

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:04,980

2

00:00:04,980 --> 00:00:07,410

You were talking about your
journey from Bergen-Belsen

3

00:00:07,410 --> 00:00:10,000

back to Hamburg
in April of 1945.

4

00:00:10,000 --> 00:00:11,190

'45.

5

00:00:11,190 --> 00:00:17,550

And there were flyers thrown
down from some airplane,

6

00:00:17,550 --> 00:00:21,510

telling that the
British were close

7

00:00:21,510 --> 00:00:25,560

and that they
would soon be here.

8

00:00:25,560 --> 00:00:29,220

We did not save that flyer.

9

00:00:29,220 --> 00:00:32,610

But it was very good
to know about it.

10

00:00:32,610 --> 00:00:35,820

And the men had to march us.

11

00:00:35,820 --> 00:00:37,350

I forget to where.

12

00:00:37,350 --> 00:00:39,630

Because the rails

had been bombed.

13

00:00:39,630 --> 00:00:42,390

And there were no
more trains leading

14

00:00:42,390 --> 00:00:47,940

to Lueneberg no, the
place was Celle bei

15

00:00:47,940 --> 00:00:50,940

Hanover That's where
they unloaded us when

16

00:00:50,940 --> 00:00:54,000

we went to Bergen-Belsen.

17

00:00:54,000 --> 00:00:59,010

You know, after the war, I read
in Time Magazine, some letter

18

00:00:59,010 --> 00:01:04,890

to the editor from someone who
lives in Celle either that,

19

00:01:04,890 --> 00:01:06,210

I'm not sure.

20

00:01:06,210 --> 00:01:08,400

Anyhow, they said
that they didn't

21

00:01:08,400 --> 00:01:11,600

know there was
Bergen-Belsen there,

22

00:01:11,600 --> 00:01:17,700

when all the dead people
were lying close to the road.

23

00:01:17,700 --> 00:01:21,660

Anyhow, this guy marched
us to I don't know where.

24
00:01:21,660 --> 00:01:28,220
We slept in the woods,
covering us with leaves.

25
00:01:28,220 --> 00:01:31,450
We didn't run away.

26
00:01:31,450 --> 00:01:34,120
We got back to Bergen-Belsen.

27
00:01:34,120 --> 00:01:38,870
And when we got there, there
was a whole new crew there.

28
00:01:38,870 --> 00:01:39,920
I mean, a whole new--

29
00:01:39,920 --> 00:01:40,830
But back to Hamburg

30
00:01:40,830 --> 00:01:42,030
Hamburg.

31
00:01:42,030 --> 00:01:47,670
So it was filled with
people from other camps,

32
00:01:47,670 --> 00:01:51,210
who had been evacuated there.

33
00:01:51,210 --> 00:01:55,830
And so we never went back
to the factory to work.

34
00:01:55,830 --> 00:01:59,300
But we registered
those new prisoners.

35
00:01:59,300 --> 00:02:02,580
That was our new job.

36

00:02:02,580 --> 00:02:03,990

And then one day--

37

00:02:03,990 --> 00:02:06,390

Your health had
improved by that time?

38

00:02:06,390 --> 00:02:07,330

Yeah.

39

00:02:07,330 --> 00:02:09,570

Yeah.

40

00:02:09,570 --> 00:02:11,943

Did you get better because
you were given medicine?

41

00:02:11,943 --> 00:02:12,610

Or it was just--

42

00:02:12,610 --> 00:02:14,620

No, there was no medicine.

43

00:02:14,620 --> 00:02:17,040

So it was the resting?

44

00:02:17,040 --> 00:02:20,460

Just being in bed
and not working,

45

00:02:20,460 --> 00:02:22,820

but it was for a long time.

46

00:02:22,820 --> 00:02:25,230

And I remember when
I, for the first time,

47

00:02:25,230 --> 00:02:30,090

went into the bathroom,
there were mirrors there.

48

00:02:30,090 --> 00:02:33,300

And I just couldn't believe
it when I saw myself.

49

00:02:33,300 --> 00:02:36,140

I said I look like
Christ on the cross.

50

00:02:36,140 --> 00:02:37,400

Mhm.

51

00:02:37,400 --> 00:02:40,830

[INAUDIBLE]

52

00:02:40,830 --> 00:02:46,500

So we were used to
register the new prisoners.

