

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:03,180
Boyd Harbor, Long
Island, New York,

2
00:00:03,180 --> 00:00:04,830
reference tones minus 8 DB.

3
00:00:04,830 --> 00:00:28,920

4
00:00:28,920 --> 00:00:32,009
Let's start with
you telling me what

5
00:00:32,009 --> 00:00:34,710
it was like to hear
that the war had begun

6
00:00:34,710 --> 00:00:39,180
and how everyday life changed
wearing the yellow star, all

7
00:00:39,180 --> 00:00:40,185
the things that changed.

8
00:00:40,185 --> 00:00:43,140

9
00:00:43,140 --> 00:00:46,560
Well, you know that the
war started in 1939,

10
00:00:46,560 --> 00:00:51,420
and I was in Switzerland,
minding my own business.

11
00:00:51,420 --> 00:00:55,080
And I just came
back to Switzerland

12
00:00:55,080 --> 00:01:01,750

from a wonderful trip to
France with other students.

13
00:01:01,750 --> 00:01:04,890
And when we arrived
back to Geneva in '39,

14
00:01:04,890 --> 00:01:09,630
beginning of September,
there was a Zionist Congress

15
00:01:09,630 --> 00:01:12,690
in Geneva.

16
00:01:12,690 --> 00:01:16,590
And the people took
time out in the beaches.

17
00:01:16,590 --> 00:01:19,530
And we were all out in
the beach with my friends.

18
00:01:19,530 --> 00:01:24,390
And suddenly the microphone
blared that Poland

19
00:01:24,390 --> 00:01:27,100
was overrun by the Nazis.

20
00:01:27,100 --> 00:01:29,370
Well, you could have
dropped a needle right there

21
00:01:29,370 --> 00:01:32,040
in the place.

22
00:01:32,040 --> 00:01:34,650
People, half naked bodies,
they ran everywhere

23
00:01:34,650 --> 00:01:38,340
to call home and see
what's happening.

24
00:01:38,340 --> 00:01:41,010
And this was my
first inclination

25
00:01:41,010 --> 00:01:44,670
that there is really
a war going on.

26
00:01:44,670 --> 00:01:47,070
But I wanted to
stay in Switzerland,

27
00:01:47,070 --> 00:01:50,240
but we have very good friends,
and they talked me into it

28
00:01:50,240 --> 00:01:50,940
to go back.

29
00:01:50,940 --> 00:01:56,070
In the beginning of
1941, I went home

30
00:01:56,070 --> 00:01:58,920
because my friend said
that the Allies will not

31
00:01:58,920 --> 00:02:03,270
allow it to go on and on, and
Hungary will not be in the war.

32
00:02:03,270 --> 00:02:08,850
And when I got back to
Hungary, it was fairly quiet.

33
00:02:08,850 --> 00:02:11,790
The Arrow Cross, what is
the Hungarian Nazi Party,

34
00:02:11,790 --> 00:02:17,880
did not really take over
completely in '41 yet.

35
00:02:17,880 --> 00:02:21,780
And the only thing-- there
were even American films still

36
00:02:21,780 --> 00:02:24,620
shown all over.

37
00:02:24,620 --> 00:02:29,440
And I was teaching English
to a young lady who today

38
00:02:29,440 --> 00:02:32,260
is Congressman Lantos's wife.

39
00:02:32,260 --> 00:02:34,030
And she looked like
Shirley Temple.

40
00:02:34,030 --> 00:02:36,550
And we used to walk on
the street with our heads

41
00:02:36,550 --> 00:02:38,275
up and talking English.

42
00:02:38,275 --> 00:02:41,920
It was still allowed to
speak English on the street.

43
00:02:41,920 --> 00:02:46,520
But then suddenly we got
people in from Czechoslovakia,

44
00:02:46,520 --> 00:02:50,830
from Romania, from Poland,
those who could get yet away.

45
00:02:50,830 --> 00:02:52,600
And they told us the stories.

46
00:02:52,600 --> 00:02:57,410

We didn't believe,
not the Jews and not

47
00:02:57,410 --> 00:02:59,450
the Christians who
were anti-Nazis.

48
00:02:59,450 --> 00:03:03,380
We just didn't believe that
that's humanly possible

49
00:03:03,380 --> 00:03:05,090
that they do that.

50
00:03:05,090 --> 00:03:07,010
We were listening to the BBC.

51
00:03:07,010 --> 00:03:10,070
Now, on the end of--

52
00:03:10,070 --> 00:03:12,200
or let's say in
the middle of '43,

53
00:03:12,200 --> 00:03:14,420
suddenly everything changed.

54
00:03:14,420 --> 00:03:19,550
Then the Hungarian
Nazi Party took over.

55
00:03:19,550 --> 00:03:26,190
And suddenly they reminded us
that we should put on the star.

56
00:03:26,190 --> 00:03:29,460
My father has been
taken from the house

57
00:03:29,460 --> 00:03:31,050
and took in a labor camp.

58

00:03:31,050 --> 00:03:34,530
But in a couple of weeks,
they let him come back home.

59
00:03:34,530 --> 00:03:37,800
We were not moved
out of our house.

60
00:03:37,800 --> 00:03:42,120
And then they started to forbid
to talk English, and therefore

61
00:03:42,120 --> 00:03:45,690
Annette, or Aggie was her name,
too, we went out in the street

62
00:03:45,690 --> 00:03:50,850
and we spoke English, because
we had a chutzpah or whatever.

63
00:03:50,850 --> 00:03:53,370
But nobody ever stopped
us on the streets,

64
00:03:53,370 --> 00:03:56,910
because we didn't really
look like two Jewish kids,

65
00:03:56,910 --> 00:03:59,640
and we did not wear the star.

66
00:03:59,640 --> 00:04:01,300
But we didn't go out too much.

67
00:04:01,300 --> 00:04:05,170
And then the BBC was not
allowed to listen to it anymore.

68
00:04:05,170 --> 00:04:07,470
But of course, we did,
because that was the only way

69
00:04:07,470 --> 00:04:10,770

to find out what's
going on in the world.

70
00:04:10,770 --> 00:04:13,590
And I was lucky enough
to have a huge, big radio

71
00:04:13,590 --> 00:04:16,769
my parents brought me
for my 21st birthday,

72
00:04:16,769 --> 00:04:19,410
where we could have
the whole world.

73
00:04:19,410 --> 00:04:24,120
So whatever news it came in was
through our house, because I

74
00:04:24,120 --> 00:04:27,660
could get shortwave stations.

75
00:04:27,660 --> 00:04:31,050
And it was very exciting
to hear what's going on.

76
00:04:31,050 --> 00:04:34,680
And in the very heart, we
begin to believe that it

77
00:04:34,680 --> 00:04:37,380
can happen to us any moment.

78
00:04:37,380 --> 00:04:44,940
And then it did happen in '44
March, when in walked Eichmann.

79
00:04:44,940 --> 00:04:50,770
And immediately he killed almost
600,000 people in the country.

80
00:04:50,770 --> 00:04:55,630
In Budapest, however, they

only went by list of people

81
00:04:55,630 --> 00:04:57,460
whom they should pick up.

82
00:04:57,460 --> 00:04:59,640
We were still not
being picked up.

83
00:04:59,640 --> 00:05:02,370

84
00:05:02,370 --> 00:05:04,890
And life began to be
more and more difficult

85
00:05:04,890 --> 00:05:07,650
because we didn't dare
to go out on the street.

