

He had some false papers that they were able to get for money. They had the right connections, and they were able, in the last minute, in 1939, to get out of Germany and come to England.

I have another question, during the time that you were on the continent making your way towards Hamburg, did you receive any knowledge or information about the concentration camps? Or did you come across them, as you were going east?

The only camp that I saw, and that was after the war, most Bergen-Belsen. And I don't have to tell you what that must have looked like at that time.

Did you see it soon after its liberation?

Two months after its liberation.

And what was still there?

People were still dying at the time. They just couldn't be-- they were so undernourished that they just couldn't be fed back to life. It was impossible to-- with all the medical help that was available to them, then, unfortunately, it was too late.

One of the things that you mentioned before was that, throughout the war, or at the end of the war, one of the things that you really wanted the Germans to know, loud and clear, was that they hadn't accomplished what they had set out to accomplish. What do you think that was? What would you have liked to have been able to tell them at the end, that they hadn't been able to do?

Well, they intended to conquer the world. There's no doubt in my mind. That madman thought he could do everything. And in the beginning, it looked very prosperous for him.

But very fortunate for us, it never happened.

And you were living proof that that hadn't happened, because you had survived it. And in effect, had really been a part of the process of stopping it, it seems.

Absolutely. And I was very proud of it, that I was given the chance to do so.

How did you feel towards the people you grew up with? The Germans that you grew up with?

I never saw anyone again, really, never. After I left Germany in early 1939, I never saw anyone again. The Germans, and just a couple of people that were able to go to different countries at the time from Berlin, I was able, especially, a good school friend that I had in 1934, he was able, in the last minute, to get out to Belgium. And then, eventually, he made his way to America.

And we were happy to see each other, coincidentally, again, in New York. But with reference to any of the people that I grew up with or went to school with-- grew up with, would not be the right word, because it was in the early days. And they started already at the time in 1933, actually, to slight towards the Jews, there is no question about it.

So I didn't have many German friends that I associated with. But I never saw any one of these people again after I left Germany in 1939.

How do you feel about the Germans and Germany now?

It depends on what age group you're looking into. If it is the age group which is slowly dying out, of the original Germany that started all the problem, I have no feeling towards them at all. The new age group, people that are in their

30s and 40s now, that have not either been born when the war started or were little children, I really cannot speak for them.

I, personally, have very little feeling for Germany. And will have none until the end of my life.

What is the effect of your war experience been on your relationship with your children?

I have never talked very much about my life in Germany, or my war experiences with my children. I have always somehow shied away from it. If you would ask me why, it would be very difficult for me to answer and give you a good reason for it.

I'm trying to catch up a little bit, and I hope it's not too late.

What would you like the world to know about your experience, as someone who survived the war, and a Jew who survived the war?

What I would like the world to know is that they should be on the alert, on guard, and remember what has happened to almost 11 million people, innocent people. And to watch, because if nobody is there to watch and pay attention to it, it can happen again.

But if people are aware of the atrocities, and the terrible things that took place, and the millions of people that got tortured and killed, if the world is aware, it can never happen again.

I guess we're-- if you have anything else you'd like to add. Otherwise, we'll go ahead and close off.

No, it would mainly be-- you're not interested about my life in the United States, which doesn't come in? He's not taking it now, is he? She's still taking it?

Sure, I'd like to hear more about that, and the effects of your experience on your life now.

You mean, in the United States?

Sure.

You mentioned you came to New York in 1947?

Well, I came-- I had some cousins. I had some cousins in the fur business in New York. And I came with my wife in 1947. We came on a boat called the SS America. At the time, to us, it was a tremendous luxury. The cabins were like toilets in the United States-- very, very small.

But to us, it was a fantastic experience, and a beautiful luxury. Took us seven days, because when we lived in England at the time, even, everything was still rationed in '45, '46, '47. You couldn't get the foods that you wanted to. And here, you come on a luxury liner like this, and eight meals a day, and just unbelievable.

Unfortunately, my wife was expecting our daughter, Florence, at the time. And she didn't enjoy it, because she was almost sick every day. Because in November, in any given November of any year, the waters are very rough across the Atlantic. So she didn't feel too good.

But we came here. We had some family here. Everybody was wonderful to us. We are still very close today. Unfortunately, a couple of members of our family have since passed away.

I went into the fur business-- first, I worked for a cousin of mine. Then eventually, opened up with another couple of partners together. Stayed in the fur business in New York until 1960.

Then came to Dallas, Texas, and was also active in the fur business for another two years or so.

My daughter, well, she might not like to hear that when she was born and her birthday, because of her age. Of her age? I mean--

[LAUGHTER]

No, our daughter was born in-- was one of my greatest birthdays, birthday present anybody could ever get. She was born on my birthday, May 2nd, 1948. And our son Mark was born in September 8th, 1950. So we have a daughter and a son.

And of course, I haven't said much about my wife, but she is about one of the greatest girls you can ever meet. She's a wonderful-- has always been a wonderful wife to me, a wonderful mother to her children. And wonderful daughter to her mother, and she's just a wonderful girl.

And then, we came to Texas. And like I mentioned before, I was in the fur business for another two years, or so. At that time, the fur business was very, very tough here. I eventually left the fur business and went into manufacturing of picture frames.

I went with a friend of mine from New York, that I knew from New York, into business together. And God was good to us. We built up a wonderful business. Unfortunately, he wasn't enjoying to the end, he wasn't able to see it because he died about five years ago, at a very early age.

I kept the business for another five years, and then, I sold it to a national concern. And for about two years, I have retired. Gone into different investments. Given my wife a chance to enjoy her life a little more, and try to do some traveling. Became active in some very charitable organizations.

My main organization, above all, is the Memorial Center for Holocaust Studies here in Dallas. I am active in it, and I hope to continue being active in it. And again, I come back to one thing-- we must not shut our eyes to anything, and keep our eyes open and never allow such atrocities again for generations to come.

When did you finally reconcile with your relatives in London?

Never.

Never?

No. I have never visited them again. They died in the meantime. You know, they were much older. But I could never forgive them.

How about their children or grandchildren?

Their children are still alive. And I have nothing to do with them.

Nothing?

No. I just could not forgive, because I felt at the time, where there is a will, there is a way. And they could have helped. Maybe it would have been too late for my parents to come out, because the war broke out then. But maybe, if they would have helped, we would have been able to get them out in time.

When you were growing up, did you grow up Orthodox or Reform?

My father was quite a religious man. He would not work on Saturdays. He would not smoke on Saturdays. I always remember, I had to get out of his way because he was a heavy smoker, and when he couldn't smoke on Saturdays, he was hard to talk to. But as soon as he had his first cigarette after Shabbos was finished, he was the sweetest guy you can

imagine.

Did your feelings about religion change at all while you were fighting in the war, and after seeing what happened?

I am not as religious as my father used to be.

Because of your experience?

I believe in religion. But I'm not as religious, and I have not brought up my children to be very religious.

But of course, they know the heritage, and they're proud to be Jewish. But not as religious as my European background was.

I think we're at a stopping place. I want to thank you, on behalf of everyone involved in this project, and wish you continued health and success.

Thank you very much, and I want to thank you for having me. It is an honor to be here, and at least state some of my life. And I appreciate you calling me in here and giving me this opportunity.

Terrific.