

1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:02,840

2  
00:00:02,840 --> 00:00:05,960  
It's recording so.

3  
00:00:05,960 --> 00:00:09,890  
So this is a United States  
Holocaust Memorial Museum

4  
00:00:09,890 --> 00:00:16,880  
interview with Mr. Alfred  
Munzer on August 25, 2020

5  
00:00:16,880 --> 00:00:19,910  
in Washington,  
DC, your location.

6  
00:00:19,910 --> 00:00:22,430  
We are conducting this  
interview remotely

7  
00:00:22,430 --> 00:00:26,500  
during the time of  
the 2020 pandemic.

8  
00:00:26,500 --> 00:00:32,119  
And I'll start the way we start  
almost all of our interviews,

9  
00:00:32,119 --> 00:00:33,800  
from the very beginning.

10  
00:00:33,800 --> 00:00:35,340  
And then we'll go on.

11  
00:00:35,340 --> 00:00:37,300  
So Mr. Munzer,  
could you tell me--

12  
00:00:37,300 --> 00:00:39,780

could you tell me the  
date of your birth?

13  
00:00:39,780 --> 00:00:44,080  
I was born in November 23, 1941.

14  
00:00:44,080 --> 00:00:46,160  
Can you tell me  
where you were born?

15  
00:00:46,160 --> 00:00:49,780  
I was born in The  
Hague, The Netherlands.

16  
00:00:49,780 --> 00:00:50,500  
All right.

17  
00:00:50,500 --> 00:00:53,340  
And what was your name at birth?

18  
00:00:53,340 --> 00:00:55,000  
Alfred Munzer.

19  
00:00:55,000 --> 00:00:56,890  
The same as today.

20  
00:00:56,890 --> 00:01:00,190  
Well, actually, there were  
some differences in spelling.

21  
00:01:00,190 --> 00:01:05,290  
So my father's name at one  
point got misspelled to Minzer,

22  
00:01:05,290 --> 00:01:10,090  
M-I-N-Z-E-R. My parents were  
actually cousins and had

23  
00:01:10,090 --> 00:01:11,620  
the same last name.

24  
00:01:11,620 --> 00:01:15,580

So when I was born, it  
was really Alfred Minzer.

25  
00:01:15,580 --> 00:01:19,610  
Interestingly, you know, I  
did some checking recently.

26  
00:01:19,610 --> 00:01:22,750  
And I could not find a  
registration of my birth

27  
00:01:22,750 --> 00:01:24,410  
that was done at the time.

28  
00:01:24,410 --> 00:01:27,850  
So I don't know whether that  
was done because people were not

29  
00:01:27,850 --> 00:01:32,770  
registering children or  
babies, Jewish babies.

30  
00:01:32,770 --> 00:01:34,420  
So it's a question  
that I still--

31  
00:01:34,420 --> 00:01:36,280  
I'm trying to resolve.

32  
00:01:36,280 --> 00:01:37,240  
OK.

33  
00:01:37,240 --> 00:01:42,610  
Remind me again, excuse me, the  
date of your birth was when?

34  
00:01:42,610 --> 00:01:45,440  
November 23, 1941.

35  
00:01:45,440 --> 00:01:45,940  
OK.

36

00:01:45,940 --> 00:01:49,270  
November 23rd, by  
that point, I take it

37  
00:01:49,270 --> 00:01:51,980  
that the Germans had marched  
into the Netherlands.

38  
00:01:51,980 --> 00:01:52,480  
Yes.

39  
00:01:52,480 --> 00:01:54,910  
It was already an  
occupied country.

40  
00:01:54,910 --> 00:01:55,570  
Yes.

41  
00:01:55,570 --> 00:02:00,790  
The Netherlands were occupied  
between May 10th and May 14th,

42  
00:02:00,790 --> 00:02:02,950  
1940.

43  
00:02:02,950 --> 00:02:07,960  
Holland basically capitulated  
on May 14th, 1940.

44  
00:02:07,960 --> 00:02:11,020  
But the invasion began May 10th.

45  
00:02:11,020 --> 00:02:12,130  
OK.

46  
00:02:12,130 --> 00:02:16,330  
So did your mother give  
birth in a hospital?

47  
00:02:16,330 --> 00:02:19,420  
No, I was born at home.

48

00:02:19,420 --> 00:02:23,770  
And the reason for that  
was that, first of all,

49  
00:02:23,770 --> 00:02:25,520  
my mother did not  
like hospitals.

50  
00:02:25,520 --> 00:02:28,750  
She had given birth to two  
other children in a hospital.

51  
00:02:28,750 --> 00:02:31,510  
And she told me she  
did not particularly

52  
00:02:31,510 --> 00:02:33,890  
enjoy the experience  
of being in a hospital.

53  
00:02:33,890 --> 00:02:35,300  
So that was one reason.

54  
00:02:35,300 --> 00:02:40,150  
The other was that the  
obstetrician she had consulted

55  
00:02:40,150 --> 00:02:43,270  
had advised her to  
have an abortion.

56  
00:02:43,270 --> 00:02:45,640  
He told her that it  
would be immoral to bring

57  
00:02:45,640 --> 00:02:48,380  
another Jewish life  
into the world.

58  
00:02:48,380 --> 00:02:53,820  
And it was in reading the  
biblical story of Hannah,

59

00:02:53,820 --> 00:02:58,870  
who was desperate to have a  
child, that my mother decided

60  
00:02:58,870 --> 00:03:00,810  
not to have the abortion.

61  
00:03:00,810 --> 00:03:04,520  
And her obstetrician basically  
fired her as a patient.

62  
00:03:04,520 --> 00:03:08,620  
And so I was born at home  
with the help of a nurse.

63  
00:03:08,620 --> 00:03:10,480  
Oh my.

64  
00:03:10,480 --> 00:03:15,040  
When you heard that later,  
when your mother told you,

65  
00:03:15,040 --> 00:03:16,750  
what kind of  
reaction did you have

66  
00:03:16,750 --> 00:03:18,830  
to that particular episode?

67  
00:03:18,830 --> 00:03:21,640  
She may not have, you know, it  
probably took a while for me

68  
00:03:21,640 --> 00:03:23,000  
to understand what it meant.

69  
00:03:23,000 --> 00:03:26,040  
She may not have used  
the term abortion.

70  
00:03:26,040 --> 00:03:28,990  
But what I do remember is  
that, during childhood, she

71  
00:03:28,990 --> 00:03:35,050  
would retell Hannah's pledge,  
which was, if the Almighty will

72  
00:03:35,050 --> 00:03:37,540  
give me a child, I  
will give that child

73  
00:03:37,540 --> 00:03:41,170  
to the service of God  
all the days of his life.

74  
00:03:41,170 --> 00:03:45,730  
And whenever I was  
bad or sort of needed

75  
00:03:45,730 --> 00:03:47,590  
a little bit of  
pushing, my mother

76  
00:03:47,590 --> 00:03:50,350  
would remind me of  
that particular pledge.

77  
00:03:50,350 --> 00:03:54,880  
She said, you know, I made the  
same pledge when you were born.

78  
00:03:54,880 --> 00:03:56,650  
Did you ever feel  
that as a burden?

79  
00:03:56,650 --> 00:04:00,790  
Or did you feel that as  
something more or less mapping

80  
00:04:00,790 --> 00:04:02,790  
out the path you have to go?

81  
00:04:02,790 --> 00:04:05,140  
More of a  
responsibility, you know.

82  
00:04:05,140 --> 00:04:07,930  
And it's-- whether that  
was part of it or just

83  
00:04:07,930 --> 00:04:11,890  
the responsibility that  
comes with being a survivor,

84  
00:04:11,890 --> 00:04:14,030  
you know, that's--

85  
00:04:14,030 --> 00:04:16,160  
yeah, the two  
together, probably.

86  
00:04:16,160 --> 00:04:16,820  
OK.

87  
00:04:16,820 --> 00:04:17,320  
OK.

88  
00:04:17,320 --> 00:04:20,660

89  
00:04:20,660 --> 00:04:23,030  
And the circumstances, which  
is the first thing that

90  
00:04:23,030 --> 00:04:26,000  
came to my mind once we  
established the dates,

91  
00:04:26,000 --> 00:04:30,920  
is that, nevertheless, there  
is a danger in giving birth

92  
00:04:30,920 --> 00:04:36,230  
to a Jewish child by a Jewish  
mother in a Jewish family

93  
00:04:36,230 --> 00:04:39,260



during Nazi occupation.

94  
00:04:39,260 --> 00:04:44,710  
Did she ever talk about  
that kind of factor?

95  
00:04:44,710 --> 00:04:45,270  
Yes.

96  
00:04:45,270 --> 00:04:48,490  
And very specifically,  
this came up immediately

97  
00:04:48,490 --> 00:04:50,710  
after I was born.

98  
00:04:50,710 --> 00:04:53,140  
My-- and that was  
a decision that

99  
00:04:53,140 --> 00:04:56,680  
had to be made, as to whether  
I should be circumcised,

100  
00:04:56,680 --> 00:04:58,420  
whether I should have a bris.

101  
00:04:58,420 --> 00:05:04,010  
And my parents' friends,  
apparently, said very--

102  
00:05:04,010 --> 00:05:07,940  
advised very strongly against  
having me circumcised.

103  
00:05:07,940 --> 00:05:12,300  
They said it would identify  
me always as being Jewish.

104  
00:05:12,300 --> 00:05:16,260  
And in this case, what  
happened was the pediatrician

105

00:05:16,260 --> 00:05:21,460  
who had just examined me sort of  
had a worried look on his face.

106

00:05:21,460 --> 00:05:23,260  
And my father  
asked him, is there

107

00:05:23,260 --> 00:05:25,540  
something wrong with the baby?

108

00:05:25,540 --> 00:05:27,940  
And then the pediatrician  
smiled and said,

109

00:05:27,940 --> 00:05:30,340  
no, your son needs  
a minor operation

110

00:05:30,340 --> 00:05:32,860  
we call a circumcision.

111

00:05:32,860 --> 00:05:36,820  
And so my father told him  
of our Jewish tradition.

112

00:05:36,820 --> 00:05:39,970  
And indeed, you know,  
eight days later, there

113

00:05:39,970 --> 00:05:46,690  
was a bris, perhaps the  
last such observance

114

00:05:46,690 --> 00:05:50,830  
in the Netherlands, a formal  
observance with, you know,

115

00:05:50,830 --> 00:05:54,970  
the friends of the family  
gathered in our living room.

116

00:05:54,970 --> 00:05:55,750  
And you know--

117  
00:05:55,750 --> 00:05:56,530  
Wow.

118  
00:05:56,530 --> 00:05:59,110  
I have-- you know, there  
are two small photographs

119  
00:05:59,110 --> 00:06:02,440  
that were taken of that bris.

120  
00:06:02,440 --> 00:06:06,010  
And those photographs  
were very small.

121  
00:06:06,010 --> 00:06:09,630  
And my mother carried  
those somehow on her body

122  
00:06:09,630 --> 00:06:14,410  
through her subsequent stay  
in 12 concentration camps.

123  
00:06:14,410 --> 00:06:18,400  
And I actually did  
count those with her.

124  
00:06:18,400 --> 00:06:21,430  
And fortunately, she survived.

125  
00:06:21,430 --> 00:06:22,640  
The photos survived.

126  
00:06:22,640 --> 00:06:23,430  
And I survived.

127  
00:06:23,430 --> 00:06:25,990  
She had this superstition  
that if she ever

128

00:06:25,990 --> 00:06:30,676  
lost the photographs, it might  
mean that I had been killed.

129  
00:06:30,676 --> 00:06:36,640  
Oh, what a beginning,  
what a beginning.

130  
00:06:36,640 --> 00:06:39,460  
Yet my parents tried to  
go on with normal lives

131  
00:06:39,460 --> 00:06:41,500  
after I was born.

132  
00:06:41,500 --> 00:06:46,630  
You know, they continued  
to have family observances,

133  
00:06:46,630 --> 00:06:50,690  
celebrations, my  
mother's birthday,

134  
00:06:50,690 --> 00:06:55,000  
a lot of family  
photographs that were taken

135  
00:06:55,000 --> 00:06:57,460  
in spite of the occupation.

136  
00:06:57,460 --> 00:07:03,490  
When did they decide  
that, at some point,

137  
00:07:03,490 --> 00:07:05,020  
that they cannot go long--

138  
00:07:05,020 --> 00:07:08,710  
can no longer live  
life normally?

139  
00:07:08,710 --> 00:07:12,090  
When did it become too

dangerous to do that?

140  
00:07:12,090 --> 00:07:15,960  
I think this was  
probably mid-1942,

141  
00:07:15,960 --> 00:07:19,940  
when I was about nine months or  
eight months, nine months old,

142  
00:07:19,940 --> 00:07:22,470  
something like that.

143  
00:07:22,470 --> 00:07:27,570  
That's when the-- my father  
received very specifically

144  
00:07:27,570 --> 00:07:33,010  
his first notice to report for  
so-called labor duty, which,

145  
00:07:33,010 --> 00:07:38,310  
of course, meant going to a  
concentration camp in Holland.

146  
00:07:38,310 --> 00:07:41,130  
And he first avoided  
that apparently

147  
00:07:41,130 --> 00:07:46,230  
by having a hernia operation.

148  
00:07:46,230 --> 00:07:48,420  
At that time, you  
know, those operations

149  
00:07:48,420 --> 00:07:50,580  
were not as minor  
as they are now.

150  
00:07:50,580 --> 00:07:54,540  
And so they involved a  
hospital stay for several days.

151

00:07:54,540 --> 00:07:58,380

And that sort of kept him away  
from that immediate appeal.

152

00:07:58,380 --> 00:08:02,460

But then, he got a  
second notice apparently.

153

00:08:02,460 --> 00:08:04,320

And this time, the  
decision had to be--

154

00:08:04,320 --> 00:08:08,140

was made that we would  
have to go into hiding.

155

00:08:08,140 --> 00:08:11,250

And my parents made the  
very painful, very difficult

156

00:08:11,250 --> 00:08:15,120

decision that we ought  
to split up, not go

157

00:08:15,120 --> 00:08:17,460

into hiding as a family unit.

158

00:08:17,460 --> 00:08:20,380

That it was safer for  
us to be split up so

159

00:08:20,380 --> 00:08:24,840

that if, according to my mother,  
one person was discovered,

160

00:08:24,840 --> 00:08:29,640

the others might have  
a chance to survive.

161

00:08:29,640 --> 00:08:32,940

We had to-- my  
father, at that point,

162  
00:08:32,940 --> 00:08:36,450  
pretended to commit an act  
of suicide, supposedly.

163  
00:08:36,450 --> 00:08:39,450  
That's what my mother told me.

164  
00:08:39,450 --> 00:08:45,390  
And that gained him admission  
to the Remarkkliniek,

165  
00:08:45,390 --> 00:08:54,030  
R-E-M-A-R K-L-I-N-I-K,  
Remarkkliniek, in The Hague,

166  
00:08:54,030 --> 00:08:55,830  
which was a  
psychiatric hospital,

167  
00:08:55,830 --> 00:08:59,670  
Jewish psychiatric hospital  
as I understand it,

168  
00:08:59,670 --> 00:09:03,630  
part of a whole complex  
called Old Rosenberg.

169  
00:09:03,630 --> 00:09:08,240  
And he went into hiding in there  
pretending to be a patient.

170  
00:09:08,240 --> 00:09:12,570  
My two-- my parents had two  
neighbors, the van Leeuwen

171  
00:09:12,570 --> 00:09:18,250  
sisters, who were very  
devout Catholic women.

172  
00:09:18,250 --> 00:09:21,960  
And they had already  
begun to instruct

173  
00:09:21,960 --> 00:09:26,190  
my sisters in Catholicism,  
to some extent,

174  
00:09:26,190 --> 00:09:27,960  
as I understand it.

175  
00:09:27,960 --> 00:09:29,490  
And that's one of  
the parts that's

176  
00:09:29,490 --> 00:09:32,910  
becoming clearer now actually.

177  
00:09:32,910 --> 00:09:33,480  
And so--

178  
00:09:33,480 --> 00:09:34,813  
Can you stop there for a minute?

179  
00:09:34,813 --> 00:09:35,850  
Excuse me to interrupt.

180  
00:09:35,850 --> 00:09:38,370  
But I didn't establish  
when we first

181  
00:09:38,370 --> 00:09:41,372  
started talking who is  
the whole family unit--

182  
00:09:41,372 --> 00:09:41,872  
Sure.

183  
00:09:41,872 --> 00:09:45,420  
--who are your sisters, what  
were their names, your parents'

184  
00:09:45,420 --> 00:09:47,260  
first names, and so on.



185  
00:09:47,260 --> 00:09:49,300  
So let's do that now  
before we get further in.

186  
00:09:49,300 --> 00:09:49,800  
OK.

187  
00:09:49,800 --> 00:09:50,730  
Sure.

188  
00:09:50,730 --> 00:09:57,270  
So my mother's first name is  
Gisele or Gitla, G-I-T-L-A,

189  
00:09:57,270 --> 00:09:59,310  
or Gita.

190  
00:09:59,310 --> 00:10:00,960  
Most of the spell--  
most of the time

191  
00:10:00,960 --> 00:10:03,870  
it's Gitla in  
official documents.

192  
00:10:03,870 --> 00:10:10,200  
And my father is Simcha  
and sometimes Siegfried.

193  
00:10:10,200 --> 00:10:12,960  
And so, as I said,  
both of them originally

194  
00:10:12,960 --> 00:10:15,360  
had the same last--  
same family name.

195  
00:10:15,360 --> 00:10:19,470  
And M-U, with an  
umlaut, N-Z-E-R,

196  
00:10:19,470 --> 00:10:21,150

that was the family name.

197

00:10:21,150 --> 00:10:23,170

Were they originally  
from the Netherlands?

198

00:10:23,170 --> 00:10:24,870

No, they were not.

199

00:10:24,870 --> 00:10:29,610

They were born in what was then  
the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

200

00:10:29,610 --> 00:10:32,640

And in fact, if you asked my  
mother, where were you born?

201

00:10:32,640 --> 00:10:36,750

Like many other people from that  
area, she would say Austria.

202

00:10:36,750 --> 00:10:40,410

In actual fact, after  
the First World War,

203

00:10:40,410 --> 00:10:45,240

that part became Galicia  
really, it was part of Poland.

204

00:10:45,240 --> 00:10:49,020

And my mother was born  
in a town called Rymanow

205

00:10:49,020 --> 00:10:54,810

and my father in a nearby town,  
probably about 40 miles away

206

00:10:54,810 --> 00:10:58,260

or less, called Kanczuga.

207

00:10:58,260 --> 00:11:00,620

And they both--

208

00:11:00,620 --> 00:11:02,940

And today, are they--  
would that still

209

00:11:02,940 --> 00:11:06,320

be Poland today or Ukraine?

210

00:11:06,320 --> 00:11:07,280

No.

211

00:11:07,280 --> 00:11:08,910

No, they're still--  
both of those towns

212

00:11:08,910 --> 00:11:10,240

are still in Poland.

213

00:11:10,240 --> 00:11:11,070

OK.

214

00:11:11,070 --> 00:11:12,810

In fact, I visited Rymanow.

215

00:11:12,810 --> 00:11:15,810

I've not visited Kanczuga.

216

00:11:15,810 --> 00:11:20,280

But they both left home when  
they were about 18 years old.

217

00:11:20,280 --> 00:11:23,910

My mother told me that  
she had to have her age

218

00:11:23,910 --> 00:11:27,870

on her passport changed.

219

00:11:27,870 --> 00:11:31,170

And she had to be  
made two years older,

220

00:11:31,170 --> 00:11:32,730  
so that she could  
leave the country.

221  
00:11:32,730 --> 00:11:37,800  
I don't know whether that  
meant becoming 21 or I think--

222  
00:11:37,800 --> 00:11:39,760  
I have to look more  
closely at that.

223  
00:11:39,760 --> 00:11:46,350  
Her official date of  
birth was May 20th, 1905.

224  
00:11:46,350 --> 00:11:54,030  
But in actual fact, she said  
it was 1907, or 1909 actually.

225  
00:11:54,030 --> 00:11:56,160  
But, you know-- it's--

226  
00:11:56,160 --> 00:11:57,240  
And your father?

227  
00:11:57,240 --> 00:11:59,400  
It's a little bit of a mystery.

228  
00:11:59,400 --> 00:12:01,650  
And your father--

229  
00:12:01,650 --> 00:12:02,670  
I don't have--

230  
00:12:02,670 --> 00:12:05,640  
I don't have an exact  
birth date handy.

231  
00:12:05,640 --> 00:12:08,610  
But he was about  
two years older.

232

00:12:08,610 --> 00:12:11,340

Did they both come  
from large families?

233

00:12:11,340 --> 00:12:12,810

Yes, very large families.

234

00:12:12,810 --> 00:12:15,870

235

00:12:15,870 --> 00:12:19,320

I think there probably were  
altogether 10 siblings perhaps

236

00:12:19,320 --> 00:12:22,350

in my mother's family.

237

00:12:22,350 --> 00:12:25,500

I don't know, I don't even  
know all the names, frankly.

238

00:12:25,500 --> 00:12:30,150

It's one of those things I still  
haven't been able to find out.

239

00:12:30,150 --> 00:12:36,560

And the-- thank you.

240

00:12:36,560 --> 00:12:42,730

And the-- my father also came  
from a very large family.

241

00:12:42,730 --> 00:12:47,590

A little bit more complex,  
because his father

242

00:12:47,590 --> 00:12:49,090

had lost his first wife.

243

00:12:49,090 --> 00:12:51,100

So he was remarried.

244

00:12:51,100 --> 00:12:55,570

And my father was one  
of the younger children

245

00:12:55,570 --> 00:12:56,770

from his second marriage.

246

00:12:56,770 --> 00:13:00,870

His father apparently was quite  
old when my father was born.

247

00:13:00,870 --> 00:13:03,880

248

00:13:03,880 --> 00:13:08,980

One of my father's brothers  
did join us in Holland.

249

00:13:08,980 --> 00:13:12,540

And his name is  
Emil, Emil Munzer.

250

00:13:12,540 --> 00:13:14,150

Did you know him?

251

00:13:14,150 --> 00:13:14,690

No.

252

00:13:14,690 --> 00:13:15,440

He didn't survive?

253

00:13:15,440 --> 00:13:18,090

I heard a lot of  
stories about him.

254

00:13:18,090 --> 00:13:20,640

But I never, you  
know, he actually,

255

00:13:20,640 --> 00:13:21,990

and we'll get to that.

256

00:13:21,990 --> 00:13:24,100

One of the things  
that I found out

257

00:13:24,100 --> 00:13:30,120

was that he was deported in the  
exact same transport as my two

258

00:13:30,120 --> 00:13:31,320

sisters.

259

00:13:31,320 --> 00:13:33,870

[GASP] I see.

