

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:07,650

2
00:00:07,650 --> 00:00:11,340
The following is an
interview of Ernest Marx.

3
00:00:11,340 --> 00:00:15,330
It is taking place
on July 26, 1995

4
00:00:15,330 --> 00:00:18,780
in Washington, D.C.
It is being conducted

5
00:00:18,780 --> 00:00:22,380
by Gail Schwartz on behalf of
the United States Holocaust

6
00:00:22,380 --> 00:00:23,245
Memorial Museum.

7
00:00:23,245 --> 00:00:26,110

8
00:00:26,110 --> 00:00:28,630
What is your full name?

9
00:00:28,630 --> 00:00:33,940
My full name now
is Ernest L. Marx.

10
00:00:33,940 --> 00:00:35,090
Where were you born?

11
00:00:35,090 --> 00:00:38,950
I was born in Germany in
the town of Gelnhausen.

12
00:00:38,950 --> 00:00:40,160
And when were you born?

13
00:00:40,160 --> 00:00:47,510
I was born November 8, 1925.

14
00:00:47,510 --> 00:00:50,890
Let's begin by talking
about your family.

15
00:00:50,890 --> 00:00:52,120
Who made up your family?

16
00:00:52,120 --> 00:00:53,620
Who were the members
of your family?

17
00:00:53,620 --> 00:01:01,080
The members of my immediate
family was, or were, my father.

18
00:01:01,080 --> 00:01:01,610
His name?

19
00:01:01,610 --> 00:01:04,069
Sigmund Marx.

20
00:01:04,069 --> 00:01:09,200
My mother, Bertha Marx,
my brother, Julius Marx.

21
00:01:09,200 --> 00:01:17,980
We lived in Gelnhausen,
Germany only until 1926.

22
00:01:17,980 --> 00:01:24,860
And my father, who was a
Lehrer on Cantor at that time,

23
00:01:24,860 --> 00:01:36,110
he became a rabbi later on, in
1937, at the Breslau seminary.

24
00:01:36,110 --> 00:01:36,860

We moved.

25

00:01:36,860 --> 00:01:43,310

My father got a new position
in Rothenburg ob der Tauber,

26

00:01:43,310 --> 00:01:50,720

a small medieval town, where
we lived above the synagogue.

27

00:01:50,720 --> 00:02:04,630

And we moved from there in
1933 to Speyer am Rhein.

28

00:02:04,630 --> 00:02:07,480

I want to talk about Rothenburg.

29

00:02:07,480 --> 00:02:16,360

Rothenburg, I was
a mischief kid.

30

00:02:16,360 --> 00:02:19,690

I played at a famous--

31

00:02:19,690 --> 00:02:21,550

this is what I remember--

32

00:02:21,550 --> 00:02:32,110

in a famous, a sort of well.

33

00:02:32,110 --> 00:02:37,370

That well was, at
one time, the town

34

00:02:37,370 --> 00:02:41,350

accused the Jews of
poisoning that well.

35

00:02:41,350 --> 00:02:44,120

And I remember I was
just a little kid when

36

00:02:44,120 --> 00:02:46,880

I was arrested by the
town, because I climbed

37

00:02:46,880 --> 00:02:51,860

on top of this fountain.

38

00:02:51,860 --> 00:02:57,590

And we lived across the
street from the prison.

39

00:02:57,590 --> 00:02:59,270

And my father, at one time was--

40

00:02:59,270 --> 00:03:02,360

I think it was 1932--

41

00:03:02,360 --> 00:03:06,620

my father was arrested for
spying for the United States

42

00:03:06,620 --> 00:03:09,378

because--

43

00:03:09,378 --> 00:03:13,700

or it was in 1933, just
when Hitler came to power,

44

00:03:13,700 --> 00:03:19,760

I think-- because a rabbi
tourist from the United States

45

00:03:19,760 --> 00:03:25,130

came to visit my father in the
synagogue, and he was arrested.

46

00:03:25,130 --> 00:03:27,680

And I see it right now.

47

00:03:27,680 --> 00:03:29,450

I still can see it.

48

00:03:29,450 --> 00:03:32,750

We could see from
our upstairs window

49

00:03:32,750 --> 00:03:38,460

his cell across the street,
and we waved at each other.

50

00:03:38,460 --> 00:03:39,470

This is what I remember.

51

00:03:39,470 --> 00:03:42,860

He was released, because
they couldn't find anything.

52

00:03:42,860 --> 00:03:43,820

After how long?

53

00:03:43,820 --> 00:03:46,520

After just a few days.

54

00:03:46,520 --> 00:03:50,720

And of course, the
heat on the Jews,

55

00:03:50,720 --> 00:03:53,150

so I don't know what it was.

56

00:03:53,150 --> 00:03:55,150

We moved to Speyer,
which actually, this

57

00:03:55,150 --> 00:03:59,270

is the town I grew up.

58

00:03:59,270 --> 00:04:02,780

We lived under conditions
which were actually,

59

00:04:02,780 --> 00:04:08,250

I had no problem, because I
was a blond little Jewish kid.

60

00:04:08,250 --> 00:04:11,440

And I played with
all the Gentiles.

61

00:04:11,440 --> 00:04:14,660

Now, my brother looked
like a, not like a blond.

62

00:04:14,660 --> 00:04:23,180

He was dark, and he was
not liked by his peers.

63

00:04:23,180 --> 00:04:24,500

He had all kinds of problems.

64

00:04:24,500 --> 00:04:25,760

His non-Jewish peers?

65

00:04:25,760 --> 00:04:28,910

His non-Jewish peers,
where he went to school.

66

00:04:28,910 --> 00:04:31,155

This was until 1935.

67

00:04:31,155 --> 00:04:36,050

Now, in 1935, when
these laws came

68

00:04:36,050 --> 00:04:39,720

about where we couldn't go
to public schools anymore,

69

00:04:39,720 --> 00:04:42,690

my father became our teacher.

70

00:04:42,690 --> 00:04:49,550

And we had a small
what is called,

71

00:04:49,550 --> 00:04:52,190

what is it, parochial school

or private school, Jewish,

72

00:04:52,190 --> 00:04:56,250
above the synagogue, a
one-room school where,

73

00:04:56,250 --> 00:05:02,660
what, 25 kids from grade 1
through 7th or 8th grade,

74

00:05:02,660 --> 00:05:04,580
what they call here.

75

00:05:04,580 --> 00:05:11,570
And things became a
little bad for the Jews

76

00:05:11,570 --> 00:05:15,840
already then, like
markings on the walls.

77

00:05:15,840 --> 00:05:17,030
Saying what?

78

00:05:17,030 --> 00:05:17,870
Saying Juden Raus.

79

00:05:17,870 --> 00:05:22,160

80

00:05:22,160 --> 00:05:27,500
Like I was sent out, because
I was a blond kid, to buy

81

00:05:27,500 --> 00:05:30,830
butter, which we were not
allowed to buy enough.

82

00:05:30,830 --> 00:05:34,560
We were only allowed, I think,
a quarter pound of butter.

83

00:05:34,560 --> 00:05:37,286

And we couldn't
have a maid anymore.

84

00:05:37,286 --> 00:05:42,170

85

00:05:42,170 --> 00:05:44,090

You were 10 years
old at the time?

86

00:05:44,090 --> 00:05:44,810

Yeah.

87

00:05:44,810 --> 00:05:47,510

Do you remember how you felt,
what some of your thoughts

88

00:05:47,510 --> 00:05:49,130

were as a 10-year-old boy?

89

00:05:49,130 --> 00:05:53,240

As a 10-year-old boy, I
was amazed by the parades,

90

00:05:53,240 --> 00:05:56,900

by the Nazis when they
walked down the streets.

91

00:05:56,900 --> 00:05:58,880

And I have talked
to other people

92

00:05:58,880 --> 00:06:01,550

in the same situation
that were my age,

93

00:06:01,550 --> 00:06:03,320

and they felt the same way.

94

00:06:03,320 --> 00:06:06,620

It was, for a 10-year-old,
music, the parades,

95

00:06:06,620 --> 00:06:11,000
the marching and the
things were exciting.

96

00:06:11,000 --> 00:06:14,810
I didn't know the impact,
what it really was.

97

00:06:14,810 --> 00:06:18,950
I believe-- and I tell this to
a lot of schoolchildren today--

98

00:06:18,950 --> 00:06:23,590
that I was much more
innocent as a 10-year-old

99

00:06:23,590 --> 00:06:27,680
than the 10-year-old
as of today, 1995.

100

00:06:27,680 --> 00:06:32,060
And I had no
problem, personally.

101

00:06:32,060 --> 00:06:34,370
Yes, we couldn't
do certain things.

102

00:06:34,370 --> 00:06:36,890
We couldn't shop
at certain times.

103

00:06:36,890 --> 00:06:39,770
We weren't allowed
to go out at night.

104

00:06:39,770 --> 00:06:41,640
It didn't bother me,
because I was a kid.

105

00:06:41,640 --> 00:06:43,190
I had to go to school next day.

106

00:06:43,190 --> 00:06:48,950

Now my father was, he was
in charge of a nursing

107

00:06:48,950 --> 00:06:56,390

home in Neustadt, and he
was, on Sunday mornings,

108

00:06:56,390 --> 00:06:58,520

he made his rounds on bicycle.

109

00:06:58,520 --> 00:07:02,600

And I went with him to the
little bitty towns outside,

110

00:07:02,600 --> 00:07:05,150

where was just a
handful of Jews.

111

00:07:05,150 --> 00:07:08,820

And he did what you
call here Sunday school.

112

00:07:08,820 --> 00:07:15,240

Now, this went on,
really, with no problem.

113

00:07:15,240 --> 00:07:20,090

However, in 1938,
my bar mitzvah.

114

00:07:20,090 --> 00:07:21,980

OK, we'll get to
that in a moment.

115

00:07:21,980 --> 00:07:23,330

Did your mother work?

116

00:07:23,330 --> 00:07:24,800

No, never did.

117

00:07:24,800 --> 00:07:26,030

What was your brother's age?

118

00:07:26,030 --> 00:07:27,030

Was he older or younger?

119

00:07:27,030 --> 00:07:28,270

He was three years older.

120

00:07:28,270 --> 00:07:31,070

Three years older
than you, yeah.

121

00:07:31,070 --> 00:07:36,050

And as you said, you had,
before 1938, non-Jewish friends?

122

00:07:36,050 --> 00:07:36,590

Oh, yeah.

123

00:07:36,590 --> 00:07:37,190

I had.

124

00:07:37,190 --> 00:07:37,880

He didn't.

125

00:07:37,880 --> 00:07:38,870

He didn't, right.

126

00:07:38,870 --> 00:07:40,800

Did you have any hobbies?

127

00:07:40,800 --> 00:07:42,920

Soccer.

128

00:07:42,920 --> 00:07:45,200

I was a great soccer
player as a kid.

129

00:07:45,200 --> 00:07:48,217

Sports were my hobbies.

130

00:07:48,217 --> 00:07:50,050

And you played, again,
with non-Jewish boys?

131

00:07:50,050 --> 00:07:51,980

Yeah, I played with
non-Jewish kids.

132

00:07:51,980 --> 00:07:57,850

I went out to the local soccer
club, or whatever it was.

133

00:07:57,850 --> 00:07:58,940

And I watched them.

134

00:07:58,940 --> 00:08:00,470

Nobody bothered me.

135

00:08:00,470 --> 00:08:02,690

Did you belong to any
youth groups at that time?

136

00:08:02,690 --> 00:08:05,810

No, I didn't.

137

00:08:05,810 --> 00:08:08,330

Obviously, you had a religious
family life, your father

138

00:08:08,330 --> 00:08:10,520

being who he was.

139

00:08:10,520 --> 00:08:14,190

And actually, it
didn't bother me.

140

00:08:14,190 --> 00:08:16,820

It didn't touch me personally.

141

00:08:16,820 --> 00:08:21,350

I know what was going on, but
I was a happy lucky kid anyway.

142
00:08:21,350 --> 00:08:23,430
It didn't bother me until 1938.

