was left
in the apartment,

1211
01:16:39,090 --> 01:16:44,140
and everything was
preserved when we got back.

1212
01:16:44,140 --> 01:16:51,580
Well, I'm glad we're focusing
on this aspect at this moment,

1213
01:16:51,580 --> 01:16:57,310
because it is, A, rare
that such a thing happened.

1214
01:16:57,310 --> 01:17:00,280
B, it's beautiful that it did.

1215
01:17:00,280 --> 01:17:05,800
And C, the thoughts that
are going through my mind,

1216
01:17:05,800 --> 01:17:09,910
they're going not an ABC order,
but they're nevertheless there,

1217
01:17:09,910 --> 01:17:12,430
is that this is
yet one more proof

1218
01:17:12,430 --> 01:17:19,000
of how the actions and
decisions by individuals

1219
01:17:19,000 --> 01:17:20,980
have such an impact--

1220
01:17:20,980 --> 01:17:23,860
that people think I'm
just the only person,

1221
01:17:23,860 --> 01:17:28,130
and what can I do against all
of these horrible things that

1222
01:17:28,130 --> 01:17:29,330
are happening around me?

1223
01:17:29,330 --> 01:17:33,990
And very often, by the time
it comes to a dictatorship,

1224

01:17:33,990 --> 01:17:38,240
the political actions
that could have been taken

1225
01:17:38,240 --> 01:17:39,650
can no longer be taken.

1226
01:17:39,650 --> 01:17:41,150
It's too late for that.

1227
01:17:41,150 --> 01:17:45,410
But for these types of
steps, to take advantage

1228
01:17:45,410 --> 01:17:50,420
of somebody's loss, to
loot their possessions,

1229
01:17:50,420 --> 01:17:52,610
to take over their home--

1230
01:17:52,610 --> 01:17:57,290
or not to do it,
or to acknowledge

1231
01:17:57,290 --> 01:18:03,200
that they have more rights to
this living place than you do,

1232
01:18:03,200 --> 01:18:06,620
and that you're a
caretaker of their things

1233
01:18:06,620 --> 01:18:08,930
rather than a usurper
of their things.

1234
01:18:08,930 --> 01:18:11,530

1235
01:18:11,530 --> 01:18:17,920
Yeah, individual experiences
during the Holocaust really

1236
01:18:17,920 --> 01:18:22,540
different from one person to
another, one family to another.

1237
01:18:22,540 --> 01:18:29,750
Because in one hand
my father was unlucky

1238
01:18:29,750 --> 01:18:34,580
that he was in the first
group of people who were taken

1239
01:18:34,580 --> 01:18:39,200
to the forced labor battalions.

1240
01:18:39,200 --> 01:18:44,420
From the letters
I know that many

1241
01:18:44,420 --> 01:18:48,695
of the people who were in
the same sporting club,

1242
01:18:48,695 --> 01:18:53,060
or [? tourist ?] club
weren't taken at all--

1243
01:18:53,060 --> 01:18:54,830
not that it was delayed.

1244
01:18:54,830 --> 01:18:58,940
But for whatever
reason, the army

1245
01:18:58,940 --> 01:19:02,580
needed a certain number
of slave laborers.

1246
01:19:02,580 --> 01:19:06,830
Hence, they only
recruited that many who

1247

01:19:06,830 --> 01:19:09,080
were conscripted-- that many.

1248

01:19:09,080 --> 01:19:13,780
And whether it was because where
you lived or how old you were

1249

01:19:13,780 --> 01:19:19,700
or what was the first letter of
your family name, I don't know,

1250

01:19:19,700 --> 01:19:24,980
but sometimes it
was just sheer luck.

1251

01:19:24,980 --> 01:19:31,520
And let's go back,
then, to this house--

1252

01:19:31,520 --> 01:19:33,710
these Star houses.

1253

01:19:33,710 --> 01:19:36,090
Do you have any memory
of living in that place?

1254

01:19:36,090 --> 01:19:38,720

1255

01:19:38,720 --> 01:19:39,690
No.

1256

01:19:39,690 --> 01:19:44,210
And the reason
for that, that Mom

1257

01:19:44,210 --> 01:19:51,180
had a very strong determination
that she's going to,

1258

01:19:51,180 --> 01:19:55,560
or we are going to

survive no matter what.