260

00:13:33,870 --> 00:13:37,410

Some of the researchers  
at the Holocaust Museum

261

00:13:37,410 --> 00:13:42,870

felt that he may have found out  
that they had been betrayed.

262

00:13:42,870 --> 00:13:47,350

And he joined them and may have  
just opted to stay with them.

263

00:13:47,350 --> 00:13:49,230

Because there was  
absolutely no record

264

00:13:49,230 --> 00:13:52,860

of him being registered  
in Auschwitz.

265

00:13:52,860 --> 00:13:57,640

And he was apparently killed on  
arrival, just like my sisters.

266

00:13:57,640 --> 00:13:58,870

I see.

267

00:13:58,870 --> 00:13:59,690

I see.

268

00:13:59,690 --> 00:14:05,360

So-- so do the Auschwitz records have, I'm jumping ahead,

269

00:14:05,360 --> 00:14:10,430

but just because we've finished on that sentence,

270

00:14:10,430 --> 00:14:12,020

Auschwitz records have--

271

00:14:12,020 --> 00:14:14,650

are your sisters listed there?

272

00:14:14,650 --> 00:14:15,150

Yes.

273

00:14:15,150 --> 00:14:18,990

Well, they are actually, not the Auschwitz records,

274

00:14:18,990 --> 00:14:20,250

it's the last record--

275

00:14:20,250 --> 00:14:22,120

yes, two things.

276

00:14:22,120 --> 00:14:22,620

So they are.

277

00:14:22,620 --> 00:14:26,490

The records that I that have both their names

278

00:14:26,490 --> 00:14:32,710

is a long list, page 137, of deportees through from Wester--

279

00:14:32,710 --> 00:14:35,430

Oh, Westerbork,



Westerbork, I see.

280

00:14:35,430 --> 00:14:40,140

And there, it clearly  
shows my uncle's name

281

00:14:40,140 --> 00:14:46,170

is right next to my younger  
sister actually on that list.

282

00:14:46,170 --> 00:14:48,030

So he's listed there.

283

00:14:48,030 --> 00:14:49,290

He is listed there.

284

00:14:49,290 --> 00:14:52,800

But nothing, no  
registration evidence,

285

00:14:52,800 --> 00:14:56,880

no evidence that he ever,  
quote, arrived officially

286

00:14:56,880 --> 00:14:58,170

in Auschwitz.

287

00:14:58,170 --> 00:15:01,800

And the records that I have  
in Auschwitz for my sisters

288

00:15:01,800 --> 00:15:03,990

are just records  
that we received

289

00:15:03,990 --> 00:15:05,970

through the International  
Tracing Service

290

00:15:05,970 --> 00:15:07,380

very, very early on.

291

00:15:07,380 --> 00:15:09,390  
They were actually  
through the inter--

292  
00:15:09,390 --> 00:15:11,550  
they were labeled  
International Red Cross.

293  
00:15:11,550 --> 00:15:12,160  
Right.

294  
00:15:12,160 --> 00:15:15,480  
The records, my mother was  
able to get those shortly

295  
00:15:15,480 --> 00:15:16,170  
after the war.

296  
00:15:16,170 --> 00:15:20,290

297  
00:15:20,290 --> 00:15:25,350  
But so there are records from  
the International Tracing

298  
00:15:25,350 --> 00:15:29,130  
Service that your sisters  
actually were in Auschwitz.

299  
00:15:29,130 --> 00:15:31,590  
But there are no  
records that say

300  
00:15:31,590 --> 00:15:33,420  
that your uncle  
was in Auschwitz,

301  
00:15:33,420 --> 00:15:36,270  
though clearly he would  
have had to have been.

302  
00:15:36,270 --> 00:15:37,170  
That's right.

303  
00:15:37,170 --> 00:15:38,680  
So there's the difference there.

304  
00:15:38,680 --> 00:15:41,850  
And he's the only one of  
your father's siblings

305  
00:15:41,850 --> 00:15:44,220  
who came then to  
the Netherlands--

306  
00:15:44,220 --> 00:15:44,820  
That's right.

307  
00:15:44,820 --> 00:15:47,600  
--that figured in the  
family in the Netherlands.

308  
00:15:47,600 --> 00:15:49,190  
Right, as far as I know.

309  
00:15:49,190 --> 00:15:49,950  
OK.

310  
00:15:49,950 --> 00:15:55,050  
So the rest of, I mean, if  
we look at it geographically,

311  
00:15:55,050 --> 00:15:57,780  
then it was that  
your family comes

312  
00:15:57,780 --> 00:16:00,360  
from the  
Austro-Hungarian Empire.

313  
00:16:00,360 --> 00:16:02,700  
But the part of Poland--

314  
00:16:02,700 --> 00:16:07,080  
Poland was made up of Prussia,

the Austro-Hungarian Empire

315

00:16:07,080 --> 00:16:09,810  
and then Russia, when  
it reconstituted.

316

00:16:09,810 --> 00:16:12,150  
And so they were  
from that part that

317

00:16:12,150 --> 00:16:15,280  
had been part of the  
Austro-Hungarian Empire

318

00:16:15,280 --> 00:16:15,780  
of Poland.

319

00:16:15,780 --> 00:16:16,340  
That's right.

320

00:16:16,340 --> 00:16:16,590  
Yes.

321

00:16:16,590 --> 00:16:17,310  
OK.

322

00:16:17,310 --> 00:16:18,300  
OK.

323

00:16:18,300 --> 00:16:22,950  
And how did it end up that  
they came to the Netherlands

324

00:16:22,950 --> 00:16:24,610  
rather than someplace else?

325

00:16:24,610 --> 00:16:26,280  
Sure.

326

00:16:26,280 --> 00:16:29,760  
Well, my mother initially  
actually went to Berlin.

327  
00:16:29,760 --> 00:16:33,820  
She had older siblings  
who lived there.

328  
00:16:33,820 --> 00:16:38,460  
She had a brother and a  
sister who lived there.

329  
00:16:38,460 --> 00:16:44,160  
And she spent several years with  
them and worked in the factory

330  
00:16:44,160 --> 00:16:51,000  
and really enjoyed the life  
in Berlin, my mother told me.

331  
00:16:51,000 --> 00:16:53,100  
That was a tremendous  
change, of course, coming

332  
00:16:53,100 --> 00:16:56,460  
from the small town of Rymanow.

333  
00:16:56,460 --> 00:17:04,109  
And I did try to--

334  
00:17:04,109 --> 00:17:10,720  
well, my family, my mother's  
brother, was Adolf Minzer.

335  
00:17:10,720 --> 00:17:15,810  
Her sister was Feige Minzer or  
Fanny Minzer, or who became--

336  
00:17:15,810 --> 00:17:19,420  
her married name was Zehngut.

337  
00:17:19,420 --> 00:17:24,819  
And the Zehnguts had  
one young son, Jossi.

338

00:17:24,819 --> 00:17:32,600  
And Adolf and his wife  
Helen had one son, Norbert.

339  
00:17:32,600 --> 00:17:35,830  
Adolf's wife was  
actually Catholic

340  
00:17:35,830 --> 00:17:41,560  
and converted to Judaism, which  
was pretty amazing at the time

341  
00:17:41,560 --> 00:17:44,707  
when you consider  
this was in the '30s.

342  
00:17:44,707 --> 00:17:45,790  
She must have loved Adolf.

343  
00:17:45,790 --> 00:17:49,930

344  
00:17:49,930 --> 00:17:50,678  
Exactly.

345  
00:17:50,678 --> 00:17:51,970  
Well, most of the time I think.

346  
00:17:51,970 --> 00:17:53,970  
After that, he called  
himself Abraham,

347  
00:17:53,970 --> 00:17:56,230  
went back to his  
original Jewish name.

348  
00:17:56,230 --> 00:18:00,760  
So they managed,  
Adolf and his Helen

349  
00:18:00,760 --> 00:18:07,990  
and Norbert, managed to  
leave Germany for Bolivia.

350  
00:18:07,990 --> 00:18:11,800  
And to this day, I still have  
relatives living in Bolivia.

351  
00:18:11,800 --> 00:18:18,510  
In fact, we just had a  
WhatsApp exchange this morning.

352  
00:18:18,510 --> 00:18:21,220  
Oh, nice.

353  
00:18:21,220 --> 00:18:23,620  
And so these were from  
the Berlin relatives.

354  
00:18:23,620 --> 00:18:25,120  
Through the Berlin relatives.

355  
00:18:25,120 --> 00:18:28,630  
The other side, the  
Zehnguts were deported.

356  
00:18:28,630 --> 00:18:29,960  
And I don't have--

357  
00:18:29,960 --> 00:18:32,270  
well, I have some  
records but very,

358  
00:18:32,270 --> 00:18:34,630  
very little about  
what happened to them.

359  
00:18:34,630 --> 00:18:35,770  
My mother was very--

360  
00:18:35,770 --> 00:18:38,200  
the two sons were very,  
very close friends.

361  
00:18:38,200 --> 00:18:41,830

They were close in age,  
very close friends,

362  
00:18:41,830 --> 00:18:47,290  
and a lot of lovely photographs  
of the two of them together.

363  
00:18:47,290 --> 00:18:49,840  
But you never knew these people?

364  
00:18:49,840 --> 00:18:53,930  
Norbert, I met many, many  
years later in Bolivia.

365  
00:18:53,930 --> 00:18:56,020  
We traveled to Bolivia.

366  
00:18:56,020 --> 00:18:58,990  
And you know, my  
mother stayed in touch

367  
00:18:58,990 --> 00:19:00,820  
with the Bolivian family.

368  
00:19:00,820 --> 00:19:05,380  
She tried to persuade them  
to come to the United States.

369  
00:19:05,380 --> 00:19:07,570  
Her message immediately  
after the wars

370  
00:19:07,570 --> 00:19:11,880  
was, do not invest,  
come to America.

371  
00:19:11,880 --> 00:19:14,710  
You know, this was before  
she was in the States.

372  
00:19:14,710 --> 00:19:18,340  
She really did not like the  
idea of them staying in Bolivia.



373  
00:19:18,340 --> 00:19:22,240  
But they felt that that was the  
country that had saved them.

374  
00:19:22,240 --> 00:19:26,620  
And so they made a  
commitment to stay.

375  
00:19:26,620 --> 00:19:28,540  
And they are there to this day?

376  
00:19:28,540 --> 00:19:33,350  
Well, they have-- my uncle  
and my aunt are deceased.

377  
00:19:33,350 --> 00:19:34,660  
Sure.

378  
00:19:34,660 --> 00:19:37,060  
Norbert passed away  
a few years ago.

379  
00:19:37,060 --> 00:19:39,610  
He eventually moved to Chile.

380  
00:19:39,610 --> 00:19:41,950  
He had two children.

381  
00:19:41,950 --> 00:19:45,580  
And one of them, the  
son, moved to Chile.

382  
00:19:45,580 --> 00:19:48,310  
And the daughter  
remained in Bolivia

383  
00:19:48,310 --> 00:19:50,230  
and is still in Bolivia.

384  
00:19:50,230 --> 00:19:54,940  
And she, in turn, had one son.

385  
00:19:54,940 --> 00:19:57,790  
And he is now-- and he  
and his-- he's married.

386  
00:19:57,790 --> 00:20:01,630  
And he's living also  
in Bolivia still.

387  
00:20:01,630 --> 00:20:02,740  
OK.

388  
00:20:02,740 --> 00:20:05,110  
So these are two siblings  
from your mother's side

389  
00:20:05,110 --> 00:20:10,660  
of the family, one of whom  
survived because they left.

390  
00:20:10,660 --> 00:20:12,370  
And the other was deported.

391  
00:20:12,370 --> 00:20:14,320  
Zehnguts were deported.

392  
00:20:14,320 --> 00:20:17,350  
Did she have more brothers and  
sisters, as far as you know?

393  
00:20:17,350 --> 00:20:19,540  
Yes, several, many of them.

394  
00:20:19,540 --> 00:20:22,900  
And all the others I  
think remained in Rymanow

395  
00:20:22,900 --> 00:20:25,410  
and were deported from Rymanow.

396  
00:20:25,410 --> 00:20:29,880  
And of course, I have no--

397  
00:20:29,880 --> 00:20:33,380  
I have not as yet found any  
kind of records about them.

398  
00:20:33,380 --> 00:20:39,780  
It's still not a  
mystery, but I ready--

399  
00:20:39,780 --> 00:20:40,920  
I get on periodically.

400  
00:20:40,920 --> 00:20:42,630  
I will see a name.

401  
00:20:42,630 --> 00:20:45,720  
But it's very, very  
hard to connect to--

402  
00:20:45,720 --> 00:20:49,710  
the name Munzer is not  
that unusual apparently.

403  
00:20:49,710 --> 00:20:53,222  
And the spelling really  
did change several times.

404  
00:20:53,222 --> 00:20:55,430  
You know, I've seen some  
documents where it's spelled

405  
00:20:55,430 --> 00:20:57,740  
M-I-N-C-E-R.

406  
00:20:57,740 --> 00:20:58,320  
Of course.

407  
00:20:58,320 --> 00:21:02,640  
Sort of Polish or  
Yiddish, you know, Mincer.

408  
00:21:02,640 --> 00:21:06,550

So it's-- it's  
hard to figure out.

409  
00:21:06,550 --> 00:21:11,500  
Do-- when you were in your  
mother's town, Rymanow,

410  
00:21:11,500 --> 00:21:12,250  
was the--

411  
00:21:12,250 --> 00:21:15,040  
did you visit the  
municipal authorities?

412  
00:21:15,040 --> 00:21:17,530  
Because sometimes they  
have birth records.

413  
00:21:17,530 --> 00:21:23,600  
And that time, that wasn't  
just so readily available.

414  
00:21:23,600 --> 00:21:26,560  
This is probably  
about, I would say,

415  
00:21:26,560 --> 00:21:29,980  
about 15 years ago or so that  
we were there, maybe a bit less.

416  
00:21:29,980 --> 00:21:31,330  
2005, yeah.

417  
00:21:31,330 --> 00:21:34,630  
Something like that, I  
can't remember exactly.

418  
00:21:34,630 --> 00:21:37,330  
And this was really  
a surprise visit.

419  
00:21:37,330 --> 00:21:41,510  
There was-- I received

a telegram inviting us

420  
00:21:41,510 --> 00:21:47,720  
to a commemoration for the  
Jews who were deported.

421  
00:21:47,720 --> 00:21:52,940  
I think it was  
August 22nd, 1942.

422  
00:21:52,940 --> 00:21:59,110  
And so we decided to  
attend that commemoration.

423  
00:21:59,110 --> 00:22:02,020  
And was this the  
authorities, the municipal--

424  
00:22:02,020 --> 00:22:09,782  
No, this was a young  
man, Adam, I'll have to--

425  
00:22:09,782 --> 00:22:10,740  
I have to look that up.

426  
00:22:10,740 --> 00:22:11,340  
Yeah, it's OK.

427  
00:22:11,340 --> 00:22:11,840  
It's OK.

428  
00:22:11,840 --> 00:22:15,120  
But there was a  
specific young man

429  
00:22:15,120 --> 00:22:17,030  
who really had made it his--

430  
00:22:17,030 --> 00:22:22,470  
his father had a Jewish  
business partner.

431

00:22:22,470 --> 00:22:23,590  
They were very close.

432  
00:22:23,590 --> 00:22:27,930  
They were in the  
brewery business,

433  
00:22:27,930 --> 00:22:30,630  
which is very common  
in Rymanow apparently.

434  
00:22:30,630 --> 00:22:33,840  
And because-- so he  
had, through his father,

435  
00:22:33,840 --> 00:22:37,480  
he had a very close connection  
to the Jewish community.

436  
00:22:37,480 --> 00:22:42,730  
And so to this day, every year  
they have a commemoration.

437  
00:22:42,730 --> 00:22:46,230  
I think that may have been the  
very first that we attended.

438  
00:22:46,230 --> 00:22:47,820  
And since then,  
it has continued.

439  
00:22:47,820 --> 00:22:52,890  
In fact, I just got an email  
from him or a Facebook post

440  
00:22:52,890 --> 00:22:54,200  
a few days ago.

441  
00:22:54,200 --> 00:22:57,770  
And he periodically  
also posts photographs

442  
00:22:57,770 --> 00:23:00,660

of the deportation of the Jews.

443

00:23:00,660 --> 00:23:02,190

Virtually all of  
them were deported

444

00:23:02,190 --> 00:23:05,710

in that one day, taken to a--

445

00:23:05,710 --> 00:23:11,160

on a forced march to a  
nearby town where they

446

00:23:11,160 --> 00:23:13,550

boarded the train to Belzec.

447

00:23:13,550 --> 00:23:15,250

I see.

448

00:23:15,250 --> 00:23:18,990

But how did he know to find  
you, since your connection

449

00:23:18,990 --> 00:23:22,090

to Rymanow is so tenuous?

450

00:23:22,090 --> 00:23:23,050

I mean, it was--

451

00:23:23,050 --> 00:23:26,680

it is-- how would a paper  
trail have led him to you?

452

00:23:26,680 --> 00:23:30,090

And I focus on this because so  
much of our story, you know,

453

00:23:30,090 --> 00:23:33,690

we're not going to repeat that  
much of the details of the war.

454

00:23:33,690 --> 00:23:36,670

It is really discovery  
post-war, you know.

455  
00:23:36,670 --> 00:23:37,410  
Sure.

456  
00:23:37,410 --> 00:23:42,120  
How do you go back and  
try to find out things,

457  
00:23:42,120 --> 00:23:45,210  
and how do people make  
these connections?

458  
00:23:45,210 --> 00:23:47,490  
This was, actually,  
it wasn't a--

459  
00:23:47,490 --> 00:23:50,000  
it was an email that I received.

460  
00:23:50,000 --> 00:23:56,250  
And he-- I think he found  
my address at the hospital.

461  
00:23:56,250 --> 00:23:58,860  
Or he found out from  
the Holocaust Museum

462  
00:23:58,860 --> 00:24:01,840  
that I worked at a  
particular hospital

463  
00:24:01,840 --> 00:24:04,920  
and so sent this  
email to the hospital.

464  
00:24:04,920 --> 00:24:07,800  
And then they  
passed it on to me.

465  
00:24:07,800 --> 00:24:10,920  
I have the exact text actually.



466  
00:24:10,920 --> 00:24:16,980  
I just wrote something about it  
for our Echoes of Memory class.

467  
00:24:16,980 --> 00:24:19,170  
And so that's what-- and  
I also wrote a long piece

468  
00:24:19,170 --> 00:24:21,900  
about the visit to  
Ebensee that we made.

469  
00:24:21,900 --> 00:24:25,650  
And so that's-- that  
was very, very special.

470  
00:24:25,650 --> 00:24:27,100  
So he found me.

471  
00:24:27,100 --> 00:24:31,550  
You know, my partner and I were  
very reluctant to go to Poland.

472  
00:24:31,550 --> 00:24:33,580  
We had mixed feelings about it.

473  
00:24:33,580 --> 00:24:38,640  
On the hand, my mother had  
always spoken very lovingly

474  
00:24:38,640 --> 00:24:39,870  
about Rymanow, you know.

475  
00:24:39,870 --> 00:24:43,530  
And sometimes in fun, she  
would call it "Grimanisch,"

476  
00:24:43,530 --> 00:24:48,346  
sort of gave it a funny  
name and told us, you know,

477

00:24:48,346 --> 00:24:51,900  
all sorts of stories at  
all, what sort of in my mind

478  
00:24:51,900 --> 00:24:55,215  
created a whole lore  
of Rymanow, you know.

479  
00:24:55,215 --> 00:24:59,210  
The one policeman they  
have called "Bamboulla,"

480  
00:24:59,210 --> 00:25:02,740  
you know, at least that's  
the name they gave him.

481  
00:25:02,740 --> 00:25:06,110  
The fact that it had a  
town well in the center,

482  
00:25:06,110 --> 00:25:08,350  
and there was never  
any water because it

483  
00:25:08,350 --> 00:25:10,530  
was built on the hill.

484  
00:25:10,530 --> 00:25:13,710  
So, you know, all these  
crazy little stories

485  
00:25:13,710 --> 00:25:14,710  
that made me want to go.

486  
00:25:14,710 --> 00:25:16,252  
And then at the same  
time, telling me

487  
00:25:16,252 --> 00:25:18,720  
that the surroundings  
were actually beautiful,

488  
00:25:18,720 --> 00:25:22,410

you know, the foothills  
of the Carpathians.

489  
00:25:22,410 --> 00:25:26,820  
And it really-- so it's--

490  
00:25:26,820 --> 00:25:29,430  
Did any of those things  
she tell you bear out?

491  
00:25:29,430 --> 00:25:30,000  
Absolutely.

492  
00:25:30,000 --> 00:25:32,160  
Well, the well is gone.

493  
00:25:32,160 --> 00:25:36,420  
That's now a beautiful center  
now, a little kiosk selling

494  
00:25:36,420 --> 00:25:40,340  
newspapers and, you know,  
Coca-Cola and things like that.

495  
00:25:40,340 --> 00:25:43,260  
But it's a beautiful,  
really beautiful town.

496  
00:25:43,260 --> 00:25:45,090  
And the synagogue is standing.

497  
00:25:45,090 --> 00:25:47,100  
It was in terrible shape.

498  
00:25:47,100 --> 00:25:50,070  
It's gradually being restored.

499  
00:25:50,070 --> 00:25:52,710  
We visited a cemetery.

500  
00:25:52,710 --> 00:25:56,870  
But I could not identify

any of my family's names.

501  
00:25:56,870 --> 00:26:00,390  
They were still in very,  
very poor condition.

502  
00:26:00,390 --> 00:26:04,550  
This is Adam Lawrence.

503  
00:26:04,550 --> 00:26:05,940  
And I forgot his brother's name.

504  
00:26:05,940 --> 00:26:09,420  
But they are the ones who  
have been taking high school

505  
00:26:09,420 --> 00:26:14,420  
children on weekends to  
clean the gravestones

506  
00:26:14,420 --> 00:26:16,950  
in Jewish cemeteries,  
not just in Rymanow.

507  
00:26:16,950 --> 00:26:20,910  
But they've now expanded it  
to the whole surrounding area.

508  
00:26:20,910 --> 00:26:24,100  
Is this a Polish teacher  
or something or--

509  
00:26:24,100 --> 00:26:28,350  
He's actually an  
advertising man.

510  
00:26:28,350 --> 00:26:31,770  
So, you know, he's  
not a teacher.

511  
00:26:31,770 --> 00:26:33,480  
But he has taken--  
he and his brother

512  
00:26:33,480 --> 00:26:35,970  
have taken a tremendous  
interest in this

513  
00:26:35,970 --> 00:26:40,210  
and really made it  
their life's work.

514  
00:26:40,210 --> 00:26:42,590  
Let's go back to  
the Netherlands.