143
00:08:23,430 --> 00:08:27,358
OK, now comes 1938, and
it's your bar mitzvah.

144
00:08:27,358 --> 00:08:27,900
That's right.

145
00:08:27,900 --> 00:08:28,692
Tell us about that.

146
00:08:28,692 --> 00:08:32,630
Well, I was supposed to
be bar mitzvah on the 19th

147
00:08:32,630 --> 00:08:34,789
of November.

148
00:08:34,789 --> 00:08:37,700
However, 19th of November
didn't exist anymore,

149
00:08:37,700 --> 00:08:40,309
because it was wiped out by
the burning of the synagogues

150
00:08:40,309 --> 00:08:45,500
during Kristallnacht,
which I remember well.

151
00:08:45,500 --> 00:08:47,000
What do you remember about that?

152
00:08:47,000 --> 00:08:51,710
I do remember that I
was excited, because I

153
00:08:51,710 --> 00:08:54,410
didn't know my portion.

154

00:08:54,410 --> 00:08:58,460

And I should have known my
portion a long time ago.

155

00:08:58,460 --> 00:09:04,610

And this is not, it's
not really funny.

156

00:09:04,610 --> 00:09:10,210

It's a 13-year-old boy who looks
forward to his bar mitzvah,

157

00:09:10,210 --> 00:09:12,770

and the presents are coming,
arrangements are made.

158

00:09:12,770 --> 00:09:15,860

It was supposed to be
a huge bar mitzvah,

159

00:09:15,860 --> 00:09:17,180

because I was the last one.

160

00:09:17,180 --> 00:09:20,140

My brother had his
three years before.

161

00:09:20,140 --> 00:09:22,610

And his bar mitzvah, we
had no problem with it.

162

00:09:22,610 --> 00:09:23,450

The family came.

163

00:09:23,450 --> 00:09:24,590

We were in the synagogue.

164

00:09:24,590 --> 00:09:28,280

It was 1935 in April.

165

00:09:28,280 --> 00:09:32,030

So there was really
no problem then.

166
00:09:32,030 --> 00:09:35,630
Mine, of course,
never took place.

167
00:09:35,630 --> 00:09:38,390
On the night of the
9th of November--

168
00:09:38,390 --> 00:09:43,220
November 8th was my
birthday-- on my birthday,

169
00:09:43,220 --> 00:09:49,980
I received a brand new bicycle.

170
00:09:49,980 --> 00:09:53,615
And they hung up
the bicycle in the--

171
00:09:53,615 --> 00:09:57,060

172
00:09:57,060 --> 00:09:57,840
Courtyard?

173
00:09:57,840 --> 00:09:59,913
Not in the courtyard,
the bay window.

174
00:09:59,913 --> 00:10:01,580
Did you live in a
house or an apartment?

175
00:10:01,580 --> 00:10:04,410
We lived in an apartment,
a three-story building.

176
00:10:04,410 --> 00:10:08,850
We lived there, and actually,
we lived on two floors.

177
00:10:08,850 --> 00:10:10,950
But it was hanging
in the bay window.

178
00:10:10,950 --> 00:10:14,010
I was not allowed
to ride this bicycle

179
00:10:14,010 --> 00:10:16,440
until I know my portion.

180
00:10:16,440 --> 00:10:19,470
And boy, did I start studying.

181
00:10:19,470 --> 00:10:28,970
And 9th of November,
I heard the sirens.

182
00:10:28,970 --> 00:10:31,460
I see the flames,
which the synagogue was

183
00:10:31,460 --> 00:10:39,120
about corresponding to one block
away from us, and the flames.

184
00:10:39,120 --> 00:10:43,870
My mother and father said we
should go in the basement,

185
00:10:43,870 --> 00:10:46,120
because we heard all
the noise in the streets

186
00:10:46,120 --> 00:10:51,970
not to go into the bay window
to look out into the street.

187
00:10:51,970 --> 00:10:55,080
It was a the main
street of Speyer.

188

00:10:55,080 --> 00:10:58,550

The Jewish butcher
was across the street.

189

00:10:58,550 --> 00:11:00,670

The people by the
name of Kaufmann

190

00:11:00,670 --> 00:11:07,510

had a store two doors down,
and we heard all the noise.

191

00:11:07,510 --> 00:11:11,520

I really didn't
know what it was.

192

00:11:11,520 --> 00:11:14,770

But we went down
in the basement.

193

00:11:14,770 --> 00:11:19,660

And my father was very
excited, because at the moment,

194

00:11:19,660 --> 00:11:26,380

we didn't know it was just
the synagogue or more.

195

00:11:26,380 --> 00:11:30,590

He did get a phone
call from a colleague

196

00:11:30,590 --> 00:11:34,660

that the synagogue is
burning in Mannheim.

197

00:11:34,660 --> 00:11:37,510

So he probably knew.

198

00:11:37,510 --> 00:11:40,750

That's what he told us later.

199

00:11:40,750 --> 00:11:48,920
Then came two Gestapo men to
the door and ask, Herr Lehrer,

200
00:11:48,920 --> 00:11:51,700
will you come with us?

201
00:11:51,700 --> 00:11:55,360
And take one of
your boys with you.

202
00:11:55,360 --> 00:11:59,060
My father chose
me to go with him.

203
00:11:59,060 --> 00:12:02,780
And we went down to the
Gestapo headquarters,

204
00:12:02,780 --> 00:12:05,710
which was just down
the street apiece.

205
00:12:05,710 --> 00:12:12,310
And well, we were assembled--

206
00:12:12,310 --> 00:12:15,508
it was cold, November--

207
00:12:15,508 --> 00:12:18,500

208
00:12:18,500 --> 00:12:20,730
about 80 people.

209
00:12:20,730 --> 00:12:31,860
We were shoved in a truck,
bus type, wall-to-wall people

210
00:12:31,860 --> 00:12:36,750
and hold all night, and wound
up in the camp of Dachau.

211

00:12:36,750 --> 00:12:39,780

212

00:12:39,780 --> 00:12:43,680

How that part, how
we got there exactly,

213

00:12:43,680 --> 00:12:45,180

I don't remember too well.

214

00:12:45,180 --> 00:12:47,100

Because I was a kid, I
was lying on the floor.

215

00:12:47,100 --> 00:12:49,530

I was asleep.

216

00:12:49,530 --> 00:12:55,560

When we got there, we were
separated from the adults

217

00:12:55,560 --> 00:13:02,990

and stayed in the
barracks with youngsters.

218

00:13:02,990 --> 00:13:05,540

Who made up the group
of people coming

219

00:13:05,540 --> 00:13:07,430

from your town to
Dachau, who else?

220

00:13:07,430 --> 00:13:12,900

The Jewish men, only
men, only males.

221

00:13:12,900 --> 00:13:14,450

And what about children?

222

00:13:14,450 --> 00:13:15,740

There was a few children.

223
00:13:15,740 --> 00:13:20,080
There was a young man by the
name-- a young man, my age--

224
00:13:20,080 --> 00:13:24,410
a classmate of mine by the
name of Eddie Adler which I

225
00:13:24,410 --> 00:13:30,110
understand survived Holocaust.

226
00:13:30,110 --> 00:13:32,413
What were your thoughts
when you and your father

227
00:13:32,413 --> 00:13:33,955
were being taken
away by the Gestapo?

228
00:13:33,955 --> 00:13:39,470
Well, you know, the
word Dachau was feared.

229
00:13:39,470 --> 00:13:40,880
Did you know what it was?

230
00:13:40,880 --> 00:13:43,370
I knew it was a
prison, because it was

231
00:13:43,370 --> 00:13:45,740
used as a prison at the time.

232
00:13:45,740 --> 00:13:47,620
There was no extermination camp.

233
00:13:47,620 --> 00:13:48,620
There was no death camp.

234
00:13:48,620 --> 00:13:50,570
There was no such thing then.

235

00:13:50,570 --> 00:13:52,660

It was a prison.

236

00:13:52,660 --> 00:13:56,510

I found out it's
more than a prison,

237

00:13:56,510 --> 00:14:03,450

that Jews were, of
course, herded, not led,

238

00:14:03,450 --> 00:14:04,790

they were herded.

239

00:14:04,790 --> 00:14:07,630

They were pushed.

240

00:14:07,630 --> 00:14:11,420

And we had to take a
shower, and the kids

241

00:14:11,420 --> 00:14:13,550

were separated from the adults.

242

00:14:13,550 --> 00:14:17,120

What did your father say to
you before you were separated?

243

00:14:17,120 --> 00:14:19,550

Nobody is going to harm you.

244

00:14:19,550 --> 00:14:22,040

Don't worry.

245

00:14:22,040 --> 00:14:23,840

He had faith.

246

00:14:23,840 --> 00:14:25,640

My father was a soldier
in the First World

247

00:14:25,640 --> 00:14:30,590

War for the Germans.

248

00:14:30,590 --> 00:14:37,320

And he told me that,
don't worry about it.

249

00:14:37,320 --> 00:14:39,110

What language did you
all speak at home?

250

00:14:39,110 --> 00:14:39,610

German.

251

00:14:39,610 --> 00:14:40,940

German.

252

00:14:40,940 --> 00:14:50,050

And he assured me, more or
less, that no harm will come.

253

00:14:50,050 --> 00:14:52,070

I was with a bunch of kids.

254

00:14:52,070 --> 00:14:53,030

About your age?

255

00:14:53,030 --> 00:14:56,250

About my age, a little older.

256

00:14:56,250 --> 00:14:57,920

I was one of the younger ones.

257

00:14:57,920 --> 00:15:01,100

They were up to about 16 or 17.

258

00:15:01,100 --> 00:15:04,310

We were not allowed
to talk to each other.

259

00:15:04,310 --> 00:15:07,820

I had to do a job, which
was clean the latrine.

260
00:15:07,820 --> 00:15:09,560
Did you bring anything with you?

261
00:15:09,560 --> 00:15:13,030
Yeah, we were allowed to
bring some overnight change.

262
00:15:13,030 --> 00:15:13,700
Of clothes?

263
00:15:13,700 --> 00:15:14,660
Of clothes.

264
00:15:14,660 --> 00:15:18,430
We did not use, we didn't have
to wear a uniform or anything.

265
00:15:18,430 --> 00:15:19,430
We wore our own clothes.

266
00:15:19,430 --> 00:15:20,430
We had to take a shower.

267
00:15:20,430 --> 00:15:24,475

268
00:15:24,475 --> 00:15:29,790
And we were shaved, I remember,
because Jews have lice.

269
00:15:29,790 --> 00:15:32,166
That was the reason.

270
00:15:32,166 --> 00:15:34,097
Your whole body was shaved?

271
00:15:34,097 --> 00:15:34,680
No, just the--

272

00:15:34,680 --> 00:15:35,263

Just the hair.

273

00:15:35,263 --> 00:15:38,750

274

00:15:38,750 --> 00:15:42,600

What did you think of that,
when that was going on?

275

00:15:42,600 --> 00:15:44,672

At that time, I had faith.

276

00:15:44,672 --> 00:15:45,630

It's not going to last.

277

00:15:45,630 --> 00:15:47,220

Come on, we haven't
done anything.

278

00:15:47,220 --> 00:15:50,200

279

00:15:50,200 --> 00:15:53,680

I didn't know the
impact of what it was.

280

00:15:53,680 --> 00:15:56,660

Maybe my father knew
more than I did.

281

00:15:56,660 --> 00:15:58,870

But I had no problem.

282

00:15:58,870 --> 00:16:00,520

Was he a deeply religious man?

283

00:16:00,520 --> 00:16:02,530

I know what his occupation was.

284

00:16:02,530 --> 00:16:04,000

Very.

285

00:16:04,000 --> 00:16:08,650

He was, he had
faith in humankind.

286

00:16:08,650 --> 00:16:11,050

He had faith in--

287

00:16:11,050 --> 00:16:13,960

it's impossible who will--

288

00:16:13,960 --> 00:16:15,640

let's look back.

289

00:16:15,640 --> 00:16:19,060

Who could imagine six million
would get killed automatically?

