```
1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:00,520
```

2 00:00:00,520 --> 00:00:07,900 And some people were telling jokes to overcome,

3 00:00:07,900 --> 00:00:11,590 to still live a sure life.

4 00:00:11,590 --> 00:00:15,720 Yeah, we've got to reload.

5 00:00:15,720 --> 00:00:17,107 Camera roll seven, take 10.

6 00:00:17,107 --> 00:00:18,480 [BEEP]

7
00:00:18,480 --> 00:00:22,800
I want you to talk a little
bit about how Germans saw Jews

8 00:00:22,800 --> 00:00:25,400 and how things changed in Vienna,

9 00:00:25,400 --> 00:00:26,835 how you remember the changes.

10 00:00:26,835 --> 00:00:29,710

11 00:00:29,710 --> 00:00:34,720 Your question is about how I remember

12 00:00:34,720 --> 00:00:37,510 what happened in Austria, let me say, 13 00:00:37,510 --> 00:00:42,320 at the time of the Anschluss, the annexation.

14 00:00:42,320 --> 00:00:47,410 I was 17, had just turned 17.

15 00:00:47,410 --> 00:00:50,450

16 00:00:50,450 --> 00:00:54,100 It was an overnight traumatic change.

17 00:00:54,100 --> 00:00:57,610

18 00:00:57,610 --> 00:01:03,220 People who were your friends on the 10th of March

19 00:01:03,220 --> 00:01:07,870 and the 11th of March were no longer your friends

20 00:01:07,870 --> 00:01:11,950 on the 13th, or at least showed that they

21 00:01:11,950 --> 00:01:14,200 went no longer, or at least maybe

22 00:01:14,200 --> 00:01:16,092 you thought they were your friends before

23 00:01:16,092 --> 00:01:17,550 and they were really never friends.

24 00:01:17,550 --> 00:01:20,510 25 00:01:20,510 --> 00:01:23,990 To a young person like myself, maybe I

26 00:01:23,990 --> 00:01:31,270 did not feel the impact as much as perhaps parents felt

27 00:01:31,270 --> 00:01:32,770 when it happened because they had

28 00:01:32,770 --> 00:01:34,020 to worry about their children.

29 00:01:34,020 --> 00:01:36,420

30 00:01:36,420 --> 00:01:42,430 But it was an overnight turmoil more-so

31 00:01:42,430 --> 00:01:46,290 emotionally than anything else.

32 00:01:46,290 --> 00:01:55,280 It was a disruptive interruption of a normal life.

33 00:01:55,280 --> 00:01:59,020

34 00:01:59,020 --> 00:01:59,685 This was March.

35 00:01:59,685 --> 00:02:02,220

36 00:02:02,220 --> 00:02:04,680 We had neighbors with whom we were very friendly

37 00:02:04,680 --> 00:02:08,960 and they were Christians, and at Christmas time

38 00:02:08,960 --> 00:02:11,180 that particular year and previous years

39 00:02:11,180 --> 00:02:15,320 when we were smaller we would go to their apartment

40 00:02:15,320 --> 00:02:21,548 and help them decorate their trees, share the cookies,

41 00:02:21,548 --> 00:02:22,465 go to school together.

42 00:02:22,465 --> 00:02:29,250

43 00:02:29,250 --> 00:02:36,650 Overnight, within hours, Vienna was transformed

44 00:02:36,650 --> 00:02:40,070 into a sea of swastikas.

45 00:02:40,070 --> 00:02:44,030 Where did they come from overnight?

46 00:02:44,030 --> 00:02:47,610 They were not manufactured overnight.

47 00:02:47,610 --> 00:02:53,700 It was a total metamorphosis of attitudes, of feelings, 48  $00:02:53,700 \longrightarrow 00:02:59,700$ of emotions, of relations,

everything more emotionally

49 00:02:59,700 --> 00:03:08,720 and psychologically than the physical aspect of it,

50  $00:03:08,720 \longrightarrow 00:03:19,120$ although physically, within hours or a couple of days,

51  $00:03:19,120 \longrightarrow 00:03:22,745$ Jews were taken out to the streets to scrub the streets.

52  $00:03:22,745 \longrightarrow 00:03:25,550$ 

53 00:03:25,550 --> 00:03:30,850 They were give given little brushes, toothbrushes to go

54  $00:03:30,850 \longrightarrow 00:03:34,090$ and try to rub away oil paint that the Austrians had

55  $00:03:34,090 \longrightarrow 00:03:37,150$ painted on the sidewalks and on the walls.

56 00:03:37,150 --> 00:03:39,880 [SPEAKING GERMAN] Red, white, and red

 $00:03:39,880 \longrightarrow 00:03:42,640$ until we are dead, which was Schuschnigg's,

58 00:03:42,640 --> 00:03:44,620 the Austrian government's, slogan

59 00:03:44,620 --> 00:03:49,650 not to vote for a referendum to vote

60 00:03:49,650 --> 00:03:53,500 for Austria to remain Austrian.

61 00:03:53,500 --> 00:03:55,550 That was the Austrian colors-- red, white, red--

62 00:03:55,550 --> 00:03:57,810 and still are.

63 00:03:57,810 --> 00:04:02,860 So how could these Jews, these women, children, and elderly,

64 00:04:02,860 --> 00:04:08,590 get these oil-painted slogans off the sidewalks?

65 00:04:08,590 --> 00:04:13,560 It was impossible, but this was part of the harassment.

66 00:04:13,560 --> 00:04:17,250 And sometimes this was done to the strings of Wagner's music,

67 00:04:17,250 --> 00:04:24,340 you know, Tannhauser and Gotterdammerung.

68 00:04:24,340 --> 00:04:28,920 People dancing around and poking fun,

69 00:04:28,920 --> 00:04:33,460 and elderly Jews having their beards set afire with matches. 00:04:33,460 --> 00:04:37,710 And when the flame finally seared towards the chin,

71 00:04:37,710 --> 00:04:40,860 they would take buckets of water and pour it into their faces.

72 00:04:40,860 --> 00:04:52,960 These were utter denigration, harassment

73 00:04:52,960 --> 00:04:56,940 for the pure joy of doing it.