86
00:05:07,650 --> 00:05:11,230
If possible, only to shop.

87
00:05:11,230 --> 00:05:15,040
And you didn't know what's
happening next morning.

88
00:05:15,040 --> 00:05:20,640
And that was your question,
what happened before.

89
00:05:20,640 --> 00:05:24,460
So that was the life just about.

90
00:05:24,460 --> 00:05:27,790
What-- were you afraid?

91
00:05:27,790 --> 00:05:31,090
What kinds of things
did you witness?

92
00:05:31,090 --> 00:05:37,150

Well, I first witnessed-- and
that was a horror for me--

93
00:05:37,150 --> 00:05:40,810
the Hungarian Arrow
Cross wore green shirts.

94
00:05:40,810 --> 00:05:43,120
As you know, each of them
had their own shirts.

95
00:05:43,120 --> 00:05:46,750
The Germans, they
wore the brown shirts.

96
00:05:46,750 --> 00:05:50,650
The fascists in Italy
wore the black shirts.

97
00:05:50,650 --> 00:05:53,320
And our Hungarian
guys wore the yellow--

98
00:05:53,320 --> 00:05:56,110
the green ones.

99
00:05:56,110 --> 00:06:00,930
And I went out on
the street one day,

100
00:06:00,930 --> 00:06:06,560
and I saw a priest
coming out of a church.

101
00:06:06,560 --> 00:06:12,800
And he had a green shirt
on and the Nazi sign

102
00:06:12,800 --> 00:06:14,840
on him, the Hungarian Nazi.

103
00:06:14,840 --> 00:06:19,370
And there was a little boy of

three, and he killed the child.

104

00:06:19,370 --> 00:06:22,250

That was the first time the
religion went out of me.

105

00:06:22,250 --> 00:06:24,230

No more religion, thank you.

106

00:06:24,230 --> 00:06:28,500

If a priest can do
that, then I don't know.

107

00:06:28,500 --> 00:06:31,820

And I went home, and
I cried, and I cried.

108

00:06:31,820 --> 00:06:34,940

And then this is something
what we never can figure out.

109

00:06:34,940 --> 00:06:38,793

I worked in a wonderful
hotel in Budapest.

110

00:06:38,793 --> 00:06:40,460

I don't know how many
of you went there.

111

00:06:40,460 --> 00:06:43,140

Of course, these hotels
are not there anymore.

112

00:06:43,140 --> 00:06:45,380

It was the Hotel Ritz.

113

00:06:45,380 --> 00:06:47,420

And as I spoke a
lot of languages,

114

00:06:47,420 --> 00:06:51,350

I have been working there,
and it was wonderful.

115
00:06:51,350 --> 00:06:58,490
And one Sunday morning,
or a few days before,

116
00:06:58,490 --> 00:07:03,650
I got this letter from
the Swedish embassy

117
00:07:03,650 --> 00:07:07,530
to come and visit them.

118
00:07:07,530 --> 00:07:12,770
And I had no time right then.

119
00:07:12,770 --> 00:07:16,400
It wasn't so very important.

120
00:07:16,400 --> 00:07:20,270
But it was a Sunday morning
when a very excited neighbor ran

121
00:07:20,270 --> 00:07:23,660
into us, and he
said, "Oh, just I

122
00:07:23,660 --> 00:07:27,530
heard on BBC that
Admiral Horthy is

123
00:07:27,530 --> 00:07:31,430
going to give up being
with the Germans,

124
00:07:31,430 --> 00:07:33,140
and he's going to
be with the Allies."

125
00:07:33,140 --> 00:07:34,830
And my father was all excited.

126
00:07:34,830 --> 00:07:36,680

He was running
for the champagne.

127
00:07:36,680 --> 00:07:41,300
And me spoke up, I says, "Papa,
don't believe what you hear.

128
00:07:41,300 --> 00:07:42,650
Don't drink the champagne."

129
00:07:42,650 --> 00:07:43,670
"Oh, you young people!

130
00:07:43,670 --> 00:07:45,890
You don't know what
you're talking about."

131
00:07:45,890 --> 00:07:47,990
And he brought the
champagne, and we were just

132
00:07:47,990 --> 00:07:53,100
about drinking when Horthy came
on the television-- on radio.

133
00:07:53,100 --> 00:07:56,810
And he said very
beautifully that I now

134
00:07:56,810 --> 00:08:00,740
tell you that we are
with the Allied forces

135
00:08:00,740 --> 00:08:02,780
and not with the Nazis anymore.

136
00:08:02,780 --> 00:08:06,200
And that moment, the
German Horst-Wessel

137
00:08:06,200 --> 00:08:11,710
came over the radio, and we
didn't hear Horthy's voice.

138
00:08:11,710 --> 00:08:14,060
I dropped my glass,
and I ran out,

139
00:08:14,060 --> 00:08:18,500
because I knew I had to
go to work to the hotel.

140
00:08:18,500 --> 00:08:22,070
And it was a gorgeous,
beautiful March day.

141
00:08:22,070 --> 00:08:23,630
It was sunshine.

142
00:08:23,630 --> 00:08:25,250
Very cold.

143
00:08:25,250 --> 00:08:28,860
And I come out, and it was
blackened by aeroplanes.

144
00:08:28,860 --> 00:08:32,900
And I thought they were
Americans, or British,

145
00:08:32,900 --> 00:08:34,970
or Russians.

146
00:08:34,970 --> 00:08:37,220
And I was running all
the way to the hotel.

147
00:08:37,220 --> 00:08:39,900
And when I get there,
the porter said to me,

148
00:08:39,900 --> 00:08:42,120
"Mr. [? Marantis ?] wants
to see you at once."

149

00:08:42,120 --> 00:08:45,200
And that was the
manager of the hotel.

150
00:08:45,200 --> 00:08:49,970
He was a gentleman, huge, big
gentleman, about 250 pounds.

151
00:08:49,970 --> 00:08:52,260
He spoke 12 languages.

152
00:08:52,260 --> 00:08:55,670
He was Yugoslavian,
and he was the manager.

153
00:08:55,670 --> 00:08:59,150
And he took me in his arm,
and he said to me in French,

154
00:08:59,150 --> 00:09:00,470
"child, go home.

155
00:09:00,470 --> 00:09:03,260
These are not
British or Americans.

156
00:09:03,260 --> 00:09:07,440
These are the Germans, and
Horthy was already arrested.

157
00:09:07,440 --> 00:09:08,040
Go home.

158
00:09:08,040 --> 00:09:11,010
I don't want them to
take you from here."

159
00:09:11,010 --> 00:09:14,340
So I ran back home and
Father, all he could say

160
00:09:14,340 --> 00:09:16,530
is "You were right."

161
00:09:16,530 --> 00:09:21,360
Now I decided I'm going
to the Swedish embassy.

162
00:09:21,360 --> 00:09:24,870
And there was difficulty
to go up there,

163
00:09:24,870 --> 00:09:31,370
because everybody was afraid
to go to a foreign embassy.

164
00:09:31,370 --> 00:09:35,630
But my cousin had a
very wonderful boyfriend

165
00:09:35,630 --> 00:09:39,400
who was a Christian, who had
a big black Mercedes Benz.

166
00:09:39,400 --> 00:09:41,900
And he said, I'll take you up.

167
00:09:41,900 --> 00:09:44,870
And he arrived in
a Nazi uniform.

