

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:05,600

2
00:00:05,600 --> 00:00:09,500
This is a United States
Holocaust Memorial Museum

3
00:00:09,500 --> 00:00:18,780
interview with Mrs. Josiane
Traum on Wednesday August 26,

4
00:00:18,780 --> 00:00:20,790
2020.

5
00:00:20,790 --> 00:00:24,120
Thank you very, very
much, Mrs. Traum

6
00:00:24,120 --> 00:00:26,850
for agreeing to speak with us.

7
00:00:26,850 --> 00:00:29,070
And I'm going to
start our interview

8
00:00:29,070 --> 00:00:30,960
from the very beginning.

9
00:00:30,960 --> 00:00:33,990
And we'll develop and
build on the story

10
00:00:33,990 --> 00:00:36,780
from the first basic questions.

11
00:00:36,780 --> 00:00:39,480
So the very first
one that I'd ask

12
00:00:39,480 --> 00:00:42,950
is can you tell me the

date of your birth?

13
00:00:42,950 --> 00:00:48,500
Of course, it's March 21, 1939.

14
00:00:48,500 --> 00:00:49,580
OK.

15
00:00:49,580 --> 00:00:52,540
And where were you born?

16
00:00:52,540 --> 00:00:55,080
In Brussels, Belgium.

17
00:00:55,080 --> 00:00:56,050
OK.

18
00:00:56,050 --> 00:00:57,675
And what was your name at birth?

19
00:00:57,675 --> 00:01:00,360

20
00:01:00,360 --> 00:01:06,420
My name at birth was
Josiane Aizenberg.

21
00:01:06,420 --> 00:01:08,220
Josiane Aizenberg.

22
00:01:08,220 --> 00:01:09,000
OK.

23
00:01:09,000 --> 00:01:11,010
Yes.

24
00:01:11,010 --> 00:01:14,750
Can you tell me, do you have
any brothers and sisters?

25
00:01:14,750 --> 00:01:15,810

I do not.

26
00:01:15,810 --> 00:01:16,310
OK.

27
00:01:16,310 --> 00:01:18,340
So you were an only child.

28
00:01:18,340 --> 00:01:20,340
Yes.

29
00:01:20,340 --> 00:01:24,140
And tell me the names
of your parents.

30
00:01:24,140 --> 00:01:30,080
My mother's name
is Fanny Aizenberg.

31
00:01:30,080 --> 00:01:33,490
How do I spell her first name?

32
00:01:33,490 --> 00:01:38,680
It's actually her real
name from Poland is Fajga

33
00:01:38,680 --> 00:01:44,470
But she was called Fanny when
we came to the United States.

34
00:01:44,470 --> 00:01:47,620
And that's F-A-N-N-Y.

35
00:01:47,620 --> 00:01:48,820
OK.

36
00:01:48,820 --> 00:01:53,250
And your father's first name.

37
00:01:53,250 --> 00:01:59,610
My father's first name
was Jacques Aizenberg.

38
00:01:59,610 --> 00:02:03,300
And was your father from
Poland or was he from Belgium?

39
00:02:03,300 --> 00:02:04,410
Yes.

40
00:02:04,410 --> 00:02:05,820
No.

41
00:02:05,820 --> 00:02:08,550
Both my parents
were born in Poland

42
00:02:08,550 --> 00:02:13,630
and came with their families
as children to Belgium.

43
00:02:13,630 --> 00:02:17,580
So do you know approximately
what year this might have

44
00:02:17,580 --> 00:02:21,290
been that they left Poland?

45
00:02:21,290 --> 00:02:26,330
Let me see, my mother
was born in 1916.

46
00:02:26,330 --> 00:02:29,660
She was, I think, six years old.

47
00:02:29,660 --> 00:02:32,400
OK, so this was in the '20s.

48
00:02:32,400 --> 00:02:33,090
Early 20s.

49
00:02:33,090 --> 00:02:34,630
In the '20s, yes.

50

00:02:34,630 --> 00:02:38,620

So they actually grew up in
Belgium, went to school there.

51

00:02:38,620 --> 00:02:39,640

OK.

52

00:02:39,640 --> 00:02:41,270

OK.

53

00:02:41,270 --> 00:02:43,910

So that would explain
why your father's name

54

00:02:43,910 --> 00:02:49,400

is Jacques, a French
first name rather than

55

00:02:49,400 --> 00:02:51,970

a Polish version of it.

56

00:02:51,970 --> 00:02:52,575

Right.

57

00:02:52,575 --> 00:02:53,075

Exactly.

58

00:02:53,075 --> 00:02:57,200

59

00:02:57,200 --> 00:02:59,315

Do you know what his
name was in Poland?

60

00:02:59,315 --> 00:03:03,290

61

00:03:03,290 --> 00:03:04,730

I do not.

62

00:03:04,730 --> 00:03:12,350

I have, not a certificate, but a
booklet of when they registered

63
00:03:12,350 --> 00:03:16,440
their marriage and my birth.

64
00:03:16,440 --> 00:03:19,290
It's actually written on there.

65
00:03:19,290 --> 00:03:21,290
So let me find it.

66
00:03:21,290 --> 00:03:24,980
And I can actually
read it to you.

67
00:03:24,980 --> 00:03:26,610
Sure.

68
00:03:26,610 --> 00:03:27,910
If I can find it.

69
00:03:27,910 --> 00:03:30,810
And if you can't, it's OK.

70
00:03:30,810 --> 00:03:33,900
OK, but there is a
difference in spelling.

71
00:03:33,900 --> 00:03:34,740
I think your--

72
00:03:34,740 --> 00:03:46,560

73
00:03:46,560 --> 00:03:48,370
OK.

74
00:03:48,370 --> 00:03:49,550
I'm sorry.

75

00:03:49,550 --> 00:03:51,330
That's OK.

76
00:03:51,330 --> 00:03:52,150
Not to worry.

77
00:03:52,150 --> 00:03:53,410
Not to worry.

78
00:03:53,410 --> 00:03:56,500
OK, while we're
talking, I can actually

79
00:03:56,500 --> 00:03:59,740
walk around and look for it.

80
00:03:59,740 --> 00:04:01,163
I know I have it.

81
00:04:01,163 --> 00:04:10,540

82
00:04:10,540 --> 00:04:12,040
That's the way things are.

83
00:04:12,040 --> 00:04:14,320
At the moment when you
think of them and you

84
00:04:14,320 --> 00:04:15,859
think they're right at hand--

85
00:04:15,859 --> 00:04:17,355
I know.

86
00:04:17,355 --> 00:04:17,855
Yes.

87
00:04:17,855 --> 00:04:22,850

88

00:04:22,850 --> 00:04:26,040
But, you know, Josiane, we can--

89
00:04:26,040 --> 00:04:26,540
Yeah--

90
00:04:26,540 --> 00:04:28,770
We can come back to that.

91
00:04:28,770 --> 00:04:29,300
OK.

92
00:04:29,300 --> 00:04:29,800
OK?

93
00:04:29,800 --> 00:04:30,300
OK.

94
00:04:30,300 --> 00:04:33,860
It was just a
curiosity on my part,

95
00:04:33,860 --> 00:04:39,800
because you did know that your
mother was Fajga originally.

96
00:04:39,800 --> 00:04:45,110
And I thought maybe you'd have
the same at your fingertips

97
00:04:45,110 --> 00:04:48,350
type of knowledge
about your dad.

98
00:04:48,350 --> 00:04:51,660
What was your
mother's maiden name?

99
00:04:51,660 --> 00:04:54,080
Her name was Orenbuch.

100
00:04:54,080 --> 00:04:55,540

Orenbuch.

101
00:04:55,540 --> 00:04:56,040
OK.

102
00:04:56,040 --> 00:04:56,800
Yes.

103
00:04:56,800 --> 00:04:57,300
And--

104
00:04:57,300 --> 00:04:58,470
O-R-E--

105
00:04:58,470 --> 00:04:59,010
Yes.

106
00:04:59,010 --> 00:04:59,700
Go ahead.

107
00:04:59,700 --> 00:05:01,410
How do you spell it?

108
00:05:01,410 --> 00:05:05,510
O-R-E-N-B-U-C-H.

109
00:05:05,510 --> 00:05:06,720
OK.

110
00:05:06,720 --> 00:05:11,320
And do you know what part
of Poland they came from?

111
00:05:11,320 --> 00:05:13,580
Yes, my mother
came from the Lodz.

112
00:05:13,580 --> 00:05:14,560
OK.

113
00:05:14,560 --> 00:05:18,640

And my father came from Radom.

114
00:05:18,640 --> 00:05:19,600
Oh, Radom.

115
00:05:19,600 --> 00:05:20,890
OK.

116
00:05:20,890 --> 00:05:22,000
Yes.

117
00:05:22,000 --> 00:05:24,730
And they met in Belgium.

118
00:05:24,730 --> 00:05:29,690
Of course, because they were
children when they left Poland.

119
00:05:29,690 --> 00:05:30,680
OK.

120
00:05:30,680 --> 00:05:33,860
And what year did they marry?

121
00:05:33,860 --> 00:05:35,670
Do you know?

122
00:05:35,670 --> 00:05:40,960
Um, actually, I just
found the certificate.

123
00:05:40,960 --> 00:05:43,310
Oh, OK, wonderful.

124
00:05:43,310 --> 00:05:44,870
Perfect.

125
00:05:44,870 --> 00:05:45,950
Hold on.

126
00:05:45,950 --> 00:05:49,620

127
00:05:49,620 --> 00:05:56,100
OK, my father's, actually
his Polish name was--

128
00:05:56,100 --> 00:06:00,360
it looks like I-S-E-K. Isek.

129
00:06:00,360 --> 00:06:02,100
Isek.

130
00:06:02,100 --> 00:06:02,900
Yeah.

131
00:06:02,900 --> 00:06:04,230
OK.

132
00:06:04,230 --> 00:06:05,010
OK.

133
00:06:05,010 --> 00:06:11,280
So it was spelled I-S-E-K. But
we would know it is I-S-A-A-C

134
00:06:11,280 --> 00:06:13,122
or something like that.

135
00:06:13,122 --> 00:06:14,270
Something like that.

136
00:06:14,270 --> 00:06:14,770
And--

137
00:06:14,770 --> 00:06:18,220
[PHONE RINGING]

138
00:06:18,220 --> 00:06:21,310
We can pause if you
want to answer that.

