

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:04,430

2

00:00:04,430 --> 00:00:08,510

This is tape two, side

A. What information

3

00:00:08,510 --> 00:00:11,920

do you have about your

father's experience?

4

00:00:11,920 --> 00:00:16,010

Really none because

all my mother

5

00:00:16,010 --> 00:00:21,020

had papers and

conversation with survivors

6

00:00:21,020 --> 00:00:27,860

that have seen my

father in Auschwitz.

7

00:00:27,860 --> 00:00:34,530

They have not seen him going

either to the gas chamber,

8

00:00:34,530 --> 00:00:37,310

or they have seen him because

he was a spiritual leader

9

00:00:37,310 --> 00:00:42,200

despite what was going on.

10

00:00:42,200 --> 00:00:47,180

He thought, I was told-- that

he told them, eat what you can.

11

00:00:47,180 --> 00:00:50,640

Do what you can.

12

00:00:50,640 --> 00:00:57,660

Pray in your own
way, and have faith.

13

00:00:57,660 --> 00:00:58,670

He was a good man.

14

00:00:58,670 --> 00:01:01,290

15

00:01:01,290 --> 00:01:04,239

He believed in people.

16

00:01:04,239 --> 00:01:06,240

He was an optimist.

17

00:01:06,240 --> 00:01:10,500

He had a tremendous sense
of humor, which maybe I

18

00:01:10,500 --> 00:01:15,120

inherited, and I'm glad.

19

00:01:15,120 --> 00:01:22,500

My father was the man who
couldn't see bad in anything.

20

00:01:22,500 --> 00:01:25,170

He had a good marriage
with my mother.

21

00:01:25,170 --> 00:01:30,090

He was well-liked by
his mother-in-law.

22

00:01:30,090 --> 00:01:33,180

They were proud of him.

23

00:01:33,180 --> 00:01:36,240

My grandfather,
his father-in-law,

24

00:01:36,240 --> 00:01:40,260
was a wine merchant near
Westerburg, Germany.

25
00:01:40,260 --> 00:01:47,590
He was the-- because he
was an educated person.

26
00:01:47,590 --> 00:01:50,920
The others were all
businessmen, and he

27
00:01:50,920 --> 00:01:53,020
was the best-liked of them all.

28
00:01:53,020 --> 00:02:00,170
My mother was a
strict disciplinarian.

29
00:02:00,170 --> 00:02:07,500

30
00:02:07,500 --> 00:02:09,389
I had no fear of my father.

31
00:02:09,389 --> 00:02:11,009
I could talk to him
when I was scared.

32
00:02:11,009 --> 00:02:12,720
My mother-- I had fear.

33
00:02:12,720 --> 00:02:15,750

34
00:02:15,750 --> 00:02:20,160
In my dreams at night, I
still see my father walking

35
00:02:20,160 --> 00:02:25,690
the other night, walking
with me in the park.

36

00:02:25,690 --> 00:02:26,970

And this is so funny.

37

00:02:26,970 --> 00:02:30,390

That doesn't make sense.

38

00:02:30,390 --> 00:02:32,670

I had a dream my
father was walking

39

00:02:32,670 --> 00:02:37,140

with me on a Jewish holiday.

40

00:02:37,140 --> 00:02:40,020

I don't know if it
was Pesach or if it

41

00:02:40,020 --> 00:02:43,050

was Sukkot I have no idea.

42

00:02:43,050 --> 00:02:45,780

It was not Yom Kippur.

43

00:02:45,780 --> 00:02:49,050

We were walking in
the park after shul,

44

00:02:49,050 --> 00:02:53,160

and my father was
smoking a cigar.

45

00:02:53,160 --> 00:02:59,190

And another Jewish fellow came
to him and said, Herr Lehrer,

46

00:02:59,190 --> 00:03:01,680

you don't smoke on yontef.

47

00:03:01,680 --> 00:03:07,530

And he said to him, I did
not light the cigar myself.

48

00:03:07,530 --> 00:03:09,810

I can smoke on yontef.

49

00:03:09,810 --> 00:03:15,870

That is-- it did happen,
but I saw it again.

50

00:03:15,870 --> 00:03:19,750

And these things
are not going away.

51

00:03:19,750 --> 00:03:22,140

I came to this country--

52

00:03:22,140 --> 00:03:23,070

When did you arrive?

53

00:03:23,070 --> 00:03:25,005

--in 1947.

54

00:03:25,005 --> 00:03:26,010

What month?

55

00:03:26,010 --> 00:03:29,910

June 13, I think.