168
00:09:44,870 --> 00:09:47,390
He had a Nazi flag on his car.

169
00:09:47,390 --> 00:09:51,470
He pushed me in there, and
he took me up to the embassy.

170
00:09:51,470 --> 00:09:53,690
And the ambassador
was quite surprised

171
00:09:53,690 --> 00:09:56,540
when they looked out
and saw the Nazi flag.

172

00:09:56,540 --> 00:09:59,120

And I explained to
him what happened.

173

00:09:59,120 --> 00:10:03,920

And then he explained to me
the absolutely out of the world

174

00:10:03,920 --> 00:10:07,760

thing that I have a
fiancee in Sweden.

175

00:10:07,760 --> 00:10:10,760

Well, that's a long story.

176

00:10:10,760 --> 00:10:13,010

Yes, I had a very
dear friend in Sweden

177

00:10:13,010 --> 00:10:16,070

with whom I corresponded
for 12 years.

178

00:10:16,070 --> 00:10:19,850

And he explained to me that
this young man went to the King,

179

00:10:19,850 --> 00:10:23,780

and to the foreign ministerium
and said that this woman would

180

00:10:23,780 --> 00:10:27,170

be my wife already but
the war came and therefore

181

00:10:27,170 --> 00:10:28,550

she should be Swedish.

182

00:10:28,550 --> 00:10:32,680

And they handed me
a Swedish passport.

183

00:10:32,680 --> 00:10:37,030
And I looked and
I said "a what?"

184
00:10:37,030 --> 00:10:39,590
So I became a Swedish citizen.

185
00:10:39,590 --> 00:10:42,970
And you can see on those,
I have that passport here.

186
00:10:42,970 --> 00:10:45,460
It says there
"emergency passport."

187
00:10:45,460 --> 00:10:48,550
They also gave this
to Swedish people

188
00:10:48,550 --> 00:10:51,430
if they didn't have the
hard covered passport--

189
00:10:51,430 --> 00:10:53,930
hard-covered paper.

190
00:10:53,930 --> 00:10:56,360
And then the
ambassador explained

191
00:10:56,360 --> 00:10:59,660
that he would like to
keep me at the embassy.

192
00:10:59,660 --> 00:11:01,940
And I said, yes, but I
have my parents home.

193
00:11:01,940 --> 00:11:04,910
And he said we will send
somebody down to your parents

194
00:11:04,910 --> 00:11:07,280

and tell them what
happened and why,

195
00:11:07,280 --> 00:11:09,590
but we are responsible for you.

196
00:11:09,590 --> 00:11:14,270
So I have been the guest of the
Swedish government for three

197
00:11:14,270 --> 00:11:18,050
glorious weeks except my
heart inside was hurting,

198
00:11:18,050 --> 00:11:20,630
what can happen to my parents.

199
00:11:20,630 --> 00:11:22,790
And I found out while
I was up there that I

200
00:11:22,790 --> 00:11:25,320
wasn't the only one who was--

201
00:11:25,320 --> 00:11:25,820
Wait, wait.

202
00:11:25,820 --> 00:11:29,670
We have to change rolls now.

203
00:11:29,670 --> 00:11:33,220
We're changing film to
camera roll 2 and same day.

204
00:11:33,220 --> 00:11:33,990
Number one is up.

205
00:11:33,990 --> 00:11:39,430

206
00:11:39,430 --> 00:11:43,360
Can you explain to

me about the edict

207

00:11:43,360 --> 00:11:47,860
to separate mixed couples,
Christians and Jews

208

00:11:47,860 --> 00:11:49,700
who were married?

209

00:11:49,700 --> 00:11:50,200
Explain.

210

00:11:50,200 --> 00:11:52,630
Just tell me about that,
so-- because people

211

00:11:52,630 --> 00:11:54,820
can't believe such a thing
would happen, and then

212

00:11:54,820 --> 00:11:56,350
explain what happened.

213

00:11:56,350 --> 00:11:58,360
I will explain to
you, because I had

214

00:11:58,360 --> 00:12:02,890
an uncle who was a Unitarian
and an aunt who was a Jew,

215

00:12:02,890 --> 00:12:04,480
and they had a
wonderful marriage.

216

00:12:04,480 --> 00:12:11,410
And suddenly the radio declared
that all married couple mixed

217

00:12:11,410 --> 00:12:15,370
marriages either divorce
immediately or both of them

218
00:12:15,370 --> 00:12:17,650
will be killed.

219
00:12:17,650 --> 00:12:25,170
And my-- many, many people,
they were found dead together.

220
00:12:25,170 --> 00:12:29,880
They cleaned the house, and
then they went into a clean bed,

221
00:12:29,880 --> 00:12:35,370
and they found them
suicidal by themselves.

222
00:12:35,370 --> 00:12:40,320
My uncle and aunt called, too,
and they said we want to die,

223
00:12:40,320 --> 00:12:42,630
because we will not separate.

224
00:12:42,630 --> 00:12:43,950
And I screamed at them.

225
00:12:43,950 --> 00:12:45,120
I said, you can't do that.

226
00:12:45,120 --> 00:12:46,830
By the time we
already had Raoul.

227
00:12:46,830 --> 00:12:48,400
I said, I'll get you papers.

228
00:12:48,400 --> 00:12:49,910
And I did.

229
00:12:49,910 --> 00:12:53,060
And they got themselves
false papers, too.

230

00:12:53,060 --> 00:12:56,250

And thanks God, they
lived through the war.

231

00:12:56,250 --> 00:12:59,850

But it was thousands of
people who killed themselves.

232

00:12:59,850 --> 00:13:03,020

So it was a very
easy people to kill--

233

00:13:03,020 --> 00:13:06,050

easy time to kill people.

234

00:13:06,050 --> 00:13:09,170

Because most of them
would not divorce.

235

00:13:09,170 --> 00:13:14,810

One of them Kodaly, you know,
the famous Hungarian musician

236

00:13:14,810 --> 00:13:16,640

whose wife was a Jew.

237

00:13:16,640 --> 00:13:20,582

And he said, "I would
never, never leave my wife."

238

00:13:20,582 --> 00:13:22,040

And they didn't
touch him, and they

239

00:13:22,040 --> 00:13:24,380

didn't touch his wife either.

240

00:13:24,380 --> 00:13:25,880

But very few of them.

241

00:13:25,880 --> 00:13:30,910

Thousands and

thousands, they died.

242

00:13:30,910 --> 00:13:32,530

What about converting?

243

00:13:32,530 --> 00:13:35,140

Could you convert
from Judaism to save--

244

00:13:35,140 --> 00:13:35,770

Yes.

245

00:13:35,770 --> 00:13:38,410

Now, on the other day
there was a phone call

246

00:13:38,410 --> 00:13:44,260

there that anyone who is
not in the Jewish religion

247

00:13:44,260 --> 00:13:46,490

will be saved.

248

00:13:46,490 --> 00:13:49,750

Now, of course, we wanted
to believe anything.

249

00:13:49,750 --> 00:13:51,850

And again, I was
a very lucky girl,

250

00:13:51,850 --> 00:13:56,470

because I grew up as an
only Jew in Budapest's best

251

00:13:56,470 --> 00:13:59,200

Protestant school.