139

00:06:21,310 --> 00:06:22,240
No, it's OK.

140
00:06:22,240 --> 00:06:23,520
It's a call from Israel.

141
00:06:23,520 --> 00:06:24,595
OK.

142
00:06:24,595 --> 00:06:29,770
So I'll call them back.

143
00:06:29,770 --> 00:06:32,320
I'm seeing here
this is actually--

144
00:06:32,320 --> 00:06:38,140
it's one of these
registrations for marriage

145
00:06:38,140 --> 00:06:43,900
and a birth of a child
actually in French.

146
00:06:43,900 --> 00:06:45,130
It's a certificate.

147
00:06:45,130 --> 00:06:48,500
It says from my
father born in Radom.

148
00:06:48,500 --> 00:06:51,260

149
00:06:51,260 --> 00:06:54,365
[FRENCH] Polonais,
you know, Polish.

150
00:06:54,365 --> 00:06:57,340

151
00:06:57,340 --> 00:07:04,850

He was born January 23, 1911.

152
00:07:04,850 --> 00:07:05,350
OK.

153
00:07:05,350 --> 00:07:08,400

154
00:07:08,400 --> 00:07:10,730
And then it says
he's the son of--

155
00:07:10,730 --> 00:07:14,660
it mentions his parents' names.

156
00:07:14,660 --> 00:07:22,160
And let me see if it says
when they got married.

157
00:07:22,160 --> 00:07:31,350

158
00:07:31,350 --> 00:07:35,130
Actually, it doesn't say
when they got married.

159
00:07:35,130 --> 00:07:36,120
I'm sorry.

160
00:07:36,120 --> 00:07:37,360
That's OK.

161
00:07:37,360 --> 00:07:38,400
You know--

162
00:07:38,400 --> 00:07:40,060
That's OK.

163
00:07:40,060 --> 00:07:44,320
I just found this booklet,
by the way, the other day.

164

00:07:44,320 --> 00:07:47,360

Oh, you hadn't
known of it before?

165

00:07:47,360 --> 00:07:50,540

No, I didn't know of it.

166

00:07:50,540 --> 00:07:52,414

And I needed--

167

00:07:52,414 --> 00:07:57,150

I don't have a birth certificate
because the war broke out

168

00:07:57,150 --> 00:07:59,700

a few months after I was born.

169

00:07:59,700 --> 00:08:04,590

And I don't have any
documents or papers.

170

00:08:04,590 --> 00:08:09,000

So I went to the Belgium
embassy to try and get

171

00:08:09,000 --> 00:08:11,660

a birth certificate.

172

00:08:11,660 --> 00:08:17,070

And they're actually sending
away for it for me in Belgium.

173

00:08:17,070 --> 00:08:18,780

Oh, wow.

174

00:08:18,780 --> 00:08:20,550

Yeah, which is really something.

175

00:08:20,550 --> 00:08:24,780

I mean, you know, I don't
have any kind of notification.

176

00:08:24,780 --> 00:08:27,300

It's interesting-- I mean,
how would you get citizenship

177

00:08:27,300 --> 00:08:29,300

without that?

178

00:08:29,300 --> 00:08:30,560

I know.

179

00:08:30,560 --> 00:08:34,287

I think I got it on
behalf of my parents.

180

00:08:34,287 --> 00:08:36,475

Ah, OK.

181

00:08:36,475 --> 00:08:39,620

Because when we came
here, I was 10 years old.

182

00:08:39,620 --> 00:08:44,480

And I think I waited-- you have
to wait five years in order

183

00:08:44,480 --> 00:08:46,320

to become a citizen.

184

00:08:46,320 --> 00:08:50,080

And I became really
under my parents.

185

00:08:50,080 --> 00:08:52,410

OK, OK.

186

00:08:52,410 --> 00:08:56,700

So both your parents had
some sort of documentation.

187

00:08:56,700 --> 00:08:59,220

And because you
were a minor, that

188
00:08:59,220 --> 00:09:03,310
sufficed for you at that time.

189
00:09:03,310 --> 00:09:05,010
I believe so.

190
00:09:05,010 --> 00:09:06,810
OK.

191
00:09:06,810 --> 00:09:10,495
I'm trying to see if there's
anything about their marriage.

192
00:09:10,495 --> 00:09:13,350

193
00:09:13,350 --> 00:09:16,140
It just actually tells--

194
00:09:16,140 --> 00:09:22,380
this booklet records the
fact that I was born in 1939.

195
00:09:22,380 --> 00:09:26,240
And that really doesn't
talk about their marriage.

196
00:09:26,240 --> 00:09:30,550
OK, so what kind
of a book is it?

197
00:09:30,550 --> 00:09:33,395
It's called actually in French--

198
00:09:33,395 --> 00:09:37,910

199
00:09:37,910 --> 00:09:41,780
let me see-- [FRENCH]
carnet de livret.

200

00:09:41,780 --> 00:09:43,250

It's in French.

201

00:09:43,250 --> 00:09:47,000

It's a little notebook.

202

00:09:47,000 --> 00:09:50,240

I guess when you go and
register for marriage

203

00:09:50,240 --> 00:09:53,330

for recording your
children, they

204

00:09:53,330 --> 00:09:56,270

give you this little booklet.

205

00:09:56,270 --> 00:10:00,830

So is it sort of like
an official document

206

00:10:00,830 --> 00:10:02,105

from the Belgian authorities?

207

00:10:02,105 --> 00:10:03,410

Yes.

208

00:10:03,410 --> 00:10:10,370

Yes, it has the Belgian
consulate, or the office--

209

00:10:10,370 --> 00:10:14,658

it's in Flemish also,
which I can't read.

210

00:10:14,658 --> 00:10:16,930

You know Belgium is bilingual.

211

00:10:16,930 --> 00:10:17,430

Yes.

212

00:10:17,430 --> 00:10:18,430
Yes.

213
00:10:18,430 --> 00:10:24,220
So once I left, I didn't
speak Flemish anymore.

214
00:10:24,220 --> 00:10:27,605
Yeah, it doesn't--
it's just civil--

215
00:10:27,605 --> 00:10:32,280

216
00:10:32,280 --> 00:10:37,470
and gives you the commune
or the suburb where I lived.

217
00:10:37,470 --> 00:10:39,380
What was it?

218
00:10:39,380 --> 00:10:42,076
Anderlecht

219
00:10:42,076 --> 00:10:42,993
And that's a part of--

220
00:10:42,993 --> 00:10:43,820
A-N--

221
00:10:43,820 --> 00:10:45,320
OK, please spell it.

222
00:10:45,320 --> 00:10:48,040
It's [INAUDIBLE]

223
00:10:48,040 --> 00:10:48,790
Excuse me--

224
00:10:48,790 --> 00:10:50,050
It's a suburb.

225
00:10:50,050 --> 00:10:52,270
It's a suburb of Brussels.

226
00:10:52,270 --> 00:10:52,870
OK.

227
00:10:52,870 --> 00:10:53,920
And how do you spell it?

228
00:10:53,920 --> 00:10:56,490

229
00:10:56,490 --> 00:11:04,596
A-N-D-E-R-L-E-C-H-T.

230
00:11:04,596 --> 00:11:05,096
Anderlecht.

231
00:11:05,096 --> 00:11:06,170
Anderlecht.

232
00:11:06,170 --> 00:11:06,710
Yeah.

233
00:11:06,710 --> 00:11:07,210
Yes.

234
00:11:07,210 --> 00:11:10,810

235
00:11:10,810 --> 00:11:11,310
OK.

236
00:11:11,310 --> 00:11:16,830
But I was actually
born in another suburb

237
00:11:16,830 --> 00:11:20,834
part of Anderlecht,
which was is Ixelles.

238

00:11:20,834 --> 00:11:22,220

Uh, huh.

239

00:11:22,220 --> 00:11:24,440

And how is that spelled?

240

00:11:24,440 --> 00:11:28,310

I-X-E-L-L-E-S.

241

00:11:28,310 --> 00:11:30,280

I see.

242

00:11:30,280 --> 00:11:34,690

And were you born at home or
were you born in a hospital?

243

00:11:34,690 --> 00:11:35,770

In a hospital.

244

00:11:35,770 --> 00:11:36,760

In a hospital.

245

00:11:36,760 --> 00:11:38,180

In a hospital, yes.

246

00:11:38,180 --> 00:11:43,810

The hospital, the name of it,
is by a famous English nurse.

247

00:11:43,810 --> 00:11:47,930

The name of the hospital was
Edith Cavell, which is French.

248

00:11:47,930 --> 00:11:50,240

But it's Edith Cavell--

249

00:11:50,240 --> 00:11:50,740

Oh, yeah--

250

00:11:50,740 --> 00:11:52,370

She was a very famous--

251
00:11:52,370 --> 00:11:52,870
Oh, yeah.

252
00:11:52,870 --> 00:11:53,662
You've heard of it?

253
00:11:53,662 --> 00:11:54,580
I've heard of her.

254
00:11:54,580 --> 00:11:58,120
I don't-- I mean
it's very faint.

255
00:11:58,120 --> 00:12:00,040
It's not like Florence
Nightingale where you

256
00:12:00,040 --> 00:12:02,950
know immediately who she was.

257
00:12:02,950 --> 00:12:06,040
But her name, Edith
Cavell, has crossed--

258
00:12:06,040 --> 00:12:08,180
I've heard of it before.

259
00:12:08,180 --> 00:12:09,580
Yes.

260
00:12:09,580 --> 00:12:10,080
OK.

261
00:12:10,080 --> 00:12:12,340
So that was the hospital
you were born in.

262
00:12:12,340 --> 00:12:12,840
OK.

263

00:12:12,840 --> 00:12:13,680
Right.

264
00:12:13,680 --> 00:12:18,270
So let's go back
now to less sort

265
00:12:18,270 --> 00:12:22,380
of factual
demographic questions.

266
00:12:22,380 --> 00:12:22,890
OK.

267
00:12:22,890 --> 00:12:29,460
Tell me, do you have any first
memories that you can recall?

268
00:12:29,460 --> 00:12:36,660

269
00:12:36,660 --> 00:12:45,340
Well, you know, I have
recollections of or images,

270
00:12:45,340 --> 00:12:48,940
I should say, of my grandmother.