515  
00:26:42,590 --> 00:26:46,840  
So we know a little bit more  
now of your family's background,

516  
00:26:46,840 --> 00:26:49,650  
where they came from.

517  
00:26:49,650 --> 00:26:52,120  
And you started to say  
that your mother, at first,

518  
00:26:52,120 --> 00:26:54,130  
spent many years in Berlin--

519  
00:26:54,130 --> 00:26:54,730  
Correct.

520  
00:26:54,730 --> 00:26:55,990  
--working.

521  
00:26:55,990 --> 00:27:00,490  
And your father, did he go  
straight from the village

522  
00:27:00,490 --> 00:27:02,240  
you mentioned, I  
forget the name now,

523  
00:27:02,240 --> 00:27:04,590

Kanczuga was it or something like that.

524  
00:27:04,590 --> 00:27:10,730  
Kanczuga,  
K-A-N-C-U-G-A, Kanczuga.

525  
00:27:10,730 --> 00:27:14,950  
How was-- how did he get to The Hague from Kanczuga?

526  
00:27:14,950 --> 00:27:20,800  
As far as I know, he went directly to The Hague.

527  
00:27:20,800 --> 00:27:25,930  
You know, the reason I have this very slight hesitation

528  
00:27:25,930 --> 00:27:33,270  
is that a few-- some years back, when we were back in Holland,

529  
00:27:33,270 --> 00:27:35,610  
we went back to the house where I was born.

530  
00:27:35,610 --> 00:27:39,600  
And my father's business was on the ground floor.

531  
00:27:39,600 --> 00:27:43,300  
And the sign of his business was still there.

532  
00:27:43,300 --> 00:27:45,980  
And it still is there today, as far as I know.

533  
00:27:45,980 --> 00:27:47,380  
Wow.

534  
00:27:47,380 --> 00:27:54,340

And it says,  
[NON-ENGLISH SPEECH] So--

535  
00:27:54,340 --> 00:27:56,040  
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

536  
00:27:56,040 --> 00:27:56,540  
Yes.

537  
00:27:56,540 --> 00:28:00,955  
So, you know, it's a little bit  
of a white lie probably, you

538  
00:28:00,955 --> 00:28:02,960  
know, Siegfried Munzer.

539  
00:28:02,960 --> 00:28:05,903  
You know, it's really,  
I think it's probably

540  
00:28:05,903 --> 00:28:07,070  
a little bit of a white lie.

541  
00:28:07,070 --> 00:28:11,090  
Whether he ever really went  
to Vienna to study tailoring,

542  
00:28:11,090 --> 00:28:12,510  
I'm not sure of.

543  
00:28:12,510 --> 00:28:16,410  
But the origin was Vienna,  
let's put it that way.

544  
00:28:16,410 --> 00:28:16,910  
OK.

545  
00:28:16,910 --> 00:28:19,910  
Well, listen, Vienna  
has a lot more cachet

546  
00:28:19,910 --> 00:28:23,940

for tailoring than  
Kanczuga would.

547  
00:28:23,940 --> 00:28:27,790  
The whole family actually,  
our whole family on both sides

548  
00:28:27,790 --> 00:28:30,470  
were tailors for  
generations back.

549  
00:28:30,470 --> 00:28:33,790  
So and all of the  
family and anybody

550  
00:28:33,790 --> 00:28:36,680  
I have talked to who were  
friends of my father, whom

551  
00:28:36,680 --> 00:28:40,170  
I discovered later living  
in Australia, for example,

552  
00:28:40,170 --> 00:28:43,275  
some distant relatives,  
all tailors, all

553  
00:28:43,275 --> 00:28:45,240  
of the same business.

554  
00:28:45,240 --> 00:28:48,325  
But their name is Munzer,  
not Schneider, you know.

555  
00:28:48,325 --> 00:28:48,950  
That's correct.

556  
00:28:48,950 --> 00:28:53,320

557  
00:28:53,320 --> 00:28:55,303  
So how do your parents meet?



558

00:28:55,303 --> 00:28:57,470

Or they must have known  
each other than from before,

559

00:28:57,470 --> 00:28:58,330

if they're related.

560

00:28:58,330 --> 00:29:02,320

They were really childhood  
sweethearts, if you will.

561

00:29:02,320 --> 00:29:05,420

They knew each other  
from childhood.

562

00:29:05,420 --> 00:29:10,330

And then my father--  
my mother, in 1932, she

563

00:29:10,330 --> 00:29:13,240

joined my father in Holland.

564

00:29:13,240 --> 00:29:15,880

And they were married.

565

00:29:15,880 --> 00:29:19,660

And originally, when  
I recorded this,

566

00:29:19,660 --> 00:29:22,060

I said they were  
married in December.

567

00:29:22,060 --> 00:29:26,230

In actual fact now, I found  
a marriage certificate.

568

00:29:26,230 --> 00:29:32,620

So their civil marriage at  
least was in November 1932.

569

00:29:32,620 --> 00:29:35,350

Whether the religious ceremony  
may have been December,

570  
00:29:35,350 --> 00:29:37,410  
that's still possible.

571  
00:29:37,410 --> 00:29:39,410  
But the civil ceremony  
was in November.

572  
00:29:39,410 --> 00:29:44,640  
And I found the actual  
record in Holland

573  
00:29:44,640 --> 00:29:47,860  
in, oh, miracle of Google.

574  
00:29:47,860 --> 00:29:49,480  
Yeah.

575  
00:29:49,480 --> 00:29:50,175  
So that's--

576  
00:29:50,175 --> 00:29:50,800  
That's amazing.

577  
00:29:50,800 --> 00:29:52,330  
So they were married.

578  
00:29:52,330 --> 00:29:55,770  
And as I've told many, but I  
usually, when I give my talks,

579  
00:29:55,770 --> 00:29:59,830  
you know, at the museum, it's  
just about the same time,

580  
00:29:59,830 --> 00:30:03,230  
a month before Adolf  
Hitler, of course,

581  
00:30:03,230 --> 00:30:06,130

comes to power in Germany.

582

00:30:06,130 --> 00:30:08,930

So it's these coincidences.

583

00:30:08,930 --> 00:30:13,990

And then my-- their first  
child, my sister Eva,

584

00:30:13,990 --> 00:30:22,060

was born in July 1936, again,  
coinciding with the Olympics.

585

00:30:22,060 --> 00:30:25,600

And my sister Leah,  
the second child,

586

00:30:25,600 --> 00:30:32,660

was born November 12, 1938,  
just after Kristallnacht.

587

00:30:32,660 --> 00:30:36,448

So all these co-- these  
historical coincidences.

588

00:30:36,448 --> 00:30:38,080

Yeah.

589

00:30:38,080 --> 00:30:40,150

I saw some photos  
of your sisters.

590

00:30:40,150 --> 00:30:44,580

They looked darling,  
absolutely lovely, you know.

591

00:30:44,580 --> 00:30:47,710

It just-- you want to take  
those little girls and hug them.

592

00:30:47,710 --> 00:30:50,380

593

00:30:50,380 --> 00:30:54,640

And those are in the archives  
of the Holocaust Museum.

594

00:30:54,640 --> 00:30:55,810

They are in the museum.

595

00:30:55,810 --> 00:30:57,550

I still have many of them here.

596

00:30:57,550 --> 00:31:00,270

And they actually all will  
make their way to the museum.

597

00:31:00,270 --> 00:31:01,760

We do it gradually.

598

00:31:01,760 --> 00:31:05,080

You know, Suzy Snyder and  
I have an arrangement.

599

00:31:05,080 --> 00:31:08,020

And periodically, I will go  
over there and bring, you know,

600

00:31:08,020 --> 00:31:09,900

another--

601

00:31:09,900 --> 00:31:13,240

I'm really fortunate to  
have all the photographs.

602

00:31:13,240 --> 00:31:15,550

You know, it's through  
those photographs

603

00:31:15,550 --> 00:31:18,560

and sitting with my mother and  
going through the photographs

604

00:31:18,560 --> 00:31:21,430

that I really learned

the story of our family,

605

00:31:21,430 --> 00:31:25,030  
you know, some very amazing,  
heartwarming stories,

606

00:31:25,030 --> 00:31:29,590  
you know, that really showed  
that life continued on even

607

00:31:29,590 --> 00:31:31,840  
during the occupation,  
even after I was born

608

00:31:31,840 --> 00:31:34,360  
for a short while at least.

609

00:31:34,360 --> 00:31:37,810  
One of the things that my  
mother, little incidents

610

00:31:37,810 --> 00:31:40,030  
that my mother  
described, for example,

611

00:31:40,030 --> 00:31:48,430  
is that I was in a playpen  
while they were eating breakfast

612

00:31:48,430 --> 00:31:50,630  
or lunch, whatever it was.

613

00:31:50,630 --> 00:31:54,190  
And I had a big  
cookie in my hand.

614

00:31:54,190 --> 00:31:57,560  
And the entire family,  
all four of them,

615

00:31:57,560 --> 00:32:02,290  
were watching me eat that  
cookie and eating all around it.

616  
00:32:02,290 --> 00:32:06,820  
And then typically sort of  
being puzzled as a little--

617  
00:32:06,820 --> 00:32:07,570  
Now what?

618  
00:32:07,570 --> 00:32:10,480  
--eight-month-old  
then throw it down.

619  
00:32:10,480 --> 00:32:13,870  
And then they saw me very gently  
picking it up with my fingers

620  
00:32:13,870 --> 00:32:15,730  
and continuing to  
eat the cookie.

621  
00:32:15,730 --> 00:32:17,110  
And they all applauded.

622  
00:32:17,110 --> 00:32:22,090  
Now my mother telling me  
that story really brings--

623  
00:32:22,090 --> 00:32:26,300  
recreates the family for me.

624  
00:32:26,300 --> 00:32:27,830  
And the photographs did that.

625  
00:32:27,830 --> 00:32:32,280  
That is, they were kind of  
like were the triggers or the--

626  
00:32:32,280 --> 00:32:33,880  
Yeah, this particular photo--

627  
00:32:33,880 --> 00:32:35,840  
there's no photograph

of this, especially.

628

00:32:35,840 --> 00:32:39,140

But my mother would tell me,  
part of that photograph where

629

00:32:39,140 --> 00:32:43,220

you saw me sitting between  
my two sisters, that's

630

00:32:43,220 --> 00:32:44,940

sort of that same time frame.

631

00:32:44,940 --> 00:32:49,790

632

00:32:49,790 --> 00:32:51,220

Let me think.

633

00:32:51,220 --> 00:32:56,200

So your sisters were  
also very little girls

634

00:32:56,200 --> 00:32:59,680

during the time  
of the occupation.

635

00:32:59,680 --> 00:33:06,520

And you mentioned that  
the family split up.

636

00:33:06,520 --> 00:33:10,790

Your father is in  
a psychiatric ward.

637

00:33:10,790 --> 00:33:11,290

Right.

638

00:33:11,290 --> 00:33:14,980

And my sisters at that  
point were placed,

639

00:33:14,980 --> 00:33:19,270  
now this is what I had always  
been told with a quote,

640  
00:33:19,270 --> 00:33:26,290  
a very observant, very devout  
Catholic woman who had a vision

641  
00:33:26,290 --> 00:33:29,500  
or a dream in which the  
Virgin told her to take

642  
00:33:29,500 --> 00:33:31,760  
Jewish children into hiding.

643  
00:33:31,760 --> 00:33:34,180  
And I never knew the  
identity of that woman.

644  
00:33:34,180 --> 00:33:35,800  
That was a mystery.

645  
00:33:35,800 --> 00:33:37,180  
I thought they were neighbors.

646  
00:33:37,180 --> 00:33:38,638  
You said that these  
were neighbors.

647  
00:33:38,638 --> 00:33:44,110  
But now-- now it's become  
clear over the past six months

648  
00:33:44,110 --> 00:33:48,290  
or so that I found out  
that in actual fact,

649  
00:33:48,290 --> 00:33:54,490  
my sisters, I am 99% sure,  
were left with those two women,

650  
00:33:54,490 --> 00:33:59,040  
initially, for probably



for about the first year,

651  
00:33:59,040 --> 00:34:12,489  
probably beginning in  
October 1942 to October 1943.

652  
00:34:12,489 --> 00:34:17,500  
And it's at that  
point, in October 1943,

653  
00:34:17,500 --> 00:34:21,590  
that, for some reason,  
they had gotten scared.

654  
00:34:21,590 --> 00:34:23,290  
They felt it was no  
longer safe for them

655  
00:34:23,290 --> 00:34:29,469  
to be there, that the priest,  
Father Ladders tried to find,

656  
00:34:29,469 --> 00:34:32,889  
and found, another  
place for them.

657  
00:34:32,889 --> 00:34:41,949  
And that place turned out with  
a woman called Roza Mazurowski.]

658  
00:34:41,949 --> 00:34:45,070  
And she was--

659  
00:34:45,070 --> 00:34:51,500  
she was in her second marriage  
to a man called Schermer was

660  
00:34:51,500 --> 00:34:54,440  
his last name, S-C-H-E-R-M-E-R.

661  
00:34:54,440 --> 00:34:57,160  
Schermer, OK, yeah.

662

00:34:57,160 --> 00:35:04,880

And so she-- she had owned  
a boarding house basically

663

00:35:04,880 --> 00:35:07,640

from her first marriage,  
or a guesthouse, let's

664

00:35:07,640 --> 00:35:09,240

put it that way.

665

00:35:09,240 --> 00:35:13,910

And so Father Lodders  
approached her,

666

00:35:13,910 --> 00:35:15,720

whether she would be willing--

667

00:35:15,720 --> 00:35:19,130

he interviewed both of them  
apparently, husband and wife,

668

00:35:19,130 --> 00:35:22,590

whether they would be  
willing to hide my sisters.

669

00:35:22,590 --> 00:35:27,890

He told them, supposedly, of  
the risks that they were taking.

670

00:35:27,890 --> 00:35:33,680

And so my two sisters were  
placed in that family.

671

00:35:33,680 --> 00:35:36,980

And whether that's the  
woman who had the dream

672

00:35:36,980 --> 00:35:39,660

that my mother told  
me about, I did

673

00:35:39,660 --> 00:35:42,840  
meet that woman one  
time, didn't know exact,

674  
00:35:42,840 --> 00:35:44,750  
didn't associate it.

675  
00:35:44,750 --> 00:35:47,870  
But my mother after the  
war, after I was reunited

676  
00:35:47,870 --> 00:35:50,150  
with my mother, insist--

677  
00:35:50,150 --> 00:35:53,920  
took me on a visit to the woman  
who had hidden my sisters.

678  
00:35:53,920 --> 00:35:57,200  
And that must have  
been Roza Mazurowski

679  
00:35:57,200 --> 00:35:59,690  
And you know, I remember--

680  
00:35:59,690 --> 00:36:01,760  
I very vaguely  
remember the visit.

681  
00:36:01,760 --> 00:36:03,950  
But the purpose was  
to thank the woman

682  
00:36:03,950 --> 00:36:07,460  
for at least trying  
to save my sisters

683  
00:36:07,460 --> 00:36:09,580  
and giving her  
some of the credit,

684  
00:36:09,580 --> 00:36:12,410  
see there's at least one

of them, one of the three

685  
00:36:12,410 --> 00:36:14,600  
did survive.

686  
00:36:14,600 --> 00:36:19,160  
And we, there was  
only a one time visit.

687  
00:36:19,160 --> 00:36:23,270  
So but now, you know,  
after all these years,

688  
00:36:23,270 --> 00:36:26,240  
I finally found out  
that woman's identity.

689  
00:36:26,240 --> 00:36:30,760  
And I've continued to work on  
trying to find more about her.

690  
00:36:30,760 --> 00:36:35,310  
And what happened, the way I  
did this was really amazing.

691  
00:36:35,310 --> 00:36:40,680  
I decided to Google the name  
Pater or Loddors, Father

692  
00:36:40,680 --> 00:36:41,510  
Loddors.

693  
00:36:41,510 --> 00:36:44,160  
Would be L-U-D-D-E-R-S?

694  
00:36:44,160 --> 00:36:47,880  
L-O-D-D-E-R-S, he  
was a Dutchman.

695  
00:36:47,880 --> 00:36:51,840  
And lo and behold, I  
found a church bulletin

696

00:36:51,840 --> 00:36:54,780  
from the church  
that was associated,

697

00:36:54,780 --> 00:36:59,030  
that was in our neighborhood,  
Elandstraat Church.

698

00:36:59,030 --> 00:37:02,930  
And in the church bulletin,  
old church bulletin,

699

00:37:02,930 --> 00:37:05,030  
there was an article  
about Father Ladders

700

00:37:05,030 --> 00:37:08,820  
being involved in saving Jews.

701

00:37:08,820 --> 00:37:13,020  
I contacted the author,  
first the church itself,

702

00:37:13,020 --> 00:37:16,680  
and then they referred me to  
the author of that article.

703

00:37:16,680 --> 00:37:20,790  
And she and I have been  
corresponding almost daily ever

704

00:37:20,790 --> 00:37:22,250  
since then.

705

00:37:22,250 --> 00:37:23,970  
And when was this  
that you found that,

706

00:37:23,970 --> 00:37:25,987  
that you first contacted--

707

00:37:25,987 --> 00:37:28,320

I think this was probably  
about three months ago, three,

708  
00:37:28,320 --> 00:37:29,030  
four months ago.

709  
00:37:29,030 --> 00:37:29,610  
Wow.

710  
00:37:29,610 --> 00:37:30,250  
Wow.

711  
00:37:30,250 --> 00:37:36,120  
And so she found, for example,  
baptismal certificates

712  
00:37:36,120 --> 00:37:37,550  
for my sisters.

713  
00:37:37,550 --> 00:37:41,000  
Now, just backing  
up for a second,

714  
00:37:41,000 --> 00:37:44,720  
my mother join-- after  
my sisters were placed,

715  
00:37:44,720 --> 00:37:46,700  
I was placed first  
with a neighbor

716  
00:37:46,700 --> 00:37:50,900  
called Annie Madna who lived  
across the street from us.

717  
00:37:50,900 --> 00:37:56,300  
My father then joined my  
father in that same psychiatric

718  
00:37:56,300 --> 00:38:00,170  
hospital, in her case pretending  
to be a nurse or a nursing

719

00:38:00,170 --> 00:38:02,340

assistant, something like that.

720

00:38:02,340 --> 00:38:05,540

And the reason that I'm  
mentioning it now is my mother

721

00:38:05,540 --> 00:38:10,010

told me that my sisters  
had been taken for a visit

722

00:38:10,010 --> 00:38:16,640

to that psychiatric hospital  
on Christmas Day 1942.

723

00:38:16,640 --> 00:38:18,305

And it was sort  
of a mini reunion,

724

00:38:18,305 --> 00:38:19,430

she told me, of the family.

725

00:38:19,430 --> 00:38:22,780

That was the last time  
my parent saw my sisters.

726

00:38:22,780 --> 00:38:23,280

Oh my.

727

00:38:23,280 --> 00:38:26,810

And two-- the following  
day, actually,

728

00:38:26,810 --> 00:38:30,900

is when my parents  
were deported.

729

00:38:30,900 --> 00:38:34,607

And two weeks later,  
it may actually

730

00:38:34,607 --> 00:38:36,440

have been a few days,  
but about a week later

731  
00:38:36,440 --> 00:38:38,360  
is when they were deported.

732  
00:38:38,360 --> 00:38:49,800  
And two weeks after that,  
on December 14, 1942, my--

733  
00:38:49,800 --> 00:38:53,980  
'43, sorry, '43, no, no, '42.

734  
00:38:53,980 --> 00:38:54,490  
Sorry--

735  
00:38:54,490 --> 00:38:55,240  
But you had said--

736  
00:38:55,240 --> 00:38:58,300  
January, January,  
January, January 14, 1943.

737  
00:38:58,300 --> 00:39:01,990  
January 1943, my  
sisters were baptized

738  
00:39:01,990 --> 00:39:03,280  
in the Elandstraat Kerk.

739  
00:39:03,280 --> 00:39:06,610  
And I found their  
baptismal certificate.

740  
00:39:06,610 --> 00:39:10,720  
Whether that was discussed  
when my sisters were

741  
00:39:10,720 --> 00:39:14,350  
taken to my parents for  
a visit, I don't know.

742



00:39:14,350 --> 00:39:16,460  
It's one of the  
mysteries that remains.

743  
00:39:16,460 --> 00:39:18,520  
There was only  
another part of trying

744  
00:39:18,520 --> 00:39:22,630  
to hide their Jewish identity.

745  
00:39:22,630 --> 00:39:24,610  
So that's just a  
backup, I think,

746  
00:39:24,610 --> 00:39:27,210  
to complete the  
story of my sisters.

747  
00:39:27,210 --> 00:39:36,440  
And then my sisters in early  
in January, February, in fact,

748  
00:39:36,440 --> 00:39:42,020  
February 1944, they  
were denounced.

749  
00:39:42,020 --> 00:39:46,620  
The husband of the woman  
where they were in hiding

750  
00:39:46,620 --> 00:39:49,470  
denounced and to the Nazis.

751  
00:39:49,470 --> 00:39:51,060  
This was Mr. Schermer.

752  
00:39:51,060 --> 00:39:51,730  
That's right.

753  
00:39:51,730 --> 00:39:57,390  
And I found, actually,  
this woman in Holland

754  
00:39:57,390 --> 00:40:01,230  
from the church,  
sorry, the reference--

755  
00:40:01,230 --> 00:40:03,060  
The reference to  
Father Lodders--

756  
00:40:03,060 --> 00:40:07,830  
she told me that he had been  
imprisoned in Scheveningen,

757  
00:40:07,830 --> 00:40:13,200  
near The Hague, in  
a prison that was

758  
00:40:13,200 --> 00:40:16,815  
sort of was given the  
nickname Oranjehotel, or Hotel

759  
00:40:16,815 --> 00:40:19,770  
of Orange.

760  
00:40:19,770 --> 00:40:23,670  
And the Holocaust  
Museum happened

761  
00:40:23,670 --> 00:40:27,650  
to have a book about  
the Oranjehotel

762  
00:40:27,650 --> 00:40:31,260  
that details all the  
names of the prisoners,

763  
00:40:31,260 --> 00:40:33,510  
including Father Lodders.

764  
00:40:33,510 --> 00:40:38,490  
And the two van Leeuwen sisters  
are both mentioned in there.

765

00:40:38,490 --> 00:40:41,400

And they were both  
imprisoned at the time

766

00:40:41,400 --> 00:40:44,710

when my sisters were denounced.

767

00:40:44,710 --> 00:40:46,290

They were imprisoned,  
the sisters,

768

00:40:46,290 --> 00:40:50,040

for about two weeks, and Father  
Lodders for about a month.

769

00:40:50,040 --> 00:40:52,830

And the offense is  
hiding Jewish children.