53

00:02:46,500 --> 00:02:51,090

And then one day,
towards the end of April,

54

00:02:51,090 --> 00:02:55,770

they said now we would go
to Sweden, again, you see?

55

00:02:55,770 --> 00:02:58,800

So of course, we
didn't believe it.

56

00:02:58,800 --> 00:03:05,250

But lo and behold, we
really went in cattle cars

57

00:03:05,250 --> 00:03:10,890

and got out in Flensburg, which
is the border between Germany

58

00:03:10,890 --> 00:03:11,525

and Denmark.

59

00:03:11,525 --> 00:03:15,800

60
00:03:15,800 --> 00:03:22,720
And there was already a
normal train standing.

61
00:03:22,720 --> 00:03:27,320
And we were taken over
by the Danish Red Cross.

62
00:03:27,320 --> 00:03:31,460
And on every seat,
there was a package--

63
00:03:31,460 --> 00:03:34,510
[CRYING]

64
00:03:34,510 --> 00:03:37,710
--with sandwiches and chocolate.

65
00:03:37,710 --> 00:03:44,600
So then we came
through Copenhagen.

66
00:03:44,600 --> 00:03:48,150
And the Danes were
on the platform.

67
00:03:48,150 --> 00:03:53,400
So I remember one Dane
holding up a newspaper saying,

68
00:03:53,400 --> 00:03:57,720
Hitler dÃd, Hitler dead.

69
00:03:57,720 --> 00:04:00,967
And of course, that
was wonderful to me.

70
00:04:00,967 --> 00:04:03,950
Ah.

71
00:04:03,950 --> 00:04:05,930

So then we went by the train.

72

00:04:05,930 --> 00:04:12,530

And then they unloaded us onto
a boat, you know, a ferry.

73

00:04:12,530 --> 00:04:17,300

And there they had
papers set for--

74

00:04:17,300 --> 00:04:20,019

75

00:04:20,019 --> 00:04:22,220

I never got to eat anything.

76

00:04:22,220 --> 00:04:24,080

Because it was so--

77

00:04:24,080 --> 00:04:29,780

you know, everyone just threw
himself on those papers,

78

00:04:29,780 --> 00:04:34,217

with flowers, and
anything you can imagine.

79

00:04:34,217 --> 00:04:37,560

80

00:04:37,560 --> 00:04:41,780

And then we arrived
in Malmo I don't know.

81

00:04:41,780 --> 00:04:47,000

I think we went on the train
once more after the ferry.

82

00:04:47,000 --> 00:04:49,690

I'm not sure.

83

00:04:49,690 --> 00:04:53,870

And in Malmo we
were taken over by,

84
00:04:53,870 --> 00:04:56,780
I guess it was the Red Cross.

85
00:04:56,780 --> 00:05:01,280
And we had to, once
again, undress completely.

86
00:05:01,280 --> 00:05:05,640
And they burned all our clothes.

87
00:05:05,640 --> 00:05:08,740
So that was, I don't know,
the 2nd of May, maybe.

88
00:05:08,740 --> 00:05:11,420

89
00:05:11,420 --> 00:05:18,050
And then we had to run into some
tents and take showers there.

90
00:05:18,050 --> 00:05:19,890
They had it all set up.

91
00:05:19,890 --> 00:05:21,160
It was wonderful.

92
00:05:21,160 --> 00:05:25,990

93
00:05:25,990 --> 00:05:31,590
And they put us, after
we were all bathed

94
00:05:31,590 --> 00:05:37,700
and so on, they put us in
a covered tennis stadium

95
00:05:37,700 --> 00:05:39,850

where we slept on the floor.

96

00:05:39,850 --> 00:05:44,620

But for us, it was luxurious,
because they had white--

97

00:05:44,620 --> 00:05:49,310

white paper sheets, you know?

98

00:05:49,310 --> 00:05:51,642

Could you believe you were free?

99

00:05:51,642 --> 00:05:52,594

It was hard.

100

00:05:52,594 --> 00:05:55,930

[LAUGHS]

101

00:05:55,930 --> 00:06:00,430

But they apparently
knew exactly what to do.

102

00:06:00,430 --> 00:06:04,590

Because they fed us very little.

103

00:06:04,590 --> 00:06:08,000

And we, of course, thought
they should feed us much more.