74 00:04:56,940 --> 00:05:01,830 This is what we saw in Austria, hundreds of thousands

75 00:05:01,830 --> 00:05:06,380 of people standing on the Heldenplatz, the square

76 00:05:06,380 --> 00:05:09,410 of the heroes in the Innere Stadt,

77 00:05:09,410 --> 00:05:14,180 the first district in the city, and applauding, and cheering,

78 00:05:14,180 --> 00:05:21,390 and receiving the Germans, the Nazis.

79 00:05:21,390 --> 00:05:25,650 The Austrians later claimed that they were the first victims.

80 00:05:25,650 --> 00:05:29,250 I did not see at that time any, and I can say that 00:05:29,250 --> 00:05:34,520 without any hesitation.

82 00:05:34,520 --> 00:05:41,330 I did not see any victimization of the Austrian German

83 00:05:41,330 --> 00:05:44,570 non-Jewish population, although those

84 00:05:44,570 --> 00:05:49,220 who were part of the socialist movement and those

85 00:05:49,220 --> 00:05:53,570 who were in the labor unions were also hiding out,

86 00:05:53,570 --> 00:05:54,980 and some of them ran away.

87 00:05:54,980 --> 00:05:58,490 And I know that the center forward

88 00:05:58,490 --> 00:06:02,180 of the Austrian football team called

89 00:06:02,180 --> 00:06:06,860 Austria, a fellow by the name of Matthias Sindelar,

90 00:06:06,860 --> 00:06:15,370 committed suicide because he was emotionally so inflamed by what

91 00:06:15,370 --> 00:06:16,000 had happened.

92 00:06:16,000 --> 00:06:17,770 Yes, that happened. 93 00:06:17,770 --> 00:06:21,940 But if an Austrian wanted to put on a brown uniform

94 00:06:21,940 --> 00:06:23,560 and walk with that brown uniform,

95 00:06:23,560 --> 00:06:27,220 nobody would have known what he was thinking.

96 00:06:27,220 --> 00:06:33,020 He could have done it, but the Jew couldn't do it.

97 00:06:33,020 --> 00:06:35,560

98 00:06:35,560 --> 00:06:42,710 But basically the heil and sieg heil was a shot that was heard.

99 00:06:42,710 --> 00:06:46,110 I only wish it would have been heard far enough

100 00:06:46,110 --> 00:06:51,580 so that some of the Western powers

101 00:06:51,580 --> 00:06:53,590 would have done something about it at the time.

102 00:06:53,590 --> 00:07:01,360 Maybe in hindsight they might have a feeling

103 00:07:01,360 --> 00:07:04,960 that that could have prevented a lot of things 104 00:07:04,960 --> 00:07:11,000 if they would have right then and there started with

105 00:07:11,000 --> 00:07:14,340 to resist Hitler with Austria.

106 00:07:14,340 --> 00:07:16,370 Instead, they went to Munich and gave him

107 00:07:16,370 --> 00:07:19,280 another piece, and that land for peace thing

108 00:07:19,280 --> 00:07:23,090 that we hear a lot of now pertaining to the Middle East.

109 00:07:23,090 --> 00:07:25,640 As far as I'm concerned, the land for peace

110 00:07:25,640 --> 00:07:26,900 has really in history--

111 00:07:26,900 --> 00:07:29,210 nowhere in history you can go from beginning

112 00:07:29,210 --> 00:07:31,220 to end of history books.

113 00:07:31,220 --> 00:07:34,910 Land for peace has never worked because those

114 00:07:34,910 --> 00:07:37,280 who want land are never satisfied with that land.  $00:07:37,280 \longrightarrow 00:07:39,270$ It's like a spider.

116

00:07:39,270 --> 00:07:46,860 Hitler caught Austria, and that was his first victim

117

 $00:07:46,860 \longrightarrow 00:07:50,237$ into that spider web, and he wasn't satisfied.

118

 $00:07:50,237 \longrightarrow 00:07:51,570$ There would have had to be more.

119

 $00:07:51,570 \longrightarrow 00:07:54,120$ In fact, the resistance would have come before Austria when

120

 $00:07:54,120 \longrightarrow 00:07:55,770$ they walked into the Saarland.

121

00:07:55,770 --> 00:07:58,260 The Germans and the French would have resisted then,

122

00:07:58,260 --> 00:07:59,070 but that's history.

123

00:07:59.070 --> 00:08:04.020 That has not much to do with my particular story,

124

00:08:04,020 --> 00:08:07,140 but being the question is ask how did Austrians

125

00:08:07,140 --> 00:08:08,400 and how did the Germans--

126

00:08:08,400 --> 00:08:10,650 of course, I had more contact with the Austrians

 $00:08:10,650 \longrightarrow 00:08:17,480$ than with the Germans per se, but the Austrians were not

128

00:08:17,480 --> 00:08:18,740 really the first victims.

129

00:08:18,740 --> 00:08:20,840 They received the Germans with open hands,

130

00:08:20,840 --> 00:08:24,620 as far as I could see then, and history has borne that out.

131

00:08:24,620 --> 00:08:29,000 I'm sure there's always exceptions.

132

00:08:29,000 --> 00:08:35,030 Now, assume that I don't know what a deportation is.

133

00:08:35,030 --> 00:08:38,080 Explain to me what a deportation is.

134

 $00:08:38,080 \longrightarrow 00:08:42,070$ To deport someone is to send someone against his will

135

00:08:42,070 --> 00:08:48,620 into a place where he will be exposed

136

00:08:48,620 --> 00:08:56,120 to hardships, to harassment, to forced settlements,

137

00:08:56,120 --> 00:09:03,640 to being in a surrounding that isn't his,

00:09:03,640 --> 00:09:09,550 in a country where nobody speaks his language.

139

00:09:09,550 --> 00:09:21,210 And it is the forcible shipping of people into areas

140

00:09:21,210 --> 00:09:29,140 away from their home in order to fulfill a certain agenda,

141

00:09:29,140 --> 00:09:46,380 a political agenda or a plan that was conceived to do harm

142

00:09:46,380 --> 00:09:49,770 to a certain group of people.

143

00:09:49,770 --> 00:09:57,168 People get exiled because they have politically done something

144

00:09:57,168 --> 00:09:57,668

145

00:09:57,668 --> 00:10:00,680

146

00:10:00,680 --> 00:10:03,530 Napoleon was exiled.

