

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:01,490

2
00:00:01,490 --> 00:00:03,170
Because that's the
family I stayed

3
00:00:03,170 --> 00:00:05,210
with after I ran
away from Cauterets.

4
00:00:05,210 --> 00:00:07,010
And then I was deported.

5
00:00:07,010 --> 00:00:08,250
And then I came back to them.

6
00:00:08,250 --> 00:00:08,750
OK.

7
00:00:08,750 --> 00:00:09,860
We've got to stop.

8
00:00:09,860 --> 00:00:11,855
We've got to change.

9
00:00:11,855 --> 00:00:12,980
Camera roll four, take six.

10
00:00:12,980 --> 00:00:15,950

11
00:00:15,950 --> 00:00:19,510
So now we're going to start with
the transports out of Drancy.

12
00:00:19,510 --> 00:00:24,540

13
00:00:24,540 --> 00:00:27,840

In October of 1942, in
the beginning of October

14
00:00:27,840 --> 00:00:31,620
after I had run away from this
forced residence in Cauterets,

15
00:00:31,620 --> 00:00:35,160
I made my way into Switzerland
with a false identification

16
00:00:35,160 --> 00:00:36,150
card.

17
00:00:36,150 --> 00:00:39,600
Traveling on a train
to the Swiss border.

18
00:00:39,600 --> 00:00:44,530
The Swiss arrested us and
sent us back to France.

19
00:00:44,530 --> 00:00:48,840
The gendarmes took
custody of us, sent us

20
00:00:48,840 --> 00:00:52,890
to a camp in southern
France called Rivesaltes.

21
00:00:52,890 --> 00:00:57,430
On the 20th of October--

22
00:00:57,430 --> 00:00:59,260
I mean, a couple of days later.

23
00:00:59,260 --> 00:01:03,220
Yeah, on the 20th, we were
sent from Rivesaltes to Drancy.

24
00:01:03,220 --> 00:01:05,920
That was in the north
of France near Paris,

25
00:01:05,920 --> 00:01:08,680
near Le Bourget Drancy.

26
00:01:08,680 --> 00:01:16,060
And we stayed interned in
Drancy till the 5th of November.

27
00:01:16,060 --> 00:01:18,730
On the 5th of November
in the evening,

28
00:01:18,730 --> 00:01:25,800
we were entrained
in the cattle cars

29
00:01:25,800 --> 00:01:30,130
in the train station
of Le Bourget.

30
00:01:30,130 --> 00:01:34,280
The process of putting us
into trains was very simple.

31
00:01:34,280 --> 00:01:36,010
They counted out 50.

32
00:01:36,010 --> 00:01:37,030
You got into the train.

33
00:01:37,030 --> 00:01:39,370
At the end of rifle
butts, they pushed us in.

34
00:01:39,370 --> 00:01:44,620
And after the 50 were in the
train, in that cattle car,

35
00:01:44,620 --> 00:01:48,780
in that car, they closed
the doors and locked them.

36

00:01:48,780 --> 00:01:51,700

Now, if there was
a family of four,

37

00:01:51,700 --> 00:01:55,215
they would count out 48, 49, 50.

38

00:01:55,215 --> 00:01:56,590
And the fourth
person there would

39

00:01:56,590 --> 00:02:00,970
have been the 51st,
a little boy of four,

40

00:02:00,970 --> 00:02:04,570
went into the next cattle car.

41

00:02:04,570 --> 00:02:07,300
He was not allowed to
be with his family.

42

00:02:07,300 --> 00:02:11,683
The family was protested,
and that didn't help.

43

00:02:11,683 --> 00:02:13,100
If they would have
protested more,

44

00:02:13,100 --> 00:02:15,060
they could have been killed.

45

00:02:15,060 --> 00:02:18,120
The father, for instance.

46

00:02:18,120 --> 00:02:19,670
The family was worried.

47

00:02:19,670 --> 00:02:21,260
What would the little
boy think of us?

48

00:02:21,260 --> 00:02:25,050

And the boy would think, thought
the parents didn't love him.

49

00:02:25,050 --> 00:02:26,810

So this was the
separation of families

50

00:02:26,810 --> 00:02:33,930

that began right there at the
embarking into the transport.

51

00:02:33,930 --> 00:02:39,150

There was one bucket in the
center of the car for the uses

52

00:02:39,150 --> 00:02:43,210

to relieve, to relieve yourself.

53

00:02:43,210 --> 00:02:47,050

And that bucket, within a
couple of hours, overflowed.

54

00:02:47,050 --> 00:02:50,610

That stands to reason because
there was 50 of us in that car.

55

00:02:50,610 --> 00:02:53,930

56

00:02:53,930 --> 00:02:57,650

What we had seen in Drancy, some
of the atrocities, my friend

57

00:02:57,650 --> 00:03:00,680

and I, Manfred Silberwasser,
decided if we can,

58

00:03:00,680 --> 00:03:02,840

we'd have to get away.

59

00:03:02,840 --> 00:03:05,980

And there was no
use trying anything

60
00:03:05,980 --> 00:03:07,630
while we were standing
from about five

61
00:03:07,630 --> 00:03:10,660
or six in the evening till the
next morning, which I later

62
00:03:10,660 --> 00:03:13,510
found out through the book
that it was about 8 o'clock.

63
00:03:13,510 --> 00:03:15,160
We had no notion of time.

64
00:03:15,160 --> 00:03:16,180
We had no watches.

65
00:03:16,180 --> 00:03:20,470
We had no-- all that was
all taken away from us.

66
00:03:20,470 --> 00:03:24,513
So during that night, during
that long night waiting

67
00:03:24,513 --> 00:03:25,930
as to what's going
to happen, when

68
00:03:25,930 --> 00:03:27,180
are we going to finally start?

69
00:03:27,180 --> 00:03:29,138
Because we didn't know
what their schedule was.

70
00:03:29,138 --> 00:03:30,970
They went by schedule
that was meticulously

71
00:03:30,970 --> 00:03:36,160
prepared and organized and
bureaucratically enforced.

72
00:03:36,160 --> 00:03:38,350
We were thinking,
what can be done?

73
00:03:38,350 --> 00:03:43,690
Luckily for us, the two windows
that were at the opposite ends,

74
00:03:43,690 --> 00:03:45,700
diagonally opposite
in the car, one

75
00:03:45,700 --> 00:03:49,720
had barbed wire bars
and barbed wire.

76
00:03:49,720 --> 00:03:51,190
The other one had just bars.

77
00:03:51,190 --> 00:03:53,470
Barbed wire is never
a real obstacle

78
00:03:53,470 --> 00:03:55,340
because they're rusted.

79
00:03:55,340 --> 00:03:56,470
They can break very easily.

80
00:03:56,470 --> 00:03:57,830
You can break them very easily.

81
00:03:57,830 --> 00:03:59,470
But the bars are
still an obstacle.