56

00:03:29,910 --> 00:03:30,750

And you came with--

57

00:03:30,750 --> 00:03:35,070

I came on about called
SS America, paid

58

00:03:35,070 --> 00:03:41,100

for by my mother's
uncle in Argentina,

59

00:03:41,100 --> 00:03:45,390

a rich uncle with money who
paid for the affidavit and all

60

00:03:45,390 --> 00:03:49,482
this stuff, and he-- with
my mother and my brother.

61
00:03:49,482 --> 00:03:50,190
The three of you?

62
00:03:50,190 --> 00:03:50,690
Yeah.

63
00:03:50,690 --> 00:03:52,780
My brother is the
one that learned

64
00:03:52,780 --> 00:03:57,420
to speak English in
Switzerland, and he ordered on,

65
00:03:57,420 --> 00:04:01,890
Friday nights, a meal
which came, bacon and eggs.

66
00:04:01,890 --> 00:04:03,840
That was-- he knew
about English.

67
00:04:03,840 --> 00:04:05,910
These are little
things that I remember.

68
00:04:05,910 --> 00:04:07,530
Anyway, we came to the country.

69
00:04:07,530 --> 00:04:10,950
We had a little storm and
stood outside of the Harbor

70
00:04:10,950 --> 00:04:11,580
in New York.

71
00:04:11,580 --> 00:04:13,950
We were supposed to
come in six days.

72
00:04:13,950 --> 00:04:15,780
We came in seven days.

73
00:04:15,780 --> 00:04:21,329
And at night it's a beautiful
sight outside of New York.

74
00:04:21,329 --> 00:04:24,270
I had no idea where the
Statue of Liberty was.

75
00:04:24,270 --> 00:04:25,930
Did you know any English?

76
00:04:25,930 --> 00:04:26,430
Me?

77
00:04:26,430 --> 00:04:29,850
Chair, ceiling, boy, girl.

78
00:04:29,850 --> 00:04:33,320

79
00:04:33,320 --> 00:04:36,110
No idea.

80
00:04:36,110 --> 00:04:38,480
The first words I
learned in this country

81
00:04:38,480 --> 00:04:41,750
were bad words, which
we're not supposed to use.

82
00:04:41,750 --> 00:04:44,347
And we arrived--

83
00:04:44,347 --> 00:04:46,430
So the Statue of Liberty--
did that mean anything?

84

00:04:46,430 --> 00:04:49,160

Yeah, they told us, this
is a Statue of Liberty.

85

00:04:49,160 --> 00:04:51,350

What do I know?

86

00:04:51,350 --> 00:04:54,650

I was more interested
in the lights going down

87

00:04:54,650 --> 00:04:57,440

the Hudson West Side Highway.

88

00:04:57,440 --> 00:04:59,900

I never seen so many
lights flickering.

89

00:04:59,900 --> 00:05:02,140

This was-- and I
made the acquaintance

90

00:05:02,140 --> 00:05:05,150

with an English young
woman on the boat,

91

00:05:05,150 --> 00:05:06,900

and we were standing
there, holding hands.

92

00:05:06,900 --> 00:05:08,570

That was my--

93

00:05:08,570 --> 00:05:10,730

I was 21 years old.

94

00:05:10,730 --> 00:05:17,180

And when we came
here, there were

95

00:05:17,180 --> 00:05:19,070

people standing at the pier.

96
00:05:19,070 --> 00:05:22,860
I think it was pier
32 in New York.

97
00:05:22,860 --> 00:05:26,480
And the first thing they
said, like they all do--

98
00:05:26,480 --> 00:05:29,120
and they have done it
before and do it again--

99
00:05:29,120 --> 00:05:32,630
forget the past,
forget about it.

100
00:05:32,630 --> 00:05:34,300
That's easy to say.

101
00:05:34,300 --> 00:05:34,800
Now.

102
00:05:34,800 --> 00:05:36,510
I'm 21 years old.

103
00:05:36,510 --> 00:05:39,110
They drove me through
New York and showed me

104
00:05:39,110 --> 00:05:40,910
the tall buildings,
which I didn't

105
00:05:40,910 --> 00:05:43,160
want to see because I was
more interested in the girls

106
00:05:43,160 --> 00:05:45,210
on the street by this time.

107
00:05:45,210 --> 00:05:50,630

And I had an uncle here who
was with me, who came through,

108
00:05:50,630 --> 00:05:54,020
and he says, you leave
the American girls alone.