147

00:10:03,530 --> 00:10:08,390 The kaiser went into voluntary exile.

148

00:10:08,390 --> 00:10:11,340 We hear about the South American dictators.

149

00:10:11,340 --> 00:10:14,210 They go into voluntary exile.

150 00:10:14,210 --> 00:10:20,110 If they had not voluntarily taken exile upon them,

151

00:10:20,110 --> 00:10:24,390 they may have been arrested, tried, and maybe executed,

152

00:10:24,390 --> 00:10:27,930 or if they live in a country that doesn't execute,

153

00:10:27,930 --> 00:10:29,640 they would have been deported.

154

00:10:29,640 --> 00:10:30,930 They would have been asked--

155

00:10:30,930 --> 00:10:35,240 other countries would have been asked to accept them,

156

00:10:35,240 --> 00:10:37,760 like Archbishop Trifa was in Detroit.

157

00:10:37,760 --> 00:10:41,780 After he was denaturalized here, he was deported.

158

00:10:41,780 --> 00:10:42,680 Nobody wanted him.

159

00:10:42,680 --> 00:10:44,840 Finally Portugal took him in.

160

00:10:44,840 --> 00:10:48,170 He was the fellow who was the head of the Iron

161

00:10:48,170 --> 00:10:49,250

Guard in Romania.

162

00:10:49,250 --> 00:10:51,260

Killed thousands of Jews.

163

00:10:51,260 --> 00:10:52,850

Lived in Detroit.

164

00:10:52,850 --> 00:10:55,950

And what did deportations mean?

165

00:10:55,950 --> 00:10:56,450

What?

166

 $00:10:56,450 \longrightarrow 00:10:58,070$ 

In France?

167

 $00:10:58,070 \longrightarrow 00:10:59,420$ 

Throughout Europe.

168

00:10:59,420 --> 00:11:05,780

Throughout Europe, deportation

means taking whole populations

169

00:11:05,780 --> 00:11:09,470

and moving them

against their will

170

00:11:09,470 --> 00:11:13,280

into an area of confinement,

where they were exposed

171

00:11:13,280 --> 00:11:18,270

to the whim and all

the vicissitudes that

172

00:11:18,270 --> 00:11:23,250

came with being in that

particular confinement,

173

00:11:23,250 --> 00:11:25,770

and these confinement

were camps.

174

00:11:25,770 --> 00:11:27,580

OK, we got to reload.

175

00:11:27,580 --> 00:11:29,830

Take one.

176

 $00:11:29,830 \longrightarrow 00:11:35,730$ So just to quickly sum up, what did it mean to be deported?

177

00:11:35,730 --> 00:11:39,120 Under normal circumstances,

a deportation of a person

178

00:11:39,120 --> 00:11:41,820

takes place when that person or that group

179

00:11:41,820 --> 00:11:46,440

have made an attempt

to topple a government

180

00:11:46,440 --> 00:11:53,620

or to do something that is not lawful,

181

00:11:53,620 --> 00:11:56,150

do something that

is against the law.

182

00:11:56,150 --> 00:11:58,010

And they could be deported.

183

00:11:58,010 --> 00:12:03,340

They could be undesirable aliens or as whatever

184

00:12:03,340 --> 00:12:06,550

the designation is.

185

00:12:06,550 --> 00:12:09,970 These Jews-- men, women, and children--

186

00:12:09,970 --> 00:12:14,350 were deported for nothing else but to send them

187

00:12:14,350 --> 00:12:20,810 from their country of residence into an area

188

00:12:20,810 --> 00:12:26,690 to be confined in camps that can be called concentration camps,

189

00:12:26,690 --> 00:12:32,810 and the real word for some of them is extermination camps.

190

00:12:32,810 --> 00:12:37,100 To be deported, not, as they said, to be resettled

191

00:12:37,100 --> 00:12:42,190 or to work, but for one thing-namely, to be exterminated,

192

00:12:42,190 --> 00:12:44,290 but that wasn't the case of the Jews.

193

00:12:44,290 --> 00:12:49,000 Deportation normally means the sending away

194

00:12:49,000 --> 00:12:51,940 of a person or group of persons who

195

00:12:51,940 --> 00:12:58,205 are at the moment under some cloud of suspicion,

00:12:58,205 --> 00:13:01,670 or endangering a situation or government,

197

00:13:01,670 --> 00:13:11,360 or rebellious or instigating away from their home.

198

00:13:11,360 --> 00:13:17,420 Deportation is also a form of punishment.

199

00:13:17,420 --> 00:13:21,470 It's banishment and punishment.

200

00:13:21,470 --> 00:13:26,890 In a way, you're being exiled away from your home of origin

201

00:13:26,890 --> 00:13:30,880 into an area where you are not at home, as long as you are

202

00:13:30,880 --> 00:13:35,820 away from the place where you are not desired,

203

00:13:35,820 --> 00:13:40,590 and Jews were undesirable under the German occupation

204

00:13:40,590 --> 00:13:44,820 in these various countries that they were deported from.

205

00:13:44,820 --> 00:13:47,370 Now, I want to go back to Oradour,

206

00:13:47,370 --> 00:13:49,410 and I want you to just tell me what

00:13:49,410 --> 00:13:53,710 that massacre was, and tell me about the confusion of the two

208

00:13:53,710 --> 00:13:54,210 names.

209

00:13:54,210 --> 00:13:56,910 There were two Oradours in the area of Limoges.

210

00:13:56,910 --> 00:14:01,590 One was Oradour-sur-Glane, and one was Oradour-sur-Vayres.

211

00:14:01,590 --> 00:14:05,700 Glane, G-L-A-N-E, and Vayres, V-A-Y-R-E-S.

212

00:14:05,700 --> 00:14:11,400 The German division was Reich, who had advanced from Toulouse

213

00:14:11,400 --> 00:14:13,770 towards the front lines in Normandy--

214

00:14:13,770 --> 00:14:19,110 that was after the 6th of June landing in 1944--

215

00:14:19,110 --> 00:14:25,250 had encountered some resistance Maquis activity on the way

216

00:14:25,250 --> 00:14:32,090 up from the south to the west, to the coast.