252

00:13:59,200 --> 00:14:02,950

And our principal that
time, and later on he

253

00:14:02,950 --> 00:14:06,610
became the bishop of Hungary,
the Protestant bishop,

254

00:14:06,610 --> 00:14:09,580
he was also my best friend,
because he had seven daughters,

255

00:14:09,580 --> 00:14:11,200
and I was always in his house.

256

00:14:11,200 --> 00:14:14,080
And he arrived to our
house, what was then still

257

00:14:14,080 --> 00:14:15,850
the Christian house.

258

00:14:15,850 --> 00:14:18,530
And he said to my father,
who was the same age,

259

00:14:18,530 --> 00:14:21,490
he says, "Uncle, I want
to baptize your child,

260

00:14:21,490 --> 00:14:23,920
because she's my
seventh daughter."

261

00:14:23,920 --> 00:14:25,780
Of course, Papa couldn't say no.

262

00:14:25,780 --> 00:14:29,740
We went down to the church,
and my father cried very loud,

263

00:14:29,740 --> 00:14:32,680
and he kept on saying
"Papa, don't cry.

264

00:14:32,680 --> 00:14:35,810
I have a lot of Jews

down there whom I saved.

265

00:14:35,810 --> 00:14:39,640

And if the Nazis find out--" and
he christianed me, because he

266

00:14:39,640 --> 00:14:42,670

believed that it will help me.

267

00:14:42,670 --> 00:14:44,950

Possibly the miracle helped.

268

00:14:44,950 --> 00:14:46,840

But thousands and
thousands of people

269

00:14:46,840 --> 00:14:49,370

died because nobody
cared that they

270

00:14:49,370 --> 00:14:53,470

were another religion-- that
was just another off day, funny

271

00:14:53,470 --> 00:14:55,910

saying.

272

00:14:55,910 --> 00:15:00,950

Many time of course, many people
survived with false papers,

273

00:15:00,950 --> 00:15:05,840

and who didn't look
really Jewish, so.

274

00:15:05,840 --> 00:15:10,690

But it was also just a
lie, like everything else.

275

00:15:10,690 --> 00:15:13,130

Explain to me more
about those lies.

276

00:15:13,130 --> 00:15:13,630

How?

277

00:15:13,630 --> 00:15:16,690

How did they fool
people at the beginning

278

00:15:16,690 --> 00:15:19,760

and keep it so you didn't
believe what was happening?

279

00:15:19,760 --> 00:15:22,460

Well, you see, because
every day there

280

00:15:22,460 --> 00:15:25,360

was something new in the radio.

281

00:15:25,360 --> 00:15:27,100

And also the threatening.

282

00:15:27,100 --> 00:15:28,720

"If you go out, we kill you.

283

00:15:28,720 --> 00:15:30,640

If you do this, we kill you."

284

00:15:30,640 --> 00:15:34,330

And also very quickly
the bombing started,

285

00:15:34,330 --> 00:15:38,830

and that made them extremely
angry that the Americans

286

00:15:38,830 --> 00:15:40,540

started to bomb us.

287

00:15:40,540 --> 00:15:43,720

And the American and the British
bomb that went all the way down

288

00:15:43,720 --> 00:15:44,800
to the basement.

289

00:15:44,800 --> 00:15:48,760
The Russian bombs, they only
took the last two floors up

290

00:15:48,760 --> 00:15:50,050
on the top.

291

00:15:50,050 --> 00:15:53,410
And so much so that while
I was at the embassy,

292

00:15:53,410 --> 00:15:55,870
my friend who brought
me up came one day

293

00:15:55,870 --> 00:15:59,530
and he said to the ambassador
that I have to go home,

294

00:15:59,530 --> 00:16:02,650
otherwise they're going to kill
my parents in the meantime,

295

00:16:02,650 --> 00:16:06,340
because of the
Hungarian Nazis' anger.

296

00:16:06,340 --> 00:16:09,160
What they did, they
made every second house

297

00:16:09,160 --> 00:16:13,590
in Budapest a Jewish house
with a huge big Mogen

298

00:16:13,590 --> 00:16:16,420
David on the house
because the idea was

299

00:16:16,420 --> 00:16:20,980
that the Americans will
not bomb the Jewish houses.

300
00:16:20,980 --> 00:16:24,670
And therefore-- or the
Christians will be saved.

301
00:16:24,670 --> 00:16:26,770
Of course they were
wrong, because they

302
00:16:26,770 --> 00:16:28,000
bombed the Jewish houses.

303
00:16:28,000 --> 00:16:29,770
They bombed the
Christian houses.

304
00:16:29,770 --> 00:16:33,880
But they found the headquarters,
and they bombed there, too.

305
00:16:33,880 --> 00:16:37,070
And my parents had to move
out from our apartment.

306
00:16:37,070 --> 00:16:38,530
And they moved in--

307
00:16:38,530 --> 00:16:41,030
thanks God, my grandmother's
house wasn't too far,

308
00:16:41,030 --> 00:16:42,100
her apartment.

309
00:16:42,100 --> 00:16:43,210
And they moved.

310
00:16:43,210 --> 00:16:45,070
And the Nazis came
every morning,

311
00:16:45,070 --> 00:16:46,330
and they were reading names.

312
00:16:46,330 --> 00:16:48,460
And my name was still on.

313
00:16:48,460 --> 00:16:51,910
So they argued for a while,
and I told the ambassador

314
00:16:51,910 --> 00:16:54,430
that it is my job to
go home to my parents,

315
00:16:54,430 --> 00:16:57,040
because they might
kill the whole family.

316
00:16:57,040 --> 00:16:59,590
So he wouldn't allow
me to go home with him.

317
00:16:59,590 --> 00:17:05,410
I had to go down in a street car
with one of the diplomats who

318
00:17:05,410 --> 00:17:08,530
was sitting quite away from me,
because he wanted to see where

319
00:17:08,530 --> 00:17:11,920
I'm going with the promise
that whenever they allow us

320
00:17:11,920 --> 00:17:14,319
out on the street, because
we were allowed every day

321
00:17:14,319 --> 00:17:20,020
two hours to go out and
shop with the star on.

322

00:17:20,020 --> 00:17:22,210

And you were lucky if you
came back from shopping

323

00:17:22,210 --> 00:17:24,510

without being killed.

324

00:17:24,510 --> 00:17:28,970

And if the telephones still
worked, would I please call up?

325

00:17:28,970 --> 00:17:34,470

And I was hardly down there
for two weeks when I called,

326

00:17:34,470 --> 00:17:37,290

and I was told to come
back at once because there

327

00:17:37,290 --> 00:17:39,240

is something new happened.

328

00:17:39,240 --> 00:17:41,820

So I had to go down on
my knees to my friend

329

00:17:41,820 --> 00:17:46,050

to take me up once more,
promising that I will not stay.

330

00:17:46,050 --> 00:17:47,850

And there was Raoul Wallenberg.

331

00:17:47,850 --> 00:17:50,820

332

00:17:50,820 --> 00:17:53,760

And he introduced himself.

333

00:17:53,760 --> 00:17:55,600

I didn't really know who he was.

334

00:17:55,600 --> 00:17:58,530

And he asked me in
English at that time,

335

00:17:58,530 --> 00:18:00,860

would you like to work with me?

336

00:18:00,860 --> 00:18:02,720

And I showed him my star.

337

00:18:02,720 --> 00:18:03,890

And he started to laugh.

338

00:18:03,890 --> 00:18:05,180

And Per Anger was laughing.

339

00:18:05,180 --> 00:18:06,710

He says that's nothing.