104

00:06:08,000 --> 00:06:11,470

But as we later heard,
in Bergen-Belsen,

105

00:06:11,470 --> 00:06:13,090

it was a catastrophe.

106

00:06:13,090 --> 00:06:18,180

People died from
eating too much.

107

00:06:18,180 --> 00:06:22,570

And you know, the Swedes

gave us new clothes.

108

00:06:22,570 --> 00:06:29,300

We went to factories and could
pick from clothes and underwear

109

00:06:29,300 --> 00:06:31,700

and everything.

110

00:06:31,700 --> 00:06:33,940

But that was before
the end of the war.

111

00:06:33,940 --> 00:06:34,530

You know?

112

00:06:34,530 --> 00:06:40,510

The war, I think, ended on the
8th of May or the 7th of May.

113

00:06:40,510 --> 00:06:44,270

So for us, the war was over.

114

00:06:44,270 --> 00:06:46,810

And then you stayed in
Sweden for how long?

115

00:06:46,810 --> 00:06:49,870

I stayed there for two years.

116

00:06:49,870 --> 00:06:54,940

Because it took so long for
me to get a visa to the United

117

00:06:54,940 --> 00:06:59,150

States where I had
an uncle, my mother's

118

00:06:59,150 --> 00:07:04,210

middle brother, who was the only
one who was able to emigrate.

119

00:07:04,210 --> 00:07:07,360
He's the one where
I told you that they

120
00:07:07,360 --> 00:07:11,200
came from Vienna first
to Czechoslovakia

121
00:07:11,200 --> 00:07:15,740
and then eventually landed
in the United States.

122
00:07:15,740 --> 00:07:16,990
Did you work in Sweden at all?

123
00:07:16,990 --> 00:07:17,490
Yes.

124
00:07:17,490 --> 00:07:19,260
What kind of work did you do?

125
00:07:19,260 --> 00:07:23,530
I worked as
English-German secretary

126
00:07:23,530 --> 00:07:26,900
in the World Jewish
Congress office.

127
00:07:26,900 --> 00:07:28,280
So that was very nice.

128
00:07:28,280 --> 00:07:31,240
It was like a family.

129
00:07:31,240 --> 00:07:36,010
When I went back
to Sweden in '92,

130
00:07:36,010 --> 00:07:38,560
I looked for that
World Jewish Congress.

131

00:07:38,560 --> 00:07:39,950

It was no longer there.

132

00:07:39,950 --> 00:07:41,080

They've closed it.

133

00:07:41,080 --> 00:07:43,320

They don't need it anymore.

134

00:07:43,320 --> 00:07:47,200

But they certainly
needed it then.

135

00:07:47,200 --> 00:07:52,060

Were you able to adjust to
life in Sweden, after all that

136

00:07:52,060 --> 00:07:54,820

you had been through?

137

00:07:54,820 --> 00:07:55,710

Yes.

138

00:07:55,710 --> 00:07:57,310

Actually, yes.

139

00:07:57,310 --> 00:08:00,730

I mean, I'm not--
still not quite normal.

140

00:08:00,730 --> 00:08:02,030

But you were able to cope?

141

00:08:02,030 --> 00:08:02,530

Yes.

142

00:08:02,530 --> 00:08:03,660

I was able to --

143

00:08:03,660 --> 00:08:04,952

To get through those two years.

144
00:08:04,952 --> 00:08:05,675
--to work.

145
00:08:05,675 --> 00:08:08,410
Yes.

146
00:08:08,410 --> 00:08:13,180
And in the beginning, my
two best friends were there.

147
00:08:13,180 --> 00:08:18,160
We had a room together, a
furnished room in a family.

148
00:08:18,160 --> 00:08:21,016
And we all three worked.

149
00:08:21,016 --> 00:08:22,510
These are friends from the camp?

150
00:08:22,510 --> 00:08:23,220
Yes.

151
00:08:23,220 --> 00:08:24,296
Yes.

152
00:08:24,296 --> 00:08:26,920
And one of them left first.

153
00:08:26,920 --> 00:08:32,409
She went back to Czechoslovakia
because her sister

154
00:08:32,409 --> 00:08:36,110
and the sister's
husband had returned.

155
00:08:36,110 --> 00:08:39,990
They were in camp too,
because, well, it's

156

00:08:39,990 --> 00:08:41,049

a long, involved story.

157

00:08:41,049 --> 00:08:43,559

The sister, of
course, was Jewish.

158

00:08:43,559 --> 00:08:46,680

But the husband was not.

159

00:08:46,680 --> 00:08:49,210

And they had hid--

160

00:08:49,210 --> 00:08:52,210

her father and my
friend's father,

161

00:08:52,210 --> 00:08:58,168

had hidden in the
village on false papers.

162

00:08:58,168 --> 00:09:01,560

And someone told on him.

163

00:09:01,560 --> 00:09:04,530

And so then they sent his
daughter and her husband

164

00:09:04,530 --> 00:09:09,150

to camp, too, but
just for a year.

165

00:09:09,150 --> 00:09:12,540

So they both survived.

166

00:09:12,540 --> 00:09:17,500

So when did you arrive
in the United States?

167

00:09:17,500 --> 00:09:21,150

On May 19, 1947.

168

00:09:21,150 --> 00:09:22,660

And where did you go?

169

00:09:22,660 --> 00:09:25,690

I went to New York.

170

00:09:25,690 --> 00:09:29,350

And my uncle had
already found me

171

00:09:29,350 --> 00:09:33,160

a job in an import-export firm.

172

00:09:33,160 --> 00:09:38,590

And I had a furnished room
in the family again, East--

173

00:09:38,590 --> 00:09:42,950

no, West 86th Street.

174

00:09:42,950 --> 00:09:45,790

But those were difficult times.

175

00:09:45,790 --> 00:09:49,810

It was what they
call culture shock.

176

00:09:49,810 --> 00:09:55,010

It was all so
different from Sweden.

177

00:09:55,010 --> 00:09:57,970

And I was very unhappy at first.

178

00:09:57,970 --> 00:10:03,560

And it took me some
time to get used to it.

179

00:10:03,560 --> 00:10:06,688

The climate was so hot.

180

00:10:06,688 --> 00:10:09,620

181
00:10:09,620 --> 00:10:12,930
Altogether, you know, at
the World Jewish Congress,

182
00:10:12,930 --> 00:10:16,580
I told you, we were
all like a family.

183
00:10:16,580 --> 00:10:20,670
And there, the people
who owned that business

184
00:10:20,670 --> 00:10:22,540
were not at all friendly.

185
00:10:22,540 --> 00:10:27,390
It was all so cold
and unfeeling.

186
00:10:27,390 --> 00:10:31,920
And no one wanted to hear
about my experience, not even

187
00:10:31,920 --> 00:10:34,420
my own uncle, you know?

188
00:10:34,420 --> 00:10:36,810
No one asked any questions.

189
00:10:36,810 --> 00:10:41,370
And we were so full
of [INAUDIBLE]..

190
00:10:41,370 --> 00:10:43,560
And then you stayed in New York?

191
00:10:43,560 --> 00:10:45,800
I stayed in New
York for two years.

192

00:10:45,800 --> 00:10:50,280

And then I got married
and moved to Chicago.

193

00:10:50,280 --> 00:10:52,140

Was your husband from Europe?

194

00:10:52,140 --> 00:10:52,920

Yes.

195

00:10:52,920 --> 00:10:53,800

Had he been through--

196

00:10:53,800 --> 00:10:54,600

He was Viennese.

197

00:10:54,600 --> 00:10:56,180

Had he been through the war?

198

00:10:56,180 --> 00:10:56,680

No.

199

00:10:56,680 --> 00:10:57,920

He was here.

200

00:10:57,920 --> 00:10:58,550

During the war?

201

00:10:58,550 --> 00:11:00,390

Yes.

202

00:11:00,390 --> 00:11:01,800

And you moved to Chicago.

203

00:11:01,800 --> 00:11:05,440

To Chicago, and then
we moved to Pittsburgh,

204

00:11:05,440 --> 00:11:08,680

and last, we moved
to Washington.

205
00:11:08,680 --> 00:11:10,330
I really like it here.

206
00:11:10,330 --> 00:11:13,840
I'm glad I ended up here.

207
00:11:13,840 --> 00:11:17,320
Can we talk just a little bit
before we close about some

208
00:11:17,320 --> 00:11:21,970
of your feelings and
reflections and thoughts

209
00:11:21,970 --> 00:11:23,470
about what you went through?

210
00:11:23,470 --> 00:11:26,530

211
00:11:26,530 --> 00:11:28,330
How do you feel
about being Jewish?

212
00:11:28,330 --> 00:11:31,440
Did this experience make
you more so, or less so,

213
00:11:31,440 --> 00:11:32,740
or no change at all?

214
00:11:32,740 --> 00:11:38,590
Maybe less so-- no, not Jewish.

215
00:11:38,590 --> 00:11:40,300
It made me more Jewish.

216
00:11:40,300 --> 00:11:46,390
But it made me irreligious.

217

00:11:46,390 --> 00:11:50,170
I don't believe in
God, I'm afraid to say.

218
00:11:50,170 --> 00:11:52,742

219
00:11:52,742 --> 00:11:54,450
This is because of
what you went through?

220
00:11:54,450 --> 00:11:54,720
Yes.

221
00:11:54,720 --> 00:11:55,262
During that--

222
00:11:55,262 --> 00:11:57,330
I don't think if
there were a God He

223
00:11:57,330 --> 00:12:01,610
would have let all that happen.

224
00:12:01,610 --> 00:12:02,770
Mhm.

225
00:12:02,770 --> 00:12:03,270
No.

226
00:12:03,270 --> 00:12:06,030
But I'm consciously a Jew.

227
00:12:06,030 --> 00:12:08,820
And I would never hide it.

228
00:12:08,820 --> 00:12:10,350
But I'm just not religious.

229
00:12:10,350 --> 00:12:10,850
Mhm.

230

00:12:10,850 --> 00:12:16,130

231

00:12:16,130 --> 00:12:18,110

Do you receive reparations?

232

00:12:18,110 --> 00:12:18,650

Yes.

233

00:12:18,650 --> 00:12:21,230

I get two pensions.

234

00:12:21,230 --> 00:12:25,160

One is like social security.

235

00:12:25,160 --> 00:12:30,770

And the other one is what
they call Gesundheitsschein

236

00:12:30,770 --> 00:12:35,480

I had to prove that
the experience was

237

00:12:35,480 --> 00:12:37,200

bad for my health.

238

00:12:37,200 --> 00:12:42,170

And since then, I'm
getting a pension for that.

239

00:12:42,170 --> 00:12:44,900

How do you feel about getting
reparations from Germany?

240

00:12:44,900 --> 00:12:48,410

I now feel about it very good.

241

00:12:48,410 --> 00:12:52,490

But it was the hardest
thing I went through,

242

00:12:52,490 --> 00:12:58,760
to dig all that thing
out, everything,

243
00:12:58,760 --> 00:13:00,980
the lawyer wanted from me.

244
00:13:00,980 --> 00:13:06,350

245
00:13:06,350 --> 00:13:09,800
I was in psychotherapy
for several years.

246
00:13:09,800 --> 00:13:13,150

247
00:13:13,150 --> 00:13:15,710
And it was not easy.

248
00:13:15,710 --> 00:13:19,750
And every time a letter came
from the lawyer in Germany,

249
00:13:19,750 --> 00:13:20,810
I thought now.

250
00:13:20,810 --> 00:13:22,100
Now what now?

251
00:13:22,100 --> 00:13:24,290
What does he want now?

252
00:13:24,290 --> 00:13:28,580
But in the end, of
course, I could not

253
00:13:28,580 --> 00:13:32,850
live from the
pension I get here.

254
00:13:32,850 --> 00:13:38,540

So that makes a big difference
in my life, in my lifestyle.

255
00:13:38,540 --> 00:13:41,960
You say you've returned
to visit Europe?

256
00:13:41,960 --> 00:13:43,470
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

257
00:13:43,470 --> 00:13:43,970
Oh, yeah.

258
00:13:43,970 --> 00:13:46,220
I've been in Europe many times.

259
00:13:46,220 --> 00:13:51,130
But in '92, I was
back in Estonia.

260
00:13:51,130 --> 00:13:54,010
Because that was just 50 years--

261
00:13:54,010 --> 00:13:56,600
I never told you
about what happened

262
00:13:56,600 --> 00:14:00,760
to my mother and the others.

263
00:14:00,760 --> 00:14:01,990
You want me to tell you?

264
00:14:01,990 --> 00:14:04,400
If you're able to.

265
00:14:04,400 --> 00:14:08,470
After the war, when
we were first--

266
00:14:08,470 --> 00:14:11,180
I told you we were

in [PLACE NAME]..