82
00:03:59,470 --> 00:04:02,920

So we set all night and
wondered, how can we make sure

83
00:04:02,920 --> 00:04:07,700
that these bars that are
there at a distance like this,

84
00:04:07,700 --> 00:04:12,240
become separated enough for us
to be able to squeeze through?

85
00:04:12,240 --> 00:04:15,770
And while we were
sitting there thinking,

86
00:04:15,770 --> 00:04:17,782
it materialized in
our minds that this is

87
00:04:17,782 --> 00:04:18,990
the way we're going to do it.

88
00:04:18,990 --> 00:04:22,730
We'll have to twist them in some
way, separate them in some way.

89
00:04:22,730 --> 00:04:25,550
We couldn't do it
while we were standing

90
00:04:25,550 --> 00:04:27,680
because the patrols
were outside of the car

91
00:04:27,680 --> 00:04:31,010
seeing that everything is
OK, shining up and down

92
00:04:31,010 --> 00:04:35,510
and looking, and shining in
to see that everything's OK.

93
00:04:35,510 --> 00:04:37,880

But as soon as the train
started in the morning,

94
00:04:37,880 --> 00:04:41,000
and we were out of Paris for
about a half an hour or so out

95
00:04:41,000 --> 00:04:49,040
of Paris, we decided our
task to pry these bars apart.

96
00:04:49,040 --> 00:04:52,400
And we know that when you
make a cloth wet, a towel wet,

97
00:04:52,400 --> 00:04:56,090
it has tensile
strength in ringing it.

98
00:04:56,090 --> 00:04:57,530
You can ring it.

99
00:04:57,530 --> 00:05:02,000
And when you twist it, it
becomes like a tourniquet.

100
00:05:02,000 --> 00:05:06,220
So we took off our sweaters,
pullovers, v-necks,

101
00:05:06,220 --> 00:05:09,047
and dipped them into that
human waste in the bucket.

102
00:05:09,047 --> 00:05:10,630
And didn't even have
to use the bucket

103
00:05:10,630 --> 00:05:12,280
because the floor of the--

104
00:05:12,280 --> 00:05:15,160
we were squatting in it and

walking in it and [SNIFFS]

105
00:05:15,160 --> 00:05:15,797
inhaling it.

106
00:05:15,797 --> 00:05:17,380
And it's still up
there in my nostrils

107
00:05:17,380 --> 00:05:19,750
right when I talk about it.

108
00:05:19,750 --> 00:05:24,040
And we used these sweaters
to twist around the bars.

109
00:05:24,040 --> 00:05:26,380
If these are the bars,
twist it around and twist,

110
00:05:26,380 --> 00:05:32,478
twist, twist, until all
the liquid had poured out

111
00:05:32,478 --> 00:05:33,520
and had been twisted out.

112
00:05:33,520 --> 00:05:36,310
By that time, it had
developed that strength.

113
00:05:36,310 --> 00:05:39,130
And we did that often enough
alternating between him

114
00:05:39,130 --> 00:05:42,610
and myself until
the bars started

115
00:05:42,610 --> 00:05:45,850
to somewhat move in the frame.

116

00:05:45,850 --> 00:05:47,000
We saw them move.

117
00:05:47,000 --> 00:05:47,500
Why?

118
00:05:47,500 --> 00:05:51,610
Because the rust in the frame
started falling down in dust,

119
00:05:51,610 --> 00:05:53,380
rusty dust.

120
00:05:53,380 --> 00:05:56,390
And when we saw
these bars moving,

121
00:05:56,390 --> 00:05:59,770
that was the light at
the end of the tunnel,

122
00:05:59,770 --> 00:06:02,660
to use a cliché or--

123
00:06:02,660 --> 00:06:05,610
what do they call
it? --a metaphor.

124
00:06:05,610 --> 00:06:07,410
That was it.

125
00:06:07,410 --> 00:06:11,250
We knew that if we would
continue that often enough,

126
00:06:11,250 --> 00:06:15,690
that eventually these bars
will be giving enough for us

127
00:06:15,690 --> 00:06:19,930
to be able to bend
them up and down,

128

00:06:19,930 --> 00:06:23,590

up and down, until finally they
had moved enough where we could

129

00:06:23,590 --> 00:06:29,380

bend them into a position where
the opening was wide enough

130

00:06:29,380 --> 00:06:31,330

for us to be able
to squeeze through.

131

00:06:31,330 --> 00:06:32,470

And we did.

132

00:06:32,470 --> 00:06:34,370

At a given moment, we did.

133

00:06:34,370 --> 00:06:37,360

And after we escaped,
that we lay there

134

00:06:37,360 --> 00:06:43,120

in the ravine for a while, that
almost seemed like an eternity.

135

00:06:43,120 --> 00:06:45,260

Made our way into a village.

136

00:06:45,260 --> 00:06:46,870

Went to a bakeshop.

137

00:06:46,870 --> 00:06:48,610

The apprentice came
to the door and told

138

00:06:48,610 --> 00:06:49,720

us there was no bread now.

139

00:06:49,720 --> 00:06:50,680

Not until the morning.

140

00:06:50,680 --> 00:06:52,690

And we said we're not
interested in bread.

141

00:06:52,690 --> 00:06:56,590

We would like to know where
the village priest lives.

142

00:06:56,590 --> 00:07:00,370

And he said he was going to take
us to his house or home, which

143

00:07:00,370 --> 00:07:03,910

was right adjoining-- a
sacristy adjoining the church.

144

00:07:03,910 --> 00:07:04,840

And we got to him.

145

00:07:04,840 --> 00:07:08,690

We had torn off
our Jewish stars.

146

00:07:08,690 --> 00:07:10,822

I feel now that
if we had them on,

147

00:07:10,822 --> 00:07:13,030

it would have been more
reassuring for him because he

148

00:07:13,030 --> 00:07:14,238

would have known who we were.

149

00:07:14,238 --> 00:07:17,320

Although, we could have been--
it could have been a trap.

150

00:07:17,320 --> 00:07:20,650

But he reckoned and
we told him that we

151

00:07:20,650 --> 00:07:22,510
had escaped from a train.

152
00:07:22,510 --> 00:07:23,700
We were very frank with him.

153
00:07:23,700 --> 00:07:24,070
And we didn't know.

154
00:07:24,070 --> 00:07:26,230
He could have been a
collaborator too, you know?

155
00:07:26,230 --> 00:07:27,880
But we felt we
were in good hands

156
00:07:27,880 --> 00:07:29,920
as we saw the face of the man.

157
00:07:29,920 --> 00:07:32,350
And he said, yeah, they come
through here several times

158
00:07:32,350 --> 00:07:32,870
a week.

159
00:07:32,870 --> 00:07:34,090
And we know.

160
00:07:34,090 --> 00:07:35,110
We know that.

161
00:07:35,110 --> 00:07:38,560
But you know, he says I can let
you stay here for the night.