271
00:12:48,940 --> 00:12:51,770

272
00:12:51,770 --> 00:12:54,760
Mother's mother or
father's mother?

273
00:12:54,760 --> 00:12:55,630
Maternal.

274
00:12:55,630 --> 00:12:56,470
OK.

275
00:12:56,470 --> 00:13:02,500

I was-- my paternal
grandparents actually

276
00:13:02,500 --> 00:13:05,150
died before I was born.

277
00:13:05,150 --> 00:13:05,650
OK.

278
00:13:05,650 --> 00:13:08,590

279
00:13:08,590 --> 00:13:15,850
And I was actually very close
to my maternal grandmother.

280
00:13:15,850 --> 00:13:20,990

281
00:13:20,990 --> 00:13:22,310
Do you recall her name?

282
00:13:22,310 --> 00:13:25,080

283
00:13:25,080 --> 00:13:27,830
Yes.

284
00:13:27,830 --> 00:13:28,400
Rivka Leah.

285
00:13:28,400 --> 00:13:31,790

286
00:13:31,790 --> 00:13:33,990
Can you spell that for me?

287
00:13:33,990 --> 00:13:36,420
Well, Rivka would be,
let's see, in English--

288

00:13:36,420 --> 00:13:36,930
Oh, Rivka.

289
00:13:36,930 --> 00:13:39,990
Excuse me, I am doing
this because this

290
00:13:39,990 --> 00:13:44,640
because sometimes in an audio,
the letters don't sound.

291
00:13:44,640 --> 00:13:46,030
So it would be R like--

292
00:13:46,030 --> 00:13:46,530
Of course--

293
00:13:46,530 --> 00:13:49,420
Rachel, I-V-K-A.

294
00:13:49,420 --> 00:13:49,920
K-A?

295
00:13:49,920 --> 00:13:51,900
V-K-- yes.

296
00:13:51,900 --> 00:13:52,890
And Leah.

297
00:13:52,890 --> 00:13:53,970
And Leah, OK.

298
00:13:53,970 --> 00:13:57,190

299
00:13:57,190 --> 00:14:01,130
And Orenbuch would have
been her name, yes?

300
00:14:01,130 --> 00:14:01,640
No.

301
00:14:01,640 --> 00:14:02,300
It wasn't.

302
00:14:02,300 --> 00:14:04,430
It was Aspis.

303
00:14:04,430 --> 00:14:06,710
How do I spell that?

304
00:14:06,710 --> 00:14:08,870
Are you talking about
my maternal grandmother?

305
00:14:08,870 --> 00:14:10,560
Yes.

306
00:14:10,560 --> 00:14:11,340
OK.

307
00:14:11,340 --> 00:14:18,570
Her maiden name was
Aspis, A-S-P-I-S.

308
00:14:18,570 --> 00:14:22,269
And she married my
grandfather, who was Orenbuch.

309
00:14:22,269 --> 00:14:22,769
Yeah.

310
00:14:22,769 --> 00:14:23,269
OK.

311
00:14:23,269 --> 00:14:27,660

312
00:14:27,660 --> 00:14:31,560
Was your maternal grandfather
alive when you were born?

313
00:14:31,560 --> 00:14:34,600

314
00:14:34,600 --> 00:14:36,440
Yes.

315
00:14:36,440 --> 00:14:38,450
And what would have
his first name been?

316
00:14:38,450 --> 00:14:42,830

317
00:14:42,830 --> 00:14:46,352
You know, I have it here because
it says my mother is born to--

318
00:14:46,352 --> 00:14:46,852
OK.

319
00:14:46,852 --> 00:14:49,570

320
00:14:49,570 --> 00:14:54,310
His name was-- my grandfather's
name was Benjamin Orenbuch.

321
00:14:54,310 --> 00:14:54,810
OK.

322
00:14:54,810 --> 00:14:58,480

323
00:14:58,480 --> 00:15:03,565
And Rivka-- actually,
I was wrong.

324
00:15:03,565 --> 00:15:09,060
It says Saja, which is
[? salino ?] Rivka Saja nee

325
00:15:09,060 --> 00:15:09,560
Aspis.

326
00:15:09,560 --> 00:15:12,690

327
00:15:12,690 --> 00:15:15,490
So it's not Leah?

328
00:15:15,490 --> 00:15:16,402
No, I'm very sorry.

329
00:15:16,402 --> 00:15:17,110
I thought it was.

330
00:15:17,110 --> 00:15:18,237
Not a problem.

331
00:15:18,237 --> 00:15:18,820
Not a problem.

332
00:15:18,820 --> 00:15:22,350

333
00:15:22,350 --> 00:15:24,430
Yeah.

334
00:15:24,430 --> 00:15:29,340
So is there a second
name besides Rivka?

335
00:15:29,340 --> 00:15:31,390
Rivka Saja.

336
00:15:31,390 --> 00:15:34,940
But you know it's spelled
in Flemish or in French,

337
00:15:34,940 --> 00:15:38,780
which is S-A-J-A.

338
00:15:38,780 --> 00:15:41,310
S-A-J-A, interesting.

339
00:15:41,310 --> 00:15:42,320
Yes.

340
00:15:42,320 --> 00:15:43,760
I know.

341
00:15:43,760 --> 00:15:47,510
And Rivka is R-Y-W-K-A.

342
00:15:47,510 --> 00:15:53,650
Ah, well, the W sometimes
in some languages

343
00:15:53,650 --> 00:15:58,660
was pronounced as a V. Right.

344
00:15:58,660 --> 00:15:59,800
Yeah.

345
00:15:59,800 --> 00:16:02,890
There are so many spellings
sometimes for the same names.

346
00:16:02,890 --> 00:16:05,950
It makes it hard for
genealogists or people

347
00:16:05,950 --> 00:16:12,250
to try and determine whether
it's actually the same person

348
00:16:12,250 --> 00:16:14,350
that one is talking about.

349
00:16:14,350 --> 00:16:21,070
But good, we have we have
both your maternal grandmother

350
00:16:21,070 --> 00:16:24,280
and grandfather down as
what their names were.

351
00:16:24,280 --> 00:16:27,550
And so you say you have
some images in your mind

352
00:16:27,550 --> 00:16:30,490
of your grandmother.

353
00:16:30,490 --> 00:16:34,840
My grandmother, because
we lived with them.

354
00:16:34,840 --> 00:16:35,800
OK.

355
00:16:35,800 --> 00:16:39,670
Once the war
started, we actually

356
00:16:39,670 --> 00:16:45,670
lived with my maternal
grandparents in an apartment.

357
00:16:45,670 --> 00:16:47,510
In Brussels.

358
00:16:47,510 --> 00:16:48,890
In Brussels.

359
00:16:48,890 --> 00:16:52,610
And your father, did he--

360
00:16:52,610 --> 00:16:55,190
before the war starts,
just when you were born,

361
00:16:55,190 --> 00:16:57,470
it's a half a year
before because the war

362
00:16:57,470 --> 00:17:01,880
starts on September 1 and

you were born March 21.

363
00:17:01,880 --> 00:17:04,710
So we're talking about
five or six months.

364
00:17:04,710 --> 00:17:07,520
But before then, when
life is still normal,

365
00:17:07,520 --> 00:17:08,930
how did he make a living?

366
00:17:08,930 --> 00:17:13,010

367
00:17:13,010 --> 00:17:17,630
He actually-- my parents
owned an apartment building

368
00:17:17,630 --> 00:17:22,609
with four floors, an
apartment on each floor.

369
00:17:22,609 --> 00:17:26,869
There weren't like many
apartments in one floor.

370
00:17:26,869 --> 00:17:30,270
There was a floor
for each apartment.

371
00:17:30,270 --> 00:17:32,870
And it was four floors.

372
00:17:32,870 --> 00:17:40,100
And on the bottom, on the
street level, was a tailor shop.

373
00:17:40,100 --> 00:17:41,840
My dad was a tailor.

374

00:17:41,840 --> 00:17:46,160
And he sold material, bolts.

375
00:17:46,160 --> 00:17:48,350
And people would
come in and order--

376
00:17:48,350 --> 00:17:53,120
it wasn't like today where
you buy anything ready made.

377
00:17:53,120 --> 00:17:58,270
People who would come in
choose a bolt of material

378
00:17:58,270 --> 00:18:00,340
that they wanted for a suit.

379
00:18:00,340 --> 00:18:04,900
And he would have several
fittings and make a pattern

380
00:18:04,900 --> 00:18:09,430
and actually make a suit.

381
00:18:09,430 --> 00:18:10,960
So it was custom.

382
00:18:10,960 --> 00:18:12,010
What we call custom.

383
00:18:12,010 --> 00:18:13,690
Yes, it was.

384
00:18:13,690 --> 00:18:15,280
In those days, it was.

385
00:18:15,280 --> 00:18:16,210
Yeah.

386
00:18:16,210 --> 00:18:19,120
So in the British term,

which always sounds so very

387

00:18:19,120 --> 00:18:22,980

fancy to me, was bespoke.

388

00:18:22,980 --> 00:18:23,580

That kind--

389

00:18:23,580 --> 00:18:24,990

Oh, I've never heard that.

390

00:18:24,990 --> 00:18:29,070

Uh, huh, bespoke tailoring.

391

00:18:29,070 --> 00:18:30,000

Yeah.

392

00:18:30,000 --> 00:18:35,750

So did you have any memories
watching him do this or not?

393

00:18:35,750 --> 00:18:36,620

I didn't.

394

00:18:36,620 --> 00:18:40,370

He left to Belgium when
I was 13 months old.

395

00:18:40,370 --> 00:18:42,680

Oh.

396

00:18:42,680 --> 00:18:45,450

All right, so let's
talk a little bit--

397

00:18:45,450 --> 00:18:48,800

I mean, these early years that
we're talking about, of course,

398

00:18:48,800 --> 00:18:50,180

you're an infant.

399

00:18:50,180 --> 00:18:57,140

And children don't have memories
on their first couple of years.

400

00:18:57,140 --> 00:18:58,250

Right.

401

00:18:58,250 --> 00:18:59,750

For the most part.

402

00:18:59,750 --> 00:19:02,600

I have not heard of
somebody who would have.

403

00:19:02,600 --> 00:19:06,870

It would have been things
that people tell you later.

404

00:19:06,870 --> 00:19:08,990

Right.