217

00:14:32,090 --> 00:14:37,640 And they had been informed that the village of Oradour has--

00:14:37,640 --> 00:14:40,490 being that they had already been harassed and attacked,

219

00:14:40,490 --> 00:14:43,745 and they were already in the village of Tulle, and had--

220

00:14:43,745 --> 00:14:44,990 was it Tulle or Brive?

221

00:14:44,990 --> 00:14:50,000 But, anyway, in the CorrÃ"ze had already hung a lot of males

222

00:14:50,000 --> 00:14:53,610 on butcher hooks in front of butcher stores,

223

00:14:53,610 --> 00:14:57,750 and their families had to parade in front of them to see that.

224

00:14:57,750 --> 00:15:01,230 Being that there was resistance to their advance,

225

00:15:01,230 --> 00:15:05,430 they had taken that out on these men who were taken hostage.

226

00:15:05,430 --> 00:15:09,960 They advanced and had heard that the village of Oradour

227

00:15:09,960 --> 00:15:13,970 in [PLACE NAME],, the department--

228

00:15:13,970 --> 00:15:18,450 well, Limoges was the capital of that department--

00:15:18,450 --> 00:15:23,970 had a Maquis resistance movement,

230

00:15:23,970 --> 00:15:26,790 except they confused Oradour-sur-Vayres

231

00:15:26,790 --> 00:15:28,140 with Oradour-sur-Glane.

232

00:15:28,140 --> 00:15:30,900 It was the "Vayres" on the river Vayres.

233

00:15:30,900 --> 00:15:32,610 "sur-Vayres" means on the river Vayres.

234

00:15:32,610 --> 00:15:39,000 That really had a small resistance detachment there,

235

00:15:39,000 --> 00:15:43,220 and there were arms there in that area.

236

00:15:43,220 --> 00:15:44,120 They confused it.

237

00:15:44,120 --> 00:15:48,060 They went into Oradour, arrested the mayor,

238

00:15:48,060 --> 00:15:50,312 and asked him to show him the cage of arms,

239

00:15:50,312 --> 00:15:51,270 and he says we have no.

240

00:15:51,270 --> 00:15:53,700

We have peaceful citizens here.

#### 241

00:15:53,700 --> 00:15:56,280 You can search the village.

## 242

00:15:56,280 --> 00:15:58,860 They arrested him, and in the main square-- there's a report.

#### 243

00:15:58,860 --> 00:16:00,300 I have that report also with me.

## 244

00:16:00,300 --> 00:16:02,370 There's a report on the main square.

### 245

00:16:02,370 --> 00:16:07,500 They were getting ready to saw his legs off

## 246

00:16:07,500 --> 00:16:14,570 in front of the populace, and his two sons begged them

### 247

00:16:14,570 --> 00:16:19,970 not to do it and they would stand in for him.

## 248

00:16:19,970 --> 00:16:22,550 They still did it and then killed the sons,

# 249

00:16:22,550 --> 00:16:24,980 too, and in the village between 800 and 900 people

## 250

00:16:24,980 --> 00:16:26,330 were killed that day.

## 251

00:16:26,330 --> 00:16:28,070 That was the confusion.

252

00:16:28,070 --> 00:16:30,650 They went in there toward the female

253

00:16:30,650 --> 00:16:32,330 and children's population.

254

00:16:32,330 --> 00:16:33,170 Come to the church.

255

00:16:33,170 --> 00:16:35,990 We'll photograph you, and that was the end of them.

256

00:16:35,990 --> 00:16:38,000 They were marched into the church,

257

00:16:38,000 --> 00:16:40,730 and, as I said before, the church was surrounded

258

00:16:40,730 --> 00:16:45,260 by hay and straw and was set aflame, and of course today

259

00:16:45,260 --> 00:16:48,500 the village of Oradour about a 1/4 mile away, 1/8 of a mile

260

00:16:48,500 --> 00:16:49,820 away has been built up again.

261

00:16:49,820 --> 00:16:55,280 And this ruined locale, where the ruins of the church

262

00:16:55,280 --> 00:16:57,710 were and with other mementos, is still

263

00:16:57,710 --> 00:17:00,440 there in the original

site of Oradour,

264

00:17:00,440 --> 00:17:05,839 with all kinds of mementos like baby carriages, and dolls,

265

00:17:05,839 --> 00:17:09,140 and shoes, and buckles, and belts, and toys,

266

 $00:17:09,140 \longrightarrow 00:17:10,770$  and that sort of thing.

267

00:17:10,770 --> 00:17:14,069 That was the tragedy of Oradour, for which there

268

00:17:14,069 --> 00:17:18,869 was a trial held in Bordeaux, and some of them

269

00:17:18,869 --> 00:17:22,550 were sentenced to what amounts to minor sentences.

270

 $00:17:22,550 \longrightarrow 00:17:25,550$ 

271

00:17:25,550 --> 00:17:30,410 Tell me how you witnessed the November pogrom that's

272

00:17:30,410 --> 00:17:32,330 known as Kristallnacht.

273

00:17:32,330 --> 00:17:34,430 I did not witness it.

274

00:17:34,430 --> 00:17:35,810 Talking about the Kristallnacht?

275

00:17:35,810 --> 00:17:38,120

I did not witness it because I was lucky enough.

276

00:17:38,120 --> 00:17:40,200 Again, a stroke of luck that I left Vienna

277

00:17:40,200 --> 00:17:44,600 on the 25th of October, 1938.

278

00:17:44,600 --> 00:17:48,230 The Kristallnacht happened during the night from the 9th

279

00:17:48,230 --> 00:17:50,270 to the 10th of November.

280

00:17:50,270 --> 00:17:55,070 It so happens during that night I had already escaped Vienna.

281

00:17:55,070 --> 00:17:59,360 I had been swimming through Sauer River into Luxembourg

282

00:17:59,360 --> 00:18:01,370 during the night from the 31st of October

283

00:18:01,370 --> 00:18:02,440 to the 1st of November.

284

00:18:02,440 --> 00:18:04,280 It was All Saints' Night.

285

00:18:04,280 --> 00:18:06,890 After it had been raining for about five or six days,

286

00:18:06,890 --> 00:18:11,060 I had to swim a river that a smuggler had told me

00:18:11,060 --> 00:18:12,770 I will be able to wade through.