770

00:40:52,830 --> 00:40:54,285

Actually, in his  
case, the offense

771

00:40:54,285 --> 00:40:57,570

is baptizing Jewish children.

772

00:40:57,570 --> 00:41:02,100

And for them, it was providing  
help to Jewish children.

773

00:41:02,100 --> 00:41:07,650

Roza Mazurowski's husband  
denounced her not only as

774

00:41:07,650 --> 00:41:15,390

hiding Jewish children but  
he called her a Jewish Pole.

775

00:41:15,390 --> 00:41:22,650

And I think because of that,  
she was actually sent to Vught

776

00:41:22,650 --> 00:41:27,507  
and then to, I  
think, Ravensbrück.

777  
00:41:27,507 --> 00:41:28,590  
I'll have to look that up.

778  
00:41:28,590 --> 00:41:29,540  
I wrote it down.

779  
00:41:29,540 --> 00:41:32,930  
But I think to Ravensbrück,  
where she develop typhus

780  
00:41:32,930 --> 00:41:36,740  
but eventually did survive.

781  
00:41:36,740 --> 00:41:43,670  
And many of these last details  
really come out of testimony

782  
00:41:43,670 --> 00:41:50,450  
that both she, Rosalia  
Mazurowski, and my mother

783  
00:41:50,450 --> 00:41:59,180  
gave at a trial of the man  
who had arrested my sisters.

784  
00:41:59,180 --> 00:42:10,110  
His name is Dirk Vas, a Dutchman  
who joined the SS immediately

785  
00:42:10,110 --> 00:42:16,080  
after Holland was invaded, was  
sent to fight on the Eastern

786  
00:42:16,080 --> 00:42:18,210  
Front-- volunteered, basically--

787  
00:42:18,210 --> 00:42:21,660  
was injured, and then  
sent back to Holland,

788

00:42:21,660 --> 00:42:26,480

to The Hague, where he was given  
the job of being a policeman.

789

00:42:26,480 --> 00:42:30,930

And he specialized, apparently,  
in rounding up children.

790

00:42:30,930 --> 00:42:32,740

Oh my goodness.

791

00:42:32,740 --> 00:42:35,700

And he was described  
as being very, very

792

00:42:35,700 --> 00:42:39,000

cruel in the testimony.

793

00:42:39,000 --> 00:42:41,790

And apparently,  
one of the reasons

794

00:42:41,790 --> 00:42:44,010

he betrayed-- and  
the reason we think

795

00:42:44,010 --> 00:42:46,650

we know that he  
betrayed his wife is

796

00:42:46,650 --> 00:42:54,170

that when the Nazi police came  
to the house they had a key.

797

00:42:54,170 --> 00:42:58,910

And this woman's husband  
just stood by basically.

798

00:42:58,910 --> 00:43:03,700

And then he pointed her  
out as the Polish Jew.

799

00:43:03,700 --> 00:43:05,740

And so she was deported.

800

00:43:05,740 --> 00:43:10,090

And that gained him  
a private property.

801

00:43:10,090 --> 00:43:15,670

The guesthouse that she  
owned, it now became his.

802

00:43:15,670 --> 00:43:19,840

So this whole thing was a ruse  
apparently for him to gain

803

00:43:19,840 --> 00:43:23,050

ownership of that guesthouse.

804

00:43:23,050 --> 00:43:23,755

Oh my goodness.

805

00:43:23,755 --> 00:43:26,910

806

00:43:26,910 --> 00:43:29,230

So let me see if I can  
reconstruct and understand this

807

00:43:29,230 --> 00:43:29,730

properly.

808

00:43:29,730 --> 00:43:32,980

809

00:43:32,980 --> 00:43:37,530

Your parents have very  
devout Catholic neighbors--

810

00:43:37,530 --> 00:43:39,340

the van Leeuwen sisters.

811

00:43:39,340 --> 00:43:41,730  
Whom I met after the war.

812  
00:43:41,730 --> 00:43:44,580  
They became Tante  
Jo and Tante Ko.

813  
00:43:44,580 --> 00:43:45,430  
So you knew them?

814  
00:43:45,430 --> 00:43:45,930  
Very well.

815  
00:43:45,930 --> 00:43:47,700  
You knew that after the war.

816  
00:43:47,700 --> 00:43:52,170  
And for the first year they  
take in your two sisters.

817  
00:43:52,170 --> 00:43:59,670  
And after one year-- and that  
would be around October 1943--

818  
00:43:59,670 --> 00:44:01,290  
they're getting frightened.

819  
00:44:01,290 --> 00:44:02,910  
They see that it's  
a bit dangerous.

820  
00:44:02,910 --> 00:44:06,720  
They approach their parish  
priest, Father Loddors,

821  
00:44:06,720 --> 00:44:10,050  
who goes and finds  
another family,

822  
00:44:10,050 --> 00:44:12,510  
or another place for  
the sisters to be.

823

00:44:12,510 --> 00:44:15,960  
And that's with Roza Mazurowski  
and her second husband,

824

00:44:15,960 --> 00:44:17,190  
Mr. Schermel.

825

00:44:17,190 --> 00:44:17,690  
Right.

826

00:44:17,690 --> 00:44:20,210

827

00:44:20,210 --> 00:44:24,300  
And do you know the  
dates at which point

828

00:44:24,300 --> 00:44:29,280  
your sisters were arrested or  
Father Ladders was imprisoned--

829

00:44:29,280 --> 00:44:32,250  
I mean, around the time  
all of this happens?

830

00:44:32,250 --> 00:44:36,930  
This is all February 4, 1944.

831

00:44:36,930 --> 00:44:40,140  
And then my sisters  
were taken first

832

00:44:40,140 --> 00:44:43,270  
to a prison, the same  
prison actually--

833

00:44:43,270 --> 00:44:45,683  
the Oranjehotel.

834

00:44:45,683 --> 00:44:47,100  
Although, it was  
given a different



835  
00:44:47,100 --> 00:44:49,290  
name in the official testimony.

836  
00:44:49,290 --> 00:44:50,880  
Of course.

837  
00:44:50,880 --> 00:44:53,370  
But apparently, Jews were  
not registered there.

838  
00:44:53,370 --> 00:44:56,640  
So I don't have any records  
of them being in that prison.

839  
00:44:56,640 --> 00:45:01,200  
Neither is Roza Mazurowski.

840  
00:45:01,200 --> 00:45:03,530  
She also was sent there first.

841  
00:45:03,530 --> 00:45:06,180  
And then from there  
to Westerbork.

842  
00:45:06,180 --> 00:45:08,290  
And then almost  
immediately from Westerbork

843  
00:45:08,290 --> 00:45:13,950  
on the transport, which  
left, I think, February 9.

844  
00:45:13,950 --> 00:45:15,360  
Quite sure of that.

845  
00:45:15,360 --> 00:45:18,450  
February 7 or February 9, 1944.

846  
00:45:18,450 --> 00:45:23,840  
And my sisters were killed  
February 11, 1944 in Auschwitz.

847  
00:45:23,840 --> 00:45:25,170  
Oh wow.

848  
00:45:25,170 --> 00:45:26,580  
Oh wow.

849  
00:45:26,580 --> 00:45:29,640  
So it is a good  
four or five months

850  
00:45:29,640 --> 00:45:36,460  
after they leave the van Leeuwen  
sisters that they're murdered.

851  
00:45:36,460 --> 00:45:36,960  
Correct.

852  
00:45:36,960 --> 00:45:41,160  
And that is the sequence  
is being in the home

853  
00:45:41,160 --> 00:45:45,150  
with Roza Mazurowski,  
and then her husband

854  
00:45:45,150 --> 00:45:50,430  
betraying all of them,  
and one can then maybe

855  
00:45:50,430 --> 00:45:54,420  
assume that in his betrayal  
he talks about Father Lodders

856  
00:45:54,420 --> 00:45:56,970  
and he talks about the van  
Leeuwen sisters as well

857  
00:45:56,970 --> 00:45:59,610  
as his wife and the  
two little girls.

858

00:45:59,610 --> 00:46:02,550  
And that's why they  
end up in Oranjehotel.

859  
00:46:02,550 --> 00:46:03,480  
Right.

860  
00:46:03,480 --> 00:46:10,500  
And one of the questions  
I had when I first

861  
00:46:10,500 --> 00:46:13,470  
listened to your  
testimony, the interview

862  
00:46:13,470 --> 00:46:17,670  
you had with my colleague Gail  
Schwartz so many years ago,

863  
00:46:17,670 --> 00:46:23,020  
is did Mr. Schermel, was he  
ever prosecuted for anything?

864  
00:46:23,020 --> 00:46:24,470  
The answer is yes.

865  
00:46:24,470 --> 00:46:26,620  
And he was found not guilty.

866  
00:46:26,620 --> 00:46:27,760  
Not guilty?

867  
00:46:27,760 --> 00:46:32,350  
Not guilty,  
insufficient evidence.

868  
00:46:32,350 --> 00:46:35,360  
And this is a report that I  
received through the Holocaust

869  
00:46:35,360 --> 00:46:35,860  
Museum.

870

00:46:35,860 --> 00:46:40,480

They put me in touch  
with a researcher-- well,

871

00:46:40,480 --> 00:46:42,600

two ways that I got to it--

872

00:46:42,600 --> 00:46:46,150

a researcher in  
the Netherlands who

873

00:46:46,150 --> 00:46:52,810

actually viewed the testimony  
and viewed the prosecution

874

00:46:52,810 --> 00:46:59,140

record of both Mr.  
Schermel and Dirk Vas.

875

00:46:59,140 --> 00:47:03,130

And Dirk Vas was convicted and  
sent to prison for 20 years

876

00:47:03,130 --> 00:47:05,380

and apparently died in prison.

877

00:47:05,380 --> 00:47:06,627

And Dirk Vas was--

878

00:47:06,627 --> 00:47:07,210

The policeman.

879

00:47:07,210 --> 00:47:08,460

When did the trial take place?

880

00:47:08,460 --> 00:47:11,050

881

00:47:11,050 --> 00:47:19,410

This was in, I  
think, still 1945.

882  
00:47:19,410 --> 00:47:24,146  
Well, the testimony from my  
mother was taken in 1945.

883  
00:47:24,146 --> 00:47:26,340  
But that was where  
there was just

884  
00:47:26,340 --> 00:47:27,675  
taking evidence at the time.

885  
00:47:27,675 --> 00:47:33,900

886  
00:47:33,900 --> 00:47:39,000  
Sadly, unfortunately, there  
are very strict privacy laws

887  
00:47:39,000 --> 00:47:40,660  
in the Netherlands.

888  
00:47:40,660 --> 00:47:45,840  
So those records can  
only be viewed in person.

889  
00:47:45,840 --> 00:47:49,310  
And you have to have  
a special interest.

890  
00:47:49,310 --> 00:47:52,790  
And you can't copy them at all.

891  
00:47:52,790 --> 00:47:55,920  
Not for another  
five years or so.

892  
00:47:55,920 --> 00:48:00,500  
So all I have to rely on is  
what this researcher copied,

893  
00:48:00,500 --> 00:48:03,440  
was able to transcribe.

894  
00:48:03,440 --> 00:48:06,050  
There was another  
person who prior to then

895  
00:48:06,050 --> 00:48:10,760  
actually had contacted  
me, because in listening

896  
00:48:10,760 --> 00:48:16,400  
to my story, he found  
out that his two nieces

897  
00:48:16,400 --> 00:48:21,060  
were on the same  
transport as my sisters.

898  
00:48:21,060 --> 00:48:25,260  
And he is writing  
a book about them.

899  
00:48:25,260 --> 00:48:33,030  
Ron van Hasselt, a Dutch  
writer from Groningen. And he

900  
00:48:33,030 --> 00:48:36,820  
volunteered to go to The  
Hague and look at the record.

901  
00:48:36,820 --> 00:48:38,760  
And so that was the  
first report I received.

902  
00:48:38,760 --> 00:48:41,760  
And then I received a  
second report more recently

903  
00:48:41,760 --> 00:48:45,900  
by the researcher contacted  
by the Holocaust Museum.

904  
00:48:45,900 --> 00:48:49,770  
So now I have a

fairly good picture.

905

00:48:49,770 --> 00:48:52,170

It also included something  
I mentioned where we

906

00:48:52,170 --> 00:48:54,360

talked briefly on the phone--

907

00:48:54,360 --> 00:48:57,060

the name of the town where  
my mother was liberated.

908

00:48:57,060 --> 00:48:59,680

It remains somewhat  
of a mystery.

909

00:48:59,680 --> 00:49:04,450

It's not Ravensbrück, which  
is listed in the museum

910

00:49:04,450 --> 00:49:05,300

by the museum.

911

00:49:05,300 --> 00:49:07,620

It's another camp,  
but I've also looked

912

00:49:07,620 --> 00:49:13,580

at the records, the write-ups  
about the white buses,

913

00:49:13,580 --> 00:49:18,610

the buses that took  
people from Danish border

914

00:49:18,610 --> 00:49:26,100

to Sweden and then  
to ship to Sweden.

915

00:49:26,100 --> 00:49:27,750

So this is post-war though.

916  
00:49:27,750 --> 00:49:28,940  
This is post-war.

917  
00:49:28,940 --> 00:49:31,470  
This is all post-war.

918  
00:49:31,470 --> 00:49:34,030  
But what I'm trying to  
establish right now.

919  
00:49:34,030 --> 00:49:35,770  
Yeah, let's stick with--

920  
00:49:35,770 --> 00:49:37,770  
Yeah, no, what I'm  
trying to establish right

921  
00:49:37,770 --> 00:49:44,760  
now is the betrayal story  
and how much detail you get

922  
00:49:44,760 --> 00:49:46,770  
and when do you get that detail?

923  
00:49:46,770 --> 00:49:49,590  
So it gives somebody  
who will listen

924  
00:49:49,590 --> 00:49:52,680  
to this in the future,  
what I'm hoping,

925  
00:49:52,680 --> 00:49:56,670  
is a sense of the  
events happen in 1944--

926  
00:49:56,670 --> 00:49:59,640  
February 1944 is the betrayal.

927  
00:49:59,640 --> 00:50:04,190  
And it takes you  
how many decades?



928  
00:50:04,190 --> 00:50:07,213  
Half a century, 60  
years, something like--

929  
00:50:07,213 --> 00:50:08,880  
I don't want to put  
words in your mouth.

930  
00:50:08,880 --> 00:50:11,900  
But it takes a certain  
amount of time for you

931  
00:50:11,900 --> 00:50:13,015  
to get the details.

932  
00:50:13,015 --> 00:50:14,140  
And what are these details?

933  
00:50:14,140 --> 00:50:15,710  
And where are they?

934  
00:50:15,710 --> 00:50:18,820  
It's 75 years that it took.

935  
00:50:18,820 --> 00:50:20,100  
That's amazing.

936  
00:50:20,100 --> 00:50:21,800  
Yeah.

937  
00:50:21,800 --> 00:50:24,530  
And the fact that these  
discoveries are still

938  
00:50:24,530 --> 00:50:25,130  
being made.

939  
00:50:25,130 --> 00:50:26,550  
It's not unique.

940

00:50:26,550 --> 00:50:31,610  
And I've encouraged my  
fellow survivor volunteers

941  
00:50:31,610 --> 00:50:33,790  
to also research.

942  
00:50:33,790 --> 00:50:37,430  
We've talked a lot about  
remaining questions,

943  
00:50:37,430 --> 00:50:40,010  
even though I learned  
a lot from my mother.

944  
00:50:40,010 --> 00:50:42,050  
But obviously,  
there may have been

945  
00:50:42,050 --> 00:50:45,200  
some things that were  
just too painful for her,

946  
00:50:45,200 --> 00:50:47,210  
even though she was very open.

947  
00:50:47,210 --> 00:50:51,940  
But I think there were  
some doors she just

948  
00:50:51,940 --> 00:50:54,700  
wants to keep closed.

949  
00:50:54,700 --> 00:50:57,520  
As I said, I remember  
the van Leeuwen sisters.

950  
00:50:57,520 --> 00:51:02,050  
They showed me the  
notebooks that my sister Eva

951  
00:51:02,050 --> 00:51:03,100  
had written in.

952

00:51:03,100 --> 00:51:06,610

It was this beautiful  
handwriting.

953

00:51:06,610 --> 00:51:11,080

And they showed me the catechism  
books that they had used.

954

00:51:11,080 --> 00:51:14,650

But again, in my mind, I  
never associated the two.

955

00:51:14,650 --> 00:51:17,620

I do have a photograph  
too of my sisters

956

00:51:17,620 --> 00:51:21,190

actually attending a procession  
in the Catholic school.

957

00:51:21,190 --> 00:51:23,820

I think that's also at  
the museum's collection.

958

00:51:23,820 --> 00:51:25,260

If not, I still have it.

959

00:51:25,260 --> 00:51:27,970

960

00:51:27,970 --> 00:51:30,610

So there were all  
these little pieces--

961

00:51:30,610 --> 00:51:34,630

the baptism-- whether  
my mother did not

962

00:51:34,630 --> 00:51:39,040

know about it, which I suspect  
that it was discussed with her.

963

00:51:39,040 --> 00:51:40,880

But that's something  
that she really I

964

00:51:40,880 --> 00:51:44,950

think did not want  
to discuss, did not

965

00:51:44,950 --> 00:51:47,380

want to bring up after the war.

966

00:51:47,380 --> 00:51:51,610

Well, I'm a mother, and  
I have a girl who's 25.

967

00:51:51,610 --> 00:51:56,860

And I can imagine  
when she was young,

968

00:51:56,860 --> 00:51:59,800

if something had happened  
to her at that age,

969

00:51:59,800 --> 00:52:01,760

I don't know what I would do.

970

00:52:01,760 --> 00:52:04,410

I'd be beside myself.

971

00:52:04,410 --> 00:52:11,690

It is your job as a parent  
just to protect your children.

972

00:52:11,690 --> 00:52:14,410

And when you can't--

973

00:52:14,410 --> 00:52:17,560

your mother must have been an  
extraordinarily strong woman

974

00:52:17,560 --> 00:52:21,780

to be able to live

through that and go on.

975

00:52:21,780 --> 00:52:27,540

Yes, that's really  
amazing, because I've

976

00:52:27,540 --> 00:52:30,200

been working on a memoir--

977

00:52:30,200 --> 00:52:33,410

through my Echoes of  
Memory class actually.

978

00:52:33,410 --> 00:52:38,090

And what I called it is  
a carefree childhood,

979

00:52:38,090 --> 00:52:39,980

because that's  
the amazing thing.

980

00:52:39,980 --> 00:52:42,110

This is really what I  
remember, what my mother was

981

00:52:42,110 --> 00:52:47,360

able to provide me with after  
I was reunited with her,

982

00:52:47,360 --> 00:52:49,820

was a carefree childhood.

983

00:52:49,820 --> 00:52:53,390

And there wasn't a  
weekend that we didn't go

984

00:52:53,390 --> 00:52:57,860

to a movie, a museum, a play.

985

00:52:57,860 --> 00:53:01,970

She really took care of me.

986

00:53:01,970 --> 00:53:06,000  
Yeah, that is incredible.

987  
00:53:06,000 --> 00:53:10,490  
This is immediately after  
the war, some of the things

988  
00:53:10,490 --> 00:53:12,920  
that I was exposed to  
and that she made sure.

989  
00:53:12,920 --> 00:53:17,220

990  
00:53:17,220 --> 00:53:22,600  
Yeah, still, to this day, it's  
a mystery how she managed.

991  
00:53:22,600 --> 00:53:27,120  
I did remember after  
the war, and we'll

992  
00:53:27,120 --> 00:53:29,845  
get to that maybe in  
sequence, but I might as well

993  
00:53:29,845 --> 00:53:30,470  
mention it now.

994  
00:53:30,470 --> 00:53:36,000  
I remember during the night, I  
would be asleep in my bedroom,

995  
00:53:36,000 --> 00:53:37,630  
and she was in the  
adjoining bedroom.

996  
00:53:37,630 --> 00:53:41,980  
And I would hear her sob  
and say my father's name--

997  
00:53:41,980 --> 00:53:48,180  
Sigi, Sigi-- basically asking,

why did it have to be you?

998

00:53:48,180 --> 00:53:49,490

Why couldn't it have been me?

999

00:53:49,490 --> 00:53:52,370

Something like that in German.

1000

00:53:52,370 --> 00:54:00,250

And it's really-- so those  
are little instances where

1001

00:54:00,250 --> 00:54:06,070

I understood the pain  
that she was suffering.

1002

00:54:06,070 --> 00:54:08,670

And at the same time giving  
you a normal childhood

1003

00:54:08,670 --> 00:54:10,472

which is an amazing thing.

1004

00:54:10,472 --> 00:54:11,055

Amazing thing.

1005

00:54:11,055 --> 00:54:13,740

1006

00:54:13,740 --> 00:54:17,570

I want to go back to  
this trial record.

1007

00:54:17,570 --> 00:54:22,460

So you have not been able to  
actually read the full trial

1008

00:54:22,460 --> 00:54:25,430

record of either man.

1009

00:54:25,430 --> 00:54:25,930

Correct.

1010  
00:54:25,930 --> 00:54:27,860  
It was just what  
these researchers

1011  
00:54:27,860 --> 00:54:30,140  
have been able to tell you.

1012  
00:54:30,140 --> 00:54:33,980  
And now to put the date on it.

1013  
00:54:33,980 --> 00:54:38,390  
How recent is it that  
you have found this out?

1014  
00:54:38,390 --> 00:54:43,020  
This is probably also within  
the last three, four months--

1015  
00:54:43,020 --> 00:54:44,930  
maybe a little bit  
longer, something.

1016  
00:54:44,930 --> 00:54:46,520  
Again, very, very recent.

1017  
00:54:46,520 --> 00:54:49,250  
It's all happening  
at the same time.

1018  
00:54:49,250 --> 00:54:50,720  
I think it probably  
was last year,

1019  
00:54:50,720 --> 00:54:53,780  
because I remember  
writing an essay about it

1020  
00:54:53,780 --> 00:55:01,040  
and saying something about the  
clock turning back 75 years

1021



00:55:01,040 --> 00:55:03,410  
suddenly.

1022  
00:55:03,410 --> 00:55:06,560  
It's just amazing.

1023  
00:55:06,560 --> 00:55:08,330  
And was the impetus  
that you just

1024  
00:55:08,330 --> 00:55:14,000  
started to do some research and  
then you Google Father Lodders

1025  
00:55:14,000 --> 00:55:17,330  
and you find this and  
so it sort of snowballs?

1026  
00:55:17,330 --> 00:55:21,830  
It really started  
probably as I think now

1027  
00:55:21,830 --> 00:55:24,600  
with Ron van Hasselt,  
when he wrote

1028  
00:55:24,600 --> 00:55:29,210  
to me that his two nieces  
were on the same transport

1029  
00:55:29,210 --> 00:55:30,990  
as my sisters.