109
00:05:54,020 --> 00:05:56,630
If you kiss the girls here,
you have to marry them.

110
00:05:56,630 --> 00:05:59,770

111
00:05:59,770 --> 00:06:03,310
Anyway, I came
here, and everyone

112
00:06:03,310 --> 00:06:06,940
said, forget your past.

113
00:06:06,940 --> 00:06:19,320
And I have not spoken
about this until 1985.

114
00:06:19,320 --> 00:06:22,460
Yes, but not in
public or anything.

115
00:06:22,460 --> 00:06:26,610
I think Rabbi Schlosberg,
my rabbi, my boss--

116
00:06:26,610 --> 00:06:33,060
he convinced me to speak
about Kristallnacht.

117
00:06:33,060 --> 00:06:37,592
At one [INAUDIBLE] we
observed Kristallnacht.

118
00:06:37,592 --> 00:06:42,160
That was the 45th or 50th.

119
00:06:42,160 --> 00:06:44,080
Anyway, we had--

120
00:06:44,080 --> 00:06:46,540
Did you speak with your
mother and your brother

121
00:06:46,540 --> 00:06:49,420
about your experiences
after you--

122
00:06:49,420 --> 00:06:55,230
My mother-- she didn't
remember everything

123
00:06:55,230 --> 00:06:57,990
because she lost memory.

124
00:06:57,990 --> 00:07:03,300
My brother lived with my
mother, never got married.

125
00:07:03,300 --> 00:07:09,120
He died in a car accident in
1970 outside of Indianapolis,

126
00:07:09,120 --> 00:07:13,050
the same day I had a child
that also died that same day.

127
00:07:13,050 --> 00:07:23,580
But anyway, I have survived,
and I'm not in bad shape as far

128
00:07:23,580 --> 00:07:28,290
as mentally.

129
00:07:28,290 --> 00:07:33,690
But I have, like Rabbi
Schlosberg and other people

130

00:07:33,690 --> 00:07:39,390
told me-- that I have an
obligation to spread the word.

131
00:07:39,390 --> 00:07:42,870
Reluctantly, I do this.

132
00:07:42,870 --> 00:07:49,800
Now I get a
satisfaction of speaking

133
00:07:49,800 --> 00:07:52,848
to people in the
hinterlands of the Midwest.

134
00:07:52,848 --> 00:07:55,140
You're not talking about New
York, Washington, Chicago,

135
00:07:55,140 --> 00:07:56,820
or Detroit.

136
00:07:56,820 --> 00:07:59,850
We are talking about where
I live, where a Jew is still

137
00:07:59,850 --> 00:08:05,490
seen with horns, that I
get a satisfaction out

138
00:08:05,490 --> 00:08:12,480
of speaking to schools and tell
them not necessarily in my life

139
00:08:12,480 --> 00:08:22,660
but what a Holocaust can do to
you because many of these kids,

140
00:08:22,660 --> 00:08:26,200
parents don't believe
the Holocaust happened.

141
00:08:26,200 --> 00:08:29,450

It's everywhere.

142

00:08:29,450 --> 00:08:33,429

When I talk-- I
remember one school.

143

00:08:33,429 --> 00:08:38,200

I talk about the STEN
gun I had in the Maquis.

144

00:08:38,200 --> 00:08:40,750

The kids write me
letters afterwards,

145

00:08:40,750 --> 00:08:43,030

which are very interesting.

146

00:08:43,030 --> 00:08:48,550

None is alike because I asked
the teacher that the kids write

147

00:08:48,550 --> 00:08:51,470

something about the speech.

148

00:08:51,470 --> 00:08:52,780

Some of them go over.

149

00:08:52,780 --> 00:08:55,420

Some of them don't.

150

00:08:55,420 --> 00:09:02,770

One of them, a kid writes, I
like Mr. Marx's talk about guns

151

00:09:02,770 --> 00:09:04,690

because I love guns.

152

00:09:04,690 --> 00:09:08,110

The kid is 10 years
old or 12 years old.

153

00:09:08,110 --> 00:09:13,210

We shoot every Sunday, and
I love to play with guns.

154
00:09:13,210 --> 00:09:18,160
Well, my mission wasn't done.

155
00:09:18,160 --> 00:09:24,130
I had one experience in one high
school, spoke to 200 juniors,

156
00:09:24,130 --> 00:09:30,100
and seniors, and
exchange students

157
00:09:30,100 --> 00:09:39,870
from Switzerland, Germany,
and Poland, I think, it was.

158
00:09:39,870 --> 00:09:43,500
And I told them.