267

00:14:11,180 --> 00:14:14,090

And then they sent
us for recuperation

268

00:14:14,090 --> 00:14:17,180

to various places in Sweden.

269

00:14:17,180 --> 00:14:24,890

And my Czech friends and I were
in a town called [PLACE NAME]..

270

00:14:24,890 --> 00:14:28,320

And there, one day, there
we didn't do anything.

271

00:14:28,320 --> 00:14:28,820

You know?

272

00:14:28,820 --> 00:14:31,790

They were just nice to
us and we went on hikes

273

00:14:31,790 --> 00:14:38,180

and had fun together,
bicycle [INAUDIBLE]..

274

00:14:38,180 --> 00:14:43,430

And one day, they had a
sort of a little feast

275

00:14:43,430 --> 00:14:52,040

for us, where there came
a couple of ministers.

276

00:14:52,040 --> 00:14:55,190

I forget of what religion.

277

00:14:55,190 --> 00:14:57,500

And they lectured to us.

278

00:14:57,500 --> 00:14:58,850
I forget about what.

279
00:14:58,850 --> 00:15:02,240
And afterwards, there
was coffee and cake.

280
00:15:02,240 --> 00:15:08,420
There were maybe 30 or 40
of us in that scout hall

281
00:15:08,420 --> 00:15:09,590
where we were.

282
00:15:09,590 --> 00:15:13,970
And I just happened to sit
next to one of those ministers.

283
00:15:13,970 --> 00:15:16,340
And another friend,
the mixed one,

284
00:15:16,340 --> 00:15:18,800
sat on the other side of him.

285
00:15:18,800 --> 00:15:22,730
And he asked me where we
had been during the war.

286
00:15:22,730 --> 00:15:26,930
And I told him about
Estonia and so on.

287
00:15:26,930 --> 00:15:30,950
And he said, strange,
with Estonia, you know?

288
00:15:30,950 --> 00:15:35,210
I have a friend, an
Estonian minister,

289
00:15:35,210 --> 00:15:40,880
who told me a terrible story

about a transport that came to

290

00:15:40,880 --> 00:15:42,170
[PLACE NAME].

291

00:15:42,170 --> 00:15:44,635
I don't know whether
he said [PLACE NAME]..

292

00:15:44,635 --> 00:15:46,160
But that came.

293

00:15:46,160 --> 00:15:50,990
And that some members
of his congregation

294

00:15:50,990 --> 00:15:53,480
had to shoot those people.

295

00:15:53,480 --> 00:16:00,380
And that some of them became
quite emotionally sick from it.

296

00:16:00,380 --> 00:16:02,700
And from what he
said, of course,

297

00:16:02,700 --> 00:16:09,038
he didn't know the details,
I thought, that could be us.

298

00:16:09,038 --> 00:16:10,670
You know?

299

00:16:10,670 --> 00:16:15,905
So he gave me the name and
address of this minister.

300

00:16:15,905 --> 00:16:17,750
And it took me a while.

301

00:16:17,750 --> 00:16:23,185

I didn't write right away, or
[? be where ?] go to see him.

302
00:16:23,185 --> 00:16:25,550
And I never did go to see him.

303
00:16:25,550 --> 00:16:31,550
I think I just didn't
want to know, really.

304
00:16:31,550 --> 00:16:33,280
But I did write him a letter.

305
00:16:33,280 --> 00:16:35,585
And he wrote me a
letter back saying

306
00:16:35,585 --> 00:16:39,330
that such and such happened.

307
00:16:39,330 --> 00:16:43,700
That the people had to
dig their own graves

308
00:16:43,700 --> 00:16:46,500
and were shot on the spot.

309
00:16:46,500 --> 00:16:49,850
And he wrote where it was.

310
00:16:49,850 --> 00:16:56,510
But he wrote very consolingly
that maybe our families

311
00:16:56,510 --> 00:16:58,460
were not among those people.

312
00:16:58,460 --> 00:17:03,110
Because he remembers that there
were some Jewish women seen

313
00:17:03,110 --> 00:17:06,050

in the river, working there.

314

00:17:06,050 --> 00:17:09,050

Maybe that's where
my mother was.

315

00:17:09,050 --> 00:17:12,260

So of course, that was us.

316

00:17:12,260 --> 00:17:15,740

And so that was that.