1030  
00:55:30,990 --> 00:55:32,840  
And he's now  
writing another book

1031  
00:55:32,840 --> 00:55:36,200  
which is going to include  
my sisters actually.

1032  
00:55:36,200 --> 00:55:43,320  
And that is probably when

I started really looking.

1033  
00:55:43,320 --> 00:55:46,490  
And to get with him, also I've  
been corresponding not quite as

1034  
00:55:46,490 --> 00:55:48,020  
frequently.

1035  
00:55:48,020 --> 00:55:52,130  
But also he inquired  
of me whether I

1036  
00:55:52,130 --> 00:55:55,340  
knew the name of a woman--

1037  
00:55:55,340 --> 00:55:57,780  
and I can't remember  
it right now--

1038  
00:55:57,780 --> 00:56:01,250  
the young woman my  
parents had hired

1039  
00:56:01,250 --> 00:56:07,120  
as a childcare person, nurse.

1040  
00:56:07,120 --> 00:56:10,570  
And I said, well, my mother  
may have mentioned someone,

1041  
00:56:10,570 --> 00:56:12,280  
but I have no idea.

1042  
00:56:12,280 --> 00:56:14,890  
So he gave me a name.

1043  
00:56:14,890 --> 00:56:17,470  
And he found a record  
that said that she

1044  
00:56:17,470 --> 00:56:22,750

was a young Jewish  
woman from Austria who

1045  
00:56:22,750 --> 00:56:25,870  
was hired by my  
parents apparently

1046  
00:56:25,870 --> 00:56:30,130  
as a care for helping  
with my sisters.

1047  
00:56:30,130 --> 00:56:34,630  
And he asked me whether I  
had any photograph of her.

1048  
00:56:34,630 --> 00:56:36,970  
I said, I never  
heard of her name.

1049  
00:56:36,970 --> 00:56:40,160  
But then I looked closely  
at the photograph,

1050  
00:56:40,160 --> 00:56:44,410  
those small  
photographs of my bris.

1051  
00:56:44,410 --> 00:56:48,850  
And lo and behold,  
between my sisters

1052  
00:56:48,850 --> 00:56:52,100  
is the face of a young woman.

1053  
00:56:52,100 --> 00:56:56,370  
My father standing  
behind the three of them.

1054  
00:56:56,370 --> 00:57:00,500  
So it is very, very  
logical, it is very likely

1055  
00:57:00,500 --> 00:57:04,290

that that's the woman  
that he was referring to

1056  
00:57:04,290 --> 00:57:06,440  
and that he's also  
doing research on.

1057  
00:57:06,440 --> 00:57:08,900  
She apparently perished.

1058  
00:57:08,900 --> 00:57:10,580  
She was arrested,  
did not survive.

1059  
00:57:10,580 --> 00:57:13,910

1060  
00:57:13,910 --> 00:57:15,950  
All these little  
pieces coming out.

1061  
00:57:15,950 --> 00:57:18,620

1062  
00:57:18,620 --> 00:57:23,660  
When you mention something  
that is current reality,

1063  
00:57:23,660 --> 00:57:27,260  
and that is the privacy laws  
that exist in the Netherlands.

1064  
00:57:27,260 --> 00:57:30,230  
These privacy laws actually  
exist throughout Europe

1065  
00:57:30,230 --> 00:57:33,980  
now, particularly the countries  
of the European Union,

1066  
00:57:33,980 --> 00:57:36,530  
and very strongly in Germany.

1067

00:57:36,530 --> 00:57:39,320  
And from what my understanding  
is, historically,

1068

00:57:39,320 --> 00:57:41,330  
one of the reasons  
there are those privacy

1069

00:57:41,330 --> 00:57:43,370  
laws is because  
the Gestapo could

1070

00:57:43,370 --> 00:57:46,370  
get a hold of so  
much information

1071

00:57:46,370 --> 00:57:50,540  
on people that there is  
nervousness about state

1072

00:57:50,540 --> 00:57:56,030  
authorities being  
able to do this

1073

00:57:56,030 --> 00:57:58,950  
and that people are endangered.

1074

00:57:58,950 --> 00:58:00,600  
So it's an irony.

1075

00:58:00,600 --> 00:58:03,210  
It's an irony that the  
impetus started that way.

1076

00:58:03,210 --> 00:58:06,650  
But it also now prevents  
people from finding out

1077

00:58:06,650 --> 00:58:09,100  
about their families.

1078

00:58:09,100 --> 00:58:11,630

Tell me, would  
you have the right

1079  
00:58:11,630 --> 00:58:14,060  
if you were to travel  
to the Netherlands

1080  
00:58:14,060 --> 00:58:16,920  
to see the full transcripts?

1081  
00:58:16,920 --> 00:58:18,170  
Would you be in that category?

1082  
00:58:18,170 --> 00:58:20,000  
Oh yeah, I would  
like to see them.

1083  
00:58:20,000 --> 00:58:24,740  
Actually, I need to  
go back even more.

1084  
00:58:24,740 --> 00:58:26,925  
At the same time as  
Ron van Hasselt--

1085  
00:58:26,925 --> 00:58:30,650  
I can't remember  
which came first.

1086  
00:58:30,650 --> 00:58:33,470  
Yeah, that may  
happen even earlier.

1087  
00:58:33,470 --> 00:58:35,520  
This was all about  
the same time.

1088  
00:58:35,520 --> 00:58:38,120  
There was a young woman  
who was doing research

1089  
00:58:38,120 --> 00:58:42,580  
at the museum as a research

fellow from Germany--

1090  
00:58:42,580 --> 00:58:43,320  
Lilly Maier.

1091  
00:58:43,320 --> 00:58:47,180

1092  
00:58:47,180 --> 00:58:52,010  
And Suzy Snyder said that  
Lilly Maier was interested,

1093  
00:58:52,010 --> 00:58:55,670  
was writing her  
doctoral thesis on women

1094  
00:58:55,670 --> 00:59:00,290  
who had tried to save  
Jews, and that she had come

1095  
00:59:00,290 --> 00:59:03,860  
upon the story of my sisters.

1096  
00:59:03,860 --> 00:59:06,680  
And so I went up  
and talked to her.

1097  
00:59:06,680 --> 00:59:10,880  
And I said, I don't even  
know the woman's name.

1098  
00:59:10,880 --> 00:59:13,460  
I have no idea who she is.

1099  
00:59:13,460 --> 00:59:20,600  
And she said, I had  
contacted the Dutch archives,

1100  
00:59:20,600 --> 00:59:25,520  
and I had to provide proof that  
your sisters had been killed

1101

00:59:25,520 --> 00:59:26,900  
and were dead.

1102  
00:59:26,900 --> 00:59:33,260  
And so I was given the name  
of a record that included

1103  
00:59:33,260 --> 00:59:35,060  
the names of your sisters.

1104  
00:59:35,060 --> 00:59:38,730  
And that record was Dirk Vas--

1105  
00:59:38,730 --> 00:59:41,700  
the criminal record of Dirk Vas.

1106  
00:59:41,700 --> 00:59:44,970  
So this is really  
where Dirk Vas first

1107  
00:59:44,970 --> 00:59:47,360  
was brought to my attention.

1108  
00:59:47,360 --> 00:59:52,470  
That then, in turn, made me  
start googling Father Lodders

1109  
00:59:52,470 --> 00:59:56,800  
and trying to find out  
the name of this person.

1110  
00:59:56,800 --> 00:59:59,520  
There was also an  
advertisement that I had been

1111  
00:59:59,520 --> 01:00:01,310  
given many, many years ago.

1112  
01:00:01,310 --> 01:00:05,100  
When I first started telling the  
story of my family-- actually

1113



01:00:05,100 --> 01:00:07,240  
it's over 30 years  
ago-- someone who

1114  
01:00:07,240 --> 01:00:09,280  
worked at the Library  
of Congress came up

1115  
01:00:09,280 --> 01:00:10,952  
with a sheet of paper.

1116  
01:00:10,952 --> 01:00:12,910  
And he said, here, here's  
an advertisement that

1117  
01:00:12,910 --> 01:00:20,890  
was placed in the summer of 1945  
in a Jewish newspaper asking

1118  
01:00:20,890 --> 01:00:24,010  
for the whereabouts  
of your sisters.

1119  
01:00:24,010 --> 01:00:26,650  
And I showed that to  
my mother at the time.

1120  
01:00:26,650 --> 01:00:28,240  
She was still alive.

1121  
01:00:28,240 --> 01:00:31,830  
And she did not recognize  
the advertisement.

1122  
01:00:31,830 --> 01:00:34,190  
It was placed by  
a Mr. van Leeuwen.

1123  
01:00:34,190 --> 01:00:37,910  
But van Leeuwen is a very  
common dual Dutch name--

1124  
01:00:37,910 --> 01:00:39,490

both Jewish and non-Jewish.

1125  
01:00:39,490 --> 01:00:42,550  
And a man who lived in  
Amsterdam, so I don't

1126  
01:00:42,550 --> 01:00:44,680  
know who he is, who he was.

1127  
01:00:44,680 --> 01:00:49,020  
And that they had been given  
a hidden name of Jansen,

1128  
01:00:49,020 --> 01:00:52,120  
a very common Dutch last name--

1129  
01:00:52,120 --> 01:00:56,650  
Maria Jansen and Anny Jansen.

1130  
01:00:56,650 --> 01:00:59,160  
And were they baptized  
by those names?

1131  
01:00:59,160 --> 01:01:00,430  
No.

1132  
01:01:00,430 --> 01:01:01,060  
Not Jansen.

1133  
01:01:01,060 --> 01:01:01,810  
No.

1134  
01:01:01,810 --> 01:01:03,415  
Not even the first  
names were changed.

1135  
01:01:03,415 --> 01:01:06,720

1136  
01:01:06,720 --> 01:01:08,080  
I have to recheck that.

1137

01:01:08,080 --> 01:01:10,330

But I don't think so.

1138

01:01:10,330 --> 01:01:12,130

And then it so  
happened that when

1139

01:01:12,130 --> 01:01:15,130

I looked at the records  
of the Oranjehotel,

1140

01:01:15,130 --> 01:01:19,930

just about the same time that  
Father Lodders was arrested,

1141

01:01:19,930 --> 01:01:22,780

all in that same  
period, same few days,

1142

01:01:22,780 --> 01:01:26,070

there was a Mrs. Jansen.

1143

01:01:26,070 --> 01:01:30,240

And so my initial thought  
was it was Mrs. Jansen--

1144

01:01:30,240 --> 01:01:33,000

1145

01:01:33,000 --> 01:01:38,130

she was arrested also for  
hiding Jewish children.

1146

01:01:38,130 --> 01:01:40,100

So I put the two  
and two together

1147

01:01:40,100 --> 01:01:42,180

and thought she might  
have been the one.

1148

01:01:42,180 --> 01:01:43,440

Not Roza?

1149

01:01:43,440 --> 01:01:44,727

Not Roza Mazurowski?

1150

01:01:44,727 --> 01:01:46,060

That's what I thought initially.

1151

01:01:46,060 --> 01:01:48,870

I didn't know about

Roza at the time as yet.

1152

01:01:48,870 --> 01:01:52,500

And so Roza did not come  
up until we actually

1153

01:01:52,500 --> 01:01:55,330

read the testimony.

1154

01:01:55,330 --> 01:01:57,720

So Jansen is still

somewhat of a mystery--

1155

01:01:57,720 --> 01:01:59,035

why this woman was arrested.

1156

01:01:59,035 --> 01:02:03,270

1157

01:02:03,270 --> 01:02:07,350

I still wonder whether there

may still be a connection.

1158

01:02:07,350 --> 01:02:10,570

Yet another person who

may have been involved.

1159

01:02:10,570 --> 01:02:15,630

Well, it's true.

1160

01:02:15,630 --> 01:02:17,100

There are holes.

1161  
01:02:17,100 --> 01:02:19,980  
And when you start exploring  
the holes and the gaps

1162  
01:02:19,980 --> 01:02:22,500  
and the open  
questions, you find out

1163  
01:02:22,500 --> 01:02:25,080  
that there could be more  
unanswered questions than you

1164  
01:02:25,080 --> 01:02:26,780  
had originally thought of.

1165  
01:02:26,780 --> 01:02:27,600  
Absolutely.

1166  
01:02:27,600 --> 01:02:31,260  
One of those that I've  
got is just to clarify.

1167  
01:02:31,260 --> 01:02:33,090  
You say somebody had the key.

1168  
01:02:33,090 --> 01:02:38,190  
Was this Dirk Vas who had the  
key to the home that Roza had?

1169  
01:02:38,190 --> 01:02:39,530  
Right.

1170  
01:02:39,530 --> 01:02:43,040  
And when Roza  
survived all this, I

1171  
01:02:43,040 --> 01:02:47,810  
can imagine she had a few  
words for Mr. Schermel.

1172  
01:02:47,810 --> 01:02:49,340

And do you know what happened?

1173

01:02:49,340 --> 01:02:51,710

Did she get her  
boardinghouse back?

1174

01:02:51,710 --> 01:02:54,240

Did she kick him out?

1175

01:02:54,240 --> 01:03:00,890

He sold the boarding house  
to his niece apparently.

1176

01:03:00,890 --> 01:03:04,220

And it's only in the last  
few days that I found--

1177

01:03:04,220 --> 01:03:06,430

I could not find out.

1178

01:03:06,430 --> 01:03:08,930

I did find out first.

1179

01:03:08,930 --> 01:03:10,820

I asked the  
researcher in Holland

1180

01:03:10,820 --> 01:03:13,750

whether there was a record  
of the address where Roza

1181

01:03:13,750 --> 01:03:15,800

Mazurowski lived at a time.

1182

01:03:15,800 --> 01:03:17,310

I wanted to see  
whether in my mind

1183

01:03:17,310 --> 01:03:19,550

that would refresh my  
memory that might have been

1184

01:03:19,550 --> 01:03:21,592  
the place where I visited her.

1185  
01:03:21,592 --> 01:03:22,860  
It didn't really work.

1186  
01:03:22,860 --> 01:03:26,600  
But then I wanted to find out  
whether she had any family

1187  
01:03:26,600 --> 01:03:29,270  
members.

1188  
01:03:29,270 --> 01:03:33,260  
I'm trying to get her, frankly,  
recognized at the Yad Vashem.

1189  
01:03:33,260 --> 01:03:37,460  
Here's a woman who really  
tried, did not succeed, but paid

1190  
01:03:37,460 --> 01:03:42,110  
a very, very heavy price, about  
being sent concentration camps.

1191  
01:03:42,110 --> 01:03:47,420

1192  
01:03:47,420 --> 01:03:51,000  
Or in some way, I want to  
make sure she's recognized.

1193  
01:03:51,000 --> 01:03:56,090  
So I finally found out,  
just two days ago actually,

1194  
01:03:56,090 --> 01:04:02,360  
that the day that she  
died-- in 1972 at age 77.

1195  
01:04:02,360 --> 01:04:07,100  
And she had moved from  
The Hague to another town.

1196  
01:04:07,100 --> 01:04:13,100  
And so again, now I have  
identified the Catholic church

1197  
01:04:13,100 --> 01:04:15,110  
near her home there.

1198  
01:04:15,110 --> 01:04:20,360  
And so my next project is  
writing to that Catholic church

1199  
01:04:20,360 --> 01:04:24,290  
and see what records they  
have of her last years

1200  
01:04:24,290 --> 01:04:30,690  
and whether she had any  
friends, any relatives.

1201  
01:04:30,690 --> 01:04:34,955  
There was also the mystery  
because he called her Jewish.

1202  
01:04:34,955 --> 01:04:38,000

1203  
01:04:38,000 --> 01:04:42,140  
And so when I first mentioned  
honoring her at Yad Vashem,

1204  
01:04:42,140 --> 01:04:44,450  
she can't be honored  
if she's Jewish.

1205  
01:04:44,450 --> 01:04:48,500  
So that's why I went through  
that whole research again

1206  
01:04:48,500 --> 01:04:53,150  
finding out when she was married  
in the church in Elandstraat--



1207

01:04:53,150 --> 01:04:57,030  
both her weddings were there--

1208

01:04:57,030 --> 01:04:59,880  
she had to present her  
baptismal certificate

1209

01:04:59,880 --> 01:05:03,670  
from her birth place, which  
was actually in Germany.

1210

01:05:03,670 --> 01:05:07,710  
So it was a German  
family living in Germany.

1211

01:05:07,710 --> 01:05:08,780  
Well, it's interesting.

1212

01:05:08,780 --> 01:05:10,670  
They must have been  
from Poland originally,

1213

01:05:10,670 --> 01:05:12,422  
because Mazurowski's  
not a German name.

1214

01:05:12,422 --> 01:05:14,130  
And that's why I  
thought might be Jewish.

1215

01:05:14,130 --> 01:05:15,580  
And I thought it was not--

1216

01:05:15,580 --> 01:05:18,800  
yeah, I know several  
people Mazur.

1217

01:05:18,800 --> 01:05:22,030  
It's the shortened name  
in the United States.

1218

01:05:22,030 --> 01:05:26,315

But she was born  
in Calbe, Germany.

1219  
01:05:26,315 --> 01:05:29,530  
And she was  
baptized, apparently,

1220  
01:05:29,530 --> 01:05:31,250  
10 days after she was born.

1221  
01:05:31,250 --> 01:05:33,000  
So I don't have the  
baptismal certificate.

1222  
01:05:33,000 --> 01:05:35,640  
But she presented  
it at the church,

1223  
01:05:35,640 --> 01:05:39,140  
in fact, because it was  
her first husband who

1224  
01:05:39,140 --> 01:05:43,400  
had to be given an  
exemption for marrying her.

1225  
01:05:43,400 --> 01:05:45,470  
So she was really--

1226  
01:05:45,470 --> 01:05:48,200  
they really verified the  
fact that she was Catholic.

1227  
01:05:48,200 --> 01:05:51,650  
So that establishes that  
she was in fact Catholic

1228  
01:05:51,650 --> 01:05:54,470  
and that the whole business  
of calling her Jewish

1229  
01:05:54,470 --> 01:05:58,283  
was just an added

way of insulting her.

1230

01:05:58,283 --> 01:05:59,450

Or to really get rid of her.

1231

01:05:59,450 --> 01:06:00,350

Or to get rid of her.

1232

01:06:00,350 --> 01:06:01,140

Right, exactly.

1233

01:06:01,140 --> 01:06:02,320

Really get rid of her.

1234

01:06:02,320 --> 01:06:04,240

Yeah.

1235

01:06:04,240 --> 01:06:05,200

Man oh man.

1236

01:06:05,200 --> 01:06:08,140

1237

01:06:08,140 --> 01:06:11,770

So there may be more questions  
associated with exactly

1238

01:06:11,770 --> 01:06:14,620

how that betrayal happened.

1239

01:06:14,620 --> 01:06:17,200

But for right now,  
what we know is

1240

01:06:17,200 --> 01:06:26,050

that Mr. Schermel gave somebody  
a key or somebody got a key.

1241

01:06:26,050 --> 01:06:27,550

And they came.

1242

01:06:27,550 --> 01:06:28,570  
They arrested her.

1243  
01:06:28,570 --> 01:06:30,460  
They arrested your sisters.

1244  
01:06:30,460 --> 01:06:32,470  
They arrested a number  
of other people.

1245  
01:06:32,470 --> 01:06:34,370  
No.

1246  
01:06:34,370 --> 01:06:35,870  
Arrested only two.

1247  
01:06:35,870 --> 01:06:39,130  
But they arrested the  
priest, Father Lodders,

1248  
01:06:39,130 --> 01:06:40,450  
and the van Leeuwen sisters.

1249  
01:06:40,450 --> 01:06:40,570  
Right.

1250  
01:06:40,570 --> 01:06:41,230  
Oh yes, yes.

1251  
01:06:41,230 --> 01:06:41,890  
OK.

1252  
01:06:41,890 --> 01:06:46,030  
But the other people that  
were living at that address

1253  
01:06:46,030 --> 01:06:50,620  
apparently also testified,  
provided testimony.

1254  
01:06:50,620 --> 01:06:52,480  
But apparently, none

of them were Jewish.

1255

01:06:52,480 --> 01:06:55,330

There were no other Jews,  
as far as I can tell.

1256

01:06:55,330 --> 01:06:58,930

There were no other Jews hiding  
in that particular place.

1257

01:06:58,930 --> 01:07:02,230

But there were other people  
living in that guesthouse.

1258

01:07:02,230 --> 01:07:07,120

And is there a reason  
why he was found

1259

01:07:07,120 --> 01:07:09,490

not guilty or  
insufficient evidence?

1260

01:07:09,490 --> 01:07:11,170

That's basically  
said insufficient--

1261

01:07:11,170 --> 01:07:14,800

and they said actually  
through the trial record

1262

01:07:14,800 --> 01:07:18,340

that he was a liar.

1263

01:07:18,340 --> 01:07:23,550

And that he just lied his  
way through and denied having

1264

01:07:23,550 --> 01:07:24,840

anything to do with anything.

1265

01:07:24,840 --> 01:07:28,590

1266

01:07:28,590 --> 01:07:32,031

The damage that  
such people can do.

1267

01:07:32,031 --> 01:07:34,860

Yeah.

1268

01:07:34,860 --> 01:07:37,570

Let's go forward a little bit.

1269

01:07:37,570 --> 01:07:40,510

So we left we were at  
my sisters being placed.

1270

01:07:40,510 --> 01:07:43,510

And I just barely mentioned  
my being in hiding.

1271

01:07:43,510 --> 01:07:44,530

Yeah.

1272

01:07:44,530 --> 01:07:46,270

Well, one of the  
reasons I didn't

1273

01:07:46,270 --> 01:07:49,240

want to go into that  
as much is because you

1274

01:07:49,240 --> 01:07:52,630

had mentioned earlier that it  
was your sisters for which you

1275

01:07:52,630 --> 01:07:54,220

had new information.

1276

01:07:54,220 --> 01:07:56,530

Perhaps some new information  
about myself too.

1277

01:07:56,530 --> 01:07:57,250

Oh, wonderful.

1278  
01:07:57,250 --> 01:07:58,090  
OK, good.

1279  
01:07:58,090 --> 01:07:58,700  
[LAUGHTER]

1280  
01:07:58,700 --> 01:07:59,260  
Good.

1281  
01:07:59,260 --> 01:08:01,690  
So let's talk about that.

1282  
01:08:01,690 --> 01:08:04,870  
Or excuse me, before we  
do that, let's wrap up

1283  
01:08:04,870 --> 01:08:06,100  
what happened to your father.

1284  
01:08:06,100 --> 01:08:08,740

1285  
01:08:08,740 --> 01:08:10,870  
Both of your parents  
are deported.

1286  
01:08:10,870 --> 01:08:13,990  
Your mother goes through  
12 concentration camps.

1287  
01:08:13,990 --> 01:08:16,029  
What happens to your father?

1288  
01:08:16,029 --> 01:08:17,960  
My father, just  
about the same thing.

1289  
01:08:17,960 --> 01:08:21,130  
So my parents were  
both initially sent

1290

01:08:21,130 --> 01:08:24,944  
to Westerbork, then  
from Westerbork

1291

01:08:24,944 --> 01:08:28,120  
were sent on to Vught.

1292

01:08:28,120 --> 01:08:31,240  
They both worked for the  
Philips Electronics factory.

1293

01:08:31,240 --> 01:08:36,520  
But again, this is very recent,  
new discovery that I've made.

1294

01:08:36,520 --> 01:08:39,790  
My mother-- I always  
assumed and the story

1295

01:08:39,790 --> 01:08:43,630  
that I've been told that they  
were both sent to Auschwitz.

1296

01:08:43,630 --> 01:08:46,330  
And I surmised that that's  
where they were separated.

1297

01:08:46,330 --> 01:08:49,770  
In actual fact, the  
records now show

1298

01:08:49,770 --> 01:08:54,220  
that my father was deported  
three months earlier.

1299

01:08:54,220 --> 01:08:57,729  
He was deported in March 1944.

1300

01:08:57,729 --> 01:09:02,069  
And my mother late in June 1944.

1301

01:09:02,069 --> 01:09:06,410



Having her deported  
in June 1944 meant

1302  
01:09:06,410 --> 01:09:11,720  
that she was part of a group  
called the Philips Kommando.

1303  
01:09:11,720 --> 01:09:15,410  
The Philips Kommando  
were a group of women

1304  
01:09:15,410 --> 01:09:20,510  
that Mr. Philips had  
persuaded the Germans were

1305  
01:09:20,510 --> 01:09:24,170  
essential for the  
workings of his factory

1306  
01:09:24,170 --> 01:09:28,279  
and for making war  
material for the Germans.

1307  
01:09:28,279 --> 01:09:30,800  
And so they were  
somewhat protected

1308  
01:09:30,800 --> 01:09:34,520  
while they were working  
for the Philips factory.

1309  
01:09:34,520 --> 01:09:40,100  
And so those women were  
not sent to Auschwitz

1310  
01:09:40,100 --> 01:09:43,670  
until somewhat later in June  
when the factory apparently

1311  
01:09:43,670 --> 01:09:47,165  
was closed and Mr. Philips  
himself was arrested, actually.

1312

01:09:47,165 --> 01:09:50,149

1313

01:09:50,149 --> 01:09:53,029

And so my mother, my father,  
my parents, in actual fact,

1314

01:09:53,029 --> 01:09:56,150

arrived in Auschwitz  
at separate times.

1315

01:09:56,150 --> 01:10:00,672

My father remained  
in Auschwitz for--

1316

01:10:00,672 --> 01:10:04,650

I would think I have records--  
but it's at least six months.

1317

01:10:04,650 --> 01:10:07,570

And he was employed--

1318

01:10:07,570 --> 01:10:10,670

and again, this is  
something recent discovery--

1319

01:10:10,670 --> 01:10:15,920

probably at the rubber  
factory of IG Farben.

1320

01:10:15,920 --> 01:10:21,110

At the museum, I found a small  
piece of paper with his number

1321

01:10:21,110 --> 01:10:25,160

as a prisoner and no name.

1322

01:10:25,160 --> 01:10:29,970

But it says in German, [GERMAN].

1323

01:10:29,970 --> 01:10:31,236

He's entitled--

1324

01:10:31,236 --> 01:10:33,480

There was kind of payment.

1325

01:10:33,480 --> 01:10:39,280

That he warrants  
a higher salary.

1326

01:10:39,280 --> 01:10:41,890

Two pfennig, not one pfennig.

1327

01:10:41,890 --> 01:10:47,080

So I asked the researcher at  
the museum what this meant.

1328

01:10:47,080 --> 01:10:49,260

And he said, well,  
the factories that

1329

01:10:49,260 --> 01:10:54,510

employed the slave laborers  
had to pay wages to the SS,

1330

01:10:54,510 --> 01:10:56,730

to the Germans, to the Nazis.

1331

01:10:56,730 --> 01:11:01,930

And hiring your father  
warranted a higher price.

1332

01:11:01,930 --> 01:11:03,260

It's like slavery.

1333

01:11:03,260 --> 01:11:05,670

It really is.

1334

01:11:05,670 --> 01:11:08,670

So that's what that  
little slip of paper.

1335

01:11:08,670 --> 01:11:12,240

And then also I found  
reference to that slip of paper

1336  
01:11:12,240 --> 01:11:15,860  
into longer payment  
documents also.

1337  
01:11:15,860 --> 01:11:19,200  
Can I ask just as a  
technical question,

1338  
01:11:19,200 --> 01:11:22,150  
were you looking at a digital  
copy of that slip of paper?

1339  
01:11:22,150 --> 01:11:22,650  
Yes.

1340  
01:11:22,650 --> 01:11:24,300  
Or the actual slip of paper?

1341  
01:11:24,300 --> 01:11:25,860  
No.

1342  
01:11:25,860 --> 01:11:30,620  
These are the digitized ITS  
records that the museum had.

1343  
01:11:30,620 --> 01:11:34,380  
This was a few years ago  
that I came across that.

1344  
01:11:34,380 --> 01:11:39,750  
So another little  
piece of my father.

1345  
01:11:39,750 --> 01:11:43,410  
And for my father, there is  
a detailed registration form

1346  
01:11:43,410 --> 01:11:50,970  
for Auschwitz, which is amazing  
because it lists, for example,

1347

01:11:50,970 --> 01:11:54,140  
the name of his wife.

1348  
01:11:54,140 --> 01:11:57,990  
And it's misspelled.

1349  
01:11:57,990 --> 01:12:00,690  
There's an O instead of  
an I, whatever it is.

1350  
01:12:00,690 --> 01:12:03,620  
But put the funny,  
or the amazing, part

1351  
01:12:03,620 --> 01:12:08,200  
is it asks current residence  
for my mother, that is.

1352  
01:12:08,200 --> 01:12:09,992  
KZ Auschwitz.

1353  
01:12:09,992 --> 01:12:12,090  
[SILENT LAUGH]

1354  
01:12:12,090 --> 01:12:16,040  
This is a German bureaucracy,  
the Nazi bureaucracy at work.

1355  
01:12:16,040 --> 01:12:19,020  
This detailed form.

1356  
01:12:19,020 --> 01:12:20,780  
So that's for my father.

1357  
01:12:20,780 --> 01:12:23,010  
Then he was sent on from there.

1358  
01:12:23,010 --> 01:12:26,040  
He went to Mauthausen.

1359  
01:12:26,040 --> 01:12:30,210  
And I don't know exactly,

can't remember exactly,

1360

01:12:30,210 --> 01:12:32,940

how long he was in Mauthausen.

1361

01:12:32,940 --> 01:12:37,290

Then to Gusen,

Steyr in Austria--

1362

01:12:37,290 --> 01:12:39,160

all in the same area--

1363

01:12:39,160 --> 01:12:41,670

and then finally in Ebensee.

1364

01:12:41,670 --> 01:12:46,380

And so he survived

long enough in Ebensee

1365

01:12:46,380 --> 01:12:50,190

to actually be

liberated in May 1945.

1366

01:12:50,190 --> 01:12:58,440

But he was so weak that

he died two months later.

1367

01:12:58,440 --> 01:13:05,950

And actually, he was taken

care of for the last few months

1368

01:13:05,950 --> 01:13:11,630

at a convent near the

concentration camp.

1369

01:13:11,630 --> 01:13:14,290

And I visited that

convent actually.

1370

01:13:14,290 --> 01:13:17,890

I talked to some of

the sisters there.

1371

01:13:17,890 --> 01:13:20,120

None of them were there  
at the actual time,

1372

01:13:20,120 --> 01:13:22,180

but they gave me the story.

1373

01:13:22,180 --> 01:13:25,760

And then my father was buried in  
the concentration camp itself,

1374

01:13:25,760 --> 01:13:28,450

which is now a huge cemetery.

1375

01:13:28,450 --> 01:13:31,660

Marked grave or  
not a marked grave?

1376

01:13:31,660 --> 01:13:33,730

It's interesting.

1377

01:13:33,730 --> 01:13:38,080

No, there is a huge mass  
grave of the people who

1378

01:13:38,080 --> 01:13:39,990

were found dead in the camp.

1379

01:13:39,990 --> 01:13:42,730

And then there are  
individual graves.

1380

01:13:42,730 --> 01:13:46,120

There was a marking when my  
mother first visited the camp.

1381

01:13:46,120 --> 01:13:48,100

It was a cross on it.

1382

01:13:48,100 --> 01:13:50,745

And then there were  
also some straight--

1383  
01:13:50,745 --> 01:13:53,620  
there were hundreds  
of graves there.

1384  
01:13:53,620 --> 01:13:58,000  
And there were also some  
non-specific markers.

1385  
01:13:58,000 --> 01:14:00,390  
And then my mother told me.

1386  
01:14:00,390 --> 01:14:01,390  
Actually, she warned me.

1387  
01:14:01,390 --> 01:14:07,540  
She said that the  
caretakers of the cemetery

1388  
01:14:07,540 --> 01:14:09,910  
decided since the  
markers really made

1389  
01:14:09,910 --> 01:14:14,540  
no sense-- they didn't know what  
anybody's religion was-- all

1390  
01:14:14,540 --> 01:14:16,860  
of the markers were removed.

1391  
01:14:16,860 --> 01:14:18,070  
And so there is--

1392  
01:14:18,070 --> 01:14:22,430  
you have to go to the office,  
and they show you by number

1393  
01:14:22,430 --> 01:14:25,500  
where the grave is located.

1394  
01:14:25,500 --> 01:14:29,090  
So that's the system as it



was when I visited there

1395  
01:14:29,090 --> 01:14:33,090  
about 20 years ago or so.

1396  
01:14:33,090 --> 01:14:34,070  
That's the last time.

1397  
01:14:34,070 --> 01:14:37,790  
We were going to go this  
year, but COVID happened.

1398  
01:14:37,790 --> 01:14:43,400  
So I was there 25 years ago  
was the last time I visited.

1399  
01:14:43,400 --> 01:14:47,190  
And it's a very, very  
moving experience.

1400  
01:14:47,190 --> 01:14:49,955  
So that's the  
story of my father.

1401  
01:14:49,955 --> 01:14:52,700

1402  
01:14:52,700 --> 01:14:54,710  
I can tell you my  
mother's story.

1403  
01:14:54,710 --> 01:14:56,235  
Or you want to go to my hiding?

1404  
01:14:56,235 --> 01:14:59,150  
Well, I would like, as  
I say, because we're not

1405  
01:14:59,150 --> 01:15:04,250  
going to repeat everything that  
was talked about with Gail.

1406

01:15:04,250 --> 01:15:08,150  
We have the news that  
your mother survives.

1407  
01:15:08,150 --> 01:15:09,260  
We have the news.

1408  
01:15:09,260 --> 01:15:12,500  
We know what did  
happen to your sisters.

1409  
01:15:12,500 --> 01:15:16,370  
And we know now what  
happened to your father.

1410  
01:15:16,370 --> 01:15:21,470  
One point though--  
when you go and you're

1411  
01:15:21,470 --> 01:15:25,430  
at the cemetery in  
Ebensee and they show you

1412  
01:15:25,430 --> 01:15:27,710  
in the central office  
where the grave is,

1413  
01:15:27,710 --> 01:15:30,980  
you can then actually go  
to that grave, that spot?

1414  
01:15:30,980 --> 01:15:33,650  
Yes, and I have  
some photographs.

1415  
01:15:33,650 --> 01:15:36,830  
The only time I really cried  
for my father, the only time I

1416  
01:15:36,830 --> 01:15:40,680  
shed tears is the first time,  
when I went with my mother

1417

01:15:40,680 --> 01:15:41,180  
actually.

1418  
01:15:41,180 --> 01:15:42,470  
My mother went there twice.

1419  
01:15:42,470 --> 01:15:47,090  
She went there once on her  
own as soon as she found out

1420  
01:15:47,090 --> 01:15:48,500  
where he was buried.

1421  
01:15:48,500 --> 01:15:52,070  
And then I went back with  
her just before we came

1422  
01:15:52,070 --> 01:15:54,860  
to the United States in 1958.

1423  
01:15:54,860 --> 01:15:57,690  
And that's the only  
time-- the first time--

1424  
01:15:57,690 --> 01:15:59,830  
when I shed tears  
for my father--

1425  
01:15:59,830 --> 01:16:02,480  
that the reality of  
the loss of my father

1426  
01:16:02,480 --> 01:16:06,230  
really hit me is when  
I stood at that grave.

1427  
01:16:06,230 --> 01:16:07,330  
That there was a person.

1428  
01:16:07,330 --> 01:16:08,080  
He had been yours.

1429

01:16:08,080 --> 01:16:08,760  
There was a person.

1430  
01:16:08,760 --> 01:16:09,260  
Exactly.

1431  
01:16:09,260 --> 01:16:13,870

1432  
01:16:13,870 --> 01:16:20,200  
Let's turn now to what happened  
to you, and who hid you,

1433  
01:16:20,200 --> 01:16:22,540  
and how did you  
survive, and then

1434  
01:16:22,540 --> 01:16:24,940  
the new information  
you have about that.

1435  
01:16:24,940 --> 01:16:26,080  
Sure.

1436  
01:16:26,080 --> 01:16:30,610  
So I was placed initially  
with Annie Madna.

1437  
01:16:30,610 --> 01:16:32,800  
She was a neighbor  
of my parents.

1438  
01:16:32,800 --> 01:16:34,450  
She was a woman  
who was divorced,

1439  
01:16:34,450 --> 01:16:37,390  
had been married to  
an Indonesian man.

1440  
01:16:37,390 --> 01:16:40,300  
That's something we've  
all known already.

1441  
01:16:40,300 --> 01:16:43,310  
I was with her for a very  
short period of time.

1442  
01:16:43,310 --> 01:16:46,580  
And then I may have  
mentioned this before,

1443  
01:16:46,580 --> 01:16:49,180  
but I was passed on  
first to her sister.

1444  
01:16:49,180 --> 01:16:52,060

1445  
01:16:52,060 --> 01:16:59,530  
And that sister's  
last name was Polak.

1446  
01:16:59,530 --> 01:17:02,500  
Yorina Polak was the sister.

1447  
01:17:02,500 --> 01:17:05,320  
Polak-- P-O-L-A-K. Yorina--

1448  
01:17:05,320 --> 01:17:13,120  
Y-O-R-I-N-A. And I remained and  
I was placed with Yorina Polak.

1449  
01:17:13,120 --> 01:17:15,700  
That's something I found out  
just in the last few years

1450  
01:17:15,700 --> 01:17:17,920  
actually.

1451  
01:17:17,920 --> 01:17:29,370  
There was a woman Dini Polak,  
who had mentioned to the Madna

1452  
01:17:29,370 --> 01:17:33,010

children actually--

1453

01:17:33,010 --> 01:17:37,930  
she was a cousin of theirs.

1454

01:17:37,930 --> 01:17:40,810

1455

01:17:40,810 --> 01:17:43,610  
So she knew of me being there.

1456

01:17:43,610 --> 01:17:45,200  
But it was never  
much talked about.

1457

01:17:45,200 --> 01:17:47,725  
We always talked about  
the Madna family--

1458

01:17:47,725 --> 01:17:49,730  
Annie Madna, Tol   Madna--

1459

01:17:49,730 --> 01:17:54,790  
and never about the stay really  
with Yorina and her husband

1460

01:17:54,790 --> 01:17:56,590  
and her two children.

1461

01:17:56,590 --> 01:18:01,210  
And so finally, I have been in  
touch over the last few years

1462

01:18:01,210 --> 01:18:04,020  
much more with Dini Polak.

1463

01:18:04,020 --> 01:18:08,640  
And I have visited her a few  
times, last year especially.

1464

01:18:08,640 --> 01:18:11,710  
And then she told me

some details last year.

1465

01:18:11,710 --> 01:18:17,950

She said I came to  
the house and slept

1466

01:18:17,950 --> 01:18:21,380

in the bed with her parents,  
between her parents,

1467

01:18:21,380 --> 01:18:25,240

and that I wasn't happy,  
that I really cried a lot,

1468

01:18:25,240 --> 01:18:28,480

and that they had  
a neighbor who was

1469

01:18:28,480 --> 01:18:30,940

a member of the  
Dutch Nazi party.

1470

01:18:30,940 --> 01:18:33,300

That part I sort of knew.

1471

01:18:33,300 --> 01:18:35,410

And they really got scared.

1472

01:18:35,410 --> 01:18:40,210

And it's at point after two  
months or so that I was then

1473

01:18:40,210 --> 01:18:44,320

passed finally onto TolĀ© Madna.

1474

01:18:44,320 --> 01:18:48,600

But that little chapter  
of my being there

1475

01:18:48,600 --> 01:18:51,360

and the fact that this  
woman is still alive

1476

01:18:51,360 --> 01:18:56,230  
and can talk about my  
being between her parents.

1477

01:18:56,230 --> 01:19:02,430  
And she's seeing this new  
baby in the house, basically.

1478

01:19:02,430 --> 01:19:05,800  
She was probably 10  
years old, something

1479

01:19:05,800 --> 01:19:08,590  
like 11 years old at the time.

1480

01:19:08,590 --> 01:19:11,400  
Unfortunately, she  
has myasthenia gravis.

1481

01:19:11,400 --> 01:19:13,970  
A very, very bright woman.

1482

01:19:13,970 --> 01:19:19,710  
And we were very much in  
touch through Facebook

1483

01:19:19,710 --> 01:19:22,390  
and we talk on the phone.

1484

01:19:22,390 --> 01:19:29,150  
So that is really one new thing.

1485

01:19:29,150 --> 01:19:29,650  
OK.

1486

01:19:29,650 --> 01:19:33,700  
So yeah, when you were  
first with your neighbor

1487

01:19:33,700 --> 01:19:36,940  
across the street,  
you wouldn't remember,



1488  
01:19:36,940 --> 01:19:40,483  
but do you know how  
long you were with Ana?

1489  
01:19:40,483 --> 01:19:41,190  
Annie?

1490  
01:19:41,190 --> 01:19:43,210  
I don't know.

1491  
01:19:43,210 --> 01:19:46,060  
I would guess that it was a  
matter of weeks or maybe one

1492  
01:19:46,060 --> 01:19:46,720  
month.

1493  
01:19:46,720 --> 01:19:48,520  
It was a very short  
period of time.

1494  
01:19:48,520 --> 01:19:52,450  
She had had some bad run-ins  
apparently with the occupiers

1495  
01:19:52,450 --> 01:19:55,270  
and really was scared  
and felt it was safer

1496  
01:19:55,270 --> 01:19:59,110  
for me to be with her sister.

1497  
01:19:59,110 --> 01:20:03,280  
And then at that point, I  
ended up with TolÃ© Madna.

1498  
01:20:03,280 --> 01:20:08,460  
And there were some new  
things also that I discovered.

1499  
01:20:08,460 --> 01:20:11,790

Now, TolÃ© Madna, did he live in The Hague as well?

1500  
01:20:11,790 --> 01:20:16,550  
Yep, this was all in the same general neighborhood--

1501  
01:20:16,550 --> 01:20:21,500  
probably five blocks away, something

1502  
01:20:21,500 --> 01:20:23,990  
like that, not very far.

1503  
01:20:23,990 --> 01:20:25,380  
Maybe a little bit further.

1504  
01:20:25,380 --> 01:20:27,830  
But no, it was all the same general neighborhood

1505  
01:20:27,830 --> 01:20:29,990  
in The Hague.

1506  
01:20:29,990 --> 01:20:33,220  
And they had joint custody of their three children.

1507  
01:20:33,220 --> 01:20:36,230  
They had three children.

1508  
01:20:36,230 --> 01:20:40,740  
And Dewie, Willie--

1509  
01:20:40,740 --> 01:20:43,510  
Willie the oldest, Dewie the middle, and Robby Madna

1510  
01:20:43,510 --> 01:20:44,550  
were the three children.

1511  
01:20:44,550 --> 01:20:51,890

1512  
01:20:51,890 --> 01:20:58,680  
So while I was with them to  
talk about the newer things,

1513  
01:20:58,680 --> 01:21:00,630  
I spoke with length--

1514  
01:21:00,630 --> 01:21:05,220  
Robby Madna told  
in his testimony

1515  
01:21:05,220 --> 01:21:07,380  
that he gave at the  
museum, as well--

1516  
01:21:07,380 --> 01:21:08,730  
With Gail.

1517  
01:21:08,730 --> 01:21:11,150  
I think he may have  
even mentioned this.

1518  
01:21:11,150 --> 01:21:16,700  
But Dewie Madna, when I  
visited her in Holland,

1519  
01:21:16,700 --> 01:21:20,430  
a couple of things came out.

1520  
01:21:20,430 --> 01:21:21,727  
Some of them may already be--

1521  
01:21:21,727 --> 01:21:23,310  
I don't think they're  
in that history.

1522  
01:21:23,310 --> 01:21:26,550  
First of all, I thought  
I was called Bobby--

1523

01:21:26,550 --> 01:21:28,980  
my name while I was hidden--

1524  
01:21:28,980 --> 01:21:31,810  
after the little  
dog in the family.

1525  
01:21:31,810 --> 01:21:34,140  
It's in the family photograph,  
famous photograph that's

1526  
01:21:34,140 --> 01:21:36,120  
in the museum's collection.

1527  
01:21:36,120 --> 01:21:39,600  
And the theory  
that I was told was

1528  
01:21:39,600 --> 01:21:42,520  
people heard Bobby being  
called, they think, well,

1529  
01:21:42,520 --> 01:21:44,370  
they're just calling a dog.

1530  
01:21:44,370 --> 01:21:46,200  
And then I found  
out that she told me

1531  
01:21:46,200 --> 01:21:47,880  
the dog's name was Teddy.

1532  
01:21:47,880 --> 01:21:50,860  
And I actually then  
remembered that.

1533  
01:21:50,860 --> 01:21:53,250  
She reminded me that  
the name was Teddy.

1534  
01:21:53,250 --> 01:21:55,090  
I had totally forgotten.

1535

01:21:55,090 --> 01:21:58,020

And then I figured I was  
probably called Bobby

1536

01:21:58,020 --> 01:22:02,960

after Robbie so the two names  
being very close-- same theory.

1537

01:22:02,960 --> 01:22:06,196

And then both of  
them mentioned--

1538

01:22:06,196 --> 01:22:11,790

but especially Dewie talked  
about the fact that Tol<sup>o</sup> Madna

1539

01:22:11,790 --> 01:22:15,960

would put me in a stroller  
and take me out of the house

1540

01:22:15,960 --> 01:22:21,080

and people would ask,  
who is this baby?

1541

01:22:21,080 --> 01:22:24,560

And he would simply  
say, it's my son.

1542

01:22:24,560 --> 01:22:27,410

And then he would sort  
of have fun looking

1543

01:22:27,410 --> 01:22:29,480

at people's puzzled faces.

1544

01:22:29,480 --> 01:22:31,160

And he said, they're  
probably telling

1545

01:22:31,160 --> 01:22:34,160

to themselves, poor  
Indonesian man,

1546

01:22:34,160 --> 01:22:37,510

doesn't know his wife  
has been sleeping around.

1547

01:22:37,510 --> 01:22:39,816

[LAUGHTER]

1548

01:22:39,816 --> 01:22:46,110

It's the sense of humor that  
really explains Tolstoy Madna.

1549

01:22:46,110 --> 01:22:49,090

And so that story  
sort of lingered.

1550

01:22:49,090 --> 01:22:51,410

I heard that story.

1551

01:22:51,410 --> 01:22:53,870

But by the same  
token, I was always

1552

01:22:53,870 --> 01:22:56,143

led to believe that I was  
always inside the house.

1553

01:22:56,143 --> 01:22:57,560

I wasn't allowed  
out of the house.

1554

01:22:57,560 --> 01:22:58,102

That's right.

1555

01:22:58,102 --> 01:22:59,810

[INAUDIBLE] of your window.

1556

01:22:59,810 --> 01:23:02,450

So where did this  
story come from?

1557

01:23:02,450 --> 01:23:07,850

So a few years ago,

I was interviewed

1558

01:23:07,850 --> 01:23:17,480  
by a Dutch journalist Arthur  
Keppy And he finally wrote--

1559

01:23:17,480 --> 01:23:19,700  
he gave a lot of talks about me.

1560

01:23:19,700 --> 01:23:23,330  
He interviewed me in detail,  
wrote several articles,

1561

01:23:23,330 --> 01:23:26,570  
and then wrote a book about  
the Indonesian resistance.

1562

01:23:26,570 --> 01:23:30,110  
And my story is in his book.

1563

01:23:30,110 --> 01:23:30,770  
Herman Keppy.

1564

01:23:30,770 --> 01:23:31,400  
Sorry.

1565

01:23:31,400 --> 01:23:34,550  
Herman Keppy.

1566

01:23:34,550 --> 01:23:38,420  
And then he gave an interview  
to a Dutch newspaper

1567

01:23:38,420 --> 01:23:40,130  
about the book.

1568

01:23:40,130 --> 01:23:45,680  
And it included a photograph of  
me with the nanny, with Mima.

1569

01:23:45,680 --> 01:23:52,450  
A man still living in The Hague

saw the photograph, contacted

1570

01:23:52,450 --> 01:23:55,020

the newspaper, and  
he said, that's

1571

01:23:55,020 --> 01:24:00,150

the little Jewish boy  
I used to play with.

1572

01:24:00,150 --> 01:24:03,120

The little Jewish boy in  
hiding I used to play with.

1573

01:24:03,120 --> 01:24:05,844

[LAUGHTER]

1574

01:24:05,844 --> 01:24:13,630

Now, I had a photograph  
of me on a three-wheeler

1575

01:24:13,630 --> 01:24:15,820

and a little boy  
and a little girl

1576

01:24:15,820 --> 01:24:19,460

standing to either side of me.

1577

01:24:19,460 --> 01:24:21,010

And there are  
several photographs.

1578

01:24:21,010 --> 01:24:25,763

And one of them in the back, is  
said the Friederizi children.

1579

01:24:25,763 --> 01:24:27,930

I never knew their first  
names, didn't know anything

1580

01:24:27,930 --> 01:24:29,200

about them.



1581

01:24:29,200 --> 01:24:34,320

I had been told that their  
parents were German but were

1582

01:24:34,320 --> 01:24:37,320

communists and therefore  
totally trusted

1583

01:24:37,320 --> 01:24:41,250

to play with a child  
who was in hiding.

1584

01:24:41,250 --> 01:24:46,710

Well, now I know that little  
boy is Arthur Friederizi.

1585

01:24:46,710 --> 01:24:50,220

Again, after 75 years,  
he contacted me.

1586

01:24:50,220 --> 01:24:52,980

He is 83.

1587

01:24:52,980 --> 01:24:54,660

And so he was slightly--

1588

01:24:54,660 --> 01:24:57,470

he was older, much older  
than I was at the time.

1589

01:24:57,470 --> 01:25:00,570

[LAUGHS] He was a six-year-old,  
and I was a three-year-old.

1590

01:25:00,570 --> 01:25:04,440

Six-year-olds had much better  
memories, much more things

1591

01:25:04,440 --> 01:25:05,760

engraved in their memory.

1592

01:25:05,760 --> 01:25:09,300

So he remembered the little  
Jewish boy called Bobby

1593  
01:25:09,300 --> 01:25:11,050  
that he used to play with.

1594  
01:25:11,050 --> 01:25:13,480  
And his sister Helga, who  
stands on the other side,

1595  
01:25:13,480 --> 01:25:17,370  
she's older than he is,  
which was very clear even

1596  
01:25:17,370 --> 01:25:18,960  
in the picture.

1597  
01:25:18,960 --> 01:25:21,540  
And then I started  
corresponding with him.

1598  
01:25:21,540 --> 01:25:25,050  
And he sent me a  
lot of photographs

1599  
01:25:25,050 --> 01:25:26,050  
of the Madna family.

1600  
01:25:26,050 --> 01:25:28,650  
His parents had been  
friends with the Madnas

1601  
01:25:28,650 --> 01:25:30,030  
for many, many years.

1602  
01:25:30,030 --> 01:25:34,530  
They were indeed Germans  
but very staunch--

1603  
01:25:34,530 --> 01:25:36,910  
not necessarily  
communist as far as we

1604

01:25:36,910 --> 01:25:42,990

know, but certainly strongly  
antifascist, anti-Nazi,

1605

01:25:42,990 --> 01:25:46,750

and had been living in  
Holland for a long time.

1606

01:25:46,750 --> 01:25:48,690

And they had two children--

1607

01:25:48,690 --> 01:25:49,760

Helga and Arthur.

1608

01:25:49,760 --> 01:25:53,992

1609

01:25:53,992 --> 01:25:56,450

First of all, I showed him the  
photograph the two of them--

1610

01:25:56,450 --> 01:25:58,680

so identified that.

1611

01:25:58,680 --> 01:26:04,880

And then I had several  
other photographs of me

1612

01:26:04,880 --> 01:26:09,590

with his sister sort of  
taken in the backyard.

1613

01:26:09,590 --> 01:26:14,750

I always assumed it was  
the Madna's backyard.

1614

01:26:14,750 --> 01:26:17,750

But then he showed  
me photographs

1615

01:26:17,750 --> 01:26:21,590

of him at the same age

as a three-year-old

1616  
01:26:21,590 --> 01:26:25,260  
on the same swing  
that I was sitting in.

1617  
01:26:25,260 --> 01:26:29,300  
But he told me it  
was at their house.

1618  
01:26:29,300 --> 01:26:32,210  
So that means that  
you got to go outside.

1619  
01:26:32,210 --> 01:26:37,910  
It meant yes, that certainly  
that at some times Papa Madna

1620  
01:26:37,910 --> 01:26:40,280  
felt safe enough to take  
me out of the house.

1621  
01:26:40,280 --> 01:26:44,210  
Probably not very late.

1622  
01:26:44,210 --> 01:26:46,310  
I don't know when exactly.

1623  
01:26:46,310 --> 01:26:50,060  
But there were times when he  
did take me out of the house

1624  
01:26:50,060 --> 01:26:52,070  
and took me to their house.

1625  
01:26:52,070 --> 01:26:52,970  
And I asked him.

1626  
01:26:52,970 --> 01:26:54,460  
I said, well, how  
did I get there?

1627

01:26:54,460 --> 01:26:56,733  
I looked at a map.

1628  
01:26:56,733 --> 01:26:58,400  
I thought they were  
next door neighbors.

1629  
01:26:58,400 --> 01:26:59,630  
They were not.

1630  
01:26:59,630 --> 01:27:01,610  
They lived in the same  
general neighborhood.

1631  
01:27:01,610 --> 01:27:03,380  
But it was really  
quite a distance.

1632  
01:27:03,380 --> 01:27:05,630  
It was probably  
about three miles.

1633  
01:27:05,630 --> 01:27:06,840  
So walking with--

1634  
01:27:06,840 --> 01:27:07,970  
Three miles?

1635  
01:27:07,970 --> 01:27:09,660  
I think maybe a little bit less.

1636  
01:27:09,660 --> 01:27:10,820  
It was not close.

1637  
01:27:10,820 --> 01:27:13,820  
It was possibly walking, it  
would be a very long walk.

1638  
01:27:13,820 --> 01:27:15,960  
So he said they  
probably took the tram.

1639

01:27:15,960 --> 01:27:18,710  
And he gave me a map of the  
tram that they may have taken.

1640  
01:27:18,710 --> 01:27:21,500  
So this probably  
puts the two stories

1641  
01:27:21,500 --> 01:27:24,080  
together of the  
truth of the fact

1642  
01:27:24,080 --> 01:27:27,710  
that he had this baby with  
him outside periodically.

1643  
01:27:27,710 --> 01:27:31,070

1644  
01:27:31,070 --> 01:27:35,960  
When you uncovered  
this, what significance

1645  
01:27:35,960 --> 01:27:37,610  
does it have for you?

1646  
01:27:37,610 --> 01:27:39,565  
It's another piece of  
the puzzle in your life.

1647  
01:27:39,565 --> 01:27:40,565  
But what does that mean?

1648  
01:27:40,565 --> 01:27:43,385  
This is another  
piece of the puzzle.

1649  
01:27:43,385 --> 01:27:45,170  
It sort of completes the story.

1650  
01:27:45,170 --> 01:27:46,880  
It makes it more complex.

1651

01:27:46,880 --> 01:27:48,395

I wasn't just all in hiding.

1652

01:27:48,395 --> 01:27:51,200

1653

01:27:51,200 --> 01:27:54,680

I had been hiding in  
open view at times--

1654

01:27:54,680 --> 01:27:56,060

really on the street.

1655

01:27:56,060 --> 01:27:58,430

In the house, I was in hiding.

1656

01:27:58,430 --> 01:28:00,040

When the house  
was being searched

1657

01:28:00,040 --> 01:28:01,707

or there was a danger  
of being searched,

1658

01:28:01,707 --> 01:28:03,650

I had to go into  
a closet to hide.

1659

01:28:03,650 --> 01:28:05,580

That I remember.

1660

01:28:05,580 --> 01:28:07,590

And I thought it was a game.

1661

01:28:07,590 --> 01:28:10,070

I was just a little kid.

1662

01:28:10,070 --> 01:28:11,470

So that I knew.

1663

01:28:11,470 --> 01:28:15,800

But the other thing that really struck me, because all this

1664  
01:28:15,800 --> 01:28:17,300  
all came at the same time--

1665  
01:28:17,300 --> 01:28:20,150  
Arthur sent me a whole bunch of other photographs,

1666  
01:28:20,150 --> 01:28:23,510  
the ones that clearly showed that I was in their backyard

1667  
01:28:23,510 --> 01:28:28,490  
by showing him and his sister on that same swing actually

1668  
01:28:28,490 --> 01:28:32,300  
many years earlier and the same background.

1669  
01:28:32,300 --> 01:28:36,530  
But then the amazing thing he sent me was a picture of me

1670  
01:28:36,530 --> 01:28:39,350  
with my mother.

1671  
01:28:39,350 --> 01:28:46,420  
And that was the first picture taken of me with my mother.

1672  
01:28:46,420 --> 01:28:48,580  
Actually, it's the first ever picture

1673  
01:28:48,580 --> 01:28:50,770  
I have of me with my mother.

1674  
01:28:50,770 --> 01:28:52,950  
I don't have any before the war.



1675

01:28:52,950 --> 01:28:56,740

There wasn't a single picture  
that shows me with my mother.

1676

01:28:56,740 --> 01:28:58,930

This is the very first picture.

1677

01:28:58,930 --> 01:29:05,970

And it must have been  
taken in July, August 1945,

1678

01:29:05,970 --> 01:29:10,050

shortly, probably within a  
day or two of when I was first

1679

01:29:10,050 --> 01:29:12,110

reunited with her.

1680

01:29:12,110 --> 01:29:16,560

I told the story what my  
first memory of being reunited

1681

01:29:16,560 --> 01:29:20,790

with her of having been asleep,  
carried into the living room

1682

01:29:20,790 --> 01:29:23,520

where the whole family  
was sitting in a circle,

1683

01:29:23,520 --> 01:29:25,170

pushing this one woman away.

1684

01:29:25,170 --> 01:29:27,250

It was my mother.

1685

01:29:27,250 --> 01:29:31,120

And this picture was taken  
probably a day or two later.

1686

01:29:31,120 --> 01:29:35,930

And it shows my mother

very obviously, very slim,

1687  
01:29:35,930 --> 01:29:40,180  
with a very faint  
smile on her face.

1688  
01:29:40,180 --> 01:29:46,450  
And she's standing behind us,  
and she's not touching me.

1689  
01:29:46,450 --> 01:29:50,140  
And I think that is probably  
because I wouldn't let her.

1690  
01:29:50,140 --> 01:29:51,880  
The one who is  
touching me, is holding

1691  
01:29:51,880 --> 01:29:55,666  
me is Helga, the little girl.

1692  
01:29:55,666 --> 01:29:58,880  
The little girl has her  
hand on my shoulder.

1693  
01:29:58,880 --> 01:30:00,170  
And I'm smiling.

1694  
01:30:00,170 --> 01:30:04,910  
And I'm sitting on the same  
tricycle that I sat with them.

1695  
01:30:04,910 --> 01:30:07,370  
My hair is a little bit shorter.

1696  
01:30:07,370 --> 01:30:09,670  
I had had a haircut in between.

1697  
01:30:09,670 --> 01:30:12,830  
A little bit shorter, but  
otherwise, the same outfit.

1698

01:30:12,830 --> 01:30:20,810  
And it's an amazing photograph,  
which obviously will also

1699  
01:30:20,810 --> 01:30:23,090  
make its way to the  
museum's collection.

1700  
01:30:23,090 --> 01:30:27,410  
But that photograph,  
there are many reasons

1701  
01:30:27,410 --> 01:30:29,450  
why that photograph  
really touched me,

1702  
01:30:29,450 --> 01:30:33,320  
because another detail that I  
found out when Arthur started

1703  
01:30:33,320 --> 01:30:37,700  
telling me about  
their family's story

1704  
01:30:37,700 --> 01:30:45,430  
is that Arthur's  
mother actually died

1705  
01:30:45,430 --> 01:30:51,440  
during the hunger of the  
winter of 1944, '45 in Holland.

1706  
01:30:51,440 --> 01:30:52,630  
It was pretty bad.

1707  
01:30:52,630 --> 01:30:54,280  
It was pretty bad then.

1708  
01:30:54,280 --> 01:30:55,240  
Yes.

1709  
01:30:55,240 --> 01:30:59,650  
And she died of

dysentery, apparently,

1710  
01:30:59,650 --> 01:31:06,720  
and leaving his father  
alone with two children.

1711  
01:31:06,720 --> 01:31:09,120  
And he and I have  
talked about the fact

1712  
01:31:09,120 --> 01:31:15,380  
there is this amazing  
scene of his father taking

1713  
01:31:15,380 --> 01:31:20,620  
a photograph of me with  
my mother who has just

1714  
01:31:20,620 --> 01:31:30,220  
lost her two daughters  
and her husband.

1715  
01:31:30,220 --> 01:31:35,300  
And this question-- did they  
ever talk to each other?

1716  
01:31:35,300 --> 01:31:36,950  
What was their conversation?

1717  
01:31:36,950 --> 01:31:40,170

1718  
01:31:40,170 --> 01:31:42,530  
That is one of those  
mysteries we'll never resolve,

1719  
01:31:42,530 --> 01:31:47,030  
unless Helga has  
something to say about it.

1720  
01:31:47,030 --> 01:31:50,280  
I don't think she's  
really totally with it.

1721  
01:31:50,280 --> 01:31:52,940  
So I've sent her  
a very nice letter

1722  
01:31:52,940 --> 01:31:55,160  
and got a response  
from her husband.

1723  
01:31:55,160 --> 01:31:58,290  
But she and Arthur,  
unfortunately,

1724  
01:31:58,290 --> 01:32:01,880  
are not speaking to each other.

1725  
01:32:01,880 --> 01:32:05,930  
But it's very--  
and maybe it should

1726  
01:32:05,930 --> 01:32:08,930  
remain that way as a mystery.

1727  
01:32:08,930 --> 01:32:12,620  
But you only come to  
this part as the result

1728  
01:32:12,620 --> 01:32:15,830  
of a Dutch journalist  
having an interview with you

1729  
01:32:15,830 --> 01:32:19,130  
and then writing about  
the Indonesian resistance

1730  
01:32:19,130 --> 01:32:22,040  
and a photograph  
appears in the newspaper

1731  
01:32:22,040 --> 01:32:24,950  
and Arthur recognizes it.

1732

01:32:24,950 --> 01:32:27,080  
And that's when  
this all snowballs.

1733  
01:32:27,080 --> 01:32:29,630  
And this is very recent.

1734  
01:32:29,630 --> 01:32:36,010  
So sometimes you don't even  
know that there is a gap--

1735  
01:32:36,010 --> 01:32:38,920  
because would you  
have questioned it?

1736  
01:32:38,920 --> 01:32:40,960  
By the way, Herman Keppy--

1737  
01:32:40,960 --> 01:32:43,180  
this is just a coincidence--

1738  
01:32:43,180 --> 01:32:50,620  
Herman Keppy is best  
friends with Louise Israels'

1739  
01:32:50,620 --> 01:32:51,120  
son-in-law.

1740  
01:32:51,120 --> 01:32:52,780  
[LAUGHS]

1741  
01:32:52,780 --> 01:32:54,700  
Louise Israels,  
for people who are

1742  
01:32:54,700 --> 01:32:58,450  
going to see this in the future,  
is another volunteer survivor

1743  
01:32:58,450 --> 01:33:00,030  
at the Holocaust Museum.

1744

01:33:00,030 --> 01:33:00,550  
[LAUGHS]

1745  
01:33:00,550 --> 01:33:02,380  
It all comes together too.

1746  
01:33:02,380 --> 01:33:03,160  
Yeah.

1747  
01:33:03,160 --> 01:33:06,870  
Well, also the Netherlands  
is a small country.

1748  
01:33:06,870 --> 01:33:08,050  
People know each other.

1749  
01:33:08,050 --> 01:33:08,980  
Sure.

1750  
01:33:08,980 --> 01:33:10,460  
Or more likely to.

1751  
01:33:10,460 --> 01:33:13,190  
Sure.

1752  
01:33:13,190 --> 01:33:19,810  
I'd like then to turn in the  
last part of our interview

1753  
01:33:19,810 --> 01:33:21,010  
to the museum.

1754  
01:33:21,010 --> 01:33:25,330  
You've referenced it a lot  
during our conversation.

1755  
01:33:25,330 --> 01:33:31,570  
And I'd like to ask  
you a factual question

1756  
01:33:31,570 --> 01:33:33,350  
and then go on from there.

1757  
01:33:33,350 --> 01:33:36,520  
And the first one is  
people might not know

1758  
01:33:36,520 --> 01:33:38,250  
what is the Echoes of Memory.

1759  
01:33:38,250 --> 01:33:39,880  
But you have talked about it.

1760  
01:33:39,880 --> 01:33:44,510  
So explain what it is, and then  
we'll talk about more things.

1761  
01:33:44,510 --> 01:33:48,190  
So there is a writing  
group at the museum, which

1762  
01:33:48,190 --> 01:33:52,920  
I think has been around  
for about 20 years, where

1763  
01:33:52,920 --> 01:33:58,930  
survivor volunteers are  
encouraged to write essays--

1764  
01:33:58,930 --> 01:34:01,310  
part of a memoir, if you will--

1765  
01:34:01,310 --> 01:34:04,060  
parts of a memoir--

1766  
01:34:04,060 --> 01:34:08,520  
then the museum  
publishes once a year.

1767  
01:34:08,520 --> 01:34:10,510  
Not all of them get  
published-- whatever

1768  
01:34:10,510 --> 01:34:13,270



we submit and we select.

1769  
01:34:13,270 --> 01:34:15,730  
And it really gives  
a picture of what

1770  
01:34:15,730 --> 01:34:18,190  
the survivors are like,  
and about their lives,

1771  
01:34:18,190 --> 01:34:20,020  
and their concerns.

1772  
01:34:20,020 --> 01:34:21,880  
So I've submitted  
several pieces.

1773  
01:34:21,880 --> 01:34:25,450  
I've been part of the writing  
group relatively recently,

1774  
01:34:25,450 --> 01:34:30,100  
probably for about  
four years perhaps.

1775  
01:34:30,100 --> 01:34:32,510  
Maybe not even that long.

1776  
01:34:32,510 --> 01:34:34,330  
And it's really  
an amazing group.

1777  
01:34:34,330 --> 01:34:36,550  
It's really the  
place where I think

1778  
01:34:36,550 --> 01:34:38,530  
the survivor volunteers  
who participate

1779  
01:34:38,530 --> 01:34:39,580  
get to know each other.

1780

01:34:39,580 --> 01:34:42,040

We listen to each  
other's stories

1781

01:34:42,040 --> 01:34:46,830

and really form very,  
very close bonds.

1782

01:34:46,830 --> 01:34:49,540

It's a wonderful experience.

1783

01:34:49,540 --> 01:34:52,240

Listening to the  
stories, I think

1784

01:34:52,240 --> 01:34:56,080

it's an absolutely  
fabulous program organized

1785

01:34:56,080 --> 01:34:57,790

by the museum.

1786

01:34:57,790 --> 01:35:02,200

And so does this mean that  
you attend weekly classes?

1787

01:35:02,200 --> 01:35:03,340

It's actually monthly.

1788

01:35:03,340 --> 01:35:05,070

But when the museum  
is functioning,

1789

01:35:05,070 --> 01:35:06,800

it's a monthly class.

1790

01:35:06,800 --> 01:35:13,630

A professor from Johns  
Hopkins comes every month.

1791

01:35:13,630 --> 01:35:17,100

Initially, she gives

us a writing prompt.

1792  
01:35:17,100 --> 01:35:21,520  
And we are encouraged to  
write for about 15 minutes

1793  
01:35:21,520 --> 01:35:26,050  
or so about whatever strikes  
us in that particular writing

1794  
01:35:26,050 --> 01:35:27,090  
prompt.