1259

01:19:55,560 --> 01:20:00,810

So when we were forced
out from our apartment,

1260

01:20:00,810 --> 01:20:02,220

we had two choices--

1261

01:20:02,220 --> 01:20:07,860

either go to ghetto, which
was not formally established,

1262

01:20:07,860 --> 01:20:12,570

if I remember
correctly, in April.

1263

01:20:12,570 --> 01:20:14,190

But it might have been.

1264

01:20:14,190 --> 01:20:17,880

I have to still
research that one.

1265

01:20:17,880 --> 01:20:22,740

But my aunt and uncle and my
mother and our grandparents

1266

01:20:22,740 --> 01:20:27,090

lived [INAUDIBLE] what
became the ghetto.

1267

01:20:27,090 --> 01:20:33,300

And had we moved Dad, then
we would have been by default

1268

01:20:33,300 --> 01:20:36,000

in the ghetto when
the wall was built--

1269

01:20:36,000 --> 01:20:39,660

and all the rules
and regulations.

1270
01:20:39,660 --> 01:20:43,710
Anyway, my mom, she
told me that she

1271
01:20:43,710 --> 01:20:48,630
knew that wouldn't be a good
idea to move to the ghetto.

1272
01:20:48,630 --> 01:20:53,970
When all the Jews
are in one place,

1273
01:20:53,970 --> 01:20:56,460
it's very easy to
get rid of them.

1274
01:20:56,460 --> 01:20:57,520
That's true.

1275
01:20:57,520 --> 01:20:59,250
Yeah.

1276
01:20:59,250 --> 01:21:03,780
And we didn't go to
the houses, either,

1277
01:21:03,780 --> 01:21:06,390
which were marked
with yellow star,

1278
01:21:06,390 --> 01:21:11,170
because that was just
one step from the ghetto.

1279
01:21:11,170 --> 01:21:16,290
So she had a good
childhood friend,

1280
01:21:16,290 --> 01:21:21,630
who allowed us to go
to their apartment.

1281

01:21:21,630 --> 01:21:24,730

And that was very rare.

1282

01:21:24,730 --> 01:21:26,400

We weren't hiding.

1283

01:21:26,400 --> 01:21:29,550

We just lived in the
apartment, and we

1284

01:21:29,550 --> 01:21:33,750

pretended that we weren't Jews.

1285

01:21:33,750 --> 01:21:37,080

That time the yellow
star, I believe,

1286

01:21:37,080 --> 01:21:43,675

wasn't mandatory yet, to
have on your outer clothes.

1287

01:21:43,675 --> 01:21:46,190

1288

01:21:46,190 --> 01:21:53,570

But nevertheless the
government orders or laws

1289

01:21:53,570 --> 01:22:00,020

said that anybody who hides you
will be as severely punished

1290

01:22:00,020 --> 01:22:06,020

as the Jew who is in
hiding, him or herself.

1291

01:22:06,020 --> 01:22:11,150

So [INAUDIBLE] took
a risk taking us in.

1292

01:22:11,150 --> 01:22:16,530

And we didn't stay too

long in that apartment.

1293
01:22:16,530 --> 01:22:19,130
And I don't know
the address of it,

1294
01:22:19,130 --> 01:22:21,362
if [INAUDIBLE] you would ask me.

1295
01:22:21,362 --> 01:22:25,410
[LAUGHS] How do you
anticipate my questions?

1296
01:22:25,410 --> 01:22:28,410
Because you are very meticulous.

1297
01:22:28,410 --> 01:22:30,810
And I like it,
because people want

1298
01:22:30,810 --> 01:22:37,650
to trace the geographical
aspects of this interview.

1299
01:22:37,650 --> 01:22:41,710
They could follow us.

1300
01:22:41,710 --> 01:22:43,660
Exactly.

1301
01:22:43,660 --> 01:22:47,560
I might be able
to tell it later.

1302
01:22:47,560 --> 01:22:50,920
I told you about that videotape.

1303
01:22:50,920 --> 01:22:53,640
That's right.

1304
01:22:53,640 --> 01:22:57,780
Made an interview with my mom.

1305
01:22:57,780 --> 01:23:00,580

1306
01:23:00,580 --> 01:23:04,330
Again, for this interview,
it's a videotape--

1307
01:23:04,330 --> 01:23:06,160
an interview with your mother.