288

00:18:12,770 --> 00:18:15,047 And he said to me keep a pair dry socks in your coat,

289

00:18:15,047 --> 00:18:16,880 and I put them in my coat, and the next step

290

00:18:16,880 --> 00:18:19,820 was up to here in water, so here would go my dry socks.

291

00:18:19,820 --> 00:18:25,320 And I did not witness it in Austria

292

00:18:25,320 --> 00:18:27,320 because I have a strong feeling had I been there

293

00:18:27,320 --> 00:18:30,290 I would have been arrested with so many young men that were.

294

00:18:30,290 --> 00:18:32,743 My mother had beseeched me to leave,

295

00:18:32,743 --> 00:18:34,160 and she was the one that prevailed

296

00:18:34,160 --> 00:18:37,460 upon me to leave early, and I see this woman's eyes

297

00:18:37,460 --> 00:18:40,100 in tears and gray hair.

298

00:18:40,100 --> 00:18:43,970 It was prematurely gray, and it was due to her

299

00:18:43,970 --> 00:18:46,700 that I am frankly alive today.

300

00:18:46,700 --> 00:18:48,950 Had she not sent me away then, I would have been there

301

00:18:48,950 --> 00:18:50,110 on Kristallnacht.

302

00:18:50,110 --> 00:18:50,610 Who knows?

303

00:18:50,610 --> 00:18:53,510 This is all conjecture, but during that night

304

00:18:53,510 --> 00:18:58,780 from the 31st of October to the 1st of November

305

00:18:58,780 --> 00:19:03,700 across the river, and from the 9th of the 10th of November

306

00:19:03,700 --> 00:19:05,920 I was smuggled into Belgium.

307

00:19:05,920 --> 00:19:09,340 And there was about 6, 7, or 8 people in this car,

308

00:19:09,340 --> 00:19:11,770 and the smuggler that smuggled me to Luxembourg

309

00:19:11,770 --> 00:19:15,160 was also the one that smuggled us to Belgium.

310 00:19:15,160 --> 00:19:19,000 As we are approaching the Belgian border going north

311

00:19:19,000 --> 00:19:24,500 from Luxembourg in the Ardennes region, we look to the right,

312

00:19:24,500 --> 00:19:29,950 and there was a strange appearance in the skies,

313

00:19:29,950 --> 00:19:33,440 a strange coloration into reddish,

314

00:19:33,440 --> 00:19:37,550 and purplish, and weird colors, almost

315

00:19:37,550 --> 00:19:42,710 like some sort of a natural phenomenon.

316

00:19:42,710 --> 00:19:46,740 And it was interesting to view at the time,

317

00:19:46,740 --> 00:19:50,280 but little did we know that this was Kristallnacht

318

00:19:50,280 --> 00:19:52,620 and all of Germany was a flame.

319

00:19:52,620 --> 00:19:55,530 It wasn't till the next day, the 10th of November,

320

00:19:55,530 --> 00:20:01,085 arriving in Brussels that we saw the headlines describing,

321 00:20:01,085 --> 00:20:03,290 headlines speaking about what had gone on

322 00:20:03,290 --> 00:20:09,350 and then reading further of what the tragedy of it was.

323 00:20:09,350 --> 00:20:12,890 And that is the way I witnessed Kristallnacht--

324 00:20:12,890 --> 00:20:17,660 from a distance, just with its reflections.

325 00:20:17,660 --> 00:20:20,240

326 00:20:20,240 --> 00:20:25,370 Tell me about your who in your immediate family survived

327 00:20:25,370 --> 00:20:28,160 and what happened to some of your siblings.

328 00:20:28,160 --> 00:20:30,290 When you speak about the immediate family,

329 00:20:30,290 --> 00:20:32,870 nobody in my immediate family survived.

330 00:20:32,870 --> 00:20:36,115 My mother and two sisters were gassed.

331 00:20:36,115 --> 00:20:39,130

00:20:39,130 --> 00:20:45,240 My father died a natural death in Vienna in 1930.

333

00:20:45,240 --> 00:20:47,650 He was only 39 years old.

334

 $00:20:47,650 \longrightarrow 00:20:50,350$ 

335

00:20:50,350 --> 00:20:52,560 He would not have survived.

336

00:20:52,560 --> 00:20:55,270 He was an activist.

337

00:20:55,270 --> 00:20:58,650 He would not have survived the Nazis, I know.

338

00:20:58,650 --> 00:21:01,380 Then there were figuring that on my mother's side

339

00:21:01,380 --> 00:21:03,960 were 10 brothers and sisters.

340

00:21:03,960 --> 00:21:06,727 On my father's side is nine.

341

00:21:06,727 --> 00:21:08,810 Quite a few of them were married and had children.

342

00:21:08,810 --> 00:21:11,700

343

00:21:11,700 --> 00:21:15,570 I have still a few surviving relatives in Israel now,

00:21:15,570 --> 00:21:18,990 and an aunt in Paris, and a couple of cousins.

345

00:21:18,990 --> 00:21:23,880 In fact, three cousins, but between 40 and 50 members

346

00:21:23,880 --> 00:21:26,900 of my family perished, immediate family,

347

00:21:26,900 --> 00:21:31,190 speaking about family family.

348

00:21:31,190 --> 00:21:34,240 My mother and two sisters.

349

00:21:34,240 --> 00:21:43,530 I said goodbye to them in Vienna in 1938 on the 25th of October

350

00:21:43,530 --> 00:21:46,750 and never saw them again.

351

00:21:46,750 --> 00:21:50,890 A very stark scene that brings this back to my memory--

352

00:21:50,890 --> 00:21:53,830 and I will never forget it-- is when I went to the hospital

353

00:21:53,830 --> 00:21:55,180 to visit my youngest sister.

354

00:21:55,180 --> 00:21:58,430 She was then confined with scarlet fever.

355

00:21:58,430 --> 00:22:03,280 She was not only in confinement but in quarantine.

This is a verbatim transcript of spoken word generated with 3Play Media. It is not the primary source, and it may contain errors in spelling or accuracy.

356 00:22:03,280 --> 00:22:04,600 This was incurable at the time.

357 00:22:04,600 --> 00:22:05,590 They had to go to the hospital.