290

00:16:19,060 --> 00:16:22,120

291

00:16:22,120 --> 00:16:23,890

He had faith.

292

00:16:23,890 --> 00:16:31,270

My father and I, we were much,
I was much closer with my father

293

00:16:31,270 --> 00:16:33,370

than my mother.

294

00:16:33,370 --> 00:16:36,190

My father never
laid a hand on me.

295

00:16:36,190 --> 00:16:38,560

My mother beat the
heck out of me.

296

00:16:38,560 --> 00:16:42,220

But because I was a,

what do you call it?

297

00:16:42,220 --> 00:16:45,780

298

00:16:45,780 --> 00:16:50,050

What was I called, Spitzbub,
you know what it is?

299

00:16:50,050 --> 00:16:53,620

300

00:16:53,620 --> 00:16:59,507

Whatever it is, it's like
a Dennis the Menace type.

301

00:16:59,507 --> 00:17:01,340

Was your father's health
good at that point?

302

00:17:01,340 --> 00:17:03,520

My father's health
was always very good.

303

00:17:03,520 --> 00:17:04,490

And your mother's?

304

00:17:04,490 --> 00:17:10,220

My mother's, well, she survived
and just died three years ago.

305

00:17:10,220 --> 00:17:12,510

She would have been
100 years this year.

306

00:17:12,510 --> 00:17:14,599

So would my father, too.

307

00:17:14,599 --> 00:17:16,880

So here you are in Dachau
with the other children.

308

00:17:16,880 --> 00:17:18,290
Right.

309
00:17:18,290 --> 00:17:23,300
Life was, what I remember
was that you were not

310
00:17:23,300 --> 00:17:25,400
allowed to look up.

311
00:17:25,400 --> 00:17:28,190
You supposedly have
to bow your head down.

312
00:17:28,190 --> 00:17:30,290
Did that upset you?

313
00:17:30,290 --> 00:17:35,060
I questioned it, because
I knew what it was.

314
00:17:35,060 --> 00:17:37,030
Which was?

315
00:17:37,030 --> 00:17:44,210
Hope, look up to, I knew that.

316
00:17:44,210 --> 00:17:47,890
But we had no problem.

317
00:17:47,890 --> 00:17:50,390
Some kids got beat up because
they didn't behave themselves,

318
00:17:50,390 --> 00:17:52,830
talked back to the soldiers.

319
00:17:52,830 --> 00:17:54,950
I know one kid got beat
up with the butt of a gun.

320
00:17:54,950 --> 00:17:56,960

We weren't allowed
to pick him up.

321
00:17:56,960 --> 00:17:59,240
I still see that
kid lying there.

322
00:17:59,240 --> 00:18:03,360
And the soldiers took
him away, the guards,

323
00:18:03,360 --> 00:18:04,490
and he never came back.

324
00:18:04,490 --> 00:18:07,970
So I really don't know who
he was, or what happened.

325
00:18:07,970 --> 00:18:12,110
Like the soldiers said, let
that be a lesson for you.

326
00:18:12,110 --> 00:18:24,130
And we slept on wooden
planks with filthy straw,

327
00:18:24,130 --> 00:18:25,600
or something.

328
00:18:25,600 --> 00:18:27,400
Were you wearing a star?

329
00:18:27,400 --> 00:18:28,990
I did not have to
wear a star there.

330
00:18:28,990 --> 00:18:32,300

331
00:18:32,300 --> 00:18:34,080
I was supposed to wear a star.

332

00:18:34,080 --> 00:18:34,980

Oh, my word.

333

00:18:34,980 --> 00:18:36,600

I never wore it.

334

00:18:36,600 --> 00:18:38,010

I hated that thing.

335

00:18:38,010 --> 00:18:38,820

I was blond.

336

00:18:38,820 --> 00:18:41,390

I wanted to look German.

337

00:18:41,390 --> 00:18:43,650

But we were liberated.

338

00:18:43,650 --> 00:18:45,690

We were freed.

339

00:18:45,690 --> 00:18:47,340

After how long?

340

00:18:47,340 --> 00:18:51,955

I think it was the
first week of December.

341

00:18:51,955 --> 00:18:53,580

So you were there
for two, three weeks?

342

00:18:53,580 --> 00:18:55,250

Yeah, I think it was
about three weeks.

343

00:18:55,250 --> 00:18:57,130

And did you have a specific job?

344

00:18:57,130 --> 00:18:58,590

Yeah, cleaning the latrine.

345

00:18:58,590 --> 00:19:02,580

That was my job, under
guard, three guys

346

00:19:02,580 --> 00:19:05,520

standing watching me, washing.

347

00:19:05,520 --> 00:19:11,400

But my father, I met my father,
and we were both released.

348

00:19:11,400 --> 00:19:14,070

Had you had any contact with
them during those few weeks?

349

00:19:14,070 --> 00:19:15,150

No.

350

00:19:15,150 --> 00:19:17,115

Was that very frightening,
to be without him?

351

00:19:17,115 --> 00:19:17,640

Yeah.

352

00:19:17,640 --> 00:19:22,350

I asked questions, and almost
wasn't allowed to speak.

353

00:19:22,350 --> 00:19:25,820

354

00:19:25,820 --> 00:19:28,060

And the other kids,
the same thing.

355

00:19:28,060 --> 00:19:33,850

Because we whispered at night,
and they had their fathers too.

356

00:19:33,850 --> 00:19:37,510

But who would think that

any harm can, you know,

357

00:19:37,510 --> 00:19:39,860

kill outright like this.

358

00:19:39,860 --> 00:19:45,820

In fact, now history proves that
Hitler did not kill in 1938.

359

00:19:45,820 --> 00:19:49,690

Yes, a few that resisted.

360

00:19:49,690 --> 00:19:53,770

I met my father, and
we were released.

361

00:19:53,770 --> 00:19:57,700

In fact, we were
driven home in a car.

362

00:19:57,700 --> 00:19:58,440

By?

363

00:19:58,440 --> 00:20:09,850

By SA Because my father
was put in charge

364

00:20:09,850 --> 00:20:20,990

of keeping the area left of
the Rhine River Juden frei,

365

00:20:20,990 --> 00:20:24,570

free, rid of Jews,
especially children.

366

00:20:24,570 --> 00:20:28,530

367

00:20:28,530 --> 00:20:31,380

Now history will tell
me why this was done,

368

00:20:31,380 --> 00:20:34,920
because the Jews were
all spies for the French

369
00:20:34,920 --> 00:20:37,950
and the English and the British,
and because Hitler already

370
00:20:37,950 --> 00:20:42,900
started working on the
war with France, you know,

371
00:20:42,900 --> 00:20:46,960
that this was on the border
of France and Germany.

372
00:20:46,960 --> 00:20:49,020
This I found out later.

373
00:20:49,020 --> 00:20:50,650
Anyway, we came home.

374
00:20:50,650 --> 00:20:52,650
There was nothing in the house.

375
00:20:52,650 --> 00:20:55,740
My bicycle was gone.

376
00:20:55,740 --> 00:20:58,920
My bar mitzvah did
not take place.

377
00:20:58,920 --> 00:21:01,920
I didn't care about if I
knew my portion or not.

378
00:21:01,920 --> 00:21:05,160
I wanted my bicycle.

379
00:21:05,160 --> 00:21:08,100
No kid got a new bicycle.

380

00:21:08,100 --> 00:21:12,330

That bicycle was really, that
was in me for a long time.

381

00:21:12,330 --> 00:21:14,580

And I hated the Nazis
for that bicycle.

382

00:21:14,580 --> 00:21:18,280

383

00:21:18,280 --> 00:21:20,330

So here we are.

384

00:21:20,330 --> 00:21:23,770

385

00:21:23,770 --> 00:21:27,490

Somebody downstairs
told my father

386

00:21:27,490 --> 00:21:29,560

where my mother and
my brother were,

387

00:21:29,560 --> 00:21:32,750

and they were with
a taxi cab driver

388

00:21:32,750 --> 00:21:35,230

at the outside of the town.

389

00:21:35,230 --> 00:21:35,950

Non-Jewish?

390

00:21:35,950 --> 00:21:39,220

Non-Jewish, I don't
remember the name.

391

00:21:39,220 --> 00:21:41,800

Were there non-Jews
in your building,

392

00:21:41,800 --> 00:21:43,050

neighbors in your building?

393

00:21:43,050 --> 00:21:49,636

Yeah, but they didn't react.

394

00:21:49,636 --> 00:21:52,510

They didn't want
to be seen, period.

395

00:21:52,510 --> 00:21:54,510

They knew we were coming back.

396

00:21:54,510 --> 00:21:57,910

But they had no--

397

00:21:57,910 --> 00:22:00,250

they didn't want to talk.

398

00:22:00,250 --> 00:22:02,160

That's what I remember.

399

00:22:02,160 --> 00:22:08,200

We met my mother and
my brother, and then

400

00:22:08,200 --> 00:22:13,570

my father and my mother were
put in charge by the Gestapo

401

00:22:13,570 --> 00:22:17,830

to conduct Kindertransport.

402

00:22:17,830 --> 00:22:20,890

You know what I'm talking about?

403

00:22:20,890 --> 00:22:27,110

To France, Belgium, Holland.

404

00:22:27,110 --> 00:22:31,150

And I was put on a

train going to France.

405

00:22:31,150 --> 00:22:37,740

I think it was the
16th of December, 1938,

406

00:22:37,740 --> 00:22:43,240

with 80, 100 kids.

407

00:22:43,240 --> 00:22:47,600

And my brother was put on
a train to Switzerland,

408

00:22:47,600 --> 00:22:51,610

and we were separated.

409

00:22:51,610 --> 00:22:57,110

And I went to Strasbourg first.

410

00:22:57,110 --> 00:23:00,560

Let's talk a little bit about
your leaving your family, then.

411

00:23:00,560 --> 00:23:03,380

What was that like
for you, a young boy,

412

00:23:03,380 --> 00:23:05,390

to have to leave your parents?

413

00:23:05,390 --> 00:23:08,930

I didn't think much of
it, because I was promised

414

00:23:08,930 --> 00:23:12,160

that, we'll see you soon.

415

00:23:12,160 --> 00:23:14,690

We are going back and forth.

416

00:23:14,690 --> 00:23:17,323

At that time, they had

to move to Mannheim.

417

00:23:17,323 --> 00:23:18,740

You're talking
about your parents?

418

00:23:18,740 --> 00:23:21,950

My parents, on the
other side of the river.

419

00:23:21,950 --> 00:23:26,000

How my father
survived financially,

420

00:23:26,000 --> 00:23:28,140

I really don't know.

421

00:23:28,140 --> 00:23:32,330

All I know is when he came
to France delivering more

422

00:23:32,330 --> 00:23:39,980

children, to bear the last
child and I remember exactly,

423

00:23:39,980 --> 00:23:43,850

because I was put in the
seminary at the *École*

424

00:23:43,850 --> 00:23:45,340

Maimonides.

425

00:23:45,340 --> 00:23:51,620

in the *École* Maimonides to
become what my father was.

426

00:23:51,620 --> 00:23:54,560

And he came to visit us.

427

00:23:54,560 --> 00:23:58,220

Can you describe the trip with
the children on the train?

428
00:23:58,220 --> 00:23:59,990
Happy.

429
00:23:59,990 --> 00:24:02,570
We had a ball.

430
00:24:02,570 --> 00:24:07,850
The kids didn't-- none of kids,
you asked me the question,

431
00:24:07,850 --> 00:24:09,110
if they missed their parents.

432
00:24:09,110 --> 00:24:16,290
This was like going to a
camp Ramah, on vacation.

433
00:24:16,290 --> 00:24:20,060
Remember, school time,
school, we were supposed

434
00:24:20,060 --> 00:24:21,660
to be in school, right?

435
00:24:21,660 --> 00:24:23,810
The kids loved
it, and I did too.

436
00:24:23,810 --> 00:24:25,790
Then I was put in the seminary.

437
00:24:25,790 --> 00:24:27,860
Were there leaders on
the Kindertransport?

438
00:24:27,860 --> 00:24:29,410
Yeah, my mother was there.

439
00:24:29,410 --> 00:24:30,660
Oh, you were with your mother?

440

00:24:30,660 --> 00:24:34,940

Oh, my mother was the chaperone,
and there were other people.

441

00:24:34,940 --> 00:24:36,200

I didn't know them.

442

00:24:36,200 --> 00:24:37,760

But I knew my
mother and my father

443

00:24:37,760 --> 00:24:39,533

were in charge of
many transports.

444

00:24:39,533 --> 00:24:40,575

They went back and forth.

445

00:24:40,575 --> 00:24:42,170

Oh, so they also
went on the trains?

446

00:24:42,170 --> 00:24:43,880

They went on a train.

447

00:24:43,880 --> 00:24:48,560

And I had so many
coincidences in my life,

448

00:24:48,560 --> 00:24:52,810

that I was put in
that seminary, and I

449

00:24:52,810 --> 00:24:55,220

had contact with my parents.

450

00:24:55,220 --> 00:24:56,815

Because they came,
delivered kids.

451

00:24:56,815 --> 00:24:58,190

And would go back,
and come back?

452
00:24:58,190 --> 00:25:04,236
Would go back, my father
went [NON-ENGLISH]

453
00:25:04,236 --> 00:25:06,260
at the Rothschilds.

454
00:25:06,260 --> 00:25:08,050
He took me with him.

455
00:25:08,050 --> 00:25:11,240
And I remember the Place
de la Concorde where his--

456
00:25:11,240 --> 00:25:14,700

457
00:25:14,700 --> 00:25:18,210
it's not a chateau,
it's just a mansion.

458
00:25:18,210 --> 00:25:20,100
And I had to wait outside.

459
00:25:20,100 --> 00:25:21,600
I couldn't go inside.

460
00:25:21,600 --> 00:25:23,820
My father came back smiling.

461
00:25:23,820 --> 00:25:25,530
He got some money.

462
00:25:25,530 --> 00:25:30,690
And he was happy that he could
go back and get more kids.

463
00:25:30,690 --> 00:25:34,260
So this went back and forth.

464

00:25:34,260 --> 00:25:37,270
I was all right, because I
knew where my parents were,

465
00:25:37,270 --> 00:25:41,110
and my parents knew where
I was, until, of course,

466
00:25:41,110 --> 00:25:48,680
September 1, 1939.

467
00:25:48,680 --> 00:25:56,810
I always said that it's
fate involved, coincidences.

468
00:25:56,810 --> 00:26:01,570
The day the war was declared,
my father and my mother

469
00:26:01,570 --> 00:26:05,740
were in France and
couldn't go back.

470
00:26:05,740 --> 00:26:08,350
In France with you?

471
00:26:08,350 --> 00:26:10,810
They happened to deliver
kids, and couldn't go back.

472
00:26:10,810 --> 00:26:11,710
Where you were?

473
00:26:11,710 --> 00:26:12,680
They were with you?

474
00:26:12,680 --> 00:26:13,900
No, I was in school.

475
00:26:13,900 --> 00:26:15,730
It was a boarding school.

476

00:26:15,730 --> 00:26:18,580
Where was the boarding school?

477
00:26:18,580 --> 00:26:19,590
In Paris.

478
00:26:19,590 --> 00:26:21,010
Right.

479
00:26:21,010 --> 00:26:23,110
And I lived there.

480
00:26:23,110 --> 00:26:25,900
Where are my parents, they
had to live in a hotel.

481
00:26:25,900 --> 00:26:26,890
But in Paris?

482
00:26:26,890 --> 00:26:27,400
In Paris.

483
00:26:27,400 --> 00:26:28,817
OK, so they were
in the same city?

484
00:26:28,817 --> 00:26:30,730
They were in the same city.

485
00:26:30,730 --> 00:26:37,900
However, we had to register
as German citizens living

486
00:26:37,900 --> 00:26:41,770
in France while France
is at war with Germany.

487
00:26:41,770 --> 00:26:45,460

488
00:26:45,460 --> 00:26:49,430
I always tell this to children

and tell the teachers here,

489

00:26:49,430 --> 00:26:55,700
the same thing as the Japanese
were interned in 1941.

490

00:26:55,700 --> 00:27:00,200
So we had to register.

491

00:27:00,200 --> 00:27:02,690
Kids were not put in camp.

492

00:27:02,690 --> 00:27:06,920
My father and my mother
were put in a camp.

493

00:27:06,920 --> 00:27:07,420
Where?

494

00:27:07,420 --> 00:27:08,412
Do you know?

495

00:27:08,412 --> 00:27:14,660
My father and my
mother were in a camp.

496

00:27:14,660 --> 00:27:17,780
My mother was in Gurs.

497

00:27:17,780 --> 00:27:23,390
I don't know the exact
date when she went to Gurs.

498

00:27:23,390 --> 00:27:27,770
My father was put
in a camp called

499

00:27:27,770 --> 00:27:38,140
Saint-Germain-les-Belles,
which was not a bad camp.

500

00:27:38,140 --> 00:27:45,560

Now, when the Germans came
and invaded France, we ran.

501
00:27:45,560 --> 00:27:49,070
And as know, maybe
you should know--

502
00:27:49,070 --> 00:27:52,580
We being your mother,
your father, and you?

503
00:27:52,580 --> 00:27:53,210
No.

504
00:27:53,210 --> 00:27:58,190
We know now, we, all
of us know that there

505
00:27:58,190 --> 00:28:02,720
was an organization, Oeuvre
de Secours aux Enfants, which

506
00:28:02,720 --> 00:28:09,140
is the OSE, which was the HIAS
of France, who helped children,

507
00:28:09,140 --> 00:28:16,760
which I was put in a what you
call a children home, away

508
00:28:16,760 --> 00:28:19,970
from the northern part.

509
00:28:19,970 --> 00:28:22,710
When the Germans came,
we had to run out.

510
00:28:22,710 --> 00:28:29,090
And we went outside of
Limoges in a castle.

511
00:28:29,090 --> 00:28:30,770
This is a new picture

from this year.

512

00:28:30,770 --> 00:28:34,058

513

00:28:34,058 --> 00:28:35,350

This was not with your parents?

514

00:28:35,350 --> 00:28:40,790

No, I was not with my parents
ever again until after the war

515

00:28:40,790 --> 00:28:42,410

with my mother.

516

00:28:42,410 --> 00:28:48,020

I knew that my father
was in that camp,

517

00:28:48,020 --> 00:28:51,170

and it wasn't very far.

518

00:28:51,170 --> 00:28:54,360

We visited him.

519

00:28:54,360 --> 00:28:58,140

Two kids went from
this children's home,

520

00:28:58,140 --> 00:29:01,060

walked over to Saint-Germain,
which was, at that time,

521

00:29:01,060 --> 00:29:03,450

8, 10 kilometers.

522

00:29:03,450 --> 00:29:08,730

And because we could
correspond, actually, with him.

523

00:29:08,730 --> 00:29:11,430

He knew where I was.

524
00:29:11,430 --> 00:29:15,090
However, we weren't
allowed to go back.

525
00:29:15,090 --> 00:29:16,230
They kept us.

526
00:29:16,230 --> 00:29:17,480
At your father's camp?

527
00:29:17,480 --> 00:29:20,270
Yeah, in Saint-Germain.

528
00:29:20,270 --> 00:29:21,350
Well, we didn't like it.

529
00:29:21,350 --> 00:29:26,410
The French were the keepers
of the camp, not the Germans.

530
00:29:26,410 --> 00:29:30,860
And the next day,
we got out of there.

531
00:29:30,860 --> 00:29:31,783
How?

532
00:29:31,783 --> 00:29:32,700
Under the barbed wire.

533
00:29:32,700 --> 00:29:35,460

534
00:29:35,460 --> 00:29:39,930
We had to go back to
the home, and we did.

535
00:29:39,930 --> 00:29:44,730
I don't know if they let
us go, or what it was.

536

00:29:44,730 --> 00:29:46,710

What were the conditions
like in that camp?

537

00:29:46,710 --> 00:29:49,050

They were not bad.

538

00:29:49,050 --> 00:29:50,165

There were barracks.

539

00:29:50,165 --> 00:29:53,290

540

00:29:53,290 --> 00:29:55,080

There was Jewish
life even, there.

541

00:29:55,080 --> 00:29:58,290

542

00:29:58,290 --> 00:30:02,070

Seems like everybody
wore head cover

543

00:30:02,070 --> 00:30:04,320

and had their own clothes.

544

00:30:04,320 --> 00:30:07,590

And they complained about
the food, of course,

545

00:30:07,590 --> 00:30:09,960

because they
couldn't eat kosher.

546

00:30:09,960 --> 00:30:14,700

And I think my father made
the decision for people,

547

00:30:14,700 --> 00:30:17,190

eat what you can.

548

00:30:17,190 --> 00:30:20,000

A lot of people
didn't want to eat it.

549

00:30:20,000 --> 00:30:23,850

But you know, like now
you look back and think,

550

00:30:23,850 --> 00:30:25,560

what's the big deal?

551

00:30:25,560 --> 00:30:26,550

They never came back.

552

00:30:26,550 --> 00:30:29,790

They were all delivered
to the Germans later on.

553

00:30:29,790 --> 00:30:34,850

Well, my father, from
what I know now--

554

00:30:34,850 --> 00:30:37,570

I was in that home--

555

00:30:37,570 --> 00:30:41,900

my father was in that
camp in Saint-Germain.

556

00:30:41,900 --> 00:30:43,980

My mother was in Gurs.

557

00:30:43,980 --> 00:30:47,310

I was alone in the world.

558

00:30:47,310 --> 00:30:51,470

And the Germans invaded
all of the country.

559

00:30:51,470 --> 00:30:58,320

560

00:30:58,320 --> 00:31:02,410

This is tape 1, side

B. OK, continue.

561

00:31:02,410 --> 00:31:04,240

You were talking.

562

00:31:04,240 --> 00:31:11,020

Now I was alone in the

world with a bunch of kids.

563

00:31:11,020 --> 00:31:14,420

And these kids who were

sponsored, actually,

564

00:31:14,420 --> 00:31:21,100

by this organization,

1988, we had a reunion.

565

00:31:21,100 --> 00:31:24,710

There was supposed to

be 4,000 kids that were

566

00:31:24,710 --> 00:31:26,570

sponsored by this organization.

567

00:31:26,570 --> 00:31:29,430

It took about 10

years to find them.

568

00:31:29,430 --> 00:31:33,230

But unfortunately,

they only found 175.

569

00:31:33,230 --> 00:31:36,368

We met in Los Angeles in 1988.

570

00:31:36,368 --> 00:31:37,910

What was it like

living in this home?

571

00:31:37,910 --> 00:31:39,050

Was there enough food?

572

00:31:39,050 --> 00:31:43,280

In the home, there
was enough food.

573

00:31:43,280 --> 00:31:44,900

The Germans came.

574

00:31:44,900 --> 00:31:46,550

This was just when
the Germans came.

575

00:31:46,550 --> 00:31:50,730

This was disbanded then,
because everybody ran.

576

00:31:50,730 --> 00:31:59,210

And I ran out, from
Limoges, I went--

577

00:31:59,210 --> 00:32:02,510

I knew my mother was in Gurs.

578

00:32:02,510 --> 00:32:04,850

But I was caught.

579

00:32:04,850 --> 00:32:06,290

Who caught you?

580

00:32:06,290 --> 00:32:09,710

The French, and put me in Gurs.

581

00:32:09,710 --> 00:32:11,590

You were by yourself
when they caught you?

582

00:32:11,590 --> 00:32:14,810

No, we were about 20 or 30.

583

00:32:14,810 --> 00:32:17,550

I don't remember their names

exactly, who they were,

584

00:32:17,550 --> 00:32:19,340

because they didn't survive.

585

00:32:19,340 --> 00:32:20,840

These are 30 children?

586

00:32:20,840 --> 00:32:22,500

Yeah.

587

00:32:22,500 --> 00:32:30,090

I looked for them, and I ask at
that reunion, who was with me?

588

00:32:30,090 --> 00:32:32,680

589

00:32:32,680 --> 00:32:41,410

And one fellow said he
was caught but taken to--

590

00:32:41,410 --> 00:32:43,950

591

00:32:43,950 --> 00:32:45,630

what was the name of that camp?

592

00:32:45,630 --> 00:32:47,090

But anyway, he went to--

593

00:32:47,090 --> 00:32:48,540

A different camp.

594

00:32:48,540 --> 00:32:51,780

He was delivered to the Germans,
to Auschwitz, to Drancy, and so

595

00:32:51,780 --> 00:32:55,660

on, but he survived.

596

00:32:55,660 --> 00:32:57,100
So you were taken to Gurs?

597
00:32:57,100 --> 00:32:58,500
I was in Gurs?

598
00:32:58,500 --> 00:32:59,730
Did you speak French?

599
00:32:59,730 --> 00:33:00,780
Yeah.

600
00:33:00,780 --> 00:33:01,950
How did you know French?

601
00:33:01,950 --> 00:33:03,150
Well, I was in a seminary.

602
00:33:03,150 --> 00:33:04,900
It was all in French.

603
00:33:04,900 --> 00:33:06,555
So you learned when
you came to France?

604
00:33:06,555 --> 00:33:10,680
I had no problem
learning the language.

605
00:33:10,680 --> 00:33:16,470
In fact, I became a
French citizen later on.

606
00:33:16,470 --> 00:33:18,510
Nobody knew or cared.

607
00:33:18,510 --> 00:33:21,240

608
00:33:21,240 --> 00:33:23,370
But again, I was
alone in the world.

609
00:33:23,370 --> 00:33:27,810
I couldn't even ask
where my mother was.

610
00:33:27,810 --> 00:33:30,810
At that time, gosh,
I was 17 years old.

611
00:33:30,810 --> 00:33:33,330

612
00:33:33,330 --> 00:33:34,650
What month was this?

613
00:33:34,650 --> 00:33:35,880
Do when you got to Gurs?

614
00:33:35,880 --> 00:33:38,840

615
00:33:38,840 --> 00:33:39,860
The fall.

616
00:33:39,860 --> 00:33:41,770
I think it was October.

617
00:33:41,770 --> 00:33:42,770
Of '42?

618
00:33:42,770 --> 00:33:43,720
'42, yeah.

619
00:33:43,720 --> 00:33:47,340

620
00:33:47,340 --> 00:33:51,150
I was there until
the Germans came,

621
00:33:51,150 --> 00:33:57,840

and the French really let us go.

622

00:33:57,840 --> 00:33:59,610

What did you do at Gurs?

623

00:33:59,610 --> 00:34:02,970

Nothing, absolutely nothing.

624

00:34:02,970 --> 00:34:04,170

I didn't do anything.

625

00:34:04,170 --> 00:34:05,020

I had no clothes.

626

00:34:05,020 --> 00:34:07,740

They gave you clothes.

627

00:34:07,740 --> 00:34:08,920

I didn't do anything.

628

00:34:08,920 --> 00:34:15,179

The French guarded us, and
they had to do the job.

629

00:34:15,179 --> 00:34:17,909

They were polite.

630

00:34:17,909 --> 00:34:19,409

I had no problem there.

631

00:34:19,409 --> 00:34:21,710

Did you have enough food?

632

00:34:21,710 --> 00:34:23,159

No, never.

633

00:34:23,159 --> 00:34:27,159

I mean, food was a
matter of what we have,

634

00:34:27,159 --> 00:34:31,570

Ovaltine, ugh, and a
bowl of soup at night

635
00:34:31,570 --> 00:34:36,130
and a slice of
bread in a bucket.

636
00:34:36,130 --> 00:34:42,540
And I had no work to do,
just clean your area.

637
00:34:42,540 --> 00:34:44,018
Where did you sleep?

638
00:34:44,018 --> 00:34:44,685
In the barracks.

639
00:34:44,685 --> 00:34:47,476

640
00:34:47,476 --> 00:34:49,679
It was like an army cot.

641
00:34:49,679 --> 00:34:51,630
It wasn't bad.

642
00:34:51,630 --> 00:34:54,150
That part was not bad.

643
00:34:54,150 --> 00:34:59,070
The bad part came later, when
the Germans came, and we ran.

644
00:34:59,070 --> 00:35:00,340
We being the children?

645
00:35:00,340 --> 00:35:01,750
We the children.

646
00:35:01,750 --> 00:35:02,970
And we were not with adults.

647

00:35:02,970 --> 00:35:04,427

There was a separate area.

648

00:35:04,427 --> 00:35:05,760

Did you see your mother in Gurs?

649

00:35:05,760 --> 00:35:06,380

No.

650

00:35:06,380 --> 00:35:07,080

You did not?

651

00:35:07,080 --> 00:35:08,700

I did not.

652

00:35:08,700 --> 00:35:12,420

I asked, and they didn't know

or didn't want to tell me.

653

00:35:12,420 --> 00:35:13,830

How upsetting was that to you?

654

00:35:13,830 --> 00:35:17,130

655

00:35:17,130 --> 00:35:20,020

I was more worried

about my father,

656

00:35:20,020 --> 00:35:22,125

because I felt I was

safe here in Gurs.

657

00:35:22,125 --> 00:35:24,680

658

00:35:24,680 --> 00:35:27,960

But my father, where

the heck is he?

659

00:35:27,960 --> 00:35:34,690

Then I found out that he was in
Les Milles, which was a camp.

660
00:35:34,690 --> 00:35:38,330
He had a visa to come to
the United States, all the,

661
00:35:38,330 --> 00:35:39,580
I don't know what you call it.

662
00:35:39,580 --> 00:35:40,330
Rabbis?

663
00:35:40,330 --> 00:35:45,030
No, transition camp to go away.

664
00:35:45,030 --> 00:35:50,890
But the Germans came, of course,
and the French delivered them.

665
00:35:50,890 --> 00:35:52,750
They wanted to
deliver my mother too.

666
00:35:52,750 --> 00:35:55,410
My mother had a stroke.

667
00:35:55,410 --> 00:35:55,960
In Gurs?

668
00:35:55,960 --> 00:35:56,830
In Gurs.

669
00:35:56,830 --> 00:36:01,990
They left her for
dead, and she survived.

670
00:36:01,990 --> 00:36:06,830

671
00:36:06,830 --> 00:36:10,610
How she survived, I don't know.

672
00:36:10,610 --> 00:36:13,045
I tell you how I survived.

673
00:36:13,045 --> 00:36:14,670
You're now running
with other children?

674
00:36:14,670 --> 00:36:18,440
I'm running from A
to Z in the Alps.

675
00:36:18,440 --> 00:36:20,330
We were told to go to the Alps.

676
00:36:20,330 --> 00:36:22,700
The Italians are
occupying that part--

677
00:36:22,700 --> 00:36:24,920
they're not as bad
as the Germans--

678
00:36:24,920 --> 00:36:28,970
on the east side of France.

679
00:36:28,970 --> 00:36:30,730
I got to Gurs--

680
00:36:30,730 --> 00:36:33,080
here's the amazing
stretch of Gurs--

681
00:36:33,080 --> 00:36:38,730
to the town of [?Cher?],,
near Grenoble, where I was--

682
00:36:38,730 --> 00:36:42,150

683
00:36:42,150 --> 00:36:46,260
I have no idea how I got

there, how I made contact

684

00:36:46,260 --> 00:36:50,760

with that woman that was part
of the French underground.

685

00:36:50,760 --> 00:37:00,410

And she told, I think there
was about six or seven,

686

00:37:00,410 --> 00:37:05,730

I was the youngest
one, one at a time,

687

00:37:05,730 --> 00:37:08,150

we'll take the streetcar--

688

00:37:08,150 --> 00:37:12,350

kids don't know what a
streetcar is anymore, today--

689

00:37:12,350 --> 00:37:19,187

and the little train to go at
the end of the line in Bourg

690

00:37:19,187 --> 00:37:21,360

D'Oisans, near Bourg D'Oisans.

691

00:37:21,360 --> 00:37:22,800

You know how to spell it?

692

00:37:22,800 --> 00:37:32,030

B-O-U-R-G-D- apostrophe, I
believe it's O-I-S-A-N-S,

693

00:37:32,030 --> 00:37:36,960

and to go join the
French underground.

694

00:37:36,960 --> 00:37:40,070

I, one morning,
was told, she gave

695

00:37:40,070 --> 00:37:44,090

me, what do you call, a
pekelach, a bag made out

696

00:37:44,090 --> 00:37:47,962

of a blanket, and put
clothes in there are stuff,

697

00:37:47,962 --> 00:37:52,340

and gave it to me and said,
go through the streetcar.

698

00:37:52,340 --> 00:37:54,080

Here's some money
for the street car,

699

00:37:54,080 --> 00:37:56,500

and we go to the
end of the line.

700

00:37:56,500 --> 00:38:00,900

You would be greeted by people
that will take care of you.

701

00:38:00,900 --> 00:38:02,320

Well, I got on the streetcar.

702

00:38:02,320 --> 00:38:06,800

And sure enough, a mile down
the road, or a kilometer,

703

00:38:06,800 --> 00:38:15,200

the Germans came and stopped the
train for identification cards.

704

00:38:15,200 --> 00:38:16,570

I did not have.

705

00:38:16,570 --> 00:38:18,710

Did you have any ID on you?

706

00:38:18,710 --> 00:38:19,514

No.

707
00:38:19,514 --> 00:38:22,580
I had nothing.

708
00:38:22,580 --> 00:38:25,900
I listen to the Germans,
because I understood German,

709
00:38:25,900 --> 00:38:27,320
what they want.

710
00:38:27,320 --> 00:38:28,850
They had their own
interpreter who

711
00:38:28,850 --> 00:38:32,130
spoke to the conductor, the
driver of the streetcar.

712
00:38:32,130 --> 00:38:36,350
There's a platform in
front, and then there's

713
00:38:36,350 --> 00:38:41,120
the cabin, the door,
which passengers sit.

714
00:38:41,120 --> 00:38:43,880
And I was standing on, because I
was obviously interested in how

715
00:38:43,880 --> 00:38:46,070
this thing works.

716
00:38:46,070 --> 00:38:54,430
And the Germans
said to the driver,

717
00:38:54,430 --> 00:38:59,510
no, he asked me if
I have, in French,

718

00:38:59,510 --> 00:39:01,160

if I have identification card.

719

00:39:01,160 --> 00:39:05,300

Before I could answer,
the driver said,

720

00:39:05,300 --> 00:39:09,390

he is my apprentice.

721

00:39:09,390 --> 00:39:11,430

He doesn't have a card yet.

722

00:39:11,430 --> 00:39:12,790

That saved my life once.

723

00:39:12,790 --> 00:39:17,990

724

00:39:17,990 --> 00:39:21,200

I went up in the [?end?].

725

00:39:21,200 --> 00:39:24,471

He was part of the
underground too, the driver,

726

00:39:24,471 --> 00:39:27,090

from what we found out later.

727

00:39:27,090 --> 00:39:30,600

And I tell you that at
the end of my story.

728

00:39:30,600 --> 00:39:32,470

So they believed
him when he said?

729

00:39:32,470 --> 00:39:33,170

Yeah.

730

00:39:33,170 --> 00:39:34,550

Oh, no.

731
00:39:34,550 --> 00:39:35,530
[INAUDIBLE]

732
00:39:35,530 --> 00:39:38,720

733
00:39:38,720 --> 00:39:39,560
They believed him?

734
00:39:39,560 --> 00:39:40,850
They believed him because--

735
00:39:40,850 --> 00:39:42,740
I forgot to tell you this--

736
00:39:42,740 --> 00:39:45,290
they asked me to
drive the streetcar.

737
00:39:45,290 --> 00:39:47,390
Have I learned to
drive the streetcar?

738
00:39:47,390 --> 00:39:50,420
And me, in my stupid
voice, said yes.

739
00:39:50,420 --> 00:39:53,900
And the guy's standing,
looking at me.

740
00:39:53,900 --> 00:39:56,720
I went over there, took
care of the controls,

741
00:39:56,720 --> 00:39:58,730
put this thing in
gear, and it worked.

742
00:39:58,730 --> 00:40:01,790

743
00:40:01,790 --> 00:40:03,040
So they went.

744
00:40:03,040 --> 00:40:04,350
They went into the compartment.

745
00:40:04,350 --> 00:40:06,100
At the end, there was
two or three people,

746
00:40:06,100 --> 00:40:07,910
and it was 5:30 in
the morning, people

747
00:40:07,910 --> 00:40:10,350
going to work or something.

748
00:40:10,350 --> 00:40:13,760
Anyway, at the end of the line,
there were two guys with guns.

749
00:40:13,760 --> 00:40:15,530
I thought it was dead.

750
00:40:15,530 --> 00:40:18,290
But these were guys
from the Maquis,

751
00:40:18,290 --> 00:40:21,795
and welcomed me with open hands.

752
00:40:21,795 --> 00:40:22,670
There were Spaniards.

753
00:40:22,670 --> 00:40:24,320
They were mean characters.

754
00:40:24,320 --> 00:40:26,540
They hated Jews.

755

00:40:26,540 --> 00:40:34,190

They were from the Spanish war
of 1937, '38, the Franco war.

756

00:40:34,190 --> 00:40:37,205

These guys were all ex felons.

757

00:40:37,205 --> 00:40:39,780

758

00:40:39,780 --> 00:40:41,720

They all were, they were mean.

759

00:40:41,720 --> 00:40:43,670

They had no pity with anybody.

760

00:40:43,670 --> 00:40:45,500

They only hated Germans.

761

00:40:45,500 --> 00:40:48,020

But they nonetheless
welcomed you.

762

00:40:48,020 --> 00:40:49,670

Because I hated Germans too.

763

00:40:49,670 --> 00:40:51,500

It's the only reason.

764

00:40:51,500 --> 00:40:54,470

Now again, you were young.

765

00:40:54,470 --> 00:40:58,580

Were you very fearful
yet, or at that time?

766

00:40:58,580 --> 00:41:00,960

I had no time to have fear.

767

00:41:00,960 --> 00:41:03,960

I had to survive.

768
00:41:03,960 --> 00:41:10,340
And I, sort of always,
I was an optimist.

769
00:41:10,340 --> 00:41:11,545
This cannot go on.

770
00:41:11,545 --> 00:41:12,920
because I didn't
know at the time

771
00:41:12,920 --> 00:41:17,000
that the killing took place.

772
00:41:17,000 --> 00:41:21,830
And I heard from the
BBC, which they had up

773
00:41:21,830 --> 00:41:25,040
in the mountains,
what was going on.

774
00:41:25,040 --> 00:41:29,510
Well I was up there, and I had
to do their chores up there.

775
00:41:29,510 --> 00:41:33,650
I was like a little, what
we call today, militia.

776
00:41:33,650 --> 00:41:35,420
We had to go down,
blow up a bridge.

777
00:41:35,420 --> 00:41:42,328
And I got a gun, which
I reluctantly use.

778
00:41:42,328 --> 00:41:43,620
How did you know how to use it?

779

00:41:43,620 --> 00:41:45,170
We got training.

780
00:41:45,170 --> 00:41:46,430
They taught us how to do it.

781
00:41:46,430 --> 00:41:48,270
And how big a group was this?

782
00:41:48,270 --> 00:41:50,400
400.

783
00:41:50,400 --> 00:41:50,900
Men?

784
00:41:50,900 --> 00:41:52,020
It was well-organized.

785
00:41:52,020 --> 00:41:53,080
Was it only men?

786
00:41:53,080 --> 00:41:53,580
No.

787
00:41:53,580 --> 00:41:55,280
There were women, too.

788
00:41:55,280 --> 00:41:57,060
Any young children?

789
00:41:57,060 --> 00:41:59,360
No, no young children there.

790
00:41:59,360 --> 00:42:02,250
I think I had an affair
with a girl up there.

791
00:42:02,250 --> 00:42:06,590
But anyway, the
life was not bad.

792

00:42:06,590 --> 00:42:09,450
We had food.

793
00:42:09,450 --> 00:42:10,760
At times, we didn't.

794
00:42:10,760 --> 00:42:15,860
At times, we had to
kill a cat to eat.

795
00:42:15,860 --> 00:42:17,590
Yeah, tastes good,
like a chicken.

796
00:42:17,590 --> 00:42:19,580
You know it wasn't
kosher, of course.

797
00:42:19,580 --> 00:42:23,630
But we survived.

798
00:42:23,630 --> 00:42:29,360
I had to learn how to be
on guard, when they blow up

799
00:42:29,360 --> 00:42:34,760
the convoys of the
trains and the trucks.

800
00:42:34,760 --> 00:42:37,580
The Germans could not come up.

801
00:42:37,580 --> 00:42:40,820
We were on top of the
mountain in the Alps

802
00:42:40,820 --> 00:42:42,830
they knew we were up there.

803
00:42:42,830 --> 00:42:47,270
The British came and dropped
us some ammunition and guns

804
00:42:47,270 --> 00:42:49,100
and food.

805
00:42:49,100 --> 00:42:52,020
Now, exactly what
location was it?

806
00:42:52,020 --> 00:42:54,140
This was right on
the Italian border.

807
00:42:54,140 --> 00:42:58,570
Actually, the closest town
was, what was it, Modane,

808
00:42:58,570 --> 00:43:03,680
M-O-D-A-N-E. It's not
very far from Chambéry,

809
00:43:03,680 --> 00:43:08,480
where the [INAUDIBLE], where the
Olympics were held a few years

810
00:43:08,480 --> 00:43:10,250
ago.

811
00:43:10,250 --> 00:43:15,210
And I don't know
how we survived.

812
00:43:15,210 --> 00:43:16,550
It was cold up there.

813
00:43:16,550 --> 00:43:19,820
When did you arrive
there, what month?

814
00:43:19,820 --> 00:43:23,090

815
00:43:23,090 --> 00:43:30,960
It was November or

December of 1943.

816
00:43:30,960 --> 00:43:32,930
And you were
treated as an adult?

817
00:43:32,930 --> 00:43:34,580
I was treated as
an adult, oh, yes.

818
00:43:34,580 --> 00:43:37,100

819
00:43:37,100 --> 00:43:39,990
They made prisoners, of
German prisoners down there.

820
00:43:39,990 --> 00:43:43,730
I remember one time they
brought them up and shot them

821
00:43:43,730 --> 00:43:47,160
in cold blood, which
I didn't agree with,

822
00:43:47,160 --> 00:43:49,530
but I had no choice.

823
00:43:49,530 --> 00:43:51,680
They were killers.

824
00:43:51,680 --> 00:43:56,610
And one, we were all-- we
didn't have our own name.

825
00:43:56,610 --> 00:44:00,530
Like I said, I
used the name Lulu.

826
00:44:00,530 --> 00:44:01,760
Nobody had their real name.

827

00:44:01,760 --> 00:44:03,710
What was your full false name?

828
00:44:03,710 --> 00:44:05,340
Lulu BelgÃ©.

829
00:44:05,340 --> 00:44:07,880
And did you choose that?

830
00:44:07,880 --> 00:44:12,080
The reason is because I know
somebody from Alsace Lorraine.

831
00:44:12,080 --> 00:44:14,890
I had a little Alsace Lorraine
accent because of the German

832
00:44:14,890 --> 00:44:17,530
to the French.

833
00:44:17,530 --> 00:44:24,320
And they say, use an Alsatian
name, which was at that time.

834
00:44:24,320 --> 00:44:33,260
Because one of the lieutenants
or the chiefs of the Maquis

835
00:44:33,260 --> 00:44:37,940
took me aside and he
says, I am Jewish.

836
00:44:37,940 --> 00:44:39,890
You're Jewish.

837
00:44:39,890 --> 00:44:42,026
Nobody knows.

838
00:44:42,026 --> 00:44:43,657
[? Shah. ?]

839
00:44:43,657 --> 00:44:44,990

How did he know you were Jewish?

840

00:44:44,990 --> 00:44:48,058

841

00:44:48,058 --> 00:44:48,600

I don't know.

842

00:44:48,600 --> 00:44:51,110

843

00:44:51,110 --> 00:44:52,570

I don't know.

844

00:44:52,570 --> 00:44:56,740

Because he said first-- he
looked Jewish, had a beard,

845

00:44:56,740 --> 00:44:59,380

and I had a beard too--

846

00:44:59,380 --> 00:45:02,770

and he said I am Jewish.

847

00:45:02,770 --> 00:45:07,780

I know you're Jewish, but
don't you tell them anything.

848

00:45:07,780 --> 00:45:09,300

Don't trust anyone up here.

849

00:45:09,300 --> 00:45:12,120

850

00:45:12,120 --> 00:45:15,930

Just went on until
we saw a Jeep.

851

00:45:15,930 --> 00:45:20,142

OK, let's talk a little bit
more about this resistance group

852

00:45:20,142 --> 00:45:20,850
that you were in.

853

00:45:20,850 --> 00:45:23,320
I forgot one thing.

854

00:45:23,320 --> 00:45:27,450
While I was running
from Gurs, I came

855

00:45:27,450 --> 00:45:38,910
to a town of Saint-Victorien,
a town two, three kilometers

856

00:45:38,910 --> 00:45:41,480
from the town of
Oradour-sur-Glane.

857

00:45:41,480 --> 00:45:44,470

858

00:45:44,470 --> 00:45:46,686
Many people have never
heard of that town.

859

00:45:46,686 --> 00:45:53,840

860

00:45:53,840 --> 00:46:03,380
I was there at a farmer's
house, and we saw flames.

861

00:46:03,380 --> 00:46:05,870
And by golly, these
flames, I still

862

00:46:05,870 --> 00:46:11,720
see, more than I see our
shul, our synagogue in Speyer.

863

00:46:11,720 --> 00:46:17,180
It was a church

burning, where they

864

00:46:17,180 --> 00:46:24,680

put the town inside the church
and burned down the church,

865

00:46:24,680 --> 00:46:27,030

because they were hiding people.

866

00:46:27,030 --> 00:46:29,240

That's what we found out later.

867

00:46:29,240 --> 00:46:36,260

And I told this story to
other one time in Louisville.

868

00:46:36,260 --> 00:46:41,240

And a man came to the
synagogue, and I heard the story

869

00:46:41,240 --> 00:46:44,510

at Oradour, and
about the church.

870

00:46:44,510 --> 00:46:47,220

I took some pictures
of that church.

871

00:46:47,220 --> 00:46:50,960

And he had slides he had
made a long time ago,

872

00:46:50,960 --> 00:46:57,060

because he was one of
the liberators in 1945.

873

00:46:57,060 --> 00:47:00,314

And he gave me the slides.

874

00:47:00,314 --> 00:47:06,140

And here are pictures of the
church, what's left of it.

875

00:47:06,140 --> 00:47:08,690

876

00:47:08,690 --> 00:47:10,850

Did you know the people
were inside the church?

877

00:47:10,850 --> 00:47:11,840

Nobody knew.

878

00:47:11,840 --> 00:47:12,620

Found out later.

879

00:47:12,620 --> 00:47:15,570

880

00:47:15,570 --> 00:47:19,265

This is just one of the
things that I remember.

881

00:47:19,265 --> 00:47:20,557

Now, you wanted me to--

882

00:47:20,557 --> 00:47:22,640

I wanted to talk a little
bit more about your life

883

00:47:22,640 --> 00:47:24,830

in this resistance.

884

00:47:24,830 --> 00:47:28,320

Did the resistance
group have a name?

885

00:47:28,320 --> 00:47:30,770

It was called the
Maquis, Force Francais de

886

00:47:30,770 --> 00:47:32,700

L'intérieur, interior forces.

887

00:47:32,700 --> 00:47:35,680

Did it have a
specific unit name?

888

00:47:35,680 --> 00:47:40,230

No, we were actually attached
to the first French army.