1308
01:23:06,160 --> 01:23:09,670
And we now have it in our
possession at the Museum.

1309
01:23:09,670 --> 01:23:11,800
It's a donation you
have made to us.

1310
01:23:11,800 --> 01:23:13,450
And thank you for that.

1311
01:23:13,450 --> 01:23:16,180
But it is in the
process of digitization.

1312
01:23:16,180 --> 01:23:21,640
And the digitization
process is in its middle.

1313
01:23:21,640 --> 01:23:25,030
That is, there's no way to
retrieve it, particularly

1314
01:23:25,030 --> 01:23:27,880
since we're in the
coronavirus situation,

1315
01:23:27,880 --> 01:23:31,030
where we haven't been at our
offices for several months.

1316

01:23:31,030 --> 01:23:32,950
And we don't know
when we will get back.

1317
01:23:32,950 --> 01:23:35,060
But eventually we will.

1318
01:23:35,060 --> 01:23:37,630
And if you then have a
chance to listen to this

1319
01:23:37,630 --> 01:23:40,300
and augment this
interview with some

1320
01:23:40,300 --> 01:23:42,640
of this factual
information, we can

1321
01:23:42,640 --> 01:23:45,970
make that happen very easily.

1322
01:23:45,970 --> 01:23:47,950
And that will be terrific.

1323
01:23:47,950 --> 01:23:48,480
Great.

1324
01:23:48,480 --> 01:23:53,530
So hopefully that will
fill in some of the holes.

1325
01:23:53,530 --> 01:23:57,070
I just have no
information right now.

1326
01:23:57,070 --> 01:24:01,420
I don't remember if my
mom even mentioned it.

1327
01:24:01,420 --> 01:24:04,240
Sure, sure.

1328

01:24:04,240 --> 01:24:09,580

So we went to this
family's apartment.

1329

01:24:09,580 --> 01:24:11,440

It was the husband and wife.

1330

01:24:11,440 --> 01:24:14,380

They didn't have children.

1331

01:24:14,380 --> 01:24:18,670

And we lived there for a
few weeks, if I remember.

1332

01:24:18,670 --> 01:24:20,630

My mom mentioned three weeks.

1333

01:24:20,630 --> 01:24:22,795

But again, this number
might be different

1334

01:24:22,795 --> 01:24:29,130

after we have a chance
to watch the videotape.

1335

01:24:29,130 --> 01:24:34,210

What happened was that
one of our neighbors

1336

01:24:34,210 --> 01:24:37,670

denounced us to the police.

1337

01:24:37,670 --> 01:24:40,300

And one day the
Hungarian police--

1338

01:24:40,300 --> 01:24:43,340

actually, the
Hungarian gendarme,

1339

01:24:43,340 --> 01:24:51,460

which was different in function

from the Hungarian police.

1340
01:24:51,460 --> 01:24:53,970
But nevertheless,
they were in charge

1341
01:24:53,970 --> 01:24:58,530
to arrest people
who are in hiding.

1342
01:24:58,530 --> 01:25:04,210
And they arrested my
mom and took her away.

1343
01:25:04,210 --> 01:25:07,570
And this is in the second
place where you are living?

1344
01:25:07,570 --> 01:25:12,490
That was the first place
after our original apartment.

1345
01:25:12,490 --> 01:25:13,880
Correct.

1346
01:25:13,880 --> 01:25:14,380
OK.

1347
01:25:14,380 --> 01:25:16,540
So it is at the
friend's apartment,

1348
01:25:16,540 --> 01:25:18,010
where you stayed three weeks?

1349
01:25:18,010 --> 01:25:21,030
Or was it the place after that?

1350
01:25:21,030 --> 01:25:22,470
No, that's the place.

1351
01:25:22,470 --> 01:25:24,210

That's the place.

1352

01:25:24,210 --> 01:25:27,870

The first place we
went from our apartment

1353

01:25:27,870 --> 01:25:30,090

to this family's apartment.

1354

01:25:30,090 --> 01:25:33,690

And so that was the
second place I ever lived.

1355

01:25:33,690 --> 01:25:34,650

OK.

1356

01:25:34,650 --> 01:25:38,370

And what happened to
those friends-- the family

1357

01:25:38,370 --> 01:25:42,130

that had taken you in?