358 00:22:05,590 --> 00:22:07,210 See, there was no injections for that.

359 00:22:07,210 --> 00:22:15,560 Scarlet fever was quite a current thing,

360 00:22:15,560 --> 00:22:18,530 and I went to visit her to tell her goodbye.

361 00:22:18,530 --> 00:22:23,610 She was on the second floor, like a little elevated

362 00:22:23,610 --> 00:22:27,380 at the window, and I in sign language

363 00:22:27,380 --> 00:22:32,540 wrote toward her that I will be leaving tonight.

364 00:22:32,540 --> 00:22:36,270 And she wrote on the blackboard, good luck.

365 00:22:36,270 --> 00:22:38,637 Hope I see you soon.

366 00:22:38,637 --> 00:22:42,130 [BEEP]

367 00:22:42,130 --> 00:22:43,630 368 00:22:43,630 --> 00:22:47,140 I want to go back to the story of Annie

369 00:22:47,140 --> 00:22:50,410 again and have you just encapsule this story,

370 00:22:50,410 --> 00:22:53,530 and then talk about how you talked with her about it

371 00:22:53,530 --> 00:22:57,370 later, when you were hiding in the attic.

372 00:22:57,370 --> 00:23:00,410

373 00:23:00,410 --> 00:23:05,740 That story with the hiding in the attic in [? CotterÃats ?]

374 00:23:05,740 --> 00:23:12,630 was a very scary situation because I had just come back

375 00:23:12,630 --> 00:23:16,450 from the mountains, and I didn't want to be caught again.

376 00:23:16,450 --> 00:23:20,970 But as I said before, these gendarmes went up

377 00:23:20,970 --> 00:23:27,950 the stairway with her, and in order to entice her to open up,

378 00:23:27,950 --> 00:23:29,280 I don't know what they-- 379 00:23:29,280 --> 00:23:34,160 she didn't want to open up, and she had no key to open up.

380 00:23:34,160 --> 00:23:37,210 They could have broken down the door,

381 00:23:37,210 --> 00:23:41,730 but when they approached her and made advances to her,

382 00:23:41,730 --> 00:23:45,720 and she sort of implied, yes, if you would just

383 00:23:45,720 --> 00:23:51,180 get off the stairs and just go down she'll talk to them.

384 00:23:51,180 --> 00:23:55,020 Now, later when we talked about it,

385 00:23:55,020 --> 00:23:58,830 she told it to me with tears and never went

386 00:23:58,830 --> 00:24:02,280 into any kind of details, but I don't

387 00:24:02,280 --> 00:24:04,740 think that they actually violated her

388 00:24:04,740 --> 00:24:09,060 because it was in the house where her parents lived also.

389 00:24:09,060 --> 00:24:11,230 But later when we spoke about it,

390 00:24:1

00:24:11,230 --> 00:24:17,550 there was just another

aspect of a moment of tension

391

00:24:17,550 --> 00:24:21,970

that worked out to the good rather than

392

00:24:21,970 --> 00:24:23,220

what it could have worked out.

393

00:24:23,220 --> 00:24:26,040

Namely, I could have been arrested right then and there

394

00:24:26,040 --> 00:24:34,460

and sent into deportation rather than two months later,

395

00:24:34,460 --> 00:24:36,570

when I was sent back from Switzerland.

396

 $00:24:36,570 \longrightarrow 00:24:39,070$ 

and it could have been a whole together different situation.

397

00:24:39,070 --> 00:24:41,430

But later on in life,

we talked about it

398

 $00:24:41,430 \longrightarrow 00:24:45,030$ 

when I visited Belgium again, and it was a tense moment.

399

00:24:45.030 --> 00:24:50.630

It was mainly we talked

about it in a very light way.

400

00:24:50,630 --> 00:24:55,650

No details to any effect.

401 00:24:55,650 --> 00:24:59,510 How was it different for people in your mother's generation

402 00:24:59,510 --> 00:25:06,580 to experience the war from how it was for you?

403 00:25:06,580 --> 00:25:08,890 You mean in 1938?

404 00:25:08,890 --> 00:25:11,560 Through the whole thing in general.

405 00:25:11,560 --> 00:25:13,230 In general terms.

406 00:25:13,230 --> 00:25:22,660 I wish I could really other than speculate and conjecture

407 00:25:22,660 --> 00:25:24,790 have some sort of a--

408 00:25:24,790 --> 00:25:28,720 I wish it would have been a bug in that transport

409 00:25:28,720 --> 00:25:30,190 where my mother and sisters were.

410 00:25:30,190 --> 00:25:34,390 How she took to that situation, and how she coped with it,

411 00:25:34,390 --> 00:25:37,300 and what her trepidations were, and what her thoughts were, 00:25:37,300 --> 00:25:41,650 and what the feelings, and all this.

413 00:25:41,650 --> 00:25:44,680 When I heard that they were in trucks

414 00:25:44,680 --> 00:25:48,010 and were gassed in trucks, I almost

415 00:25:48,010 --> 00:25:51,490 was relieved actually because I know when you travel in a truck

416 00:25:51,490 --> 00:25:54,220 you can doze off, you can fall asleep, you're tired,

417 00:25:54,220 --> 00:25:56,170 and then you just doze off and that's

418 00:25:56,170 --> 00:26:00,370 it because this is odorless and colorless and can kill you,

419 00:26:00,370 --> 00:26:04,420 these gases, carbon dioxide that kills you.

420 00:26:04,420 --> 00:26:09,730 But how was her generation taking it?

421 00:26:09,730 --> 00:26:14,620 By sending me away, I know it was a trauma to her.

422 00:26:14,620 --> 00:26:17,080 It must have been because we do that when 423

00:26:17,080 --> 00:26:20,020 we send kids to camp only for two weeks, or for two days,

424

00:26:20,020 --> 00:26:23,020 or for day camp.

425

00:26:23,020 --> 00:26:23,920 We admonish them.

426

00:26:23,920 --> 00:26:26,110 We say take care of yourselves, and when

427

00:26:26,110 --> 00:26:31,600 you go away for a longer time it is write to us.

428

00:26:31,600 --> 00:26:32,830 Let's keep in touch.

429

00:26:32,830 --> 00:26:34,090 Don't catch a cold.