889

00:47:40,230 --> 00:47:41,300

And was there a leader?

890

00:47:41,300 --> 00:47:43,300

Do you know the name of
the leader of the group?

891

00:47:43,300 --> 00:47:46,070

The leader's name was--

892

00:47:46,070 --> 00:47:47,090

I don't remember him.

893

00:47:47,090 --> 00:47:48,798

And I knew some names
that were in there,

894

00:47:48,798 --> 00:47:52,290

but they were all
phony names anyway.

895

00:47:52,290 --> 00:47:54,914

Like, Lulu disappeared.

896

00:47:54,914 --> 00:48:01,880

Lulu, when France
was liberated, Lulu

897

00:48:01,880 --> 00:48:03,350

disappeared, because
he was looking

898

00:48:03,350 --> 00:48:04,433

for his mother and father.

899

00:48:04,433 --> 00:48:07,020

900

00:48:07,020 --> 00:48:11,390

So I was up there and did this
dirty work with these clowns.

901

00:48:11,390 --> 00:48:13,010

What other things did you do?

902

00:48:13,010 --> 00:48:14,965

What other tasks did you have?

903

00:48:14,965 --> 00:48:15,980

You mean up there?

904

00:48:15,980 --> 00:48:16,730

Mm-hm.

905

00:48:16,730 --> 00:48:24,240

I had to do it, what do you
call it today, kitchen work,

906

00:48:24,240 --> 00:48:25,960

and I had to go on guard.

907

00:48:25,960 --> 00:48:35,090

I had to be outside all
night with a machine gun

908

00:48:35,090 --> 00:48:37,010

and be on guard.

909

00:48:37,010 --> 00:48:39,510

Did you stay up around the
campsite the whole time?

910

00:48:39,510 --> 00:48:40,010

Yeah.

911

00:48:40,010 --> 00:48:41,360

You did not go off?

912

00:48:41,360 --> 00:48:42,470

I went off, yeah.

913

00:48:42,470 --> 00:48:43,610

I went off, had to go off.

914

00:48:43,610 --> 00:48:47,720

I had to go down
there and get the--

915

00:48:47,720 --> 00:48:50,600

set up explosives.

916

00:48:50,600 --> 00:48:52,380

We were like
terrorists, so to speak.

917

00:48:52,380 --> 00:48:53,800

So you left the campsite?

918

00:48:53,800 --> 00:48:54,300

Yeah.

919

00:48:54,300 --> 00:48:55,850

And you set up
explosives on bridges?

920

00:48:55,850 --> 00:48:56,350

And bridges.

921

00:48:56,350 --> 00:48:57,310

And railroads?

922

00:48:57,310 --> 00:49:03,694

Railroads and German
convoys who came through.

923

00:49:03,694 --> 00:49:09,580

And I was scared.

924
00:49:09,580 --> 00:49:11,710
Why were you now scared?

925
00:49:11,710 --> 00:49:13,660
Why was I scared then?

926
00:49:13,660 --> 00:49:17,450
Because guns scared me.

927
00:49:17,450 --> 00:49:18,905
And that's what I preach.

928
00:49:18,905 --> 00:49:21,730

929
00:49:21,730 --> 00:49:23,730
Guns is a four-letter word.

930
00:49:23,730 --> 00:49:26,330

931
00:49:26,330 --> 00:49:29,395
Hate is a four-letter word.

932
00:49:29,395 --> 00:49:31,970
There's a lot of four-letter
words that kids use today.

933
00:49:31,970 --> 00:49:36,200
But I think guns and hate
are much worse, worse

934
00:49:36,200 --> 00:49:39,620
than the other four-letter word.

935
00:49:39,620 --> 00:49:43,320
And I was always anti-violence.

936
00:49:43,320 --> 00:49:45,500
I'm not a fighter.

937

00:49:45,500 --> 00:49:48,470

I didn't want to be a
fighter, but I had no choice.

938

00:49:48,470 --> 00:49:50,510

And from what I've
been told up there,

939

00:49:50,510 --> 00:49:52,400

that I was a tough cookie.

940

00:49:52,400 --> 00:49:57,000

941

00:49:57,000 --> 00:49:59,060

Were there family units there?

942

00:49:59,060 --> 00:49:59,560

No.

943

00:49:59,560 --> 00:50:00,330

No.

944

00:50:00,330 --> 00:50:01,895

These were all, I think--

945

00:50:01,895 --> 00:50:03,270

I don't know if
they were married

946

00:50:03,270 --> 00:50:07,380

at one time-- there were older
people and younger people.

947

00:50:07,380 --> 00:50:12,660

They were from 16 through 60.

948

00:50:12,660 --> 00:50:14,140

Was there any
doctors and nurses?

949

00:50:14,140 --> 00:50:15,390
Were there medical facilities?

950
00:50:15,390 --> 00:50:15,900
Yes.

951
00:50:15,900 --> 00:50:20,100
There was medical
facilities, very little.

952
00:50:20,100 --> 00:50:24,156
Do not use any more
than you have to.

953
00:50:24,156 --> 00:50:30,850
You got sick, medication
was hardly any--

954
00:50:30,850 --> 00:50:35,280
I wasn't sick, so I, I've
never been sick in my life.

955
00:50:35,280 --> 00:50:38,160
But band aids, such.

956
00:50:38,160 --> 00:50:39,410
Were scarce?

957
00:50:39,410 --> 00:50:40,920
Were scarce.

958
00:50:40,920 --> 00:50:45,890
Kids got hurt in, you know,
a jammed gun or something,

959
00:50:45,890 --> 00:50:50,638
they took care of them.

960
00:50:50,638 --> 00:50:52,680
They could not speak
French, because some of them

961

00:50:52,680 --> 00:50:54,230
spoke Spanish.

962
00:50:54,230 --> 00:50:56,870
There was a language
barrier there

963
00:50:56,870 --> 00:50:59,310
that we had a problem with.

964
00:50:59,310 --> 00:51:01,440
Did you form any close
relationships there

965
00:51:01,440 --> 00:51:02,310
with anybody?

966
00:51:02,310 --> 00:51:04,170
Not really.

967
00:51:04,170 --> 00:51:04,980
Not really.

968
00:51:04,980 --> 00:51:06,240
I never did.

969
00:51:06,240 --> 00:51:08,670
I was sort of a loner.

970
00:51:08,670 --> 00:51:12,120
I had only one thing in
mind, where is my mother?

971
00:51:12,120 --> 00:51:13,800
Where is my father?

972
00:51:13,800 --> 00:51:18,060
And I think this was
more important to me.

973
00:51:18,060 --> 00:51:21,095
I knew that my brother

was in Switzerland.

974

00:51:21,095 --> 00:51:23,760

Were there young women
there in the group?

975

00:51:23,760 --> 00:51:25,140

Yes.

976

00:51:25,140 --> 00:51:28,200

I flirted with him.

977

00:51:28,200 --> 00:51:30,710

Boy goes up, hey,
I didn't ask them

978

00:51:30,710 --> 00:51:32,640

if they were Spanish,
Jewish, or Italian.

979

00:51:32,640 --> 00:51:34,170

I don't care.

980

00:51:34,170 --> 00:51:35,010

But that's life.

981

00:51:35,010 --> 00:51:37,847

Life continued there.

982

00:51:37,847 --> 00:51:39,180

What was the treatment of women?

983

00:51:39,180 --> 00:51:43,405

Were the men-- were the women
treated as equally as the men?

984

00:51:43,405 --> 00:51:44,780

Well, I had no
trouble with them.

985

00:51:44,780 --> 00:51:47,560

986
00:51:47,560 --> 00:51:51,540
There was, today you
would call a rape.

987
00:51:51,540 --> 00:51:54,220

988
00:51:54,220 --> 00:51:56,320
They were forced.

989
00:51:56,320 --> 00:51:58,270
Get yourself a girl.

990
00:51:58,270 --> 00:52:00,670
Nobody thought
anything about it.

991
00:52:00,670 --> 00:52:02,230
Man needs woman, go get it.

992
00:52:02,230 --> 00:52:05,440

993
00:52:05,440 --> 00:52:07,610
I didn't know anything
about this stuff.

994
00:52:07,610 --> 00:52:10,180
But I know about it.

995
00:52:10,180 --> 00:52:14,102
I don't think it was important
to my life to watch this stuff.

996
00:52:14,102 --> 00:52:16,560
But you heard that that had
happened when you were in camp.

997
00:52:16,560 --> 00:52:17,960
Yeah, it did happen, yeah.

998

00:52:17,960 --> 00:52:20,410

It did happen.

999

00:52:20,410 --> 00:52:25,960

So I was up there till
the end of the war.

1000

00:52:25,960 --> 00:52:27,200

There's only one coincidence.

1001

00:52:27,200 --> 00:52:30,750

1002

00:52:30,750 --> 00:52:36,780

At the end of the war, I had to
report to the first French army

1003

00:52:36,780 --> 00:52:38,400

at the--

1004

00:52:38,400 --> 00:52:40,300

How did you know it
was the end of the war?

1005

00:52:40,300 --> 00:52:43,150

We saw the Americans
coming down the road.

1006

00:52:43,150 --> 00:52:46,410

Hey, funny vehicles,
what is that, a Jeep?

1007

00:52:46,410 --> 00:52:49,087

We didn't know what
a Jeep looked like.

1008

00:52:49,087 --> 00:52:53,360

And so what happened?

1009

00:52:53,360 --> 00:52:58,190

The Americans down here
waved an American flag.

1010
00:52:58,190 --> 00:53:02,360
They knew where we were
through radio, or something.

1011
00:53:02,360 --> 00:53:04,040
Because we didn't
have radio contact

1012
00:53:04,040 --> 00:53:09,160
with the, especially
with the British, now,

1013
00:53:09,160 --> 00:53:14,100
in June, '45, '44.

1014
00:53:14,100 --> 00:53:16,280
'44, yeah.

1015
00:53:16,280 --> 00:53:20,030
And when the southern
invasion came,

1016
00:53:20,030 --> 00:53:22,490
we stayed there until the
southern invasion came

1017
00:53:22,490 --> 00:53:26,450
from Marseilles, and so on.

1018
00:53:26,450 --> 00:53:27,770
We were waiting for them.

1019
00:53:27,770 --> 00:53:30,530
We knew they were coming,
but we couldn't go anywhere,

1020
00:53:30,530 --> 00:53:34,040
because the Germans
were on the run, too.

1021
00:53:34,040 --> 00:53:36,980

So you stayed in the camp until
you saw the American Jeeps?

1022
00:53:36,980 --> 00:53:38,270
Right.

1023
00:53:38,270 --> 00:53:41,180
So then they came
with their trucks

1024
00:53:41,180 --> 00:53:47,750
and took us to the Fort de
Vincenne, outside of Paris,

1025
00:53:47,750 --> 00:53:51,710
where we became,
automatically, if we wanted to,

1026
00:53:51,710 --> 00:53:56,795
part of the French army, the
official first French army.

1027
00:53:56,795 --> 00:53:58,370
It was our choice.

1028
00:53:58,370 --> 00:53:59,810
I had no place to go.

1029
00:53:59,810 --> 00:54:02,180
Let me back up a little bit.

1030
00:54:02,180 --> 00:54:03,980
When you were in the
resistance movement

1031
00:54:03,980 --> 00:54:09,780
up on the mountain side,
how religious did you feel?

1032
00:54:09,780 --> 00:54:13,010
I was no religion.

1033

00:54:13,010 --> 00:54:18,090
I didn't know if it was Shabbos,
or Yontif, or whatever it was.

1034
00:54:18,090 --> 00:54:20,450
That was the least
of my worries.

1035
00:54:20,450 --> 00:54:25,190
I knew my father would
have wanted me to survive,

1036
00:54:25,190 --> 00:54:26,885
forget religion, survive first.

1037
00:54:26,885 --> 00:54:31,920

1038
00:54:31,920 --> 00:54:35,420
The anger over my bicycle
has never stopped.

1039
00:54:35,420 --> 00:54:39,030
Now, this has been
over 50 years.