162
00:07:38,560 --> 00:07:40,630
But in the morning,
very early, I'd

163
00:07:40,630 --> 00:07:43,090

have to get you out
of your warm bed.

164
00:07:43,090 --> 00:07:45,700
Because between 5:00
and 6:00, a patrol

165
00:07:45,700 --> 00:07:49,240
can come by here
almost regularly.

166
00:07:49,240 --> 00:07:54,520
So he gave us milk and
bread and cheese, warm milk.

167
00:07:54,520 --> 00:07:56,020
Put us into a feather bed.

168
00:07:56,020 --> 00:08:00,010
Into a crisp, white sheet.

169
00:08:00,010 --> 00:08:04,210
And that, after being in Drancy
with the straw on a cement

170
00:08:04,210 --> 00:08:09,640
floor and vermin
putrid stench and--

171
00:08:09,640 --> 00:08:12,850
it was like you were on a cloud.

172
00:08:12,850 --> 00:08:15,640
And when he woke us with that
soft voice in the morning,

173
00:08:15,640 --> 00:08:16,140
hey, fellas.

174
00:08:16,140 --> 00:08:18,625
[FRENCH]

175

00:08:18,625 --> 00:08:20,290
You have to get up.

176
00:08:20,290 --> 00:08:25,690
[FRENCH] You have to get
away because, you know.

177
00:08:25,690 --> 00:08:29,620
Gave us a letter to
another colleague of his.

178
00:08:29,620 --> 00:08:31,960
Also a priest in the
village, not too far.

179
00:08:31,960 --> 00:08:38,539
And we spent the next day in
his place, an adjoining stable.

180
00:08:38,539 --> 00:08:40,309
Not a barn, a stable.

181
00:08:40,309 --> 00:08:44,630
And we spending that night
lying between cows, two cows.

182
00:08:44,630 --> 00:08:47,930
And we-- a cozy feeling
to fall asleep hearing

183
00:08:47,930 --> 00:08:50,370
them chew the cud.

184
00:08:50,370 --> 00:08:52,150
And that odor is still here.

185
00:08:52,150 --> 00:08:53,900
And when I go through
a countryside today,

186
00:08:53,900 --> 00:08:54,990
I say that too often.

187

00:08:54,990 --> 00:08:58,303

And it's really an
interesting aspect

188

00:08:58,303 --> 00:08:59,720

of when I go through
a countryside

189

00:08:59,720 --> 00:09:05,280

and I smell manure, dung,
I Inhale it with a relish.

190

00:09:05,280 --> 00:09:07,290

And my kids, ah, what's?

191

00:09:07,290 --> 00:09:09,920

I said, well, that
brings back memories.

192

00:09:09,920 --> 00:09:13,100

But it is interesting
that these little things

193

00:09:13,100 --> 00:09:18,872

are all a process of surviving
and a process of resisting.

194

00:09:18,872 --> 00:09:20,830

You look back at some of
the thing with horror.

195

00:09:20,830 --> 00:09:23,530

You look back at
some of the things

196

00:09:23,530 --> 00:09:29,670

with a different kind of a
feeling, a feeling of freedom

197

00:09:29,670 --> 00:09:31,350

and you have made it.

198

00:09:31,350 --> 00:09:34,500

In fact, the feeling
after we had escaped--

199

00:09:34,500 --> 00:09:39,180

whatever will happen from
now on in will no longer be

200

00:09:39,180 --> 00:09:45,120

an obstacle because if we
made that, we will come out

201

00:09:45,120 --> 00:09:46,440

of it all right.

202

00:09:46,440 --> 00:09:49,570

That was our gut feeling.

203

00:09:49,570 --> 00:09:52,355

So we did make that escape in
that respect from the train.

204

00:09:52,355 --> 00:09:54,480

When we walked the country
road the following days,

205

00:09:54,480 --> 00:09:56,563

a couple of days later,
and I told my friend Fred,

206

00:09:56,563 --> 00:10:00,217

I said, Freddy, 30 years from
now we'll talk about that.

207

00:10:00,217 --> 00:10:01,050

We won't believe it.

208

00:10:01,050 --> 00:10:02,070

He says, you're crazy.

209

00:10:02,070 --> 00:10:02,600

I said, what do you mean?

210

00:10:02,600 --> 00:10:04,680

He says, what are you talking
about 30 years from now?

211

00:10:04,680 --> 00:10:06,930

You don't know what's going
to be three days from now.

212

00:10:06,930 --> 00:10:09,960

And he was right, because I
wound up in jail after that.

213

00:10:09,960 --> 00:10:13,260

But again, all that
was an aftermath

214

00:10:13,260 --> 00:10:15,960

and even while I was in jail
serving nine months in there.

215

00:10:15,960 --> 00:10:17,597

From a year, it
became nine months.

216

00:10:17,597 --> 00:10:18,930

A quarter off for good behavior.

217

00:10:18,930 --> 00:10:21,420

Even while I was in jail,
I knew wherever they're

218

00:10:21,420 --> 00:10:27,597

going to take me from now on in,
I will not let it happen to me.

219

00:10:27,597 --> 00:10:29,180

And that's just the
way it worked out.

220

00:10:29,180 --> 00:10:31,880

221

00:10:31,880 --> 00:10:35,840
I had the view, I had the
desire, the deep desire

222
00:10:35,840 --> 00:10:43,580
and the premonition with it
that I will come out of it,

223
00:10:43,580 --> 00:10:47,240
if for nothing else but to
be able to tell a story.

224
00:10:47,240 --> 00:10:49,550
Because those who have
gone and have perished

225
00:10:49,550 --> 00:10:51,510
are not able to do it.

226
00:10:51,510 --> 00:10:55,000
So we are here, and that's--

227
00:10:55,000 --> 00:10:59,470
in hindsight, everything
just fell in line for me.

228
00:10:59,470 --> 00:11:02,310
Thank God.

229
00:11:02,310 --> 00:11:04,770
Were you heroes?

230
00:11:04,770 --> 00:11:05,630
Are we about out?

231
00:11:05,630 --> 00:11:08,480

232
00:11:08,480 --> 00:11:10,590
[LAUGHS] We're timing
these running outs.

233

00:11:10,590 --> 00:11:16,150

234

00:11:16,150 --> 00:11:19,330

Sound roll two, camera
roll five, take seven.

235

00:11:19,330 --> 00:11:26,770

236

00:11:26,770 --> 00:11:31,840

The question was, do I
consider myself a hero?

237

00:11:31,840 --> 00:11:36,800

Whether I did something heroic.

238

00:11:36,800 --> 00:11:45,240

It's strange, an escape is
not being rewarded by a medal.

239

00:11:45,240 --> 00:11:51,780

That's the thing that heroes
get as a symbol, a token.

240

00:11:51,780 --> 00:11:53,580

There is a reward for that.

241

00:11:53,580 --> 00:11:57,420

The reward is that we
survived, and I survived

242

00:11:57,420 --> 00:11:58,710

to be able to tell a story.