1358

01:25:42,130 --> 01:25:45,390

No, this was 1944.

1359

01:25:45,390 --> 01:25:52,980

Although there was a law
to arrest and prosecute

1360

01:25:52,980 --> 01:25:57,300

them, but the Germans
and the Hungarian police

1361

01:25:57,300 --> 01:25:59,650

and the Hungarian
justice system--

1362

01:25:59,650 --> 01:26:03,210

if you can use that word--

1363

01:26:03,210 --> 01:26:08,170

were too busy to finish
the Final Solution.

1364
01:26:08,170 --> 01:26:13,200
So they were not arrested,
and they survived the war.

1365
01:26:13,200 --> 01:26:18,040
That's why no [INAUDIBLE].

1366
01:26:18,040 --> 01:26:22,930
My mom was taken
away, and she was

1367
01:26:22,930 --> 01:26:28,850
taken to a jail
in Budapest, which

1368
01:26:28,850 --> 01:26:39,030
was kind of infamous for
holding people who committed

1369
01:26:39,030 --> 01:26:39,735
high crimes.

1370
01:26:39,735 --> 01:26:42,730

1371
01:26:42,730 --> 01:26:45,770
And that's where she was taken.

1372
01:26:45,770 --> 01:26:49,630
Do you have memories of
her being taken away?

1373
01:26:49,630 --> 01:26:50,740
Yes.

1374
01:26:50,740 --> 01:26:57,280
I think it is one of the few
memories I remember vividly--

1375

01:26:57,280 --> 01:27:03,460
and probably because the
uniform of the gendarme, which

1376
01:27:03,460 --> 01:27:08,090
came for her, they
had a fancy uniform.

1377
01:27:08,090 --> 01:27:10,840

1378
01:27:10,840 --> 01:27:16,840
They had a high top, or
whatever [INAUDIBLE] hat--

1379
01:27:16,840 --> 01:27:19,030
Mr. Lincoln, I believe.

1380
01:27:19,030 --> 01:27:23,290
Oh yes, that kind of
stovepipe hat, almost.

1381
01:27:23,290 --> 01:27:24,730
That's what his was.

1382
01:27:24,730 --> 01:27:26,000
With a visor.

1383
01:27:26,000 --> 01:27:31,360
So it wasn't that high, but it
wasn't a regular police hat.

1384
01:27:31,360 --> 01:27:39,590
And actually they had cock
feather attached to this hat.

1385
01:27:39,590 --> 01:27:42,710
They were easily recognizable.

1386
01:27:42,710 --> 01:27:48,200
And they had their
uniform, and they came in.

1387

01:27:48,200 --> 01:27:52,435

If I remember, we were
at the dining-room table.

1388

01:27:52,435 --> 01:27:55,130

1389

01:27:55,130 --> 01:27:57,950

They didn't have child
seat at that time.

1390

01:27:57,950 --> 01:28:00,950

Probably, it wasn't
even invented.

1391

01:28:00,950 --> 01:28:03,330

I mean, they didn't
have a child.

1392

01:28:03,330 --> 01:28:07,700

So I was sitting
on phone books--

1393

01:28:07,700 --> 01:28:14,090

two or three thick phone books,
so I could reach the table.

1394

01:28:14,090 --> 01:28:21,610

And they came in, and they
asked my mom's papers.

1395

01:28:21,610 --> 01:28:25,660

And that time, your
identification paper

1396

01:28:25,660 --> 01:28:31,120

had your religion in
it, so it was very easy.

1397

01:28:31,120 --> 01:28:36,400

The people who denounced us,
we don't know who they were.

1398

01:28:36,400 --> 01:28:40,120

But because we--
as far as I know,

1399

01:28:40,120 --> 01:28:43,090

my mom hardly left the
apartment building,

1400

01:28:43,090 --> 01:28:48,640

because the host couple
did the shopping-- whatever

1401

01:28:48,640 --> 01:28:53,270

food was at that time
available, and it wasn't much.

1402

01:28:53,270 --> 01:28:58,880

So I don't know how the
suspicion came about,

1403

01:28:58,880 --> 01:29:02,400

but probably noticed that there
were extra people in that hall.

1404

01:29:02,400 --> 01:29:08,970

So some, quote unquote,
"good neighbor" reported us.