430

00:26:34,090 --> 00:26:40,180 My mother coped with it I hope in a courageous way.

431

00:26:40,180 --> 00:26:42,730 She had two daughters with her.

432

00:26:42,730 --> 00:26:46,750 She had become a widow eight years earlier,

433

00:26:46,750 --> 00:26:53,350 and she was used to a life of hardship, perhaps.

434

00:26:53,350 --> 00:26:59,140 Unfortunately, between the end of her hardship after the First 435 00:26:59,140 --> 00:27:02,140 World War and then the depression in the late '20s

436 00:27:02,140 --> 00:27:07,210 and early '30s to 1938, there was very little breathing room

437 00:27:07,210 --> 00:27:08,900 for them to recover.

438 00:27:08,900 --> 00:27:10,960 So I think the life of my mother,

439 00:27:10,960 --> 00:27:13,870 my relatives, and my grandparents

440 00:27:13,870 --> 00:27:17,050 during that period was one of hardship,

441 00:27:17,050 --> 00:27:20,180 all the time overcoming.

442 00:27:20,180 --> 00:27:21,790 My grandparents living in Poland had

443 00:27:21,790 --> 00:27:26,260 to overcome pogroms at the turn of the century,

444 00:27:26,260 --> 00:27:33,580 and even in the early 20th century, and harassment

445 00:27:33,580 --> 00:27:36,070 My mother didn't have much time to probably 446 00:27:36,070 --> 00:27:38,740 cope with anything, just to know that there's

447 00:27:38,740 --> 00:27:40,810 enough food on the table next day for the kids

448 00:27:40,810 --> 00:27:44,440 after my father died and she was a seamstress.

449 00:27:44,440 --> 00:27:46,810 And she did the best, and we went to school,

450 00:27:46,810 --> 00:27:51,190 and we had our food, and we had clothing, and we had schooling,

451 00:27:51,190 --> 00:27:55,750 and we went to movies, and we had good times and bad times.

452 00:27:55,750 --> 00:28:00,340 But I could never really go into a detail

453 00:28:00,340 --> 00:28:04,000 then and ask my mother, how do you feel about this now?

454 00:28:04,000 --> 00:28:06,640 Because it was all spur of the moment decisions.

455 00:28:06,640 --> 00:28:09,940 I mean, we couldn't sit down and discuss it really.

456 00:28:09,940 --> 00:28:11,680 We could discuss the fact, yes, you 457 00:28:11,680 --> 00:28:13,210 have to leave rather than us.

458 00:28:13,210 --> 00:28:14,980 Why?

459 00:28:14,980 --> 00:28:17,620 I knew I was going to have to go through a river

460 00:28:17,620 --> 00:28:19,360 and perhaps swim.

461 00:28:19,360 --> 00:28:20,620 I was the scout.

462 00:28:20,620 --> 00:28:24,950 I went there hoping that if that succeeds eventually

463 00:28:24,950 --> 00:28:27,370 my mother and sisters will be able to follow.

464 00:28:27,370 --> 00:28:33,190 But from '38 to 1940, when the lowlands were invaded and I was

465 00:28:33,190 --> 00:28:37,030 a refugee and I had no financial means--

466 00:28:37,030 --> 00:28:41,140 and to have a smuggler smuggle you, you need to pay somebody.

467 00:28:41,140 --> 00:28:44,530 So I hope that eventually I will accumulate a little bit

468 00:28:44,530 --> 00:28:48,640 and maybe get somebody to help, but there was no time between

469

00:28:48,640 --> 00:28:51,430 '38 and '40 in

those 18 between--

470

00:28:51,430 --> 00:28:52,400 I said '40.

471

00:28:52,400 --> 00:28:54,700

1940, the lowlands were attacked,

472

00:28:54,700 --> 00:28:59,260

but in '39 the war started

on the Eastern Front.

473

00:28:59,260 --> 00:29:03,190

After that, there was no

leaving anywhere anymore,

474

00:29:03,190 --> 00:29:07,585

so it was just a year had gone

by or maybe a year and a half.

475

00:29:07,585 --> 00:29:12,630

476

00:29:12,630 --> 00:29:18,070

And that was the end of our

being together, in a way,

47/

00:29:18,070 --> 00:29:21,090

because if it had

lasted longer--

478

00:29:21.090 --> 00:29:25.380

if the Germans had not attacked

in 1940 but maybe in 1941,

479

00:29:25,380 --> 00:29:28,560

maybe there would have been

a chance for my sisters

480 00:29:28,560 --> 00:29:32,010 and my mother to follow me to Belgium.

481 00:29:32,010 --> 00:29:34,470 But we did correspond, yes.

482 00:29:34,470 --> 00:29:37,290 They wrote to us in veiled terms,

483 00:29:37,290 --> 00:29:41,680 in code terms, that things were bad and what's happening,

484 00:29:41,680 --> 00:29:45,460 and they were going to a ghetto, and all that sort of thing.

485 00:29:45,460 --> 00:29:48,735 But I think in the life of a Jewish mother--

486 00:29:48,735 --> 00:29:52,460

487 00:29:52,460 --> 00:29:56,420 any Jewish person-- I think one other little period

488 00:29:56,420 --> 00:30:01,250 of suffering was just another segment

489 00:30:01,250 --> 00:30:05,780 of a totality of sad events.

490 00:30:05,780 --> 00:30:06,500 You know?

491

00:30:06,500 --> 00:30:09,920 This was part of the psyche.

492

00:30:09,920 --> 00:30:12,680 Did not have time to go into any kind of details

493

00:30:12,680 --> 00:30:16,607 as to what she thought of the future maybe.

494

00:30:16,607 --> 00:30:18,440 Yeah, I know what she thought of the future.

495

00:30:18,440 --> 00:30:21,160 I hope we'll see you soon.

496

00:30:21,160 --> 00:30:22,840 That was the hope.

497

00:30:22,840 --> 00:30:25,800 Naturally, that was always the hope,

498

00:30:25,800 --> 00:30:27,430 and if you don't have any hope anymore,

499

00:30:27,430 --> 00:30:31,180 then you don't have anything, and I

500

00:30:31,180 --> 00:30:33,820 was hoping against hope of course, which at the time

501

00:30:33,820 --> 00:30:34,490 we didn't know.

