

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:01,840

2
00:00:01,840 --> 00:00:05,260
OK, good afternoon.

3
00:00:05,260 --> 00:00:10,200
This is now June 29, 2020.

4
00:00:10,200 --> 00:00:12,990
And we are picking
up our interview

5
00:00:12,990 --> 00:00:16,140
that we had last week.

6
00:00:16,140 --> 00:00:20,610
I believe it was on the
26th or the 25th of June.

7
00:00:20,610 --> 00:00:23,070
I don't remember
exactly the date.

8
00:00:23,070 --> 00:00:26,930
And it is with Peter Gorog.

9
00:00:26,930 --> 00:00:31,520
We were at the point where
your mother had found out

10
00:00:31,520 --> 00:00:35,570
from certain people that
there were some safe houses

11
00:00:35,570 --> 00:00:38,900
that Raoul Wallenberg,
the Swedish diplomat,

12
00:00:38,900 --> 00:00:43,760
had organized for

Jews in Budapest.

13
00:00:43,760 --> 00:00:48,050
And you had just
gotten to this place.

14
00:00:48,050 --> 00:00:51,350
And I believe you were
going to describe it for me.

15
00:00:51,350 --> 00:00:53,510
And one of the final
comments that you

16
00:00:53,510 --> 00:00:58,070
had before we ended for
our first session last week

17
00:00:58,070 --> 00:01:00,650
was that this was the
first time that you had

18
00:01:00,650 --> 00:01:04,950
playmates being a young child.

19
00:01:04,950 --> 00:01:07,670
So I want to learn and hear
about all of these things.

20
00:01:07,670 --> 00:01:10,630

21
00:01:10,630 --> 00:01:13,840
Here is what I remember of.

22
00:01:13,840 --> 00:01:18,070
And some of the
things are coming

23
00:01:18,070 --> 00:01:25,220
from my mother's
reminiscences when

24

00:01:25,220 --> 00:01:28,910
she told me the whole story.

25

00:01:28,910 --> 00:01:32,540

26

00:01:32,540 --> 00:01:34,880
We lived in this apartment.

27

00:01:34,880 --> 00:01:40,550
I know that the only
time we were able to--

28

00:01:40,550 --> 00:01:47,060
well, actually, we were not able
to go out to the street at all.

29

00:01:47,060 --> 00:01:53,740
My mother and the grown ups
had I think, once a day,

30

00:01:53,740 --> 00:01:58,460
a couple of hours when
the curfew was lifted.

31

00:01:58,460 --> 00:02:03,180
And people could leave
these protected houses

32

00:02:03,180 --> 00:02:08,780
to made the necessary shoppings
and whatever official things

33

00:02:08,780 --> 00:02:11,240
they had to do.

34

00:02:11,240 --> 00:02:17,150
Meantime, we children,
we played mostly inside,

35

00:02:17,150 --> 00:02:23,350
because it was fall.

36
00:02:23,350 --> 00:02:27,710
The weather wasn't
really very conducive.

37
00:02:27,710 --> 00:02:32,180
But we played
outside many times.

38
00:02:32,180 --> 00:02:39,300
The place we played
or games we played

39
00:02:39,300 --> 00:02:48,600
were mostly either thieves and
police, or Indians and cowboys.

40
00:02:48,600 --> 00:02:50,670
We were little boys.

41
00:02:50,670 --> 00:02:55,980
And that was our
interest that time.

42
00:02:55,980 --> 00:02:59,850
And we didn't have
a lot of toys.

43
00:02:59,850 --> 00:03:04,120
We couldn't take
anything from home,

44
00:03:04,120 --> 00:03:09,270
other than the absolutely
necessary things.

45
00:03:09,270 --> 00:03:15,860
So we invented toys.

46
00:03:15,860 --> 00:03:21,330
We used broomsticks as
rifles and [? pool ?]

47

00:03:21,330 --> 00:03:25,830
sticks as revolvers or pistols.

48

00:03:25,830 --> 00:03:37,250
And we, again, played
with those makeshift toys.

49

00:03:37,250 --> 00:03:39,720
If you weren't
allowed to go out,

50

00:03:39,720 --> 00:03:42,240
and you said you
played outside, what

51

00:03:42,240 --> 00:03:46,080
was the physical place
where you played outside?

52

00:03:46,080 --> 00:03:48,790
Was it a courtyard or something?

53

00:03:48,790 --> 00:03:49,650
Correct.

54

00:03:49,650 --> 00:03:52,650
In the houses, apartment has--

55

00:03:52,650 --> 00:03:54,360
most of the houses--

56

00:03:54,360 --> 00:04:00,610
the apartment that I
was born in and raised

57

00:04:00,610 --> 00:04:08,520
had an inner court, which
was usually used for--

58

00:04:08,520 --> 00:04:16,500
people took their dogs
down to the court.

59

00:04:16,500 --> 00:04:20,820

And the vacuum cleaner
wasn't invented.

60

00:04:20,820 --> 00:04:28,710

So they used this instrument
as a kind of beating the rugs,

61

00:04:28,710 --> 00:04:31,830

and the dust came out.

62

00:04:31,830 --> 00:04:35,760

That was one thing I remembered.

63

00:04:35,760 --> 00:04:41,970

And for this one, there
was a special rack

64

00:04:41,970 --> 00:04:46,880

people could put their rugs on.

65

00:04:46,880 --> 00:04:54,810

Also, there were room enough
for us to run around and play

66

00:04:54,810 --> 00:04:56,970

soccer, or whatever.

67

00:04:56,970 --> 00:04:59,520

And we could play with balls.

68

00:04:59,520 --> 00:05:03,030

And this is where,
really, we teased

69

00:05:03,030 --> 00:05:10,020

each other and pretending
that we practically

70

00:05:10,020 --> 00:05:17,270

kill each other by aiming

the broomstick at each other.

71

00:05:17,270 --> 00:05:21,860

Now, did Raoul Wallenberg
rent only the apartment,

72

00:05:21,860 --> 00:05:24,980

or the entire building?

73

00:05:24,980 --> 00:05:29,160

What was actually
physically considered

74

00:05:29,160 --> 00:05:32,600

the safe place, the safe house?

75

00:05:32,600 --> 00:05:42,890

He bought up the whole building,
32 or 33 of them in Budapest.

76

00:05:42,890 --> 00:05:49,850

So the whole building belonged
to the Swedish embassy.

77

00:05:49,850 --> 00:05:54,350

And by international
laws, it was

78

00:05:54,350 --> 00:05:58,550

protected from the
local authorities

79

00:05:58,550 --> 00:06:04,460

who entered into those
houses, and arrest people,

80

00:06:04,460 --> 00:06:06,210

and take away.

81

00:06:06,210 --> 00:06:13,190

So this is why they were
called protected houses.

82

00:06:13,190 --> 00:06:18,190

And did your mother tell
you later what month you

83

00:06:18,190 --> 00:06:24,220

actually came to that apartment,
came to that safe house?

84

00:06:24,220 --> 00:06:25,060

Sorry.

85

00:06:25,060 --> 00:06:29,410

I do not have a date exactly.

86

00:06:29,410 --> 00:06:30,650

That's OK.

87

00:06:30,650 --> 00:06:31,240

That's OK.

88

00:06:31,240 --> 00:06:40,600

But I do know that we stayed
there only a few weeks.

89

00:06:40,600 --> 00:06:42,070

It could be four weeks.

90

00:06:42,070 --> 00:06:43,490

It could be five weeks.

91

00:06:43,490 --> 00:06:45,410

I don't know exactly.

92

00:06:45,410 --> 00:06:49,030

But I do know, when
we had to leave,

93

00:06:49,030 --> 00:06:53,410

we had to leave
when, October 15,

94

00:06:53,410 --> 00:06:58,390
the Hungarian far-right
party, the Arrow Cross,

95
00:06:58,390 --> 00:07:00,490
took over the government.

96
00:07:00,490 --> 00:07:07,510
And that's when the Arrow
Cross police-- soldiers,

97
00:07:07,510 --> 00:07:11,080
or whatever they're called,
the people in uniform.

98
00:07:11,080 --> 00:07:18,100
But they weren't an official
organization of the government.

99
00:07:18,100 --> 00:07:22,690
But they came into these
houses and took the Jews away.

100
00:07:22,690 --> 00:07:24,820
So in other words, they
didn't pay attention to

101
00:07:24,820 --> 00:07:26,860
whether they're
protected or not.

102
00:07:26,860 --> 00:07:29,655
It doesn't mean anything.

103
00:07:29,655 --> 00:07:32,200
It doesn't mean anything
to them that it belongs

104
00:07:32,200 --> 00:07:34,480
to the Swedish
government, and there

105
00:07:34,480 --> 00:07:37,900

are international standards
and rules, regulations

106
00:07:37,900 --> 00:07:40,540
that govern such properties.

107
00:07:40,540 --> 00:07:45,340
They cross those thresholds
and started rounding people up.

108
00:07:45,340 --> 00:07:47,450
Is this the correct thing?

109
00:07:47,450 --> 00:07:49,750
Is this the right thing?

110
00:07:49,750 --> 00:07:51,970
That's the correct
explanation, yes.

111
00:07:51,970 --> 00:07:52,470
OK.

112
00:07:52,470 --> 00:07:56,780

113
00:07:56,780 --> 00:07:58,410
So what happened?

114
00:07:58,410 --> 00:08:01,850
Do you remember
leaving the safe house?

115
00:08:01,850 --> 00:08:05,810
I do remember leaving
the safe house.

116
00:08:05,810 --> 00:08:14,920
And I don't remember exactly
why we were allowed to leave,

117
00:08:14,920 --> 00:08:21,640

because most of the people were escorted out from their houses

118
00:08:21,640 --> 00:08:23,200
by the Arrow Cross.

119
00:08:23,200 --> 00:08:27,960
And some of them were taken to the ghetto.

120
00:08:27,960 --> 00:08:32,710
And unfortunately, others were taken to the Danube,

121
00:08:32,710 --> 00:08:35,650
where they were shot.

122
00:08:35,650 --> 00:08:40,740
My mom told me the story when the Arrow Cross

123
00:08:40,740 --> 00:08:47,890
people, two or three young thugs, came to her apartment.

124
00:08:47,890 --> 00:08:52,540
One of them recognized me, because while we're

125
00:08:52,540 --> 00:08:57,360
playing in the inner court, these Nazi

126
00:08:57,360 --> 00:09:04,540
thugs who, quote, unquote, "guarded" the buildings--

127
00:09:04,540 --> 00:09:06,920
they were there also.

128
00:09:06,920 --> 00:09:14,200
And they were laughing at us, seeing these little Jewish boys

129
00:09:14,200 --> 00:09:18,890
shooting at each other while
they had the yellow Star

130
00:09:18,890 --> 00:09:22,090
of David on their clothes.

131
00:09:22,090 --> 00:09:26,440
So it went as far--

132
00:09:26,440 --> 00:09:29,590
and I remembered that
because, again, I

133
00:09:29,590 --> 00:09:34,060
was a little boy and
fascinated by weapons--

134
00:09:34,060 --> 00:09:41,530
that they fortunately unloaded
their rifles and revolvers.

135
00:09:41,530 --> 00:09:46,670
And they gave us the real thing.

136
00:09:46,670 --> 00:09:51,380
And so we were so excited
to have a real rifle

137
00:09:51,380 --> 00:09:54,340
or revolver in our hands.

138
00:09:54,340 --> 00:09:59,830
And obviously, that
was an entertainment

139
00:09:59,830 --> 00:10:07,900
for those Nazis who were
watching us and "guarding" us,

140
00:10:07,900 --> 00:10:09,480

quote, unquote.

141
00:10:09,480 --> 00:10:09,980
So you're--

142
00:10:09,980 --> 00:10:10,480
So--

143
00:10:10,480 --> 00:10:12,520
These are all Hungarians
though, right?

144
00:10:12,520 --> 00:10:14,590
Or were they Germans?

145
00:10:14,590 --> 00:10:17,170
Yeah, they were Hungarians.

146
00:10:17,170 --> 00:10:22,860
And they were young people,
because all the people over 18

147
00:10:22,860 --> 00:10:26,770
were already recruited
in the Hungarian army.

148
00:10:26,770 --> 00:10:30,940
And so when they came to
an apartment-- and again,

149
00:10:30,940 --> 00:10:39,320
that's my mom saying or telling
me that one of these young guys

150
00:10:39,320 --> 00:10:41,410
recognized me.

151
00:10:41,410 --> 00:10:46,530
And he told the rest
of the team that,

152
00:10:46,530 --> 00:10:51,520

leave this apartment alone,
because I know little Peter,

153
00:10:51,520 --> 00:10:54,530
and let's go to
the next apartment.

154
00:10:54,530 --> 00:10:55,810
Oh, wow.

155
00:10:55,810 --> 00:10:59,750
So that was really--

156
00:10:59,750 --> 00:11:04,920
you can call it divine
intervention, or just

157
00:11:04,920 --> 00:11:06,430
sheer luck.

158
00:11:06,430 --> 00:11:13,570
But we were not taken away,
out from our apartment.

159
00:11:13,570 --> 00:11:16,300
And then the Nazis left.

160
00:11:16,300 --> 00:11:20,630
We left also, because we
knew that the next time

161
00:11:20,630 --> 00:11:23,170
another group of
Nazis would come,

162
00:11:23,170 --> 00:11:27,580
and they would not recognize
me and wouldn't let us stay.

163
00:11:27,580 --> 00:11:32,170
So that's when we left
the protected house.

164

00:11:32,170 --> 00:11:35,680

Which was now no
longer protected.

165

00:11:35,680 --> 00:11:36,970

Correct.

166

00:11:36,970 --> 00:11:40,680

Have you ever gone back there?

167

00:11:40,680 --> 00:11:43,500

I went back.

168

00:11:43,500 --> 00:11:48,270

But unfortunately, I
don't remember exactly

169

00:11:48,270 --> 00:11:57,390

which house was ours, because
most of these apartments were--

170

00:11:57,390 --> 00:12:02,940

how to say-- a nice
part of the city

171

00:12:02,940 --> 00:12:09,270

where that was the
Jewish quarter where

172

00:12:09,270 --> 00:12:13,560

the cooler Jewish families
lived around the Great

173

00:12:13,560 --> 00:12:16,770

Synagogue of Budapest
where, actually,

174

00:12:16,770 --> 00:12:19,140

the ghetto was set up.

175

00:12:19,140 --> 00:12:22,560

And there was another

part of the city close

176
00:12:22,560 --> 00:12:27,750
to the Danube River and just
across the Margaret Island,

177
00:12:27,750 --> 00:12:32,670
which is a beautiful island in
the middle of the Danube River.

178
00:12:32,670 --> 00:12:37,380
And across the way from
the Pest side of Budapest,

179
00:12:37,380 --> 00:12:43,110
that's where most called the
middle, upper-middle class

180
00:12:43,110 --> 00:12:45,210
Jews lived.

181
00:12:45,210 --> 00:12:49,380
And so when these apartment
houses were bought up,

182
00:12:49,380 --> 00:12:55,110
many of the Jewish families
already lived in those houses.

183
00:12:55,110 --> 00:13:01,378
And so that was the 13th
district of Budapest.

184
00:13:01,378 --> 00:13:01,920
It's called--

185
00:13:01,920 --> 00:13:05,580
So you know the
district it was in.

186
00:13:05,580 --> 00:13:07,110
Yes.

187

00:13:07,110 --> 00:13:14,020

That was the-- well, I think.

188

00:13:14,020 --> 00:13:21,680

Now I'm a little bit hesitant
to say, because when I grew up,

189

00:13:21,680 --> 00:13:24,730

it belonged to
the 13th district.

190

00:13:24,730 --> 00:13:30,580

But then, before the
war, it might have been

191

00:13:30,580 --> 00:13:32,560

part of the fifth district.

192

00:13:32,560 --> 00:13:34,580

Anyway, it had a name.

193

00:13:34,580 --> 00:13:37,930

It was called Lip³tv_iros.

194

00:13:37,930 --> 00:13:43,430

And so, whatever the number
is, it was called Lip³tv_iros.

195

00:13:43,430 --> 00:13:47,650

And did you ever see
Raoul Wallenberg?

196

00:13:47,650 --> 00:13:48,380

No.

197

00:13:48,380 --> 00:13:48,880

No.

198

00:13:48,880 --> 00:13:51,190

I, personally, didn't see.

199

00:13:51,190 --> 00:13:53,110
Neither did my mom.

200
00:13:53,110 --> 00:13:59,490
He didn't-- as far
as I know, at least.

201
00:13:59,490 --> 00:14:05,070
I have no information of
him visiting these houses.

202
00:14:05,070 --> 00:14:09,690
But again, the
Swedish embassy had

203
00:14:09,690 --> 00:14:13,560
a group of people who
took care of the houses.

204
00:14:13,560 --> 00:14:16,160
As far as I know,
Raoul Wallenberg

205
00:14:16,160 --> 00:14:22,110
was very busy to save
Jews in another way.

206
00:14:22,110 --> 00:14:28,570
Namely, he personally went to
the railway station of Budapest

207
00:14:28,570 --> 00:14:33,930
where those people who were
taken out from the ghettos,

208
00:14:33,930 --> 00:14:39,930
taken out from the so-called
Yellow-Star houses,

209
00:14:39,930 --> 00:14:48,840
they were taken either
to railway station--

210

00:14:48,840 --> 00:14:54,290
which was in the eighth
district, JÃ³zsefvÃ¡ros--

211
00:14:54,290 --> 00:15:06,810
or to brickyard, which was in
the third district of Budapest.

212
00:15:06,810 --> 00:15:13,410
And the brickyard-- because
of the things they did,

213
00:15:13,410 --> 00:15:17,220
the raw material for the
bricks and the bricks

214
00:15:17,220 --> 00:15:22,710
itself were transported by rail.

215
00:15:22,710 --> 00:15:25,980
So there was a
railway connection

216
00:15:25,980 --> 00:15:29,370
to the Hungarian railway system.

217
00:15:29,370 --> 00:15:35,940
And unfortunately,
many of the Jews

218
00:15:35,940 --> 00:15:41,910
who were taken
from this brickyard

219
00:15:41,910 --> 00:15:48,420
weren't taken there by
the Hungarian police.

220
00:15:48,420 --> 00:15:51,840
As far as I know, there
was an announcement

221
00:15:51,840 --> 00:15:53,610

in the Hungarian radio.

222

00:15:53,610 --> 00:16:00,780

And there were posters on the streets announcing or telling

223

00:16:00,780 --> 00:16:08,580

that every Jewish citizen should show up in that brickyard

224

00:16:08,580 --> 00:16:10,980

at a certain time.

225

00:16:10,980 --> 00:16:15,420

And many of the Jews, being law-abiding citizens,

226

00:16:15,420 --> 00:16:18,060

went voluntarily there.

227

00:16:18,060 --> 00:16:21,030

And of course, there were many of them

228

00:16:21,030 --> 00:16:28,470

who were escorted by either the Nazis, the SS who

229

00:16:28,470 --> 00:16:31,350

were in Budapest, and Adolf Eichmann

230

00:16:31,350 --> 00:16:35,730

who coordinated the deportation of the Hungarian Jews.