243

00:11:58,710 --> 00:12:01,060

That is enough of
it-- and pass it on

244

00:12:01,060 --> 00:12:04,890

so that maybe future
generations can learn from it.

245

00:12:04,890 --> 00:12:06,880

But heroism is not
something that you plan

246

00:12:06,880 --> 00:12:12,300

or that comes after a big
consideration of what you're

247

00:12:12,300 --> 00:12:13,890

supposed to do or whatever.

248

00:12:13,890 --> 00:12:19,380

Heroism is a spur of
the moment phenomenon.

249

00:12:19,380 --> 00:12:22,120

250

00:12:22,120 --> 00:12:26,480

When somebody saves-- like
it happened some years ago,

251

00:12:26,480 --> 00:12:30,580

a young lady from the icy waters
of the Potomac in Washington.

252

00:12:30,580 --> 00:12:33,765

That man, when he got up
in the morning didn't say,

253

00:12:33,765 --> 00:12:35,140

today I'm going
to become a hero.

254

00:12:35,140 --> 00:12:37,100

I'll be a hero.

255

00:12:37,100 --> 00:12:40,810

He happened to be at
the time at a place

256

00:12:40,810 --> 00:12:43,960

where he took something
into his own hands and said,

257
00:12:43,960 --> 00:12:46,390
I'm supposed to do that.

258
00:12:46,390 --> 00:12:50,650
And that night and that evening
and following ensuing weeks

259
00:12:50,650 --> 00:12:52,300
and months, he was interviewed.

260
00:12:52,300 --> 00:12:54,520
And it was a heroic
thing in a way.

261
00:12:54,520 --> 00:12:57,200

262
00:12:57,200 --> 00:13:00,440
And heroism springs
from a fear, basically.

263
00:13:00,440 --> 00:13:02,360
Now, when you see a
monument of a general

264
00:13:02,360 --> 00:13:05,300
there in a park and he has
won this or that battle.

265
00:13:05,300 --> 00:13:08,270
And he was a hero, and
he was decorated for it.

266
00:13:08,270 --> 00:13:09,830
What that monument
doesn't tell you,

267
00:13:09,830 --> 00:13:16,770
that stone or bronze statue
does not tell you is one thing--

268

00:13:16,770 --> 00:13:19,710
how scared he may have been at
the time when it all happened.

269

00:13:19,710 --> 00:13:22,930

270

00:13:22,930 --> 00:13:27,460
So my escape is
not so much heroic

271

00:13:27,460 --> 00:13:35,800
as it is, as they say in
the ethics of the fathers,

272

00:13:35,800 --> 00:13:38,080
there isn't a thing
that hasn't its place,

273

00:13:38,080 --> 00:13:41,710
and there's a man who has in
his time, or something of that.

274

00:13:41,710 --> 00:13:43,806
I'm paraphrasing it vaguely.

275

00:13:43,806 --> 00:13:46,930
It was the right person at the
right time at the right place.

276

00:13:46,930 --> 00:13:53,720
And there's two factors
in that particular escape

277

00:13:53,720 --> 00:13:57,620
and that whole situation
of my survival.

278

00:13:57,620 --> 00:13:59,090
One is fear.

279

00:13:59,090 --> 00:14:01,610

280

00:14:01,610 --> 00:14:05,890

And not just fear
spelled out normally,

281

00:14:05,890 --> 00:14:10,240

but with a major capital letter.

282

00:14:10,240 --> 00:14:11,230

Fear.

283

00:14:11,230 --> 00:14:13,890

And the second is luck.

284

00:14:13,890 --> 00:14:21,098

There has to be an amount
of luck or fortune or fate,

285

00:14:21,098 --> 00:14:22,140

what you want to call it.

286

00:14:22,140 --> 00:14:23,700

Something metaphysical.

287

00:14:23,700 --> 00:14:27,700

288

00:14:27,700 --> 00:14:33,110

Because the train that left
the two days earlier, according

289

00:14:33,110 --> 00:14:37,030

to what I hear, there was
one escape attempt by man.

290

00:14:37,030 --> 00:14:39,928

And he fell under the
wheels of the train

291

00:14:39,928 --> 00:14:41,095

and his legs were amputated.

292

00:14:41,095 --> 00:14:44,930

He was thrown back into
the car to bleed to death.

293

00:14:44,930 --> 00:14:50,020

So we had to be lucky after we
had taken the decision for it

294

00:14:50,020 --> 00:14:53,670

to succeed, and all
the ensuing months.

295

00:14:53,670 --> 00:14:56,910

To be arrested and to
run again and to escape

296

00:14:56,910 --> 00:14:59,760

and to have a situation
with a German SS officer

297

00:14:59,760 --> 00:15:04,470

in the train station of Limoges,
when I was observing something,

298

00:15:04,470 --> 00:15:07,820

as was the truth.

299

00:15:07,820 --> 00:15:12,290

And I told the man then that
I was just watching something,

300

00:15:12,290 --> 00:15:12,998

not observing.

301

00:15:12,998 --> 00:15:14,540

There's a difference
between the two.

302

00:15:14,540 --> 00:15:17,490

Because I was there
to find out something.

303
00:15:17,490 --> 00:15:20,540
But that is my
point of my escape.

304
00:15:20,540 --> 00:15:23,180
The question was,
are you a hero?

305
00:15:23,180 --> 00:15:26,120
I don't like to relate
to myself as a hero

306
00:15:26,120 --> 00:15:29,820
because it was fear and luck.

307
00:15:29,820 --> 00:15:40,480
And I don't even enjoy or
exalt in the term "survivor."

308
00:15:40,480 --> 00:15:43,190

309
00:15:43,190 --> 00:15:48,380
There are many people in the
world that have to survive.

310
00:15:48,380 --> 00:15:51,020
In circumstances that
were not life or death,

311
00:15:51,020 --> 00:15:53,570
like mine in this
particular time.

312
00:15:53,570 --> 00:15:56,030
Because 72 hours later,
I would have been gassed

313
00:15:56,030 --> 00:15:59,010
according to the statistics.

314

00:15:59,010 --> 00:16:04,860
But people sometime have to
survive on a daily basis.

315
00:16:04,860 --> 00:16:06,550
We see that in our cities.

316
00:16:06,550 --> 00:16:09,530
We see that in present life.

317
00:16:09,530 --> 00:16:13,670
The word survivor
has a connotation.

318
00:16:13,670 --> 00:16:17,780
Almost, it's almost
a word of curiosity.

319
00:16:17,780 --> 00:16:23,630
You know, I often feel that when
I speak to schools and people

320
00:16:23,630 --> 00:16:29,200
ask questions, I'm an
object of curiosity.

321
00:16:29,200 --> 00:16:32,030
And I don't want to be that.

322
00:16:32,030 --> 00:16:37,710
This word "survivor"
connotes a special situation

323
00:16:37,710 --> 00:16:40,650
that you're in, a
special character

324
00:16:40,650 --> 00:16:44,620
that you are, a special
place in life that you have.

325
00:16:44,620 --> 00:16:46,530
Yes, we are survivors.

326
00:16:46,530 --> 00:16:48,490
The word tells you that.

327
00:16:48,490 --> 00:16:52,470
But the real heroes are
really those who are no longer

328
00:16:52,470 --> 00:16:54,460
here to tell the story.

329
00:16:54,460 --> 00:16:58,560
I think they are the
people who went there and--

330
00:16:58,560 --> 00:17:01,990

331
00:17:01,990 --> 00:17:03,610
martyrs in a way, yes.

332
00:17:03,610 --> 00:17:14,599
But quite heroic because
they were good people.

333
00:17:14,599 --> 00:17:18,550
And especially when we
speak about children.

334
00:17:18,550 --> 00:17:20,470
Seeing my own
granddaughter, when

335
00:17:20,470 --> 00:17:22,780
I look at a million and
a half children lost,

336
00:17:22,780 --> 00:17:25,490
they were the real--

337
00:17:25,490 --> 00:17:26,530
what do you call it?

338
00:17:26,530 --> 00:17:30,440
In football, you call it
the unsung heroes, in a way.

339
00:17:30,440 --> 00:17:31,820
Yes, unsung.

340
00:17:31,820 --> 00:17:34,970
Remembered.

341
00:17:34,970 --> 00:17:35,960
But very much unsung.

342
00:17:35,960 --> 00:17:37,460
That could have
been a nation today.

343
00:17:37,460 --> 00:17:39,110
A million and a half
children growing

344
00:17:39,110 --> 00:17:42,900
into a fully grown nation.

345
00:17:42,900 --> 00:17:47,670
As Gerda Weissmann Klein says,
they were ordinary children,

346
00:17:47,670 --> 00:17:50,430
but quite a few of
them could have been

347
00:17:50,430 --> 00:17:53,350
extraordinary, extraordinary.

348
00:17:53,350 --> 00:17:55,810
Yes, these are the heroes.

349
00:17:55,810 --> 00:17:59,030

350

00:17:59,030 --> 00:18:03,080

Can you tell about on the train
when you made the decision,

351

00:18:03,080 --> 00:18:08,460

and how different
people felt on the train

352

00:18:08,460 --> 00:18:09,925

about your decision to escape?

353

00:18:09,925 --> 00:18:11,550

It is interesting,
when you're together

354

00:18:11,550 --> 00:18:14,940

with a group of people of 50
coming from all walks of life.

355

00:18:14,940 --> 00:18:19,710

A microcosm, if you will,
of Jewry, of humanity

356

00:18:19,710 --> 00:18:23,040

abandoned by the
rest of the world.

357

00:18:23,040 --> 00:18:25,380

At the time, we
didn't quite sense

358

00:18:25,380 --> 00:18:27,570

that we were abandoned
because we were given all

359

00:18:27,570 --> 00:18:29,490

kinds of psychological
means to think

360

00:18:29,490 --> 00:18:33,610

that we were going to
be working and resettled

361

00:18:33,610 --> 00:18:35,490
and that sort of thing.

362

00:18:35,490 --> 00:18:37,920
People were trying
to talk us out

363

00:18:37,920 --> 00:18:43,310
of escaping, especially
the males in that train.

364

00:18:43,310 --> 00:18:45,420
There was one woman
on crutches there.

365

00:18:45,420 --> 00:18:48,680
I often mentioned her.

366

00:18:48,680 --> 00:18:49,730
Dark, deep-set eyes.

367

00:18:49,730 --> 00:18:52,550
Gray, streaky gray hair.

368

00:18:52,550 --> 00:18:56,890
Taking care of a young child.

369

00:18:56,890 --> 00:18:59,180
It was there without parents.

370

00:18:59,180 --> 00:19:01,660
On a crutch, on crutches.

371

00:19:01,660 --> 00:19:03,820
She had a leg amputated.

372

00:19:03,820 --> 00:19:05,820
And she pointed that at us.

373

00:19:05,820 --> 00:19:09,890

374
00:19:09,890 --> 00:19:13,370
Punctuating the air with
that crutch like a weapon.

375
00:19:13,370 --> 00:19:15,530
You must do it.

376
00:19:15,530 --> 00:19:16,430
Run, run.

377
00:19:16,430 --> 00:19:17,470
You will tell a story.

378
00:19:17,470 --> 00:19:20,560

379
00:19:20,560 --> 00:19:23,270
And others tried to
talk us out of it.

380
00:19:23,270 --> 00:19:25,095
We had to work
feverishly on this thing

381
00:19:25,095 --> 00:19:27,470
because we never knew when
the train would come to a halt

382
00:19:27,470 --> 00:19:30,200
and the guards would step
down and try to look.

383
00:19:30,200 --> 00:19:30,770
Lucky.

384
00:19:30,770 --> 00:19:31,430
Again, luck.

385
00:19:31,430 --> 00:19:34,760
Luckily for us, the train did
not stop during that period

386

00:19:34,760 --> 00:19:37,100
during the day where they
would come by and see

387

00:19:37,100 --> 00:19:40,850
perhaps or notice that something
has been worked on those bars.

388

00:19:40,850 --> 00:19:44,180
They were trained also
to watch out for things,

389

00:19:44,180 --> 00:19:45,800
like we were trained--

390

00:19:45,800 --> 00:19:51,830
like sixth sense tells us
what to do and what not to do.

391

00:19:51,830 --> 00:19:52,700
Yes.

392

00:19:52,700 --> 00:19:54,530
And the psychology
of it was, why

393

00:19:54,530 --> 00:19:55,790
did they try to talk us out?

394

00:19:55,790 --> 00:20:00,080
Because before we left
the camp, our belongings

395

00:20:00,080 --> 00:20:01,160
were taken from us.

396

00:20:01,160 --> 00:20:02,870
Jewelry, watches.

397

00:20:02,870 --> 00:20:06,710
And we were given a

receipt with a number

398
00:20:06,710 --> 00:20:07,910
and our name was on it.

399
00:20:07,910 --> 00:20:10,970

400
00:20:10,970 --> 00:20:15,750
And that receipt said that
this is what we deposited.

401
00:20:15,750 --> 00:20:17,310
And we were told,
don't lose that.

402
00:20:17,310 --> 00:20:20,360
Because you won't get your
things back when you get there.

403
00:20:20,360 --> 00:20:23,060

404
00:20:23,060 --> 00:20:25,620
That was the psychology of it.

405
00:20:25,620 --> 00:20:28,530
Now, when we worked
feverishly and they

406
00:20:28,530 --> 00:20:29,890
tried to talk us out of it.

407
00:20:29,890 --> 00:20:30,390
Foolish!

408
00:20:30,390 --> 00:20:31,410
We'll all be killed.

409
00:20:31,410 --> 00:20:33,510
That they will discover
you, that you're missing.

410
00:20:33,510 --> 00:20:35,520
And then they'll
take it out on us.

411
00:20:35,520 --> 00:20:37,660
Well, if that's the
feeling that you have,

412
00:20:37,660 --> 00:20:39,580
then you're not going
anywhere where you deal

413
00:20:39,580 --> 00:20:41,820
with human beings, certainly.

414
00:20:41,820 --> 00:20:44,640
Which only fortifies
our premonition

415
00:20:44,640 --> 00:20:48,280
that where we're going
we're not going to make it.

416
00:20:48,280 --> 00:20:50,260
Rumors had been flying,
but they were never

417
00:20:50,260 --> 00:20:53,780
entirely confirmed, verified.

418
00:20:53,780 --> 00:20:57,170
And then they said, look
what we have in our hand.

419
00:20:57,170 --> 00:20:59,660
They wouldn't bother giving
us this if they didn't mean

420
00:20:59,660 --> 00:21:01,770
to return these things to us.

421

00:21:01,770 --> 00:21:07,190
That little receipt for the
meaningless little pieces

422
00:21:07,190 --> 00:21:07,820
of jewelry.

423
00:21:07,820 --> 00:21:12,322
In this respect at that time,
all that had no meaning.

424
00:21:12,322 --> 00:21:14,280
It was just something
you wanted to hold on to,

425
00:21:14,280 --> 00:21:16,400
because that presents
you with a feeling

426
00:21:16,400 --> 00:21:18,830
that you're still alive.

427
00:21:18,830 --> 00:21:21,320
But to them, that
certificate was in fact,

428
00:21:21,320 --> 00:21:28,210
that little receipt was in
fact a document telling them

429
00:21:28,210 --> 00:21:31,270
that they will be all
right, they will be alive.

430
00:21:31,270 --> 00:21:34,960
And to me, it didn't
mean anything.

431
00:21:34,960 --> 00:21:37,030
That was the psychology of it.

432
00:21:37,030 --> 00:21:41,800
And we had to overcome not

only our own perhaps sometime

433
00:21:41,800 --> 00:21:42,970
hesitation.

434
00:21:42,970 --> 00:21:45,910
There were still this thing
we have to get out and jump.

435
00:21:45,910 --> 00:21:48,670
And there's still danger ahead.

436
00:21:48,670 --> 00:21:52,300
That one thing versus
them admonishing us

437
00:21:52,300 --> 00:21:53,830
don't leave us, in a way.

438
00:21:53,830 --> 00:21:55,060
Stay with us.

439
00:21:55,060 --> 00:21:57,520
Don't do it to us.

440
00:21:57,520 --> 00:22:02,700
Now, Manfred Silberwasser
was and Leo Bretholz, we

441
00:22:02,700 --> 00:22:05,890
were single young men.

442
00:22:05,890 --> 00:22:07,570
And it's part of
a young person's

443
00:22:07,570 --> 00:22:12,780
make up to be
somewhat adventurous.

444
00:22:12,780 --> 00:22:18,308

445
00:22:18,308 --> 00:22:20,510
Maybe not thought out too much.

446
00:22:20,510 --> 00:22:21,410
Just to do it.

447
00:22:21,410 --> 00:22:22,902
Impulse.

448
00:22:22,902 --> 00:22:23,920
[INAUDIBLE]

449
00:22:23,920 --> 00:22:25,332
We're going to reload the film.

450
00:22:25,332 --> 00:22:30,623

451
00:22:30,623 --> 00:22:32,280
Start with you and your friend.

452
00:22:32,280 --> 00:22:35,160

453
00:22:35,160 --> 00:22:37,930
Coming back one more
time to this hero thing.

454
00:22:37,930 --> 00:22:41,080
There are some
people that had a lot

455
00:22:41,080 --> 00:22:48,680
to do with me during those
months and a couple of years.

456
00:22:48,680 --> 00:22:50,510
First of all, a priest.

457
00:22:50,510 --> 00:22:53,660

Now, there's an unsung hero.

458

00:22:53,660 --> 00:22:55,640

He could have
gotten into trouble.

459

00:22:55,640 --> 00:22:57,860

The lady in Limoges
with whom I boarded.

460

00:22:57,860 --> 00:23:01,430

And my friend Eugene Bass
hiding us out up in the attic,

461

00:23:01,430 --> 00:23:02,900

knowing who we were.

462

00:23:02,900 --> 00:23:10,730

Madame Bergot, lovely
lady, non-Jewish,

463

00:23:10,730 --> 00:23:12,170

who had a tragedy of her own.

464

00:23:12,170 --> 00:23:14,730

When she was 21, lost her
husband in the First World War,

465

00:23:14,730 --> 00:23:16,430

never got married.

466

00:23:16,430 --> 00:23:19,820

A life like this,
always helping people.

467

00:23:19,820 --> 00:23:24,690

This nurse in the hospital
that I mentioned before.

468

00:23:24,690 --> 00:23:26,445

By her telling me
she knows who I was,

469

00:23:26,445 --> 00:23:28,070

but as long as she's
going to be there,

470

00:23:28,070 --> 00:23:29,760

nothing's going to happen to me.

471

00:23:29,760 --> 00:23:31,850

That's a little
unsung heroic story

472

00:23:31,850 --> 00:23:34,137

because she put herself out.

473

00:23:34,137 --> 00:23:35,720

She could have just
gone about her way

474

00:23:35,720 --> 00:23:38,980

without saying anything.

475

00:23:38,980 --> 00:23:41,920

And I don't know.

476

00:23:41,920 --> 00:23:43,400

Madame Bergot's name, I know.

477

00:23:43,400 --> 00:23:46,220

And that sister Joan of Arc,
I know Saint Joan of Arc.

478

00:23:46,220 --> 00:23:48,603

She was a saint, in fact.

479

00:23:48,603 --> 00:23:50,020

But the priest's
name I never knew

480

00:23:50,020 --> 00:23:53,020

because names, in that
moment, didn't mean much,

481

00:23:53,020 --> 00:23:55,510
as long as he didn't know
ours, we didn't know his.

482

00:23:55,510 --> 00:23:57,530
But his action meant so much.

483

00:23:57,530 --> 00:24:03,730
So that's more about what
you might consider heroic

484

00:24:03,730 --> 00:24:09,280
or in the vague
description of it,

485

00:24:09,280 --> 00:24:15,160
something that borders on
maybe being heroic or being

486

00:24:15,160 --> 00:24:17,350
there when you needed.

487

00:24:17,350 --> 00:24:19,815
Maybe that's also a point of it.

488

00:24:19,815 --> 00:24:23,840

489

00:24:23,840 --> 00:24:24,950
[INAUDIBLE]

490

00:24:24,950 --> 00:24:25,540
Oops.

491

00:24:25,540 --> 00:24:26,040
Here we go.

492

00:24:26,040 --> 00:24:29,850

493

00:24:29,850 --> 00:24:32,990

I want to go to the
choices and the difference

494
00:24:32,990 --> 00:24:35,900
in choices, like you and
your friend on the train

495
00:24:35,900 --> 00:24:37,830
were young men.

496
00:24:37,830 --> 00:24:40,610
But choices that other
people wouldn't have

497
00:24:40,610 --> 00:24:41,430
had with families.

498
00:24:41,430 --> 00:24:44,660

499
00:24:44,660 --> 00:24:48,920
It is very simple for young
people who are unattached, want

500
00:24:48,920 --> 00:24:52,180
to be impetuous, adventurous.

501
00:24:52,180 --> 00:24:53,590
Take it into their own hands.

502
00:24:53,590 --> 00:24:56,590
Make a decision at the
spur of the moment.

503
00:24:56,590 --> 00:24:59,500
Well thought out or
not thought out at all.

504
00:24:59,500 --> 00:25:03,310
But the decision, it had to
do with basically survival

505

00:25:03,310 --> 00:25:04,980
in mind.

506
00:25:04,980 --> 00:25:07,460
And I have to come back
to the big word, "fear."

507
00:25:07,460 --> 00:25:12,640
No matter how a family
that was, for instance,

508
00:25:12,640 --> 00:25:14,800
in the cattle car.

509
00:25:14,800 --> 00:25:16,540
No matter how such
a family would

510
00:25:16,540 --> 00:25:19,750
have wanted to get
out of the situation,

511
00:25:19,750 --> 00:25:23,930
no matter how much a
father, perhaps seeing me

512
00:25:23,930 --> 00:25:26,840
squeeze through, would have
been tempted to also squeeze

513
00:25:26,840 --> 00:25:33,900
through and get to freedom.

514
00:25:33,900 --> 00:25:37,440
There was that family situation
that would prevent him

515
00:25:37,440 --> 00:25:40,160
from doing so.

516
00:25:40,160 --> 00:25:46,220
A distant relative of mine was
in that same train with me.

517
00:25:46,220 --> 00:25:50,900
And she was the one that
handed me my bag, my rucksack,

518
00:25:50,900 --> 00:25:55,910
through the window,
between the bars.

519
00:25:55,910 --> 00:25:59,390
Handed it to me and I
put it over my shoulder.

520
00:25:59,390 --> 00:26:04,960
Toni [? Gutfreund, ?] she went
to Auschwitz and perished.

521
00:26:04,960 --> 00:26:06,760
And these faces I see.

522
00:26:06,760 --> 00:26:09,480

523
00:26:09,480 --> 00:26:11,595
The choice was ours
because we were free.

524
00:26:11,595 --> 00:26:15,100

525
00:26:15,100 --> 00:26:17,740
Unfettered, in a way, to do it.

526
00:26:17,740 --> 00:26:21,100

527
00:26:21,100 --> 00:26:23,470
Free to jump and go and
do what we wanted to do.

528
00:26:23,470 --> 00:26:24,550
Families couldn't.

529
00:26:24,550 --> 00:26:26,050
Ill people couldn't.

530
00:26:26,050 --> 00:26:29,180
Infants couldn't.

531
00:26:29,180 --> 00:26:32,330
Somebody came and was
dragged into a cattle

532
00:26:32,330 --> 00:26:34,340
car on a stretcher.

533
00:26:34,340 --> 00:26:39,960
Actually brought from the camp
on a stretcher, couldn't walk.

534
00:26:39,960 --> 00:26:42,300
These people couldn't.

535
00:26:42,300 --> 00:26:48,360
And it so happens that,
according to what I hear,

536
00:26:48,360 --> 00:26:52,770
there were less than a
dozen attempts at escape

537
00:26:52,770 --> 00:26:55,320
during that period from
Drancy to Auschwitz.

538
00:26:55,320 --> 00:26:59,010
Between the period
from spring 1942

539
00:26:59,010 --> 00:27:03,311
to almost into the fall of 1944.

540
00:27:03,311 --> 00:27:05,220
There were about a

dozen attempted escape

541
00:27:05,220 --> 00:27:10,740
and only several, three or
four succeeded, actually.

542
00:27:10,740 --> 00:27:11,820
So.

543
00:27:11,820 --> 00:27:14,820
When I did mention my
escape to Professor Gilbert

544
00:27:14,820 --> 00:27:16,650
when he wrote the
book Holocaust,

545
00:27:16,650 --> 00:27:18,540
he became very interested in it.

546
00:27:18,540 --> 00:27:22,490
His first question was, if you
were on that train, so how are

547
00:27:22,490 --> 00:27:23,823
you here talking to me?

548
00:27:23,823 --> 00:27:25,490
That's when I told
him about the escape.

549
00:27:25,490 --> 00:27:28,490
And he was especially interested
in the aspect of the Swiss

550
00:27:28,490 --> 00:27:29,630
having sent me back.

551
00:27:29,630 --> 00:27:32,270
Because he had a very
prominent chapter

552

00:27:32,270 --> 00:27:35,690
there on Switzerland
and their dastardly

553
00:27:35,690 --> 00:27:38,750
acts during that period.

554
00:27:38,750 --> 00:27:40,830
Not everybody could
make the decision.

555
00:27:40,830 --> 00:27:43,250
In fact, "not everybody"
is quite, quite,

556
00:27:43,250 --> 00:27:44,820
quite an understatement.

557
00:27:44,820 --> 00:27:46,760
The majority could
not make decisions

558
00:27:46,760 --> 00:27:49,520
like this from a
train because trains

559
00:27:49,520 --> 00:27:55,140
were quite often entirely
without windows at all,

560
00:27:55,140 --> 00:27:58,010
especially in the east.

561
00:27:58,010 --> 00:28:00,230
The trains are also packed
much more in the east.

562
00:28:00,230 --> 00:28:04,490
About 100, I understand,
per cattle car.

563
00:28:04,490 --> 00:28:08,960
And escape routes

were not as available.

564

00:28:08,960 --> 00:28:14,930

Although some people tried to
hack a board out of the floor.

565

00:28:14,930 --> 00:28:18,650

There were sometime older cars
and they were loose anyway.

566

00:28:18,650 --> 00:28:21,680

And with an instrument that
you may have fashioned,

567

00:28:21,680 --> 00:28:26,240

manufactured in camp, a knife
or some such sharp instrument

568

00:28:26,240 --> 00:28:26,840

could do it.

569

00:28:26,840 --> 00:28:30,260

Some of it went through
the roof, perhaps trying.

570

00:28:30,260 --> 00:28:34,870

But there was not
everybody could do that.

571

00:28:34,870 --> 00:28:36,870

In fact, the
psychology-- and that's

572

00:28:36,870 --> 00:28:40,350

again, prevented you
from doing foolish things

573

00:28:40,350 --> 00:28:42,150

to endanger yourself.

574

00:28:42,150 --> 00:28:43,780

You can get killed for that.

575

00:28:43,780 --> 00:28:45,690

They will take it out on you.

576

00:28:45,690 --> 00:28:50,250

And the proof of it is that
down to the very last minute

577

00:28:50,250 --> 00:28:52,020

and these are the reports.

578

00:28:52,020 --> 00:28:54,060

Then they were taken
to the gas chambers

579

00:28:54,060 --> 00:28:57,340

being told that it was showers.

580

00:28:57,340 --> 00:29:00,820

And they were told to hang up
their clothes on those hooks

581

00:29:00,820 --> 00:29:03,190

and put their shoes right
under their clothes.

582

00:29:03,190 --> 00:29:09,060

So when they came out, don't
forget where you hung them.

583

00:29:09,060 --> 00:29:11,310

Don't misplace them
because you will not

584

00:29:11,310 --> 00:29:14,390

be issued new clothes
or different clothes,

585

00:29:14,390 --> 00:29:17,050

other clothes.

586

00:29:17,050 --> 00:29:21,520

That psychology worked

until the very last minute

587

00:29:21,520 --> 00:29:24,910

when the men and women
and infants in their arms

588

00:29:24,910 --> 00:29:27,720

walked into the gas chambers.

589

00:29:27,720 --> 00:29:31,000

Nobody in France could
believe in these cattle cars

590

00:29:31,000 --> 00:29:32,500

that they were going
to transport us

591

00:29:32,500 --> 00:29:34,680

72 hours, though we didn't
know how long we were

592

00:29:34,680 --> 00:29:35,847

going to be in these trains.

593

00:29:35,847 --> 00:29:37,590

But turns out, about
70 to 90 hours.

594

00:29:37,590 --> 00:29:40,620

595

00:29:40,620 --> 00:29:43,560

Nobody having been
put in that cattle car

596

00:29:43,560 --> 00:29:47,640

at the moment, if you
would talk to people,

597

00:29:47,640 --> 00:29:50,250

would actually believe that
they're taking us there

598

00:29:50,250 --> 00:29:53,470
to be killed or gassed.

599

00:29:53,470 --> 00:29:56,260
Because if they wanted
to do something to us,

600

00:29:56,260 --> 00:29:58,690
they could do it right here.

601

00:29:58,690 --> 00:30:02,430
Why drag us 3,000 miles?

602

00:30:02,430 --> 00:30:06,360
That was so Machiavellian,
that was so organized,

603

00:30:06,360 --> 00:30:14,080
so psychologically prepared
down to the most minute detail.

604

00:30:14,080 --> 00:30:19,790
All that created at
Wannsee the conference

605

00:30:19,790 --> 00:30:25,020
that we just remembered that
happened 50 years ago last week

606

00:30:25,020 --> 00:30:26,610
on the 20th of January.

607

00:30:26,610 --> 00:30:29,850
Everything was
meticulously prepared.

608

00:30:29,850 --> 00:30:33,090
And the word went
out from the SS,

609

00:30:33,090 --> 00:30:41,850
from Himmler, and from the

generals, from the colonels,

610
00:30:41,850 --> 00:30:44,730
that when you will--

611
00:30:44,730 --> 00:30:48,420
nobody in the future
will believe that anyway.

612
00:30:48,420 --> 00:30:52,220
So you don't have to
really worry about it.

613
00:30:52,220 --> 00:30:55,400
And that was the
psychology of it.

614
00:30:55,400 --> 00:30:59,240
Why we were so unusual
in having done it

615
00:30:59,240 --> 00:31:01,040
when others didn't do it.

616
00:31:01,040 --> 00:31:03,630
Because we were free and
they were not free to do it.

617
00:31:03,630 --> 00:31:08,750
And they were also, as I said,
never quite psychologically

618
00:31:08,750 --> 00:31:11,840
prepared to believe that
it was within the power

619
00:31:11,840 --> 00:31:15,190
of a human being to do that
to another human being.

620
00:31:15,190 --> 00:31:19,545
And I come back to the thing,
to a child, to a child.

621
00:31:19,545 --> 00:31:24,637

622
00:31:24,637 --> 00:31:25,595
That's the big tragedy.

623
00:31:25,595 --> 00:31:28,290

624
00:31:28,290 --> 00:31:30,435
That people still
believed in people,

625
00:31:30,435 --> 00:31:33,740
in the goodness of people.

626
00:31:33,740 --> 00:31:37,070
When you see Winds of War in
the last segment and the woman

627
00:31:37,070 --> 00:31:38,120
opened the door.

628
00:31:38,120 --> 00:31:40,120
They open the door for
her and she stands there

629
00:31:40,120 --> 00:31:41,870
and she talks to the
SS man standing there

630
00:31:41,870 --> 00:31:46,000
with his dog and
his white gloves.

631
00:31:46,000 --> 00:31:49,550
And she said, sir,
we have seven people,

632
00:31:49,550 --> 00:31:53,110
seven dead people in this car.

633
00:31:53,110 --> 00:31:59,940
And he turns to her and
says in a very wry smile,

634
00:31:59,940 --> 00:32:02,365
these are the lucky ones.

635
00:32:02,365 --> 00:32:03,740
That's when she
realized that she

636
00:32:03,740 --> 00:32:11,350
was confronted with somebody
who was not really human.

637
00:32:11,350 --> 00:32:14,990
But in the car, as
the car was rolling

638
00:32:14,990 --> 00:32:16,790
on through the
French countryside,

639
00:32:16,790 --> 00:32:20,040
that beautiful,
bucolic countryside,

640
00:32:20,040 --> 00:32:31,050
nobody could believe that this
was possible to be happening.

641
00:32:31,050 --> 00:32:34,750
Because human
nature doesn't want

642
00:32:34,750 --> 00:32:39,010
to believe that another
human being can do that.

643
00:32:39,010 --> 00:32:40,650
Anne Frank says it.

644

00:32:40,650 --> 00:32:44,350

At the last sentence she
says, at the bottom of it all,

645

00:32:44,350 --> 00:32:47,460

I still believe that
people are good.

646

00:32:47,460 --> 00:32:51,870

In the final sentence
in her diary.

647

00:32:51,870 --> 00:32:55,920

And that's what the
belief was, that no matter

648

00:32:55,920 --> 00:33:00,980

what they say, what the rumors
say, that isn't quite possible.

649

00:33:00,980 --> 00:33:04,330

650

00:33:04,330 --> 00:33:09,660

There were these gamuts of moods
running through that train,

651

00:33:09,660 --> 00:33:21,160

from prayers to tears
to despair, resignation,

652

00:33:21,160 --> 00:33:23,810

quite a bit of hopelessness.

653

00:33:23,810 --> 00:33:31,200

And some people were
telling jokes to overcome,

654

00:33:31,200 --> 00:33:34,890

to still life, show life.

655

00:33:34,890 --> 00:33:37,010

We're going to reload.

656

00:33:37,010 --> 00:33:39,000