159
00:09:43,500 --> 00:09:46,060
My message there is different
than when I tell you my story.

160
00:09:46,060 --> 00:09:47,940
My message is, it
shouldn't happen

161
00:09:47,940 --> 00:09:53,240
ever again because it can.

162
00:09:53,240 --> 00:09:56,760
A young woman from
Germany comes to me.

163
00:09:56,760 --> 00:09:58,960
I want to show you something.

164
00:09:58,960 --> 00:10:00,880
Do you speak German?

165

00:10:00,880 --> 00:10:02,680

I said, yeah, but
speak to me in English.

166

00:10:02,680 --> 00:10:05,040

This is America.

167

00:10:05,040 --> 00:10:06,660

I can speak English.

168

00:10:06,660 --> 00:10:09,090

I want to show you something.

169

00:10:09,090 --> 00:10:12,360

She opens her purse and
shows me the picture

170

00:10:12,360 --> 00:10:16,110

of her grandfather in
an SS black uniform

171

00:10:16,110 --> 00:10:18,900

with all kinds of ribbons.

172

00:10:18,900 --> 00:10:20,910

Proudly she showed
me this picture.

173

00:10:20,910 --> 00:10:24,340

174

00:10:24,340 --> 00:10:27,380

What shall I do?

175

00:10:27,380 --> 00:10:31,100

I had enough-- how do
you say that in English,

176

00:10:31,100 --> 00:10:32,740

[NON-ENGLISH]--

177

00:10:32,740 --> 00:10:38,620

to walk away, not to get
involved with this child

178
00:10:38,620 --> 00:10:40,750
because they don't--

179
00:10:40,750 --> 00:10:41,920
and I tell this to people.

180
00:10:41,920 --> 00:10:44,420
They says, you should have taken
the picture and tear it up.

181
00:10:44,420 --> 00:10:47,410
That's not the answer,
but it did happen.

182
00:10:47,410 --> 00:10:51,620
These experiences
are still out there,

183
00:10:51,620 --> 00:10:56,470
that a 17, 18-year-old
young woman

184
00:10:56,470 --> 00:10:58,180
is proud to have that picture.

185
00:10:58,180 --> 00:11:00,700
She probably doesn't
know what that man did.

186
00:11:00,700 --> 00:11:02,215
He probably killed
a few hundred.

187
00:11:02,215 --> 00:11:05,935

188
00:11:05,935 --> 00:11:07,890
What did you do professionally?

189

00:11:07,890 --> 00:11:09,890

And did you go back to
school when you got here?

190

00:11:09,890 --> 00:11:10,598

Did you continue?

191

00:11:10,598 --> 00:11:13,280

Here I went to work.

192

00:11:13,280 --> 00:11:16,130

I worked in a delicatessen
in Indianapolis.

193

00:11:16,130 --> 00:11:22,610

I made sandwiches in the
window because I couldn't talk.

194

00:11:22,610 --> 00:11:25,000

How did you end up
in Indianapolis?

195

00:11:25,000 --> 00:11:27,320

We had an uncle.

196

00:11:27,320 --> 00:11:30,470

My mother had eight
brothers and sisters.

197

00:11:30,470 --> 00:11:32,898

One of them was here,
and he wouldn't hire me

198

00:11:32,898 --> 00:11:34,940

in his business because
I couldn't speak English.

199

00:11:34,940 --> 00:11:42,200

He couldn't either, and his
name was John Steinberger.

200

00:11:42,200 --> 00:11:46,730

And he died since, and he is

the one who gave me that ring.

201

00:11:46,730 --> 00:11:48,590

How long did you
stay in Indianapolis?

202

00:11:48,590 --> 00:11:52,610

I stayed in
Indianapolis in 1959.

203

00:11:52,610 --> 00:11:59,480

Then I got married, and I
worked in the delicatessen.

204

00:11:59,480 --> 00:12:05,990

And I got fired because
I wanted more money.

205

00:12:05,990 --> 00:12:08,750

I was tending bar
and go to school

206

00:12:08,750 --> 00:12:11,840

at night at Indiana University.

207

00:12:11,840 --> 00:12:18,080

I didn't get a degree, but
I went to business school

208

00:12:18,080 --> 00:12:27,140

because a long, long
relative cousin picked me

209

00:12:27,140 --> 00:12:30,950

up and made me work for him.

210

00:12:30,950 --> 00:12:32,600

His name was Max Reese.