340

00:18:06,710 --> 00:18:08,180

That's getting off.

341

00:18:08,180 --> 00:18:09,080

I said, yeah?

342

00:18:09,080 --> 00:18:11,000

How?

343

00:18:11,000 --> 00:18:12,710

So they told me how.

344

00:18:12,710 --> 00:18:16,040

They gave him-- they must have
bribed the Hungarian police

345

00:18:16,040 --> 00:18:19,980

station, because I had
to go down all by myself.

346

00:18:19,980 --> 00:18:22,520

I didn't find out only

later on that actually they

347
00:18:22,520 --> 00:18:24,710
were around in case
I'm not coming out,

348
00:18:24,710 --> 00:18:26,630
so they can pick me up.

349
00:18:26,630 --> 00:18:28,580
And I went down to
the police station,

350
00:18:28,580 --> 00:18:32,180
and the police chief, whose
name I can't remember,

351
00:18:32,180 --> 00:18:35,766
he took me in his
arm, and he cried.

352
00:18:35,766 --> 00:18:37,530
He was a very good actor.

353
00:18:37,530 --> 00:18:41,850
And he said, "I'm so proud I am
the one who cuts the star off."

354
00:18:41,850 --> 00:18:43,680
And he did cut it off.

355
00:18:43,680 --> 00:18:46,980
And he said, "remember my
name when the Russians come.

356
00:18:46,980 --> 00:18:48,150
Or the Americans.

357
00:18:48,150 --> 00:18:50,130
How good I was."

358
00:18:50,130 --> 00:18:52,630

He must have gotten
quite a lot of money.

359
00:18:52,630 --> 00:18:54,600
And as I walked out,
I heard somebody say

360
00:18:54,600 --> 00:18:56,130
"here goes another bloody Jew."

361
00:18:56,130 --> 00:18:59,040
And I thought, "ah, now
they're going to kill me."

362
00:18:59,040 --> 00:19:00,060
But they didn't.

363
00:19:00,060 --> 00:19:02,140
I made it all the way back.

364
00:19:02,140 --> 00:19:05,010
So now Raoul Wallenberg
hands me another paper.

365
00:19:05,010 --> 00:19:07,650
He said get down to
the house commission.

366
00:19:07,650 --> 00:19:09,490
By now, it was incredible.

367
00:19:09,490 --> 00:19:11,430
We had a housing commission.

368
00:19:11,430 --> 00:19:14,430
Because as soon as somebody got
out of their beautiful home,

369
00:19:14,430 --> 00:19:16,170
somebody moved in.

370
00:19:16,170 --> 00:19:19,260

And he said, "get
your apartment back."

371
00:19:19,260 --> 00:19:20,500
I said, really?

372
00:19:20,500 --> 00:19:22,140
He said, yes, really?"

373
00:19:22,140 --> 00:19:24,510
So by that time, I was
all Raoul Wallenberg.

374
00:19:24,510 --> 00:19:28,530
I felt if he's that strong and
has not to do it, I can do it.

375
00:19:28,530 --> 00:19:32,190
And I was a rather
pretty girl, so I took up

376
00:19:32,190 --> 00:19:35,400
the best suit I had, and
I walked with my paper

377
00:19:35,400 --> 00:19:36,060
in my hand.

378
00:19:36,060 --> 00:19:39,060
But inside, of course,
I was twisting.

379
00:19:39,060 --> 00:19:41,820
And I sort of threw it
to the head of the men,

380
00:19:41,820 --> 00:19:43,980
and he gave me a dirty look.

381
00:19:43,980 --> 00:19:45,900
But without a word,
he gave it back.

382
00:19:45,900 --> 00:19:48,560
He said, here.

383
00:19:48,560 --> 00:19:51,360
I walked out, and I said, why?

384
00:19:51,360 --> 00:19:54,240
How come they just
give it to me?

385
00:19:54,240 --> 00:19:57,300
Well, I forgot that it was
actually in my father's name.

386
00:19:57,300 --> 00:20:02,610
So I walked back
to our super, who

387
00:20:02,610 --> 00:20:06,330
was living on us like a leech
for years and years and years.

388
00:20:06,330 --> 00:20:10,740
And his wife was delighted
to see me alive, but not him.

389
00:20:10,740 --> 00:20:13,210
And I said, "I came to
get my apartment back."

390
00:20:13,210 --> 00:20:15,990
Whereby, she said, "Oh,
my daughter already has--"

391
00:20:15,990 --> 00:20:20,400
No, he said, "my daughter is
going to have your apartment."

392
00:20:20,400 --> 00:20:21,690
And the wife spoke up.

393
00:20:21,690 --> 00:20:25,830

She said, "our daughter
already has an apartment!"

394
00:20:25,830 --> 00:20:27,518
So I existed, sort of.

395
00:20:27,518 --> 00:20:29,310
And he said, "well, he
can't give it to me.

396
00:20:29,310 --> 00:20:31,590
I have to go to the
house's lawyer."

397
00:20:31,590 --> 00:20:33,030
And I said fine.

398
00:20:33,030 --> 00:20:35,610
And I walked all the
way to the lawyer.

399
00:20:35,610 --> 00:20:38,985
And there was the same
thing as with the policemen.

400
00:20:38,985 --> 00:20:41,430
"Oh, I give it to
you, of course.

401
00:20:41,430 --> 00:20:44,490
But you must remember my
name when they come in,

402
00:20:44,490 --> 00:20:46,140
to tell how much good I did."

403
00:20:46,140 --> 00:20:47,070
I said sure.

404
00:20:47,070 --> 00:20:48,420
And I had my finger like that.

405

00:20:48,420 --> 00:20:51,540
I said, "of course
I will, naturally."

406
00:20:51,540 --> 00:20:53,580
So then I walked
back to the super,

407
00:20:53,580 --> 00:20:56,250
who was very surprised
that I got the signature.

408
00:20:56,250 --> 00:20:59,400
And we went upstairs,
and funnily enough,

409
00:20:59,400 --> 00:21:02,520
the apartment was
completely empty.

410
00:21:02,520 --> 00:21:03,450
Only one room.

411
00:21:03,450 --> 00:21:06,720
We had a maid's room,
and that was closed.

412
00:21:06,720 --> 00:21:10,470
And when he opened it,
I was terribly surprised

413
00:21:10,470 --> 00:21:14,490
to find all our paintings,
furniture, everything

414
00:21:14,490 --> 00:21:16,600
was in there.

415
00:21:16,600 --> 00:21:19,620
So first I thought to myself,
"gee, he isn't such a bad man."

416
00:21:19,620 --> 00:21:23,580

Until he opens his mouth and he
said, "I'll get even with you

417
00:21:23,580 --> 00:21:24,510
yet."

418
00:21:24,510 --> 00:21:28,470
But at least right now I had it.

419
00:21:28,470 --> 00:21:31,260
So I did the terrible thing.

420
00:21:31,260 --> 00:21:33,090
My parents didn't
have any papers yet,

421
00:21:33,090 --> 00:21:37,720
but I walked back to the
house, and I said "out."

422
00:21:37,720 --> 00:21:39,870
and my father said, but how?

423
00:21:39,870 --> 00:21:41,310
I said just get out.

424
00:21:41,310 --> 00:21:44,850
I have already Schutz-Passes
for you from Raoul.

425
00:21:44,850 --> 00:21:45,720
Just get out.