502

00:30:34,490 --> 00:30:39,550 And anything I would say as to her feelings or attitudes, 503 00:30:39,550 --> 00:30:45,730 I would only be guessing and using a lot of conjecture.

504 00:30:45,730 --> 00:30:48,160 Who was Marguerite Berjeaux?

505 00:30:48,160 --> 00:30:50,140 Just give me a little portrait of her.

506 00:30:50,140 --> 00:30:53,050 Marguerite Berjeaux was the lady whom I referred to

507 00:30:53,050 --> 00:30:56,080 before who was the owner of that little house

508 00:30:56,080 --> 00:31:01,720 that I stayed in in Limoges.

509 00:31:01,720 --> 00:31:03,880 I lived in an attic--

510 00:31:03,880 --> 00:31:06,190 mansard, it's called in French--

511 00:31:06,190 --> 00:31:12,970 apartment, and actually shared it with my friend Eugene Bass.

512 00:31:12,970 --> 00:31:16,570 And when we had people come into Limoges from our groups

513 00:31:16,570 --> 00:31:20,530 from surrounding areas with cards, or with material,

514 00:31:20,530 --> 00:31:22,840 with printing materials, or inks,

515 00:31:22,840 --> 00:31:25,960 or just communication-- and they would come into Limoges.

516 00:31:25,960 --> 00:31:28,360 They would also stay with us, something in that

517 00:31:28,360 --> 00:31:32,500 little mansard up there with one bed and two armchairs.

518 00:31:32,500 --> 00:31:34,880 We may have had six or eight people sometime up there,

519 00:31:34,880 --> 00:31:36,700 and then we just stretched out on the bed

520 00:31:36,700 --> 00:31:39,520 and made two for one night on the floor, the bed,

521 00:31:39,520 --> 00:31:44,530 and the chairs, and there was no running water in that mansard.

522 00:31:44,530 --> 00:31:48,400 We had to go out to the corridor one flight below

523 00:31:48,400 --> 00:31:53,800 and bring water up from that faucet to a washbasin.

524 00:31:53,800 --> 00:31:57,670 And Madame Berjeaux was the owner of that place, 00:31:57,670 --> 00:32:02,320 and she knew exactly who we were.

526 00:32:02,320 --> 00:32:12,250 She knew me by name Maxon [INAUDIBLE] Lefevre.

527 00:32:12,250 --> 00:32:14,200 Later, she learned my real name.

528 00:32:14,200 --> 00:32:17,260 She knew all of our names, and when

529 00:32:17,260 --> 00:32:21,100 somebody would come to the door and inquire or ask

530 00:32:21,100 --> 00:32:26,050 any kind of questions that she would feel were sort of digging

531 00:32:26,050 --> 00:32:30,070 into trying to find things, she would just

532 00:32:30,070 --> 00:32:32,260 play so dumb as can be.

533 00:32:32,260 --> 00:32:34,480 I don't know what you're talking about.

534 00:32:34,480 --> 00:32:35,980 She was a witty lady.

535 00:32:35,980 --> 00:32:38,140 She was a very good Lady.

536 00:32:38,140 --> 00:32:50,770 A constant smile and very human and understanding, and Madame 537 00:32:50,770 --> 00:32:59,420 Berjeaux sent me a silver napkin ring engraved with MB,

538 00:32:59,420 --> 00:33:01,670 and she says that's for your son,

539 00:33:01,670 --> 00:33:03,905 because my son has the same initials, Myron

540 00:33:03,905 --> 00:33:07,550 Bretholz, so she just gave me that as a token.

541 00:33:07,550 --> 00:33:12,270 We went to visit her in 1970.

542 00:33:12,270 --> 00:33:22,730 Yes, in 1970, and--

543 00:33:22,730 --> 00:33:23,720 no, actually not.

544 00:33:23,720 --> 00:33:24,680 That was 1970.

545 00:33:24,680 --> 00:33:25,820 We didn't go to Limoges.

546 00:33:25,820 --> 00:33:29,110 In 1954, we went to Limoges, my wife and I,

547 00:33:29,110 --> 00:33:30,920 and we went to visit Madame Berjeaux.

548 00:33:30,920 --> 00:33:33,230 We walked through the Limoges main square,

549

00:33:33,230 --> 00:33:35,930 and they have a market there three days a week.

550

00:33:35,930 --> 00:33:37,160 Chinaware all over the place.

551

00:33:37,160 --> 00:33:39,590 People are just stepping over it.

552

00:33:39,590 --> 00:33:42,530 Some people would think that's a crime to step on china,

553

00:33:42,530 --> 00:33:43,250 you know?

554

00:33:43,250 --> 00:33:45,860 But there she was, Madame Berjeaux, in the main square,

555

00:33:45,860 --> 00:33:47,450 and we fell into each other's arms.

556

00:33:47,450 --> 00:33:48,450 What are you doing here?

557

00:33:48,450 --> 00:33:50,360 I said, well, we came to France.

558

00:33:50,360 --> 00:33:52,250 We're just on the way to visit you,

559

00:33:52,250 --> 00:33:54,800 and my wife met Madame Berjeaux.

560

00:33:54,800 --> 00:33:57,350

Very, very nice and pleasant get-together,

561

00:33:57,350 --> 00:34:00,140 and that's when she gave us--

562

00:34:00,140 --> 00:34:04,970 she sent us later that ring for my son,

563

00:34:04,970 --> 00:34:06,810 later when she found out we had a son.

564

00:34:06,810 --> 00:34:08,210 You know?

565

00:34:08,210 --> 00:34:11,120 And she did a lot, yeah.

566

00:34:11,120 --> 00:34:14,420 She's also one of those little heroes, unsung heroes.

567

00:34:14,420 --> 00:34:16,940 She's no longer alive, Madame Berjeaux.

568

00:34:16,940 --> 00:34:17,989 Marguerite Berjeaux.

569

00:34:17,989 --> 00:34:19,370 Oh, yes.

570

00:34:19,370 --> 00:34:22,280 Beautiful lady.

571

00:34:22,280 --> 00:34:23,310 Thank you.

572

00:34:23,310 --> 00:34:25,420

Thank you very much.

Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection