

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:04,590

2
00:00:04,590 --> 00:00:08,760
This is a United States
Holocaust Memorial Museum

3
00:00:08,760 --> 00:00:17,400
interview with Mr. Robert
Budway on August 31, 2020.

4
00:00:17,400 --> 00:00:20,760
And Mr. Budway is
in Washington, DC.

5
00:00:20,760 --> 00:00:23,330
I, the interviewer,
Ina Navazelskis,

6
00:00:23,330 --> 00:00:25,170
am in Falls Church, Virginia.

7
00:00:25,170 --> 00:00:28,620
The interview is being
conducted via telephone,

8
00:00:28,620 --> 00:00:31,380
and it is an audio recording.

9
00:00:31,380 --> 00:00:34,320
Mr. Budway, first
of all, thank you

10
00:00:34,320 --> 00:00:37,690
very much for agreeing
to speak with us today.

11
00:00:37,690 --> 00:00:39,420
And I am going to ask--

12
00:00:39,420 --> 00:00:42,300
I'm going to start our interview
with the most basic questions,

13
00:00:42,300 --> 00:00:44,520
and we go from there, OK?

14
00:00:44,520 --> 00:00:45,060
Yes.

15
00:00:45,060 --> 00:00:45,560
OK.

16
00:00:45,560 --> 00:00:46,440
All right.

17
00:00:46,440 --> 00:00:50,830
So can you tell me what
is the date of your birth?

18
00:00:50,830 --> 00:00:59,940
I was born in August 2,
1928 in Oak Park, Illinois.

19
00:00:59,940 --> 00:01:03,270
That is a part of Chicago city.

20
00:01:03,270 --> 00:01:07,440
Oh, so August 2, 1928.

21
00:01:07,440 --> 00:01:10,000
And that was one of my
questions, where were you born?

22
00:01:10,000 --> 00:01:12,750
So you were born in
Oak Park, Illinois.

23
00:01:12,750 --> 00:01:13,440
Yes.

24
00:01:13,440 --> 00:01:17,430
And what was your name at birth?

25
00:01:17,430 --> 00:01:21,110
My name was first Robert.

26

00:01:21,110 --> 00:01:25,020

And I have initial
Roy after my father.

27

00:01:25,020 --> 00:01:29,780

And our last name,
of course, is Budway.

28

00:01:29,780 --> 00:01:32,240

Budway.

29

00:01:32,240 --> 00:01:35,900

So tell me-- I mean, we're
going to be talking about

30

00:01:35,900 --> 00:01:39,320

Czechoslovakia and the
years that you spent

31

00:01:39,320 --> 00:01:42,800

in Czechoslovakia growing
up and the war years--

32

00:01:42,800 --> 00:01:47,630

how is it that you came
to be born in Chicago?

33

00:01:47,630 --> 00:01:49,710

My mother was at that time--

34

00:01:49,710 --> 00:01:52,490

35

00:01:52,490 --> 00:01:54,570

she was not an immigrant.

36

00:01:54,570 --> 00:01:57,710

She had lots of relatives
there, and she was not

37

00:01:57,710 --> 00:02:01,880

the only person from
the relatives in Czech

38

00:02:01,880 --> 00:02:06,620

who were visiting United States.

39

00:02:06,620 --> 00:02:13,230
Their relatives brought
three girls on--

40

00:02:13,230 --> 00:02:15,980
they were visiting
Czechoslovakia, obviously

41

00:02:15,980 --> 00:02:18,930
after First World War.

42

00:02:18,930 --> 00:02:28,340
And they find these two brothers
and sisters and had children.

43

00:02:28,340 --> 00:02:31,070
And my grandparents
were Czech, and they

44

00:02:31,070 --> 00:02:33,080
have only one daughter.

45

00:02:33,080 --> 00:02:36,080
So for me, when I grew
up, it was a puzzle,

46

00:02:36,080 --> 00:02:40,160
why would they let
my mother go alone

47

00:02:40,160 --> 00:02:43,700
to Chicago, the United States.

48

00:02:43,700 --> 00:02:46,100
But it was meant only temporary.

49

00:02:46,100 --> 00:02:51,200
But mother did like that and
was very independent woman.

50

00:02:51,200 --> 00:02:59,080
And she married my father, whose
name was William Roy Budway.

51
00:02:59,080 --> 00:03:03,860
And he was a native
of Canada, Ontario.

52
00:03:03,860 --> 00:03:07,910
And did he have any
Czech background at all?

53
00:03:07,910 --> 00:03:10,540
My Czech background
comes from the fact

54
00:03:10,540 --> 00:03:15,000
that the family, the young
family of my parents,

55
00:03:15,000 --> 00:03:21,110
obviously was the victim of
the economic downfall of which

56
00:03:21,110 --> 00:03:23,800
was called Depression.

57
00:03:23,800 --> 00:03:27,260
And my father was--
they were both young,

58
00:03:27,260 --> 00:03:31,490
and they were not financially
able to really carry on

59
00:03:31,490 --> 00:03:32,510
with young family.

60
00:03:32,510 --> 00:03:38,210
I was only one year
old when the crash

61
00:03:38,210 --> 00:03:42,530
spilled loose in
the United States

62
00:03:42,530 --> 00:03:44,970
and everywhere in the world.

63
00:03:44,970 --> 00:03:52,130
So I was only one year
old when that happened.

64
00:03:52,130 --> 00:03:56,480
And I understand that my
father kept looking for work.

65
00:03:56,480 --> 00:03:59,600
And the more he kept
looking, more he

66
00:03:59,600 --> 00:04:05,010
was leaving out
of Chicago, west.

67
00:04:05,010 --> 00:04:11,270
And my mother, eventually,
respond to her parents

68
00:04:11,270 --> 00:04:17,910
in Czechoslovakia, pick
up the boy, and come home.

69
00:04:17,910 --> 00:04:28,020
So I did appear, in what was
mother's home, about in 1932.

70
00:04:28,020 --> 00:04:30,600
I wasn't four years old.

71
00:04:30,600 --> 00:04:31,100
OK, but--

72
00:04:31,100 --> 00:04:31,600
I--

73
00:04:31,600 --> 00:04:33,150
--we want to go
back a little bit.

74
00:04:33,150 --> 00:04:37,530
Your father, you say
he is from Ontario.

75

00:04:37,530 --> 00:04:40,530

But was he-- did his
ethnic background,

76

00:04:40,530 --> 00:04:43,260

was that also Czech, or was he--

77

00:04:43,260 --> 00:04:43,830

No, no.

78

00:04:43,830 --> 00:04:44,580

No.

79

00:04:44,580 --> 00:04:51,870

I believe the family was
actually in Ottawa, Ontario.

80

00:04:51,870 --> 00:04:52,545

OK.

81

00:04:52,545 --> 00:04:57,240

And they must have been there a
couple of generations already.

82

00:04:57,240 --> 00:05:03,690

Why they'd emigrate suddenly
to United States, I don't know.

83

00:05:03,690 --> 00:05:07,270

But I know that my father
was you born there.

84

00:05:07,270 --> 00:05:12,870

And the family moved from
Canada slowly to New York State

85

00:05:12,870 --> 00:05:13,860

into Illinois.

86

00:05:13,860 --> 00:05:16,770

And that is where my
mother met my father.

87

00:05:16,770 --> 00:05:20,120

That's where they
married and began family.

88

00:05:20,120 --> 00:05:25,640

And I was the only
child of that family.

89

00:05:25,640 --> 00:05:28,120

And did you ever
know your father?

90

00:05:28,120 --> 00:05:35,800

Yes, I have learned to know much
more, almost 40 years later,

91

00:05:35,800 --> 00:05:36,770

who he was.

92

00:05:36,770 --> 00:05:41,316

He introduced himself
and call himself.

93

00:05:41,316 --> 00:05:43,840

And there was a reason
how it happened.

94

00:05:43,840 --> 00:05:50,880

Because I had unfortunately
had a very sad episode

95

00:05:50,880 --> 00:05:55,850

about visiting Czechoslovakia
during the communist regime.

96

00:05:55,850 --> 00:05:59,630

And I was apprehended
as somebody

97

00:05:59,630 --> 00:06:10,670

who was charged with
espionage and with other acts

98

00:06:10,670 --> 00:06:13,950

against the communist regime.

99

00:06:13,950 --> 00:06:16,340

And I was tried on
charges espionage.

100

00:06:16,340 --> 00:06:20,620

And case received quite
a bit of publicity,

101

00:06:20,620 --> 00:06:24,560

not only in Europe but
actually in the United States.

102

00:06:24,560 --> 00:06:27,470

And that's how my
father make connection

103

00:06:27,470 --> 00:06:32,760

that this person is me.

104

00:06:32,760 --> 00:06:33,740

He's strong.

105

00:06:33,740 --> 00:06:37,240

And that's how I
reconnect with my family

106

00:06:37,240 --> 00:06:39,680

again here in the United States.

107

00:06:39,680 --> 00:06:40,500

That's amazing.

108

00:06:40,500 --> 00:06:45,710

So that means that this took
place in the Cold War years

109

00:06:45,710 --> 00:06:47,060

when you were arrested.

110

00:06:47,060 --> 00:06:50,390

And it's outside of what we
are going to talk about today.

111

00:06:50,390 --> 00:06:53,900

But this is an answer
to my question about

112
00:06:53,900 --> 00:06:56,420
did you know anything
about your father.

113
00:06:56,420 --> 00:06:59,240
And so if I understand
what you're saying properly

114
00:06:59,240 --> 00:07:04,160
is that sometime in
during the post-war years,

115
00:07:04,160 --> 00:07:07,820
you visited Czechoslovakia,
you were arrested,

116
00:07:07,820 --> 00:07:10,070
you were charged with espionage.

117
00:07:10,070 --> 00:07:13,010
The case received
a lot of publicity,

118
00:07:13,010 --> 00:07:15,440
not only in Czechoslovakia
but in the West.

119
00:07:15,440 --> 00:07:18,410
Your father saw
this, learned of it,

120
00:07:18,410 --> 00:07:23,200
and made the connection
that this is his son who

121
00:07:23,200 --> 00:07:24,680
is arrested in this way.

122
00:07:24,680 --> 00:07:25,610
Is this correct?

123
00:07:25,610 --> 00:07:26,960

Am I understanding it properly.

124

00:07:26,960 --> 00:07:27,220
That is correct.

125

00:07:27,220 --> 00:07:27,720
OK.

126

00:07:27,720 --> 00:07:32,900
The only thing I can add,
besides charge of espionage,

127

00:07:32,900 --> 00:07:36,080
I was also charged
with subversion.

128

00:07:36,080 --> 00:07:38,210
Oh my, OK.

129

00:07:38,210 --> 00:07:40,280
And just to let us
know, at this point,

130

00:07:40,280 --> 00:07:42,780
what year did this happen?

131

00:07:42,780 --> 00:07:45,770
This happened 1962.

132

00:07:45,770 --> 00:07:56,120
I had visited the country
before, 1957, '59, and 1962.

133

00:07:56,120 --> 00:08:01,175
I was very sure of myself that
I'd conduct myself properly

134

00:08:01,175 --> 00:08:02,480
and that I'm safe.

135

00:08:02,480 --> 00:08:04,970
But I obviously make a mistake.

136

00:08:04,970 --> 00:08:08,660

Hmm, well, perhaps towards
the end of our interview

137

00:08:08,660 --> 00:08:10,430
we will talk about this.

138

00:08:10,430 --> 00:08:14,520
But right now, I'm going to
go back to your childhood.

139

00:08:14,520 --> 00:08:19,280
And so back to when
your family, that

140

00:08:19,280 --> 00:08:22,260
is your mother and
your father split.

141

00:08:22,260 --> 00:08:22,760
Yes.

142

00:08:22,760 --> 00:08:25,640
Do you have any
memories of your father

143

00:08:25,640 --> 00:08:29,420
when you were still a
young boy, a toddler,

144

00:08:29,420 --> 00:08:33,289
about three years old when
you left for Czechoslovakia?

145

00:08:33,289 --> 00:08:35,450
No, I don't.

146

00:08:35,450 --> 00:08:38,960
I suddenly simply
wake up one day,

147

00:08:38,960 --> 00:08:43,309
and I was in a small
farmhouse in small village

148

00:08:43,309 --> 00:08:46,730

in Western part of the country.

149

00:08:46,730 --> 00:08:49,733

It was called, itself,
Czechoslovakia.

150

00:08:49,733 --> 00:08:57,680

And I don't remember anything
my connection with Chicago,

151

00:08:57,680 --> 00:09:00,770

the place of my
birth and anything,

152

00:09:00,770 --> 00:09:05,000

how did I get into
Czechoslovakia,

153

00:09:05,000 --> 00:09:09,040

and how did I find
myself in small village,

154

00:09:09,040 --> 00:09:11,080

which was called Těchonice.

155

00:09:11,080 --> 00:09:12,740

Těchonice.

156

00:09:12,740 --> 00:09:16,760

And so in other words,
you have no early memories

157

00:09:16,760 --> 00:09:18,650

of Chicago at all.

158

00:09:18,650 --> 00:09:19,910

No, I don't.

159

00:09:19,910 --> 00:09:20,870

OK.

160

00:09:20,870 --> 00:09:24,080

And from what you
understood later,

161
00:09:24,080 --> 00:09:27,570
was your parents split one of--

162
00:09:27,570 --> 00:09:30,440
did they split from
one another or was it

163
00:09:30,440 --> 00:09:33,920
simply a case that your
father went looking for work

164
00:09:33,920 --> 00:09:37,430
or did he abandon the
family or did your mother

165
00:09:37,430 --> 00:09:40,070
give in to pressure
from her own parents?

166
00:09:40,070 --> 00:09:41,710
What happened?

167
00:09:41,710 --> 00:09:45,940
I believe-- I believe
that it was inevitable.

168
00:09:45,940 --> 00:09:47,070
They didn't serve.

169
00:09:47,070 --> 00:09:48,990
And I finally met my father.

170
00:09:48,990 --> 00:09:53,910
Whatever he say to me,
it's very much same

171
00:09:53,910 --> 00:09:56,240
what my mother did say.

172
00:09:56,240 --> 00:09:58,680
They were young, and
they simply didn't

173
00:09:58,680 --> 00:10:04,470

have a chance in the
situation, which economically

174
00:10:04,470 --> 00:10:06,660
was getting worse and worse.

175
00:10:06,660 --> 00:10:10,710
She hold on for a couple
of years, as it's clear.

176
00:10:10,710 --> 00:10:17,523
Because when the economic crash
came, I was hardly a year old.

177
00:10:17,523 --> 00:10:23,550
And when I find myself
with her traveling

178
00:10:23,550 --> 00:10:28,820
without remembering anything,
I was close to be four.

179
00:10:28,820 --> 00:10:35,370
So I still have some knowledge
of some baby English.

180
00:10:35,370 --> 00:10:40,740
Because my Czech grandmother
demonstrated many years

181
00:10:40,740 --> 00:10:44,430
later that she still
remember that they

182
00:10:44,430 --> 00:10:47,520
tried to communicate
with me, and mother

183
00:10:47,520 --> 00:10:50,830
taught her a few English words.

184
00:10:50,830 --> 00:10:52,650
But that I don't remember.

185
00:10:52,650 --> 00:10:55,470

That I only heard
from my grandmother.

186
00:10:55,470 --> 00:10:56,310
OK.

187
00:10:56,310 --> 00:11:03,090
So your first memories really
start when you are in the small

188
00:11:03,090 --> 00:11:06,210
town or small
village of Těchonice.

189
00:11:06,210 --> 00:11:08,220
Is this how you say it?

190
00:11:08,220 --> 00:11:09,780
Yes, that is correct.

191
00:11:09,780 --> 00:11:13,530
It is in the region
at that time--

192
00:11:13,530 --> 00:11:15,310
the region was Klatovy.

193
00:11:15,310 --> 00:11:21,200
Klatovy was what we would
compare to county capital.

194
00:11:21,200 --> 00:11:25,800
But at that time, that was far
away from the little village

195
00:11:25,800 --> 00:11:26,550
of Těchonice.

196
00:11:26,550 --> 00:11:29,800
It goes up Western
part of a country.

197
00:11:29,800 --> 00:11:32,940
Yeah, I've looked
on the map, and it

198

00:11:32,940 --> 00:11:36,250
looks like it's close to
the Southwestern part.

199

00:11:36,250 --> 00:11:41,490
In other words, not far from the
border of Bavaria in Germany.

200

00:11:41,490 --> 00:11:45,360
And if you go further South
and you'd come to Austria.

201

00:11:45,360 --> 00:11:48,860
Would this be correct?

202

00:11:48,860 --> 00:11:49,710
Yes.

203

00:11:49,710 --> 00:11:50,590
OK.

204

00:11:50,590 --> 00:11:51,655
That is correct.

205

00:11:51,655 --> 00:11:54,250

206

00:11:54,250 --> 00:11:57,900
But of course, for me
at that particular time,

207

00:11:57,900 --> 00:12:00,310
Bavaria was far away place.

208

00:12:00,310 --> 00:12:01,270
Of course.

209

00:12:01,270 --> 00:12:05,140
My outlook for a number of
years was just the village

210

00:12:05,140 --> 00:12:10,840
of Těchonice around a

cluster of few villages,

211
00:12:10,840 --> 00:12:15,585
because Těchonice was a parish
for these other villages.

212
00:12:15,585 --> 00:12:16,085
Ah.

213
00:12:16,085 --> 00:12:22,900
And that-- the other villages
were called Velenovy,

214
00:12:22,900 --> 00:12:26,790
Strážovice, Neprochovy, Žďár.

215
00:12:26,790 --> 00:12:32,370
Velenovy will become important,
because I will have something

216
00:12:32,370 --> 00:12:36,810
to say about my
friend, Václav Florian.

217
00:12:36,810 --> 00:12:37,890
OK.

218
00:12:37,890 --> 00:12:44,230
So can you spell Těchonice so
that in the future people would

219
00:12:44,230 --> 00:12:45,850
know specifically?

220
00:12:45,850 --> 00:12:48,880
They would be able to
accurately find it on the map.

221
00:12:48,880 --> 00:12:52,740
How do you spell Těchonice?

222
00:12:52,740 --> 00:12:54,050
OK, I will try.

223

00:12:54,050 --> 00:12:55,380
Let me see.

224
00:12:55,380 --> 00:13:12,530
Start with T-E-C-H-O-V-I-C-E.
And, of course,

225
00:13:12,530 --> 00:13:17,270
on the second letter after
T, there is a little comma.

226
00:13:17,270 --> 00:13:20,840
So it's pronounced, Těchonice.

227
00:13:20,840 --> 00:13:27,320
OK, I have something that has
T-E-C-H-O-N-I-C-E, Těchonice,

228
00:13:27,320 --> 00:13:31,710
not with a V. Which would be--

229
00:13:31,710 --> 00:13:37,450
and it looks like it's not
so far from this Klatovy

230
00:13:37,450 --> 00:13:38,840
that you mentioned.

231
00:13:38,840 --> 00:13:39,580
Mm-hmm.

232
00:13:39,580 --> 00:13:40,130
Is this the--

233
00:13:40,130 --> 00:13:45,230
I would not-- there are,
of course, similar words.

234
00:13:45,230 --> 00:13:49,190
There are similar
places, like [INAUDIBLE]..

235
00:13:49,190 --> 00:13:51,350
But that would be near Klatovy.

236

00:13:51,350 --> 00:14:00,650
But Těchonice is a unique place,
because I did not find any

237

00:14:00,650 --> 00:14:04,550
other Těchonice
in entire country.

238

00:14:04,550 --> 00:14:06,230
OK, OK.

239

00:14:06,230 --> 00:14:09,350
Tell me a little bit
what it looked like.

240

00:14:09,350 --> 00:14:14,530
All right, Těchonice
had about 52 families.

241

00:14:14,530 --> 00:14:20,270
So the population those days
was roughly always between 200,

242

00:14:20,270 --> 00:14:25,040
250 souls living.

243

00:14:25,040 --> 00:14:28,880
And it was unique
to me that inspired

244

00:14:28,880 --> 00:14:31,810
that in was very homogeneous.

245

00:14:31,810 --> 00:14:36,060
Těchonice did have,
actually in its pool house,

246

00:14:36,060 --> 00:14:38,880
a family from Germany.

247

00:14:38,880 --> 00:14:41,430
They came from Munich.

248

00:14:41,430 --> 00:14:44,540

And however, the
parents of that family

249
00:14:44,540 --> 00:14:49,970
spoke nothing but German and
never really mastered much

250
00:14:49,970 --> 00:14:55,745
of any skill to communicate
with anybody but in German.

251
00:14:55,745 --> 00:14:58,910
Their children spoke
Czech very well,

252
00:14:58,910 --> 00:15:01,100
and I was friendly with them.

253
00:15:01,100 --> 00:15:05,150
There were also two families
from Austria, from Vienna

254
00:15:05,150 --> 00:15:07,130
mostly.

255
00:15:07,130 --> 00:15:09,620
They must have been
coming into village

256
00:15:09,620 --> 00:15:12,710
after the war, which
Vienna, of course,

257
00:15:12,710 --> 00:15:15,980
was reduced to a small--

258
00:15:15,980 --> 00:15:18,230
economically to a
small [INAUDIBLE]

259
00:15:18,230 --> 00:15:20,400
for people like that.

260
00:15:20,400 --> 00:15:21,720
So they went there.

261
00:15:21,720 --> 00:15:25,400
And then there was a
one family, which had--

262
00:15:25,400 --> 00:15:30,680
sometimes certain generations
would call them [NON-ENGLISH],,

263
00:15:30,680 --> 00:15:34,900
That was I understand
Jewish family.

264
00:15:34,900 --> 00:15:40,710
However, I knew that
house as [NON-ENGLISH],,

265
00:15:40,710 --> 00:15:46,970
because that was later on clear
to me that there was an older

266
00:15:46,970 --> 00:15:52,960
man, and he was grandfather of
my friend whose name was Václav

267
00:15:52,960 --> 00:15:56,310
and nickname was [? Véna. ?]

268
00:15:56,310 --> 00:16:05,000
And he apparently was
son of his mother.

269
00:16:05,000 --> 00:16:08,980
Her name was Julia.

270
00:16:08,980 --> 00:16:12,010
And father's name was Václav.

271
00:16:12,010 --> 00:16:16,080
And he came from
village of Velenovy.

272
00:16:16,080 --> 00:16:18,990
That I didn't know then.

273

00:16:18,990 --> 00:16:21,810
Because he had actually--

274

00:16:21,810 --> 00:16:24,270
his parents were
living in Velenovy.

275

00:16:24,270 --> 00:16:30,200
That will become important
point to reference

276

00:16:30,200 --> 00:16:33,640
later on in my story
about this family.

277

00:16:33,640 --> 00:16:34,310
OK.

278

00:16:34,310 --> 00:16:36,450
So right now, thank you.

279

00:16:36,450 --> 00:16:38,240
But for right now,
what we're doing is

280

00:16:38,240 --> 00:16:40,650
we're trying to get the context.

281

00:16:40,650 --> 00:16:43,670
So the context, if I
understand it so far,

282

00:16:43,670 --> 00:16:50,100
is Tèchonice has about 250
plus people living in it.

283

00:16:50,100 --> 00:16:50,600
And--

284

00:16:50,600 --> 00:16:52,020
That is--

285

00:16:52,020 --> 00:16:52,520
Correct?

286

00:16:52,520 --> 00:16:54,290

That is correct then.

287

00:16:54,290 --> 00:16:55,505

Then, at that time--

288

00:16:55,505 --> 00:16:57,005

at that time when

you were growing--

289

00:16:57,005 --> 00:16:57,547

At that time.

290

00:16:57,547 --> 00:16:59,630

--up there in the '30s.

291

00:16:59,630 --> 00:17:04,640

And that it was a rather

homogeneous place.

292

00:17:04,640 --> 00:17:06,770

There was one young German--

293

00:17:06,770 --> 00:17:08,780

well, there was a

German family there.

294

00:17:08,780 --> 00:17:13,369

And the children spoke Czech

but the parents only German.

295

00:17:13,369 --> 00:17:19,130

And then there were two families

from Austria who were there.

296

00:17:19,130 --> 00:17:22,790

And then there was the two

families who were Jewish.

297

00:17:22,790 --> 00:17:24,210

Is that correct?

298

00:17:24,210 --> 00:17:26,180

Only one family.

299

00:17:26,180 --> 00:17:28,550

Only one family that was Jewish?

300

00:17:28,550 --> 00:17:35,770

I'm trying to explain that there were in the village people who

301

00:17:35,770 --> 00:17:41,920

would refer to this Jewish family when it was,

302

00:17:41,920 --> 00:17:47,100

I believe already, in 19th century known as Schwartz.

303

00:17:47,100 --> 00:17:47,670

Schwartz.

304

00:17:47,670 --> 00:17:50,220

You mean like the word S-C-H-W-A-R--

305

00:17:50,220 --> 00:17:54,400

And that family apparently have only one daughter.

306

00:17:54,400 --> 00:17:56,510

Her name was Julia.

307

00:17:56,510 --> 00:18:00,970

And she married outsider, Václav Florian.

308

00:18:00,970 --> 00:18:05,260

The outsider was from village of Velenovy And there were younger

309

00:18:05,260 --> 00:18:10,570

generations like me, we refer to the house always [NON-ENGLISH],,

310

00:18:10,570 --> 00:18:15,370

while the older people were

calling them [NON-ENGLISH]..

311
00:18:15,370 --> 00:18:16,780
I see, OK.

312
00:18:16,780 --> 00:18:18,610
So the daughter's maiden name--

313
00:18:18,610 --> 00:18:19,660
It's the same family.

314
00:18:19,660 --> 00:18:20,260
Yeah.

315
00:18:20,260 --> 00:18:22,690
The daughter's maiden
name was Schwartz.

316
00:18:22,690 --> 00:18:25,270
She married someone
named Florian.

317
00:18:25,270 --> 00:18:28,780
And they had a child
who was your friend.

318
00:18:28,780 --> 00:18:32,110
Yes, he also have a
brother, younger brother,

319
00:18:32,110 --> 00:18:34,175
whose name was Slava.

320
00:18:34,175 --> 00:18:36,160
His Czech's name Slava.

321
00:18:36,160 --> 00:18:39,340
He was about three
years younger.

322
00:18:39,340 --> 00:18:47,540
But I was very attached and very
friend for much of our growing

323

00:18:47,540 --> 00:18:48,040
up.

324
00:18:48,040 --> 00:18:51,890

325
00:18:51,890 --> 00:18:55,560
With Věna or Václav.

326
00:18:55,560 --> 00:18:59,000
And there was a reason for it.

327
00:18:59,000 --> 00:19:02,850
We did not know how it
happened, but we could trace it

328
00:19:02,850 --> 00:19:06,970
eventually, as we were growing
older why we were still

329
00:19:06,970 --> 00:19:12,040
close to make us friends.

330
00:19:12,040 --> 00:19:16,760
Well, what was-- what kind of
conclusion did you come to?

331
00:19:16,760 --> 00:19:21,430
Because of her
[INAUDIBLE] mother's name,

332
00:19:21,430 --> 00:19:24,660
were just simply called, Jula.

333
00:19:24,660 --> 00:19:30,250
And I found out that my mother
and Jula were the same age

334
00:19:30,250 --> 00:19:36,400
and were friends in school,
apparently very close friends.

335
00:19:36,400 --> 00:19:39,980
I do have a diary,
which my mother kept.

336

00:19:39,980 --> 00:19:45,590

And there are three
entries from Jula Schwartz.

337

00:19:45,590 --> 00:19:50,650

And they did have a
small grocery store.

338

00:19:50,650 --> 00:19:56,290

And therefore, when
my mother came back

339

00:19:56,290 --> 00:20:01,820

from the United States,
somehow along, her friend Jula

340

00:20:01,820 --> 00:20:02,890

have two boys.

341

00:20:02,890 --> 00:20:05,650

And my mother had one.

342

00:20:05,650 --> 00:20:07,180

And I was very close--

343

00:20:07,180 --> 00:20:13,260

I was only one year apart
from Jula's boys Václav.

344

00:20:13,260 --> 00:20:18,190

And so I already come as a kid
very close [INAUDIBLE] when I

345

00:20:18,190 --> 00:20:19,190

went to--

346

00:20:19,190 --> 00:20:21,190

when mother went
to shopping, which

347

00:20:21,190 --> 00:20:26,680

was rarely, into the house
of this grocery store, which

348

00:20:26,680 --> 00:20:31,540

was run by her friend Jula,
whose name no longer was

349

00:20:31,540 --> 00:20:34,600

Schwartz because
she married Florian.

350

00:20:34,600 --> 00:20:36,370

Got it, got it.

351

00:20:36,370 --> 00:20:43,060

So let's go on describing
other parts of Těchonice.

352

00:20:43,060 --> 00:20:47,410

So the rest of-- you say that
this was a place where there

353

00:20:47,410 --> 00:20:51,820

was a parish, which
means there was a church,

354

00:20:51,820 --> 00:20:53,830

at least one church
in Těchonice.

355

00:20:53,830 --> 00:20:55,420

Was that correct?

356

00:20:55,420 --> 00:20:56,320

Yes.

357

00:20:56,320 --> 00:20:59,360

And was it a Catholic church?

358

00:20:59,360 --> 00:21:02,170

Yeah, it was a
Catholic church, yes.

359

00:21:02,170 --> 00:21:04,660

And does that mean
that most of the people

360

00:21:04,660 --> 00:21:10,320
who lived there, aside from the
Jewish family, were Catholics?

361
00:21:10,320 --> 00:21:16,770
Yes, and particularly my
friend, Florian, house resident

362
00:21:16,770 --> 00:21:19,456
right next to the church.

363
00:21:19,456 --> 00:21:22,520
Oh, I see, I see.

364
00:21:22,520 --> 00:21:24,470
And was that in
the center of town,

365
00:21:24,470 --> 00:21:27,290
in the center of Těchonice.

366
00:21:27,290 --> 00:21:28,170
I beg your pardon.

367
00:21:28,170 --> 00:21:29,330
I did not hear that.

368
00:21:29,330 --> 00:21:34,780
Was that in the center of
the village of Těchonice,

369
00:21:34,780 --> 00:21:37,360
the church?

370
00:21:37,360 --> 00:21:38,950
I did not understand.

371
00:21:38,950 --> 00:21:41,890
OK, can you hear me better now?

372
00:21:41,890 --> 00:21:42,460
Yes.

373
00:21:42,460 --> 00:21:43,420

OK.

374

00:21:43,420 --> 00:21:45,910
I was asking whether
or not-- where

375

00:21:45,910 --> 00:21:49,760
the church was located in town.

376

00:21:49,760 --> 00:21:53,610
That is our churches were
located in the center.

377

00:21:53,610 --> 00:21:58,550
That also play important part,
because my house was located,

378

00:21:58,550 --> 00:22:00,890
or my home at that
particular time,

379

00:22:00,890 --> 00:22:03,680
on the other side
of the village.

380

00:22:03,680 --> 00:22:07,350
And as a five- or
six-year-old kid,

381

00:22:07,350 --> 00:22:14,360
it was already adventure to
walk from one end of the village

382

00:22:14,360 --> 00:22:19,820
with mother or without mother
to the house of my friend,

383

00:22:19,820 --> 00:22:21,630
Václav Florian.

384

00:22:21,630 --> 00:22:24,370
OK.

385

00:22:24,370 --> 00:22:28,480
Describe for me, a little

bit the village, itself.

386

00:22:28,480 --> 00:22:35,800

Did it have-- did
it have paved roads?

387

00:22:35,800 --> 00:22:39,130

No, it wasn't very--

388

00:22:39,130 --> 00:22:42,730

It was one of those many, many
villages in the Western part

389

00:22:42,730 --> 00:22:43,315

of a country.

390

00:22:43,315 --> 00:22:46,720

391

00:22:46,720 --> 00:22:50,620

It's economic dependent
on agriculture.

392

00:22:50,620 --> 00:22:53,920

There were a few
tradesmen, and none of them

393

00:22:53,920 --> 00:22:57,250

could afford to
live on trade alone.

394

00:22:57,250 --> 00:23:06,830

They all had to have a
small land to grow food.

395

00:23:06,830 --> 00:23:10,180

And I believe the
Schwartz were exactly

396

00:23:10,180 --> 00:23:14,320

in the same situation
like everybody else.

397

00:23:14,320 --> 00:23:18,090

Some may have a larger

holding in that village,

398

00:23:18,090 --> 00:23:22,090
because the family from
which my grandfather came out

399

00:23:22,090 --> 00:23:24,130
was a large owner of--

400

00:23:24,130 --> 00:23:25,060
OK.

401

00:23:25,060 --> 00:23:29,500
The only back why so many
of his brothers and sister

402

00:23:29,500 --> 00:23:33,760
ended in Chicago, apparently
before First World War

403

00:23:33,760 --> 00:23:37,360
is that it was a large family.

404

00:23:37,360 --> 00:23:40,720
My grandfather comes
from family of 10.

405

00:23:40,720 --> 00:23:44,440
And five of them
immigrate to Chicago

406

00:23:44,440 --> 00:23:50,140
well before First World
War, possibly already even

407

00:23:50,140 --> 00:23:52,830
at the end of 19th century.

408

00:23:52,830 --> 00:23:55,060
OK, that explains a lot.

409

00:23:55,060 --> 00:23:57,100
That explains a lot
why there would be

410

00:23:57,100 --> 00:23:59,700
so many relatives in Chicago.

411

00:23:59,700 --> 00:24:00,700
Yes.

412

00:24:00,700 --> 00:24:03,850
So what was your
grandfather's name?

413

00:24:03,850 --> 00:24:07,240
In other words, what was
your mother's maiden name?

414

00:24:07,240 --> 00:24:14,230
It was-- my mother's name was
maiden name, Marie Sebesta.

415

00:24:14,230 --> 00:24:26,580
And I will spell the Sebesta,
S-E-B-E-S-T-A. And of course,

416

00:24:26,580 --> 00:24:29,170
S would have little hook, again.

417

00:24:29,170 --> 00:24:31,840
So it will be
pronounced, Sebesta.

418

00:24:31,840 --> 00:24:33,200
Sebesta.

419

00:24:33,200 --> 00:24:37,955
And so your grandfather's
name was Sebest?

420

00:24:37,955 --> 00:24:39,490
Sebesta.

421

00:24:39,490 --> 00:24:40,030
Sebesta.

422

00:24:40,030 --> 00:24:44,680
And his first name was

František, which means, Frank.

423

00:24:44,680 --> 00:24:45,850
OK.

424

00:24:45,850 --> 00:24:50,110
And was he from the same
village or from someplace else?

425

00:24:50,110 --> 00:24:54,730
No, his family
already probably lived

426

00:24:54,730 --> 00:24:58,820
in village more than
couple of generations.

427

00:24:58,820 --> 00:25:02,530
I do trace these five
generations back.

428

00:25:02,530 --> 00:25:06,760
Wow, that's a long time
to be able to trace back

429

00:25:06,760 --> 00:25:08,500
five generations.

430

00:25:08,500 --> 00:25:11,740
That brings you into
the 17th century.

431

00:25:11,740 --> 00:25:13,620
Yes.

432

00:25:13,620 --> 00:25:17,730
So they were there
for a long time.

433

00:25:17,730 --> 00:25:22,270
They were, I believe, the
second largest land owners

434

00:25:22,270 --> 00:25:24,520
in the village, that family.

435

00:25:24,520 --> 00:25:28,740

But of course, because
having so many children,

436

00:25:28,740 --> 00:25:32,410

five went to America,
and the rest of them

437

00:25:32,410 --> 00:25:35,440

did have to have about three.

438

00:25:35,440 --> 00:25:38,530

My grandfather, his
brother, and his sister--

439

00:25:38,530 --> 00:25:42,160

two brothers-- they all
have a little holding

440

00:25:42,160 --> 00:25:46,030

from the large estate,
which was, of course,

441

00:25:46,030 --> 00:25:50,350

diminished through best
[INAUDIBLE] existence.

442

00:25:50,350 --> 00:25:52,750

So it meant that
the children split

443

00:25:52,750 --> 00:25:55,660

the large estate between them.

444

00:25:55,660 --> 00:25:56,230

Yes.

445

00:25:56,230 --> 00:26:00,520

And about how many hectares
did your grandfather have?

446

00:26:00,520 --> 00:26:04,510

I believe anything
between five or six.

447

00:26:04,510 --> 00:26:05,777

That's not a lot.

448

00:26:05,777 --> 00:26:06,360

You know that?

449

00:26:06,360 --> 00:26:06,860

No.

450

00:26:06,860 --> 00:26:07,630

Yeah.

451

00:26:07,630 --> 00:26:11,260

Was he able to feed the
family on five or six hectares

452

00:26:11,260 --> 00:26:13,540

of land?

453

00:26:13,540 --> 00:26:16,120

He did not have a large family.

454

00:26:16,120 --> 00:26:19,150

He come from large family,
but his only daughter

455

00:26:19,150 --> 00:26:20,430

was my mother.

456

00:26:20,430 --> 00:26:21,190

OK.

457

00:26:21,190 --> 00:26:23,764

And he had no sons?

458

00:26:23,764 --> 00:26:24,640

Yeah.

459

00:26:24,640 --> 00:26:27,420

And he did manage very well.

460

00:26:27,420 --> 00:26:30,680

Somehow along everyone managed.

461

00:26:30,680 --> 00:26:33,800
I had the impression
of my childhood

462

00:26:33,800 --> 00:26:35,465
that everything was fine.

463

00:26:35,465 --> 00:26:39,350
There may have been one or
two families which definitely

464

00:26:39,350 --> 00:26:41,480
had a difficult time.

465

00:26:41,480 --> 00:26:44,370
And one was the German family.

466

00:26:44,370 --> 00:26:46,150
You mentioned that, yeah.

467

00:26:46,150 --> 00:26:51,260
Because it remains still a
question and puzzle to me

468

00:26:51,260 --> 00:26:54,760
why weren't they suddenly there.

469

00:26:54,760 --> 00:26:58,820
They must have gone shortly
before my arrival there.

470

00:26:58,820 --> 00:26:59,890
Mm-hmm.

471

00:26:59,890 --> 00:27:02,930
OK, so they hadn't
been in that area.

472

00:27:02,930 --> 00:27:07,340
Now the town, Těchonice,
was it part of what we know

473

00:27:07,340 --> 00:27:09,910
as the Sudetenland?

474
00:27:09,910 --> 00:27:10,900
No.

475
00:27:10,900 --> 00:27:15,910
No, this was the
only German family.

476
00:27:15,910 --> 00:27:23,470
I believe nobody later on when
I think of German invasion

477
00:27:23,470 --> 00:27:25,570
and occupation of a country.

478
00:27:25,570 --> 00:27:28,690
I believe 99% of
people never come

479
00:27:28,690 --> 00:27:30,920
in contact with any Germans.

480
00:27:30,920 --> 00:27:32,980
OK, OK.

481
00:27:32,980 --> 00:27:37,630
So let's go back now
about village life

482
00:27:37,630 --> 00:27:42,610
and how your grandfather
and grandmother lived.

483
00:27:42,610 --> 00:27:46,420
Can you tell me what they grew
on the five or six hectares

484
00:27:46,420 --> 00:27:49,210
that they had?

485
00:27:49,210 --> 00:27:55,210
The biggest crop, which was fast
money, was, of course, potatoes

486

00:27:55,210 --> 00:28:02,230
and of course, sugar beets
was also biggest crop.

487

00:28:02,230 --> 00:28:06,690
But they grow mostly wheat.

488

00:28:06,690 --> 00:28:10,800
And livestock, of course,
was also very important.

489

00:28:10,800 --> 00:28:16,590
But it was never but maybe
four cows and some few pigs

490

00:28:16,590 --> 00:28:18,510
and chickens and geese.

491

00:28:18,510 --> 00:28:22,890
And that was exactly
practically the case of everyone

492

00:28:22,890 --> 00:28:24,170
who lived there.

493

00:28:24,170 --> 00:28:25,110
OK.

494

00:28:25,110 --> 00:28:27,160
And what kind of
home did you have?

495

00:28:27,160 --> 00:28:30,090

496

00:28:30,090 --> 00:28:31,110
Would you repeat that?

497

00:28:31,110 --> 00:28:32,550
What kind of home did you have?

498

00:28:32,550 --> 00:28:36,380
In other words, can you describe

the house that you grew up in?

499

00:28:36,380 --> 00:28:42,590

I must admit that I
felt very privileged.

500

00:28:42,590 --> 00:28:46,830

The house was at the edge
of the village near West

501

00:28:46,830 --> 00:28:48,620

of [INAUDIBLE].

502

00:28:48,620 --> 00:28:54,160

And it was rather large for
many other houses there.

503

00:28:54,160 --> 00:28:57,800

I lately find out
that originally it

504

00:28:57,800 --> 00:29:04,050

wasn't meant to be some kind of
inn, in Czech called "hospoda".

505

00:29:04,050 --> 00:29:08,930

Therefore, it has a large
four rooms, which was unusual.

506

00:29:08,930 --> 00:29:10,910

Aha, OK.

507

00:29:10,910 --> 00:29:11,465

And did--

508

00:29:11,465 --> 00:29:18,250

And it has [? well ?] located
at the beginning of the village.

509

00:29:18,250 --> 00:29:22,310

So it has a number of advantage.

510

00:29:22,310 --> 00:29:24,340

I felt very good.

511

00:29:24,340 --> 00:29:27,290

And there were a number
of families nearby.

512

00:29:27,290 --> 00:29:30,260

And everyone had
[? quite a bit of ?] children.

513

00:29:30,260 --> 00:29:36,750

So obviously I did have many
friends immediately as a child.

514

00:29:36,750 --> 00:29:43,900

And I definitely was very
quickly at home there.

515

00:29:43,900 --> 00:29:48,230

The only thing what set me
out different in the village

516

00:29:48,230 --> 00:29:50,390

was my name.

517

00:29:50,390 --> 00:29:53,900

And that was up when--

518

00:29:53,900 --> 00:29:57,980

that was what quickly
become a little bit

519

00:29:57,980 --> 00:29:59,480

uncomfortable for me.

520

00:29:59,480 --> 00:30:05,810

Because my mother had a
habit to use my nickname

521

00:30:05,810 --> 00:30:09,430

and call me in English, Bobbie.

522

00:30:09,430 --> 00:30:11,260

And I did not like the name.

523

00:30:11,260 --> 00:30:12,940

[LAUGHING]

524

00:30:12,940 --> 00:30:18,730
And that set me immediately
apart in school.

525

00:30:18,730 --> 00:30:23,840
And at the beginning, of
course, Czech version of Bobbie

526

00:30:23,840 --> 00:30:25,520
was Bobik.

527

00:30:25,520 --> 00:30:31,010
So I was known as Bobik, even
to my good friend, Veca Florian.

528

00:30:31,010 --> 00:30:35,120
He called me Bobik,
and I called him Veca.

529

00:30:35,120 --> 00:30:38,950
OK, how do I spell
both nicknames?

530

00:30:38,950 --> 00:30:39,776
Bobik?

531

00:30:39,776 --> 00:30:40,490
Mhm.

532

00:30:40,490 --> 00:30:50,060
B-O-B-I-K. And I have a comma
on, so it was sort of "Bobeek."

533

00:30:50,060 --> 00:30:55,300
And I didn't like it, because
sometimes some little dogs

534

00:30:55,300 --> 00:30:57,080
were called the same way.

535

00:30:57,080 --> 00:30:59,280
Oh.

536

00:30:59,280 --> 00:31:03,020

And I begged my mother
not to call me that way.

537

00:31:03,020 --> 00:31:06,250

But she did have some
difficulty to remember.

538

00:31:06,250 --> 00:31:10,220

[LAUGHING] And your
friend Florian's

539

00:31:10,220 --> 00:31:13,590
nickname, how do we spell that?

540

00:31:13,590 --> 00:31:18,640

Veca, it was just there too
many Vecas, too many Václav.

541

00:31:18,640 --> 00:31:22,210

So it was a usual
name that was common,

542

00:31:22,210 --> 00:31:25,380

and he had no difficulty
with his nickname.

543

00:31:25,380 --> 00:31:28,740

It was called, V-E-C-A.

544

00:31:28,740 --> 00:31:29,240

Veca.

545

00:31:29,240 --> 00:31:33,380

And I have no problem
when he called me Bobik,

546

00:31:33,380 --> 00:31:35,760

because I know how we meant it.

547

00:31:35,760 --> 00:31:39,500

Yeah, that makes a
difference to a child.

548

00:31:39,500 --> 00:31:40,940
Yes.

549
00:31:40,940 --> 00:31:44,750
OK, so did your grandfather--

550
00:31:44,750 --> 00:31:49,820
was he an active farmer
as you were growing up?

551
00:31:49,820 --> 00:31:54,560
He was one of those
wonderful grandfathers,

552
00:31:54,560 --> 00:31:59,260
which a great many
literary people write

553
00:31:59,260 --> 00:32:02,460
about grandfathers.

554
00:32:02,460 --> 00:32:10,420
He was definitely-- my
grandparents, both of them,

555
00:32:10,420 --> 00:32:15,320
were loving and caring people.

556
00:32:15,320 --> 00:32:21,590
And they were very happy
having somebody in the house.

557
00:32:21,590 --> 00:32:25,650
Because they both come
from large family.

558
00:32:25,650 --> 00:32:28,100
And at the beginning,
the purpose

559
00:32:28,100 --> 00:32:31,020
was what do we do
when we get old?

560
00:32:31,020 --> 00:32:34,550

So obviously, they
count on me as somebody

561
00:32:34,550 --> 00:32:38,370
who eventually will take over.

562
00:32:38,370 --> 00:32:42,260
They did not say it, but
I could feel it already

563
00:32:42,260 --> 00:32:49,970
from a very early age that
I was their little boy who

564
00:32:49,970 --> 00:32:51,998
was everything to them.

565
00:32:51,998 --> 00:32:52,790
So in other words--

566
00:32:52,790 --> 00:32:56,460
So I live in very loving family.

567
00:32:56,460 --> 00:32:57,950
I never had any--

568
00:32:57,950 --> 00:33:00,620

569
00:33:00,620 --> 00:33:02,750
I never experienced hunger.

570
00:33:02,750 --> 00:33:05,720
I've never experienced
anyone for anything.

571
00:33:05,720 --> 00:33:09,540
So I've never experienced
any abundance of anything.

572
00:33:09,540 --> 00:33:10,930
Uh-huh.

573
00:33:10,930 --> 00:33:13,670

Now, was your mother
happy coming back

574
00:33:13,670 --> 00:33:18,130
to live in her village after
having lived in Chicago?

575
00:33:18,130 --> 00:33:24,100
After living in Chicago, I find
very quickly by the age of six

576
00:33:24,100 --> 00:33:27,130
that she regretted that
she left the Chicago.

577
00:33:27,130 --> 00:33:29,890

578
00:33:29,890 --> 00:33:34,810
Because I was no longer
aware that such a place like

579
00:33:34,810 --> 00:33:36,960
America exists.

580
00:33:36,960 --> 00:33:41,170
And once in a while she was
working hard on the fields

581
00:33:41,170 --> 00:33:44,890
and it was hot and
sweaty, I remember her

582
00:33:44,890 --> 00:33:47,890
suddenly standing up,
looking in the sky,

583
00:33:47,890 --> 00:33:51,820
and wiping the sweat from
her forehead and say,

584
00:33:51,820 --> 00:33:55,860
"For this, I came
back from America."

585

00:33:55,860 --> 00:33:57,190
And I remember that.

586
00:33:57,190 --> 00:34:06,190
And that became also
something I kept in my mind.

587
00:34:06,190 --> 00:34:08,389
It's [INAUDIBLE]
and great, itself.

588
00:34:08,389 --> 00:34:11,929
And it was also a
problem when I finally

589
00:34:11,929 --> 00:34:15,870
got arrested, because
I was charged,

590
00:34:15,870 --> 00:34:18,409
not only [? with espionage ?]
but that I

591
00:34:18,409 --> 00:34:24,170
imported fuel rods, which
supposed to have uranium--

592
00:34:24,170 --> 00:34:27,306
what supposed to have
been uranium ore.

593
00:34:27,306 --> 00:34:27,889
Oh, excuse me.

594
00:34:27,889 --> 00:34:31,790
This is something that goes
much later on in your story.

595
00:34:31,790 --> 00:34:32,750
And in some ways it's--

596
00:34:32,750 --> 00:34:38,060
Yes, but I just want you to
know more that at about age six,

597

00:34:38,060 --> 00:34:45,170

I was aware that I was
somebody who was outsider.

598

00:34:45,170 --> 00:34:48,870

OK, that's the important
part, that your mother--

599

00:34:48,870 --> 00:34:50,389

I was aware of being outsider.

600

00:34:50,389 --> 00:34:53,760

Because even when I went
to school, I was aware

601

00:34:53,760 --> 00:34:58,590

I was outsider, because I was
not immediately registered

602

00:34:58,590 --> 00:34:59,700

in this school.

603

00:34:59,700 --> 00:35:04,240

There was some problem
with my citizenship.

604

00:35:04,240 --> 00:35:06,160

In what way?

605

00:35:06,160 --> 00:35:10,430

I believe that I
didn't know that time,

606

00:35:10,430 --> 00:35:15,010

but my uncle,
brother of my father,

607

00:35:15,010 --> 00:35:19,090

was a mayor of the
little village.

608

00:35:19,090 --> 00:35:20,710

Who was he to you?

609

00:35:20,710 --> 00:35:23,570

He was the brother
of your grandfather?

610
00:35:23,570 --> 00:35:24,970
Yeah, and he was a mayor.

611
00:35:24,970 --> 00:35:28,160
And I think he's
smoothed that situation.

612
00:35:28,160 --> 00:35:33,040
Because I believe that
it was a young country.

613
00:35:33,040 --> 00:35:39,631
When I went to school, the
country was only 15 years old.

614
00:35:39,631 --> 00:35:42,880
And therefore, it
did not have yet

615
00:35:42,880 --> 00:35:51,460
all these legal requirements
with United States

616
00:35:51,460 --> 00:35:52,960
that's not clear.

617
00:35:52,960 --> 00:35:56,620
I was not admitted
immediately to school,

618
00:35:56,620 --> 00:36:01,120
because I was not
denied education,

619
00:36:01,120 --> 00:36:05,720
but there was a question
that I would have to pay fee.

620
00:36:05,720 --> 00:36:07,000
Aha, I see.

621
00:36:07,000 --> 00:36:07,500

Because--

622

00:36:07,500 --> 00:36:07,850

Because--

623

00:36:07,850 --> 00:36:08,808

--you were a foreigner.

624

00:36:08,808 --> 00:36:10,150

--I was not a citizen.

625

00:36:10,150 --> 00:36:12,060

I see.

626

00:36:12,060 --> 00:36:15,280

Because you're born
in the United States

627

00:36:15,280 --> 00:36:17,940

and you have US
citizenship, then you

628

00:36:17,940 --> 00:36:19,570

are regarded as a foreigner.

629

00:36:19,570 --> 00:36:21,550

And foreigners pay fees.

630

00:36:21,550 --> 00:36:22,170

Was this the--

631

00:36:22,170 --> 00:36:22,670

Right.

632

00:36:22,670 --> 00:36:24,440

--understanding of it?

633

00:36:24,440 --> 00:36:25,310

That is clear.

634

00:36:25,310 --> 00:36:29,490

That is exactly
what the issue was.

635

00:36:29,490 --> 00:36:33,830

And of course, in
that village, that

636

00:36:33,830 --> 00:36:39,060

was a rather sensation and
odd that it would happen.

637

00:36:39,060 --> 00:36:39,680

Tell me--

638

00:36:39,680 --> 00:36:41,750

But it did happen, in my case.

639

00:36:41,750 --> 00:36:46,250

It, obviously, did not happen
in the case of the German boy.

640

00:36:46,250 --> 00:36:49,280

Interesting that it didn't.

641

00:36:49,280 --> 00:36:53,240

But that's closer to home
rather than the United States,

642

00:36:53,240 --> 00:36:55,280

which is across the ocean.

643

00:36:55,280 --> 00:37:02,800

So it was some consular
issue and some law.

644

00:37:02,800 --> 00:37:06,230

And of course, director of
the school was aware of it.

645

00:37:06,230 --> 00:37:09,350

Nobody else in the religion
would have dreamed about it.

646

00:37:09,350 --> 00:37:10,460

OK.

647

00:37:10,460 --> 00:37:15,800

So here's another question
about village life

648
00:37:15,800 --> 00:37:19,580
and what kind of economic
development there was there.

649
00:37:19,580 --> 00:37:22,340
I want to ask about
modernization.

650
00:37:22,340 --> 00:37:26,450
I asked before if
the roads were paved.

651
00:37:26,450 --> 00:37:29,482
Now I want to know
was there electricity

652
00:37:29,482 --> 00:37:30,440
throughout the village?

653
00:37:30,440 --> 00:37:30,940
Yes.

654
00:37:30,940 --> 00:37:35,240
The electricity was-- and I
remember when the electricity

655
00:37:35,240 --> 00:37:37,280
came to the village.

656
00:37:37,280 --> 00:37:42,530
It may have been hardly
a year or two later,

657
00:37:42,530 --> 00:37:47,030
because I was already
aware what was going on.

658
00:37:47,030 --> 00:37:49,730
Because there were a
few electricians who

659
00:37:49,730 --> 00:37:51,760

lived in the house,
because our house

660
00:37:51,760 --> 00:37:57,170
was big, during that time when
the electrization was going on.

661
00:37:57,170 --> 00:38:00,260
So I was just sort
of a kid who always

662
00:38:00,260 --> 00:38:02,100
looking what they were doing.

663
00:38:02,100 --> 00:38:07,820
So electricity came
about 1934 or 1935.

664
00:38:07,820 --> 00:38:11,210
But running water
was already there.

665
00:38:11,210 --> 00:38:14,030
OK, so you had indoor plumbing?

666
00:38:14,030 --> 00:38:17,255
Yes, running water
was there already.

667
00:38:17,255 --> 00:38:20,100
The roads were not paved.

668
00:38:20,100 --> 00:38:22,050
They were all dirt road.

669
00:38:22,050 --> 00:38:25,430
And it was a typical
agrarian type

670
00:38:25,430 --> 00:38:32,420
of village, a farming
village where smell of manure

671
00:38:32,420 --> 00:38:39,520
and running birds and animals

and something so normal

672

00:38:39,520 --> 00:38:42,080
that we didn't
think much about it.

673

00:38:42,080 --> 00:38:47,450
We have little ditty song about
the Tèchonice how it look.

674

00:38:47,450 --> 00:38:50,480
We may have been a
little derogatory.

675

00:38:50,480 --> 00:38:54,860
I remembered it would be
difficult to translate it

676

00:38:54,860 --> 00:38:56,000
in English.

677

00:38:56,000 --> 00:38:58,550
Because it was all
colloquial titles

678

00:38:58,550 --> 00:39:02,900
to make fun over the village.

679

00:39:02,900 --> 00:39:08,070
Because it rhymed well with
nothing but manure and so on.

680

00:39:08,070 --> 00:39:13,100
Well, so did the kids
make up this song?

681

00:39:13,100 --> 00:39:14,520
I beg your pardon.

682

00:39:14,520 --> 00:39:16,530
Who made up this song?

683

00:39:16,530 --> 00:39:18,490
I think it was kids.

684

00:39:18,490 --> 00:39:22,050
And it must have been generation
before us, because it properly

685

00:39:22,050 --> 00:39:23,970
passed from kids to kids.

686

00:39:23,970 --> 00:39:26,150
But otherwise,
surprisingly there

687

00:39:26,150 --> 00:39:29,050
was a cultural life
going on there.

688

00:39:29,050 --> 00:39:31,390
It had its own dynamic.

689

00:39:31,390 --> 00:39:36,110
It went around the
years, periods, you know.

690

00:39:36,110 --> 00:39:38,970
Spring was, of course,
always exciting.

691

00:39:38,970 --> 00:39:43,815
Because in the spring, there
was a village festival.

692

00:39:43,815 --> 00:39:47,580
The village did have
a volunteer fire

693

00:39:47,580 --> 00:39:50,900
department, which was,
of course, consisting

694

00:39:50,900 --> 00:39:52,740
of nothing much.

695

00:39:52,740 --> 00:39:56,960
It has a theatrical
production, at least

696

00:39:56,960 --> 00:40:04,020
one production per year or maybe
even two during the winter.

697

00:40:04,020 --> 00:40:08,280
It has a school with
three classrooms.

698

00:40:08,280 --> 00:40:11,010
This is also going
to be important

699

00:40:11,010 --> 00:40:16,170
when I talk about
my friend, Florian.

700

00:40:16,170 --> 00:40:20,090
Because each classroom
had two grades.

701

00:40:20,090 --> 00:40:23,520
Except the last classroom
had four grades.

702

00:40:23,520 --> 00:40:26,580
So obviously it was a
challenge for the teacher.

703

00:40:26,580 --> 00:40:27,480
Of course.

704

00:40:27,480 --> 00:40:30,900
But all teachers did
try to also [INAUDIBLE]

705

00:40:30,900 --> 00:40:36,530
contribute something, so we
children have a play too.

706

00:40:36,530 --> 00:40:40,965
And of course, we did
have two grocery stores.

707

00:40:40,965 --> 00:40:44,185
One was actually collective

done by the priests.

708

00:40:44,185 --> 00:40:46,930

709

00:40:46,930 --> 00:40:52,850

So it was not competition for
a main store or Schwartz store,

710

00:40:52,850 --> 00:40:54,660

you know.

711

00:40:54,660 --> 00:40:57,450

And it did have a bakery.

712

00:40:57,450 --> 00:41:01,700

It had a butcher.

713

00:41:01,700 --> 00:41:08,730

It had a number of interests
in the family from out here.

714

00:41:08,730 --> 00:41:12,420

We're all either
seamstress or tailors.

715

00:41:12,420 --> 00:41:15,720

And tell me, did
it have a cinema?

716

00:41:15,720 --> 00:41:17,070

No.

717

00:41:17,070 --> 00:41:19,930

And did it have a library?

718

00:41:19,930 --> 00:41:22,080

It had a library.

719

00:41:22,080 --> 00:41:26,100

And I'm well aware of
how many books there

720

00:41:26,100 --> 00:41:27,810

were in that library.

721

00:41:27,810 --> 00:41:30,670

It has [INAUDIBLE] public lib...

722

00:41:30,670 --> 00:41:34,440

[NON-ENGLISH] means
village library,

723

00:41:34,440 --> 00:41:38,030

which consists hardly
about 50 books.

724

00:41:38,030 --> 00:41:38,890

OK, OK.

725

00:41:38,890 --> 00:41:43,740

And it was, again,
a volunteer housed

726

00:41:43,740 --> 00:41:48,120

in the house of one
father who I have

727

00:41:48,120 --> 00:41:52,260

learned to know later
in life too, because I

728

00:41:52,260 --> 00:41:55,020

was desperate to read.

729

00:41:55,020 --> 00:41:59,400

And after I exhaust the
school library, which was also

730

00:41:59,400 --> 00:42:04,440

hardly 50 books, then I was
given a tip, why don't you

731

00:42:04,440 --> 00:42:07,200

go to see so-and-so.

732

00:42:07,200 --> 00:42:08,790

They have libraries.

733

00:42:08,790 --> 00:42:12,110

So I find out yes,
it has a library.

734

00:42:12,110 --> 00:42:12,915

OK, OK.

735

00:42:12,915 --> 00:42:15,910

But it consists
about of 50 books,

736

00:42:15,910 --> 00:42:19,330

little shelf in a farmhouse.

737

00:42:19,330 --> 00:42:22,860

So was there anybody
who had a radio?

738

00:42:22,860 --> 00:42:27,990

Yes, I, in fact, make
so many [INAUDIBLE]

739

00:42:27,990 --> 00:42:30,700

about the problem
of communication.

740

00:42:30,700 --> 00:42:35,340

It has about, I believe,
about five places

741

00:42:35,340 --> 00:42:37,090

whom I haven't read.

742

00:42:37,090 --> 00:42:40,610

And one of those
was school director.

743

00:42:40,610 --> 00:42:45,800

One of them would be
the parish priest.

744

00:42:45,800 --> 00:42:53,010

And I know that two
pops would have a radio.

745

00:42:53,010 --> 00:42:57,160

My friend, Florian,
did not have a radio.

746

00:42:57,160 --> 00:42:58,990

We did not have a radio.

747

00:42:58,990 --> 00:43:01,570

And a bakery had a radio.

748

00:43:01,570 --> 00:43:06,300

So there were about five radio
receivers in the village.

749

00:43:06,300 --> 00:43:12,570

I saw a newspaper I [INAUDIBLE]
that I did come in contact

750

00:43:12,570 --> 00:43:19,110

with the newspaper.

751

00:43:19,110 --> 00:43:24,620

That is a complicated story.

752

00:43:24,620 --> 00:43:31,420

And in 1936 and '37 I was
able already to read well.

753

00:43:31,420 --> 00:43:39,240

And my grandfather was getting
a newspaper, which described

754

00:43:39,240 --> 00:43:42,000

all Spanish Civil War.

755

00:43:42,000 --> 00:43:45,980

So I was though, informed.

756

00:43:45,980 --> 00:43:49,650

Already, I had-- six
or seven-year-old

757

00:43:49,650 --> 00:43:53,150

that there was a country in

Spain, and it was in war.

758

00:43:53,150 --> 00:43:57,850

And I was intrigued by all
these names like, Franco

759

00:43:57,850 --> 00:44:00,150

and Madrid and Barcelona.

760

00:44:00,150 --> 00:44:03,780

Also [INAUDIBLE]

I did not realize

761

00:44:03,780 --> 00:44:08,160

that I was getting fascist
propaganda, because these

762

00:44:08,160 --> 00:44:10,530

were fascist paper.

763

00:44:10,530 --> 00:44:12,960

Were they printed in Czech?

764

00:44:12,960 --> 00:44:14,970

They were printed in Czech.

765

00:44:14,970 --> 00:44:22,320

And they were not nobody really
actually subscribe to that.

766

00:44:22,320 --> 00:44:29,070

They were sent there
by the fascist party,

767

00:44:29,070 --> 00:44:34,870

which was lead by former
General Gaidar was his name.

768

00:44:34,870 --> 00:44:39,700

And apparently, there
were three people

769

00:44:39,700 --> 00:44:46,250

who were loyal to
this General Gaidar.

770
00:44:46,250 --> 00:44:51,410
And their loyalty was not
because he's been a fascist.

771
00:44:51,410 --> 00:44:55,630
His fascism was more
or less directed

772
00:44:55,630 --> 00:44:59,270
Italian type of fascism.

773
00:44:59,270 --> 00:45:03,140
Gaidar was a regular soldier
during First World War.

774
00:45:03,140 --> 00:45:08,090
And three men in this village
was serving in his company.

775
00:45:08,090 --> 00:45:11,090
And he was a corporal,
and they, therefore,

776
00:45:11,090 --> 00:45:16,310
were very faithful or loyal
to their former corporal.

777
00:45:16,310 --> 00:45:20,270
And apparently, I was
under impression later on,

778
00:45:20,270 --> 00:45:23,320
when I find out who
it was, that there

779
00:45:23,320 --> 00:45:29,030
were only three people in
that village who were fascist.

780
00:45:29,030 --> 00:45:35,000
But to my horror, last year,
I visited the country again

781
00:45:35,000 --> 00:45:38,920

and visited and learned to
know there is a library--

782
00:45:38,920 --> 00:45:43,700
there is a chronic
village historian

783
00:45:43,700 --> 00:45:49,000
who recorded what was going on
in the village for maybe 400

784
00:45:49,000 --> 00:45:50,130
years.

785
00:45:50,130 --> 00:45:54,560
And I did get access in
the neighboring village,

786
00:45:54,560 --> 00:45:58,890
a little town we just call
Stríbrné Hory in my town,

787
00:45:58,890 --> 00:46:04,010
Nalžovské Hory, and I found out
that there were parliamentary

788
00:46:04,010 --> 00:46:07,600
elections in the
country in 1935.

789
00:46:07,600 --> 00:46:10,410
And I have some memory about it.

790
00:46:10,410 --> 00:46:14,360
And I found out that
out of that village,

791
00:46:14,360 --> 00:46:19,060
I expected only to
find three fascists.

792
00:46:19,060 --> 00:46:21,980
But unfortunately,
I was horrified,

793

00:46:21,980 --> 00:46:26,630
and I had the statistics of
our result of the election.

794
00:46:26,630 --> 00:46:29,700
There were 25 fascists.

795
00:46:29,700 --> 00:46:30,730
Wow, in small--

796
00:46:30,730 --> 00:46:31,910
In that village.

797
00:46:31,910 --> 00:46:35,970
And 25 out of 250?

798
00:46:35,970 --> 00:46:36,510
Yes.

799
00:46:36,510 --> 00:46:38,660
And the fascist
party had become--

800
00:46:38,660 --> 00:46:43,040
actually, since it was a
politically very fragmented

801
00:46:43,040 --> 00:46:47,250
country and every village was,
too, in that village alone,

802
00:46:47,250 --> 00:46:51,320
I believe there were
11 different parties.

803
00:46:51,320 --> 00:46:53,170
My goodness.

804
00:46:53,170 --> 00:46:57,640
Well this is an interesting
type of situation.

805
00:46:57,640 --> 00:47:00,820
Because many places,
if you were to talk

806
00:47:00,820 --> 00:47:03,340
about farming villages--

807
00:47:03,340 --> 00:47:06,910
and the place that you
described sounded very remote,

808
00:47:06,910 --> 00:47:11,920
in some ways, extremely
remote because

809
00:47:11,920 --> 00:47:16,990
of the economic development
in it, what stage it was at--

810
00:47:16,990 --> 00:47:20,230
most people would be apolitical,
particularly if they're

811
00:47:20,230 --> 00:47:23,290
farmers and for what
is important to them

812
00:47:23,290 --> 00:47:27,260
are the seasons and whether
or not the crops will grow.

813
00:47:27,260 --> 00:47:27,760
But if--

814
00:47:27,760 --> 00:47:28,260
True.

815
00:47:28,260 --> 00:47:30,040
--what you're
describing now sounds

816
00:47:30,040 --> 00:47:33,670
like people who had
political views, you know,

817
00:47:33,670 --> 00:47:36,310
that they had some
kind of engagement

818

00:47:36,310 --> 00:47:39,670

in a point of view
and a world view

819

00:47:39,670 --> 00:47:43,150

and a political
kind of sensibility.

820

00:47:43,150 --> 00:47:47,370

Did you remember the grown-ups
talking about politics?

821

00:47:47,370 --> 00:47:49,560

Yeah, yes and no.

822

00:47:49,560 --> 00:47:54,750

As I say, political
figures in that village

823

00:47:54,750 --> 00:47:57,190

puzzles me even today.

824

00:47:57,190 --> 00:48:01,750

I know the result of those
parliamentary elections

825

00:48:01,750 --> 00:48:04,540

that there was
even one commoner.

826

00:48:04,540 --> 00:48:07,580

But I knew correctly
who the communist was.

827

00:48:07,580 --> 00:48:09,820

Because that was the librarian.

828

00:48:09,820 --> 00:48:11,250

Really?

829

00:48:11,250 --> 00:48:12,780

That was a librarian.

830

00:48:12,780 --> 00:48:17,400
And the reason I know it,
because no grown-up men

831
00:48:17,400 --> 00:48:21,930
would talk to somebody
who is only 10 years old.

832
00:48:21,930 --> 00:48:26,820
And I find myself on
some grazing field

833
00:48:26,820 --> 00:48:29,700
where the cows, and
he was there too.

834
00:48:29,700 --> 00:48:31,980
And he started to talk to me.

835
00:48:31,980 --> 00:48:34,890
And he let me know that
he was a communist,

836
00:48:34,890 --> 00:48:37,950
and he talked
solely about Russia.

837
00:48:37,950 --> 00:48:42,630
He apparently felt
that I'd conclude.

838
00:48:42,630 --> 00:48:45,720
That must have been
going in his mind

839
00:48:45,720 --> 00:48:50,700
that I'd be receptive, because
I was reading all these books.

840
00:48:50,700 --> 00:48:51,510
Oh, I see.

841
00:48:51,510 --> 00:48:54,330
So I knew who was the communist.

842

00:48:54,330 --> 00:48:59,790
But I felt that I knew who could
possibly be only the fascists.

843
00:48:59,790 --> 00:49:03,200
I felt it would be
the miller [INAUDIBLE]

844
00:49:03,200 --> 00:49:10,290
and grinding for flour mill and
the baker and my grandfather,

845
00:49:10,290 --> 00:49:13,930
because they were the
faithful soldiers who

846
00:49:13,930 --> 00:49:17,890
would serve the emperor during
First World War in the Balkans.

847
00:49:17,890 --> 00:49:19,390
So this--

848
00:49:19,390 --> 00:49:24,870
And the corporal was
[PERSONAL NAME] [? Gaidar, ?]

849
00:49:24,870 --> 00:49:31,200
who become famous general
during the First World War,

850
00:49:31,200 --> 00:49:37,230
because he deserted the Austrian
army and then find himself

851
00:49:37,230 --> 00:49:43,900
in Russia where he made
the name for himself,

852
00:49:43,900 --> 00:49:46,300
and after the war--

853
00:49:46,300 --> 00:49:48,240
of his daring.

854

00:49:48,240 --> 00:49:52,650

He was sent to a military
school to France to Paris

855

00:49:52,650 --> 00:49:57,520

and become well-known
military man.

856

00:49:57,520 --> 00:50:00,070

But he was corrupt
and was caught.

857

00:50:00,070 --> 00:50:05,773

And as a result of it,
[INAUDIBLE] out of the army.

858

00:50:05,773 --> 00:50:09,230

And he founded a
political party.

859

00:50:09,230 --> 00:50:14,370

And it was called [? BLIKA ?],,
which was a fascist party.

860

00:50:14,370 --> 00:50:19,260

So are you saying that your
grandfather was a supporter

861

00:50:19,260 --> 00:50:22,350

of this particular man?

862

00:50:22,350 --> 00:50:24,330

Yes, they were.

863

00:50:24,330 --> 00:50:29,040

And as I know my grandfather's
background as a young man,

864

00:50:29,040 --> 00:50:33,060

because from large family, one
of the brother of his father

865

00:50:33,060 --> 00:50:35,710

was a priest in Vienna.

866

00:50:35,710 --> 00:50:38,820

And what you do sometimes
with so many children,

867

00:50:38,820 --> 00:50:40,080

they would send--

868

00:50:40,080 --> 00:50:45,630

if there were any kids problem,
they would send them to Vienna.

869

00:50:45,630 --> 00:50:48,480

I'm talking before the
First World War Vienna.

870

00:50:48,480 --> 00:50:49,604

Right, mm-hmm.

871

00:50:49,604 --> 00:50:54,030

And the priest, the uncle
would take care of them.

872

00:50:54,030 --> 00:50:59,790

And my father and my grandfather
had a position in Vienna

873

00:50:59,790 --> 00:51:03,580

by learning the
trade as a tailor.

874

00:51:03,580 --> 00:51:08,700

And that my grandfather
political orientation in then

875

00:51:08,700 --> 00:51:11,220

Vienna was very socialist.

876

00:51:11,220 --> 00:51:14,150

He was a follower
of Karl Renner,

877

00:51:14,150 --> 00:51:19,920

who was one that time a
socialist mayor of Vienna.

878

00:51:19,920 --> 00:51:22,920

And my grandfather
would run out of Vienna

879

00:51:22,920 --> 00:51:29,180

because he took part in some
demo socialist demonstration,

880

00:51:29,180 --> 00:51:31,380

and his boss knew it.

881

00:51:31,380 --> 00:51:34,470

And that time in
Austrian empire,

882

00:51:34,470 --> 00:51:38,250

if you didn't behave in one
place, you were sent back home.

883

00:51:38,250 --> 00:51:38,770

I see.

884

00:51:38,770 --> 00:51:42,760

And that's how my grandfather
from socialists ended

885

00:51:42,760 --> 00:51:48,960

in Téchonice and during the
First World War in the Balkans

886

00:51:48,960 --> 00:51:55,200

war and where he met this
future fascist leader.

887

00:51:55,200 --> 00:51:58,800

And I believe that
is because he never--

888

00:51:58,800 --> 00:52:01,820

my grandfather died at the age--

889

00:52:01,820 --> 00:52:03,070

in 1944.

890

00:52:03,070 --> 00:52:10,770

He never really didn't know what
fascism was and how it ended.

891
00:52:10,770 --> 00:52:17,460
So I believe all these fascists
absolutely in Těchonice were

892
00:52:17,460 --> 00:52:22,960
babes in a wood totally
unaware what they were part of.

893
00:52:22,960 --> 00:52:24,770
I see.

894
00:52:24,770 --> 00:52:29,120
And did your grandfather
ever talk politics to you?

895
00:52:29,120 --> 00:52:30,710
No, he did not.

896
00:52:30,710 --> 00:52:34,430
I do remember on that
year, 1935 elections,

897
00:52:34,430 --> 00:52:39,170
that I happened to post some
posters on a house on the side

898
00:52:39,170 --> 00:52:40,790
on the wall of the house.

899
00:52:40,790 --> 00:52:46,150
He did not use anything in the
village except his own house,

900
00:52:46,150 --> 00:52:49,190
advertised few
posters, because they

901
00:52:49,190 --> 00:52:51,960
received these posters again.

902
00:52:51,960 --> 00:52:54,890
And I [? circulate ?]

those newspaper,

903

00:52:54,890 --> 00:52:58,670
because none of those
three fascists which I knew

904

00:52:58,670 --> 00:53:03,110
wouldn't spend
money on newspaper.

905

00:53:03,110 --> 00:53:06,350
They would send this paper free.

906

00:53:06,350 --> 00:53:08,780
And they have to circulate them.

907

00:53:08,780 --> 00:53:10,330
And I was one of--

908

00:53:10,330 --> 00:53:14,960
I carried from our
house to the next house.

909

00:53:14,960 --> 00:53:18,150
And during that
time, I read them.

910

00:53:18,150 --> 00:53:25,680
So can you tell me were there
any other newspapers that

911

00:53:25,680 --> 00:53:30,000
made their way to the village,
or was it only this one?

912

00:53:30,000 --> 00:53:35,280
I believe the priests had one
Catholic newspaper, which was

913

00:53:35,280 --> 00:53:38,520
a Catholic well-known paper.

914

00:53:38,520 --> 00:53:44,940
And I see them, but I
believe they circulate only

915
00:53:44,940 --> 00:53:49,090
from the priest to
one of other village,

916
00:53:49,090 --> 00:53:52,710
the one of other house.

917
00:53:52,710 --> 00:53:58,200
And I only remember they were
coming to buy subscription,

918
00:53:58,200 --> 00:54:01,290
because I collected stamps.

919
00:54:01,290 --> 00:54:06,330
And the boys who carried
those paper gave me the stamp.

920
00:54:06,330 --> 00:54:09,270
So I am aware only two paper.

921
00:54:09,270 --> 00:54:12,000
One apparently was
Catholic paper.

922
00:54:12,000 --> 00:54:14,700
I believe it was
called "Lidové noviny."

923
00:54:14,700 --> 00:54:17,590

924
00:54:17,590 --> 00:54:20,590
And it was a Catholic paper.

925
00:54:20,590 --> 00:54:24,490
Because I know the
biggest, strongest party

926
00:54:24,490 --> 00:54:29,390
at that in my time
was agrarian party.

927

00:54:29,390 --> 00:54:33,625

And then there was, of
course, a Catholic party,

928

00:54:33,625 --> 00:54:37,070

which was for
[? lidová strana ?]..

929

00:54:37,070 --> 00:54:40,760

And what about news
of the government

930

00:54:40,760 --> 00:54:45,920

and people like President
Masaryk and so on,

931

00:54:45,920 --> 00:54:48,680

was there any kind of
government newspaper?

932

00:54:48,680 --> 00:54:50,550

Was there any Democratic--

933

00:54:50,550 --> 00:54:51,050

No.

934

00:54:51,050 --> 00:54:51,790

--newspaper?

935

00:54:51,790 --> 00:54:55,730

I am not aware of
anybody-- certainly,

936

00:54:55,730 --> 00:55:00,860

I am sure that a school
director would have newspaper.

937

00:55:00,860 --> 00:55:03,440

But I don't think so
that anything ever

938

00:55:03,440 --> 00:55:06,020

come out of school house.

939

00:55:06,020 --> 00:55:07,680

I see, I see.

940

00:55:07,680 --> 00:55:10,820

If I have ever learned
anything in that village,

941

00:55:10,820 --> 00:55:13,500

it was to be Czech.

942

00:55:13,500 --> 00:55:18,310

And that I have
learned in school.

943

00:55:18,310 --> 00:55:24,570

And if I have learned any
"ism," it was nationalism.

944

00:55:24,570 --> 00:55:30,300

That was there [INAUDIBLE]
and a mostly young generation,

945

00:55:30,300 --> 00:55:34,780

not particularly
in my generation.

946

00:55:34,780 --> 00:55:37,450

And how do you explain it?

947

00:55:37,450 --> 00:55:44,020

How do you explain if that was
a very strong kind of sentiment?

948

00:55:44,020 --> 00:55:49,460

I have often engaged
in sort of a reflection

949

00:55:49,460 --> 00:55:53,530

and analysis of the
situation, which I was there.

950

00:55:53,530 --> 00:55:57,580

Because I find that village
very hard-working people

951

00:55:57,580 --> 00:56:00,940

who understood what
they were doing.

952
00:56:00,940 --> 00:56:05,810
More or less, they
were serious people

953
00:56:05,810 --> 00:56:08,080
that took care of their family.

954
00:56:08,080 --> 00:56:15,460
And they were not
practicing any evil-doing.

955
00:56:15,460 --> 00:56:19,900
Yes, there were a few frivolous
little things out there

956
00:56:19,900 --> 00:56:23,980
that somebody would argue
about, some little piece of land

957
00:56:23,980 --> 00:56:24,870
or anything.

958
00:56:24,870 --> 00:56:28,630
But otherwise, it
was a religion which

959
00:56:28,630 --> 00:56:36,850
presented to me quite harmonious
way of living and sharing,

960
00:56:36,850 --> 00:56:40,000
I think, and
particularly family.

961
00:56:40,000 --> 00:56:46,140
I did not find there any
antagonism against each other.

962
00:56:46,140 --> 00:56:49,195
I did not find any party--

963
00:56:49,195 --> 00:56:51,760

964

00:56:51,760 --> 00:56:56,710
they were dancing during
winter dances, which

965

00:56:56,710 --> 00:57:00,225
were called
[INAUDIBLE] or balls,

966

00:57:00,225 --> 00:57:04,040
and which was usually sponsored
by some political party.

967

00:57:04,040 --> 00:57:07,780
The agrarian party would
have definitely ball.

968

00:57:07,780 --> 00:57:12,070
Then there were tradesmen,
which few tradesmen.

969

00:57:12,070 --> 00:57:13,300
They would have ball.

970

00:57:13,300 --> 00:57:16,080
The firemen would have balls.

971

00:57:16,080 --> 00:57:24,280
And as I say, they did
support of such activities,

972

00:57:24,280 --> 00:57:27,350
but they were very thrifty.

973

00:57:27,350 --> 00:57:29,860
Everyone was very thrifty.

974

00:57:29,860 --> 00:57:36,010
Going to the high school was not
something every kid can aspire

975

00:57:36,010 --> 00:57:41,950
there to go, because high school
was located already two hours

976

00:57:41,950 --> 00:57:45,980
of walk in the little
town of Plánice.

977

00:57:45,980 --> 00:57:50,770
And because Těchonice were not
part of the investment when

978

00:57:50,770 --> 00:57:56,320
school was built,
you have to pay fee.

979

00:57:56,320 --> 00:58:00,730
And therefore, I find
myself in that high school,

980

00:58:00,730 --> 00:58:04,470
and my grandparents
have to pay a fee.

981

00:58:04,470 --> 00:58:07,080
And the fee was going high.

982

00:58:07,080 --> 00:58:10,990
And I will talk later on,
because Veka Florian too

983

00:58:10,990 --> 00:58:13,510
went into that high school.

984

00:58:13,510 --> 00:58:16,630
That means his
mother and his family

985

00:58:16,630 --> 00:58:19,600
have to pay a fee
too, because they

986

00:58:19,600 --> 00:58:21,230
come from village Velenovy.

987

00:58:21,230 --> 00:58:25,000
And they were not part
of the early investment

988

00:58:25,000 --> 00:58:29,440
in the school, which was built
at the turn of the century.

989

00:58:29,440 --> 00:58:34,740
And it was explained to me
later on why I had to pay a fee.

990

00:58:34,740 --> 00:58:37,930
And therefore, out of
the village of Těchonice,

991

00:58:37,930 --> 00:58:43,030
there were hardly two or three
kids who went to the high

992

00:58:43,030 --> 00:58:44,510
school.

993

00:58:44,510 --> 00:58:49,710
So if I understood right,
when it comes to education,

994

00:58:49,710 --> 00:58:53,560
the school that you had in
Těchonice had three rooms,

995

00:58:53,560 --> 00:58:54,310
you told me?

996

00:58:54,310 --> 00:58:55,130
Three rooms, yes.

997

00:58:55,130 --> 00:58:55,630
Yeah.

998

00:58:55,630 --> 00:58:58,640
And in two of the rooms,
it was two classes each.

999

00:58:58,640 --> 00:59:00,260
So that means four grades.

1000

00:59:00,260 --> 00:59:00,760

Yes.

1001

00:59:00,760 --> 00:59:02,900

And in one room, it
was four classes.

1002

00:59:02,900 --> 00:59:06,060

So that means eight
grades in total.

1003

00:59:06,060 --> 00:59:06,560

So after--

1004

00:59:06,560 --> 00:59:07,060

Right.

1005

00:59:07,060 --> 00:59:09,400

--eighth grade,
that's when you had

1006

00:59:09,400 --> 00:59:13,330

to go to the high
school in [? Planovy ?]??

1007

00:59:13,330 --> 00:59:15,220

Is this what you're
saying the town was.

1008

00:59:15,220 --> 00:59:22,560

No, after or I could go already
in Plánice at the fifth grade.

1009

00:59:22,560 --> 00:59:28,480

Otherwise, if I didn't
go, I would get out

1010

00:59:28,480 --> 00:59:33,010

of elementary
school eighth grade.

1011

00:59:33,010 --> 00:59:36,800

And that would be
end of my education.

1012

00:59:36,800 --> 00:59:38,440
OK, and at what grade?

1013
00:59:38,440 --> 00:59:43,560
You say first grade you
could go to [? Plánovice ?]??

1014
00:59:43,560 --> 00:59:44,730
From the fifth grade.

1015
00:59:44,730 --> 00:59:46,380
Fifth grade, five.

1016
00:59:46,380 --> 00:59:48,270
I finished fifth grade.

1017
00:59:48,270 --> 00:59:51,480
And at sixth grade,
I went into Plánice.

1018
00:59:51,480 --> 00:59:54,940
Got it, Plánice.

1019
00:59:54,940 --> 00:59:58,260
And there you continue
into what would be

1020
00:59:58,260 --> 01:00:00,790
the equivalent of high school?

1021
01:00:00,790 --> 01:00:01,960
Yes.

1022
01:00:01,960 --> 01:00:05,820
And from there it
was normal time.

1023
01:00:05,820 --> 01:00:10,840
Again, I have the opportunity to
go to gymnasium, or some trade

1024
01:00:10,840 --> 01:00:17,340
school, or some specialized
school [INAUDIBLE]

1025

01:00:17,340 --> 01:00:20,370

business schools and
things like that.

1026

01:00:20,370 --> 01:00:23,890

That, of course, in my
case, would be a wartime.

1027

01:00:23,890 --> 01:00:28,575

And that was already, as a
foreigner, a restriction.

1028

01:00:28,575 --> 01:00:29,730

OK.

1029

01:00:29,730 --> 01:00:30,910

We're not there yet.

1030

01:00:30,910 --> 01:00:33,990

I'm still talking your
childhood in the 1930s

1031

01:00:33,990 --> 01:00:36,810

and wanting to find
out more about it.

1032

01:00:36,810 --> 01:00:40,410

Can you tell me, did
anybody have an automobile

1033

01:00:40,410 --> 01:00:41,070

in your town?

1034

01:00:41,070 --> 01:00:42,230

No.

1035

01:00:42,230 --> 01:00:43,290

Not at all.

1036

01:00:43,290 --> 01:00:46,200

It would be rare if we saw--

1037

01:00:46,200 --> 01:00:52,080

I think we saw a number

of automobiles that can

1038

01:00:52,080 --> 01:00:54,390
be count on one hand per year.

1039

01:00:54,390 --> 01:00:57,420
And it would be a real show.

1040

01:00:57,420 --> 01:01:01,260
All kids will be
simply [? aping ?]

1041

01:01:01,260 --> 01:01:03,800
on a car has passed through.

1042

01:01:03,800 --> 01:01:08,710
And it would also never be
really a private automobile.

1043

01:01:08,710 --> 01:01:09,210
Although.

1044

01:01:09,210 --> 01:01:11,430
I must correct myself.

1045

01:01:11,430 --> 01:01:17,670
I have an uncle who was younger
brother of my grandfather

1046

01:01:17,670 --> 01:01:20,310
who was high military official.

1047

01:01:20,310 --> 01:01:25,730
He had, at that time, a
car already in the yard.

1048

01:01:25,730 --> 01:01:31,560
He visited the village in the
army car twice in my time.

1049

01:01:31,560 --> 01:01:33,790
That must have been exciting.

1050

01:01:33,790 --> 01:01:34,290

Yes.

1051
01:01:34,290 --> 01:01:39,850
And I did not see him,
because my grandparents,

1052
01:01:39,850 --> 01:01:42,290
or particularly grandmother--

1053
01:01:42,290 --> 01:01:46,650
when he arrived, he arrived
without announcement.

1054
01:01:46,650 --> 01:01:53,490
And he was seen in the
distance walking to our house,

1055
01:01:53,490 --> 01:01:57,570
grandma quickly called me
and put me in the cellar,

1056
01:01:57,570 --> 01:02:00,725
because I was
barefooted and rather--

1057
01:02:00,725 --> 01:02:03,404

1058
01:02:03,404 --> 01:02:06,425
and i was very sad.

1059
01:02:06,425 --> 01:02:08,340
Every kid was, though.

1060
01:02:08,340 --> 01:02:12,080
I wasn't certainly something
they did not want to advertise.

1061
01:02:12,080 --> 01:02:17,040
So I had never really
face-to-face met my uncle

1062
01:02:17,040 --> 01:02:22,170
who was so high until 1945.

1063

01:02:22,170 --> 01:02:24,780

And he was
instrumental that when

1064

01:02:24,780 --> 01:02:29,460

I announced that I am
going to leave the country

1065

01:02:29,460 --> 01:02:35,412

and join United States Army,
nobody in my family was for it.

1066

01:02:35,412 --> 01:02:38,610

And when he arrived,
I was already

1067

01:02:38,610 --> 01:02:41,220

grown up to 18-year-old.

1068

01:02:41,220 --> 01:02:43,110

And I met him for first time.

1069

01:02:43,110 --> 01:02:46,160

And when he heard
it, he approve of it.

1070

01:02:46,160 --> 01:02:52,000

And in fact, everybody in the
family finally accepted it.

1071

01:02:52,000 --> 01:02:54,180

Well, isn't that
interesting, you know,

1072

01:02:54,180 --> 01:02:56,610

what kind of an effect it had?

1073

01:02:56,610 --> 01:02:59,040

So this was when
my question started

1074

01:02:59,040 --> 01:03:06,270

with does anybody have a car,
and it goes to the one person

1075

01:03:06,270 --> 01:03:10,710

whom you knew who just
came to visit 2 times.

1076

01:03:10,710 --> 01:03:14,160

And the first time was
not very successful,

1077

01:03:14,160 --> 01:03:17,610

but the second time sounds
like it made up for it.

1078

01:03:17,610 --> 01:03:23,260

A funny footnotes to this
story is when I arrived finally

1079

01:03:23,260 --> 01:03:25,150

after about five years--

1080

01:03:25,150 --> 01:03:28,120

I was in the Army of
Occupation in Germany--

1081

01:03:28,120 --> 01:03:31,020

when I arrived to
Chicago and reconnected

1082

01:03:31,020 --> 01:03:35,400

with mother's family,
younger generation who

1083

01:03:35,400 --> 01:03:38,940

remember mother and
remember me as a baby,

1084

01:03:38,940 --> 01:03:41,460

they all asked me
about this uncle.

1085

01:03:41,460 --> 01:03:44,130

Because from their
parents, they heard

1086

01:03:44,130 --> 01:03:47,880

nothing but great stories.

1087
01:03:47,880 --> 01:03:52,080
I jokingly say to them, "I
don't remember him well,

1088
01:03:52,080 --> 01:03:55,050
because every time
he come on visit,

1089
01:03:55,050 --> 01:03:56,720
I was still in the cellar."

1090
01:03:56,720 --> 01:03:58,300
[LAUGHING]

1091
01:03:58,300 --> 01:04:03,900
And so they have fun
to hear this story,

1092
01:04:03,900 --> 01:04:05,850
because they already know.

1093
01:04:05,850 --> 01:04:09,600
Because he eventually
become [INAUDIBLE]

1094
01:04:09,600 --> 01:04:15,000
where he was also sentenced
to get [INAUDIBLE] Germans

1095
01:04:15,000 --> 01:04:16,520
caught during a war.

1096
01:04:16,520 --> 01:04:19,890
And he was in number
of concentration camps.

1097
01:04:19,890 --> 01:04:22,290
And somehow he survived.

1098
01:04:22,290 --> 01:04:25,610
And somehow he get
back to the army.

1099

01:04:25,610 --> 01:04:31,230
And the first two years he
become brigadier general.

1100
01:04:31,230 --> 01:04:33,480
OK, tell me this part.

1101
01:04:33,480 --> 01:04:37,170
When during World
War II, how was it

1102
01:04:37,170 --> 01:04:40,440
that he got sentenced
to concentration camps?

1103
01:04:40,440 --> 01:04:43,200
What happened?

1104
01:04:43,200 --> 01:04:47,530
What I know, he was
already doing [INAUDIBLE]

1105
01:04:47,530 --> 01:04:55,380
a Republic very high
ranking army officer.

1106
01:04:55,380 --> 01:05:03,060
He commanded a certain
large group of army

1107
01:05:03,060 --> 01:05:10,080
in Slovakia, where he become
responsible for certain defense

1108
01:05:10,080 --> 01:05:15,940
region of Slovakia against
possible invasion from Hungary.

1109
01:05:15,940 --> 01:05:18,475
And so he obviously
already had a reputation

1110
01:05:18,475 --> 01:05:21,990
and had quite an education.

1111

01:05:21,990 --> 01:05:25,080

He was the only,
out of 10 children,

1112

01:05:25,080 --> 01:05:28,140

one who was given
education already

1113

01:05:28,140 --> 01:05:30,900

during the Hapsburg monarchy.

1114

01:05:30,900 --> 01:05:35,940

He was getting education,
not only in Bohemia, but also

1115

01:05:35,940 --> 01:05:37,260

in Austria.

1116

01:05:37,260 --> 01:05:42,570

And he also, during
First World War,

1117

01:05:42,570 --> 01:05:47,700

deserted from Austrian army
and joined the Czechoslovakian

1118

01:05:47,700 --> 01:05:50,846

Legion in Russia.

1119

01:05:50,846 --> 01:05:56,120

And he have also what
they call particularly

1120

01:05:56,120 --> 01:06:01,380

in the move all the way
across Russia to Siberia.

1121

01:06:01,380 --> 01:06:05,820

I was evacuated from Vladivostok
come after First World War.

1122

01:06:05,820 --> 01:06:08,130

Almost three years
after the war,

1123

01:06:08,130 --> 01:06:13,095
he become also one of
the elite in the army.

1124
01:06:13,095 --> 01:06:15,630
OK, the Czechoslovak Army.

1125
01:06:15,630 --> 01:06:17,205
Czechoslovak Army.

1126
01:06:17,205 --> 01:06:21,320
And obviously, during
the [INAUDIBLE]

1127
01:06:21,320 --> 01:06:27,270
of Czechoslovak state.

1128
01:06:27,270 --> 01:06:32,280
He also was a personal
assistant to one

1129
01:06:32,280 --> 01:06:36,920
of the general and general
staff, General Elias.

1130
01:06:36,920 --> 01:06:41,190
Elias become a prime minister
during the occupation

1131
01:06:41,190 --> 01:06:42,900
who was executed.

1132
01:06:42,900 --> 01:06:47,110
So obviously, he had too
many connection with--

1133
01:06:47,110 --> 01:06:50,830
Excuse me, General
Elias became a--

1134
01:06:50,830 --> 01:06:51,940
Elias, yes.

1135
01:06:51,940 --> 01:06:54,670
--prime minister

during which years?

1136

01:06:54,670 --> 01:06:59,350
He was a prime minister during
early years of the occupation

1137

01:06:59,350 --> 01:07:01,900
when a political hat was there.

1138

01:07:01,900 --> 01:07:06,230
He was prime minister
under President Hacha.

1139

01:07:06,230 --> 01:07:09,090
OK, can you give me years?

1140

01:07:09,090 --> 01:07:12,720
Because I don't understand
the significance until I

1141

01:07:12,720 --> 01:07:14,700
know what years these meant.

1142

01:07:14,700 --> 01:07:16,140
When you say
Protectorate, do you

1143

01:07:16,140 --> 01:07:19,060
mean when the Nazis
already invaded?

1144

01:07:19,060 --> 01:07:21,630
Yes, Nazis were
already in power.

1145

01:07:21,630 --> 01:07:25,640
When he become a
permanent minister,

1146

01:07:25,640 --> 01:07:33,690
then the Nazi occupied the
country on March 15, 1939.

1147

01:07:33,690 --> 01:07:37,680
There were two prime

ministers who changed greatly,

1148

01:07:37,680 --> 01:07:40,770
because there were
number of resignations

1149

01:07:40,770 --> 01:07:44,980
until finally the country
become Protectorate

1150

01:07:44,980 --> 01:07:47,200
of Bohemia and Moravia.

1151

01:07:47,200 --> 01:07:51,720
And with the president,
who was no longer president

1152

01:07:51,720 --> 01:07:55,590
of a count--, he was called
[NON-ENGLISH] president,

1153

01:07:55,590 --> 01:07:57,480
which was interesting title.

1154

01:07:57,480 --> 01:08:00,360
I can't simply translate it.

1155

01:08:00,360 --> 01:08:00,910
It's OK.

1156

01:08:00,910 --> 01:08:03,860
But he was mostly
a state president.

1157

01:08:03,860 --> 01:08:06,818
And he was assisted by take--

1158

01:08:06,818 --> 01:08:10,710

1159

01:08:10,710 --> 01:08:13,495
he was assisted by minimum--

1160

01:08:13,495 --> 01:08:16,380

1161
01:08:16,380 --> 01:08:19,720
the Czech did not have
much of a government.

1162
01:08:19,720 --> 01:08:21,884
It was a source of a schedule.

1163
01:08:21,884 --> 01:08:25,109

1164
01:08:25,109 --> 01:08:29,560
For lack of words, I do have
it, but I can't explain it.

1165
01:08:29,560 --> 01:08:30,060
Excuse me.

1166
01:08:30,060 --> 01:08:32,340
Maybe I'm asking too
many questions on this.

1167
01:08:32,340 --> 01:08:35,279
The real question
was what happened

1168
01:08:35,279 --> 01:08:39,420
with your relative who was
this high military officer

1169
01:08:39,420 --> 01:08:41,729
under the Nazi occupation?

1170
01:08:41,729 --> 01:08:44,040
What was his fate?

1171
01:08:44,040 --> 01:08:49,529
I believe this must have
taken place in 1940,

1172
01:08:49,529 --> 01:08:51,580
when he become a prime minister.

1173

01:08:51,580 --> 01:08:59,750
He was actively in touch with
a British group in London.

1174
01:08:59,750 --> 01:09:02,534
And that was what happened.

1175
01:09:02,534 --> 01:09:06,000

1176
01:09:06,000 --> 01:09:11,609
There were hardly about six
positions in the government.

1177
01:09:11,609 --> 01:09:15,500
And he was President Hacha's--

1178
01:09:15,500 --> 01:09:20,130

1179
01:09:20,130 --> 01:09:22,770
actually, he was very
close to the president.

1180
01:09:22,770 --> 01:09:29,410
I have both of them [INAUDIBLE]
actively and secretly

1181
01:09:29,410 --> 01:09:35,220
communicating with England
on this affair absolutely

1182
01:09:35,220 --> 01:09:37,220
somebody.

1183
01:09:37,220 --> 01:09:39,560
I do know very
well that history,

1184
01:09:39,560 --> 01:09:42,500
but I can't just
suddenly put it in short.

1185
01:09:42,500 --> 01:09:44,029
No, no, it's OK.

1186
01:09:44,029 --> 01:09:47,270

1187
01:09:47,270 --> 01:09:50,120
i don't mean to ask
you the history.

1188
01:09:50,120 --> 01:09:54,650
It is truly your relative
that I was interested in.

1189
01:09:54,650 --> 01:09:56,300
And what is his name?

1190
01:09:56,300 --> 01:10:00,770
What is his name, your
relative, the general?

1191
01:10:00,770 --> 01:10:02,660
General Elias.

1192
01:10:02,660 --> 01:10:03,400
E-L--

1193
01:10:03,400 --> 01:10:06,070
Was that your-- your
grandfather's brother

1194
01:10:06,070 --> 01:10:06,940
was General Elias?

1195
01:10:06,940 --> 01:10:13,120
No, oh my-- no, no, no, my
grandfather young brother

1196
01:10:13,120 --> 01:10:17,750
was called Sebesta too,
accept he was called Joseph.

1197
01:10:17,750 --> 01:10:19,130
Joseph Sebesta.

1198
01:10:19,130 --> 01:10:20,970

Joseph Sebesta.

1199

01:10:20,970 --> 01:10:26,940

And he was known by fancy
nickname, Pepa, Uncle Pepa.

1200

01:10:26,940 --> 01:10:27,625

Uncle Pepa.

1201

01:10:27,625 --> 01:10:31,600

And when you say
Uncle Pepa, you shake.

1202

01:10:31,600 --> 01:10:34,690

And he was a idol.

1203

01:10:34,690 --> 01:10:37,450

He was somebody to look up.

1204

01:10:37,450 --> 01:10:42,260

An Uncle Pepa ended very
badly under any regimes.

1205

01:10:42,260 --> 01:10:47,020

OK, so what happened under
the Nazi regime to Uncle Pepa?

1206

01:10:47,020 --> 01:10:48,720

That was my real question.

1207

01:10:48,720 --> 01:10:51,010

But obviously, he
was very demobilized

1208

01:10:51,010 --> 01:10:53,640

immediatly by the US.

1209

01:10:53,640 --> 01:10:57,040

The Czech Army did have--

1210

01:10:57,040 --> 01:10:59,590

and as a defense
of the Republic,

1211

01:10:59,590 --> 01:11:04,510
they did have an
organization among top.

1212
01:11:04,510 --> 01:11:09,260
No military personnel who have
[INAUDIBLE] certain expertise.

1213
01:11:09,260 --> 01:11:13,010
I believe his expertise
was in administration.

1214
01:11:13,010 --> 01:11:16,780
And he was-- there were
controversies, [INAUDIBLE]

1215
01:11:16,780 --> 01:11:19,360
I believe in 28 regions.

1216
01:11:19,360 --> 01:11:23,980
And each of them
had secretly had

1217
01:11:23,980 --> 01:11:30,940
been responsible already
organized some action how

1218
01:11:30,940 --> 01:11:35,640
to plan for defense of
a country and in case

1219
01:11:35,640 --> 01:11:39,970
where the country is going
to be independent again

1220
01:11:39,970 --> 01:11:46,480
that they were able to
immediately establish Civil

1221
01:11:46,480 --> 01:11:50,600
Rule or some organized system.

1222
01:11:50,600 --> 01:11:53,650
And he was a part
of one of this--

1223

01:11:53,650 --> 01:11:58,030

his assignment was part
of Slovakia, that I know.

1224

01:11:58,030 --> 01:12:01,600

And apparently,
that was all secret.

1225

01:12:01,600 --> 01:12:03,130

In fact, there is a book.

1226

01:12:03,130 --> 01:12:07,210

And I have sent
the book back, back

1227

01:12:07,210 --> 01:12:11,590

to some relative,
some distant relative,

1228

01:12:11,590 --> 01:12:15,490

who was interested because
somebody published book.

1229

01:12:15,490 --> 01:12:22,690

And one chapter was
describing his role.

1230

01:12:22,690 --> 01:12:26,140

In case [INAUDIBLE].

1231

01:12:26,140 --> 01:12:29,955

In Czech, it's called
[CZECH],, resistance.

1232

01:12:29,955 --> 01:12:31,920

OK, now I have the word.

1233

01:12:31,920 --> 01:12:36,990

The worst part of planned
resistance, which military

1234

01:12:36,990 --> 01:12:40,640

planned before they
were demobilized.

1235

01:12:40,640 --> 01:12:47,260

Some left, of course,
abroad to England to Russia.

1236

01:12:47,260 --> 01:12:51,960

But some of those who stayed
in were organized secretly,

1237

01:12:51,960 --> 01:12:53,430

and he was a part.

1238

01:12:53,430 --> 01:12:58,750

And apparently by
1940 or '41, he too

1239

01:12:58,750 --> 01:13:02,560

was arrested on the
city of [? Platno ?]..

1240

01:13:02,560 --> 01:13:10,570

And I think his first trial
he was tried for treason.

1241

01:13:10,570 --> 01:13:14,570

I know that there-- and there
were two types of treason.

1242

01:13:14,570 --> 01:13:18,380

And then he was also
tried a second trial

1243

01:13:18,380 --> 01:13:21,420

for treason was
in Berlin already.

1244

01:13:21,420 --> 01:13:24,730

Then he was someplace
in East Prussia

1245

01:13:24,730 --> 01:13:30,550

that I know already during
the German occupation.

1246

01:13:30,550 --> 01:13:34,720

And then from somehow

along how he get

1247

01:13:34,720 --> 01:13:39,720
evacuated from East Prussia all
the way and ended in Bavaria.

1248

01:13:39,720 --> 01:13:44,380
And he take-- because of
his military expertise,

1249

01:13:44,380 --> 01:13:46,330
he took part of--

1250

01:13:46,330 --> 01:13:49,960
And I know the name
of Bavarian town

1251

01:13:49,960 --> 01:13:56,050
which was [INAUDIBLE],, which
was supposedly resisting

1252

01:13:56,050 --> 01:13:58,370
our American advances.

1253

01:13:58,370 --> 01:14:06,500
And he'd become a organizer
of resistance and also

1254

01:14:06,500 --> 01:14:08,060
the American Army.

1255

01:14:08,060 --> 01:14:14,210
So he, in fact, ended
actively and for a few weeks

1256

01:14:14,210 --> 01:14:15,650
as a soldier.

1257

01:14:15,650 --> 01:14:22,610
And he received very high
awards from the US Army.

1258

01:14:22,610 --> 01:14:26,420
I do not have this information
on my fingertips, because--

1259
01:14:26,420 --> 01:14:27,680
No, no, I mean, I sorry.

1260
01:14:27,680 --> 01:14:29,600
--I do have it in my files.

1261
01:14:29,600 --> 01:14:33,260
No, no, no, I am
sorry, because I'm

1262
01:14:33,260 --> 01:14:36,350
asking distracting questions.

1263
01:14:36,350 --> 01:14:39,500
But when you said he had
been arrested by the Nazis,

1264
01:14:39,500 --> 01:14:41,780
that's when my ears picked up.

1265
01:14:41,780 --> 01:14:44,630
And I wanted to know
what was he arrested for,

1266
01:14:44,630 --> 01:14:49,430
where was he imprisoned,
and what happened later?

1267
01:14:49,430 --> 01:14:51,880
And it turns out that
it's quite complex.

1268
01:14:51,880 --> 01:14:52,380
It's not--

1269
01:14:52,380 --> 01:14:55,250
It's complex, and
it was treason.

1270
01:14:55,250 --> 01:14:57,270
There were two charges.

1271
01:14:57,270 --> 01:15:01,640

One against that and one
of them was a treason

1272
01:15:01,640 --> 01:15:03,140
and then a high treason.

1273
01:15:03,140 --> 01:15:06,890
Now I get it, "velezrada,"
treason against state

1274
01:15:06,890 --> 01:15:09,080
and then high treason.

1275
01:15:09,080 --> 01:15:13,380
Well, those are usually
charges that end in execution.

1276
01:15:13,380 --> 01:15:17,080
Yes, and that is a
surprise that it did not.

1277
01:15:17,080 --> 01:15:22,080
Because it was suddenly
keep moving from Berlin

1278
01:15:22,080 --> 01:15:24,810
to some obscure
place in Prussia.

1279
01:15:24,810 --> 01:15:25,830
So when you say--

1280
01:15:25,830 --> 01:15:27,380
[INAUDIBLE] concentration camp.

1281
01:15:27,380 --> 01:15:27,880
Yeah.

1282
01:15:27,880 --> 01:15:30,660
So this is the other thing
that needed to be established.

1283
01:15:30,660 --> 01:15:33,270
When you say he kept
moving, that means he kept--

1284
01:15:33,270 --> 01:15:37,230
he was in prison, and
his prison location

1285
01:15:37,230 --> 01:15:39,130
was changed from one
place to another.

1286
01:15:39,130 --> 01:15:39,630
Yes.

1287
01:15:39,630 --> 01:15:42,270
But he was not a free man.

1288
01:15:42,270 --> 01:15:44,080
No, he was not a free man.

1289
01:15:44,080 --> 01:15:47,730
And that he was
not executed is one

1290
01:15:47,730 --> 01:15:50,250
of those good fortune for him.

1291
01:15:50,250 --> 01:15:50,790
Yeah.

1292
01:15:50,790 --> 01:15:54,570
And then he ends up
in Bavaria, again,

1293
01:15:54,570 --> 01:15:56,890
one must assume, in prison.

1294
01:15:56,890 --> 01:15:59,920
And so therefore, if you--

1295
01:15:59,920 --> 01:16:01,620
you may not know
this, but it would

1296
01:16:01,620 --> 01:16:04,770
have been a unique way

of providing resistance

1297

01:16:04,770 --> 01:16:07,500
and helping the Americans
while you were still

1298

01:16:07,500 --> 01:16:10,290
a prisoner in a
concentration camp.

1299

01:16:10,290 --> 01:16:11,970
That would be one
of my questions

1300

01:16:11,970 --> 01:16:13,260
is how do you do that?

1301

01:16:13,260 --> 01:16:15,960

1302

01:16:15,960 --> 01:16:18,440
OK, I believe he
was participating

1303

01:16:18,440 --> 01:16:21,920
in one of those marches, which
they called dead marches.

1304

01:16:21,920 --> 01:16:23,870
Ah, I see.

1305

01:16:23,870 --> 01:16:27,830
And that's how he found
himself in Grafenau.

1306

01:16:27,830 --> 01:16:28,900
Now I know it.

1307

01:16:28,900 --> 01:16:30,770
It was called Grafenau.

1308

01:16:30,770 --> 01:16:32,050
Grafenau

1309

01:16:32,050 --> 01:16:33,900
Yes, Grafenau.

1310
01:16:33,900 --> 01:16:36,230
And that's where
he ended and when

1311
01:16:36,230 --> 01:16:38,420
he was discovered
by the American Army

1312
01:16:38,420 --> 01:16:41,690
that he has military expertise.

1313
01:16:41,690 --> 01:16:45,560
He immediately organized group.

1314
01:16:45,560 --> 01:16:51,590
And he participated in
capitulation of Grafenau

1315
01:16:51,590 --> 01:16:53,080
and two other places.

1316
01:16:53,080 --> 01:16:53,690
I see.

1317
01:16:53,690 --> 01:16:57,350
And he'd become-- he'd become
later on when he finally

1318
01:16:57,350 --> 01:16:59,090
get in the country.

1319
01:16:59,090 --> 01:17:03,410
A commander of the Western part
and ran [? what is called ?]

1320
01:17:03,410 --> 01:17:08,660
have military district
where he was actively.

1321
01:17:08,660 --> 01:17:15,290
There are pictures of him with
even the General George Patton.

1322
01:17:15,290 --> 01:17:16,220
That's amazing.

1323
01:17:16,220 --> 01:17:21,470
I mean, he sounds like he
was quite an unusual person

1324
01:17:21,470 --> 01:17:26,750
and, of course, had
quite an unusual destiny.

1325
01:17:26,750 --> 01:17:31,130
And an experience is what
happened to him during the war.

1326
01:17:31,130 --> 01:17:35,330
And did you ever meet enough?

1327
01:17:35,330 --> 01:17:37,460
You met him afterwards,
because he's

1328
01:17:37,460 --> 01:17:40,550
the one who told your family
that he approved that you

1329
01:17:40,550 --> 01:17:42,290
would leave for America.

1330
01:17:42,290 --> 01:17:47,330
Did you ever hear him tell
any part of his story to you?

1331
01:17:47,330 --> 01:17:51,500
This happened about in 1947.

1332
01:17:51,500 --> 01:17:54,080
And it must have been in April.

1333
01:17:54,080 --> 01:17:55,820
I was getting ready.

1334
01:17:55,820 --> 01:18:00,380

I already know where
to report [INAUDIBLE]

1335
01:18:00,380 --> 01:18:03,540
and military attache
already had my papers.

1336
01:18:03,540 --> 01:18:07,210
And I was just waiting
for a certain date,

1337
01:18:07,210 --> 01:18:12,860
and suddenly he appear in
his new general's uniform.

1338
01:18:12,860 --> 01:18:18,870
I make the runs, because
he visited my grandmother,

1339
01:18:18,870 --> 01:18:22,460
mostly because she was
a widow of his brother.

1340
01:18:22,460 --> 01:18:26,450
That was-- he was a
gentleman [? every inch. ?]

1341
01:18:26,450 --> 01:18:28,790
And then he find me there.

1342
01:18:28,790 --> 01:18:32,390
And that is the first time I
was able to face him already

1343
01:18:32,390 --> 01:18:34,370
as a grown-up now.

1344
01:18:34,370 --> 01:18:39,440
I did not have to face
him in a barefoot.

1345
01:18:39,440 --> 01:18:43,640
And then he said that he
knew all about my existence.

1346

01:18:43,640 --> 01:18:45,380
And he said, "What
are your plans?"

1347
01:18:45,380 --> 01:18:46,550
What you doing?"

1348
01:18:46,550 --> 01:18:48,440
And when he find
out, then he said,

1349
01:18:48,440 --> 01:18:50,810
"You're doing the right thing.

1350
01:18:50,810 --> 01:18:53,280
You go as fast as you could.

1351
01:18:53,280 --> 01:18:57,360
And you are going to
have, not only good meals,

1352
01:18:57,360 --> 01:18:58,680
you're going to [INAUDIBLE]."

1353
01:18:58,680 --> 01:19:02,670
He absolutely knew a
great deal about US Army.

1354
01:19:02,670 --> 01:19:05,420
And he assured
grandma and everybody,

1355
01:19:05,420 --> 01:19:07,730
"He is doing the right thing."

1356
01:19:07,730 --> 01:19:10,610
Because he, himself,
apparently knew

1357
01:19:10,610 --> 01:19:16,640
that situation in Czechoslovakia
was not going to end very well.

1358
01:19:16,640 --> 01:19:21,650
I left Czechoslovakia

about hardly nine months

1359

01:19:21,650 --> 01:19:24,140
before the communist took over.

1360

01:19:24,140 --> 01:19:26,410
And apparently he
knew something.

1361

01:19:26,410 --> 01:19:30,570
OK, and his name
was Joseph Sebest?

1362

01:19:30,570 --> 01:19:32,210
Joseph Sebesta.

1363

01:19:32,210 --> 01:19:33,490
Sebesta.

1364

01:19:33,490 --> 01:19:35,960
Just like my mother's name.

1365

01:19:35,960 --> 01:19:37,190
Sebesta.

1366

01:19:37,190 --> 01:19:41,800
Your mother is Marie Sebestova,
and he was Joseph Sebesta?

1367

01:19:41,800 --> 01:19:42,690
Yes.

1368

01:19:42,690 --> 01:19:47,070
As you know, the Czech female
names were always end in ova.

1369

01:19:47,070 --> 01:19:48,640
Yeah, yeah.

1370

01:19:48,640 --> 01:19:52,190
OK, thank you for sharing
that about your uncle.

1371

01:19:52,190 --> 01:19:55,070

He seems-- of your
grand uncle, actually,

1372
01:19:55,070 --> 01:19:58,670
you know, your
grandfather's brother.

1373
01:19:58,670 --> 01:20:03,830
And let's go back
now to your town.

1374
01:20:03,830 --> 01:20:07,520
So one of the questions
that comes to mind--

1375
01:20:07,520 --> 01:20:09,200
when you were
telling me that you

1376
01:20:09,200 --> 01:20:12,260
were reading newspapers and
learning about the Spanish

1377
01:20:12,260 --> 01:20:16,750
Civil War and that this
was a fascist paper,

1378
01:20:16,750 --> 01:20:18,510
one of the questions
is that if they

1379
01:20:18,510 --> 01:20:21,660
were printing news
about the Spanish Civil

1380
01:20:21,660 --> 01:20:24,570
War or propaganda,
was there news

1381
01:20:24,570 --> 01:20:28,350
about the neighboring country,
Germany, in those newspapers

1382
01:20:28,350 --> 01:20:29,250
as well?

1383

01:20:29,250 --> 01:20:31,860

And was there news
about Adolf Hitler?

1384

01:20:31,860 --> 01:20:34,290

And how much did
people know there

1385

01:20:34,290 --> 01:20:39,760

in your village about what
was going on in Germany?

1386

01:20:39,760 --> 01:20:47,440

Well, by the time
of 1928, the village

1387

01:20:47,440 --> 01:20:52,600

suddenly, to my surprise,
was actively following what

1388

01:20:52,600 --> 01:20:59,960

was going on in Germany and
the threat to the country.

1389

01:20:59,960 --> 01:21:05,260

I believe that some of them
did get the message when

1390

01:21:05,260 --> 01:21:09,430

Austria deplored Anschluss.

1391

01:21:09,430 --> 01:21:13,690

I do remember that I did not
know the meaning of the word

1392

01:21:13,690 --> 01:21:14,770

Anschluss.

1393

01:21:14,770 --> 01:21:21,610

But I do remember one
illustrative newspaper

1394

01:21:21,610 --> 01:21:26,080

magazine, which was called
[INAUDIBLE] where the word

1395
01:21:26,080 --> 01:21:28,432
Anschluss was a headline.

1396
01:21:28,432 --> 01:21:30,990
And being a reader,
I kept reading it

1397
01:21:30,990 --> 01:21:33,040
and wondering what it means.

1398
01:21:33,040 --> 01:21:43,710
But I knew already that country
was true getting to be intense.

1399
01:21:43,710 --> 01:21:48,920
And I do believe that tension
already spilled already

1400
01:21:48,920 --> 01:21:58,790
in our attitude toward
our German classmate,

1401
01:21:58,790 --> 01:22:03,480
who was [INAUDIBLE] to know just
quarrel on [NON-ENGLISH] means

1402
01:22:03,480 --> 01:22:05,960
hunt, German hunt.

1403
01:22:05,960 --> 01:22:06,770
I see.

1404
01:22:06,770 --> 01:22:12,260
So in other words,
did that change?

1405
01:22:12,260 --> 01:22:15,680
Did people start treating
this boy differently?

1406
01:22:15,680 --> 01:22:18,440
No, it was us kids.

1407

01:22:18,440 --> 01:22:24,570
I believe the village had a
healthy respect for his mother.

1408
01:22:24,570 --> 01:22:29,450
Because she has a very
hard-working person.

1409
01:22:29,450 --> 01:22:31,910
There a very hard
work-- she contributed

1410
01:22:31,910 --> 01:22:36,560
a great deal of labor to lots
of farmers who need help.

1411
01:22:36,560 --> 01:22:39,320
And she need, of course,
help from them too.

1412
01:22:39,320 --> 01:22:41,840
Because it was very poor family.

1413
01:22:41,840 --> 01:22:45,530
The husband was
sort of indifferent.

1414
01:22:45,530 --> 01:22:50,250
I had a very, very
interesting encounter,

1415
01:22:50,250 --> 01:22:55,340
which [INAUDIBLE] his attitude.

1416
01:22:55,340 --> 01:23:01,370
Because when the Czechoslovak
Army declare first mobilization

1417
01:23:01,370 --> 01:23:07,490
in 1938 in May, I
was the only kid

1418
01:23:07,490 --> 01:23:10,400
in one place with
the radio where

1419

01:23:10,400 --> 01:23:11,720
the people were listening.

1420

01:23:11,720 --> 01:23:12,710
I was the only--

1421

01:23:12,710 --> 01:23:15,380
I don't know why my
mother took me there.

1422

01:23:15,380 --> 01:23:16,910
OK.

1423

01:23:16,910 --> 01:23:26,540
It was in one of the pub, one
of the beer hall, hospoda,

1424

01:23:26,540 --> 01:23:28,370
the Czechs say.

1425

01:23:28,370 --> 01:23:30,410
And there was a--

1426

01:23:30,410 --> 01:23:36,740
I did not-- when I think of it,
I was amazed how aware suddenly

1427

01:23:36,740 --> 01:23:38,180
the people.

1428

01:23:38,180 --> 01:23:40,040
I did not think of
them that they'd

1429

01:23:40,040 --> 01:23:44,660
think of a country where
we could [INAUDIBLE]..

1430

01:23:44,660 --> 01:23:49,190
Because the mobilization
was declared that evening.

1431

01:23:49,190 --> 01:23:53,630
And by morning, I

could see how readily

1432

01:23:53,630 --> 01:23:59,670
some of the fathers of my
classmates were marching--

1433

01:23:59,670 --> 01:24:05,690
received their marching orders
and how they received already

1434

01:24:05,690 --> 01:24:07,520
the announcement.

1435

01:24:07,520 --> 01:24:11,620
The end of announcement was
President Beneš [INAUDIBLE]

1436

01:24:11,620 --> 01:24:13,340
a mobilization.

1437

01:24:13,340 --> 01:24:17,540
And in that moment, where I was
sitting with all those people,

1438

01:24:17,540 --> 01:24:20,060
everybody get on its
feet, because they

1439

01:24:20,060 --> 01:24:22,880
played the national anthem.

1440

01:24:22,880 --> 01:24:27,470
And everybody got on
its feet, except him.

1441

01:24:27,470 --> 01:24:32,480
So the radio plays
the national anthem.

1442

01:24:32,480 --> 01:24:34,730
Everybody is listening
to the radio,

1443

01:24:34,730 --> 01:24:38,112
because Beneš is

declaring mobilization.

1444

01:24:38,112 --> 01:24:39,440

Yes.

1445

01:24:39,440 --> 01:24:43,250

And everyone stands up,
but this man does not.

1446

01:24:43,250 --> 01:24:43,940

No.

1447

01:24:43,940 --> 01:24:46,490

And what happened,
everybody patiently

1448

01:24:46,490 --> 01:24:50,300

wait until the anthem was over.

1449

01:24:50,300 --> 01:24:54,580

Then the young people
began to attack him.

1450

01:24:54,580 --> 01:24:59,270

And of course, [? older ?]
have to separate him.

1451

01:24:59,270 --> 01:25:05,210

I kind of wonder if sometimes
in my analysis of those events

1452

01:25:05,210 --> 01:25:07,220

if he knew what was going on?

1453

01:25:07,220 --> 01:25:10,990

Why did not he get--
why didn't he get up?

1454

01:25:10,990 --> 01:25:14,480

Did he not speak Czech?

1455

01:25:14,480 --> 01:25:16,620

And he did not speak Czech.

1456

01:25:16,620 --> 01:25:19,370
But yet his name was
so Czech, "Soukup."

1457
01:25:19,370 --> 01:25:22,760
He was on the mercy of the
village, because you lived

1458
01:25:22,760 --> 01:25:26,030
in what is called
pool house, which

1459
01:25:26,030 --> 01:25:28,370
was supported by the village.

1460
01:25:28,370 --> 01:25:29,410
Wow.

1461
01:25:29,410 --> 01:25:31,890
What was his last name?

1462
01:25:31,890 --> 01:25:36,780
What was the reason that the
family find itself there?

1463
01:25:36,780 --> 01:25:39,490

1464
01:25:39,490 --> 01:25:41,770
And that both parents--

1465
01:25:41,770 --> 01:25:44,620
his wife definitely
was Bavarian.

1466
01:25:44,620 --> 01:25:50,920
She was definitely not able
to master one word in Czech.

1467
01:25:50,920 --> 01:25:55,120
He, I would not know
if he knew Czech,

1468
01:25:55,120 --> 01:25:57,490
because he never spoke Czech.

1469
01:25:57,490 --> 01:25:58,360
What was his name?

1470
01:25:58,360 --> 01:25:59,820
But his children--

1471
01:25:59,820 --> 01:26:00,320
Yeah.

1472
01:26:00,320 --> 01:26:04,360
And his children were
as Czech as I was.

1473
01:26:04,360 --> 01:26:05,410
What is his name?

1474
01:26:05,410 --> 01:26:07,000
What was his last
name, this man?

1475
01:26:07,000 --> 01:26:09,020
The last name was Soukup.

1476
01:26:09,020 --> 01:26:10,210
And that's a Czech name.

1477
01:26:10,210 --> 01:26:11,670
That's not a German name.

1478
01:26:11,670 --> 01:26:19,720
Soukup is S-O-U-K-U-P, Soukup.

1479
01:26:19,720 --> 01:26:20,860
Soukup, Soukup.

1480
01:26:20,860 --> 01:26:23,080
I do not know the
first name, but I

1481
01:26:23,080 --> 01:26:26,770
believe it would be
Hans or Jan in Czech.

1482

01:26:26,770 --> 01:26:31,980

Because his son, only son
while he had three girls,

1483

01:26:31,980 --> 01:26:39,040

were called Hansa, which
is nickname for John, Jan.

1484

01:26:39,040 --> 01:26:40,450

I see, I see.

1485

01:26:40,450 --> 01:26:41,890

OK, OK.

1486

01:26:41,890 --> 01:26:46,260

So this was the radio
broadcast of mobilization?

1487

01:26:46,260 --> 01:26:48,790

And was yes before
the Munich Agreement

1488

01:26:48,790 --> 01:26:51,790

or after the Munich Agreement?

1489

01:26:51,790 --> 01:26:53,560

That was before.

1490

01:26:53,560 --> 01:26:55,930

That was the first
Czech mobilization.

1491

01:26:55,930 --> 01:26:57,720

That was in May.

1492

01:26:57,720 --> 01:27:00,520

The second mobilization
took place [? alright ?]

1493

01:27:00,520 --> 01:27:02,680

in September same year.

1494

01:27:02,680 --> 01:27:05,950

But this was the first

signal of tension,

1495

01:27:05,950 --> 01:27:09,370

first awareness
of everyone, then

1496

01:27:09,370 --> 01:27:12,220

the world is not going
to be same again.

1497

01:27:12,220 --> 01:27:14,500

Village was changing.

1498

01:27:14,500 --> 01:27:16,720

Well, that's interesting, yeah.

1499

01:27:16,720 --> 01:27:18,340

I think it was changing.

1500

01:27:18,340 --> 01:27:21,330

I found out that
there were suddenly

1501

01:27:21,330 --> 01:27:24,220

people who really
besides their work

1502

01:27:24,220 --> 01:27:28,490

and thinking only about
substance and existence,

1503

01:27:28,490 --> 01:27:33,250

they suddenly were aware
of the country in danger.

1504

01:27:33,250 --> 01:27:36,760

And you are 10 years
old at this time?

1505

01:27:36,760 --> 01:27:41,230

I wasn't even 10 years old,
because I would be in--

1506

01:27:41,230 --> 01:27:43,210

I was nine and 1/2.

1507
01:27:43,210 --> 01:27:44,500
Got it, got it.

1508
01:27:44,500 --> 01:27:45,810
OK.

1509
01:27:45,810 --> 01:27:47,110
Nine and 1/2.

1510
01:27:47,110 --> 01:27:49,120
And then did like--

1511
01:27:49,120 --> 01:27:52,950
so Munich Agreement
happens the same year.

1512
01:27:52,950 --> 01:27:53,450
I believe--

1513
01:27:53,450 --> 01:27:57,400
That Munich Agreement
happened, yes, on the fall.

1514
01:27:57,400 --> 01:27:57,900
Yeah

1515
01:27:57,900 --> 01:27:58,720
In the fall.

1516
01:27:58,720 --> 01:28:04,060
The Munich Agreement did not
mean the end of the country.

1517
01:28:04,060 --> 01:28:08,020
It meant that country
with dismembered and put

1518
01:28:08,020 --> 01:28:11,360
on the ruins and on the knees.

1519
01:28:11,360 --> 01:28:15,370
It meant capitulation
and its assertion

1520
01:28:15,370 --> 01:28:17,940
of great deal of territory.

1521
01:28:17,940 --> 01:28:20,380
That was a different
story, which

1522
01:28:20,380 --> 01:28:25,150
happened then 1939 in March.

1523
01:28:25,150 --> 01:28:26,650
That was the end.

1524
01:28:26,650 --> 01:28:29,470
That also bring great changes.

1525
01:28:29,470 --> 01:28:34,510
And it affected not only
me, but also Václav Florian.

1526
01:28:34,510 --> 01:28:37,570
OK, so let's talk
first about how

1527
01:28:37,570 --> 01:28:41,050
did this Munich
Agreement-- what effect did

1528
01:28:41,050 --> 01:28:47,210
it have on your village and,
if anything, on your family?

1529
01:28:47,210 --> 01:28:52,310
Munich Agreement did not
have much of any effect, only

1530
01:28:52,310 --> 01:28:57,530
awareness that there will be--

1531
01:28:57,530 --> 01:28:59,360
that we are not safe.

1532
01:28:59,360 --> 01:29:01,570

OK.

1533

01:29:01,570 --> 01:29:05,120

There were maneuvers
also conducted.

1534

01:29:05,120 --> 01:29:07,970

I think they were
early swing maneuvers.

1535

01:29:07,970 --> 01:29:13,340

These maneuvers suddenly army
appear in Těchonice within

1536

01:29:13,340 --> 01:29:14,570

a few hours.

1537

01:29:14,570 --> 01:29:18,090

And they have a maneuver.

1538

01:29:18,090 --> 01:29:20,030

And I do realize and know--

1539

01:29:20,030 --> 01:29:21,800

at that time, I did not know--

1540

01:29:21,800 --> 01:29:25,130

that the maneuvers
were defensive move.

1541

01:29:25,130 --> 01:29:28,640

When the army show up
under some maneuvers,

1542

01:29:28,640 --> 01:29:32,510

it was already giving up
the part of the country.

1543

01:29:32,510 --> 01:29:36,050

Because they appeared in
Těchonice for a couple hours

1544

01:29:36,050 --> 01:29:39,180

and kept moving into inland.

1545

01:29:39,180 --> 01:29:42,080

And that is a different story.

1546

01:29:42,080 --> 01:29:45,800

The entire village
was then up in a up.

1547

01:29:45,800 --> 01:29:49,940

Because they knew that
the war is imminent.

1548

01:29:49,940 --> 01:29:54,500

But that the
village, itself, this

1549

01:29:54,500 --> 01:29:57,620

was the first time that
you had seen army maneuvers

1550

01:29:57,620 --> 01:29:59,100

in the village at all?

1551

01:29:59,100 --> 01:30:03,590

Yes, this is the first time I
have seen any man in uniform,

1552

01:30:03,590 --> 01:30:06,560
besides my uncle from distance.

1553

01:30:06,560 --> 01:30:07,680

OK.

1554

01:30:07,680 --> 01:30:14,510

And was your village part
of the territorial changes?

1555

01:30:14,510 --> 01:30:17,165

Or did you stay within
Czechoslovakia proper?

1556

01:30:17,165 --> 01:30:20,300

1557

01:30:20,300 --> 01:30:22,770

I did not get a sense
of your question.

1558
01:30:22,770 --> 01:30:23,330
OK.

1559
01:30:23,330 --> 01:30:26,960
My question is after
the Munich Agreement,

1560
01:30:26,960 --> 01:30:31,060
you say the country
is divided, yes?

1561
01:30:31,060 --> 01:30:35,200
Yes, the country become
divided, because Slovakia also

1562
01:30:35,200 --> 01:30:41,990
become in a political crisis and
division of the country become

1563
01:30:41,990 --> 01:30:43,110
imminent.

1564
01:30:43,110 --> 01:30:46,000
And it come apart
then following year,

1565
01:30:46,000 --> 01:30:47,770
six months later in March.

1566
01:30:47,770 --> 01:30:48,320
OK.

1567
01:30:48,320 --> 01:30:55,280
Munich is a source of a
disaster in a waiting room.

1568
01:30:55,280 --> 01:30:55,955
It's waiting.

1569
01:30:55,955 --> 01:30:56,455
Got it.

1570

01:30:56,455 --> 01:30:59,470

[LAUGHING] That's a very interesting way to put it.

1571

01:30:59,470 --> 01:31:03,850

But it sounds quite accurate, disaster in a waiting room.

1572

01:31:03,850 --> 01:31:06,820

You know, you have one disaster, you're in a waiting room,

1573

01:31:06,820 --> 01:31:09,210

you know another one's coming.

1574

01:31:09,210 --> 01:31:10,340

Yes, another's coming.

1575

01:31:10,340 --> 01:31:13,300

It was imminent that country would not be

1576

01:31:13,300 --> 01:31:16,650

able to economically survive.

1577

01:31:16,650 --> 01:31:20,110

1578

01:31:20,110 --> 01:31:29,040

It was absolutely not feasible because then in Těchonice first

1579

01:31:29,040 --> 01:31:33,910

appear a first refugee.

1580

01:31:33,910 --> 01:31:38,710

He was a young guy, only two years older than me,

1581

01:31:38,710 --> 01:31:43,630

from Carpathia, from a distant part of the Republic,

1582

01:31:43,630 --> 01:31:46,870

which was called
Podkarpatská Rus.

1583
01:31:46,870 --> 01:31:50,830
And it is known in [? atlas ?]
in the Western part [INAUDIBLE]

1584
01:31:50,830 --> 01:31:55,180
as Ruthenia and today,
part of Ukraine.

1585
01:31:55,180 --> 01:31:56,860
That's right, that's right.

1586
01:31:56,860 --> 01:32:01,360
And why was this person
a refugee in Těchonice?

1587
01:32:01,360 --> 01:32:03,940
I think he had some
distant relatives.

1588
01:32:03,940 --> 01:32:11,750
And it was again the
miller, one who identify

1589
01:32:11,750 --> 01:32:13,390
as one of the fascists.

1590
01:32:13,390 --> 01:32:16,390
Yeah, yeah.

1591
01:32:16,390 --> 01:32:21,520
Now, you'd mentioned very early
on that your best friend was

1592
01:32:21,520 --> 01:32:24,950
Florian, Václav Florian, yes?

1593
01:32:24,950 --> 01:32:25,450
Yes.

1594
01:32:25,450 --> 01:32:28,480
Did you boys talk to
one another about what's

1595
01:32:28,480 --> 01:32:32,790
going on here about
all these changes?

1596
01:32:32,790 --> 01:32:35,810
Yes, Václav Florian, at
that particular time,

1597
01:32:35,810 --> 01:32:38,550
was still in Těchonice.

1598
01:32:38,550 --> 01:32:39,470
OK.

1599
01:32:39,470 --> 01:32:43,700
He would leave as the
family would leave

1600
01:32:43,700 --> 01:32:45,500
when his grandfather passed.

1601
01:32:45,500 --> 01:32:49,440
And his grandfather passed in
a good time, if I might say.

1602
01:32:49,440 --> 01:32:55,250
Because as an old
man, he was a Jewish.

1603
01:32:55,250 --> 01:32:59,730
But his grandson was
Mischling, half-Jewish.

1604
01:32:59,730 --> 01:33:00,590
OK.

1605
01:33:00,590 --> 01:33:05,780
And during this crisis, his
grandfather passed away.

1606
01:33:05,780 --> 01:33:10,430
And as a result of it,
the family then moved,

1607

01:33:10,430 --> 01:33:18,290
because the father of Václav
was better of being in other

1608

01:33:18,290 --> 01:33:24,890
neighboring village, because his
parents had a better condition

1609

01:33:24,890 --> 01:33:26,990
for him to farm.

1610

01:33:26,990 --> 01:33:28,400
They had better farms.

1611

01:33:28,400 --> 01:33:34,850
He did not need to be in
Těchonice with a small grocery

1612

01:33:34,850 --> 01:33:36,950
store and few fields.

1613

01:33:36,950 --> 01:33:39,140
So obviously, family moved.

1614

01:33:39,140 --> 01:33:43,250
That was a time when we parted.

1615

01:33:43,250 --> 01:33:46,520
Although we were very close
and we visited each other

1616

01:33:46,520 --> 01:33:51,600
at least for one year we were
in contact with each other

1617

01:33:51,600 --> 01:33:55,820
until he too went
to high school.

1618

01:33:55,820 --> 01:34:00,110
Then we reconnected,
because then that is--

1619

01:34:00,110 --> 01:34:07,280

if you want to continue and
talk about what happened to me

1620
01:34:07,280 --> 01:34:11,660
and to Václav how we parted,
then I continue that way.

1621
01:34:11,660 --> 01:34:13,790
OK, hang on just a second.

1622
01:34:13,790 --> 01:34:17,180
I want to ask a few
questions before we go there.

1623
01:34:17,180 --> 01:34:21,740
And the first one is his
grandfather was named Schwartz,

1624
01:34:21,740 --> 01:34:23,990
that was his last name, yes?

1625
01:34:23,990 --> 01:34:24,860
Yes.

1626
01:34:24,860 --> 01:34:29,330
And do you know when he-- you
said he passed at a good time,

1627
01:34:29,330 --> 01:34:32,150
so probably before
the war starts.

1628
01:34:32,150 --> 01:34:35,180
Do you know about
what year this was

1629
01:34:35,180 --> 01:34:39,650
or even what month
it might have been?

1630
01:34:39,650 --> 01:34:43,490
I believe it was
definitely a year.

1631
01:34:43,490 --> 01:34:48,450

It was someplace
like the end of 1938.

1632
01:34:48,450 --> 01:34:49,160
OK.

1633
01:34:49,160 --> 01:34:51,700
So the Munich
Agreement has happened?

1634
01:34:51,700 --> 01:34:55,170
The Munich Agreement already
did happen when he passed.

1635
01:34:55,170 --> 01:34:56,360
OK.

1636
01:34:56,360 --> 01:35:03,710
And his wife that is Florian's,
Václav's grandmother,

1637
01:35:03,710 --> 01:35:05,600
had she already--

1638
01:35:05,600 --> 01:35:07,700
She was-- I never met her.

1639
01:35:07,700 --> 01:35:10,370

1640
01:35:10,370 --> 01:35:13,460
She was no longer alive.

1641
01:35:13,460 --> 01:35:21,200
Because only grandpa was there
when in 1932 when I arrived

1642
01:35:21,200 --> 01:35:23,660
and when I finally made
connection [INAUDIBLE]

1643
01:35:23,660 --> 01:35:25,010
good friendship.

1644

01:35:25,010 --> 01:35:28,700
He had only grandfather,
just Jewish grandfather

1645
01:35:28,700 --> 01:35:29,900
in Těchonice.

1646
01:35:29,900 --> 01:35:34,190
But he had grandparents on his
father's side nearby village.

1647
01:35:34,190 --> 01:35:34,690
OK.

1648
01:35:34,690 --> 01:35:35,510
Velenovy.

1649
01:35:35,510 --> 01:35:36,200
Got it.

1650
01:35:36,200 --> 01:35:40,190
So we were talking about
Václav, who's half-Jewish,

1651
01:35:40,190 --> 01:35:43,880
his mother Julia, who
is entirely Jewish,

1652
01:35:43,880 --> 01:35:47,680
and his father, who is not
Jewish but who is Czech.

1653
01:35:47,680 --> 01:35:48,180
Yes.

1654
01:35:48,180 --> 01:35:49,660
Is that correct?

1655
01:35:49,660 --> 01:35:52,020
His mother was called, Jula.

1656
01:35:52,020 --> 01:35:54,290
Jula.

1657

01:35:54,290 --> 01:35:58,190
And his father's first name,
do you know what that was?

1658
01:35:58,190 --> 01:35:59,430
The first name was--

1659
01:35:59,430 --> 01:36:02,710

1660
01:36:02,710 --> 01:36:05,780
I do not know the
grandfather's first name.

1661
01:36:05,780 --> 01:36:10,750
No, no, no, the father's first
name, Mr. Florian's first name.

1662
01:36:10,750 --> 01:36:12,590
Oh, Mr. Florian, Václav.

1663
01:36:12,590 --> 01:36:14,320
He was Václav, too.

1664
01:36:14,320 --> 01:36:15,770
The father was Václav.

1665
01:36:15,770 --> 01:36:16,510
OK.

1666
01:36:16,510 --> 01:36:21,020
And Václav Florian, the
father, was not Jewish?

1667
01:36:21,020 --> 01:36:22,500
No, he was not Jew.

1668
01:36:22,500 --> 01:36:23,840
OK, OK.

1669
01:36:23,840 --> 01:36:27,000
So we've got that
established that--

1670

01:36:27,000 --> 01:36:32,030
now, were there any other Jewish
families aside from this one

1671
01:36:32,030 --> 01:36:33,800
in the village?

1672
01:36:33,800 --> 01:36:35,120
No, there was not.

1673
01:36:35,120 --> 01:36:36,450
And I could come--

1674
01:36:36,450 --> 01:36:42,005
I have colorfully it really, in
my mind went through about five

1675
01:36:42,005 --> 01:36:46,160
to six villages all around,
which were sort of satellite

1676
01:36:46,160 --> 01:36:47,510
of Těchonice.

1677
01:36:47,510 --> 01:36:48,800
None of them.

1678
01:36:48,800 --> 01:36:52,560
I believe that this
was a Jewish family,

1679
01:36:52,560 --> 01:36:58,202
which may come there much
more earlier than 19th century

1680
01:36:58,202 --> 01:37:04,760
and that the Jewish community
was more in places like

1681
01:37:04,760 --> 01:37:10,670
Horažďovice and Plánice,
[PLACE NAME],, small town.

1682
01:37:10,670 --> 01:37:14,760
In a small village, they

were simply a rarity.

1683

01:37:14,760 --> 01:37:19,530
And this were the Schwartz.

1684

01:37:19,530 --> 01:37:21,500
OK, OK, thank you.

1685

01:37:21,500 --> 01:37:25,970
Thank you for laying that
kind of background for me that

1686

01:37:25,970 --> 01:37:30,890
in your part of the world in
your part of this southwestern

1687

01:37:30,890 --> 01:37:35,870
part of Czechoslovakia in
this circle of small villages

1688

01:37:35,870 --> 01:37:38,720
of which Těchonice was
sort of the center,

1689

01:37:38,720 --> 01:37:42,170
it really was the only
Jewish family around.

1690

01:37:42,170 --> 01:37:46,790
And to find more, you'd have
to go to towns, actually,

1691

01:37:46,790 --> 01:37:51,530
towns in the district
rather than villages.

1692

01:37:51,530 --> 01:37:52,030
Right.

1693

01:37:52,030 --> 01:37:52,530
Is that--

1694

01:37:52,530 --> 01:37:53,680
You have it right.

1695

01:37:53,680 --> 01:37:54,190
OK.

1696

01:37:54,190 --> 01:37:59,980
That is exactly as I experienced
and as I remember it.

1697

01:37:59,980 --> 01:38:01,580
OK, so now let's talk--

1698

01:38:01,580 --> 01:38:02,080
I do know--

1699

01:38:02,080 --> 01:38:03,220
Yeah?

1700

01:38:03,220 --> 01:38:06,020
I can't identify then
what Jewish families

1701

01:38:06,020 --> 01:38:07,990
would be other places.

1702

01:38:07,990 --> 01:38:12,320
But definitely, this is not in
Těchonice or around Těchonice

1703

01:38:12,320 --> 01:38:12,820
at all.

1704

01:38:12,820 --> 01:38:14,170
Yeah, OK.

1705

01:38:14,170 --> 01:38:16,150
And that was your world.

1706

01:38:16,150 --> 01:38:18,490
When you were a
young boy just about

1707

01:38:18,490 --> 01:38:23,770
to become a teenager, age
10, 11, 12, and so on,

1708

01:38:23,770 --> 01:38:24,790
that is your world.

1709

01:38:24,790 --> 01:38:27,160
You don't go beyond that area.

1710

01:38:27,160 --> 01:38:30,500
You don't travel
beyond that area.

1711

01:38:30,500 --> 01:38:33,770
I live my life very
intensely up there.

1712

01:38:33,770 --> 01:38:38,930
And it became--

1713

01:38:38,930 --> 01:38:43,930
I must admit that the roots
of my upbringing are Czech.

1714

01:38:43,930 --> 01:38:48,100
Of course, it was not my home.

1715

01:38:48,100 --> 01:38:52,250
And I did regret that
I have to leave it.

1716

01:38:52,250 --> 01:38:56,690
As my mother regretted
leaving Chicago,

1717

01:38:56,690 --> 01:38:59,390
I was leaving with regrets.

1718

01:38:59,390 --> 01:39:01,760
But I did the right thing too.

1719

01:39:01,760 --> 01:39:05,960
And I was fortunate to
be able to do it in time.

1720

01:39:05,960 --> 01:39:08,670
OK, and we'll come to that.

1721
01:39:08,670 --> 01:39:12,450
But right now, we
have those big years

1722
01:39:12,450 --> 01:39:14,670
that is the central
part of our story.

1723
01:39:14,670 --> 01:39:22,620
And that's from, I'd say,
1939, you say March 1939

1724
01:39:22,620 --> 01:39:25,270
until the end of the war.

1725
01:39:25,270 --> 01:39:29,400
And I would suggest that we talk
a little bit about this time

1726
01:39:29,400 --> 01:39:32,670
but also postpone
to have a part two

1727
01:39:32,670 --> 01:39:35,015
of our interview another day.

1728
01:39:35,015 --> 01:39:35,640
How would you--

1729
01:39:35,640 --> 01:39:36,540
Yeah, that's fine.

1730
01:39:36,540 --> 01:39:37,140
Yeah?

1731
01:39:37,140 --> 01:39:39,120
Because we're talking
in detail, and I'd

1732
01:39:39,120 --> 01:39:41,747
like to capture
all of this detail.

1733

01:39:41,747 --> 01:39:43,060
Mm-hmm, yes.

1734
01:39:43,060 --> 01:39:48,450
All right, so let's go to what
happens to Těchonice in March

1735
01:39:48,450 --> 01:39:53,960
1939, half a year after
the Munich Agreement?

1736
01:39:53,960 --> 01:40:00,830
It [? come a shock ?]
and it became clear

1737
01:40:00,830 --> 01:40:09,450
that the morning on March
1939, which suddenly

1738
01:40:09,450 --> 01:40:13,460
early in the morning
we find ourselves

1739
01:40:13,460 --> 01:40:19,710
assemble in part of the
village and reading in a poster

1740
01:40:19,710 --> 01:40:22,800
that the country ceased
to exist and then become

1741
01:40:22,800 --> 01:40:26,430
a Protectorate of
Bohemia and Moravia.

1742
01:40:26,430 --> 01:40:29,550
And for first time,
every announcement

1743
01:40:29,550 --> 01:40:33,270
became in German and in Czech.

1744
01:40:33,270 --> 01:40:36,810
At that particular time, we
were still going to school.

1745

01:40:36,810 --> 01:40:39,800

1746

01:40:39,800 --> 01:40:46,160

We were shocked and
in sort of disbelief.

1747

01:40:46,160 --> 01:40:51,170

And our teacher was a
local from nearby village.

1748

01:40:51,170 --> 01:40:56,480

He was a former
army officer, who

1749

01:40:56,480 --> 01:40:59,390

only a few months
ago was mobilized

1750

01:40:59,390 --> 01:41:01,550

ready to defend the country.

1751

01:41:01,550 --> 01:41:06,410

And he had to explain
to us what happened.

1752

01:41:06,410 --> 01:41:08,990

And I would give
you one example.

1753

01:41:08,990 --> 01:41:12,740

Because for first
time, suddenly we

1754

01:41:12,740 --> 01:41:15,890

have learned that we
must listen carefully,

1755

01:41:15,890 --> 01:41:25,070

and we must also be careful what
we say and to who we talk to.

1756

01:41:25,070 --> 01:41:30,590

Our classmate was
the German boy, Hans.