426
00:21:45,720 --> 00:21:53,880
And I brought them back
home, and nothing happened.

427
00:21:53,880 --> 00:22:01,560
And then what I did with Raoul,
every day I had to go up there.

428
00:22:01,560 --> 00:22:06,840

And I went on the streetcar,
because they were over in Buda.

429
00:22:06,840 --> 00:22:08,880
And for a while,
I was hostessing.

430
00:22:08,880 --> 00:22:11,100
You know, thousands
and thousands

431
00:22:11,100 --> 00:22:16,740
of Jewish people
and anti-Nazi people

432
00:22:16,740 --> 00:22:18,765
came up to ask for this paper.

433
00:22:18,765 --> 00:22:21,350

434
00:22:21,350 --> 00:22:23,030
Because when Raoul
arrived and he

435
00:22:23,030 --> 00:22:25,820
asked what the embassy
has done, I said,

436
00:22:25,820 --> 00:22:28,130
we have given out 80 passports.

437
00:22:28,130 --> 00:22:34,070
And he said, 80 passports
when there are 280,000 people

438
00:22:34,070 --> 00:22:34,760
to be saved?

439
00:22:34,760 --> 00:22:35,480
That's nothing.

440

00:22:35,480 --> 00:22:39,860
And that's when he designed
this beautiful Schutz-Pass, what

441
00:22:39,860 --> 00:22:42,140
means "protective pass."

442
00:22:42,140 --> 00:22:44,540
And people still keep
on saying passports.

443
00:22:44,540 --> 00:22:46,236
They were no passports.

444
00:22:46,236 --> 00:22:48,100
OK, we have to change rolls.

445
00:22:48,100 --> 00:22:51,932

446
00:22:51,932 --> 00:22:54,327
[BEEP]

447
00:22:54,327 --> 00:22:58,638

448
00:22:58,638 --> 00:23:00,680
There came a knock at the
door, and it turned out

449
00:23:00,680 --> 00:23:03,170
to be a German
soldier that you had--

450
00:23:03,170 --> 00:23:05,000
that you actually knew?

451
00:23:05,000 --> 00:23:06,410
Ah.

452
00:23:06,410 --> 00:23:07,550
Give me the background.

453
00:23:07,550 --> 00:23:11,900
OK, the background
was that I was just

454
00:23:11,900 --> 00:23:15,500
about graduating
from high school.

455
00:23:15,500 --> 00:23:19,650
And I got scarlet fever.

456
00:23:19,650 --> 00:23:23,700
So I never really graduated,
but they just gave me the paper.

457
00:23:23,700 --> 00:23:27,360
And I was supposed to go to
a German island at that time

458
00:23:27,360 --> 00:23:29,940
to very dear friends
who were Jewish.

459
00:23:29,940 --> 00:23:32,280
And it didn't work.

460
00:23:32,280 --> 00:23:36,580
But then 1936
Olympic Games came.

461
00:23:36,580 --> 00:23:39,010
And that was about the
last time that the Jews

462
00:23:39,010 --> 00:23:42,100
were allowed to be around,
and they invited me to Berlin

463
00:23:42,100 --> 00:23:43,650
instead.

464

00:23:43,650 --> 00:23:47,210
So I went to Berlin, and
I had a wonderful time.

465
00:23:47,210 --> 00:23:52,950
I watched Jesse Owens winning
the gold medal for his flying

466
00:23:52,950 --> 00:23:54,060
instead of running.

467
00:23:54,060 --> 00:23:56,430
And I thought he was
wonderful, because he

468
00:23:56,430 --> 00:24:00,450
was hated as much as we
are, because he was Black.

469
00:24:00,450 --> 00:24:02,560
And it was wonderful.

470
00:24:02,560 --> 00:24:05,310
And then in the days
what we took there,

471
00:24:05,310 --> 00:24:06,870
we went out to swim.

472
00:24:06,870 --> 00:24:09,040
And I met a lot of German youth.

473
00:24:09,040 --> 00:24:14,220
And one of them was a young
man who we exchanged cards,

474
00:24:14,220 --> 00:24:16,800
and my name was Mandl.

475
00:24:16,800 --> 00:24:20,880
And then years go by,
and there is the war,

476

00:24:20,880 --> 00:24:22,890
and the Nazis are in Budapest.

477

00:24:22,890 --> 00:24:26,780
And suddenly, the bell
rings in my house.

478

00:24:26,780 --> 00:24:31,070
And I look out, and I
see a uniformed man.

479

00:24:31,070 --> 00:24:34,860
And my parents were,
I mean, shaking.

480

00:24:34,860 --> 00:24:39,680
And I said, "but Mommy, this
is the boy from Germany."

481

00:24:39,680 --> 00:24:41,960
And I opened the door
but didn't let him in.

482

00:24:41,960 --> 00:24:44,510
And he said, "Aggie,
you remember me."

483

00:24:44,510 --> 00:24:46,790
I said, "yes, of course.

484

00:24:46,790 --> 00:24:47,690
I remember you.

485

00:24:47,690 --> 00:24:51,380
That was already we were
back in our Christian house."

486

00:24:51,380 --> 00:24:53,810
And he said, "would
you show me Budapest?"

487

00:24:53,810 --> 00:24:55,490

And I said, "sure,
I'd be glad to.

488
00:24:55,490 --> 00:24:57,980
Goodbye, Mommy and
Daddy," and out I went.

489
00:24:57,980 --> 00:25:00,620
I couldn't say I'm
not going with you.

490
00:25:00,620 --> 00:25:02,540
Everybody in the
house looked at me,

491
00:25:02,540 --> 00:25:05,780
and they didn't know whether
I was taken or walking.

492
00:25:05,780 --> 00:25:10,940
And we walked around until
we came to the synagogue.

493
00:25:10,940 --> 00:25:13,430
And this young man stopped
there and he said, "do you

494
00:25:13,430 --> 00:25:14,630
see this synagogue?"

495
00:25:14,630 --> 00:25:15,920
I said, "yes, sure."

496
00:25:15,920 --> 00:25:20,260
He said, "that's where I'm
going to kill every single Jew."

497
00:25:20,260 --> 00:25:22,267
So my stomach went
all the way down.

498
00:25:22,267 --> 00:25:23,350
What am I going to do now?

499

00:25:23,350 --> 00:25:26,990

If I tell him I am one, he
will kill me right on the spot,

500

00:25:26,990 --> 00:25:29,240

and I can't afford it.

501

00:25:29,240 --> 00:25:32,650

And I turned to him and I said,
"did you ever know a Jew?"

502

00:25:32,650 --> 00:25:34,330

And he said, no.

503

00:25:34,330 --> 00:25:36,970

I said, "well, did any
Jew ever hurt you?"

504

00:25:36,970 --> 00:25:38,200

He says, no.

505

00:25:38,200 --> 00:25:40,070

I said, "then why do
you want to kill them?"

506

00:25:40,070 --> 00:25:42,160

He says, "Hitler told me."

507

00:25:42,160 --> 00:25:45,100

So now I had to think very
fast, and I looked at my watch.

508

00:25:45,100 --> 00:25:49,750

I said, "Oh, you have to forgive
me, but I am teaching English

509

00:25:49,750 --> 00:25:51,080

and I have to run to a lesson.

510

00:25:51,080 --> 00:25:52,450

It was wonderful seeing you."

511
00:25:52,450 --> 00:25:54,040
And I ran away.