231

00:16:35,730 --> 00:16:39,060

232

00:16:39,060 --> 00:16:43,500

But when we left the protected house,

233

00:16:43,500 --> 00:16:46,200
we went to the Budapest ghetto.

234

00:16:46,200 --> 00:16:47,940
Why?

235

00:16:47,940 --> 00:16:54,780
Because it still seemed to
be a safe place, in a way.

236

00:16:54,780 --> 00:16:58,350

237

00:16:58,350 --> 00:17:01,980
The Hungarian government,
at one point--

238

00:17:01,980 --> 00:17:05,490
I don't remember
the exact date--

239

00:17:05,490 --> 00:17:11,420
stopped the deportation
of Hungarian Jews.

240

00:17:11,420 --> 00:17:16,220
So after more than
400,000 Hungarian Jews

241

00:17:16,220 --> 00:17:21,170
from the countryside were
already deported, sometimes

242

00:17:21,170 --> 00:17:30,030
in the summer of '44 or early
fall, the Hungarian government

243

00:17:30,030 --> 00:17:34,550
said, that's enough, no
more Jews will be deported.

244

00:17:34,550 --> 00:17:35,220

Even though--

245

00:17:35,220 --> 00:17:37,135

And later on-- oh, go ahead.

246

00:17:37,135 --> 00:17:39,800

Even though it was a
far-right government?

247

00:17:39,800 --> 00:17:40,430

Even though--

248

00:17:40,430 --> 00:17:41,850

Now, here is the thing.

249

00:17:41,850 --> 00:17:50,570

That was happening
until October 15,

250

00:17:50,570 --> 00:17:54,770

when the Arrow Cross
took over government

251

00:17:54,770 --> 00:17:58,730

with the help of the Germans.

252

00:17:58,730 --> 00:18:07,600

And that time, I don't think
that the deportation continued.

253

00:18:07,600 --> 00:18:13,250

However, there was a so-called
death march of the Hungarian

254

00:18:13,250 --> 00:18:19,340

Jews who, by the order of the
Hungarian government and maybe

255

00:18:19,340 --> 00:18:25,340

under the pressure of the Nazis,
all the Jews who were already

256

00:18:25,340 --> 00:18:32,495
arrested to walk, practically
walking towards the--

257
00:18:32,495 --> 00:18:40,380
that was the infamous
death march from Budapest

258
00:18:40,380 --> 00:18:48,560
to Austria where the Germans
took over the Hungarians

259
00:18:48,560 --> 00:18:53,345
and put them, I believe,
in Mauthausen and Dachau.

260
00:18:53,345 --> 00:18:56,420

261
00:18:56,420 --> 00:19:02,260
Many of the people, especially
the elderly, died on their way

262
00:19:02,260 --> 00:19:10,360
to Austria, because that was
November and December, 1944.

263
00:19:10,360 --> 00:19:12,760
And it was a harsh winter.

264
00:19:12,760 --> 00:19:18,820
And many people were
just too weak to march.

265
00:19:18,820 --> 00:19:20,890
So can one surmise.

266
00:19:20,890 --> 00:19:23,320
Is it wrong to--

267
00:19:23,320 --> 00:19:26,320
tell me whether the thought
that comes into my mind

268
00:19:26,320 --> 00:19:29,020
is a misinterpretation or not.

269
00:19:29,020 --> 00:19:33,700
But even though the
deportations to Auschwitz

270
00:19:33,700 --> 00:19:38,290
are halted when the Arrow
Cross party gains control

271
00:19:38,290 --> 00:19:42,580
of the government,
there still is an effort

272
00:19:42,580 --> 00:19:44,170
to get rid of the Jews.

273
00:19:44,170 --> 00:19:48,460
And so the alternative
is this death march

274
00:19:48,460 --> 00:19:51,550
to Austria, where then
the Germans take over,

275
00:19:51,550 --> 00:19:54,100
as far as the
concentration camps

276
00:19:54,100 --> 00:19:58,100
that people will be taken to.

277
00:19:58,100 --> 00:20:01,000
Is this a correct understanding?

278
00:20:01,000 --> 00:20:03,040
Yeah, that's the
correct understanding.

279
00:20:03,040 --> 00:20:04,260

That's what happened.

280
00:20:04,260 --> 00:20:04,760
OK.

281
00:20:04,760 --> 00:20:07,270

282
00:20:07,270 --> 00:20:09,670
But you and your mother
are in the ghetto.

283
00:20:09,670 --> 00:20:13,390

284
00:20:13,390 --> 00:20:19,900
So did you leave the safe
house within days of this party

285
00:20:19,900 --> 00:20:21,280
taking over government?

286
00:20:21,280 --> 00:20:23,530
Did you leave a few weeks later?

287
00:20:23,530 --> 00:20:25,520
Do you know whether
it was November

288
00:20:25,520 --> 00:20:27,980
that you got to the ghetto?

289
00:20:27,980 --> 00:20:32,950
I think we leaved
either the same day

290
00:20:32,950 --> 00:20:38,080
or within a couple of days
because, again, my mom couldn't

291
00:20:38,080 --> 00:20:43,610
risk that another group

of Nazis would come back

292

00:20:43,610 --> 00:20:49,490
and would be not
as forgiving as--

293

00:20:49,490 --> 00:20:54,520
or we weren't as lucky
as the first time around.

294

00:20:54,520 --> 00:21:01,990
And also, we already had
my grandparents, and both

295

00:21:01,990 --> 00:21:09,460
my aunts, and my cousin
living in the ghetto

296

00:21:09,460 --> 00:21:14,080
just by default,
because their address

297

00:21:14,080 --> 00:21:19,770
where they lived even before the
war was within the boundaries

298

00:21:19,770 --> 00:21:21,700
of the Budapest ghetto.

299

00:21:21,700 --> 00:21:23,110
Oh, I see.

300

00:21:23,110 --> 00:21:27,340
So you actually-- you
went to live with them.

301

00:21:27,340 --> 00:21:31,630
And they just happened to
have their home in the ghetto.

302

00:21:31,630 --> 00:21:32,980
Correct.

303

00:21:32,980 --> 00:21:34,500

OK.

304

00:21:34,500 --> 00:21:36,900

And what kind of a
home did they have?

305

00:21:36,900 --> 00:21:39,720

Was it a single-family house?

306

00:21:39,720 --> 00:21:42,060

Or was it an apartment again?

307

00:21:42,060 --> 00:21:45,210

It was an apartment building.

308

00:21:45,210 --> 00:21:52,830

I can't recall-- maybe two,
three, or four stories high.

309

00:21:52,830 --> 00:21:56,310

I do remember that
there was no elevator.

310

00:21:56,310 --> 00:22:00,040

And we lived on
the second floor.

311

00:22:00,040 --> 00:22:00,540

And--

312

00:22:00,540 --> 00:22:04,300

Which would be the third
floor in the United States.

313

00:22:04,300 --> 00:22:05,350

No, sorry.

314

00:22:05,350 --> 00:22:08,740

It's the second floor
in the United States.

315

00:22:08,740 --> 00:22:12,030

It's the first
floor in Budapest.

316

00:22:12,030 --> 00:22:12,850

OK.

317

00:22:12,850 --> 00:22:14,570

OK.

318

00:22:14,570 --> 00:22:17,900

And were there other strange
people living in the house,

319

00:22:17,900 --> 00:22:18,720

too?

320

00:22:18,720 --> 00:22:19,220

Or were--

321

00:22:19,220 --> 00:22:24,440

No strange people.

322

00:22:24,440 --> 00:22:26,240

Strangers to your family.

323

00:22:26,240 --> 00:22:30,080

I didn't mean strange
people, as they were weird.

324

00:22:30,080 --> 00:22:33,560

Yeah, I understand.

325

00:22:33,560 --> 00:22:36,750

No, as far as I know.

326

00:22:36,750 --> 00:22:41,150

Again, my grandparents
were there,

327

00:22:41,150 --> 00:22:51,770

and my Aunt [? Ibi, ?] and Aunt Gabriela, and my cousin Judit.

328
00:22:51,770 --> 00:22:56,690
So it wasn't like their apartment was split up,

329
00:22:56,690 --> 00:23:01,820
so one family per room, like the safe house had been.

330
00:23:01,820 --> 00:23:05,180
Well, what happened was, really, it

331
00:23:05,180 --> 00:23:10,150
was what you would call a one-bedroom apartment.

332
00:23:10,150 --> 00:23:11,710
There was a living room.

333
00:23:11,710 --> 00:23:14,200
And there was a bedroom.

334
00:23:14,200 --> 00:23:18,400
And there were beds in the living room and the bedroom.

335
00:23:18,400 --> 00:23:30,230
And there was a small room, which either was a pantry room.

336
00:23:30,230 --> 00:23:34,070
I think that's what you would call.

337
00:23:34,070 --> 00:23:36,380
It was a very small apartment.

338
00:23:36,380 --> 00:23:43,760
I knew the apartment, because when I grew up in Budapest,

339
00:23:43,760 --> 00:23:49,880
one of my aunts stayed in
that apartment for the rest

340
00:23:49,880 --> 00:23:52,380
of her life, actually.

341
00:23:52,380 --> 00:23:56,130
And so we were
visiting her many time.

342
00:23:56,130 --> 00:24:01,410
And when she got married after
the war, she had a child.

343
00:24:01,410 --> 00:24:08,600
And so I have a good
memory of the apartment--

344
00:24:08,600 --> 00:24:12,070
a memory of the
apartment, definitely.

345
00:24:12,070 --> 00:24:13,970
But it was irrelevant.

346
00:24:13,970 --> 00:24:18,020
Not irrelevant-- it was relevant
that that was an apartment.

347
00:24:18,020 --> 00:24:25,220
But by that time, we spent
most of the time during the day

348
00:24:25,220 --> 00:24:29,990
specifically in the
basement of the house,

349
00:24:29,990 --> 00:24:35,870
because Budapest was bombed
by the Allied Forces,

350

00:24:35,870 --> 00:24:38,180
and I assume the Russians also.

351

00:24:38,180 --> 00:24:41,230
The Russians were actually
much closer than America.

352

00:24:41,230 --> 00:24:46,880
And so it was bombed
by the Soviet Red Army.

353

00:24:46,880 --> 00:25:04,010
And we had no safe place,
designated air-raid shelters.

354

00:25:04,010 --> 00:25:09,560
The basement of the buildings,
which were originally

355

00:25:09,560 --> 00:25:15,020
used for storing the
wood and the coal,

356

00:25:15,020 --> 00:25:21,100
which were used by people during
the winter to heat their home--

357

00:25:21,100 --> 00:25:23,840
there were no central heating.

358

00:25:23,840 --> 00:25:30,740
So every apartment had their
own stove and furnaces.

359

00:25:30,740 --> 00:25:37,740
And the coal and the
wood they used for fuel

360

00:25:37,740 --> 00:25:46,340
were stored in this basement,
which was really just a dirt

361

00:25:46,340 --> 00:25:46,920
floor.

362
00:25:46,920 --> 00:25:51,030
It wasn't even a cement
floor, just dirt floor.

363
00:25:51,030 --> 00:25:57,730
And there were
stalls, wooden walls,

364
00:25:57,730 --> 00:26:00,290
assigned for every apartment.

365
00:26:00,290 --> 00:26:03,650
And it had a door.

366
00:26:03,650 --> 00:26:08,150
You could close it,
or lock it, so nobody

367
00:26:08,150 --> 00:26:13,460
would steal your coal or wood.

368
00:26:13,460 --> 00:26:15,680
Did people ever keep
food down there,

369
00:26:15,680 --> 00:26:17,090
like potatoes and things?

370
00:26:17,090 --> 00:26:21,430

371
00:26:21,430 --> 00:26:23,830
Good question.

372
00:26:23,830 --> 00:26:32,410
I assume they did, because
it was colder than upstairs.

373
00:26:32,410 --> 00:26:40,040

And refrigeration wasn't
very good at that time.

374
00:26:40,040 --> 00:26:46,800
And so probably, they used
perishable things there

375
00:26:46,800 --> 00:26:50,030
until they used it.

376
00:26:50,030 --> 00:26:54,820
But mind you, by this
time, there weren't much

377
00:26:54,820 --> 00:26:57,520
food or potato available.

378
00:26:57,520 --> 00:27:02,380
So yes, probably, before the war
or at the beginning of the war,

379
00:27:02,380 --> 00:27:03,310
they used it.

380
00:27:03,310 --> 00:27:09,700
By this time, there
were no woods or coal

381
00:27:09,700 --> 00:27:13,040
for heating the
apartments, either.

382
00:27:13,040 --> 00:27:15,220
So there was privation.

383
00:27:15,220 --> 00:27:18,130
Is this something that I
can understand from that?

384
00:27:18,130 --> 00:27:21,400
Were people hungry?

385

00:27:21,400 --> 00:27:24,900
Starvation, in a sense.

386
00:27:24,900 --> 00:27:25,900
Privation.

387
00:27:25,900 --> 00:27:27,810
Privation, not starvation.

388
00:27:27,810 --> 00:27:28,310
Privation--

389
00:27:28,310 --> 00:27:30,730
Oh, sorry.

390
00:27:30,730 --> 00:27:34,120
--in that, did you feel hunger?

391
00:27:34,120 --> 00:27:38,370
Did you feel the
shortage of food?

392
00:27:38,370 --> 00:27:39,280
Here is the thing.

393
00:27:39,280 --> 00:27:41,830

394
00:27:41,830 --> 00:27:47,320
I said earlier that my mom
was determined to survive.

395
00:27:47,320 --> 00:27:51,640
And she protected me
as much as she could.

396
00:27:51,640 --> 00:27:57,310
So no, I don't remember
that I was cold,

397
00:27:57,310 --> 00:28:00,040
that I didn't have

enough warm clothes,

398
00:28:00,040 --> 00:28:04,690
because from whatever
and however, she

399
00:28:04,690 --> 00:28:12,640
cut up old clothes of hers or
my father's and made clothes

400
00:28:12,640 --> 00:28:13,750
for me.

401
00:28:13,750 --> 00:28:17,020
But I was protected.

402
00:28:17,020 --> 00:28:21,670
As far as food is
concerned, whatever we had,

403
00:28:21,670 --> 00:28:25,100
that's what we had.

404
00:28:25,100 --> 00:28:34,450
I don't know if I lost weight
during the last few months

405
00:28:34,450 --> 00:28:35,410
of the war.

406
00:28:35,410 --> 00:28:39,850
Obviously, again, food
wasn't available for anybody,

407
00:28:39,850 --> 00:28:44,290
even those who
weren't in the ghetto.

408
00:28:44,290 --> 00:28:50,700
But people were very
resourceful, I think,

409

00:28:50,700 --> 00:28:55,060
if I can use this
word, because--

410
00:28:55,060 --> 00:29:01,480
and again, this is a
story my mom told me--

411
00:29:01,480 --> 00:29:09,700
that between two
bombing raids, people

412
00:29:09,700 --> 00:29:13,870
went out and went to the
houses which were bombed out.

413
00:29:13,870 --> 00:29:17,780
And there were no
tenants in those houses.

414
00:29:17,780 --> 00:29:22,070
And if they were lucky
enough, some escaped earlier.

415
00:29:22,070 --> 00:29:25,430
Anyway, these houses
were abandoned.

416
00:29:25,430 --> 00:29:30,100
And so people were rummaging
through the rubbles.

417
00:29:30,100 --> 00:29:35,440
And whatever they
could find, they

418
00:29:35,440 --> 00:29:43,520
would bring back to their own
place of residence and eat it.

419
00:29:43,520 --> 00:29:50,880
So the story goes in our family
that, one day, my grandmother--

420

00:29:50,880 --> 00:29:55,030

who he was an
orthodox-observant Jew--

421

00:29:55,030 --> 00:30:00,130

came home with a
big slab of bacon.

422

00:30:00,130 --> 00:30:02,770

423

00:30:02,770 --> 00:30:06,640

And obviously,
bacon is not kosher.

424

00:30:06,640 --> 00:30:09,680

And it's, again,
Jewish dietary laws.

425

00:30:09,680 --> 00:30:12,980

But again, this time, people--

426

00:30:12,980 --> 00:30:14,410

whatever they could find.

427

00:30:14,410 --> 00:30:20,150

If they found bread
which was moldy,

428

00:30:20,150 --> 00:30:26,490

they just took out the mold
part and ate the rest of it.

429

00:30:26,490 --> 00:30:30,410

When you are hungry,
you cannot be a chooser.

430

00:30:30,410 --> 00:30:39,870

Anyway, we ate
that slab of bacon.

431

00:30:39,870 --> 00:30:45,430

And it gave us energy to
survive another few days.

432
00:30:45,430 --> 00:30:48,960
And every day
really meant that we

433
00:30:48,960 --> 00:30:53,090
got closer to being liberated.

434
00:30:53,090 --> 00:30:54,970
And you have memories of this?

435
00:30:54,970 --> 00:30:56,520
You have direct memories?

436
00:30:56,520 --> 00:31:00,290
I mean, you're still
less than four years old.

437
00:31:00,290 --> 00:31:06,480
Well, I do have memories
sleeping on the dirt floor.

438
00:31:06,480 --> 00:31:11,220
My mom put down a
blanket, so we weren't

439
00:31:11,220 --> 00:31:13,680
sitting on the dirt floor.

440
00:31:13,680 --> 00:31:20,700
We were sitting on the blanket.

441
00:31:20,700 --> 00:31:27,120
We had, downstairs--
what you call?

442
00:31:27,120 --> 00:31:30,120

443
00:31:30,120 --> 00:31:32,580

You keep your children--

444
00:31:32,580 --> 00:31:33,700
it's not a cage.

445
00:31:33,700 --> 00:31:39,370
It's a portable--

446
00:31:39,370 --> 00:31:40,605
A playpen?

447
00:31:40,605 --> 00:31:45,270
A playpen-- that's what it is.

448
00:31:45,270 --> 00:31:51,210
And I and my cousin, who
was just a few weeks younger

449
00:31:51,210 --> 00:31:55,500
than I, we were
then in the playpen.

450
00:31:55,500 --> 00:31:59,310
And I don't remember,
but my cousin remembers.

451
00:31:59,310 --> 00:32:03,090
And she told me many
times since then

452
00:32:03,090 --> 00:32:06,630
that she was chasing
me up and down,

453
00:32:06,630 --> 00:32:11,220
because she was
just more physically

454
00:32:11,220 --> 00:32:12,940
developed than I was.

455
00:32:12,940 --> 00:32:15,330

And so I just ran away from her.

456

00:32:15,330 --> 00:32:16,260

Oh, dear.

457

00:32:16,260 --> 00:32:19,620

458

00:32:19,620 --> 00:32:23,700

So this is one of those curious situations where the world is

459

00:32:23,700 --> 00:32:25,470

falling down around you.

460

00:32:25,470 --> 00:32:26,780

There is war.

461

00:32:26,780 --> 00:32:29,880

But children still play.

462

00:32:29,880 --> 00:32:30,870

Correct.

463

00:32:30,870 --> 00:32:34,860

In that sense-- not everywhere, but here.

464

00:32:34,860 --> 00:32:37,020

Yeah, children are children.

465

00:32:37,020 --> 00:32:42,510

And again, because-- we were oblivious what was happening.

466

00:32:42,510 --> 00:32:45,500

I mean, we knew that they were bombing.

467

00:32:45,500 --> 00:32:48,120

And we heard the explosions.

468

00:32:48,120 --> 00:32:52,430

And when we looked
out the windows

469

00:32:52,430 --> 00:32:54,850

when we went up
to the apartment,

470

00:32:54,850 --> 00:33:00,720

we saw houses bombed out.

471

00:33:00,720 --> 00:33:04,830

We didn't have the
concept of what a war was

472

00:33:04,830 --> 00:33:09,720

and what it meant that
people were dying.

473

00:33:09,720 --> 00:33:13,110

As a child, do you ever
remember seeing a dead person

474

00:33:13,110 --> 00:33:16,200

on the street or somewhere?

475

00:33:16,200 --> 00:33:18,810

Yes, I do remember.

476

00:33:18,810 --> 00:33:23,010

When the Budapest
ghetto was liberated,

477

00:33:23,010 --> 00:33:30,600

and we walked back from
the ghetto to our home--

478

00:33:30,600 --> 00:33:35,660

we lived in Akã;cfa utca,
Akã;cfa utca [NON-ENGLISH],,

479

00:33:35,660 --> 00:33:39,120

I mean number 27.

480
00:33:39,120 --> 00:33:42,550
And we went back
to our apartment,

481
00:33:42,550 --> 00:33:50,720
which was in the [INAUDIBLE]
of street number 10.

482
00:33:50,720 --> 00:33:59,450
It's about a 15, maybe
20-minutes walk for grown ups.

483
00:33:59,450 --> 00:34:05,780
And we walked through
the streets of Budapest.

484
00:34:05,780 --> 00:34:08,570
And I saw the bombed out houses.

485
00:34:08,570 --> 00:34:13,969
I saw corpses on the street.

486
00:34:13,969 --> 00:34:19,790
I saw carcasses of
horses on the street.

487
00:34:19,790 --> 00:34:28,159
And I felt the stench
of the dying bodies.

488
00:34:28,159 --> 00:34:32,000
So definitely, that
was something which

489
00:34:32,000 --> 00:34:34,600
was imprinted in my memory.

490
00:34:34,600 --> 00:34:37,880
I do remember that
trip back to home.

491

00:34:37,880 --> 00:34:42,699

492

00:34:42,699 --> 00:34:47,949

So you stay with
your grandparents

493

00:34:47,949 --> 00:34:53,163

until January when the
Soviets liberate Budapest.

494

00:34:53,163 --> 00:34:53,830

Is that correct?

495

00:34:53,830 --> 00:34:54,969

Correct.

496

00:34:54,969 --> 00:34:58,520

The date, I believe,
is January 17

497

00:34:58,520 --> 00:35:02,380

when they came to
the Budapest ghetto.

498

00:35:02,380 --> 00:35:05,170

Budapest was liberated
a few weeks later,

499

00:35:05,170 --> 00:35:12,290

because they came from the
east, where the Pest side is.

500

00:35:12,290 --> 00:35:17,210

So once they kicked out
the Nazis from Buda,

501

00:35:17,210 --> 00:35:20,800

it took another few weeks.

502

00:35:20,800 --> 00:35:25,750

And yes, we stayed there

until definitely January 17.

503

00:35:25,750 --> 00:35:31,300

I don't know if we went home
the next day or a week later.

504

00:35:31,300 --> 00:35:38,020

But pretty soon after we were
able to go back, we went back.

505

00:35:38,020 --> 00:35:40,480

And do you remember
any impressions

506

00:35:40,480 --> 00:35:43,390

of those soldiers-- what they
looked like, how they behaved?

507

00:35:43,390 --> 00:35:46,450

508

00:35:46,450 --> 00:35:47,920

I do have, actually.

509

00:35:47,920 --> 00:35:50,730

510

00:35:50,730 --> 00:35:54,520

And of course, the
others-- especially

511

00:35:54,520 --> 00:35:59,320

grown ups and women, who
had different experiences

512

00:35:59,320 --> 00:36:02,740

with Russian soldiers.

513

00:36:02,740 --> 00:36:07,030

I remember that
they gave us candy.

514

00:36:07,030 --> 00:36:14,500
And that was something a
little child remembers,

515
00:36:14,500 --> 00:36:17,300
because I don't know
when I had candy before.

516
00:36:17,300 --> 00:36:21,880
Maybe I never had candy before,
because I was just too young,

517
00:36:21,880 --> 00:36:24,460
and my mom didn't
want to give me candy.

518
00:36:24,460 --> 00:36:29,220
And obviously, during
the last year or war,

519
00:36:29,220 --> 00:36:31,800
there was no candy available.

520
00:36:31,800 --> 00:36:36,610
But some of these
Russian soldiers had.

521
00:36:36,610 --> 00:36:41,170
And they gave
cigarettes to grown ups.

522
00:36:41,170 --> 00:36:46,730
And those Russian cigarettes
were not the best quality one.

523
00:36:46,730 --> 00:36:52,120
But if people were addicted to
cigarettes, they accepted it.

524
00:36:52,120 --> 00:36:54,790
Well, it's also like currency.

525
00:36:54,790 --> 00:36:57,240

It's not just the taste
of the cigarettes.

526
00:36:57,240 --> 00:37:02,870

It's its value for
exchange for other items.

527
00:37:02,870 --> 00:37:04,610

Yeah, you are right.

528
00:37:04,610 --> 00:37:09,070

Although the
Russians, the Soviets,

529
00:37:09,070 --> 00:37:15,790
didn't use it as a currency as
far as I know, because whatever

530
00:37:15,790 --> 00:37:19,120
they needed, they just took it.

531
00:37:19,120 --> 00:37:25,480
And again, that's from
stories later heard or written

532
00:37:25,480 --> 00:37:26,650
in memoirs--

533
00:37:26,650 --> 00:37:37,450
that they took wrist watches
from people, and jewelry,

534
00:37:37,450 --> 00:37:40,360
whatever was left.

535
00:37:40,360 --> 00:37:42,860
But they didn't barter.

536
00:37:42,860 --> 00:37:44,800
So in other words,
there was no need

537

00:37:44,800 --> 00:37:46,060
for the cigarette currency.

538
00:37:46,060 --> 00:37:48,790

539
00:37:48,790 --> 00:37:50,020
As far as I know.

540
00:37:50,020 --> 00:37:55,240
Maybe the Hungarians who
were lucky enough and got--

541
00:37:55,240 --> 00:38:02,770
they might have exchange it for
food, if they weren't smokers,

542
00:38:02,770 --> 00:38:06,040
and they used it as a currency.

543
00:38:06,040 --> 00:38:08,770
I have no evidence of that.

544
00:38:08,770 --> 00:38:11,380
Did your mother ever
tell you any stories

545
00:38:11,380 --> 00:38:16,450
about the liberation later?

546
00:38:16,450 --> 00:38:19,630
Not the liberation.

547
00:38:19,630 --> 00:38:25,840
One thing I still remembered
living in the ghetto--

548
00:38:25,840 --> 00:38:29,740
and during the night, we
went back to the apartment.

549
00:38:29,740 --> 00:38:35,200

But again, that was the
winter of 1944, '45.

550
00:38:35,200 --> 00:38:38,500
The apartment wasn't
heated at all.

551
00:38:38,500 --> 00:38:40,915
And it was a cold winter.

552
00:38:40,915 --> 00:38:47,980
But fortunately, my
grandparents had lots of duvets.

553
00:38:47,980 --> 00:38:51,590
Or what do you call this?

554
00:38:51,590 --> 00:38:54,395
Feather-filled blankets.

555
00:38:54,395 --> 00:38:55,810
Oh, down.

556
00:38:55,810 --> 00:38:59,580
It's called down duvets,
these goose-down duvets.

557
00:38:59,580 --> 00:39:02,210
That's right, goose-down duvets.

558
00:39:02,210 --> 00:39:04,030
That's what we had.

559
00:39:04,030 --> 00:39:08,010
And they are very warm.

560
00:39:08,010 --> 00:39:15,810
And so as many people as
we could get in one bed

561
00:39:15,810 --> 00:39:17,500
were in one bed.

562
00:39:17,500 --> 00:39:21,130
I just remember that
my cousin, and my mom,

563
00:39:21,130 --> 00:39:23,470
and I was in one bed.

564
00:39:23,470 --> 00:39:28,440
And we had one or maybe
two duvets over us.

565
00:39:28,440 --> 00:39:31,210
And this is how we
spent the night.

566
00:39:31,210 --> 00:39:36,570
And we were comfortable,
as far as I can tell.

567
00:39:36,570 --> 00:39:43,180
Well, this is all after the
threat of being deported

568
00:39:43,180 --> 00:39:44,870
had gone away.

569
00:39:44,870 --> 00:39:51,360
So was there a threat
of then being forced out

570
00:39:51,360 --> 00:39:56,382
onto these death marches
if you were in the ghetto?

571
00:39:56,382 --> 00:39:58,450
Well, yes.

572
00:39:58,450 --> 00:40:00,970
People were taken
out of the ghetto

573

00:40:00,970 --> 00:40:03,900
and forced into
the death marches.

574
00:40:03,900 --> 00:40:08,085
But how the selection
happened, and who

575
00:40:08,085 --> 00:40:11,050
were taken, who
weren't, I don't know.

576
00:40:11,050 --> 00:40:14,170
I know that, again,
many of the Jews

577
00:40:14,170 --> 00:40:15,790
voluntarily went to ghettos.

578
00:40:15,790 --> 00:40:18,000
They were in those houses.

579
00:40:18,000 --> 00:40:22,240
And there were about 2,000
houses, apartment buildings,

580
00:40:22,240 --> 00:40:26,650
in Budapest marked with
the Yellow Star or David.

581
00:40:26,650 --> 00:40:36,070
So the Hungarian Nazis
could have gotten to there

582
00:40:36,070 --> 00:40:41,560
and herded the people
out of those buildings

583
00:40:41,560 --> 00:40:45,100
or from the Budapest ghetto.

584
00:40:45,100 --> 00:40:48,760
I don't know their stories.

585
00:40:48,760 --> 00:40:53,760
I know that one of the
most famous Hungarian poet

586
00:40:53,760 --> 00:40:57,700
was part of this death march.

587
00:40:57,700 --> 00:41:03,890
And he actually wrote some
of his last poems on his way

588
00:41:03,890 --> 00:41:05,136
to his death.

589
00:41:05,136 --> 00:41:07,570
Oh, wow.

590
00:41:07,570 --> 00:41:10,010
What was his name?

591
00:41:10,010 --> 00:41:13,632
His name was Radn³ti Mikl³s.

592
00:41:13,632 --> 00:41:16,070
"Dock-no-tee" "Nick-losh"?

593
00:41:16,070 --> 00:41:27,330
Radn³ti, R-A-D-N-O-T-I,
I believe.

594
00:41:27,330 --> 00:41:27,830
Radn³ti.

595
00:41:27,830 --> 00:41:28,910
Radn³ti.

596
00:41:28,910 --> 00:41:29,410
Uh-huh.

597
00:41:29,410 --> 00:41:33,030

598

00:41:33,030 --> 00:41:36,360
So do you think that-- did
your mother ever say, or any

599

00:41:36,360 --> 00:41:39,030
of the other adults
later ever say,

600

00:41:39,030 --> 00:41:42,600
that they felt that they were
endangered to be taken away,

601

00:41:42,600 --> 00:41:45,960
or that just didn't come
up in the conversations?

602

00:41:45,960 --> 00:41:48,490

603

00:41:48,490 --> 00:41:53,450
It did not come up
in the conversation.

604

00:41:53,450 --> 00:41:58,540
But she felt. After we got
into the Budapest ghetto,

605

00:41:58,540 --> 00:42:07,060
unfortunately, I wasn't
very vigorous asking her

606

00:42:07,060 --> 00:42:09,260
about the details.

607

00:42:09,260 --> 00:42:11,330
And in general, was
your mother someone

608

00:42:11,330 --> 00:42:17,480
who shared much of her
thoughts and experiences

609
00:42:17,480 --> 00:42:23,870
of living in Hungary during
those years before March 1944,

610
00:42:23,870 --> 00:42:27,470
and of course after March 1944?

611
00:42:27,470 --> 00:42:29,360
Was she a storyteller?

612
00:42:29,360 --> 00:42:31,910
Did she tell you things?

613
00:42:31,910 --> 00:42:34,040
No, she did not.

614
00:42:34,040 --> 00:42:42,410
She did not tell me anything
about what she told me later,

615
00:42:42,410 --> 00:42:47,240
much later, and especially
after I started to inquire.

616
00:42:47,240 --> 00:42:52,440
Even then, she didn't volunteer.

617
00:42:52,440 --> 00:43:02,060
But in the early
'90s, that's when

618
00:43:02,060 --> 00:43:06,200
she started to talk about it.

619
00:43:06,200 --> 00:43:07,711
And why do you think that was?

620
00:43:07,711 --> 00:43:10,480

621

00:43:10,480 --> 00:43:14,990

Well, it's a complex
issue, I can tell you,

622

00:43:14,990 --> 00:43:21,370

because it was a
painful memory for her.

623

00:43:21,370 --> 00:43:29,230

She was separated from
the love of her life

624

00:43:29,230 --> 00:43:31,090

at a very young age.

625

00:43:31,090 --> 00:43:37,190

And then she lost him.

626

00:43:37,190 --> 00:43:50,120

And it was a hard time to tell
stories, because it just--

627

00:43:50,120 --> 00:43:52,750

for her, it probably
weren't stories.

628

00:43:52,750 --> 00:43:54,500

It was history.

629

00:43:54,500 --> 00:43:56,110

And it was her life.

630

00:43:56,110 --> 00:43:58,810

She lived through.

631

00:43:58,810 --> 00:44:04,400

And when you tell
those memories,

632

00:44:04,400 --> 00:44:13,390

it's the pain you feel again
and again as you tell the story.

633

00:44:13,390 --> 00:44:23,790
But she told me bits and pieces,
which I wouldn't have known

634

00:44:23,790 --> 00:44:32,790
hadn't she told me
voluntarily, about her escape

635

00:44:32,790 --> 00:44:44,660
from the Mosonyi utca jail, her
escape from the Arrow Cross.

636

00:44:44,660 --> 00:44:51,560
And there were two other
stories she told me, which

637

00:44:51,560 --> 00:44:55,740
is very relevant of the time.

638

00:44:55,740 --> 00:45:02,290
One is that-- this
conversation is not

639

00:45:02,290 --> 00:45:06,670
about what the church
or Christians did

640

00:45:06,670 --> 00:45:11,830
or didn't do during the
Holocaust to save Jews.

641

00:45:11,830 --> 00:45:14,290
But there was one thing.

642

00:45:14,290 --> 00:45:19,240
Namely, there were
rumors in Budapest

643

00:45:19,240 --> 00:45:25,000
that people who converted
into Christianity

644

00:45:25,000 --> 00:45:28,580
would be saved from
the deportation.

645
00:45:28,580 --> 00:45:36,070
And the Catholic church
started conversion classes.

646
00:45:36,070 --> 00:45:43,050
And my mom's-- one of
her friends took my mom.

647
00:45:43,050 --> 00:45:46,210
And she said, so why
don't we try this?

648
00:45:46,210 --> 00:45:49,110
There is nothing to lose.

649
00:45:49,110 --> 00:45:53,760
And my mom went to
the first class.

650
00:45:53,760 --> 00:45:57,060
And that was her
last class also,

651
00:45:57,060 --> 00:46:02,000
because she just
couldn't bring herself

652
00:46:02,000 --> 00:46:08,420
to the point to leave the
religion of her parents

653
00:46:08,420 --> 00:46:12,080
and grandparents,
and deny everything

654
00:46:12,080 --> 00:46:18,020
she believed in until then,
and take another religion.

655

00:46:18,020 --> 00:46:23,900
So she went to one conversion
class, and that was it.

656
00:46:23,900 --> 00:46:24,740
Yeah.

657
00:46:24,740 --> 00:46:25,910
Yeah.

658
00:46:25,910 --> 00:46:34,930
So it's interesting that
there was a willingness

659
00:46:34,930 --> 00:46:42,280
to help save physical
bodies of people.

660
00:46:42,280 --> 00:46:44,650
But there still wasn't--

661
00:46:44,650 --> 00:46:49,090
it wasn't seen as a
temporary gesture.

662
00:46:49,090 --> 00:46:53,920
That is, here you get a
baptismal certificate.

663
00:46:53,920 --> 00:46:59,320
But this isn't a
conversion event.

664
00:46:59,320 --> 00:47:02,230
This is just so that
you can stay alive.

665
00:47:02,230 --> 00:47:06,510
From the church, from
your mother's experience

666
00:47:06,510 --> 00:47:12,060
it was, in order to really

get the piece of paper,

667
00:47:12,060 --> 00:47:14,100
you need to be sincere.

668
00:47:14,100 --> 00:47:17,640
You need to accept
this new religion,

669
00:47:17,640 --> 00:47:19,350
this different religion.

670
00:47:19,350 --> 00:47:21,724
It's not new, but
it's different.

671
00:47:21,724 --> 00:47:29,910
And there are stories of
priests who actually behaved

672
00:47:29,910 --> 00:47:35,640
differently, who would urge--

673
00:47:35,640 --> 00:47:39,840
if they gave false baptismal
records for a child,

674
00:47:39,840 --> 00:47:43,530
they didn't then
force, let's say,

675
00:47:43,530 --> 00:47:46,830
the catechism on that child.

676
00:47:46,830 --> 00:47:51,810
But those were individual
acts rather than, let's say,

677
00:47:51,810 --> 00:47:54,510
a systemic one.

678
00:47:54,510 --> 00:47:55,520

Yeah.

679

00:47:55,520 --> 00:48:03,810

Again, historians there tried
to find out what happened

680

00:48:03,810 --> 00:48:06,870

and what didn't happen
during the Holocaust.

681

00:48:06,870 --> 00:48:12,240

The Holocaust archives was
just about to open in March

682

00:48:12,240 --> 00:48:15,790

when the virus came.

683

00:48:15,790 --> 00:48:16,290

It's very--

684

00:48:16,290 --> 00:48:16,950

You're talking about the--

685

00:48:16,950 --> 00:48:17,670

It's very [INAUDIBLE].

686

00:48:17,670 --> 00:48:18,170

Excuse me.

687

00:48:18,170 --> 00:48:20,850

You're talking about the
Vatican archives in Rome.

688

00:48:20,850 --> 00:48:21,550

Yeah.

689

00:48:21,550 --> 00:48:22,240

Yeah.

690

00:48:22,240 --> 00:48:22,740

Yeah.

691

00:48:22,740 --> 00:48:24,330

Yes, correct.

692

00:48:24,330 --> 00:48:35,920

But again, my stepfather had a son who was six months younger

693

00:48:35,920 --> 00:48:37,030

than I was.

694

00:48:37,030 --> 00:48:40,980

And when he was taken to the forced labor

695

00:48:40,980 --> 00:48:45,130

battalion [INAUDIBLE],, he was taken to Auschwitz.

696

00:48:45,130 --> 00:48:47,560

He was already divorced.

697

00:48:47,560 --> 00:48:56,020

And the mother of his child, his first wife,

698

00:48:56,020 --> 00:48:59,680

was killed during the bombing of Budapest.

699

00:48:59,680 --> 00:49:05,320

So my step brother was taken in by nuns.

700

00:49:05,320 --> 00:49:12,220

So he survived the war until my stepfather came back

701

00:49:12,220 --> 00:49:16,570

by being taken care of the Catholic Church.

702

00:49:16,570 --> 00:49:22,340

In that church, he was
taken care of until 1949

703
00:49:22,340 --> 00:49:26,440
when the communist
government closed

704
00:49:26,440 --> 00:49:28,450
all the religious orders.

705
00:49:28,450 --> 00:49:33,850
And they closed
the orphanage where

706
00:49:33,850 --> 00:49:37,960
he was taken care of, because
my stepfather couldn't

707
00:49:37,960 --> 00:49:39,100
take care of him.

708
00:49:39,100 --> 00:49:42,883

709
00:49:42,883 --> 00:49:43,550
So when you go--

710
00:49:43,550 --> 00:49:44,248
So--

711
00:49:44,248 --> 00:49:44,790
When you go--

712
00:49:44,790 --> 00:49:45,332
Oh, go ahead.

713
00:49:45,332 --> 00:49:50,280
When you go back to your
apartment with your mother

714
00:49:50,280 --> 00:49:54,150
after the liberation

of the ghetto--

715

00:49:54,150 --> 00:49:57,350

and then, consequently,
of half of the city,

716

00:49:57,350 --> 00:50:00,990

and in a few weeks
the full city--

717

00:50:00,990 --> 00:50:03,395

how does life proceed for
your mother and yourself?

718

00:50:03,395 --> 00:50:06,310

719

00:50:06,310 --> 00:50:10,950

Well, we settled
back in an apartment.

720

00:50:10,950 --> 00:50:16,560

Obviously, my mother couldn't
continue her profession,

721

00:50:16,560 --> 00:50:21,150

making hats, because
there were no customers.

722

00:50:21,150 --> 00:50:26,590

People had other things on their
mind than ordering a new hat.

723

00:50:26,590 --> 00:50:27,200

That's right.

724

00:50:27,200 --> 00:50:30,900

So we had to make a living.

725

00:50:30,900 --> 00:50:35,040

And what people
did at that time--

726

00:50:35,040 --> 00:50:39,060

number one, because food
wasn't available in Budapest

727

00:50:39,060 --> 00:50:45,510

for quite awhile, people
went down to the countryside

728

00:50:45,510 --> 00:50:53,038

and bartered whatever
valuables they had for food.

729

00:50:53,038 --> 00:50:53,580

And I had a--

730

00:50:53,580 --> 00:50:54,875

And did you--

731

00:50:54,875 --> 00:50:55,890

Oh, go ahead.

732

00:50:55,890 --> 00:50:56,430

No.

733

00:50:56,430 --> 00:50:58,980

Do you have a memory of that?

734

00:50:58,980 --> 00:51:04,500

I do have a very vivid memory,
because the trains were

735

00:51:04,500 --> 00:51:06,900

extremely crowded.

736

00:51:06,900 --> 00:51:10,110

There were only a
few trains remained

737

00:51:10,110 --> 00:51:14,535

after bombing Budapest, and
taking the train to Auschwitz,

738
00:51:14,535 --> 00:51:17,200
and other places.

739
00:51:17,200 --> 00:51:25,020
So people not only
jammed the cars,

740
00:51:25,020 --> 00:51:28,890
but they were sitting
on the top of the cars.

741
00:51:28,890 --> 00:51:30,320
Oh, my.

742
00:51:30,320 --> 00:51:34,940
And I remember that we went
to the railway station.

743
00:51:34,940 --> 00:51:38,390
We were able to get
into one of the cars.

744
00:51:38,390 --> 00:51:42,200
But I saw other people
sitting on top of the train,

745
00:51:42,200 --> 00:51:48,810
because that was the only place
they could find for themselves.

746
00:51:48,810 --> 00:51:54,100
And so we went to outside
Budapest, not too far.

747
00:51:54,100 --> 00:52:00,560
I think maybe 30 or
40 kilometers away.

748
00:52:00,560 --> 00:52:06,230
And then went to the
houses of the farmers

749

00:52:06,230 --> 00:52:11,360
and got whatever food we could.

750
00:52:11,360 --> 00:52:18,330
And I believe my mom did
it not just for ourselves,

751
00:52:18,330 --> 00:52:23,090
but for my grandparents,
and my aunts also.

752
00:52:23,090 --> 00:52:31,330
And we went back to Budapest
after the day was over.

753
00:52:31,330 --> 00:52:37,600
So is there a point
when life starts

754
00:52:37,600 --> 00:52:41,085
to go back to what would have
been, let's say, a normalcy?

755
00:52:41,085 --> 00:52:45,790

756
00:52:45,790 --> 00:52:52,310
When the liberation of Budapest
happens in January, 1945,

757
00:52:52,310 --> 00:52:54,543
there's only four
and a half months--

758
00:52:54,543 --> 00:52:56,210
or, let's say, three
and a half months--

759
00:52:56,210 --> 00:52:59,480
left of the war, which
ends in early May.

760
00:52:59,480 --> 00:53:02,320

761
00:53:02,320 --> 00:53:06,600
And you turned four years
old in March, that--

762
00:53:06,600 --> 00:53:07,100
Correct.

763
00:53:07,100 --> 00:53:07,715
--same March.

764
00:53:07,715 --> 00:53:10,730

765
00:53:10,730 --> 00:53:15,130
What are some of your memories
of those times, when there

766
00:53:15,130 --> 00:53:19,010
is no longer a
threat of, let's say,

767
00:53:19,010 --> 00:53:24,770
imminent danger from Nazi
policies, from the Holocaust,

768
00:53:24,770 --> 00:53:28,250
from the execution
of the Holocaust?

769
00:53:28,250 --> 00:53:31,110
I spent part of that one.

770
00:53:31,110 --> 00:53:39,940
But for me, I think
normalcy started in 1947

771
00:53:39,940 --> 00:53:45,180
when I turned six
and I started school.

772

00:53:45,180 --> 00:53:52,890
And so whether the schools
were open in 1945, '46,

773
00:53:52,890 --> 00:53:53,670
I don't know.

774
00:53:53,670 --> 00:54:01,420
But I started my elementary
school education at the time

775
00:54:01,420 --> 00:54:04,620
when I was supposed to start.

776
00:54:04,620 --> 00:54:12,010
And I remember school.

777
00:54:12,010 --> 00:54:18,740
It was a Jewish elementary
school until 1949,

778
00:54:18,740 --> 00:54:24,210
when the government took
over all the properties

779
00:54:24,210 --> 00:54:31,600
of the different
religious organizations,

780
00:54:31,600 --> 00:54:36,250
and they turned into
a public school.

781
00:54:36,250 --> 00:54:38,850
And so that was the
beginning and the end

782
00:54:38,850 --> 00:54:41,220
of my Jewish education.

783
00:54:41,220 --> 00:54:46,200
But I remember that the
school, interestingly enough,

784
00:54:46,200 --> 00:54:51,030
was just one block
away from the house

785
00:54:51,030 --> 00:54:57,520
that we survived the last
few months of the war

786
00:54:57,520 --> 00:55:00,480
in the Budapest ghetto.

787
00:55:00,480 --> 00:55:03,870
And that's where the Budapest --

788
00:55:03,870 --> 00:55:10,020
Jewish elementary school was
in the [PLACE NAME],, which

789
00:55:10,020 --> 00:55:13,020
was given back to
the Jewish community,

790
00:55:13,020 --> 00:55:21,050
I believe, after the communist
system collapsed in 1990.

791
00:55:21,050 --> 00:55:27,020
And I was walking to the
school from my house.

792
00:55:27,020 --> 00:55:31,810
As I said, it was a
15, 20-minutes walk.

793
00:55:31,810 --> 00:55:35,950
There were no school
buses in Budapest.

794
00:55:35,950 --> 00:55:40,090
Actually, never been
school buses in Budapest.

795

00:55:40,090 --> 00:55:44,240

So everybody had to
walk to the school.

796

00:55:44,240 --> 00:55:48,760

And usually, you were assigned
to a nearby public school,

797

00:55:48,760 --> 00:55:51,400

which later on, I was.

798

00:55:51,400 --> 00:55:58,350

But this Jewish school was
a little bit farther away.

799

00:55:58,350 --> 00:56:04,920

And sometimes, my mom took me
with public transportation.

800

00:56:04,920 --> 00:56:10,000

And yes, that's what I remember.

801

00:56:10,000 --> 00:56:13,630

And actually, I remember
another story that was--

802

00:56:13,630 --> 00:56:16,360

I was in kindergarten.

803

00:56:16,360 --> 00:56:21,130

And the kindergarten was,
again, one block from that house

804

00:56:21,130 --> 00:56:22,340

in Akãjçfa utca.

805

00:56:22,340 --> 00:56:30,520

Actually, it was in Akãjçfa utca,
where we lived in the Budapest

806

00:56:30,520 --> 00:56:32,512

ghetto.

807

00:56:32,512 --> 00:56:38,110

And one day, I somehow got
out of the kindergarten

808

00:56:38,110 --> 00:56:40,000

and walked home.

809

00:56:40,000 --> 00:56:43,480

And my mother was horrified,
because at that time,

810

00:56:43,480 --> 00:56:48,910

she came for me every
day to pick me up.

811

00:56:48,910 --> 00:56:52,290

She took me there,
then took me home.

812

00:56:52,290 --> 00:56:55,210

And one day, I showed
up at the door.

813

00:56:55,210 --> 00:57:02,650

And she was horrified that a
five-year-old just walked home.

814

00:57:02,650 --> 00:57:05,650

I don't know how many
city blocks, but at least

815

00:57:05,650 --> 00:57:07,630

10 city blocks.

816

00:57:07,630 --> 00:57:11,420

Tell me, what kind of work
did she do after the war?

817

00:57:11,420 --> 00:57:14,210

818

00:57:14,210 --> 00:57:17,455

After the war, I
think for awhile she

819

00:57:17,455 --> 00:57:24,320

still made hats, because
people didn't have money

820

00:57:24,320 --> 00:57:26,080

to make new hats.

821

00:57:26,080 --> 00:57:30,650

And there were no raw
material available.

822

00:57:30,650 --> 00:57:36,200

But they had their old
hats remodeled or--

823

00:57:36,200 --> 00:57:38,720

I don't know what's
the right word--

824

00:57:38,720 --> 00:57:43,220

remade, according to
the latest fashions.

825

00:57:43,220 --> 00:57:52,020

So she practiced her skills
or profession until 1949,

826

00:57:52,020 --> 00:57:55,650

I believe, maybe '48.

827

00:57:55,650 --> 00:57:58,540

828

00:57:58,540 --> 00:58:04,990

And I remember
specifically the smell

829

00:58:04,990 --> 00:58:13,210

of the fur as she tried to

steam it and pull it over

830
00:58:13,210 --> 00:58:18,460
on different forms to
get them into shapes.

831
00:58:18,460 --> 00:58:26,170
So she returned to making hats.

832
00:58:26,170 --> 00:58:31,180
And then the business
really dried out.

833
00:58:31,180 --> 00:58:36,850
So she decided that she was
going to be a seamstress.

834
00:58:36,850 --> 00:58:47,150
And by that time, my aunt,
who was a seamstress by trade

835
00:58:47,150 --> 00:58:48,760
originally--

836
00:58:48,760 --> 00:58:56,090
she and a few people
established a co-op,

837
00:58:56,090 --> 00:59:03,350
which was an employee-owned
something, where

838
00:59:03,350 --> 00:59:11,700
they made female dresses
in an industrial manner.

839
00:59:11,700 --> 00:59:14,480
There were I don't know
how many sewing machines.

840
00:59:14,480 --> 00:59:18,110
And one person did
one part of the dress,

841
00:59:18,110 --> 00:59:20,660
another person another part.

842
00:59:20,660 --> 00:59:23,990
And so it was a kind of--

843
00:59:23,990 --> 00:59:26,300
Factory type of thing.

844
00:59:26,300 --> 00:59:28,160
Yeah, factory-like.

845
00:59:28,160 --> 00:59:31,400
But it was just a whole co-op.

846
00:59:31,400 --> 00:59:32,480
I don't know.

847
00:59:32,480 --> 00:59:35,880
Later, it grew quite big.

848
00:59:35,880 --> 00:59:40,730
But at that time, there were
maybe 10, 20 seamstress just up

849
00:59:40,730 --> 00:59:46,310
together, and used their
skills to make some money.

850
00:59:46,310 --> 00:59:50,310
And so my mom joined this co-op.

851
00:59:50,310 --> 00:59:56,530
And she was making
female dresses

852
00:59:56,530 --> 00:59:58,970
until she retired, actually.

853
00:59:58,970 --> 01:00:01,400

That was the only
job she ever had.

854
01:00:01,400 --> 01:00:02,910
Really?

855
01:00:02,910 --> 01:00:03,410
Really.

856
01:00:03,410 --> 01:00:06,800
So this is how she
put food on the table.

857
01:00:06,800 --> 01:00:07,740
Correct.

858
01:00:07,740 --> 01:00:12,830
And she was a hard
worker, because when

859
01:00:12,830 --> 01:00:18,590
the business started to pick
up, they worked in two shifts

860
01:00:18,590 --> 01:00:25,910
to use all the equipment as
economically as possible.

861
01:00:25,910 --> 01:00:31,510
So one week, she worked
from 6:00 in the morning

862
01:00:31,510 --> 01:00:36,870
until 2:00 in the afternoon,
and the other week from 2:00

863
01:00:36,870 --> 01:00:41,090
the afternoon till
10:00 in the evening.

864
01:00:41,090 --> 01:00:46,730
So the machines were being used
from 6:00 AM till 10:00 PM.

865
01:00:46,730 --> 01:00:47,230
Correct.

866
01:00:47,230 --> 01:00:50,040

867
01:00:50,040 --> 01:00:52,530
Did you ever visit her there?

868
01:00:52,530 --> 01:00:53,520
Yes.

869
01:00:53,520 --> 01:00:56,970
Many times after
school, I went there.

870
01:00:56,970 --> 01:00:59,520

871
01:00:59,520 --> 01:01:04,860
Yeah, I was there
quite a few times.

872
01:01:04,860 --> 01:01:08,310
And what was the name
of the enterprise?

873
01:01:08,310 --> 01:01:20,130
It was called Minta, M-I-N-T-A.
The Hungarian name is

874
01:01:20,130 --> 01:01:26,500
[HUNGARIAN],, because it
means small industrial co-op.

875
01:01:26,500 --> 01:01:30,700
So it was allowed
to exist because it

876
01:01:30,700 --> 01:01:35,160
was a co-op, rather than a

privately owned business.

877

01:01:35,160 --> 01:01:36,850

Well, yes and no.

878

01:01:36,850 --> 01:01:41,470

Actually, the co-op was
co-opted by the [INAUDIBLE],,

879

01:01:41,470 --> 01:01:43,270

if I can use this pun.

880

01:01:43,270 --> 01:01:44,560

Of course you can.

881

01:01:44,560 --> 01:01:46,370

Of course you can.

882

01:01:46,370 --> 01:01:51,190

And so, in name, it was a co-op.

883

01:01:51,190 --> 01:02:00,460

But it was court directed, or
controlled by the government.

884

01:02:00,460 --> 01:02:03,550

Does that mean your mother
got a salary regardless

885

01:02:03,550 --> 01:02:05,120

of how many dresses they sold?

886

01:02:05,120 --> 01:02:07,960

887

01:02:07,960 --> 01:02:10,660

Now, that's an
interesting thing.

888

01:02:10,660 --> 01:02:15,000

I think they had quotas.

889

01:02:15,000 --> 01:02:18,310

As a matter of fact, I
am sure they had quotas.

890

01:02:18,310 --> 01:02:22,540

And so the more she did--

891

01:02:22,540 --> 01:02:28,590

she did just one
part of the dresses.

892

01:02:28,590 --> 01:02:33,970

Actually, that was a rather
special machine, which

893

01:02:33,970 --> 01:02:36,790

made the holes for buttons.

894

01:02:36,790 --> 01:02:39,225

Ah, yes.

895

01:02:39,225 --> 01:02:41,380

I don't know if there
is an English name.

896

01:02:41,380 --> 01:02:45,160

But it wasn't a
regular sewing machine.

897

01:02:45,160 --> 01:02:50,200

It was a
button-hole-making machine.

898

01:02:50,200 --> 01:02:58,040

And that's what she did eight
hours a day, six days a week

899

01:02:58,040 --> 01:03:00,740

for I don't know how
many years, until the age

900

01:03:00,740 --> 01:03:02,400

55 when she retired.

901

01:03:02,400 --> 01:03:05,840

902

01:03:05,840 --> 01:03:07,170

And remind me again.

903

01:03:07,170 --> 01:03:09,610

When was she born?

904

01:03:09,610 --> 01:03:12,810

She was born 1907.

905

01:03:12,810 --> 01:03:16,700

So 55 means in 1962.

906

01:03:16,700 --> 01:03:19,890

Did she retire in 1962?

907

01:03:19,890 --> 01:03:20,490

Correct.

908

01:03:20,490 --> 01:03:21,300

She retired.

909

01:03:21,300 --> 01:03:27,960

At that time, the retirement
age was, for females, 55.

910

01:03:27,960 --> 01:03:30,090

And I think, males, it was 60.

911

01:03:30,090 --> 01:03:33,170

912

01:03:33,170 --> 01:03:41,420

And in school, did you ever
have lessons about World War II?

913

01:03:41,420 --> 01:03:43,190

This precipitates
my question of,

914

01:03:43,190 --> 01:03:46,910
how did you find out about what
all went on in the Holocaust?

915

01:03:46,910 --> 01:03:50,160
Was it while going
to school in Hungary?

916

01:03:50,160 --> 01:03:52,650
Well, that's a
legitimate question.

917

01:03:52,650 --> 01:03:57,090
And yes, I did learn about
the Second World War,

918

01:03:57,090 --> 01:04:03,360
especially mostly about how
grave the Soviet criminality

919

01:04:03,360 --> 01:04:06,630
was and how they won the war.

920

01:04:06,630 --> 01:04:12,700
We didn't learn about
the landings in Normandy

921

01:04:12,700 --> 01:04:15,520
and the Allied forces.

922

01:04:15,520 --> 01:04:19,840
But we did learn
about Nazi Germany

923

01:04:19,840 --> 01:04:24,850
and how the Soviet
Union defeated them.

924

01:04:24,850 --> 01:04:32,260
We did learn a little bit

about the Hungarian roles

925

01:04:32,260 --> 01:04:35,230
in Second World War.

926

01:04:35,230 --> 01:04:40,720
But again, everything we
learned in the communist system,

927

01:04:40,720 --> 01:04:45,160
everything which
happened before 1945--

928

01:04:45,160 --> 01:04:46,000
it was bad.

929

01:04:46,000 --> 01:04:46,960
It was wrong.

930

01:04:46,960 --> 01:04:55,310
It was the fault of the
capitalist, federalist system.

931

01:04:55,310 --> 01:05:03,930
And so the Holocaust--

932

01:05:03,930 --> 01:05:09,300
the word itself didn't even
exist when I was in school.

933

01:05:09,300 --> 01:05:14,550
But the history of the Jews
during Second World War

934

01:05:14,550 --> 01:05:17,790
was not mentioned at all.

935

01:05:17,790 --> 01:05:23,610
And we didn't really
know about Auschwitz

936

01:05:23,610 --> 01:05:26,520

and the other
concentration camps.

937
01:05:26,520 --> 01:05:31,200
We just learned that,
yes, the Nazi system

938
01:05:31,200 --> 01:05:32,460
were against the Jews.

939
01:05:32,460 --> 01:05:35,640
And they killed a lot of Jews.

940
01:05:35,640 --> 01:05:44,370
I don't remember if I heard
three out of four Jews

941
01:05:44,370 --> 01:05:46,290
were killed.

942
01:05:46,290 --> 01:05:49,110
And so that would have been
what you heard at school.

943
01:05:49,110 --> 01:05:56,115
That would have been the public
history lesson, the one that

944
01:05:56,115 --> 01:06:01,390
is the official one.

945
01:06:01,390 --> 01:06:02,860
Yeah.

946
01:06:02,860 --> 01:06:11,770
My generation grew up learning
in school about the Holocaust

947
01:06:11,770 --> 01:06:16,000
and the role of the
Hungarians of the Holocaust.

948

01:06:16,000 --> 01:06:21,100
And because my mom
and my relatives

949
01:06:21,100 --> 01:06:24,580
didn't want to talk
about it, I really

950
01:06:24,580 --> 01:06:28,700
didn't know the story
of the Wallenberg

951
01:06:28,700 --> 01:06:31,510
house or the Budapest ghetto.

952
01:06:31,510 --> 01:06:38,140
I saw a Memorial
plaque on the wall

953
01:06:38,140 --> 01:06:41,540
of the Great
Synagogue of Budapest

954
01:06:41,540 --> 01:06:47,430
that this was where the
Budapest ghetto was.

955
01:06:47,430 --> 01:06:51,480
And many people actually--

956
01:06:51,480 --> 01:06:54,760
Jewish cemeteries are not
attached to the synagogues.

957
01:06:54,760 --> 01:07:00,700
But at that time, they had to
bury Jewish people somewhere.

958
01:07:00,700 --> 01:07:09,190
And the synagogue ground
has many Jewish tombs.

959
01:07:09,190 --> 01:07:13,480

So was there different--

960
01:07:13,480 --> 01:07:16,750
I know you just mentioned
that there was not much talk

961
01:07:16,750 --> 01:07:18,730
from your mother about this.

962
01:07:18,730 --> 01:07:23,350
But at home informally,
in social circles,

963
01:07:23,350 --> 01:07:29,380
amongst friends, did
the war ever come up?

964
01:07:29,380 --> 01:07:34,750
Did the fate of the
Jews ever come up?

965
01:07:34,750 --> 01:07:38,390
Was there an alternate version?

966
01:07:38,390 --> 01:07:43,040
Yeah, the alternative version
was that it was a war.

967
01:07:43,040 --> 01:07:45,740
And a lot of people died.

968
01:07:45,740 --> 01:07:49,340
And Hungary lost the war.

969
01:07:49,340 --> 01:07:55,670
And the Soviet Union
liberated eastern Europe.

970
01:07:55,670 --> 01:08:01,220
And that was practically--

971
01:08:01,220 --> 01:08:12,254

yeah, we knew about the
great battle of Stalingrad.

972
01:08:12,254 --> 01:08:15,060
The war returned.

973
01:08:15,060 --> 01:08:17,950
And the Germans started to lose.

974
01:08:17,950 --> 01:08:24,729
We heard about the heroes
of Leningrad who for--

975
01:08:24,729 --> 01:08:26,590
I don't know-- 1,000 days--

976
01:08:26,590 --> 01:08:28,540
Something like
that, yeah, which--

977
01:08:28,540 --> 01:08:31,240
--resisted the Germans.

978
01:08:31,240 --> 01:08:35,590
And the Germans never
went into Leningrad.

979
01:08:35,590 --> 01:08:37,960
We saw a lot of movies.

980
01:08:37,960 --> 01:08:45,950
The Soviets made lots of movies,
how great the Soviet partisans

981
01:08:45,950 --> 01:08:46,830
were.

982
01:08:46,830 --> 01:08:53,910
And so we knew a lot of things,
but from one viewpoint, and one

983
01:08:53,910 --> 01:08:56,180

viewpoint only.

984

01:08:56,180 --> 01:09:00,890

And was there any questioning
of this privately?

985

01:09:00,890 --> 01:09:03,819

986

01:09:03,819 --> 01:09:06,210

Not really.

987

01:09:06,210 --> 01:09:08,770

I mean, we knew there was a war.

988

01:09:08,770 --> 01:09:13,729

We knew that the Soviets won.

989

01:09:13,729 --> 01:09:17,760

And we knew that
they liberated us.

990

01:09:17,760 --> 01:09:24,160

And so we didn't
question-- we definitely

991

01:09:24,160 --> 01:09:27,090

didn't question
publicly anything,

992

01:09:27,090 --> 01:09:30,359

because that was a no-no.

993

01:09:30,359 --> 01:09:38,210

And we knew that there
was more to it than what

994

01:09:38,210 --> 01:09:40,500

we were told in the school.

995

01:09:40,500 --> 01:09:47,939

But I'm ashamed to say, but

we weren't really interested.

996

01:09:47,939 --> 01:09:51,490

We didn't do our own research.

997

01:09:51,490 --> 01:09:55,800

We didn't force our parents and relatives to tell the story.

998

01:09:55,800 --> 01:10:04,390

We just knew that family members died, and died because they

999

01:10:04,390 --> 01:10:06,550

were taken by the Nazis.

1000

01:10:06,550 --> 01:10:07,750

But that was it.

1001

01:10:07,750 --> 01:10:14,560

We didn't really do our own digging and research.

1002

01:10:14,560 --> 01:10:17,890

Well, when I ask these questions,

1003

01:10:17,890 --> 01:10:21,900

it's not with the sense of, well, why didn't you?

1004

01:10:21,900 --> 01:10:22,900

What you're describing--

1005

01:10:22,900 --> 01:10:24,310

Oh, I understand.

1006

01:10:24,310 --> 01:10:25,320

You don't blame me.

1007

01:10:25,320 --> 01:10:25,580

I--

1008
01:10:25,580 --> 01:10:26,080
No.

1009
01:10:26,080 --> 01:10:30,270
It was a confession on my
part, absolutely voluntary.

1010
01:10:30,270 --> 01:10:31,240
Yeah.

1011
01:10:31,240 --> 01:10:35,620
But what you're describing
is perfectly normal.

1012
01:10:35,620 --> 01:10:41,080
That's how many people
remember those post-war years.

1013
01:10:41,080 --> 01:10:44,170
And that's how many
people describe

1014
01:10:44,170 --> 01:10:45,850
the immediate aftermath.

1015
01:10:45,850 --> 01:10:48,740
And by immediate aftermath,
I'm not saying just,

1016
01:10:48,740 --> 01:10:51,430
let's say, 1945, '46, or '47.

1017
01:10:51,430 --> 01:10:54,850
But let's say, 20, 30 years--

1018
01:10:54,850 --> 01:11:02,050
is that there was not that much
focus or attention for some.

1019
01:11:02,050 --> 01:11:05,140
For an older generation,

they wanted to forget,

1020

01:11:05,140 --> 01:11:10,410
because it had been unbelievably
painful and traumatic.

1021

01:11:10,410 --> 01:11:13,480
And for a younger generation,
they wanted to live.

1022

01:11:13,480 --> 01:11:17,500
They hadn't understood
many of the horrors

1023

01:11:17,500 --> 01:11:20,140
that they might have
been alive during.

1024

01:11:20,140 --> 01:11:21,850
But they were young.

1025

01:11:21,850 --> 01:11:22,970
They wanted to grow up.

1026

01:11:22,970 --> 01:11:27,880
They wanted to do normal,
teenage, young people things.

1027

01:11:27,880 --> 01:11:31,840
And to me, that
sounds perfectly--

1028

01:11:31,840 --> 01:11:41,800
like a very normal way of being,
and thinking, and feeling.

1029

01:11:41,800 --> 01:11:44,410
And all of these questions
that we're talking about really

1030

01:11:44,410 --> 01:11:46,130
come later.

1031

01:11:46,130 --> 01:11:52,390

And the irony, or let's say
the unusual aspect of this,

1032

01:11:52,390 --> 01:11:57,160

is simply that all of those
normal feelings that people

1033

01:11:57,160 --> 01:12:02,380

are having are in the wake of
something that was incredibly

1034

01:12:02,380 --> 01:12:09,220

abnormal and incredibly
out of the ordinary

1035

01:12:09,220 --> 01:12:12,520

when it comes for human
cruelty, and let's

1036

01:12:12,520 --> 01:12:19,310

say the system of human
cruelty, and let's

1037

01:12:19,310 --> 01:12:25,090

say having a racial aspect to
it, a genocidal aspect to it.

1038

01:12:25,090 --> 01:12:25,650

Yeah.

1039

01:12:25,650 --> 01:12:29,220

I think it's a very fair
and correct assessment.

1040

01:12:29,220 --> 01:12:33,370

1041

01:12:33,370 --> 01:12:35,140

But it's interesting,
nevertheless,

1042

01:12:35,140 --> 01:12:41,440
and important to hear from
you your memories of what

1043
01:12:41,440 --> 01:12:45,400
it is that was told
publicly, a little bit of why

1044
01:12:45,400 --> 01:12:49,890
it was told publicly, and
what was not told publicly.

1045
01:12:49,890 --> 01:12:57,940
It's telling that you learn
about the Soviet experiences,

1046
01:12:57,940 --> 01:13:01,030
the Soviet battles,
the Soviet heroism.

1047
01:13:01,030 --> 01:13:04,840
But you don't know
about Normandy.

1048
01:13:04,840 --> 01:13:10,090
You don't know about the
Western allied contributions,

1049
01:13:10,090 --> 01:13:14,980
and sacrifices, and so on.

1050
01:13:14,980 --> 01:13:18,040
That's a sign of
the post-war years.

1051
01:13:18,040 --> 01:13:19,600
That's a sign of the Cold War.

1052
01:13:19,600 --> 01:13:23,470
That's a sign of another era.

1053
01:13:23,470 --> 01:13:24,430
Correct.

1054
01:13:24,430 --> 01:13:26,980
Yeah, that's what happened.

1055
01:13:26,980 --> 01:13:31,300
And again, we cannot
go back in time.

1056
01:13:31,300 --> 01:13:37,110

1057
01:13:37,110 --> 01:13:41,650
And we more or less
know what happened.

1058
01:13:41,650 --> 01:13:45,230
And we know how it happened,
and why it happened.

1059
01:13:45,230 --> 01:13:48,520
And now we know what
we have to make sure

1060
01:13:48,520 --> 01:13:50,830
that it will not happen.

1061
01:13:50,830 --> 01:13:53,620
So my question to you
is, when did this start

1062
01:13:53,620 --> 01:13:56,230
to become important for you?

1063
01:13:56,230 --> 01:14:00,820
When did it become
something that

1064
01:14:00,820 --> 01:14:03,410
was more than just
an historical topic?

1065
01:14:03,410 --> 01:14:06,630

1066
01:14:06,630 --> 01:14:15,360
Well, it [? ties ?]
to something I

1067
01:14:15,360 --> 01:14:22,450
would call identity crisis when
I came to the United States

1068
01:14:22,450 --> 01:14:24,460
in 1980.

1069
01:14:24,460 --> 01:14:27,490
And what precipitated that?

1070
01:14:27,490 --> 01:14:33,510
It was-- aye, yai, yai.

1071
01:14:33,510 --> 01:14:34,920
It's a long story.

1072
01:14:34,920 --> 01:14:40,810
In short, I was fed up with the
system, the communist system.

1073
01:14:40,810 --> 01:14:50,800
I, personally, had a
privileged position or place,

1074
01:14:50,800 --> 01:14:55,240
because I was working
in the most prestigious

1075
01:14:55,240 --> 01:14:58,000
Hungarian research institute.

1076
01:14:58,000 --> 01:15:06,350
And I was working in the
most advanced technology

1077
01:15:06,350 --> 01:15:11,080

developing and designing
computers and computer

1078
01:15:11,080 --> 01:15:12,500
software.

1079
01:15:12,500 --> 01:15:15,550
Well that is quite
advanced for that time.

1080
01:15:15,550 --> 01:15:17,530
I had a good job.

1081
01:15:17,530 --> 01:15:19,180
I liked my job.

1082
01:15:19,180 --> 01:15:25,120
I was well paid, according
to Hungarian standards.

1083
01:15:25,120 --> 01:15:32,380
And I had a very
comfortable life, even

1084
01:15:32,380 --> 01:15:34,810
with Western
standards, if I may.

1085
01:15:34,810 --> 01:15:37,210
I had a car.

1086
01:15:37,210 --> 01:15:40,300
I had a house.

1087
01:15:40,300 --> 01:15:41,620
I could work.

1088
01:15:41,620 --> 01:15:44,740
But we had a home.

1089
01:15:44,740 --> 01:15:52,060
We could afford vacations

four, five weeks abroad.

1090

01:15:52,060 --> 01:15:58,720

We traveled relatively well,
mostly in socialist countries.

1091

01:15:58,720 --> 01:16:01,950

But there was three years when
the government allowed us--

1092

01:16:01,950 --> 01:16:05,470

we went to western Europe.

1093

01:16:05,470 --> 01:16:11,680

And I had an opportunity to
visit western Europe four

1094

01:16:11,680 --> 01:16:14,650

times, or sometimes
five times a year,

1095

01:16:14,650 --> 01:16:22,090

because I was a member of a
professional society, people

1096

01:16:22,090 --> 01:16:27,550

who designed computer
software and are

1097

01:16:27,550 --> 01:16:32,560

making [? fortune, ?]
mostly in Brussels, Belgium.

1098

01:16:32,560 --> 01:16:37,630

So I was more privileged than
the average Hungarian citizen,

1099

01:16:37,630 --> 01:16:39,940

who were allowed to
go to Western Europe

1100

01:16:39,940 --> 01:16:41,070

every three years.

1101
01:16:41,070 --> 01:16:44,560
I was able to leave
four times a year.

1102
01:16:44,560 --> 01:16:45,310
Four times a year.

1103
01:16:45,310 --> 01:16:53,910
So as far as my physical
well-being, I had a good life.

1104
01:16:53,910 --> 01:16:56,910
But the system was so rotten.

1105
01:16:56,910 --> 01:17:03,590
And there was no sign
that it could ever change.

1106
01:17:03,590 --> 01:17:09,120
That was 10 years before it
collapsed under its own weight.

1107
01:17:09,120 --> 01:17:15,300
And there is a point when you
know that the government is

1108
01:17:15,300 --> 01:17:16,590
lying to you.

1109
01:17:16,590 --> 01:17:22,080
You have the proof, because you
can compare four times a year

1110
01:17:22,080 --> 01:17:27,180
how people in my position
with my background and skills

1111
01:17:27,180 --> 01:17:33,510
live in France, or
Holland, or Belgium.

1112

01:17:33,510 --> 01:17:38,610
And I knew what
we had in Hungary.

1113
01:17:38,610 --> 01:17:46,070
Then, sometimes, I had to
bring home basic necessities,

1114
01:17:46,070 --> 01:17:52,300
like soap and other items,
because in Hungary, you

1115
01:17:52,300 --> 01:17:53,000
had soap.

1116
01:17:53,000 --> 01:17:56,500
So there was one soap, or two.

1117
01:17:56,500 --> 01:17:58,530
The government decided
that were going

1118
01:17:58,530 --> 01:18:00,830
to make two kinds of soap.

1119
01:18:00,830 --> 01:18:02,180
And that was it.

1120
01:18:02,180 --> 01:18:05,950
But people [? have other ?]
needs, especially

1121
01:18:05,950 --> 01:18:07,750
when they can afford it.

1122
01:18:07,750 --> 01:18:10,700
But those weren't
available in Hungary.

1123
01:18:10,700 --> 01:18:15,030
And meantime, you go and
saw on the television

1124

01:18:15,030 --> 01:18:18,710

and heard on the radio
that's how socialism

1125

01:18:18,710 --> 01:18:21,950

is overtaking capitalism.

1126

01:18:21,950 --> 01:18:24,370

And just there, we had no proof.

1127

01:18:24,370 --> 01:18:30,500

But the final thing was that
my Jewish identity started

1128

01:18:30,500 --> 01:18:36,600

to come around and come about.

1129

01:18:36,600 --> 01:18:44,100

And all the things they
said and wrote about Israel

1130

01:18:44,100 --> 01:18:46,580

hurt me personally.

1131

01:18:46,580 --> 01:18:56,100

And that's where my identity
crisis came up the first time.

1132

01:18:56,100 --> 01:19:00,880

And that's when we started
to talk to my friends, who

1133

01:19:00,880 --> 01:19:02,010

are just [? changed ?].

1134

01:19:02,010 --> 01:19:06,870

But most of them were Jewish,
practically all of them.

1135

01:19:06,870 --> 01:19:08,370

In Hungary.

1136

01:19:08,370 --> 01:19:09,330

In Hungary.

1137

01:19:09,330 --> 01:19:16,040

And it was just a coincidence,
or it appeared a coincidence.

1138

01:19:16,040 --> 01:19:26,400

But again, I just wanted
to leave Hungary and start

1139

01:19:26,400 --> 01:19:29,040

a new life.

1140

01:19:29,040 --> 01:19:31,080

Were you married?

1141

01:19:31,080 --> 01:19:33,240

I was divorced by that time.

1142

01:19:33,240 --> 01:19:38,990

And again, that was also
part of my identity crisis,

1143

01:19:38,990 --> 01:19:45,180

or crisis of my life--
that, yeah, I was divorced.

1144

01:19:45,180 --> 01:19:48,560

1145

01:19:48,560 --> 01:19:51,930

I was wondering, because when
you were saying before that you

1146

01:19:51,930 --> 01:19:55,130

were allowed to go
four or five times

1147

01:19:55,130 --> 01:19:58,400

a year abroad to
Western countries

1148
01:19:58,400 --> 01:20:00,320
for professional reasons.

1149
01:20:00,320 --> 01:20:03,110
Usually, in the
Soviet system, you

1150
01:20:03,110 --> 01:20:06,020
had to have hostages
left behind.

1151
01:20:06,020 --> 01:20:09,060
And hostages meant family
members of one kind.

1152
01:20:09,060 --> 01:20:10,020
No.

1153
01:20:10,020 --> 01:20:12,120
Yeah, you know it very well.

1154
01:20:12,120 --> 01:20:14,120
That's very true.

1155
01:20:14,120 --> 01:20:16,940
Actually, I wanted
to defect right

1156
01:20:16,940 --> 01:20:21,590
after I graduated
from the university.

1157
01:20:21,590 --> 01:20:30,450
And because I was young and I
was single, I applied on a--

1158
01:20:30,450 --> 01:20:31,650
not an exit visa.

1159
01:20:31,650 --> 01:20:36,980
At that time-- that

was 1967, '68--

1160
01:20:36,980 --> 01:20:42,010
you could go to western
Europe on group tours only,

1161
01:20:42,010 --> 01:20:44,900
organized group tours.

1162
01:20:44,900 --> 01:20:49,120
And the first company I
worked for had-- those were

1163
01:20:49,120 --> 01:20:55,940
had organized by
usually birthplaces.

1164
01:20:55,940 --> 01:21:01,540
And they had a tour to
Vienna, Austria, which

1165
01:21:01,540 --> 01:21:07,250
is about three and a half, four
hours train ride from Budapest.

1166
01:21:07,250 --> 01:21:09,370
Anyway, I applied.

1167
01:21:09,370 --> 01:21:10,570
I wanted to go.

1168
01:21:10,570 --> 01:21:13,870
And I went and got
the permission.

1169
01:21:13,870 --> 01:21:16,090
The first time I
got the permission

1170
01:21:16,090 --> 01:21:24,280
to travel to western Europe
was on official trip.

1171

01:21:24,280 --> 01:21:29,350

And the vetting took
a long, long time

1172

01:21:29,350 --> 01:21:32,680

before they decided
that I can go.

1173

01:21:32,680 --> 01:21:34,330

And by that time, I was married.

1174

01:21:34,330 --> 01:21:38,710

So yes, they had hostages,
besides my parents.

1175

01:21:38,710 --> 01:21:41,620

And we were, by
default, hostages.

1176

01:21:41,620 --> 01:21:46,060

But they were
retired by that time.

1177

01:21:46,060 --> 01:21:48,910

So they couldn't
do much to them.

1178

01:21:48,910 --> 01:21:49,570

Yeah.

1179

01:21:49,570 --> 01:21:52,180

They couldn't throw
them out of their jobs.

1180

01:21:52,180 --> 01:21:53,630

They didn't have jobs.

1181

01:21:53,630 --> 01:21:54,130

Correct.

1182

01:21:54,130 --> 01:21:54,880

They were retired.

1183
01:21:54,880 --> 01:21:57,640

1184
01:21:57,640 --> 01:21:59,260
When did your mother remarry?

1185
01:21:59,260 --> 01:22:03,230
What year did she
remarry, or approximately?

1186
01:22:03,230 --> 01:22:06,490
She married in 1953.

1187
01:22:06,490 --> 01:22:09,220
OK.

1188
01:22:09,220 --> 01:22:16,920
And were you ever a
member of the party?

1189
01:22:16,920 --> 01:22:17,670
Yes.

1190
01:22:17,670 --> 01:22:21,420
Interesting, I was.

1191
01:22:21,420 --> 01:22:28,530
But that's another story,
a whole other story.

1192
01:22:28,530 --> 01:22:34,020
The place I worked,
I had two choices.

1193
01:22:34,020 --> 01:22:41,716
Either I become a member of
the party, or I lose my job.

1194
01:22:41,716 --> 01:22:42,510
Wow.

1195

01:22:42,510 --> 01:22:45,610
Yeah, practically how that was.

1196

01:22:45,610 --> 01:22:50,020
It was never explicitly said.

1197

01:22:50,020 --> 01:22:56,080
But when-- I was there,
working in that research

1198

01:22:56,080 --> 01:22:58,210
institute for a couple of years.

1199

01:22:58,210 --> 01:23:07,070
And then the party secretary in
your workplace approaches you.

1200

01:23:07,070 --> 01:23:09,700
They say, you are the good guy.

1201

01:23:09,700 --> 01:23:14,440
We need good guys
like you in the party.

1202

01:23:14,440 --> 01:23:15,850
Would you join?

1203

01:23:15,850 --> 01:23:19,760
And so it's one thing
if you never apply.

1204

01:23:19,760 --> 01:23:24,520
But that's another thing if
you are asked to be a member,

1205

01:23:24,520 --> 01:23:29,510
and you say, no, because
that's a statement.

1206

01:23:29,510 --> 01:23:31,140
Yeah.

1207

01:23:31,140 --> 01:23:34,870

And so you were put on
the spot, in other words.

1208

01:23:34,870 --> 01:23:36,380

In other words, yes.

1209

01:23:36,380 --> 01:23:37,960

OK.

1210

01:23:37,960 --> 01:23:42,450

And were there still
true believers?

1211

01:23:42,450 --> 01:23:45,040

1212

01:23:45,040 --> 01:23:48,320

Now, that's an
interesting thing,

1213

01:23:48,320 --> 01:23:54,090

because the definition
of the true believers--

1214

01:23:54,090 --> 01:23:56,330

it could be very tricky.

1215

01:23:56,330 --> 01:23:57,290

Here is the thing.

1216

01:23:57,290 --> 01:23:57,860

That's true.

1217

01:23:57,860 --> 01:24:00,110

It could be very tricky.

1218

01:24:00,110 --> 01:24:04,460

Probably, because your
backgrounds, or you

1219

01:24:04,460 --> 01:24:08,400
heard more about it from others.

1220
01:24:08,400 --> 01:24:14,900
The communist ideology,
on paper, is beautiful.

1221
01:24:14,900 --> 01:24:19,070
And people are
demonstrating on the street

1222
01:24:19,070 --> 01:24:22,460
today for those ideals--

1223
01:24:22,460 --> 01:24:27,930
equality, that everybody has
a job, and free education,

1224
01:24:27,930 --> 01:24:32,480
and free health system,
and everything else.

1225
01:24:32,480 --> 01:24:39,440
So being enchanted by
communistic ideas--

1226
01:24:39,440 --> 01:24:42,590
best people and
best thinkers had

1227
01:24:42,590 --> 01:24:49,760
no problem with identifying
themselves with those ideals.

1228
01:24:49,760 --> 01:24:56,150
So true believers are those
who believe in those ideas.

1229
01:24:56,150 --> 01:25:01,520
But they are not true
believers in the system, which

1230
01:25:01,520 --> 01:25:05,930

based on these ideas,
and worked practically

1231
01:25:05,930 --> 01:25:08,810
against those very ideas--

1232
01:25:08,810 --> 01:25:12,980
that all people are equal,
except some are more

1233
01:25:12,980 --> 01:25:16,170
equal than the other, that--

1234
01:25:16,170 --> 01:25:17,280
George Orwell.

1235
01:25:17,280 --> 01:25:18,980
George Orwell.

1236
01:25:18,980 --> 01:25:24,230
Some animals are equal,
but some are more equal.

1237
01:25:24,230 --> 01:25:25,485
Than others, yeah.

1238
01:25:25,485 --> 01:25:30,070

1239
01:25:30,070 --> 01:25:36,580
Now, was being
Jewish something that

1240
01:25:36,580 --> 01:25:44,770
made a difference in your
education and career in Hungary

1241
01:25:44,770 --> 01:25:46,920
before you left?

1242
01:25:46,920 --> 01:25:49,750
And I'm saying that

separately from how

1243
01:25:49,750 --> 01:25:52,060
the media was
writing about Israel,

1244
01:25:52,060 --> 01:25:54,370
and how then you
felt about that.

1245
01:25:54,370 --> 01:25:57,160
But I mean, did it
matter in your ability

1246
01:25:57,160 --> 01:26:03,520
to study, to progress,
to build a career?

1247
01:26:03,520 --> 01:26:07,870
Again, for if I was
discriminated against because I

1248
01:26:07,870 --> 01:26:10,630
was Jewish, the answer is no.

1249
01:26:10,630 --> 01:26:15,660
In that sense, the
system was color blind,

1250
01:26:15,660 --> 01:26:19,780
or was religion blind.

1251
01:26:19,780 --> 01:26:20,900
It never came up.

1252
01:26:20,900 --> 01:26:24,020
And I never have felt
that I was discriminated

1253
01:26:24,020 --> 01:26:25,490
because I was Jewish.

1254

01:26:25,490 --> 01:26:28,490

1255

01:26:28,490 --> 01:26:34,870

Having said that,
this is more complex.

1256

01:26:34,870 --> 01:26:41,760

Number one, because my
mom's experience before

1257

01:26:41,760 --> 01:26:46,580

and during the Holocaust, she
turned away from religion.

1258

01:26:46,580 --> 01:26:48,290

She turned away completely.

1259

01:26:48,290 --> 01:26:51,140

She stopped lighting
Shabbat candles.

1260

01:26:51,140 --> 01:26:56,360

And we went to the synagogue
for the high holidays,

1261

01:26:56,360 --> 01:27:05,540

but that was more a reverence to
her parents than a conviction.

1262

01:27:05,540 --> 01:27:10,130

She just turned away from God,
because she couldn't believe

1263

01:27:10,130 --> 01:27:15,590

in a benevolent god who allowed
the Holocaust to happen,

1264

01:27:15,590 --> 01:27:22,010

and her husband
being taken away.

1265

01:27:22,010 --> 01:27:26,570

So I went to Jewish
school, as I said,

1266
01:27:26,570 --> 01:27:30,740
first grade and the first
half of second grade.

1267
01:27:30,740 --> 01:27:33,950
And that was the end
of my Jewish education.

1268
01:27:33,950 --> 01:27:40,040
And because I didn't have
a family Jewish upbringing

1269
01:27:40,040 --> 01:27:44,210
like my cousin, my
mother's sister,

1270
01:27:44,210 --> 01:27:51,000
who kept her religion as
thoroughly as she could--

1271
01:27:51,000 --> 01:27:57,290
and actually, she sent my
cousin to a Jewish high school,

1272
01:27:57,290 --> 01:28:01,490
because there was one Jewish
high school for 100,000

1273
01:28:01,490 --> 01:28:04,680
Jews who lived in Budapest.

1274
01:28:04,680 --> 01:28:07,520
And so my cousin
graduated from there.

1275
01:28:07,520 --> 01:28:14,930
And my aunt religiously would
observe all the holidays.

1276
01:28:14,930 --> 01:28:19,850

And every Saturday, she
went to the synagogue

1277
01:28:19,850 --> 01:28:23,180
until her last day.

1278
01:28:23,180 --> 01:28:27,470
At the same time, my mom
completely turned away.

1279
01:28:27,470 --> 01:28:29,430
And actually,
interestingly enough,

1280
01:28:29,430 --> 01:28:31,850
after I came to
the United States

1281
01:28:31,850 --> 01:28:37,190
and I returned to Judaism,
and she visited us and saw

1282
01:28:37,190 --> 01:28:40,760
how observant we
were, she started

1283
01:28:40,760 --> 01:28:43,616
to light the Shabbat
candles again.

1284
01:28:43,616 --> 01:28:45,560
Oh, my.

1285
01:28:45,560 --> 01:28:47,510
Oh, my.

1286
01:28:47,510 --> 01:28:50,040
Yeah, that's part of
the Holocaust story,

1287
01:28:50,040 --> 01:28:53,220
really, because she's not
the only one turned away

1288
01:28:53,220 --> 01:29:00,870
from God, religion, because
of their experience.

1289
01:29:00,870 --> 01:29:05,280
And other people just
became more religious.

1290
01:29:05,280 --> 01:29:09,210
So it was really how
people individually

1291
01:29:09,210 --> 01:29:12,896
lived through those times.

1292
01:29:12,896 --> 01:29:14,990
How painful.

1293
01:29:14,990 --> 01:29:20,120
How painful and how hard
it must have been for her.

1294
01:29:20,120 --> 01:29:23,480
And what a loss of
faith in the world

1295
01:29:23,480 --> 01:29:30,480
this meant, because
religion is faith.

1296
01:29:30,480 --> 01:29:34,830
And when you lose
your faith, then it's

1297
01:29:34,830 --> 01:29:38,590
sort of like, what's left?

1298
01:29:38,590 --> 01:29:41,970
I'm not necessarily
advocating something

1299

01:29:41,970 --> 01:29:43,530
that is a formal religion.

1300
01:29:43,530 --> 01:29:45,960
But you've lost your
trust in people.

1301
01:29:45,960 --> 01:29:47,340
You've lost your
trust that there

1302
01:29:47,340 --> 01:29:50,940
could be something
beyond provability that

1303
01:29:50,940 --> 01:29:57,850
exists for the benefit of us
all, or this higher being.

1304
01:29:57,850 --> 01:30:04,290
And it's nice you said
that she came back to it.

1305
01:30:04,290 --> 01:30:05,690
Yeah, it is nice.

1306
01:30:05,690 --> 01:30:10,480
And I'm really glad
that it happened.

1307
01:30:10,480 --> 01:30:15,810
Finally, her life came to
a full circle, my life.

1308
01:30:15,810 --> 01:30:19,020
And interestingly
enough, my aunt,

1309
01:30:19,020 --> 01:30:24,840
who kept her religion very
seriously for all those years,

1310
01:30:24,840 --> 01:30:29,760

she went through more than
my mother went through.

1311
01:30:29,760 --> 01:30:33,390
But that's another
Holocaust story.

1312
01:30:33,390 --> 01:30:42,390
She was just so happy to
see that I turned around,

1313
01:30:42,390 --> 01:30:49,560
and I picked up when
she was about to leave,

1314
01:30:49,560 --> 01:30:52,980
that I actually--

1315
01:30:52,980 --> 01:30:57,010
today, I am more observant
Jew than my cousin, who

1316
01:30:57,010 --> 01:31:00,610
got a formal Jewish education.

1317
01:31:00,610 --> 01:31:03,190
Those things happen, too.

1318
01:31:03,190 --> 01:31:04,440
Yeah.

1319
01:31:04,440 --> 01:31:16,210
So your leaving Hungary was
tied in to a wakening identity,

1320
01:31:16,210 --> 01:31:20,920
and your identity that you are
a Jew, that you are Jewish,

1321
01:31:20,920 --> 01:31:26,380
and the atmosphere that you
are seeing or experiencing

1322
01:31:26,380 --> 01:31:29,890
in a public way in
Hungary through the media,

1323
01:31:29,890 --> 01:31:33,550
and how it talks about Israel.

1324
01:31:33,550 --> 01:31:34,050
Yeah.

1325
01:31:34,050 --> 01:31:34,660
Is that--

1326
01:31:34,660 --> 01:31:34,920
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

1327
01:31:34,920 --> 01:31:35,890
That was half of it.

1328
01:31:35,890 --> 01:31:39,980
But I don't want to make
it as the major part.

1329
01:31:39,980 --> 01:31:45,130
It was a kind of
existential crisis--

1330
01:31:45,130 --> 01:31:47,440
a perfect storm, if I may say.

1331
01:31:47,440 --> 01:31:53,440
When my dissatisfaction
with the communist system

1332
01:31:53,440 --> 01:31:59,260
I more or less believed
in-- for a while at least,

1333
01:31:59,260 --> 01:32:03,120
I thought that it can work.

1334

01:32:03,120 --> 01:32:07,540
Also, my divorce,
my Jewish identity--

1335
01:32:07,540 --> 01:32:11,620
and you even call
a midlife crisis,

1336
01:32:11,620 --> 01:32:18,490
because I was 39, about
half of my age now.

1337
01:32:18,490 --> 01:32:23,000
So that was really a perfect
storm when people decide,

1338
01:32:23,000 --> 01:32:27,100
I'm going to start from scratch.

1339
01:32:27,100 --> 01:32:28,842
How did you do it?

1340
01:32:28,842 --> 01:32:30,630
How did you leave?

1341
01:32:30,630 --> 01:32:35,460
I did it in a legal
way, in a sense that I

1342
01:32:35,460 --> 01:32:37,740
applied for an exit visa.

1343
01:32:37,740 --> 01:32:39,420
At that time, it
was the time when

1344
01:32:39,420 --> 01:32:45,210
you left for a
Western country, you

1345
01:32:45,210 --> 01:32:48,300
have to ask the government
permission to leave.

1346
01:32:48,300 --> 01:32:53,340
And I applied for the visa
to the United States Embassy

1347
01:32:53,340 --> 01:32:54,570
to come in.

1348
01:32:54,570 --> 01:33:01,620
I was invited by my uncle
and aunt, who lived here.

1349
01:33:01,620 --> 01:33:05,160
And I came as a tourist.

1350
01:33:05,160 --> 01:33:15,900
And before I had to return, I
had a long, hard conversation

1351
01:33:15,900 --> 01:33:17,250
with my uncle.

1352
01:33:17,250 --> 01:33:21,790
And he really ignited
the [? high ?] outrage.

1353
01:33:21,790 --> 01:33:29,140
It was really [INAUDIBLE] that
night that I just needed some--

1354
01:33:29,140 --> 01:33:34,070
I don't know-- encouragement
or divine prophecy.

1355
01:33:34,070 --> 01:33:39,640
But my uncle was the
catalyst who, one night,

1356
01:33:39,640 --> 01:33:45,040
asked me way before I went
home, so why are you going home?

1357

01:33:45,040 --> 01:33:47,980
And then I asked
the question myself.

1358
01:33:47,980 --> 01:33:53,530
Although I was, more or
less, ready to defect.

1359
01:33:53,530 --> 01:33:59,710
But I didn't know that I
had the chutzpah, or I had--

1360
01:33:59,710 --> 01:34:02,170
knowing all the consequences.

1361
01:34:02,170 --> 01:34:07,090
It's not just
living an old life,

1362
01:34:07,090 --> 01:34:11,940
but starting from
scratch at the age 39.

1363
01:34:11,940 --> 01:34:15,670
So there were a lot
of pros and cons.

1364
01:34:15,670 --> 01:34:20,480
But my uncle was really,
with this very question,

1365
01:34:20,480 --> 01:34:25,810
the catalyst for
deciding that I'm going

1366
01:34:25,810 --> 01:34:28,020
to ask for political asylum.

1367
01:34:28,020 --> 01:34:30,310
And you did then.

1368
01:34:30,310 --> 01:34:35,020
And I did, which again,

that's for another two

1369
01:34:35,020 --> 01:34:37,930
hours of conversation.

1370
01:34:37,930 --> 01:34:44,670
I didn't get it, because of
all kind of formal things.

1371
01:34:44,670 --> 01:34:50,110
You had to prove that you
personally were persecuted,

1372
01:34:50,110 --> 01:34:52,740
which I couldn't.

1373
01:34:52,740 --> 01:34:57,460
Not having the religious
freedom was a good cause

1374
01:34:57,460 --> 01:35:01,610
for coming out from Hungary.

1375
01:35:01,610 --> 01:35:07,390
But in 1980, they changed
the law, which allowed people

1376
01:35:07,390 --> 01:35:11,920
from eastern Europe to
come to this country

1377
01:35:11,920 --> 01:35:16,360
and automatically
granted a green card,

1378
01:35:16,360 --> 01:35:19,780
because they didn't
have individually proof

1379
01:35:19,780 --> 01:35:22,090
that they were persecuted.

1380

01:35:22,090 --> 01:35:25,600
Knowing the communist
system, the law

1381
01:35:25,600 --> 01:35:30,520
said that those people who
come from communist countries

1382
01:35:30,520 --> 01:35:33,950
had assumed that
they were persecuted.

1383
01:35:33,950 --> 01:35:38,200
Therefore, they would
be granted green cards.

1384
01:35:38,200 --> 01:35:44,920
And because that was the year
of the Haitian and Cuban boat

1385
01:35:44,920 --> 01:35:49,000
people who came from
similar circumstances that

1386
01:35:49,000 --> 01:35:53,800
weren't granted
the same exception,

1387
01:35:53,800 --> 01:35:56,950
instead of giving them
the same privilege,

1388
01:35:56,950 --> 01:36:00,670
they took away from
the eastern Europeans.

1389
01:36:00,670 --> 01:36:07,790
So then I turned to
a lawyer who advised

1390
01:36:07,790 --> 01:36:11,490
me to get a work
permit, which I were

1391

01:36:11,490 --> 01:36:15,030

able to get relatively
easily because

1392

01:36:15,030 --> 01:36:17,850

of my professional skills.

1393

01:36:17,850 --> 01:36:23,700

And so I got my
green card, based

1394

01:36:23,700 --> 01:36:32,680

on the need of this country
of my professional expertise.

1395

01:36:32,680 --> 01:36:34,130

I see.

1396

01:36:34,130 --> 01:36:37,290

And one of the
reasons I'm asking

1397

01:36:37,290 --> 01:36:40,410

in more detail about
this part of your life

1398

01:36:40,410 --> 01:36:46,590

is because it sounds like
your interest in the war

1399

01:36:46,590 --> 01:36:49,690

years, your interest in
your own experiences,

1400

01:36:49,690 --> 01:36:55,620

your family's experiences
starts to become woken.

1401

01:36:55,620 --> 01:37:03,930

That is, it starts to wake
up, with your identity also

1402

01:37:03,930 --> 01:37:08,070
becoming something that's
more conscious for you.

1403
01:37:08,070 --> 01:37:09,210
Is that right?

1404
01:37:09,210 --> 01:37:14,430
Or are they not connected?

1405
01:37:14,430 --> 01:37:15,750
It's connected.

1406
01:37:15,750 --> 01:37:18,940
It's definitely
connected, because once I

1407
01:37:18,940 --> 01:37:25,290
got into this country, I
have to figure out who I was.

1408
01:37:25,290 --> 01:37:30,330
And the question was, I
am a Hungarian-American,

1409
01:37:30,330 --> 01:37:36,870
or I am an American-American,
I am a Jewish-American?

1410
01:37:36,870 --> 01:37:44,910
And so I had to sort
out a identity issue.

1411
01:37:44,910 --> 01:37:52,770
And that's when my Jewish
identity awakened and started

1412
01:37:52,770 --> 01:38:00,630
to pursue a better understanding
of my heritage and everything

1413
01:38:00,630 --> 01:38:02,810
which comes with it.

1414
01:38:02,810 --> 01:38:05,740
So this is pretty
much when you're

1415
01:38:05,740 --> 01:38:11,080
entering your early middle
age, after age 39, that all

1416
01:38:11,080 --> 01:38:12,335
of these things develop.

1417
01:38:12,335 --> 01:38:15,440

1418
01:38:15,440 --> 01:38:16,430
Yeah.

1419
01:38:16,430 --> 01:38:24,840
Again, I don't know if everybody
goes through such a catharsis

1420
01:38:24,840 --> 01:38:26,310
or not.

1421
01:38:26,310 --> 01:38:31,650
And in leaving a country
behind, you spent the first half

1422
01:38:31,650 --> 01:38:36,040
of your life knowing
that you cannot go back.

1423
01:38:36,040 --> 01:38:42,060
That was part of the equation--
that if I decided that I stay,

1424
01:38:42,060 --> 01:38:47,070
I could have gone back, but I
would have been put to jail.

1425
01:38:47,070 --> 01:38:49,410

And I would have lost my job.

1426

01:38:49,410 --> 01:38:55,240

And I was marked for
the rest of my life.

1427

01:38:55,240 --> 01:38:57,150

No, and this step was huge.

1428

01:38:57,150 --> 01:38:59,220

The step is-- it's no question.

1429

01:38:59,220 --> 01:39:02,520

It's because you can't go
back, because you lose.

1430

01:39:02,520 --> 01:39:05,580

That is, you really have
to cut everything that you

1431

01:39:05,580 --> 01:39:07,980

knew before when you come here.

1432

01:39:07,980 --> 01:39:11,640

But you did it because
of a variety of reasons

1433

01:39:11,640 --> 01:39:14,400

that you've explained to me.

1434

01:39:14,400 --> 01:39:17,430

And I understand
that it's complex.

1435

01:39:17,430 --> 01:39:22,980

It can't be boiled down
to any one factor or any--

1436

01:39:22,980 --> 01:39:26,580

like you said, it's
a perfect storm.

1437

01:39:26,580 --> 01:39:31,230
The part that I want to hear
about, within the context--

1438
01:39:31,230 --> 01:39:35,880
but I want to find out how this
consciousness, this interest

1439
01:39:35,880 --> 01:39:38,670
of yours, how that develops.

1440
01:39:38,670 --> 01:39:43,710
And this need to reclaim a
heritage, your heritage--

1441
01:39:43,710 --> 01:39:48,980
how that progressed
once you were here.

1442
01:39:48,980 --> 01:39:55,970
Well, again, I was searching my
heart for my Jewish identity.

1443
01:39:55,970 --> 01:39:59,750
I found it in the synagogue.

1444
01:39:59,750 --> 01:40:02,530
I started to study.

1445
01:40:02,530 --> 01:40:05,360

1446
01:40:05,360 --> 01:40:09,080
I had to start
basically from scratch

1447
01:40:09,080 --> 01:40:16,220
learning Hebrew and learning
everything Jewish, because I

1448
01:40:16,220 --> 01:40:19,430
never had a formal education.

1449

01:40:19,430 --> 01:40:26,730

And I, again, started to be
involved in Jewish community

1450

01:40:26,730 --> 01:40:27,440

lives.

1451

01:40:27,440 --> 01:40:32,510

I was donating money
for the Russian Jews

1452

01:40:32,510 --> 01:40:36,650

who started to come up
from the Soviet Union.

1453

01:40:36,650 --> 01:40:37,310

Oh, yeah.

1454

01:40:37,310 --> 01:40:43,490

I was protesting in
Washington, DC for the release

1455

01:40:43,490 --> 01:40:46,640

of the Russian Jews.

1456

01:40:46,640 --> 01:40:52,730

And I supported
the Israel reaction

1457

01:40:52,730 --> 01:40:56,150

to bring out the Ethiopian Jews.

1458

01:40:56,150 --> 01:41:05,000

So in all kind of little
things, this whole identity

1459

01:41:05,000 --> 01:41:06,860

came to place.

1460

01:41:06,860 --> 01:41:15,390

And again, my love for Israel
was kindled, not rekindled,

1461
01:41:15,390 --> 01:41:23,820
because that was the first
time I really learned history,

1462
01:41:23,820 --> 01:41:28,140
and history of Israel in 1948--

1463
01:41:28,140 --> 01:41:36,900
and then, of course, my
interest in the Holocaust,

1464
01:41:36,900 --> 01:41:41,270
and everything connected to it.

1465
01:41:41,270 --> 01:41:44,360
I am a charter
member of the museum,

1466
01:41:44,360 --> 01:41:48,590
and not just a
survivor volunteer.

1467
01:41:48,590 --> 01:41:51,830
I joined the museum
when it was just

1468
01:41:51,830 --> 01:41:56,650
in the planning phase of,
[? little donation ?]..

1469
01:41:56,650 --> 01:42:04,640
But never the less, I knew
that that's where I belong to.

1470
01:42:04,640 --> 01:42:10,070
So you settled in the
Washington, DC area?

1471
01:42:10,070 --> 01:42:12,340
Correct.

1472

01:42:12,340 --> 01:42:15,450
My aunt and uncle
lived in Baltimore.

1473
01:42:15,450 --> 01:42:21,980
So when I came, the first few
months, I stayed with my uncle.

1474
01:42:21,980 --> 01:42:25,920
But I knew that I wanted to
work in the Washington area,

1475
01:42:25,920 --> 01:42:33,150
because in my job or profession,
there were more opportunities.

1476
01:42:33,150 --> 01:42:39,180
And also, living in Europe
in the capital of Hungary,

1477
01:42:39,180 --> 01:42:46,000
I wanted to live as close to
the capital here as possible.

1478
01:42:46,000 --> 01:42:53,580
So because I got a job with a
company who did work for NASA

1479
01:42:53,580 --> 01:42:58,080
and my work was at
NASA in Greenberg,

1480
01:42:58,080 --> 01:43:03,010
that's where I rented
my first apartment.

1481
01:43:03,010 --> 01:43:07,660
And you said that you--

1482
01:43:07,660 --> 01:43:13,970
well, if you came here
in 1980, it really

1483

01:43:13,970 --> 01:43:20,350
is around the same
time that the museum,

1484
01:43:20,350 --> 01:43:26,040
which started as an idea
and became something that--

1485
01:43:26,040 --> 01:43:30,940
I believe it was even
Jimmy Carter who formed a--

1486
01:43:30,940 --> 01:43:32,520
my history may be
wrong here, but I

1487
01:43:32,520 --> 01:43:36,660
thought he was the one who drew
up the proclamation that there

1488
01:43:36,660 --> 01:43:38,580
should be such a museum.

1489
01:43:38,580 --> 01:43:41,160
So during that first decade
that you're in the United

1490
01:43:41,160 --> 01:43:45,090
States is when the idea
develops, and develops further,

1491
01:43:45,090 --> 01:43:47,216
and develops further.

1492
01:43:47,216 --> 01:43:48,550
Yeah, you are correct.

1493
01:43:48,550 --> 01:43:53,490
I believe that he was
the one that set up

1494
01:43:53,490 --> 01:43:59,060
whatever planning committee

or consul for the Holocaust

1495
01:43:59,060 --> 01:44:02,230
Museum, and it's
how this started.

1496
01:44:02,230 --> 01:44:07,360
Did you become involved
with those people who

1497
01:44:07,360 --> 01:44:11,830
started those committees,
who first took it

1498
01:44:11,830 --> 01:44:14,260
to all the next steps?

1499
01:44:14,260 --> 01:44:19,780
No, I was just a
passive supporter.

1500
01:44:19,780 --> 01:44:24,980
Being on the mailing list of a
[? para-Jewish ?] organization,

1501
01:44:24,980 --> 01:44:31,690
I got a solicitation to
museums in planning phase.

1502
01:44:31,690 --> 01:44:34,420
And, would I support it?

1503
01:44:34,420 --> 01:44:40,140
And I did support the
museum's planning.

1504
01:44:40,140 --> 01:44:42,270
When did you take
the step further

1505
01:44:42,270 --> 01:44:46,650
to become more involved
with the museum?

1506
01:44:46,650 --> 01:44:53,560
Well, I wanted to be more
involved from 1993, I think,

1507
01:44:53,560 --> 01:44:55,270
when the museum opened.

1508
01:44:55,270 --> 01:44:58,120
However, I still had a job.

1509
01:44:58,120 --> 01:45:06,890
I still had girls to put through
colleges and marry them off.

1510
01:45:06,890 --> 01:45:13,770
So I really didn't have
time to get involved

1511
01:45:13,770 --> 01:45:18,800
in the museum as a volunteer.

1512
01:45:18,800 --> 01:45:25,220
So I waited until
I retired in 2014.

1513
01:45:25,220 --> 01:45:28,250
And then, at the
first opportunity,

1514
01:45:28,250 --> 01:45:31,990
I contacted the
museum [INAUDIBLE]..

1515
01:45:31,990 --> 01:45:34,720

1516
01:45:34,720 --> 01:45:36,530
And the rest is history.

1517
01:45:36,530 --> 01:45:38,020
I became a volunteer.

1518
01:45:38,020 --> 01:45:40,840
I went through the
training, first

1519
01:45:40,840 --> 01:45:45,760
with the visitor services.

1520
01:45:45,760 --> 01:45:50,020
And I took the courses
to become a docent.

1521
01:45:50,020 --> 01:45:53,550
And I'm a member of
the survivor group.

1522
01:45:53,550 --> 01:46:00,310
And what kind of activities,
what kind of volunteer work,

1523
01:46:00,310 --> 01:46:06,520
have you been doing most
often at the museum?

1524
01:46:06,520 --> 01:46:14,950
Well, lately, until
March 2020, we--

1525
01:46:14,950 --> 01:46:19,850
the [? want ?] is we went to
various places, mostly schools,

1526
01:46:19,850 --> 01:46:24,100
colleges, high schools,
even elementary schools

1527
01:46:24,100 --> 01:46:31,150
and synagogues,
and told our story

1528
01:46:31,150 --> 01:46:34,090
to anybody who would come.

1529

01:46:34,090 --> 01:46:37,720

And so I followed
with the museum

1530

01:46:37,720 --> 01:46:44,200

to various parts of the
country and locally,

1531

01:46:44,200 --> 01:46:49,990

and told my family's
story and history.

1532

01:46:49,990 --> 01:46:56,170

And so these presentations
were a major part

1533

01:46:56,170 --> 01:46:59,290

of my volunteer work.

1534

01:46:59,290 --> 01:47:07,110

I did a lot of translation
from Hungarian to English--

1535

01:47:07,110 --> 01:47:16,680

documents, diaries, and
whatever the need was and is.

1536

01:47:16,680 --> 01:47:22,770

I am part of the team of
project History Unfolded.

1537

01:47:22,770 --> 01:47:25,290

1538

01:47:25,290 --> 01:47:26,830

I--

1539

01:47:26,830 --> 01:47:27,330

Explain.

1540

01:47:27,330 --> 01:47:30,840

What is the History

Unfolded project?

1541

01:47:30,840 --> 01:47:38,370

That project is an extremely interesting and exciting

1542

01:47:38,370 --> 01:47:40,800

project.

1543

01:47:40,800 --> 01:47:48,260

The museum ask people, mostly students all over the country,

1544

01:47:48,260 --> 01:47:53,420

to go to local libraries and newspapers

1545

01:47:53,420 --> 01:47:59,030

and find out what the country knew about the Holocaust

1546

01:47:59,030 --> 01:48:03,920

by reading those local newspapers.

1547

01:48:03,920 --> 01:48:07,810

Small-town newspapers never heard the name of,

1548

01:48:07,810 --> 01:48:12,990

in all 50 United States.

1549

01:48:12,990 --> 01:48:17,700

And it's extremely well-organized.

1550

01:48:17,700 --> 01:48:26,370

And students are extremely enthusiastic about that.

1551

01:48:26,370 --> 01:48:33,930

I've got 30 some topics within the Holocaust from 1933

1552
01:48:33,930 --> 01:48:37,440
to 1945.

1553
01:48:37,440 --> 01:48:41,020
And so the newspaper--

1554
01:48:41,020 --> 01:48:45,420
or the museum is asking students
to find newspaper articles

1555
01:48:45,420 --> 01:48:50,800
relevant to that
topic from Lindbergh,

1556
01:48:50,800 --> 01:48:54,640
to the deportation of
the Hungarian Jews,

1557
01:48:54,640 --> 01:48:58,390
every major event,
the Holocaust.

1558
01:48:58,390 --> 01:49:02,680
We want to know what
the United States knew

1559
01:49:02,680 --> 01:49:12,610
about, and especially in
cities or towns in the Midwest.

1560
01:49:12,610 --> 01:49:19,870
Surprisingly, very
much was known

1561
01:49:19,870 --> 01:49:23,955
from the local newspapers
for those who read it

1562
01:49:23,955 --> 01:49:26,050
and who were interested in it.

1563

01:49:26,050 --> 01:49:29,380
So what is your--

1564
01:49:29,380 --> 01:49:33,010
how have you been
involved in that project?

1565
01:49:33,010 --> 01:49:36,940
Well, I started out
researching myself, just

1566
01:49:36,940 --> 01:49:39,920
to get familiar with
the whole project.

1567
01:49:39,920 --> 01:49:45,340
But what I am doing is I am
verifying the submissions,

1568
01:49:45,340 --> 01:49:49,160
the way everything
is computerized.

1569
01:49:49,160 --> 01:49:55,400
Students go to libraries,
or go to online libraries,

1570
01:49:55,400 --> 01:49:57,330
and get the articles.

1571
01:49:57,330 --> 01:50:02,930
And they fill out
the form concerning

1572
01:50:02,930 --> 01:50:08,270
the newspaper name, and
location, and the date

1573
01:50:08,270 --> 01:50:15,190
of the articles, and the theme
the article is relevant to.

1574
01:50:15,190 --> 01:50:18,470

They send me their
copy of the articles,

1575
01:50:18,470 --> 01:50:25,930
or a link to the
article in a library

1576
01:50:25,930 --> 01:50:33,150
where we can verify that the
article is about that theme--

1577
01:50:33,150 --> 01:50:39,670
like, the deportation
of the Hungarian Jews

1578
01:50:39,670 --> 01:50:50,660
is in the time period between
1949 March to 10th of 1944.

1579
01:50:50,660 --> 01:50:54,030
So we verify all
the relevant data.

1580
01:50:54,030 --> 01:50:57,860
They fill in the author, the--

1581
01:50:57,860 --> 01:50:59,460
So excuse me.

1582
01:50:59,460 --> 01:51:02,910
I believe I heard the
date 1949, which would not

1583
01:51:02,910 --> 01:51:04,733
be within the time frame.

1584
01:51:04,733 --> 01:51:05,400
Are you saying--

1585
01:51:05,400 --> 01:51:07,180
Oh, it's '44.

1586

01:51:07,180 --> 01:51:08,810
Oh, 1944.

1587
01:51:08,810 --> 01:51:11,910
So can I understand it
this way-- that what you do

1588
01:51:11,910 --> 01:51:16,290
is you look at their submission
in the form that they fill out,

1589
01:51:16,290 --> 01:51:17,190
these students.

1590
01:51:17,190 --> 01:51:21,270
And then you look up the article
that they are referring to.

1591
01:51:21,270 --> 01:51:23,670
And you compare
one to the other.

1592
01:51:23,670 --> 01:51:24,180
Is that it?

1593
01:51:24,180 --> 01:51:24,680
Correct.

1594
01:51:24,680 --> 01:51:27,810
To make sure that it's accurate.

1595
01:51:27,810 --> 01:51:31,080
Yeah, because sometimes,
they submit articles

1596
01:51:31,080 --> 01:51:35,590
where maybe there is a name
or date which is relevant,

1597
01:51:35,590 --> 01:51:39,100
but the time period is
completely different.

1598

01:51:39,100 --> 01:51:42,310

It didn't happen at the
time when, let's say,

1599

01:51:42,310 --> 01:51:43,990

the Kristallnacht happened.

1600

01:51:43,990 --> 01:51:44,490

I see.

1601

01:51:44,490 --> 01:51:47,400

So that article is not relevant.

1602

01:51:47,400 --> 01:51:50,740

And unfortunately,
we have to reject it.

1603

01:51:50,740 --> 01:51:56,910

So ultimately, I
give verification--

1604

01:51:56,910 --> 01:52:00,150

either accepted
and posted, which

1605

01:52:00,150 --> 01:52:05,220

means that the
moment I accept it,

1606

01:52:05,220 --> 01:52:08,580

it's posted on the
museum website.

1607

01:52:08,580 --> 01:52:14,220

And anybody who is interested
can find this article

1608

01:52:14,220 --> 01:52:16,920

about specific topics.

1609

01:52:16,920 --> 01:52:20,110

That is a very

interesting project.

1610
01:52:20,110 --> 01:52:23,640
And just I want to
clarify for myself.

1611
01:52:23,640 --> 01:52:27,540
The criteria is that, for
example, Kristallnacht

1612
01:52:27,540 --> 01:52:31,100
happens in November, 1938.

1613
01:52:31,100 --> 01:52:31,650
Correct.

1614
01:52:31,650 --> 01:52:36,720
And if an article in the
United States is in some town,

1615
01:52:36,720 --> 01:52:41,010
in some city about Kristallnacht
is published in November

1616
01:52:41,010 --> 01:52:44,640
or December, 1938,
it would be relevant,

1617
01:52:44,640 --> 01:52:46,280
and it would be posted.

1618
01:52:46,280 --> 01:52:46,780
But--

1619
01:52:46,780 --> 01:52:47,430
Exactly.

1620
01:52:47,430 --> 01:52:52,300
--if the article is written
20 years later, does that--

1621
01:52:52,300 --> 01:52:54,140

Then it's not relevant.

1622
01:52:54,140 --> 01:52:54,660
Yes.

1623
01:52:54,660 --> 01:52:55,160
Yes.

1624
01:52:55,160 --> 01:53:03,550
We want the
contemporary articles--

1625
01:53:03,550 --> 01:53:06,870
That are news at the
time, not history later.

1626
01:53:06,870 --> 01:53:11,080
Yeah, which can be
informative to people

1627
01:53:11,080 --> 01:53:12,400
who lived at that time.

1628
01:53:12,400 --> 01:53:12,900
Excellent.

1629
01:53:12,900 --> 01:53:19,170
So Americans were aware of the
Kristallnacht on November 12.

1630
01:53:19,170 --> 01:53:22,400
I think that's the first
time they reported,

1631
01:53:22,400 --> 01:53:24,410
or maybe the 11th.

1632
01:53:24,410 --> 01:53:33,050
Because at that time, the news
didn't go as fast as today.

1633
01:53:33,050 --> 01:53:36,150

So a couple of days
later, there were

1634
01:53:36,150 --> 01:53:42,460
articles in American newspapers,
mostly in small newspapers.

1635
01:53:42,460 --> 01:53:45,710
They didn't have
correspondents in Berlin.

1636
01:53:45,710 --> 01:53:50,540
But they relied on mostly
the AP news agency.

1637
01:53:50,540 --> 01:53:54,020
That's the most frequently
quoted news agency.

1638
01:53:54,020 --> 01:53:54,868
That's right.

1639
01:53:54,868 --> 01:53:55,410
That's right.

1640
01:53:55,410 --> 01:53:57,970

1641
01:53:57,970 --> 01:53:59,320
Well, it is--

1642
01:53:59,320 --> 01:54:02,410
I mean, to the historian in
me and the journalist in me,

1643
01:54:02,410 --> 01:54:03,790
this is a fascinating project.

1644
01:54:03,790 --> 01:54:09,300

1645
01:54:09,300 --> 01:54:14,700

But I want a segue now
to the broader question.

1646
01:54:14,700 --> 01:54:18,840
What contribution do
you think the museum

1647
01:54:18,840 --> 01:54:24,900
makes for the public?

1648
01:54:24,900 --> 01:54:27,750
What does it bring to the table?

1649
01:54:27,750 --> 01:54:28,830
What does it give us?

1650
01:54:28,830 --> 01:54:32,760
Well, I can start
with a specific one.

1651
01:54:32,760 --> 01:54:37,230
We have a temporary
exhibit right now,

1652
01:54:37,230 --> 01:54:41,880
besides the permanent
exhibit in the museum--

1653
01:54:41,880 --> 01:54:44,530
The United States
and the Holocaust.

1654
01:54:44,530 --> 01:54:45,030
Yes.

1655
01:54:45,030 --> 01:54:52,830
And it has an overview
what happened between 1933

1656
01:54:52,830 --> 01:55:03,240
to 1945 in the United States
and from the foreign ministry's

1657

01:55:03,240 --> 01:55:06,980

refusal to raise the quotas
for Jewish immigrants.

1658

01:55:06,980 --> 01:55:12,960

So everything is
in this exhibit.

1659

01:55:12,960 --> 01:55:17,760

But this exhibit used
a lot of information,

1660

01:55:17,760 --> 01:55:23,070

which was collected from the
History Unfolded project.

1661

01:55:23,070 --> 01:55:25,950

And actually, one
of the displays

1662

01:55:25,950 --> 01:55:29,580

has the map of
the United States,

1663

01:55:29,580 --> 01:55:32,040

if I remember correctly.

1664

01:55:32,040 --> 01:55:40,200

And you can click on any major
cities or smaller cities.

1665

01:55:40,200 --> 01:55:46,290

And the newspaper article would
pop up in a relevant event.

1666

01:55:46,290 --> 01:55:50,250

So actually, this
particular project

1667

01:55:50,250 --> 01:55:53,610

was put into
practice immediately.

1668

01:55:53,610 --> 01:55:58,920

And it's a data for people in
understanding what the United

1669

01:55:58,920 --> 01:56:03,420

States knew, whether
or not the States did,

1670

01:56:03,420 --> 01:56:05,640

and what it didn't do.

1671

01:56:05,640 --> 01:56:08,340

So the primary
reason of the museum

1672

01:56:08,340 --> 01:56:15,900

is to disseminate information
about the Holocaust--

1673

01:56:15,900 --> 01:56:22,310

the history, the
geography and statistics,

1674

01:56:22,310 --> 01:56:28,380

and everything which is
relevant to the history

1675

01:56:28,380 --> 01:56:30,690

of the Holocaust.

1676

01:56:30,690 --> 01:56:34,200

Now, this is a memorial museum.

1677

01:56:34,200 --> 01:56:41,840

So obviously, this is a memorial
of the 6 million who died,

1678

01:56:41,840 --> 01:56:47,190

who doesn't have a
grave or a dumpster.

1679

01:56:47,190 --> 01:56:53,810

So this is a place that
people can come and show

1680
01:56:53,810 --> 01:56:57,375
their respect of the 6
million who perished.

1681
01:56:57,375 --> 01:56:59,960

1682
01:56:59,960 --> 01:57:05,610
Obviously, we have the permanent
exhibit, which tells the story.

1683
01:57:05,610 --> 01:57:13,260
We have temporary exhibit,
which tells stories

1684
01:57:13,260 --> 01:57:20,730
within the stories, and also
contemporary genocide events.

1685
01:57:20,730 --> 01:57:26,480
Unfortunately, Holocaust
wasn't the last genocide

1686
01:57:26,480 --> 01:57:28,650
in human history.

1687
01:57:28,650 --> 01:57:35,510
And since then, we saw, in other
countries and other continents,

1688
01:57:35,510 --> 01:57:40,010
people persecuted because
they were different

1689
01:57:40,010 --> 01:57:44,040
either religiously,
or ethnically,

1690
01:57:44,040 --> 01:57:46,210
or whatever the criteria was.

1691
01:57:46,210 --> 01:57:52,860
So the museum has
this role to monitor

1692
01:57:52,860 --> 01:57:59,910
what's happening in the world,
to raise the voice on behalf

1693
01:57:59,910 --> 01:58:04,510
of the people who are
persecuted because of race,

1694
01:58:04,510 --> 01:58:12,810
ethnicity, sexual orientation,
or whatever the criteria is.

1695
01:58:12,810 --> 01:58:15,960
And so they do a good job.

1696
01:58:15,960 --> 01:58:19,810
Of course, there is
Holocaust research

1697
01:58:19,810 --> 01:58:25,470
to have more facts
about what happened.

1698
01:58:25,470 --> 01:58:30,060
And as archives
are opening, there

1699
01:58:30,060 --> 01:58:32,970
are new sources for information.

1700
01:58:32,970 --> 01:58:40,990
And the museum uses
that to refresh what

1701
01:58:40,990 --> 01:58:43,060
is known about the Holocaust.

1702

01:58:43,060 --> 01:58:49,120
And actually, there
is a project going on

1703
01:58:49,120 --> 01:58:52,940
to redesign the
permanent exhibit,

1704
01:58:52,940 --> 01:58:59,170
because it opened in
1993, 27 years ago.

1705
01:58:59,170 --> 01:59:02,180
Or I don't know
how many years ago.

1706
01:59:02,180 --> 01:59:06,590
And since then, historians
came up with new facts.

1707
01:59:06,590 --> 01:59:12,530
And they want the permanent
exhibit to reflect on it.

1708
01:59:12,530 --> 01:59:15,360
And also, technology changed.

1709
01:59:15,360 --> 01:59:19,490
So we can communicate
much better

1710
01:59:19,490 --> 01:59:24,580
with using all the
advancement in technology.

1711
01:59:24,580 --> 01:59:32,780
And of course, to have
the Holocaust survivors

1712
01:59:32,780 --> 01:59:36,830
go through their
personal experience

1713

01:59:36,830 --> 01:59:43,820
can be the best witness of what
happened, and have other people

1714
01:59:43,820 --> 01:59:46,895
not only understand
what happened too,

1715
01:59:46,895 --> 01:59:53,840
but make them aware that
they have a responsibility

1716
01:59:53,840 --> 01:59:57,750
to make sure that this
will never happen again.

1717
01:59:57,750 --> 02:00:09,250
And I think that's really the
essential motto of the museum--

1718
02:00:09,250 --> 02:00:12,160
what you do matters.

1719
02:00:12,160 --> 02:00:14,920

1720
02:00:14,920 --> 02:00:19,020
So tell me then,
does it succeed?

1721
02:00:19,020 --> 02:00:20,550
These are lofty goals.

1722
02:00:20,550 --> 02:00:22,980
These are big goals.

1723
02:00:22,980 --> 02:00:29,970
These are very broad, sometimes,
goals, and very ambitious ones.

1724
02:00:29,970 --> 02:00:30,810
Do they do it?

1725
02:00:30,810 --> 02:00:33,630
Does it work?

1726
02:00:33,630 --> 02:00:39,120
Well, it depends on what
measurement you use.

1727
02:00:39,120 --> 02:00:40,230
If you--

1728
02:00:40,230 --> 02:00:41,550
From your perspective.

1729
02:00:41,550 --> 02:00:44,770
I'm not asking as a [INAUDIBLE],,
but from your experience.

1730
02:00:44,770 --> 02:00:45,750
I understand.

1731
02:00:45,750 --> 02:00:49,530
But it's a complicated question.

1732
02:00:49,530 --> 02:00:56,640
Namely, if you hear about
the Holocaust denial,

1733
02:00:56,640 --> 02:00:58,890
which is getting louder--

1734
02:00:58,890 --> 02:01:04,260
and because of the internet,
it's more well spread.

1735
02:01:04,260 --> 02:01:08,340
You may think that
we don't succeed,

1736
02:01:08,340 --> 02:01:13,230
because the number of
people who believe today

1737

02:01:13,230 --> 02:01:15,130

that the Holocaust
didn't happen--

1738

02:01:15,130 --> 02:01:19,000

or it happened, but
it was not systematic.

1739

02:01:19,000 --> 02:01:22,320

And it's just people died,
because there was a war.

1740

02:01:22,320 --> 02:01:30,420

So again, the museum
succeeded in their goal

1741

02:01:30,420 --> 02:01:40,430

to do what it meant to do, and
I think doing a really good job.

1742

02:01:40,430 --> 02:01:45,960

How the world accept
it, or [INAUDIBLE] it,

1743

02:01:45,960 --> 02:01:49,330

or receives it--
it's another issue,

1744

02:01:49,330 --> 02:01:55,330

because one would think
that antisemitism is over

1745

02:01:55,330 --> 02:01:56,680

after the Holocaust.

1746

02:01:56,680 --> 02:02:00,250

And we see today that
antisemitism is not over.

1747

02:02:00,250 --> 02:02:03,800

As a matter of fact,
it's getting worse.

1748

02:02:03,800 --> 02:02:08,170

So if you say, oh,
the museum failed

1749

02:02:08,170 --> 02:02:11,770

because antisemitism
is on the rise,

1750

02:02:11,770 --> 02:02:15,830

or the Holocaust
denial is on the rise--

1751

02:02:15,830 --> 02:02:23,110

but at the same time, we
have a million visitors who

1752

02:02:23,110 --> 02:02:24,910

come to the museum physically.

1753

02:02:24,910 --> 02:02:29,900

And now, because we
are closed and people

1754

02:02:29,900 --> 02:02:32,350

are more aware
that the museum is

1755

02:02:32,350 --> 02:02:36,250

available through the internet,
we have hundreds of thousands

1756

02:02:36,250 --> 02:02:38,780

of visitors from the internet.

1757

02:02:38,780 --> 02:02:40,330

So there is an interest.

1758

02:02:40,330 --> 02:02:44,560

And there is an opportunity
to educate people.

1759

02:02:44,560 --> 02:02:56,840

And I think education is the crucial part of any condition,

1760
02:02:56,840 --> 02:03:06,240
because Hitler wouldn't start by demonstrating on the street

1761
02:03:06,240 --> 02:03:11,050
and having slogans and signs.

1762
02:03:11,050 --> 02:03:16,500
Hitler would start with people who would be educated and know

1763
02:03:16,500 --> 02:03:23,130
what the cause of the hatred is, and how danger it is,

1764
02:03:23,130 --> 02:03:26,530
and how we can fight against it.

1765
02:03:26,530 --> 02:03:32,880
So I think the museum is doing a good job.

1766
02:03:32,880 --> 02:03:33,940
Can we do better?

1767
02:03:33,940 --> 02:03:35,560
I'm sure we could.

1768
02:03:35,560 --> 02:03:40,160
But without the museum, I believe

1769
02:03:40,160 --> 02:03:43,542
we would be in much worse shape.

1770
02:03:43,542 --> 02:03:47,060
Well, that sounds like it's the key sentence.

1771

02:03:47,060 --> 02:03:51,200
What would it be like
if it weren't there?

1772
02:03:51,200 --> 02:03:57,650
And it's very hard to
measure things like the ones

1773
02:03:57,650 --> 02:04:04,440
that you're bringing up, because
how do you measure how deep,

1774
02:04:04,440 --> 02:04:08,310
let's say, antisemitism would
go, or violence would go,

1775
02:04:08,310 --> 02:04:11,040
or other genocidal
impulses would

1776
02:04:11,040 --> 02:04:14,730
go if this institution
doesn't exist?

1777
02:04:14,730 --> 02:04:15,620
It's hard to.

1778
02:04:15,620 --> 02:04:18,880
How can you measure that?

1779
02:04:18,880 --> 02:04:23,860
But you can measure
what it can do

1780
02:04:23,860 --> 02:04:29,410
and how that is perceived,
whether it is relevant.

1781
02:04:29,410 --> 02:04:32,950
And one way is the
number of visitors,

1782
02:04:32,950 --> 02:04:35,560

whether they're physical
visitors at the museum.

1783
02:04:35,560 --> 02:04:38,860
The other is, how many
people visit the website?

1784
02:04:38,860 --> 02:04:40,240
What do they find relevant?

1785
02:04:40,240 --> 02:04:44,140
What do they click
on, and so on?

1786
02:04:44,140 --> 02:04:46,990
Tell me, what has
it meant for you?

1787
02:04:46,990 --> 02:04:49,390
In a very personal way,
what has it meant for you?

1788
02:04:49,390 --> 02:04:56,030

1789
02:04:56,030 --> 02:05:05,120
For me, in a
nutshell, this museum

1790
02:05:05,120 --> 02:05:11,130
is a memorial to my
father, whom I never knew.

1791
02:05:11,130 --> 02:05:16,680
It's a memorial
of the 6 million.

1792
02:05:16,680 --> 02:05:22,460
So being part of the museum--

1793
02:05:22,460 --> 02:05:33,360
it means that I do what I can
do by sharing my experience

1794
02:05:33,360 --> 02:05:36,140
with mostly young people.

1795
02:05:36,140 --> 02:05:39,300
And that's the most
rewarding part--

1796
02:05:39,300 --> 02:05:45,940
when they write cards,
or emails telling

1797
02:05:45,940 --> 02:05:50,500
how much it meant to
be at my presentation,

1798
02:05:50,500 --> 02:05:54,340
or giving me a hug
or a handshake.

1799
02:05:54,340 --> 02:06:03,040
And it means that my
father and the 6 million

1800
02:06:03,040 --> 02:06:05,210
didn't die in vain.

1801
02:06:05,210 --> 02:06:09,820
The memories are preserved.

1802
02:06:09,820 --> 02:06:18,832
And the lessons we can
learn from their experiences

1803
02:06:18,832 --> 02:06:26,580
are taught, and projected,
and disseminated.

1804
02:06:26,580 --> 02:06:35,060
And we can be optimistic that
a generation will grow up,

1805

02:06:35,060 --> 02:06:40,530
which would be more active
in fighting against Hitler

1806
02:06:40,530 --> 02:06:43,600
and discrimination.

1807
02:06:43,600 --> 02:06:45,900
Thank you.

1808
02:06:45,900 --> 02:06:50,710
I can't think of a better
note for us to end on.

1809
02:06:50,710 --> 02:06:53,260
Before we do, though,
is there anything else

1810
02:06:53,260 --> 02:06:56,050
that you would like to
add to our interview

1811
02:06:56,050 --> 02:07:00,070
today that I haven't
asked, that you think

1812
02:07:00,070 --> 02:07:05,710
is relevant to any of the
issues, and topics, and events

1813
02:07:05,710 --> 02:07:08,920
that we've been discussing?

1814
02:07:08,920 --> 02:07:12,360
Well, I think we
finished just four hours.

1815
02:07:12,360 --> 02:07:19,270
So I think I said
more than I ever said

1816
02:07:19,270 --> 02:07:22,870
before concerning this topic.

1817
02:07:22,870 --> 02:07:27,170
Probably, I might
have some things

1818
02:07:27,170 --> 02:07:32,010
when I think about
what we discussed,

1819
02:07:32,010 --> 02:07:34,320
which might be of interest.

1820
02:07:34,320 --> 02:07:41,690
And if we can, at a later time,
I would use that opportunity.

1821
02:07:41,690 --> 02:07:42,740
Absolutely.

1822
02:07:42,740 --> 02:07:43,490
Absolutely.

1823
02:07:43,490 --> 02:07:44,960
We can do that.

1824
02:07:44,960 --> 02:07:47,990
For right now then,
what I will say

1825
02:07:47,990 --> 02:07:52,070
is that this concludes the
United States Holocaust

1826
02:07:52,070 --> 02:07:59,490
Memorial Museum interview with
Mr. Peter Gorog on June 29,

1827
02:07:59,490 --> 02:08:05,930
2020, taking place in
the Washington, DC metro

1828
02:08:05,930 --> 02:08:11,090

area remotely via
telephone because

1829
02:08:11,090 --> 02:08:15,810
of the current
coronavirus pandemic.

1830
02:08:15,810 --> 02:08:18,290
Thank you once again, Mr. Gorog.

1831
02:08:18,290 --> 02:08:21,600
Thank you very, very much.

1832
02:08:21,600 --> 02:08:25,500
Thank you very much for
giving me this opportunity.

1833
02:08:25,500 --> 02:08:26,000