317

00:17:15,740 --> 00:17:22,599

And then, in 1960, was it--

318

00:17:22,599 --> 00:17:26,470

I think in 1960.

319

00:17:26,470 --> 00:17:28,580

How did that come about?

320

00:17:28,580 --> 00:17:31,220

I can't tell you
the whole story.

321

00:17:31,220 --> 00:17:37,150

However, they caught some
of those Estonian SS people.

322

00:17:37,150 --> 00:17:39,770

And I mean, I can
tell you this story,

323

00:17:39,770 --> 00:17:41,840

but it would be too long.

324

00:17:41,840 --> 00:17:46,130

And some of our friends
who lived in Czechoslovakia

325

00:17:46,130 --> 00:17:54,610

went to [INAUDIBLE] as witnesses

in the trial of those people.

326

00:17:54,610 --> 00:17:56,350

Trial of the Estonian SS?

327

00:17:56,350 --> 00:17:57,740

Yes.

328

00:17:57,740 --> 00:18:02,660

And two of them were hanged.

329

00:18:02,660 --> 00:18:09,225

And others were
convicted in absentia.

330

00:18:09,225 --> 00:18:14,120

And one of them was the
commander, Laak was his name,

331

00:18:14,120 --> 00:18:19,360

L-A-A-K.

332

00:18:19,360 --> 00:18:24,910

And it turned out
that he had emigrated.

333

00:18:24,910 --> 00:18:29,200

He had fled after
the war to Canada.

334

00:18:29,200 --> 00:18:32,740

And the Russians were
broadcasting those news

335

00:18:32,740 --> 00:18:37,510

about the trial at the time and
that they were looking for him.

336

00:18:37,510 --> 00:18:44,080

And he apparently got
frightened and he hanged himself

337

00:18:44,080 --> 00:18:45,400
in Canada.

338
00:18:45,400 --> 00:18:48,600
So one of our girls was
the living in Canada.

339
00:18:48,600 --> 00:18:51,970
And when she write in
the paper about that she

340
00:18:51,970 --> 00:18:54,100
called the newspaper
and said that she

341
00:18:54,100 --> 00:18:59,920
was one of his victims,
then the newspapers

342
00:18:59,920 --> 00:19:03,610
interviewed some others
of our girls in New York.

343
00:19:03,610 --> 00:19:06,670
And one called me, too.

344
00:19:06,670 --> 00:19:09,550
I was living in Chicago then.

345
00:19:09,550 --> 00:19:15,280
And so three of them,
at least, are dead.

346
00:19:15,280 --> 00:19:19,870
And then while the
girls were testifying,

347
00:19:19,870 --> 00:19:23,790
they took them to that place
where it all had happened.

348
00:19:23,790 --> 00:19:28,160
And there's a

monument there now.

349

00:19:28,160 --> 00:19:32,050

And it's not, apparently
not only our transport,

350

00:19:32,050 --> 00:19:34,120

but the German transport.

351

00:19:34,120 --> 00:19:39,160

They also killed some
Russians, I think.

352

00:19:39,160 --> 00:19:44,710

So on that monument, it was
in all languages, I think.

353

00:19:44,710 --> 00:19:52,090

And so in 1992, we went there
for the 50th anniversary

354

00:19:52,090 --> 00:19:54,690

of those [INAUDIBLE].

355

00:19:54,690 --> 00:19:57,790

356

00:19:57,790 --> 00:20:05,350

And one of our friends who was
also at the trial as a witness

357

00:20:05,350 --> 00:20:07,210

now lives in Switzerland.

358

00:20:07,210 --> 00:20:12,430

She escaped in 1968
with her husband.

359

00:20:12,430 --> 00:20:17,260

And she really built
friendships there in Estonia.

360

00:20:17,260 --> 00:20:20,860
And they go there quite
frequently to visit.

361
00:20:20,860 --> 00:20:27,190

362
00:20:27,190 --> 00:20:32,990
You see, this woman,
Eugenia Gurin-Loov,

363
00:20:32,990 --> 00:20:36,070
works for the Jewish
community there.

364
00:20:36,070 --> 00:20:38,760

365
00:20:38,760 --> 00:20:39,260
Yeah.

366
00:20:39,260 --> 00:20:43,950
This Eugenia Gurin-Loov works
for the Jewish community

367
00:20:43,950 --> 00:20:45,960
in Tallinn.

368
00:20:45,960 --> 00:20:49,440
And she worked on
this book for years.

369
00:20:49,440 --> 00:20:53,580
She was already
working on it in '92.

370
00:20:53,580 --> 00:20:55,680
She found all the documents.

371
00:20:55,680 --> 00:21:00,000
And it's all about the Estonian
Jews and what happened to them.

372

00:21:00,000 --> 00:21:06,470

373

00:21:06,470 --> 00:21:08,240

Is there anything
else you would like

374

00:21:08,240 --> 00:21:12,560

to add that we haven't talked
about, or any other thoughts?

375

00:21:12,560 --> 00:21:14,810

Oh, I'm sure there
are other things.

376

00:21:14,810 --> 00:21:17,546

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

377

00:21:17,546 --> 00:21:18,920

That you'd like to say.

378

00:21:18,920 --> 00:21:20,210

The reflections are--

379

00:21:20,210 --> 00:21:22,280

Any messages to the world?

380

00:21:22,280 --> 00:21:23,720

Anything that you'd like to add?

381

00:21:23,720 --> 00:21:28,520

The reflections are that
I cannot stop to hate

382

00:21:28,520 --> 00:21:29,690

the Germans.

383

00:21:29,690 --> 00:21:32,750

I would never set foot there.

384

00:21:32,750 --> 00:21:35,930

But not all of our
girls feel that way,

385
00:21:35,930 --> 00:21:37,910
because some have been there.

386
00:21:37,910 --> 00:21:41,950
But I personally just
don't want to do it.

387
00:21:41,950 --> 00:21:45,050
And as I told you
earlier, I have

388
00:21:45,050 --> 00:21:49,490
all those conflicting feelings
about my former classmates.

389
00:21:49,490 --> 00:21:52,370

390
00:21:52,370 --> 00:21:58,490
And I'm very attracted
to reading everything

391
00:21:58,490 --> 00:22:01,300
about the Holocaust.

392
00:22:01,300 --> 00:22:04,400
Where some people
like to stay away,

393
00:22:04,400 --> 00:22:07,360
I am very attracted to it.

394
00:22:07,360 --> 00:22:11,540
And my uncle Norbert
Troller wrote a book

395
00:22:11,540 --> 00:22:21,690
about Theresienstadt, which
was published after he died.

396

00:22:21,690 --> 00:22:26,070
But that was his retirement job.

397

00:22:26,070 --> 00:22:29,400
He wrote his memoirs,
not only about the war,

398

00:22:29,400 --> 00:22:30,990
but about his whole life.

399

00:22:30,990 --> 00:22:34,440

400

00:22:34,440 --> 00:22:36,000
Do you still speak German?

401

00:22:36,000 --> 00:22:38,070
Yes.

402

00:22:38,070 --> 00:22:40,930
And I read German a lot, too.

403

00:22:40,930 --> 00:22:48,150
And I have friends, but very few
now, with whom I speak German.

404

00:22:48,150 --> 00:22:50,410
Now with [? Ava, ?]
I never speak German.

405

00:22:50,410 --> 00:22:53,720

406

00:22:53,720 --> 00:22:56,630
Anything else you wanted
to add before we close?

407

00:22:56,630 --> 00:22:57,130
No.

408

00:22:57,130 --> 00:22:58,048

Close it.

409

00:22:58,048 --> 00:22:58,548
[LAUGHTER]

410

00:22:58,548 --> 00:23:00,770
That's enough.

411

00:23:00,770 --> 00:23:01,550
Well, thank you.

412

00:23:01,550 --> 00:23:05,010
But I'm very glad that
you came to talk to me

413

00:23:05,010 --> 00:23:09,170
and I didn't have to talk
to a complete stranger.

414

00:23:09,170 --> 00:23:12,080
Well, thank you so much
for doing the interview.

415

00:23:12,080 --> 00:23:13,250
You're very welcome.

416

00:23:13,250 --> 00:23:22,180

417

00:23:22,180 --> 00:23:25,150
This concludes the
interview of Doris Rauch.

418

00:23:25,150 --> 00:23:29,470
It took place on July 7, 1995.

419

00:23:29,470 --> 00:23:31,180
It was conducted
by Gail Schwartz

420

00:23:31,180 --> 00:23:35,100
on behalf of the United States

Holocaust Memorial Museum.

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

421

00:23:35,100 --> 00:23:38,000