512
00:25:54,040 --> 00:25:56,590
I never see him
again, but it was

513
00:25:56,590 --> 00:26:00,630
a frightening couple of hours.

514
00:26:00,630 --> 00:26:04,980
And now I want you to tell
me about Raoul Wallenberg.

515
00:26:04,980 --> 00:26:07,030
And I've never heard of him.

516
00:26:07,030 --> 00:26:08,670
I don't know who he is.

517
00:26:08,670 --> 00:26:13,290
So tell me very generally if
you had to tell me briefly

518
00:26:13,290 --> 00:26:15,240
who he is and what he did.

519
00:26:15,240 --> 00:26:16,290
OK.

520
00:26:16,290 --> 00:26:22,020
Raoul Wallenberg is-- was
then a young 32-year-old man

521
00:26:22,020 --> 00:26:24,510
from a neutral country.

522
00:26:24,510 --> 00:26:25,800
He was an architect.

523

00:26:25,800 --> 00:26:27,690
Everybody says he
was the ambassador.

524
00:26:27,690 --> 00:26:28,560
He was a diplomat.

525
00:26:28,560 --> 00:26:29,790
He was not.

526
00:26:29,790 --> 00:26:34,350
He got his education here
in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

527
00:26:34,350 --> 00:26:37,960
He became a top architect.

528
00:26:37,960 --> 00:26:41,710
And his uncle-- his grandfather,
Wallenberg grandfather

529
00:26:41,710 --> 00:26:43,660
was a diplomat.

530
00:26:43,660 --> 00:26:50,680
He was an ambassador to
Tokyo, and later on to Turkey.

531
00:26:50,680 --> 00:26:53,170
And he was the one who
really brought Raoul up,

532
00:26:53,170 --> 00:26:56,840
because his father died three
months before he was born.

533
00:26:56,840 --> 00:26:59,500
And this little boy
was surrounded by love,

534
00:26:59,500 --> 00:27:03,970
and he grew up with always
caring about other people.

535
00:27:03,970 --> 00:27:08,170
And his grandfather saw
to it that he learned

536
00:27:08,170 --> 00:27:10,720
all the European
languages, and that he's

537
00:27:10,720 --> 00:27:12,190
a well-educated young man.

538
00:27:12,190 --> 00:27:13,570
And he was funny.

539
00:27:13,570 --> 00:27:14,840
He was wonderful.

540
00:27:14,840 --> 00:27:16,000
He was a great actor.

541
00:27:16,000 --> 00:27:22,120
He usually imitated everybody,
and he was just great.

542
00:27:22,120 --> 00:27:24,880
And when he came
back from America,

543
00:27:24,880 --> 00:27:29,470
it was way in the '30s, and
Hitler was already around.

544
00:27:29,470 --> 00:27:33,160
And he couldn't find
anybody who wanted to build.

545
00:27:33,160 --> 00:27:35,320
So architect he couldn't be.

546
00:27:35,320 --> 00:27:37,930
So they sent him

first to South Africa.

547

00:27:37,930 --> 00:27:39,880

His grandfather
wanted him to learn

548

00:27:39,880 --> 00:27:44,110
the business of the Wallenbergs,
what was banking mostly.

549

00:27:44,110 --> 00:27:48,020

And when he got to
Africa, very shortly

550

00:27:48,020 --> 00:27:49,850

he wrote to his
grandfather, "Why

551

00:27:49,850 --> 00:27:51,290

aren't you doing something?

552

00:27:51,290 --> 00:27:53,760

They are killing
the Blacks here.

553

00:27:53,760 --> 00:27:55,130

They shouldn't do that.

554

00:27:55,130 --> 00:27:57,440

Those are wonderful people."

555

00:27:57,440 --> 00:28:00,920

And he was very disturbed, and
he was wanting to come back.

556

00:28:00,920 --> 00:28:03,440

Then his grandfather sent
him to Palestine, what

557

00:28:03,440 --> 00:28:06,350

was no Israel yet, to Haifa.

558

00:28:06,350 --> 00:28:09,920
And that's where he met
first these people who

559
00:28:09,920 --> 00:28:13,070
came from Germany, Poland,
those who could run away.

560
00:28:13,070 --> 00:28:15,500
And they told him
the horror stories.

561
00:28:15,500 --> 00:28:17,390
So again, he asked
his grandfather

562
00:28:17,390 --> 00:28:22,970
to come back, because he has
to do something for humanity.

563
00:28:22,970 --> 00:28:24,950
So he came back to Stockholm.

564
00:28:24,950 --> 00:28:28,680
And of course, he couldn't
do a thing for anyone.

565
00:28:28,680 --> 00:28:31,580
But he became a partner
of a Hungarian Jew,

566
00:28:31,580 --> 00:28:34,790
who couldn't travel anymore,
who had a big import--

567
00:28:34,790 --> 00:28:42,790
export-import business in food.

568
00:28:42,790 --> 00:28:47,410
And Raoul became his partner,
because he could travel around

569
00:28:47,410 --> 00:28:48,850

still.

570
00:28:48,850 --> 00:28:52,480
And every time he came back,
he said to his partner,

571
00:28:52,480 --> 00:28:55,220
"Kalman, they're going
to kill everybody.

572
00:28:55,220 --> 00:28:58,150
You can't imagine what
they do in Germany

573
00:28:58,150 --> 00:28:59,500
and what they do in Hungary.

574
00:28:59,500 --> 00:29:02,380
Let me go back to Hungary
and bring your family out."

575
00:29:02,380 --> 00:29:04,480
And this Hungarian was laughing.

576
00:29:04,480 --> 00:29:06,670
He said, "Raoul, whom
do you think you are,

577
00:29:06,670 --> 00:29:08,350
Jesus Christ or Moses?

578
00:29:08,350 --> 00:29:10,450
You can do nothing."

579
00:29:10,450 --> 00:29:12,310
In the meantime,
finally, somebody

580
00:29:12,310 --> 00:29:15,580
went to Roosevelt,
our president,

581

00:29:15,580 --> 00:29:19,240
and told him that Hungary was
the last country where there

582
00:29:19,240 --> 00:29:21,370
still a Jewish
population, and it

583
00:29:21,370 --> 00:29:23,260
looks like that the
Germans are going

584
00:29:23,260 --> 00:29:24,940
in there to kill everyone.

585
00:29:24,940 --> 00:29:27,250
Would he please help?

586
00:29:27,250 --> 00:29:32,470
So the Hungarian-- the American
Refugee Board has been erected,

587
00:29:32,470 --> 00:29:35,530
and a gentleman by
the name of Olson

588
00:29:35,530 --> 00:29:39,760
has been sent to Sweden
to find a person who

589
00:29:39,760 --> 00:29:43,660
would go with a mission
to save people in Hungary.

590
00:29:43,660 --> 00:29:46,360
The Hung-- the
American embassy was

591
00:29:46,360 --> 00:29:52,060
in the same house with Kalman
Lauer, the firm Raoul worked.

592
00:29:52,060 --> 00:29:54,550

And they figured they
go to a Hungarian Jew.

593
00:29:54,550 --> 00:29:56,650
Maybe he knows someone.

594
00:29:56,650 --> 00:29:58,450
And then they told
him what they want.

595
00:29:58,450 --> 00:29:59,540
He started to laugh.

596
00:29:59,540 --> 00:30:01,570
He said, "Yes, I
have a young partner,

597
00:30:01,570 --> 00:30:05,300
and he can talk of nothing
else but saving the world."