1405

01:29:08,970 --> 01:29:13,230

And this is how my
mom was taken away.

1406

01:29:13,230 --> 01:29:14,850

They left me behind.

1407

01:29:14,850 --> 01:29:21,950

Obviously, they didn't have
facilities for children.

1408

01:29:21,950 --> 01:29:26,600

And because those gendarme,
they didn't know what's

1409

01:29:26,600 --> 01:29:28,740
going to happen with my mom.

1410

01:29:28,740 --> 01:29:31,320
I was left behind.

1411

01:29:31,320 --> 01:29:34,350
And what happened with her?

1412

01:29:34,350 --> 01:29:35,970
What happened in that prison?

1413

01:29:35,970 --> 01:29:38,860

1414

01:29:38,860 --> 01:29:43,060
Here is what my mom told me.

1415

01:29:43,060 --> 01:29:46,990
Once he got to the jail--

1416

01:29:46,990 --> 01:29:52,030
she was very strong woman.

1417

01:29:52,030 --> 01:29:57,000
I mean, she was determined
to survive no matter what.

1418

01:29:57,000 --> 01:30:02,860
So she took with herself all
the identification papers--

1419

01:30:02,860 --> 01:30:07,570
so papers she thought would
be useful if necessary.

1420

01:30:07,570 --> 01:30:13,890
One of the papers she had
was an official notification

1421

01:30:13,890 --> 01:30:16,500

from the Hungarian
Ministry of Defense

1422
01:30:16,500 --> 01:30:19,830
that my father had died.

1423
01:30:19,830 --> 01:30:27,140
[INAUDIBLE] because
this death certificate

1424
01:30:27,140 --> 01:30:29,780
was issued by the
army, they didn't

1425
01:30:29,780 --> 01:30:35,630
have a specific designation
that the person was

1426
01:30:35,630 --> 01:30:39,560
in the forced labor battalion
or a regular battalion,

1427
01:30:39,560 --> 01:30:44,000
or whatever maybe rank he had.

1428
01:30:44,000 --> 01:30:49,430
But the paper just said
that my father died

1429
01:30:49,430 --> 01:30:55,160
as part of the Hungarian army.

1430
01:30:55,160 --> 01:31:00,260
And so it did not state that
he was Jewish to begin with.

1431
01:31:00,260 --> 01:31:03,260
Although his name
was Grunwald it

1432
01:31:03,260 --> 01:31:10,320
didn't state that he died not
as a regular soldier but as

1433
01:31:10,320 --> 01:31:14,150
a forced laborer [INAUDIBLE].

1434
01:31:14,150 --> 01:31:22,970
That time women or wives whose
husband died during the war

1435
01:31:22,970 --> 01:31:26,930
as soldiers, they had
a special designation.

1436
01:31:26,930 --> 01:31:30,582
They were the
so-called war widows.

1437
01:31:30,582 --> 01:31:31,900
I see.

1438
01:31:31,900 --> 01:31:37,480
Those war widows
had some privileges.

1439
01:31:37,480 --> 01:31:42,190
They might or might not
get some extra money

1440
01:31:42,190 --> 01:31:43,570
from the government.

1441
01:31:43,570 --> 01:31:44,590
Probably, they did.

1442
01:31:44,590 --> 01:31:47,290
But because my mom
wasn't a war widow--

1443
01:31:47,290 --> 01:31:52,060
so my mom didn't know if
that was one privilege.

1444
01:31:52,060 --> 01:31:54,070

And there were other privileges.

1445

01:31:54,070 --> 01:31:58,030

Like, food was
rationed, and war widows

1446

01:31:58,030 --> 01:32:01,490

got double portion of whatever.

1447

01:32:01,490 --> 01:32:10,330

Anyway, what my mom did was that
as soon as she got to the jail,

1448

01:32:10,330 --> 01:32:14,185

she started yelling
at the warden,

1449

01:32:14,185 --> 01:32:18,400

or just telling the warden
that, hey, I am a war widow,

1450

01:32:18,400 --> 01:32:21,070

and you had no
right to arrest me.

1451

01:32:21,070 --> 01:32:26,740

Maybe she said to gendarme,
I don't know specifically.

1452

01:32:26,740 --> 01:32:29,500

But anyway, they took her.

1453

01:32:29,500 --> 01:32:36,480

So she complained.

1454

01:32:36,480 --> 01:32:41,190

The warden got scared
that they might

1455

01:32:41,190 --> 01:32:45,360

have arrested somebody
who was a war widow,

1456

01:32:45,360 --> 01:32:47,750
and he can get into trouble.

1457

01:32:47,750 --> 01:32:53,675
So he went to the chief or
the commandant of the jail

1458

01:32:53,675 --> 01:32:57,920
to tell that here is a
lady who's war widow--

1459

01:32:57,920 --> 01:33:00,920
what should I do with her?

1460

01:33:00,920 --> 01:33:09,800
And so my mom was taken
to the commandant office.

1461

01:33:09,800 --> 01:33:13,070
And the guy, the warden--

1462

01:33:13,070 --> 01:33:16,760
probably, in Hungary
at that time,

1463

01:33:16,760 --> 01:33:21,020
those people took that
job weren't very literate.

1464

01:33:21,020 --> 01:33:24,560
So he probably couldn't
even read that paper.

1465

01:33:24,560 --> 01:33:31,040
But the commandant
what that paper was.

1466

01:33:31,040 --> 01:33:35,690
And my mom could not tell
me whether he really knew

1467

01:33:35,690 --> 01:33:41,090

it and had pity on my mom
or the commandant thought,

1468
01:33:41,090 --> 01:33:46,380
oh, it looks like she's a war
widow, I better get her out.

1469
01:33:46,380 --> 01:33:51,080
But anyway, the result was
that they left my mom out.

1470
01:33:51,080 --> 01:33:52,310
I see.

1471
01:33:52,310 --> 01:33:53,510
OK.

1472
01:33:53,510 --> 01:33:56,150
And so she came back.

1473
01:33:56,150 --> 01:33:58,850
If I remember
correctly-- but again,

1474
01:33:58,850 --> 01:34:02,816
the tape might give
us more details--

1475
01:34:02,816 --> 01:34:07,190
let out during the night,
when there was a curfew.

1476
01:34:07,190 --> 01:34:13,010
By this time, the Allied
bombed Budapest day and night.

1477
01:34:13,010 --> 01:34:16,850
But [INAUDIBLE]
despite the curfew, she

1478
01:34:16,850 --> 01:34:22,440
managed to get back to
the apartment alive.

1479
01:34:22,440 --> 01:34:25,010
Amazing, amazing.

1480
01:34:25,010 --> 01:34:30,870
And so this would have been
sometime in the spring of '44.

1481
01:34:30,870 --> 01:34:35,750
Because if she had to leave
her own apartment in April,

1482
01:34:35,750 --> 01:34:39,170
and you were with this friend
of hers for three weeks

1483
01:34:39,170 --> 01:34:43,050
and then she's denounced,
it kind of brings us up

1484
01:34:43,050 --> 01:34:44,880
to May, June.

1485
01:34:44,880 --> 01:34:47,640
And did you stay there?

1486
01:34:47,640 --> 01:34:51,510
Did they know who had denounced
them, or denounced her?

1487
01:34:51,510 --> 01:34:55,050
And what happened next?

1488
01:34:55,050 --> 01:35:01,140
Well, we never knew, or my mom
never knew who denounced her--

1489
01:35:01,140 --> 01:35:05,050
obviously, somebody from
the apartment building.

1490
01:35:05,050 --> 01:35:14,030

But what happened was that next day we left the apartment--

1491
01:35:14,030 --> 01:35:16,490
I believe the next day,
or a couple of days

1492
01:35:16,490 --> 01:35:22,400
after, because we were afraid
not only that somebody else is

1493
01:35:22,400 --> 01:35:25,160
going to report us
and my mom won't

1494
01:35:25,160 --> 01:35:27,530
be as lucky as the first time.

1495
01:35:27,530 --> 01:35:32,930
Also, we endanger the life
of the host couple, also.

1496
01:35:32,930 --> 01:35:36,370
So we moved out.

1497
01:35:36,370 --> 01:35:42,400
And we still did not go to
the apartment, or the Budapest

1498
01:35:42,400 --> 01:35:48,970
ghetto, to be reunited with
my aunts and my grandparents.

1499
01:35:48,970 --> 01:35:56,650
My mom [? did ?] [? that ?] she
went to visit a friend of hers,

1500
01:35:56,650 --> 01:36:03,340
who happened to live at that
time in the so-called protected

1501
01:36:03,340 --> 01:36:05,140
houses.

1502
01:36:05,140 --> 01:36:10,510
The protected houses
were about 31,

1503
01:36:10,510 --> 01:36:16,510
32 apartment building in
Budapest, which were bought out

1504
01:36:16,510 --> 01:36:21,940
by Raoul Wallenberg, who
was a Swedish diplomat who

1505
01:36:21,940 --> 01:36:25,380
came to Budapest--

1506
01:36:25,380 --> 01:36:31,710
sent to Budapest by the
American War Refugee Board,

1507
01:36:31,710 --> 01:36:33,120
which was set up--

1508
01:36:33,120 --> 01:36:37,350
unfortunately, too late,
but nevertheless it

1509
01:36:37,350 --> 01:36:41,430
was successful saving
some Jewish lives--

1510
01:36:41,430 --> 01:36:47,580
in early 1944, I believe,
by President Roosevelt.

1511
01:36:47,580 --> 01:36:54,570
And they gave money
to people who--

1512
01:36:54,570 --> 01:36:58,980
diplomatic disguise--
went to Budapest

1513

01:36:58,980 --> 01:37:03,270
and maybe other
European capitals,

1514

01:37:03,270 --> 01:37:06,150
to try to save the
remaining Jews.

1515

01:37:06,150 --> 01:37:14,430
Because in early 1944, there was
still lots of remaining Jews.

1516

01:37:14,430 --> 01:37:20,070
Raoul Wallenberg-- oh sorry,
do you have a question?

1517

01:37:20,070 --> 01:37:21,990
No, no, no.

1518

01:37:21,990 --> 01:37:26,070
I was just following
what you were saying.

1519

01:37:26,070 --> 01:37:31,770
So Raoul Wallenberg came to
Budapest as a Swedish diplomat.

1520

01:37:31,770 --> 01:37:36,750
He was an aristocrat,
if I remember correctly.

1521

01:37:36,750 --> 01:37:41,310
He came from a very rich family.

1522

01:37:41,310 --> 01:37:44,480
He had no connection
to Hungary whatsoever,

1523

01:37:44,480 --> 01:37:46,750
and he wasn't Jewish.

1524

01:37:46,750 --> 01:37:50,380

And he took his
job very seriously,

1525
01:37:50,380 --> 01:37:56,440
and he saved thousands, or
maybe tens of thousands of Jews,

1526
01:37:56,440 --> 01:37:59,390
by doing two things.

1527
01:37:59,390 --> 01:38:05,470
One, he gave false
papers to Jewish people--

1528
01:38:05,470 --> 01:38:09,810
claiming that they
were Swedish citizen.

1529
01:38:09,810 --> 01:38:12,760
I think they were
called Schutz-Pass.

1530
01:38:12,760 --> 01:38:14,640
Schutz-Pass, yeah.

1531
01:38:14,640 --> 01:38:20,760
And that helped many people--

1532
01:38:20,760 --> 01:38:23,830
although not everybody
accepted papers.

1533
01:38:23,830 --> 01:38:28,300
And some who even
had those papers

1534
01:38:28,300 --> 01:38:32,000
were still deported and killed.

1535
01:38:32,000 --> 01:38:34,780
And the other
thing he did was he

1536

01:38:34,780 --> 01:38:38,680

bought up these
apartment buildings

1537

01:38:38,680 --> 01:38:45,880

and jammed as many people as
possible in these buildings.

1538

01:38:45,880 --> 01:38:50,170

Because these buildings
were protected

1539

01:38:50,170 --> 01:38:54,380

by diplomatic immunity--

1540

01:38:54,380 --> 01:39:01,180

or that is some kind of official
name in international law--

1541

01:39:01,180 --> 01:39:06,010

namely, that any building
in any country which

1542

01:39:06,010 --> 01:39:11,140

belongs to an embassy is like
the territory of that embassy,

1543

01:39:11,140 --> 01:39:15,730

and local authorities
have no control over it.

1544

01:39:15,730 --> 01:39:18,520

Nobody can enter
into those buildings

1545

01:39:18,520 --> 01:39:23,590

with specific permission--

1546

01:39:23,590 --> 01:39:26,920

of the Swedish
embassy, in our case.

1547

01:39:26,920 --> 01:39:30,010
So the people who were
inside those buildings,

1548
01:39:30,010 --> 01:39:34,220
they were protected
from deportation.

1549
01:39:34,220 --> 01:39:41,250
And so we went to visit
this friend who I believe--

1550
01:39:41,250 --> 01:39:45,380
I can't recall the building.

1551
01:39:45,380 --> 01:39:50,760
I remember we got there.

1552
01:39:50,760 --> 01:39:54,700
And there was a ground level.

1553
01:39:54,700 --> 01:39:59,200
And between the ground
level and the first level,

1554
01:39:59,200 --> 01:40:02,850
there was an intermediate level.

1555
01:40:02,850 --> 01:40:05,200
I don't know what's the name.

1556
01:40:05,200 --> 01:40:09,250
Like a mezzanine, or
something like that?

1557
01:40:09,250 --> 01:40:12,530
I don't know exactly
what mezzanine is.

1558
01:40:12,530 --> 01:40:18,640
But anyway, it was what would
be in the United States actually

1559

01:40:18,640 --> 01:40:19,660
the second floor.

1560

01:40:19,660 --> 01:40:21,260
So it wasn't a ground floor.

1561

01:40:21,260 --> 01:40:23,560
It was one floor
above the ground.

1562

01:40:23,560 --> 01:40:25,630
OK, OK.

1563

01:40:25,630 --> 01:40:29,450
And so you have memories
of that-- a safe house.

1564

01:40:29,450 --> 01:40:31,840
And I have memories.

1565

01:40:31,840 --> 01:40:34,120
I don't know the exact address.

1566

01:40:34,120 --> 01:40:41,350
I just have the picture of
the house in my memory--

1567

01:40:41,350 --> 01:40:47,280
again, just the entrance
and the apartment itself.

1568

01:40:47,280 --> 01:40:52,680
It was a three-bedroom apartment
and two families already lived

1569

01:40:52,680 --> 01:40:55,320
there.

1570

01:40:55,320 --> 01:41:03,470
And my mom's friend, who lived
in one of these apartments,

1571

01:41:03,470 --> 01:41:08,510

got the idea that my mom can
occupy the third bedroom.

1572

01:41:08,510 --> 01:41:11,564

Because that was
the norm, I believe.

1573

01:41:11,564 --> 01:41:15,500

Not the rule or
regulation, but the norm

1574

01:41:15,500 --> 01:41:20,450

that one family per room.

1575

01:41:20,450 --> 01:41:24,410

And that time,
families was mostly

1576

01:41:24,410 --> 01:41:26,000

just mothers and children--

1577

01:41:26,000 --> 01:41:31,810

I mean Jewish families,
the men were already taken,

1578

01:41:31,810 --> 01:41:35,330

and sometimes grandparents.

1579

01:41:35,330 --> 01:41:38,900

And so do you have memories of
the room and of the apartment

1580

01:41:38,900 --> 01:41:41,900

and of being in there?

1581

01:41:41,900 --> 01:41:42,890

Yes.

1582

01:41:42,890 --> 01:41:46,430

I do have memories--

1583
01:41:46,430 --> 01:41:47,780
not much.

1584
01:41:47,780 --> 01:41:54,250
I know that there were
four or five other children

1585
01:41:54,250 --> 01:41:55,870
in an apartment.

1586
01:41:55,870 --> 01:42:01,470
Some were a little
bit older than I was,

1587
01:42:01,470 --> 01:42:06,060
but one or two were my age.

1588
01:42:06,060 --> 01:42:09,330
So because I never had
a brother and sister,

1589
01:42:09,330 --> 01:42:13,380
this was the first time that
I [INAUDIBLE] a playmate.

1590
01:42:13,380 --> 01:42:13,920
OK.

1591
01:42:13,920 --> 01:42:19,500
At this point, we are
now up to 10 minutes

1592
01:42:19,500 --> 01:42:22,210
before your next meeting.

1593
01:42:22,210 --> 01:42:24,960
And I think we should
stop right here.

1594
01:42:24,960 --> 01:42:27,990
And we'll pick this up
the next time we meet--

1595

01:42:27,990 --> 01:42:29,880

the next time we talk.

1596

01:42:29,880 --> 01:42:36,320

And I will now

stop the recording.