1040
00:54:39,030 --> 00:54:41,470

1041
00:54:41,470 --> 00:54:43,470
So you were still thinking
of that bicycle, when

1042
00:54:43,470 --> 00:54:44,595
you were in the resistance?

1043
00:54:44,595 --> 00:54:45,760
I still see it my sleep.

1044
00:54:45,760 --> 00:54:48,000
And even when you were
in the resistance?

1045
00:54:48,000 --> 00:54:49,920
Yeah.

1046
00:54:49,920 --> 00:54:54,840
But I didn't know
that Auschwitz did

1047
00:54:54,840 --> 00:54:58,500
exist until the end of the war.

1048
00:54:58,500 --> 00:55:01,440
Even when you were in the
resistance, you didn't know?

1049
00:55:01,440 --> 00:55:06,240
We knew they were, the
Germans took all these people,

1050
00:55:06,240 --> 00:55:09,270
the French Jews and
so on, but didn't

1051
00:55:09,270 --> 00:55:10,806
know what they do with them.

1052
00:55:10,806 --> 00:55:14,080

1053
00:55:14,080 --> 00:55:16,940
You can't imagine I mean-.

1054
00:55:16,940 --> 00:55:19,130
The other Jewish
man who came to you,

1055
00:55:19,130 --> 00:55:21,060
did you have a special
relationship with him?

1056
00:55:21,060 --> 00:55:22,640
No.

1057

00:55:22,640 --> 00:55:24,250

He just gave me advice.

1058

00:55:24,250 --> 00:55:25,250

That one time?

1059

00:55:25,250 --> 00:55:27,140

That one time.

1060

00:55:27,140 --> 00:55:29,480

I never got to
talk to him again.

1061

00:55:29,480 --> 00:55:36,870

He was one of the, what do
you call it, spies, big shots.

1062

00:55:36,870 --> 00:55:38,760

Did he stay with the group?

1063

00:55:38,760 --> 00:55:40,360

He came and left.

1064

00:55:40,360 --> 00:55:41,430

He came and left.

1065

00:55:41,430 --> 00:55:42,670

What was his name?

1066

00:55:42,670 --> 00:55:44,430

You don't know?

1067

00:55:44,430 --> 00:55:49,480

A little guy, a very nice guy.

1068

00:55:49,480 --> 00:55:53,610

And I don't know if
I was the only Jew.

1069

00:55:53,610 --> 00:55:57,310

He might have said that

to somebody else also.

1070
00:55:57,310 --> 00:55:58,560
But I was just stupid.

1071
00:55:58,560 --> 00:56:05,370
I was just worried about, you
know, I had faith, sort of.

1072
00:56:05,370 --> 00:56:09,120
And then came the
end of the war.

1073
00:56:09,120 --> 00:56:11,310
And this, now,
where is my father?

1074
00:56:11,310 --> 00:56:13,480
Where is my mother?

1075
00:56:13,480 --> 00:56:15,150
OK, you've left, and you're--

1076
00:56:15,150 --> 00:56:17,500
I was in Paris.

1077
00:56:17,500 --> 00:56:20,190
I was in the French army.

1078
00:56:20,190 --> 00:56:22,560
I was a good-looking soldier.

1079
00:56:22,560 --> 00:56:26,130
And I became an interpreter
for the French army,

1080
00:56:26,130 --> 00:56:28,295
because I spoke German.

1081
00:56:28,295 --> 00:56:29,860
What month was this?

1082

00:56:29,860 --> 00:56:32,340

It was just after
the liberation.

1083

00:56:32,340 --> 00:56:33,380

It was '45.

1084

00:56:33,380 --> 00:56:34,286

What month?

1085

00:56:34,286 --> 00:56:37,850

I think June, or something.

1086

00:56:37,850 --> 00:56:39,040

And it was summer.

1087

00:56:39,040 --> 00:56:41,040

It was warm.

1088

00:56:41,040 --> 00:56:47,960

And I became part of the
Sixieme Chasseurs Alpains.

1089

00:56:47,960 --> 00:56:50,100

This was my unit.

1090

00:56:50,100 --> 00:56:52,170

You were right.

1091

00:56:52,170 --> 00:56:55,830

We were part of the Chassures
Alpins, an alpine group.

1092

00:56:55,830 --> 00:56:58,098

1093

00:56:58,098 --> 00:56:59,890

That was the name of
your resistance group?

1094

00:56:59,890 --> 00:57:02,587

That was the name, Sixieme
Chassures, sixth regiment,

1095
00:57:02,587 --> 00:57:03,920
or whatever you want to call it.

1096
00:57:03,920 --> 00:57:08,550

1097
00:57:08,550 --> 00:57:15,480
The other coincidence, it's
unbelievable to this day.

1098
00:57:15,480 --> 00:57:16,380
Where is my father?

1099
00:57:16,380 --> 00:57:24,300
Where is my Mother I went to
the Champs Elysées in 1945,

1100
00:57:24,300 --> 00:57:38,240
looking for the boards that were
put up on the side with names.

1101
00:57:38,240 --> 00:57:40,470
I put my name there,
who I am looking for.

1102
00:57:40,470 --> 00:57:43,669

1103
00:57:43,669 --> 00:57:49,890
And I had no idea
where my mother was.

1104
00:57:49,890 --> 00:57:52,670
I went back,
because I had free--

1105
00:57:52,670 --> 00:57:53,820
I was a second Lieutenant.

1106

00:57:53,820 --> 00:57:56,990
I could go anywhere I wanted to.

1107
00:57:56,990 --> 00:57:58,950
France was free.

1108
00:57:58,950 --> 00:58:04,350
I could ride a bus, a
train, anything I wanted.

1109
00:58:04,350 --> 00:58:09,050
And I went back to
[?Cher?] for some reason.

1110
00:58:09,050 --> 00:58:11,910
Why would I go to [?Cher?]?

1111
00:58:11,910 --> 00:58:17,390
To see that woman who
sent me up to the Maquis.

1112
00:58:17,390 --> 00:58:20,260
What was her name?

1113
00:58:20,260 --> 00:58:22,800
Oh, I have that somewhere,
Madame, she's dead.

1114
00:58:22,800 --> 00:58:25,920

1115
00:58:25,920 --> 00:58:29,550
My mother told me at
one time, she's dead.

1116
00:58:29,550 --> 00:58:36,630
Because I got on a streetcar,
who was the driver?

1117
00:58:36,630 --> 00:58:39,270

1118

00:58:39,270 --> 00:58:40,475
The same one.

1119
00:58:40,475 --> 00:58:43,880
And he recognized me,
even if I was in uniform.

1120
00:58:43,880 --> 00:58:46,220
We hugged.

1121
00:58:46,220 --> 00:58:46,935
This was amazing.

1122
00:58:46,935 --> 00:58:49,800

1123
00:58:49,800 --> 00:58:56,550
And this, you know, I
told him, [NON-ENGLISH]..

1124
00:58:56,550 --> 00:58:59,850
You have saved my life.

1125
00:58:59,850 --> 00:59:02,580
And he embraced me.

1126
00:59:02,580 --> 00:59:07,470
He invited me to join him at the
family that night for dinner.

1127
00:59:07,470 --> 00:59:10,620
But I didn't go for
a simple reason.

1128
00:59:10,620 --> 00:59:16,630
When I opened the door to go
into where the people sit--

1129
00:59:16,630 --> 00:59:17,400
On the streetcar?

1130
00:59:17,400 --> 00:59:19,080

On the streetcar.

1131
00:59:19,080 --> 00:59:21,420
Who was sitting there?

1132
00:59:21,420 --> 00:59:24,240
My mother, looking for me.

1133
00:59:24,240 --> 00:59:27,200

1134
00:59:27,200 --> 00:59:28,780
She was in real bad shape.

1135
00:59:28,780 --> 00:59:31,990
She had pieces of
paper in her hand.

1136
00:59:31,990 --> 00:59:35,980
She still couldn't talk too
plain because of her stroke.

1137
00:59:35,980 --> 00:59:39,340
We never had a
good conversation.

1138
00:59:39,340 --> 00:59:41,620
And then she got
well again, later on.

1139
00:59:41,620 --> 00:59:44,570
I'm talking about
20 years later.

1140
00:59:44,570 --> 00:59:47,710
But her memory was gone.

1141
00:59:47,710 --> 00:59:52,870
And this is the
coincidence there.

1142
00:59:52,870 --> 00:59:55,540

She knew that my father
died in Auschwitz.

1143
00:59:55,540 --> 00:59:58,190
She had a piece of paper
where somebody told her

1144
00:59:58,190 --> 01:00:00,340
that he perished in Auschwitz.

1145
01:00:00,340 --> 01:00:01,180
He went to Drancy.

1146
01:00:01,180 --> 01:00:04,730

1147
01:00:04,730 --> 01:00:06,330
That was it.

1148
01:00:06,330 --> 01:00:08,790
We went to the
American consulate.

1149
01:00:08,790 --> 01:00:11,297
My brother was safe
in Switzerland.

1150
01:00:11,297 --> 01:00:13,380
What were your thoughts,
when you saw your mother?

1151
01:00:13,380 --> 01:00:16,670

1152
01:00:16,670 --> 01:00:19,410
I don't know.

1153
01:00:19,410 --> 01:00:25,050
It's one of those hugs
that you never forget.

1154
01:00:25,050 --> 01:00:28,410

She had BO, and I
remembered, because she

1155
01:00:28,410 --> 01:00:31,410
didn't have much to wear.

1156
01:00:31,410 --> 01:00:32,940
This is what I remember.

1157
01:00:32,940 --> 01:00:35,990
We stood there for 10 minutes.

1158
01:00:35,990 --> 01:00:39,950
Even the driver stopped.

1159
01:00:39,950 --> 01:00:44,330

1160
01:00:44,330 --> 01:00:50,910
It's one of those things if,
I don't care what happened.

1161
01:00:50,910 --> 01:00:53,310
I've never written
down anything,

1162
01:00:53,310 --> 01:00:55,260
and this is 50 years later.

1163
01:00:55,260 --> 01:00:58,600
I still see it like
it was yesterday.

1164
01:00:58,600 --> 01:01:01,290
It was a green streetcar.

1165
01:01:01,290 --> 01:01:04,410
I still see the benches,
wooden benches, my mother

1166
01:01:04,410 --> 01:01:09,480
sitting there, disheveled.

1167
01:01:09,480 --> 01:01:11,430
Then we went, I knew what to do.

1168
01:01:11,430 --> 01:01:16,280
We went to the
HIAS and got help.

1169
01:01:16,280 --> 01:01:22,050
Even [INAUDIBLE] gave us,
well, anyway, we got money.

1170
01:01:22,050 --> 01:01:24,510
And we could go
to the consulate,

1171
01:01:24,510 --> 01:01:27,410
the American consulate.

1172
01:01:27,410 --> 01:01:29,760
You're still in [?Cher?]?

1173
01:01:29,760 --> 01:01:33,990
Well, my mother was put
up in Grenoble then,

1174
01:01:33,990 --> 01:01:37,240
and I was still in
the French army.

1175
01:01:37,240 --> 01:01:42,810
And I was made a
French citizen, but I

1176
01:01:42,810 --> 01:01:45,240
had to give up my French
citizenship in order

1177
01:01:45,240 --> 01:01:49,740
to come to the United States,
because the German quota.

1178

01:01:49,740 --> 01:01:53,020

A lot of people don't
understand that anymore,

1179

01:01:53,020 --> 01:01:54,310

but that's the way it was.

1180

01:01:54,310 --> 01:01:59,220

And then in 1947, my brother
joined my mother in France

1181

01:01:59,220 --> 01:02:01,020

in Grenoble, lived with her.

1182

01:02:01,020 --> 01:02:02,700

I was in the army.

1183

01:02:02,700 --> 01:02:08,220

And the 6th of June, 1947,
we embarked on the boat

1184

01:02:08,220 --> 01:02:10,080

to the United States.

1185

01:02:10,080 --> 01:02:16,940

And I have been here ever since,
and I am still an optimist.

1186

01:02:16,940 --> 01:02:23,000