598
00:30:05,300 --> 00:30:08,920
So I don't want to go in with
you how many interviews he had,

599
00:30:08,920 --> 00:30:11,380
and probably because
of these interviews

600
00:30:11,380 --> 00:30:14,650
it is that he's now
46 years in prison.

601
00:30:14,650 --> 00:30:17,170
Stockholm was a real spy center.

602
00:30:17,170 --> 00:30:19,540
There was a big
coffee house there,

603
00:30:19,540 --> 00:30:23,680
where there were Russian spies,
German spies, you name it.

604

00:30:23,680 --> 00:30:27,850
And Raoul had a lot of meetings
there with this Mr. Olson.

605

00:30:27,850 --> 00:30:32,980
What turned out later on that
he was a man of the OSS, what

606

00:30:32,980 --> 00:30:34,780
was before the CIA.

607

00:30:34,780 --> 00:30:36,610
But Raoul had
absolutely no idea.

608

00:30:36,610 --> 00:30:39,250
He just knew that
he was an American.

609

00:30:39,250 --> 00:30:42,730
And talking to Raoul and
seeing how excited he was

610

00:30:42,730 --> 00:30:48,220
and what he wanted, they gave
him the job to come to Hungary.

611

00:30:48,220 --> 00:30:50,680
He was 32-year-old.

612

00:30:50,680 --> 00:30:52,870
His demand was,
of course, that he

613

00:30:52,870 --> 00:30:54,670
needed a diplomatic passport.

614

00:30:54,670 --> 00:30:56,860
Because without that,
he couldn't travel.

615

00:30:56,860 --> 00:31:00,520
That's how he became the third
secretary or fourth secretary

616
00:31:00,520 --> 00:31:03,670
of the Hungarian embassy.

617
00:31:03,670 --> 00:31:07,360
He also demanded
unlimited money.

618
00:31:07,360 --> 00:31:10,150
And when they asked him why,
he said "because I'm sure

619
00:31:10,150 --> 00:31:14,290
I will have to bribe the
Germans and the Hungarians

620
00:31:14,290 --> 00:31:16,420
to save some people."

621
00:31:16,420 --> 00:31:17,620
And they said yes.

622
00:31:17,620 --> 00:31:20,320
And then the third
one was that he

623
00:31:20,320 --> 00:31:24,460
wanted a free hand to do
whatever he wanted in Hungary.

624
00:31:24,460 --> 00:31:33,000
Well, of course when he arrived
to Budapest on July 9, 1944,

625
00:31:33,000 --> 00:31:35,700
they didn't look at him
very happily, the embassy.

626
00:31:35,700 --> 00:31:38,790
Because there is someone who

was never a diplomat, and he

627

00:31:38,790 --> 00:31:40,590

wants to take over.

628

00:31:40,590 --> 00:31:43,290

But it turned out that

that's what happened.

629

00:31:43,290 --> 00:31:45,660

Raoul was the one who

went to talk to people.

630

00:31:45,660 --> 00:31:49,090

Raoul was the one

who saved the people.

631

00:31:49,090 --> 00:31:52,760

So now you know who

Raoul is or was,

632

00:31:52,760 --> 00:31:57,020

a great, wonderful human

being, whose only idea

633

00:31:57,020 --> 00:32:01,110

was to help the innocent.

634

00:32:01,110 --> 00:32:04,420

And for this, they took him.

635

00:32:04,420 --> 00:32:06,050

And for many other reasons.

636

00:32:06,050 --> 00:32:10,210

But the way he saved the

people was so incredible,

637

00:32:10,210 --> 00:32:14,770

and I can only talk for myself,

because I have not met anyone

638

00:32:14,770 --> 00:32:18,190
except the photographer
Thomas Veres,

639
00:32:18,190 --> 00:32:20,620
who has the same feeling
that Raoul gave us

640
00:32:20,620 --> 00:32:26,590
such an enormous strength to
do the same thing, unafraid.

641
00:32:26,590 --> 00:32:30,340
Of course, we don't know either
whether he inside himself being

642
00:32:30,340 --> 00:32:33,760
afraid, and we, too, maybe
our stomach sometimes

643
00:32:33,760 --> 00:32:35,560
didn't work the same way.

644
00:32:35,560 --> 00:32:38,110
But we just said,
no, we can do it.

645
00:32:38,110 --> 00:32:41,290
And we did the most
incredible things,

646
00:32:41,290 --> 00:32:44,920
because Raoul wanted us to do.

647
00:32:44,920 --> 00:32:46,240
And that was the beauty.

648
00:32:46,240 --> 00:32:48,760
And he never thought
of being afraid.

649
00:32:48,760 --> 00:32:52,060
He went out to the

trains when the Germans

650
00:32:52,060 --> 00:32:55,090
took the people, to already
to take them to Auschwitz.

651
00:32:55,090 --> 00:32:58,270
And his pockets were full
of all kinds of papers,

652
00:32:58,270 --> 00:33:01,750
not just real Schutz-Passes
but driver's license

653
00:33:01,750 --> 00:33:04,840
and this and that, because
the Germans couldn't read.

654
00:33:04,840 --> 00:33:09,700
And before he even shouted, he
first gave the Hungarian man

655
00:33:09,700 --> 00:33:13,210
some drinks, because they
love cognac and all that that,

656
00:33:13,210 --> 00:33:16,390
and made them good and drunk,
and asked them to help him.

657
00:33:16,390 --> 00:33:19,720
And he was shouting there, "come
out, come out, all the people

658
00:33:19,720 --> 00:33:20,740
who have my papers!"

659
00:33:20,740 --> 00:33:23,530
And of course people
suddenly realize

660
00:33:23,530 --> 00:33:25,600
that there is some angel

who want to help them,

661
00:33:25,600 --> 00:33:27,550
and he just handed
them papers out.

662
00:33:27,550 --> 00:33:30,790
And before the Germans
could really start shooting,

663
00:33:30,790 --> 00:33:34,570
he had 100 people on our
trucks, Red Cross trucks,

664
00:33:34,570 --> 00:33:35,950
to bring them home.

665
00:33:35,950 --> 00:33:39,800
And then Raoul looked back,
another 100 people were killed.

666
00:33:39,800 --> 00:33:42,010
But you can't just
save everyone.

667
00:33:42,010 --> 00:33:46,540
And then another day when
in Hungary this year it

668
00:33:46,540 --> 00:33:51,010
was very early snowing in
November, and even in September

669
00:33:51,010 --> 00:33:53,800
already, they were
enormously cold,

670
00:33:53,800 --> 00:33:57,410
the coldest winter in 40 years.

671
00:33:57,410 --> 00:34:00,200
And they were marching people
from Budapest all the way

672
00:34:00,200 --> 00:34:00,770
to Vienna.

673
00:34:00,770 --> 00:34:03,440
Even today in a car,
it's five hours.

674
00:34:03,440 --> 00:34:06,560
You can imagine what it
was walking old people

675
00:34:06,560 --> 00:34:07,670
and children.

676
00:34:07,670 --> 00:34:08,659
And he would scream.

677
00:34:08,659 --> 00:34:11,429
I had a girlfriend there,
who was there with mother--

678
00:34:11,429 --> 00:34:11,929
Let's stop.

679
00:34:11,929 --> 00:34:14,379
Let's stop here.

680
00:34:14,379 --> 00:34:15,000