405

00:19:08,990 --> 00:19:14,040

In fact, a lot of
my memory or images

406

00:19:14,040 --> 00:19:19,230

are really what my mom told
me, because what you say--

407

00:19:19,230 --> 00:19:21,480

I mean, I was so young.

408

00:19:21,480 --> 00:19:24,190

409

00:19:24,190 --> 00:19:27,970

And is there a
reason why they left

410

00:19:27,970 --> 00:19:30,280

this apartment building
and the tailor shop

411
00:19:30,280 --> 00:19:32,500
to move in with your
maternal grandparents?

412
00:19:32,500 --> 00:19:35,300

413
00:19:35,300 --> 00:19:37,820
I think it was
because of the Germans

414
00:19:37,820 --> 00:19:41,660
having come in and taken over.

415
00:19:41,660 --> 00:19:43,385
And I think--

416
00:19:43,385 --> 00:19:47,140

417
00:19:47,140 --> 00:19:49,930
I'm sure it was for
economic reasons

418
00:19:49,930 --> 00:19:53,500
and just being together,
family support.

419
00:19:53,500 --> 00:19:54,430
OK.

420
00:19:54,430 --> 00:20:00,670
Now, did your mother and father
have brothers and sisters?

421
00:20:00,670 --> 00:20:05,120
My mother had two sisters
born also in Belgium.

422
00:20:05,120 --> 00:20:07,100
OK.

423
00:20:07,100 --> 00:20:13,510
And my father had
several siblings.

424
00:20:13,510 --> 00:20:15,400
I only know of--

425
00:20:15,400 --> 00:20:17,050
I knew one.

426
00:20:17,050 --> 00:20:23,110
And the other one was actually
deported and murdered.

427
00:20:23,110 --> 00:20:24,730
I see.

428
00:20:24,730 --> 00:20:28,570
He also a sibling who
came to the United States

429
00:20:28,570 --> 00:20:30,460
prior to the war.

430
00:20:30,460 --> 00:20:34,640
OK, so he had a sibling
that came to the US.

431
00:20:34,640 --> 00:20:35,500
He had another--

432
00:20:35,500 --> 00:20:36,910
It was a woman.

433
00:20:36,910 --> 00:20:37,630
Yes.

434
00:20:37,630 --> 00:20:40,900
And another brother
who came with us when

435

00:20:40,900 --> 00:20:43,950
we moved to the United States.

436

00:20:43,950 --> 00:20:48,420
So there's one who came
before the war to the US.

437

00:20:48,420 --> 00:20:49,215
Yes.

438

00:20:49,215 --> 00:20:49,970
A woman.

439

00:20:49,970 --> 00:20:52,420
Yeah.

440

00:20:52,420 --> 00:20:55,190
And that was the sister of his.

441

00:20:55,190 --> 00:20:56,080
Yes.

442

00:20:56,080 --> 00:20:56,690
OK.

443

00:20:56,690 --> 00:20:59,060
And do you know her name?

444

00:20:59,060 --> 00:21:00,920
Yes, Pearl.

445

00:21:00,920 --> 00:21:02,780
Beryl.

446

00:21:02,780 --> 00:21:07,810
Pearl, P-E-A-R-L.
Pearl, like a Pearl.

447

00:21:07,810 --> 00:21:08,680
Oh, Pearl.

448
00:21:08,680 --> 00:21:10,210
OK.

449
00:21:10,210 --> 00:21:13,360
I say Pearl because that's
what she was called.

450
00:21:13,360 --> 00:21:13,990
OK.

451
00:21:13,990 --> 00:21:19,120
And my father had another
brother who came actually

452
00:21:19,120 --> 00:21:24,490
to the United States, I believe,
in the early '30s and settled

453
00:21:24,490 --> 00:21:25,520
in New York.

454
00:21:25,520 --> 00:21:26,530
OK.

455
00:21:26,530 --> 00:21:29,680
Did you know him?

456
00:21:29,680 --> 00:21:33,070
Yes, after we came to the
United States I met him.

457
00:21:33,070 --> 00:21:35,760
And what was his first name?

458
00:21:35,760 --> 00:21:37,630
Wolf.

459
00:21:37,630 --> 00:21:39,950
W-O-L-F?

460
00:21:39,950 --> 00:21:40,670

Yes.

461
00:21:40,670 --> 00:21:42,280
OK.

462
00:21:42,280 --> 00:21:47,800
And so as you say,
several siblings and--

463
00:21:47,800 --> 00:21:49,000
Yes--

464
00:21:49,000 --> 00:21:51,910
Two that we've talked right
now who were in the US

465
00:21:51,910 --> 00:21:53,050
before the War.

466
00:21:53,050 --> 00:21:54,705
Yes.

467
00:21:54,705 --> 00:21:57,570
One who accompanied
you with your parents

468
00:21:57,570 --> 00:22:01,023
when you came to the United
States after the war.

469
00:22:01,023 --> 00:22:04,180
Right, with his family.

470
00:22:04,180 --> 00:22:06,510
How do I spell that?

471
00:22:06,510 --> 00:22:09,400
His family.

472
00:22:09,400 --> 00:22:10,910
With his wife and two children.

473

00:22:10,910 --> 00:22:13,240

With his wife and two
children, excuse me.

474

00:22:13,240 --> 00:22:17,120

And so what was his first name?

475

00:22:17,120 --> 00:22:20,310

His first name was Ben.

476

00:22:20,310 --> 00:22:21,830

Ben?

477

00:22:21,830 --> 00:22:22,550

Ben.

478

00:22:22,550 --> 00:22:24,950

Like his father?

479

00:22:24,950 --> 00:22:29,750

No, like excuse me, I
got confused, never mind.

480

00:22:29,750 --> 00:22:33,390

It was Benjamin then?

481

00:22:33,390 --> 00:22:34,320

I don't you know--

482

00:22:34,320 --> 00:22:35,460

I'm not really sure.

483

00:22:35,460 --> 00:22:37,410

I only know him as Uncle Ben.

484

00:22:37,410 --> 00:22:38,040

OK.

485

00:22:38,040 --> 00:22:39,150

OK.

486

00:22:39,150 --> 00:22:46,080
And then there was the relative
who was deported and murdered.

487

00:22:46,080 --> 00:22:48,720
With his family.

488

00:22:48,720 --> 00:22:51,200
This is your father's
family you're saying, yes?

489

00:22:51,200 --> 00:22:57,260
My father's brother, the
wife, and two children.

490

00:22:57,260 --> 00:22:58,700
He had a boy and a girl.

491

00:22:58,700 --> 00:23:01,010
They were all
deported to Auschwitz.

492

00:23:01,010 --> 00:23:03,540
OK.

493

00:23:03,540 --> 00:23:05,430
And that brother's
name was what?

494

00:23:05,430 --> 00:23:11,550

495

00:23:11,550 --> 00:23:13,900
Reuven.

496

00:23:13,900 --> 00:23:18,590
Oh, that would be
like R-E-U-V-E-N?

497

00:23:18,590 --> 00:23:19,360
Yes.

498
00:23:19,360 --> 00:23:21,760
OK.

499
00:23:21,760 --> 00:23:22,750
OK.

500
00:23:22,750 --> 00:23:27,550
So we've got four
siblings down right now.

501
00:23:27,550 --> 00:23:28,120
Right.

502
00:23:28,120 --> 00:23:31,940
Do you know if
there were any more?

503
00:23:31,940 --> 00:23:36,920
There were, and I think they
died when they were children.

504
00:23:36,920 --> 00:23:38,140
OK.

505
00:23:38,140 --> 00:23:39,860
OK.

506
00:23:39,860 --> 00:23:45,840
That also was very
common at that time.

507
00:23:45,840 --> 00:23:47,370
Of course.

508
00:23:47,370 --> 00:23:52,890
People had many children and
not many children survived.

509
00:23:52,890 --> 00:23:59,160
And your mother, what are
the names of her two sisters?

510
00:23:59,160 --> 00:23:59,660
Rose.

511
00:23:59,660 --> 00:24:02,370

512
00:24:02,370 --> 00:24:05,298
And the other one is Terez.

513
00:24:05,298 --> 00:24:08,290

514
00:24:08,290 --> 00:24:11,940
And they both survived
the war or did they not?

515
00:24:11,940 --> 00:24:13,140
They did.

516
00:24:13,140 --> 00:24:15,090
They both survived the war.

517
00:24:15,090 --> 00:24:17,730
OK.

518
00:24:17,730 --> 00:24:19,910
OK.

519
00:24:19,910 --> 00:24:24,170
I do not recall from my
own knowledge of history

520
00:24:24,170 --> 00:24:28,760
when Nazi Germany
marched into Belgium.

521
00:24:28,760 --> 00:24:30,010
But--

522
00:24:30,010 --> 00:24:32,360
May 10, 1940.

523
00:24:32,360 --> 00:24:33,950
May 10, 1940.

524
00:24:33,950 --> 00:24:39,962
So at that point, you are
about 13, 14 months old.

525
00:24:39,962 --> 00:24:40,890
Yes.

526
00:24:40,890 --> 00:24:43,200
Is this around the time--

527
00:24:43,200 --> 00:24:47,520
did you say that your father
left when you were 13 months?

528
00:24:47,520 --> 00:24:49,050
Yes.

529
00:24:49,050 --> 00:24:51,870
My parents were
listening to the radio.

530
00:24:51,870 --> 00:24:57,630
And apparently the BBC was
asking for volunteers for men

531
00:24:57,630 --> 00:25:00,340
to come and
volunteer in England.

532
00:25:00,340 --> 00:25:03,735

533
00:25:03,735 --> 00:25:12,540
But my father decided to go with
his brother, his brother Ben.

534
00:25:12,540 --> 00:25:13,630
I see.

535

00:25:13,630 --> 00:25:17,270

They both went together.

536

00:25:17,270 --> 00:25:24,410

And your mother then was staying
with her own parents and you.

537

00:25:24,410 --> 00:25:29,060

In our apartment, in the
attic apartment, yes.

538

00:25:29,060 --> 00:25:33,642

In that same house that
your parents owned?

539

00:25:33,642 --> 00:25:35,550

Yes.

540

00:25:35,550 --> 00:25:37,350

I see.

541

00:25:37,350 --> 00:25:41,730

So let me get this straight.

542

00:25:41,730 --> 00:25:44,970

They owned an apartment--
they owned a building.