1795  
01:35:27,090 --> 01:35:30,850  
And then we read those out  
loud, go around the table.

1796  
01:35:30,850 --> 01:35:35,590  
Then we socialize a little bit,  
have lunch, come back quickly,

1797  
01:35:35,590 --> 01:35:40,750  
and then read longer  
submissions that we

1798  
01:35:40,750 --> 01:35:42,250  
have sent to her ahead of time.

1799  
01:35:42,250 --> 01:35:45,300

1800  
01:35:45,300 --> 01:35:49,540  
And it's for altogether  
about four hours or so.

1801  
01:35:49,540 --> 01:35:51,280  
And it's once a month.

1802  
01:35:51,280 --> 01:35:57,280  
Now that we do it via Zoom,  
we do it every other week

1803

01:35:57,280 --> 01:35:59,060  
for two hours.

1804  
01:35:59,060 --> 01:36:04,240  
And so again, it's continuing  
to be a really wonderful

1805  
01:36:04,240 --> 01:36:06,640  
experience, except  
that periodically,

1806  
01:36:06,640 --> 01:36:09,190  
some of the survivor  
volunteers are quite elderly

1807  
01:36:09,190 --> 01:36:11,020  
and some of them are sickly.

1808  
01:36:11,020 --> 01:36:14,760  
And so we do periodically  
lose some people.

1809  
01:36:14,760 --> 01:36:17,300  
Has it given you anything--

1810  
01:36:17,300 --> 01:36:22,190  
writing is an  
interesting activity.

1811  
01:36:22,190 --> 01:36:24,800  
And sometimes you  
don't know what you

1812  
01:36:24,800 --> 01:36:27,290  
think until you write it down.

1813  
01:36:27,290 --> 01:36:29,330  
And then you explore it.

1814  
01:36:29,330 --> 01:36:34,730  
You talked about how  
it provided a way,

1815

01:36:34,730 --> 01:36:37,970  
a vehicle of getting to know  
some of the other people.

1816

01:36:37,970 --> 01:36:42,530  
Has it been something that you  
have discovered about yourself

1817

01:36:42,530 --> 01:36:43,970  
as well through this process?

1818

01:36:43,970 --> 01:36:49,390  
I think If it weren't  
for the Echoes class

1819

01:36:49,390 --> 01:36:51,205  
I might not have done  
all this research

1820

01:36:51,205 --> 01:36:55,690  
and not really been  
focused on finding out.

1821

01:36:55,690 --> 01:36:58,660  
It really is one of the  
motivations for finding out

1822

01:36:58,660 --> 01:37:00,400  
more about my story.

1823

01:37:00,400 --> 01:37:04,100  
Some of it was  
somewhat by accident--

1824

01:37:04,100 --> 01:37:08,680  
Lilly Meier approaching me with  
the email from Ron von Hasselt,

1825

01:37:08,680 --> 01:37:11,590  
for example, those coincidences.

1826

01:37:11,590 --> 01:37:15,495

But even with my whole  
involvement with the museum

1827  
01:37:15,495 --> 01:37:16,510  
is somewhat--

1828  
01:37:16,510 --> 01:37:21,110

1829  
01:37:21,110 --> 01:37:21,860  
is interesting.

1830  
01:37:21,860 --> 01:37:22,520  
[LAUGHS]

1831  
01:37:22,520 --> 01:37:23,912  
How did it start?

1832  
01:37:23,912 --> 01:37:24,620  
How did it start?

1833  
01:37:24,620 --> 01:37:26,630  
So I was a physician.

1834  
01:37:26,630 --> 01:37:30,010  
I had a practice  
in the hospital.

1835  
01:37:30,010 --> 01:37:31,850  
Which hospital?

1836  
01:37:31,850 --> 01:37:34,280  
Washington Adventist Hospital.

1837  
01:37:34,280 --> 01:37:39,860  
And one day, a patient  
came in-- a man

1838  
01:37:39,860 --> 01:37:45,380  
who was head of one of  
the institutes at the NIH.

1839

01:37:45,380 --> 01:37:48,080

And he came in with his wife.

1840

01:37:48,080 --> 01:37:50,630

National Institutes of Health.

1841

01:37:50,630 --> 01:37:57,020

And I went into the  
examining to examine her.

1842

01:37:57,020 --> 01:38:00,680

And his wife remained  
in my office.

1843

01:38:00,680 --> 01:38:03,800

And when we came back,  
we started to talk.

1844

01:38:03,800 --> 01:38:07,040

And said, who did  
these paintings?

1845

01:38:07,040 --> 01:38:10,332

And I said, they were  
done by my mother.

1846

01:38:10,332 --> 01:38:11,540

Oh, she said, that's amazing.

1847

01:38:11,540 --> 01:38:14,300

Tell me a little bit  
about your mother.

1848

01:38:14,300 --> 01:38:17,810

I said, well, she was  
a Holocaust survivor.

1849

01:38:17,810 --> 01:38:22,130

And then she said, oh, tell me  
a little bit about your story.

1850

01:38:22,130 --> 01:38:24,830

I work at the Holocaust museum.

1851

01:38:24,830 --> 01:38:28,760

And then I told her I had  
been hidden as a child.

1852

01:38:28,760 --> 01:38:31,370

I told her a little bit  
about my story being hidden

1853

01:38:31,370 --> 01:38:33,860

with a Dutch-Indonesian family.

1854

01:38:33,860 --> 01:38:37,340

And she said, well, there  
is a new exhibition being

1855

01:38:37,340 --> 01:38:40,860

developed on hidden children.

1856

01:38:40,860 --> 01:38:44,730

Would you be willing to  
participate and provide

1857

01:38:44,730 --> 01:38:46,980

some of your photographs?

1858

01:38:46,980 --> 01:38:48,720

And I said of course.

1859

01:38:48,720 --> 01:38:51,210

And that was my  
introduction really.

1860

01:38:51,210 --> 01:38:54,940

I had known-- I had visited  
the Holocaust museum.

1861

01:38:54,940 --> 01:39:00,120

I had actually been at the  
inauguration of the museum.

1862



01:39:00,120 --> 01:39:04,440  
But this is really how I was  
introduced as a volunteer,

1863  
01:39:04,440 --> 01:39:06,510  
if you will.

1864  
01:39:06,510 --> 01:39:10,500  
And I'm blocking on  
her name right now.

1865  
01:39:10,500 --> 01:39:11,850  
She retired last year.

1866  
01:39:11,850 --> 01:39:14,760  
She worked with Suzy Snyder.

1867  
01:39:14,760 --> 01:39:16,200  
Was it Teresa?

1868  
01:39:16,200 --> 01:39:17,120  
Teresa, right.

1869  
01:39:17,120 --> 01:39:18,330  
Sure.

1870  
01:39:18,330 --> 01:39:19,740  
Teresa Pollin.

1871  
01:39:19,740 --> 01:39:24,870  
Her husband Pollin was the  
director of the National

1872  
01:39:24,870 --> 01:39:26,970  
Institute of Mental Health--

1873  
01:39:26,970 --> 01:39:31,760  
or drug abuse, I think  
actually, at the NIH.

1874  
01:39:31,760 --> 01:39:32,910  
And so he was the patient.

1875  
01:39:32,910 --> 01:39:34,960  
But she was accompanying him.

1876  
01:39:34,960 --> 01:39:37,740  
So she's the one  
who introduced me.

1877  
01:39:37,740 --> 01:39:41,230  
And then, of course, I got  
together with Suzy Snyder.

1878  
01:39:41,230 --> 01:39:45,480  
And then was asked--

1879  
01:39:45,480 --> 01:39:48,200  
but I was-- want to volunteer.

1880  
01:39:48,200 --> 01:39:51,820  
So initially, while I was  
practicing, what I first

1881  
01:39:51,820 --> 01:39:53,820  
did was what many other  
volunteers have done

1882  
01:39:53,820 --> 01:39:56,410  
is offering to do translations.

1883  
01:39:56,410 --> 01:39:59,080  
And I did translations  
for the Encyclopedia

1884  
01:39:59,080 --> 01:40:04,630  
of Camps and Ghettos  
and also, especially,

1885  
01:40:04,630 --> 01:40:09,400  
for the multi-volume  
series Jewish Responses

1886  
01:40:09,400 --> 01:40:11,110

to Persecution.

1887  
01:40:11,110 --> 01:40:15,880  
And several of my translations  
are in there actually.

1888  
01:40:15,880 --> 01:40:19,020  
And that sort of really got  
me more and more involved.

1889  
01:40:19,020 --> 01:40:23,620  
Then became a formal  
survivor volunteer.

1890  
01:40:23,620 --> 01:40:27,035  
And then when I retired  
about five years ago

1891  
01:40:27,035 --> 01:40:30,830  
is when I started doing  
the public speaking.

1892  
01:40:30,830 --> 01:40:34,900  
So when you first met Teresa  
and talked about that,

1893  
01:40:34,900 --> 01:40:37,650  
what year was that?

1894  
01:40:37,650 --> 01:40:39,580  
About.

1895  
01:40:39,580 --> 01:40:41,640  
I would say maybe 10 years ago.

1896  
01:40:41,640 --> 01:40:48,970  
It's exactly timed with the  
Life in Shadows exhibit opened.

1897  
01:40:48,970 --> 01:40:52,360  
So just before that--  
probably about six months

1898

01:40:52,360 --> 01:40:56,010

before that exhibition  
opened of Life in Shows.

1899

01:40:56,010 --> 01:40:57,790

And somewhere on  
my desk, I probably

1900

01:40:57,790 --> 01:41:01,390

have a book marker that  
has the exact time.

1901

01:41:01,390 --> 01:41:02,530

But it gives us a sense.

1902

01:41:02,530 --> 01:41:06,670

So the museum opened  
formally in 1993.

1903

01:41:06,670 --> 01:41:09,250

We are talking in 2020.

1904

01:41:09,250 --> 01:41:16,932

So this would have been about  
2010, something like that.

1905

01:41:16,932 --> 01:41:19,175

And up until 2010,  
shall we say--

1906

01:41:19,175 --> 01:41:20,300

Maybe a little bit earlier.

1907

01:41:20,300 --> 01:41:20,870

Yeah.

1908

01:41:20,870 --> 01:41:22,030

Yeah.

1909

01:41:22,030 --> 01:41:25,240

Up until that time, you  
had been at the opening,

1910  
01:41:25,240 --> 01:41:27,030  
but did you visit  
the museum at all?

1911  
01:41:27,030 --> 01:41:27,530  
Oh yes.

1912  
01:41:27,530 --> 01:41:28,030  
Did you go?

1913  
01:41:28,030 --> 01:41:30,520  
[INAUDIBLE] I  
visited the museum.

1914  
01:41:30,520 --> 01:41:32,920  
The opening is kind of  
an interesting experience

1915  
01:41:32,920 --> 01:41:42,320  
in itself, because my  
mother had some real doubts

1916  
01:41:42,320 --> 01:41:44,690  
about a Holocaust museum.

1917  
01:41:44,690 --> 01:41:47,570  
Well, she said, it's  
so many years after.

1918  
01:41:47,570 --> 01:41:48,570  
Who's going to go?

1919  
01:41:48,570 --> 01:41:49,700  
Who's going to come?

1920  
01:41:49,700 --> 01:41:54,230  
And I'm sure many survivors  
probably at that time

1921  
01:41:54,230 --> 01:41:56,030  
shared that feeling.

1922  
01:41:56,030 --> 01:42:00,390  
And I may have taken  
some of that on.

1923  
01:42:00,390 --> 01:42:02,060  
Although, an  
interesting thing is

1924  
01:42:02,060 --> 01:42:05,340  
I recently did find a  
letter to the editor

1925  
01:42:05,340 --> 01:42:07,310  
that I wrote about the  
opening of the museum.

1926  
01:42:07,310 --> 01:42:10,190  
I can't remember exactly what  
the reason for the letter is.

1927  
01:42:10,190 --> 01:42:12,650  
But it's a definite  
letter about the opening

1928  
01:42:12,650 --> 01:42:17,100  
of the museum and the  
importance I attached to it.

1929  
01:42:17,100 --> 01:42:19,100  
I don't think that  
particular one got published.

1930  
01:42:19,100 --> 01:42:22,040  
I've been very fortunate getting  
letters published, but not

1931  
01:42:22,040 --> 01:42:23,810  
that one.

1932  
01:42:23,810 --> 01:42:28,520  
So anyway, at that time,  
I was either president

1933

01:42:28,520 --> 01:42:31,340  
of the American Lung  
Association or very involved

1934

01:42:31,340 --> 01:42:33,590  
in the American Lung  
Association and was

1935

01:42:33,590 --> 01:42:39,230  
supposed to present testimony  
on Capitol Hill for the museum

1936

01:42:39,230 --> 01:42:41,820  
about--

1937

01:42:41,820 --> 01:42:44,966  
I think it was all about  
clean air or something.

1938

01:42:44,966 --> 01:42:47,200  
For the museum?

1939

01:42:47,200 --> 01:42:48,540  
Or for the Lung Association?

1940

01:42:48,540 --> 01:42:49,040  
Sorry.

1941

01:42:49,040 --> 01:42:50,760  
To Congress on Capitol Hill.

1942

01:42:50,760 --> 01:42:54,600  
I was giving testimony  
on Capitol Hill.

1943

01:42:54,600 --> 01:42:58,740  
And this was the  
only committee that

1944

01:42:58,740 --> 01:43:04,290  
actually had hearings on the

day that the museum opened,

1945

01:43:04,290 --> 01:43:10,860

because it was chaired by  
Congressman Traficant, who

1946

01:43:10,860 --> 01:43:14,500

was a real antisemite  
supposedly, I'm told,

1947

01:43:14,500 --> 01:43:17,590

and who also, fortunately,  
ended up in jail--

1948

01:43:17,590 --> 01:43:18,710

from Pennsylvania.

1949

01:43:18,710 --> 01:43:21,000

But he's the one who  
conducted the hearing.

1950

01:43:21,000 --> 01:43:23,340

I spoke at the hearing,  
gave my testimony,

1951

01:43:23,340 --> 01:43:26,790

then sat in a taxi  
which was going

1952

01:43:26,790 --> 01:43:29,790

to take me back to Washington  
Adventist Hospital.

1953

01:43:29,790 --> 01:43:34,440

And I made them turn around and  
take me to the Holocaust Museum

1954

01:43:34,440 --> 01:43:35,550

opening.

1955

01:43:35,550 --> 01:43:39,780

And at that time, there was  
no security to speak of.



1956  
01:43:39,780 --> 01:43:46,320  
And I sat in the rain and  
listened to Elie Wiesel

1957  
01:43:46,320 --> 01:43:48,940  
and President Clinton.

1958  
01:43:48,940 --> 01:43:50,730  
I sat there at the opening.

1959  
01:43:50,730 --> 01:43:56,000  
And that sort of probably  
sold me on the museum.

1960  
01:43:56,000 --> 01:43:58,820  
What has it meant for you  
in the subsequent years

1961  
01:43:58,820 --> 01:44:03,350  
and particularly since you  
got more and more involved?

1962  
01:44:03,350 --> 01:44:06,560  
What do you think the  
significance of it is?

1963  
01:44:06,560 --> 01:44:12,540  
How would you answer your  
mother's reservations now?

1964  
01:44:12,540 --> 01:44:15,830  
The amazing thing is probably--

1965  
01:44:15,830 --> 01:44:17,540  
I wish, and maybe she had seen--

1966  
01:44:17,540 --> 01:44:19,490  
I don't know whether  
I took her back.

1967  
01:44:19,490 --> 01:44:21,920

I don't think I took her ever  
on a visit to the museum.

1968  
01:44:21,920 --> 01:44:23,930  
I just don't think so.

1969  
01:44:23,930 --> 01:44:29,660  
But I wish she had seen  
the long lines of kids,

1970  
01:44:29,660 --> 01:44:35,240  
long lines of visitors lining  
up outside the museum waiting

1971  
01:44:35,240 --> 01:44:40,160  
to get in, needing tickets  
to get in, and how crowded

1972  
01:44:40,160 --> 01:44:46,040  
it really got, and how many  
people did show an interest,

1973  
01:44:46,040 --> 01:44:48,560  
and the number of  
people who shed tears

1974  
01:44:48,560 --> 01:44:51,740  
when they go to  
the Survivor Desk,

1975  
01:44:51,740 --> 01:44:54,020  
where I also sit  
on Tuesdays now.

1976  
01:44:54,020 --> 01:44:56,780

1977  
01:44:56,780 --> 01:45:02,630  
And the response that I  
have gotten when I've spoken

1978  
01:45:02,630 --> 01:45:06,810  
to school groups has been--

1979

01:45:06,810 --> 01:45:09,660

school groups more than  
adult groups, frankly.

1980

01:45:09,660 --> 01:45:14,110

I've spoken to law enforcement  
people, all sorts of groups.

1981

01:45:14,110 --> 01:45:18,120

But probably the most meaningful  
are the school groups,

1982

01:45:18,120 --> 01:45:21,290

especially the ones out  
of town where the survivor

1983

01:45:21,290 --> 01:45:24,190

volunteers are invited.

1984

01:45:24,190 --> 01:45:26,390

There, the responses  
have been amazing.

1985

01:45:26,390 --> 01:45:29,710

1986

01:45:29,710 --> 01:45:32,330

Last year, I was  
in a small town--

1987

01:45:32,330 --> 01:45:34,640

Morrilton, Arkansas.

1988

01:45:34,640 --> 01:45:37,970

And I spoke at two events there.

1989

01:45:37,970 --> 01:45:41,310

And one of them was in  
this huge basketball arena,

1990

01:45:41,310 --> 01:45:44,890

filled on four sides with  
kids from all the schools

1991  
01:45:44,890 --> 01:45:46,840  
from the entire area--

1992  
01:45:46,840 --> 01:45:50,260  
several school districts,  
thousands of kids.

1993  
01:45:50,260 --> 01:45:55,110

1994  
01:45:55,110 --> 01:45:58,500  
My pictures were projected  
on four huge screens.

1995  
01:45:58,500 --> 01:45:59,710  
An incredible experience.

1996  
01:45:59,710 --> 01:46:02,350  
But I didn't really  
know how much

1997  
01:46:02,350 --> 01:46:04,380  
those kids would get out of it.

1998  
01:46:04,380 --> 01:46:05,890  
But it was well organized.

1999  
01:46:05,890 --> 01:46:07,930  
Kids were able to ask questions.

2000  
01:46:07,930 --> 01:46:09,130  
They had microphones.

2001  
01:46:09,130 --> 01:46:10,660  
It was passed around.

2002  
01:46:10,660 --> 01:46:14,770  
And then when I got thank-you  
notes from the kids--

2003  
01:46:14,770 --> 01:46:16,690  
a whole stack of them--

2004  
01:46:16,690 --> 01:46:21,010  
they referenced very  
specific parts of my talk.

2005  
01:46:21,010 --> 01:46:22,520  
One of them,  
especially, touched me.

2006  
01:46:22,520 --> 01:46:27,880  
This was from a young girl  
who said, before you spoke,

2007  
01:46:27,880 --> 01:46:30,820  
we had a bullying  
problem in our school.

2008  
01:46:30,820 --> 01:46:34,240  
But since you spoke  
and since you warned us

2009  
01:46:34,240 --> 01:46:37,540  
about the dangers of  
bullying as a form of hate

2010  
01:46:37,540 --> 01:46:42,220  
and where that can lead, we've  
had normal bullying problems.

2011  
01:46:42,220 --> 01:46:46,480  
That was incredibly  
meaningful to me.

2012  
01:46:46,480 --> 01:46:48,400  
And that's the  
kind of experiences

2013  
01:46:48,400 --> 01:46:54,010  
I think that we all get when  
we speak of these places--

2014  
01:46:54,010 --> 01:46:56,680  
tremendous appreciation.

2015  
01:46:56,680 --> 01:47:01,930  
And the fact that  
too many people

2016  
01:47:01,930 --> 01:47:05,680  
still don't know about the  
details of the Holocaust.

2017  
01:47:05,680 --> 01:47:09,840  
And the lessons are as important  
today as they have ever been.

2018  
01:47:09,840 --> 01:47:14,110

2019  
01:47:14,110 --> 01:47:19,950  
I can't think of a better  
note for us to end on.

2020  
01:47:19,950 --> 01:47:21,930  
There are many,  
many more questions.

2021  
01:47:21,930 --> 01:47:27,030  
If there are things that  
I haven't asked you about,

2022  
01:47:27,030 --> 01:47:28,410  
we can talk now.

2023  
01:47:28,410 --> 01:47:30,030  
We can talk again.

2024  
01:47:30,030 --> 01:47:33,120  
If there are things that you  
think that you'd like to add,

2025  
01:47:33,120 --> 01:47:35,490

we can do this again.

2026

01:47:35,490 --> 01:47:40,140

This is not a one-time deal.

2027

01:47:40,140 --> 01:47:45,210

One of the silver linings  
of a very dark cloud which

2028

01:47:45,210 --> 01:47:48,330

is the coronavirus is  
that this technology

2029

01:47:48,330 --> 01:47:52,110

has allowed us to be able  
to have such conversations

2030

01:47:52,110 --> 01:47:55,860

in a safe way and an easy way.

2031

01:47:55,860 --> 01:47:57,500

Sure.

2032

01:47:57,500 --> 01:47:59,690

Tell me a little  
bit about yourself.

2033

01:47:59,690 --> 01:48:00,320

I will.

2034

01:48:00,320 --> 01:48:02,742

But first I'm going to  
turn off the camera.

2035

01:48:02,742 --> 01:48:03,242

OK.

2036

01:48:03,242 --> 01:48:04,600

[LAUGHTER]

2037

01:48:04,600 --> 01:48:06,570

I knew you were

going to say that.

2038

01:48:06,570 --> 01:48:07,090

That's fine.

2039

01:48:07,090 --> 01:48:13,160

Then what I'll do is I'll  
say my usual closing line,

2040

01:48:13,160 --> 01:48:17,030

which is that this concludes  
the United States Holocaust

2041

01:48:17,030 --> 01:48:22,850

Memorial Museum interview with  
Mr. Alfred MÃ¼nzer on August 25,

2042

01:48:22,850 --> 01:48:27,050

2020 in Washington DC.

2043

01:48:27,050 --> 01:48:28,520

Thank you again.

2044

01:48:28,520 --> 01:48:29,870

Thank you.

2045

01:48:29,870 --> 01:48:30,470

OK.

2046

01:48:30,470 --> 01:48:33,580

So now I'm going to--

2047

01:48:33,580 --> 01:48:36,080

now you'll see my challenges.

2048

01:48:36,080 --> 01:48:40,410

I have to end the recording  
but not end the interview.

2049

01:48:40,410 --> 01:48:41,780

So here we go.



2050

01:48:41,780 --> 01:48:43,670

Stop recording.

2051

01:48:43,670 --> 01:48:45,730

Do I want to stop?