1757

01:41:30,590 --> 01:41:37,110

He was still in Těchonice, and
he was still our classmate.

1758

01:41:37,110 --> 01:41:44,550

And we did that morning suddenly
teachers sent him on errand.

1759

01:41:44,550 --> 01:41:49,050

Unusual, because usually he
would send teacher on errands

1760

01:41:49,050 --> 01:41:50,040

send girls.

1761

01:41:50,040 --> 01:41:53,240

I don't know why, but on errand.

1762

01:41:53,240 --> 01:41:55,080

And usually it will
be something show

1763

01:41:55,080 --> 01:42:00,480

up getting message to director
who school was two floors.

1764

01:42:00,480 --> 01:42:02,910

So he sent him on errand.

1765

01:42:02,910 --> 01:42:07,750

And he wasn't coming out
of that errand right away.

1766

01:42:07,750 --> 01:42:09,180

We did not know why.

1767

01:42:09,180 --> 01:42:12,420

But that was done
the teacher took time

1768

01:42:12,420 --> 01:42:16,690

to inform us in
confidence what is

1769

01:42:16,690 --> 01:42:21,490

taking place, what
we can expect,

1770

01:42:21,490 --> 01:42:25,340

and how we should behave.

1771

01:42:25,340 --> 01:42:32,650

And it comes many years later
that I did contact the teacher.

1772

01:42:32,650 --> 01:42:35,500

In fact, I contacted
him many years later.

1773

01:42:35,500 --> 01:42:40,360

And I remind him and thank
him how he talk to us.

1774

01:42:40,360 --> 01:42:45,380

And he say, yeah, had to
arrange that with a director

1775

01:42:45,380 --> 01:42:51,040

to send the German boy on
a run, because he did not

1776

01:42:51,040 --> 01:42:57,010

trust that something else
might come out of it.

1777

01:42:57,010 --> 01:43:01,770

But I personally have found
out that that was no fear,

1778

01:43:01,770 --> 01:43:06,310

because Hans had become as
Václav Florian was my good

1779

01:43:06,310 --> 01:43:07,625

friend.

1780

01:43:07,625 --> 01:43:11,800

Hans have become my lifetime
friend too until he died.

1781
01:43:11,800 --> 01:43:13,390
Oh, my goodness.

1782
01:43:13,390 --> 01:43:14,080
Oh, my goodness.

1783
01:43:14,080 --> 01:43:18,670
So the half-Jewish boy in
town was your close friend

1784
01:43:18,670 --> 01:43:23,230
and so was the German boy, Hans?

1785
01:43:23,230 --> 01:43:28,960
So it was, but I am
responding to your question.

1786
01:43:28,960 --> 01:43:32,820
People began to be careful
there were changes.

1787
01:43:32,820 --> 01:43:38,290
And us children in school, we
were beneficially a few things.

1788
01:43:38,290 --> 01:43:41,010
Because we are Czech
army, of course,

1789
01:43:41,010 --> 01:43:43,620
have a great deal of supplies.

1790
01:43:43,620 --> 01:43:47,890
And it was food supplies
and sugar, particularly too.

1791
01:43:47,890 --> 01:43:53,020
We were getting extra
ration of sugar and honey

1792
01:43:53,020 --> 01:43:54,890
from the reserve,
which apparently

1793

01:43:54,890 --> 01:43:59,780

was someplace stashed as
a reserve for the army.

1794

01:43:59,780 --> 01:44:04,720

So obviously, there
were some kind

1795

01:44:04,720 --> 01:44:07,340

of benefits of all
what was happening.

1796

01:44:07,340 --> 01:44:10,090

The kids did have it, you know?

1797

01:44:10,090 --> 01:44:10,840

Because--

1798

01:44:10,840 --> 01:44:12,640

What did the teacher say?

1799

01:44:12,640 --> 01:44:15,690

Excuse me to interrupt, but
what was-- first of all,

1800

01:44:15,690 --> 01:44:19,070

what was the name of the
teacher, if you remember it?

1801

01:44:19,070 --> 01:44:20,950

And what did he say?

1802

01:44:20,950 --> 01:44:22,990

When he was talking
to you when he

1803

01:44:22,990 --> 01:44:28,130

sent Hans on this long errand,
what was he telling you?

1804

01:44:28,130 --> 01:44:32,480

Well, he was a very
patriotic teacher.

1805

01:44:32,480 --> 01:44:37,070
He was from neighboring village,
also parishioner of Téchonice.

1806
01:44:37,070 --> 01:44:39,860
So he understood very well.

1807
01:44:39,860 --> 01:44:41,960
He knew history of the kids.

1808
01:44:41,960 --> 01:44:44,920
He also knew very well
where I come from.

1809
01:44:44,920 --> 01:44:49,580
Because when my mother arrived
with me on this godforsaken

1810
01:44:49,580 --> 01:44:53,030
place, she had to get out
of this railroad station,

1811
01:44:53,030 --> 01:44:56,010
and it was winter
and walk with me.

1812
01:44:56,010 --> 01:45:03,000
And first village was his
village, and stop in his house,

1813
01:45:03,000 --> 01:45:04,760
in his father's
house, who happened

1814
01:45:04,760 --> 01:45:07,310
to be friend of my grandfather.

1815
01:45:07,310 --> 01:45:13,160
So he absolutely knew of
my arrival in that village.

1816
01:45:13,160 --> 01:45:18,320
So obviously, he knew
who he was talking.

1817

01:45:18,320 --> 01:45:24,290
And he [INAUDIBLE] not
to forget who we were.

1818
01:45:24,290 --> 01:45:26,840
It was a patriotic
in a way speech.

1819
01:45:26,840 --> 01:45:36,460
But he cautioned us about being
careful and not to be talking

1820
01:45:36,460 --> 01:45:41,980
to anybody just not to
even say to anybody what

1821
01:45:41,980 --> 01:45:43,930
he's telling us.

1822
01:45:43,930 --> 01:45:46,750
I could no longer recall.

1823
01:45:46,750 --> 01:45:53,020
But it was simply that we would
have to part with all symbols.

1824
01:45:53,020 --> 01:45:56,200
And he point out the picture
of the first president

1825
01:45:56,200 --> 01:46:02,580
of the Republic that
will be all removed.

1826
01:46:02,580 --> 01:46:08,500
And he also allowed us
to watch from the window

1827
01:46:08,500 --> 01:46:11,500
the march of German
army in the distance.

1828
01:46:11,500 --> 01:46:16,720
Because being a second floor,
we had good view and a distant

1829

01:46:16,720 --> 01:46:20,950
highway, which was [INAUDIBLE]
because the highway going from

1830

01:46:20,950 --> 01:46:26,230
South of our country from
[PLACE NAME] [? Budejovice ?]

1831

01:46:26,230 --> 01:46:32,640
moving to [? Strakonice ?]
[? Horažďovice ?] passing.

1832

01:46:32,640 --> 01:46:37,500
We could see that there was
a movement in the highway.

1833

01:46:37,500 --> 01:46:38,700
Yeah, yeah.

1834

01:46:38,700 --> 01:46:47,470
And we could see him
being in a state of shock.

1835

01:46:47,470 --> 01:46:54,130
We did not know if we had to be
sorry for ourself or for him,

1836

01:46:54,130 --> 01:46:56,170
because he was in pain.

1837

01:46:56,170 --> 01:47:00,400
And I could not repeat the
words after all that time.

1838

01:47:00,400 --> 01:47:04,840
But I know the
reason we understood

1839

01:47:04,840 --> 01:47:09,550
why he sent Hans Soukup out
of classroom for errand.

1840

01:47:09,550 --> 01:47:12,710
He didn't want to
talk openly to him.

1841
01:47:12,710 --> 01:47:17,680
He had every confidence that we
will do what he is asking us.

1842
01:47:17,680 --> 01:47:19,580
I see, I see.

1843
01:47:19,580 --> 01:47:22,120
And what was his name?

1844
01:47:22,120 --> 01:47:24,030
His name is Behensky.

1845
01:47:24,030 --> 01:47:26,600
His first name is Václav.

1846
01:47:26,600 --> 01:47:28,230
The country is full of Václavs.

1847
01:47:28,230 --> 01:47:30,730
[LAUGHING] It's true, it's true.

1848
01:47:30,730 --> 01:47:31,230
And how--

1849
01:47:31,230 --> 01:47:35,100
Behensky, it's a little
long name, but I spell it.

1850
01:47:35,100 --> 01:47:46,890
B-E-H-E-N-S-K-Y.

1851
01:47:46,890 --> 01:47:48,700
Thank you.

1852
01:47:48,700 --> 01:47:50,990
Yeah, it's right,
Behensky, B-E-N--

1853
01:47:50,990 --> 01:47:55,590

1854

01:47:55,590 --> 01:48:01,630
B-E-H-A-E-- I'm sorry,
I start all over.

1855
01:48:01,630 --> 01:48:02,130
OK.

1856
01:48:02,130 --> 01:48:07,190
B-E-H-E-N-S-K-Y, Behensky.

1857
01:48:07,190 --> 01:48:08,000
Thank you.

1858
01:48:08,000 --> 01:48:09,620
Thank you, very much.

1859
01:48:09,620 --> 01:48:13,700
Well, you know it's a rare
thing at a time like that

1860
01:48:13,700 --> 01:48:20,540
for a teacher to kind of
warn and guide his students.

1861
01:48:20,540 --> 01:48:22,970
Because no one talks
to you publicly.

1862
01:48:22,970 --> 01:48:26,510
There is no newspaper to
tell you what's going on.

1863
01:48:26,510 --> 01:48:27,830
There is no news.

1864
01:48:27,830 --> 01:48:33,170
There is no-- and people
report that over and over again

1865
01:48:33,170 --> 01:48:38,300
that when changes like this
happen, there are rumors.

1866
01:48:38,300 --> 01:48:40,130
Rumors are everywhere.

1867
01:48:40,130 --> 01:48:42,830
But there isn't
hard information.

1868
01:48:42,830 --> 01:48:45,110
And there isn't any
kind of guidance,

1869
01:48:45,110 --> 01:48:47,150
because people get frightened.

1870
01:48:47,150 --> 01:48:52,560
Immediately, what he says to be
careful about who you speak to,

1871
01:48:52,560 --> 01:48:54,590
that's how public life turns.

1872
01:48:54,590 --> 01:48:58,910
Whereas the day before you could
share whatever views you had.

1873
01:48:58,910 --> 01:49:02,060
When changes like this
happened the second day,

1874
01:49:02,060 --> 01:49:05,880
well, it can become dangerous.

1875
01:49:05,880 --> 01:49:12,690
I have asked later in
life many Czechs of my age

1876
01:49:12,690 --> 01:49:17,965
who live in a town that they get
a different experience than we

1877
01:49:17,965 --> 01:49:19,190
in a village.

1878
01:49:19,190 --> 01:49:23,210
I know that there were
attempt to listen to radio.

1879

01:49:23,210 --> 01:49:27,320

The radio play nothing
but one just sound.

1880

01:49:27,320 --> 01:49:31,610

It was actually-- I have
learned to know it was

1881

01:49:31,610 --> 01:49:38,940

Smetana's symphonic poems
from "The High Castle,"

1882

01:49:38,940 --> 01:49:41,600

which was in Czech
called "Vyšehrad."

1883

01:49:41,600 --> 01:49:50,850

It's was tones, first three
tones of a play on harps.

1884

01:49:50,850 --> 01:49:59,140

And it evokes our source of
a historical, mythic past

1885

01:49:59,140 --> 01:50:03,460

of the country, something
going thousand years back.

1886

01:50:03,460 --> 01:50:03,960

Wow.

1887

01:50:03,960 --> 01:50:05,610

I'm sorry.

1888

01:50:05,610 --> 01:50:07,550

I hear the sound.

1889

01:50:07,550 --> 01:50:08,610

I'm sorry.

1890

01:50:08,610 --> 01:50:10,030

It's OK.

1891

01:50:10,030 --> 01:50:11,886

That's OK.

1892

01:50:11,886 --> 01:50:14,840

I hear the sound.

1893

01:50:14,840 --> 01:50:16,980

I know the poems.

1894

01:50:16,980 --> 01:50:21,180

And that was all what we
heard on radio that day.

1895

01:50:21,180 --> 01:50:25,010

There was no
announcement, except it

1896

01:50:25,010 --> 01:50:28,280

must have been well
prepared some place

1897

01:50:28,280 --> 01:50:31,760

in the region of Klatovy
that these posters were

1898

01:50:31,760 --> 01:50:33,860

posted immediately.

1899

01:50:33,860 --> 01:50:39,230

They did not address invasion,
just occupation of country

1900

01:50:39,230 --> 01:50:41,000

took midnight.

1901

01:50:41,000 --> 01:50:43,550

By morning 8 o'clock,
these posters

1902

01:50:43,550 --> 01:50:47,690

were everywhere already
in the entire region.

1903

01:50:47,690 --> 01:50:49,100

That's amazing.

1904

01:50:49,100 --> 01:50:53,480

So how quickly they are who
deliver them, I would not know.

1905

01:50:53,480 --> 01:50:56,630

But it must have
been by motorcycle

1906

01:50:56,630 --> 01:50:59,175

by the region of
town of Klatovy.

1907

01:50:59,175 --> 01:51:02,390

It must have been some
gendarme going around

1908

01:51:02,390 --> 01:51:05,330

and keep posting
this announcement.

1909

01:51:05,330 --> 01:51:09,280

Because countryside
find it only like that.

1910

01:51:09,280 --> 01:51:09,800

Wow.

1911

01:51:09,800 --> 01:51:15,720

And then later on, apparently,
I know that again mother took me

1912

01:51:15,720 --> 01:51:18,650

to the inn where they tried
to listen to the radio,

1913

01:51:18,650 --> 01:51:22,690

and there was no announcement,
except this [? song ?] from

1914

01:51:22,690 --> 01:51:27,450

Smetana "My Country," which is
in Czech called, "Má vlast."

1915

01:51:27,450 --> 01:51:31,920

And it's a first symphonic poem,

which is called "High Castle."

1916

01:51:31,920 --> 01:51:36,680

It's a castle when you enter
to Prague from the south

1917

01:51:36,680 --> 01:51:39,050

of a country called Vyšehrad.

1918

01:51:39,050 --> 01:51:40,340

I know that area.

1919

01:51:40,340 --> 01:51:41,540

I know that area.

1920

01:51:41,540 --> 01:51:44,050

I know what you mean.

1921

01:51:44,050 --> 01:51:44,550

It's--

1922

01:51:44,550 --> 01:51:48,410

And that was what was
going on hour an hour

1923

01:51:48,410 --> 01:51:51,770

until we gave it up.

1924

01:51:51,770 --> 01:51:58,200

Because I don't know
when regular broadcasting

1925

01:51:58,200 --> 01:52:00,200

start that I don't know.

1926

01:52:00,200 --> 01:52:03,920

But I know that people listened
for hours to [INAUDIBLE]..

1927

01:52:03,920 --> 01:52:04,970

It did not.

1928

01:52:04,970 --> 01:52:08,630

The only thing was the

posters and that's it.

1929

01:52:08,630 --> 01:52:15,080
And from a distance, they could
see the movement of troops.

1930

01:52:15,080 --> 01:52:19,580
But Těchonice, including all
these little villages I named,

1931

01:52:19,580 --> 01:52:23,010
did not see any
Germans on that day.

1932

01:52:23,010 --> 01:52:24,230
OK.

1933

01:52:24,230 --> 01:52:27,580
And what about Václav Florian,
was he still in your--

1934

01:52:27,580 --> 01:52:31,730
No, Václav Florian, at that
time, what I'd described,

1935

01:52:31,730 --> 01:52:33,680
was in a different class.

1936

01:52:33,680 --> 01:52:35,960
He was in the second class.

1937

01:52:35,960 --> 01:52:38,660
He was in the fourth grade.

1938

01:52:38,660 --> 01:52:39,800
OK.

1939

01:52:39,800 --> 01:52:41,360
But he--

1940

01:52:41,360 --> 01:52:44,460
This is very
interesting question.

1941

01:52:44,460 --> 01:52:47,960

I did not ask him--
he did not have the--

1942

01:52:47,960 --> 01:52:50,120

the class he did not
have the problem.

1943

01:52:50,120 --> 01:52:53,640

Because it was a
class only of Czech.

1944

01:52:53,640 --> 01:52:59,420

And I considered Václav,
and everybody considered him

1945

01:52:59,420 --> 01:53:04,180

as a citizen of that village
and citizen of the country.

1946

01:53:04,180 --> 01:53:05,100

OK.

1947

01:53:05,100 --> 01:53:07,340

So the teacher was a lady.

1948

01:53:07,340 --> 01:53:14,010

She did not have to go to
this cautious approach.

1949

01:53:14,010 --> 01:53:17,430

I'm sure she told them
something similar.

1950

01:53:17,430 --> 01:53:18,750

OK.

1951

01:53:18,750 --> 01:53:21,090

Because she was the
wife of the director.

1952

01:53:21,090 --> 01:53:25,770

So they must have
met early in morning

1953

01:53:25,770 --> 01:53:28,980
and apparently
agreed how they would

1954
01:53:28,980 --> 01:53:31,460
do to tell these children.

1955
01:53:31,460 --> 01:53:35,190
Fortunately, school had
something about 120 children

1956
01:53:35,190 --> 01:53:37,740
from four different villages.

1957
01:53:37,740 --> 01:53:38,980
That's a lot.

1958
01:53:38,980 --> 01:53:39,480
That's--

1959
01:53:39,480 --> 01:53:43,740
That was a lot that my class
was a largest of it all.

1960
01:53:43,740 --> 01:53:47,100
I believe it was
well close to 50.

1961
01:53:47,100 --> 01:53:49,560
And you were in which
class at this point?

1962
01:53:49,560 --> 01:53:50,640
I was in the fifth--

1963
01:53:50,640 --> 01:53:53,340

1964
01:53:53,340 --> 01:53:56,262
first class, but fifth grade.

1965
01:53:56,262 --> 01:53:56,970
You were in the--

1966

01:53:56,970 --> 01:53:57,470
OK.

1967
01:53:57,470 --> 01:53:59,490
And Václav was in fourth grade.

1968
01:53:59,490 --> 01:54:03,090
So he was in a
different classroom.

1969
01:54:03,090 --> 01:54:03,870
Got it.

1970
01:54:03,870 --> 01:54:08,630
And it was after this year
that you would go to Plánice?

1971
01:54:08,630 --> 01:54:11,470
Yes, that would
take two more years.

1972
01:54:11,470 --> 01:54:15,840
Not year, actually
year and half more.

1973
01:54:15,840 --> 01:54:19,550
Then Václav was no
longer in Těchonice.

1974
01:54:19,550 --> 01:54:25,480
He was in a school on
the village of Velenovy.

1975
01:54:25,480 --> 01:54:28,460
And Velenovy was
hardly 20 minutes,

1976
01:54:28,460 --> 01:54:30,670
half an hour from Těchonice.

1977
01:54:30,670 --> 01:54:37,570
And the road to Plánice sort
of merge in a different places.

1978
01:54:37,570 --> 01:54:42,590

And we, therefore, were
able to reconnect again.

1979
01:54:42,590 --> 01:54:49,230
We saw each other daily when
he finally went to high school.

1980
01:54:49,230 --> 01:54:49,730
OK.

1981
01:54:49,730 --> 01:54:54,190
When Václav went in high school,
I was already in the second

1982
01:54:54,190 --> 01:54:55,640
year of high school.

1983
01:54:55,640 --> 01:54:58,370
Václav was in the first year.

1984
01:54:58,370 --> 01:55:03,430
And we walk together
from village of Zborovy.

1985
01:55:03,430 --> 01:55:07,720
About hour every day,
we see each other

1986
01:55:07,720 --> 01:55:12,250
in the recess noontime.

1987
01:55:12,250 --> 01:55:17,480
We also saw each other afternoon
walking [? on our ?] way.

1988
01:55:17,480 --> 01:55:21,680
I visited him
sometimes when there

1989
01:55:21,680 --> 01:55:23,990
was a holiday in his village.

1990
01:55:23,990 --> 01:55:25,720
He visited me.

1991

01:55:25,720 --> 01:55:32,260

But that did not last too long,
because his days in high school

1992

01:55:32,260 --> 01:55:35,020

were counted, as was mine.

1993

01:55:35,020 --> 01:55:40,720

Because we will then arrive
to a critical year of 1942,

1994

01:55:40,720 --> 01:55:42,500

where our lives changed.

1995

01:55:42,500 --> 01:55:44,140

OK, at that point--

1996

01:55:44,140 --> 01:55:46,330

I'm sorry that I'm interrupting.

1997

01:55:46,330 --> 01:55:49,810

But I think that at this
point it would be good for us

1998

01:55:49,810 --> 01:55:51,490

to pause.

1999

01:55:51,490 --> 01:55:55,200

I'm going to stop the
recording for right now.