543

00:25:44,970 --> 00:25:48,480

And on the bottom floor--

544

00:25:48,480 --> 00:25:49,470

hello?

545

00:25:49,470 --> 00:25:50,310

With a shop.

546

00:25:50,310 --> 00:25:51,720

Yes, yes, with a shop.

547

00:25:51,720 --> 00:25:53,040
With a shop.

548
00:25:53,040 --> 00:25:57,780
On the bottom floor was a tailor
shop, which your father used.

549
00:25:57,780 --> 00:25:58,940
It was his shop.

550
00:25:58,940 --> 00:26:00,780
Yeah.

551
00:26:00,780 --> 00:26:03,750
And was it then--

552
00:26:03,750 --> 00:26:06,600
that building was owned by
your mother and your father

553
00:26:06,600 --> 00:26:09,610
or your mother's parents?

554
00:26:09,610 --> 00:26:12,700
No, no, but my mom and
dad, by my parents.

555
00:26:12,700 --> 00:26:21,810
And when he left for Britain 13
months later after your birth,

556
00:26:21,810 --> 00:26:23,610
your mother stayed
in that building,

557
00:26:23,610 --> 00:26:25,680
but in the attic apartment.

558
00:26:25,680 --> 00:26:26,805
However, her parents--

559
00:26:26,805 --> 00:26:27,420

Yes.

560
00:26:27,420 --> 00:26:29,310
So it was really
your grandparents

561
00:26:29,310 --> 00:26:34,780
joined your parents rather than
your parents went to join them.

562
00:26:34,780 --> 00:26:35,920
Exactly.

563
00:26:35,920 --> 00:26:38,710
We lived in the
apartment building.

564
00:26:38,710 --> 00:26:43,000
Behind the shop was
one apartment also.

565
00:26:43,000 --> 00:26:47,530
And we used to live in
that bottom apartment.

566
00:26:47,530 --> 00:26:51,580
But once the Germans came-- and
I don't quite know the reason--

567
00:26:51,580 --> 00:26:57,960
once the Germans invaded,
we all, myself, my mom,

568
00:26:57,960 --> 00:27:02,350
and my maternal grandparents,
moved to the attic apartment.

569
00:27:02,350 --> 00:27:03,640
OK.

570
00:27:03,640 --> 00:27:05,180
OK.

571

00:27:05,180 --> 00:27:10,620

And when I asked you
about first memories,

572

00:27:10,620 --> 00:27:14,660

you said you had some images
of your grandmother Rivka.

573

00:27:14,660 --> 00:27:17,610

574

00:27:17,610 --> 00:27:19,500

Yes.

575

00:27:19,500 --> 00:27:21,450

Can you describe those to me?

576

00:27:21,450 --> 00:27:28,935

577

00:27:28,935 --> 00:27:31,929

Um--

578

00:27:31,929 --> 00:27:33,440

Are you OK?

579

00:27:33,440 --> 00:27:34,700

Hold on.

580

00:27:34,700 --> 00:27:35,390

Of course.

581

00:27:35,390 --> 00:27:40,650

582

00:27:40,650 --> 00:27:42,600

You know, it's hard to know--

583

00:27:42,600 --> 00:27:47,340

I have a picture of my
grandmother holding me.

584
00:27:47,340 --> 00:27:48,960
I see.

585
00:27:48,960 --> 00:27:52,950
And so, you know,
whether they're images

586
00:27:52,950 --> 00:27:59,290
or it's because I look at the
photographs, but I remember her

587
00:27:59,290 --> 00:28:03,150
and just holding me.

588
00:28:03,150 --> 00:28:06,240
But I was very close to her.

589
00:28:06,240 --> 00:28:12,340

590
00:28:12,340 --> 00:28:14,495
And what happened with
your grandmother Rivka?

591
00:28:14,495 --> 00:28:17,720

592
00:28:17,720 --> 00:28:22,020
She was deported with my mother.

593
00:28:22,020 --> 00:28:22,570
I see.

594
00:28:22,570 --> 00:28:23,403
And did she survive?

595
00:28:23,403 --> 00:28:25,875

596
00:28:25,875 --> 00:28:28,610

No.

597

00:28:28,610 --> 00:28:31,570

She was murdered immediately.

598

00:28:31,570 --> 00:28:35,020

And they were deported to where?

599

00:28:35,020 --> 00:28:36,077

Auschwitz.

600

00:28:36,077 --> 00:28:39,060

601

00:28:39,060 --> 00:28:41,310

Actually, before
going to Auschwitz,

602

00:28:41,310 --> 00:28:46,890

they were at what they would
call like a retention camp.

603

00:28:46,890 --> 00:28:49,110

They stayed there
about week or two

604

00:28:49,110 --> 00:28:51,870

till they had enough people,
I guess, to fill a train.

605

00:28:51,870 --> 00:28:56,770

606

00:28:56,770 --> 00:29:00,550

Do you know what name
of that detention camp?

607

00:29:00,550 --> 00:29:02,440

I do.

608

00:29:02,440 --> 00:29:04,890

And it just slipped my mind.

609

00:29:04,890 --> 00:29:08,830

There's a whole museum there,
because they contacted me.

610

00:29:08,830 --> 00:29:12,270

They wanted some material.

611

00:29:12,270 --> 00:29:15,010

Is it in Belgium or is
it in the Netherlands?

612

00:29:15,010 --> 00:29:15,790

In Belgium.

613

00:29:15,790 --> 00:29:17,900

It's in Belgium.

614

00:29:17,900 --> 00:29:22,720

I'll probably think of
the name before the end.

615

00:29:22,720 --> 00:29:24,170

That's OK.

616

00:29:24,170 --> 00:29:25,720

It'll come to me.

617

00:29:25,720 --> 00:29:28,970

But she was there for
about a week or two.

618

00:29:28,970 --> 00:29:34,940

And then they put
them on trains.

619

00:29:34,940 --> 00:29:38,330

Well, she could have
been still a young woman

620

00:29:38,330 --> 00:29:39,530

when this all happened.

621
00:29:39,530 --> 00:29:40,700
She was.

622
00:29:40,700 --> 00:29:42,790
Oh, she was.

623
00:29:42,790 --> 00:29:44,560
She was in her 20s.

624
00:29:44,560 --> 00:29:47,050
You're talking
about your mother.

625
00:29:47,050 --> 00:29:47,670
My mother.

626
00:29:47,670 --> 00:29:48,170
Yeah.

627
00:29:48,170 --> 00:29:49,890
Oh, I'm sorry, my grandmother.

628
00:29:49,890 --> 00:29:50,460
Yeah.

629
00:29:50,460 --> 00:29:53,370
My grandmother was very young.

630
00:29:53,370 --> 00:29:57,360
Yeah, I could-- I mean, she
could have been in her 40s--

631
00:29:57,360 --> 00:29:58,960
She could been in her 50s.

632
00:29:58,960 --> 00:29:59,790
Yeah.

633
00:29:59,790 --> 00:30:01,430
Yeah.

634
00:30:01,430 --> 00:30:07,340
But that was old
enough to not be--

635
00:30:07,340 --> 00:30:13,580
well, the odds of
surviving we're much lower.

636
00:30:13,580 --> 00:30:17,390
Well, also, when you
first got to Auschwitz

637
00:30:17,390 --> 00:30:21,170
they had a selection because
they had a labor camp there.

638
00:30:21,170 --> 00:30:26,810
And I think they felt
you were too old or not

639
00:30:26,810 --> 00:30:31,320
able to do any labor, you
were useless for them.

640
00:30:31,320 --> 00:30:32,690
Yes.

641
00:30:32,690 --> 00:30:34,490
And so you were
killed immediately.

642
00:30:34,490 --> 00:30:38,370
My mom I think survived
because she was young.

643
00:30:38,370 --> 00:30:42,330
Did your mother ever
tell you, because they're

644
00:30:42,330 --> 00:30:46,540
deported together, was your
grandfather Benjamin also--

645
00:30:46,540 --> 00:30:47,040
No--

646
00:30:47,040 --> 00:30:49,950
Deported together with them?

647
00:30:49,950 --> 00:30:55,050
No, he was deported, I
think, several months before.

648
00:30:55,050 --> 00:30:55,890
I see.

649
00:30:55,890 --> 00:30:57,740
OK.

650
00:30:57,740 --> 00:30:58,790
OK.

651
00:30:58,790 --> 00:31:01,750
And I take it he
did not survive.

652
00:31:01,750 --> 00:31:03,650
No.

653
00:31:03,650 --> 00:31:06,500
OK.

654
00:31:06,500 --> 00:31:10,330
And what year were
they deported?

655
00:31:10,330 --> 00:31:15,230
They were deported in 1942.

656
00:31:15,230 --> 00:31:19,220
Deportations in Belgium, even
though the Germans were there

657

00:31:19,220 --> 00:31:24,710
in 1940, deportations
began in '42.

658
00:31:24,710 --> 00:31:25,910
OK.

659
00:31:25,910 --> 00:31:30,390
So for the first, shall
we say, a year and a half,

660
00:31:30,390 --> 00:31:37,190
two years, if they march
in on May 10, 1940,

661
00:31:37,190 --> 00:31:38,540
your father leaves--

662
00:31:38,540 --> 00:31:42,530
does he leave before that
occupation, by the way?

663
00:31:42,530 --> 00:31:44,060
Yes.

664
00:31:44,060 --> 00:31:49,910
He left at the same
time as Dunkirk.

665
00:31:49,910 --> 00:31:51,380
OK.

666
00:31:51,380 --> 00:31:55,040
It was a whole British--

667
00:31:55,040 --> 00:32:01,100
or, actually, well, they all
left and went back to England.

668
00:32:01,100 --> 00:32:07,220
And my dad although he wasn't
part of the Dunkirk leaving,

669

00:32:07,220 --> 00:32:12,790
he was kind of one of the boats
that went at that same time.

670

00:32:12,790 --> 00:32:13,300
OK.

671

00:32:13,300 --> 00:32:17,530
So it wasn't-- was he
evacuated together with some

672

00:32:17,530 --> 00:32:22,900
of the soldiers, or was it
that a similar type of boat?

673

00:32:22,900 --> 00:32:27,370
No, I think, it was a
similar type of boat.

674

00:32:27,370 --> 00:32:34,280
But he and his brother went at
the same time on the same boat

675

00:32:34,280 --> 00:32:35,310
and got to England.

676

00:32:35,310 --> 00:32:40,970
And my mom actually never knew
whether he ever made it or not.

677

00:32:40,970 --> 00:32:41,690
Oh, wow.

678

00:32:41,690 --> 00:32:45,230
Because once the war started,
there was no contact.

679

00:32:45,230 --> 00:32:46,400
Of course.

680

00:32:46,400 --> 00:32:47,970
Of course.

681
00:32:47,970 --> 00:32:51,060
So once the occupation,
once Germans marched in,

682
00:32:51,060 --> 00:32:55,220
there was no ability to find
out for where did he land

683
00:32:55,220 --> 00:32:56,045
or if he survived.

684
00:32:56,045 --> 00:32:57,110
Right.

685
00:32:57,110 --> 00:32:57,940
OK.

686
00:32:57,940 --> 00:32:58,880
Right.

687
00:32:58,880 --> 00:33:02,930
But I'm not very
clear, Josiane, was it

688
00:33:02,930 --> 00:33:07,160
that they left at the same
time, or did they actually

689
00:33:07,160 --> 00:33:11,060
go to Dunkirk and were evacuated
together with those soldiers?

690
00:33:11,060 --> 00:33:12,020
Do you know this?

691
00:33:12,020 --> 00:33:13,170
No, I do not.

692
00:33:13,170 --> 00:33:17,510
I don't believe they were
evacuated with the soldiers.

693

00:33:17,510 --> 00:33:22,220

It just happened to be, I think,
at the same period of time,

694

00:33:22,220 --> 00:33:24,020

or very close.

695

00:33:24,020 --> 00:33:25,050

OK.

696

00:33:25,050 --> 00:33:25,550

OK.

697

00:33:25,550 --> 00:33:28,165

I don't know the
details from my dad.

698

00:33:28,165 --> 00:33:28,665

OK.

699

00:33:28,665 --> 00:33:32,040

700

00:33:32,040 --> 00:33:39,390

So May 1940 is a pivotal
month, a pivotal time

701

00:33:39,390 --> 00:33:41,160

in that he leaves.

702

00:33:41,160 --> 00:33:46,770

And your mother and you and
your maternal grandparents

703

00:33:46,770 --> 00:33:50,440

stay together in Brussels
in an attic apartment.

704

00:33:50,440 --> 00:33:50,940

Yes.

705

00:33:50,940 --> 00:33:54,920

And for the first
year and a half or so,

706

00:33:54,920 --> 00:33:57,050

you were able to live there.

707

00:33:57,050 --> 00:34:00,820

Was it in hiding
or was it openly?

708

00:34:00,820 --> 00:34:06,760

Well, it wasn't hiding,
but we didn't really

709

00:34:06,760 --> 00:34:09,699

wander the streets, you know.

710

00:34:09,699 --> 00:34:12,460

We really kept very
much to ourselves.

711

00:34:12,460 --> 00:34:16,270

So the Germans, already
as I mentioned, invaded.

712

00:34:16,270 --> 00:34:19,780

And they were
walking the streets.

713

00:34:19,780 --> 00:34:23,469

In fact, I have some
pictures in my album

714

00:34:23,469 --> 00:34:27,400

of there's actually a
Nazi walking behind us

715

00:34:27,400 --> 00:34:28,690

in the street.

716

00:34:28,690 --> 00:34:30,190

I see.

717

00:34:30,190 --> 00:34:32,590

I was walking with
my mom and grandma.

718

00:34:32,590 --> 00:34:35,350

And there's a Nazi
right behind us.

719

00:34:35,350 --> 00:34:35,960

OK.

720

00:34:35,960 --> 00:34:38,419

And somebody takes that picture.

721

00:34:38,419 --> 00:34:42,460

You know, in Europe, they have
a lot of street photographers.

722

00:34:42,460 --> 00:34:44,930

Ah, OK.

723

00:34:44,930 --> 00:34:45,920

OK.

724

00:34:45,920 --> 00:34:46,580

They do.

725

00:34:46,580 --> 00:34:51,469

Because that picture was
taken by a photographer

726

00:34:51,469 --> 00:34:53,540

on the street.

727

00:34:53,540 --> 00:34:57,030

And you're about how
old, two years old?

728

00:34:57,030 --> 00:34:58,770

It's something like that.

729
00:34:58,770 --> 00:35:00,680
OK.

730
00:35:00,680 --> 00:35:02,030
OK.

731
00:35:02,030 --> 00:35:06,200
So aside from remembering
your grandmother

732
00:35:06,200 --> 00:35:10,400
and having that bolstered by
seeing a photograph where she's

733
00:35:10,400 --> 00:35:14,810
holding you, do you have
any memories of this time

734
00:35:14,810 --> 00:35:16,340
that you can recall now?

735
00:35:16,340 --> 00:35:19,640

736
00:35:19,640 --> 00:35:21,590
Very little.

737
00:35:21,590 --> 00:35:22,730
OK.

738
00:35:22,730 --> 00:35:25,690
Really very, very little.

739
00:35:25,690 --> 00:35:26,190
OK.

740
00:35:26,190 --> 00:35:27,690
Do you have memories
of your mother?

741

00:35:27,690 --> 00:35:33,430

742

00:35:33,430 --> 00:35:36,910

I do, but also
very, very little.

743

00:35:36,910 --> 00:35:40,970

744

00:35:40,970 --> 00:35:45,300

And what happened--
did you stay together?

745

00:35:45,300 --> 00:35:50,380

746

00:35:50,380 --> 00:35:53,155

My next question would be is,
what are your next memories?

747

00:35:53,155 --> 00:35:58,880

748

00:35:58,880 --> 00:36:04,460

My next memory is
of actually when

749

00:36:04,460 --> 00:36:09,845

I was picked up by two
women and placed in hiding.

750

00:36:09,845 --> 00:36:13,020

751

00:36:13,020 --> 00:36:16,800

And do you know
when this occurred?

752

00:36:16,800 --> 00:36:22,330

Yeah, it occurred in 1942.

753

00:36:22,330 --> 00:36:23,380
All right.

754
00:36:23,380 --> 00:36:25,960
Just prior to my
mom's deportation.

755
00:36:25,960 --> 00:36:29,510

756
00:36:29,510 --> 00:36:33,230
My mom was actually--

757
00:36:33,230 --> 00:36:35,870
she joined the Underground.

758
00:36:35,870 --> 00:36:41,060
And you know, she was like
what they call a courier.

759
00:36:41,060 --> 00:36:45,170
She would deliver messages of
meetings and different things.

760
00:36:45,170 --> 00:36:50,120
And she was also hiding
Jews in her attic apartment.

761
00:36:50,120 --> 00:36:52,650
Together with the family?

762
00:36:52,650 --> 00:36:54,190
Yes.

763
00:36:54,190 --> 00:36:59,660
Jews who had fled
other countries

764
00:36:59,660 --> 00:37:01,570
trying to find a safer place.

765
00:37:01,570 --> 00:37:06,200

So she would let them stay over
at our house, at the apartment,

766
00:37:06,200 --> 00:37:12,570
for a night or two, I guess,
till they found safer places.

767
00:37:12,570 --> 00:37:18,470
And because of that, she was
able to contact the Underground

768
00:37:18,470 --> 00:37:22,070
and get two people to
come and pick me up

769
00:37:22,070 --> 00:37:23,960
to put me into hiding.

770
00:37:23,960 --> 00:37:26,730
And you remember that?

771
00:37:26,730 --> 00:37:31,020
I remember not the fact that
she was in the underground

772
00:37:31,020 --> 00:37:34,320
or anything, but I
remember these two women

773
00:37:34,320 --> 00:37:37,750
coming to pick me up.

774
00:37:37,750 --> 00:37:42,100
And what makes it memorable?

775
00:37:42,100 --> 00:37:44,965
Well, the fact that
these two women

776
00:37:44,965 --> 00:37:52,290
who I had no idea who they
were and total strangers who

777

00:37:52,290 --> 00:37:52,800

took me--

778

00:37:52,800 --> 00:37:55,680

779

00:37:55,680 --> 00:37:57,630

Hello?

780

00:37:57,630 --> 00:37:58,230

Hello?

781

00:37:58,230 --> 00:38:01,160

Yeah, I lost you for a second.

782

00:38:01,160 --> 00:38:02,210

Oh, are you OK?

783

00:38:02,210 --> 00:38:02,840

Yeah, I'm fine.

784

00:38:02,840 --> 00:38:03,340

I'm fine.

785

00:38:03,340 --> 00:38:04,250

Now I can hear again.

786

00:38:04,250 --> 00:38:09,080

787

00:38:09,080 --> 00:38:11,770

What was I saying?

788

00:38:11,770 --> 00:38:14,230

I was saying, what made
it memorable that this

789

00:38:14,230 --> 00:38:16,370

stays in your mind?

790

00:38:16,370 --> 00:38:17,000
Right.

791
00:38:17,000 --> 00:38:20,660
Well, the fact that I
didn't want to go with them.

792
00:38:20,660 --> 00:38:22,140
I see.

793
00:38:22,140 --> 00:38:24,860
I didn't know who they were.

794
00:38:24,860 --> 00:38:28,360
And they just came
to pick me up.

795
00:38:28,360 --> 00:38:31,220

796
00:38:31,220 --> 00:38:36,386
And they took me
to Bruges, which

797
00:38:36,386 --> 00:38:41,260
is a city in Belgium
full convents.

798
00:38:41,260 --> 00:38:44,720
And they actually they
took me to a convent.

799
00:38:44,720 --> 00:38:45,530
I see.

800
00:38:45,530 --> 00:38:48,240
A Catholic convent?

801
00:38:48,240 --> 00:38:48,870
Yes.

802
00:38:48,870 --> 00:38:49,370

Yes.

803
00:38:49,370 --> 00:38:53,640

804
00:38:53,640 --> 00:38:54,990
Full of nuns.

805
00:38:54,990 --> 00:38:59,750
And what do you
remember from that?

806
00:38:59,750 --> 00:39:03,860
Well, I remember there were
a lot of children there.

807
00:39:03,860 --> 00:39:08,570
And apparently, it was
like-- it was an orphanage,

808
00:39:08,570 --> 00:39:12,290
not necessarily for children
who didn't have parents.

809
00:39:12,290 --> 00:39:15,080
But, you know,
food was rationed.

810
00:39:15,080 --> 00:39:18,530
There was very
little to be gotten.

811
00:39:18,530 --> 00:39:22,940
So I think parents place
their children in an orphanage

812
00:39:22,940 --> 00:39:27,200
or in a convent thinking that
there might be a little bit

813
00:39:27,200 --> 00:39:31,000
better chance of getting food.

814
00:39:31,000 --> 00:39:34,060
Was that true?

815
00:39:34,060 --> 00:39:39,380
Well, somehow I
think perhaps there

816
00:39:39,380 --> 00:39:42,700
was a little bit more
food in the convent,

817
00:39:42,700 --> 00:39:44,630
because there were a
lot of children there

818
00:39:44,630 --> 00:39:46,180
and somehow they got food.

819
00:39:46,180 --> 00:39:47,125
I'm not really sure.

820
00:39:47,125 --> 00:39:49,860

821
00:39:49,860 --> 00:39:52,960
You know, I don't
remember food at all.

822
00:39:52,960 --> 00:39:55,700
I was a pretty finicky
eater to begin with.

823
00:39:55,700 --> 00:39:56,560
So--

824
00:39:56,560 --> 00:39:58,610
Well, do you remember
going hungry?

825
00:39:58,610 --> 00:40:02,500
I guess that was what
my question was, is not

826
00:40:02,500 --> 00:40:03,460
was there enough food.

827
00:40:03,460 --> 00:40:05,140
As a two-year-old,
how would you know?

828
00:40:05,140 --> 00:40:08,930
But do know if you were hungry?

829
00:40:08,930 --> 00:40:12,490
You know, I don't
remember being hungry.

830
00:40:12,490 --> 00:40:13,570
OK.

831
00:40:13,570 --> 00:40:16,990
And, you know, yet I'm
sure I must have been.

832
00:40:16,990 --> 00:40:19,160
But I don't remember that.

833
00:40:19,160 --> 00:40:24,326
What I do remember mostly
playing in the courtyard

834
00:40:24,326 --> 00:40:26,800
with all the kids.

835
00:40:26,800 --> 00:40:29,410
And we slept.

836
00:40:29,410 --> 00:40:32,080
It was more like dorm style.

837
00:40:32,080 --> 00:40:36,160
All the kids were
like a big dormitory.

838

00:40:36,160 --> 00:40:41,810

And the nuns would sleep with us, I mean in the same room.

839

00:40:41,810 --> 00:40:47,560

And what shocked me more than anything else was at nighttime

840

00:40:47,560 --> 00:40:50,830

when we went to sleep, the nuns--

841

00:40:50,830 --> 00:40:53,620

by the way, these nuns in Bruges were

842

00:40:53,620 --> 00:40:59,590

very much like The Sound of Music very stiff, dressed

843

00:40:59,590 --> 00:41:03,680

very, very stiff.

844

00:41:03,680 --> 00:41:08,810

And I remember them at night taking off their head gear.

845

00:41:08,810 --> 00:41:12,560

And they were bald underneath.

846

00:41:12,560 --> 00:41:17,240

And that really gave me the heebie jeebies.

847

00:41:17,240 --> 00:41:23,370

You know, Josiane, I was raised Catholic.

848

00:41:23,370 --> 00:41:25,540

And I suppose in some ways I still am.

849

00:41:25,540 --> 00:41:29,550

And I was old enough to remember
the nuns with the headgear.

850

00:41:29,550 --> 00:41:34,170

And I was always curious what
was underneath there, always.

851

00:41:34,170 --> 00:41:38,280

And you have answered
that question for me.

852

00:41:38,280 --> 00:41:42,810

You know, I think
because it was so tight.

853

00:41:42,810 --> 00:41:46,280

and so hot.

854

00:41:46,280 --> 00:41:47,550

It could be that.

855

00:41:47,550 --> 00:41:48,350

I mean, who knows?

856

00:41:48,350 --> 00:41:50,360

But at any rate,
this is what you see.

857

00:41:50,360 --> 00:41:52,190

They take off the head.

858

00:41:52,190 --> 00:41:55,790

And you see that
there's no hair there.

859

00:41:55,790 --> 00:41:57,040

That's right.

860

00:41:57,040 --> 00:41:58,510

They're just bald women.

861

00:41:58,510 --> 00:42:01,220

862
00:42:01,220 --> 00:42:03,570
It was scary.

863
00:42:03,570 --> 00:42:04,460
Yeah.

864
00:42:04,460 --> 00:42:06,920
Were the other
children about your age

865
00:42:06,920 --> 00:42:09,340
or where there older or--

866
00:42:09,340 --> 00:42:11,120
There was a variety.

867
00:42:11,120 --> 00:42:13,610
I think there were
some that were younger.

868
00:42:13,610 --> 00:42:16,490
And there were a few that
were a little bit older.

869
00:42:16,490 --> 00:42:17,780
OK.

870
00:42:17,780 --> 00:42:20,780
Was there anybody
of an adult who

871
00:42:20,780 --> 00:42:24,950
you feel you were
able to connect with,

872
00:42:24,950 --> 00:42:27,770
who maybe took particular
interest or care for you?

873

00:42:27,770 --> 00:42:32,030
Because you're so
small, you know--

874
00:42:32,030 --> 00:42:33,620
No.

875
00:42:33,620 --> 00:42:36,920
But I only stayed in the
convent for six months.

876
00:42:36,920 --> 00:42:38,500
I see.

877
00:42:38,500 --> 00:42:43,400
Apparently, the Germans
came to the convent

878
00:42:43,400 --> 00:42:44,960
and told the nuns
they were going

879
00:42:44,960 --> 00:42:47,060
to pick up the Jewish children.

880
00:42:47,060 --> 00:42:49,670
I didn't know this,
but after the war

881
00:42:49,670 --> 00:42:52,955
I found out there were
three Jewish children being

882
00:42:52,955 --> 00:42:54,170
hidden there.

883
00:42:54,170 --> 00:42:56,680
The others were
all Christian kids.

884
00:42:56,680 --> 00:42:59,270

885

00:42:59,270 --> 00:43:02,670

Well, if they knew that,
I you think about it,

886

00:43:02,670 --> 00:43:06,260

if they knew that, they
weren't very well hidden

887

00:43:06,260 --> 00:43:13,190

if the occupying authorities
come and tell the nuns

888

00:43:13,190 --> 00:43:16,070

they're aware that they
are aware that there

889

00:43:16,070 --> 00:43:18,470

are Jewish children
in that convent.

890

00:43:18,470 --> 00:43:19,240

Right.

891

00:43:19,240 --> 00:43:23,480

I'm not sure they knew
how many or from where.

892

00:43:23,480 --> 00:43:26,210

But it's interesting
because the Germans really

893

00:43:26,210 --> 00:43:30,770

knew the demographics
of who was where,

894

00:43:30,770 --> 00:43:33,110

as far as Jews are concerned.

895

00:43:33,110 --> 00:43:37,340

Jews had to register at their
synagogues and community

896

00:43:37,340 --> 00:43:38,570
centers.

897
00:43:38,570 --> 00:43:42,485
So the demographics were
kind of known to the Germans.

898
00:43:42,485 --> 00:43:45,380

899
00:43:45,380 --> 00:43:49,040
But anyhow, they
told the convent,

900
00:43:49,040 --> 00:43:51,410
you know, we're coming to
get the Jewish children.

901
00:43:51,410 --> 00:43:54,050
And the nuns-- and I've
heard this happened

902
00:43:54,050 --> 00:43:57,150
a few times from
stories and essays

903
00:43:57,150 --> 00:44:00,980
I've read that the nuns actually
said, well, the kids aren't

904
00:44:00,980 --> 00:44:03,740
ready yet, why don't
you come back tomorrow

905
00:44:03,740 --> 00:44:06,170
and we'll have them
all ready for you

906
00:44:06,170 --> 00:44:08,570
with their clothes
and everything.

907
00:44:08,570 --> 00:44:14,840

And what happened,
night fell and the nuns

908
00:44:14,840 --> 00:44:17,420
smuggled the Jewish kids out.

909
00:44:17,420 --> 00:44:19,130
Do you remember this smuggling?

910
00:44:19,130 --> 00:44:24,760

911
00:44:24,760 --> 00:44:26,126
No.

912
00:44:26,126 --> 00:44:27,840
OK.

913
00:44:27,840 --> 00:44:28,740
No.

914
00:44:28,740 --> 00:44:31,020
OK.

915
00:44:31,020 --> 00:44:34,770
They actually took us
all back to Brussels.

916
00:44:34,770 --> 00:44:38,870
Bruges is about an hour
or two away from Brussels.

917
00:44:38,870 --> 00:44:42,360
So they took us-- you know, I
don't even remember how they

918
00:44:42,360 --> 00:44:45,180
took us, whether it was by car.

919
00:44:45,180 --> 00:44:46,860
I have no idea.

920

00:44:46,860 --> 00:44:50,490

But they took the Jewish
kids and placed them

921

00:44:50,490 --> 00:44:53,740

in Catholic homes.

922

00:44:53,740 --> 00:44:59,670

And I was placed with a family,
a Christian Catholic family,

923

00:44:59,670 --> 00:45:03,180

a mother, a father, and
a little girl my age.

924

00:45:03,180 --> 00:45:10,330

And I stayed actually there for
the entire duration of the war,

925

00:45:10,330 --> 00:45:15,170

till 1944 when
Belgium was liberated.

926

00:45:15,170 --> 00:45:16,890

Wow.

927

00:45:16,890 --> 00:45:21,120

So do you have your memories
then of this family?

928

00:45:21,120 --> 00:45:21,960

I do.

929

00:45:21,960 --> 00:45:23,340

I do remember them.

930

00:45:23,340 --> 00:45:27,450

There were-- the man was
also in the Underground.

931

00:45:27,450 --> 00:45:30,180

And they would

often take him out

932
00:45:30,180 --> 00:45:32,640
in the evening
for interrogation.

933
00:45:32,640 --> 00:45:35,520
You remember seeing that?

934
00:45:35,520 --> 00:45:38,384
I remember him coming
back in the morning.

935
00:45:38,384 --> 00:45:40,990

936
00:45:40,990 --> 00:45:45,820
And, you know, obviously,
he had been beaten.

937
00:45:45,820 --> 00:45:49,630
But they never told on me.

938
00:45:49,630 --> 00:45:52,600
But I think he was
being interrogated

939
00:45:52,600 --> 00:45:55,290
for some of the other
stuff he was involved with,

940
00:45:55,290 --> 00:45:59,270
which I have no
idea what that was.

941
00:45:59,270 --> 00:46:06,810
But the little girl and I
just pretty much played.

942
00:46:06,810 --> 00:46:09,360
Were on our own.

943

00:46:09,360 --> 00:46:12,570

Do you know the
name of the family?

944

00:46:12,570 --> 00:46:16,350

Yes, their last name
is Debrackelaer.

945

00:46:16,350 --> 00:46:17,490

How do I spell that?

946

00:46:17,490 --> 00:46:20,112

947

00:46:20,112 --> 00:46:22,650

You know, I have
it in one of my--

948

00:46:22,650 --> 00:46:25,050

oh, I do have it.

949

00:46:25,050 --> 00:46:29,860

I got a certificate from Belgium
where they told me where I was.

950

00:46:29,860 --> 00:46:31,410

So I'll get it right here.

951

00:46:31,410 --> 00:46:39,570

952

00:46:39,570 --> 00:46:44,585

[INAUDIBLE] Good job, Jonathan.

953

00:46:44,585 --> 00:46:45,085

OK.

954

00:46:45,085 --> 00:46:50,430

955

00:46:50,430 --> 00:46:50,930

OK.

956
00:46:50,930 --> 00:46:57,410

957
00:46:57,410 --> 00:47:00,170
The first-- do you want
the name of the convent?

958
00:47:00,170 --> 00:47:02,370
Yes, please, I would.

959
00:47:02,370 --> 00:47:10,160
Well, it's in French,
Les Seours de Spermalli,

960
00:47:10,160 --> 00:47:16,140
the Sisters of Spermalli,
Orphanage of Ste.

961
00:47:16,140 --> 00:47:19,116
Croix a Bruges.

962
00:47:19,116 --> 00:47:20,030
It's a Ste.

963
00:47:20,030 --> 00:47:23,110
Croix Orphanage.

964
00:47:23,110 --> 00:47:28,550
Saint, S-T-E, then C-R-O-I-X.

965
00:47:28,550 --> 00:47:29,200
OK.

966
00:47:29,200 --> 00:47:32,570
And Bruges is B-R-U-G-E-S.

967
00:47:32,570 --> 00:47:33,580
OK.

968
00:47:33,580 --> 00:47:35,140

So it was Sisters of Ste.

969
00:47:35,140 --> 00:47:37,550
Croix de Bruges.

970
00:47:37,550 --> 00:47:39,230
Yes.

971
00:47:39,230 --> 00:47:41,300
The Sisters Spermalli

972
00:47:41,300 --> 00:47:43,600
How do I spell that?

973
00:47:43,600 --> 00:47:49,090
S-P-E-R-M-A-L-L-I.

974
00:47:49,090 --> 00:47:51,320
Spermalli, I've
never heard of that.

975
00:47:51,320 --> 00:47:51,820
OK.

976
00:47:51,820 --> 00:47:54,130
Sisters of Spermalli in Ste.

977
00:47:54,130 --> 00:47:56,270
Croix, Bruges, OK.

978
00:47:56,270 --> 00:47:57,340
Yes.

979
00:47:57,340 --> 00:48:00,100
Hopefully now, which
is an orphanage.

980
00:48:00,100 --> 00:48:02,020
OK.

981
00:48:02,020 --> 00:48:07,940

And the family in
Brussels was Debrackelaer.

982
00:48:07,940 --> 00:48:08,510
OK.

983
00:48:08,510 --> 00:48:12,800
You know my next question
is, how do I spell that?

984
00:48:12,800 --> 00:48:14,120
What?

985
00:48:14,120 --> 00:48:15,000
What's that?

986
00:48:15,000 --> 00:48:16,150
How do you spell that?

987
00:48:16,150 --> 00:48:17,750
Yeah.

988
00:48:17,750 --> 00:48:19,010
It's a Flemish name.

989
00:48:19,010 --> 00:48:19,550
OK.

990
00:48:19,550 --> 00:48:30,260
D-E-B-R-A-C-K-E-L-A-E-R.

991
00:48:30,260 --> 00:48:32,990
Oh, yeah, Debrackelaer.

992
00:48:32,990 --> 00:48:33,680
I see that.

993
00:48:33,680 --> 00:48:35,150
Debrackelaer.

994
00:48:35,150 --> 00:48:35,650

Yeah.

995

00:48:35,650 --> 00:48:36,200

Yeah.

996

00:48:36,200 --> 00:48:41,330

And so does that mean that
you started speaking Flemish?

997

00:48:41,330 --> 00:48:42,380

Yes.

998

00:48:42,380 --> 00:48:44,496

Would that have been--

999

00:48:44,496 --> 00:48:45,560

Well, in school--

1000

00:48:45,560 --> 00:48:48,020

First language?

1001

00:48:48,020 --> 00:48:52,550

Well, not really, because
I never spoke at home.

1002

00:48:52,550 --> 00:48:54,230

It's required in school.

1003

00:48:54,230 --> 00:48:56,030

You learn both languages.

1004

00:48:56,030 --> 00:48:59,060

So I really didn't
start Flemish till I

1005

00:48:59,060 --> 00:49:02,900

went to school after the war.

1006

00:49:02,900 --> 00:49:03,860

OK.

1007

00:49:03,860 --> 00:49:08,300
Now, let's backtrack
just for a second

1008
00:49:08,300 --> 00:49:10,840
when it comes to languages.

1009
00:49:10,840 --> 00:49:14,380
When you were born and
with your mother, father,

1010
00:49:14,380 --> 00:49:17,050
and grandparents, what
was the language they all

1011
00:49:17,050 --> 00:49:19,770
spoke with one another?

1012
00:49:19,770 --> 00:49:20,460
Yiddish.

1013
00:49:20,460 --> 00:49:21,240
Yiddish.

1014
00:49:21,240 --> 00:49:22,450
Still in Belgium--

1015
00:49:22,450 --> 00:49:22,950
Yes--

1016
00:49:22,950 --> 00:49:23,580
It was Yiddish.

1017
00:49:23,580 --> 00:49:28,420
So the first language
you hear is Yiddish?

1018
00:49:28,420 --> 00:49:30,430
Right, even though
I didn't speak,

1019
00:49:30,430 --> 00:49:32,980

I think my first language
really was French.

1020
00:49:32,980 --> 00:49:36,580

1021
00:49:36,580 --> 00:49:41,430
OK, so that means that
they spoke French as well?

1022
00:49:41,430 --> 00:49:42,370
Yes.

1023
00:49:42,370 --> 00:49:43,790
OK.

1024
00:49:43,790 --> 00:49:46,090
OK.

1025
00:49:46,090 --> 00:49:49,510
And do you know the
first names of anybody

1026
00:49:49,510 --> 00:49:52,420
from the Debrackelaer family?

1027
00:49:52,420 --> 00:49:56,350
You know something, I do not.

1028
00:49:56,350 --> 00:50:01,530
And I can't believe that
I have no recollection.

1029
00:50:01,530 --> 00:50:05,160
It's in a way it's
like blanked out.

1030
00:50:05,160 --> 00:50:05,660
Yeah.

1031
00:50:05,660 --> 00:50:09,240

1032
00:50:09,240 --> 00:50:13,350
I take it then
after the war, you

1033
00:50:13,350 --> 00:50:15,860
didn't have contact
with them again.

1034
00:50:15,860 --> 00:50:19,200

1035
00:50:19,200 --> 00:50:21,045
My parents did and I did.

1036
00:50:21,045 --> 00:50:23,890

1037
00:50:23,890 --> 00:50:26,395
They were in touch with them
till we came to the States.

1038
00:50:26,395 --> 00:50:31,810

1039
00:50:31,810 --> 00:50:36,420
What do you remember from
the time that you were there?

1040
00:50:36,420 --> 00:50:39,870
Can you describe what the house
looked like or the apartment

1041
00:50:39,870 --> 00:50:42,270
or any of the surroundings?

1042
00:50:42,270 --> 00:50:46,240

1043
00:50:46,240 --> 00:50:51,760
I remember playing with
the little girl a lot.

1044
00:50:51,760 --> 00:50:58,920
And-- oh, my God, my
cell phone has alarm.

1045
00:50:58,920 --> 00:51:00,330
Can you hear it?

1046
00:51:00,330 --> 00:51:02,720
Excuse me.

1047
00:51:02,720 --> 00:51:05,200
My cell phone has an alarm.

1048
00:51:05,200 --> 00:51:06,540
Oh.

1049
00:51:06,540 --> 00:51:08,340
That's OK.

1050
00:51:08,340 --> 00:51:09,660
I don't know how to stop it.

1051
00:51:09,660 --> 00:51:11,515
It's because I need medication.

1052
00:51:11,515 --> 00:51:12,015
OK.

1053
00:51:12,015 --> 00:51:14,160
Then you know something,
Josiane, maybe we

1054
00:51:14,160 --> 00:51:17,760
pause and hang up and
you take your medication.

1055
00:51:17,760 --> 00:51:19,650
And then I'll call you
back in two minutes?

1056

00:51:19,650 --> 00:51:21,280
How does that sound?

1057
00:51:21,280 --> 00:51:22,180
It only takes--

1058
00:51:22,180 --> 00:51:25,190

1059
00:51:25,190 --> 00:51:28,280
OK, I'll be done in two minutes.

1060
00:51:28,280 --> 00:51:28,890
OK.

1061
00:51:28,890 --> 00:51:29,390
Good.

1062
00:51:29,390 --> 00:51:32,480
I'll talk to you
in two minutes, OK?

1063
00:51:32,480 --> 00:51:33,180
OK.

1064
00:51:33,180 --> 00:51:33,680
All right.

1065
00:51:33,680 --> 00:51:34,070
Thank you.

1066
00:51:34,070 --> 00:51:34,460
All right.

1067
00:51:34,460 --> 00:51:34,920
Bye bye.

1068
00:51:34,920 --> 00:51:35,420
Bye.

1069
00:51:35,420 --> 00:51:36,500

Bye.

1070

00:51:36,500 --> 00:51:37,000