211

00:12:32,600 --> 00:12:35,780

I don't know if you ever heard
that name before, Reese Finer

212

00:12:35,780 --> 00:12:37,490

Foods.

213

00:12:37,490 --> 00:12:39,770

He died since, too.

214

00:12:39,770 --> 00:12:42,740

And I worked for him, and then

I worked for his competitor.

215

00:12:42,740 --> 00:12:43,880

I was in the food business.

216

00:12:43,880 --> 00:12:46,080

I was in the--

217

00:12:46,080 --> 00:12:52,460

I was moved to Minneapolis, and

there I became part-time cantor

218

00:12:52,460 --> 00:12:53,510

on Friday.

219

00:12:53,510 --> 00:12:55,860

I was home Friday,

Saturday, Sunday,

220

00:12:55,860 --> 00:12:59,090

went back on the road Monday,

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday.

221

00:12:59,090 --> 00:13:02,060

And that's how I got

acquainted with--

222

00:13:02,060 --> 00:13:06,290

because my background from

home, from the seminary,

223

00:13:06,290 --> 00:13:10,820

from the school in Paris,

and the encouragement

224
00:13:10,820 --> 00:13:18,740
of Rabbi Sacks in Minneapolis,
who was a lousy shofar blower.

225
00:13:18,740 --> 00:13:21,410
When I heard that, I
says, give it to me,

226
00:13:21,410 --> 00:13:24,450
and I've been blowing
the shofar ever since.

227
00:13:24,450 --> 00:13:30,830
But I became their cantor
on Friday and Shabbat,

228
00:13:30,830 --> 00:13:35,170
and there was no money.

229
00:13:35,170 --> 00:13:37,840

230
00:13:37,840 --> 00:13:42,220
And then I was moved
to Dayton, Ohio, where

231
00:13:42,220 --> 00:13:47,770
I did my voluntary services for
the Wright Patterson Force base

232
00:13:47,770 --> 00:13:51,290
on Friday nights and
Saturday mornings.

233
00:13:51,290 --> 00:13:54,700
I was divorced
from my first wife

234
00:13:54,700 --> 00:13:59,740
because I spent too much
time on weekends instead of

235

00:13:59,740 --> 00:14:04,620
with the children with the--

236

00:14:04,620 --> 00:14:08,340
what she called me-- she came
from a very formed environment.

237

00:14:08,340 --> 00:14:13,740
She called me a religious nut,
and I shouldn't have done it.

238

00:14:13,740 --> 00:14:17,040
We didn't get along
anymore on account of that.

239

00:14:17,040 --> 00:14:23,940
I came to Louisville,
Kentucky in 1978

240

00:14:23,940 --> 00:14:27,200
because I wanted to settle
down, not travel anymore,

241

00:14:27,200 --> 00:14:29,580
and there was no
opportunity for opening up

242

00:14:29,580 --> 00:14:33,900
a gourmet delicatessen
food store, which

243

00:14:33,900 --> 00:14:37,230
I was knowledgeable.

244

00:14:37,230 --> 00:14:40,650
And it didn't go over.

245

00:14:40,650 --> 00:14:43,740
Rabbi [? Cling ?] from the
congregation [INAUDIBLE]

246

00:14:43,740 --> 00:14:47,700

said, we need a
religious director.

247
00:14:47,700 --> 00:14:49,350
What's a religious director?

248
00:14:49,350 --> 00:14:52,990
A religious director is
a glorified [INAUDIBLE]..

249
00:14:52,990 --> 00:14:54,270
I says, what is my job?

250
00:14:54,270 --> 00:14:57,930
He says, anything that I
don't want to do, you do it.

251
00:14:57,930 --> 00:15:01,560
And I have been
there ever since.

252
00:15:01,560 --> 00:15:03,360
Can we talk a
little bit before we

253
00:15:03,360 --> 00:15:05,880
end about your feelings
and your reflections.

254
00:15:05,880 --> 00:15:08,700
You had said that you have
this sense of optimism

255
00:15:08,700 --> 00:15:11,370
that you probably
inherited from your father.

256
00:15:11,370 --> 00:15:15,060
What else kept you going
through these terrible times

257
00:15:15,060 --> 00:15:15,930
in the war?

258
00:15:15,930 --> 00:15:18,930
Anything else besides that?

259
00:15:18,930 --> 00:15:19,770
Well, one.

260
00:15:19,770 --> 00:15:22,650

261
00:15:22,650 --> 00:15:29,670
How can anyone believe
six million, five million,

262
00:15:29,670 --> 00:15:33,360
four million, one million--

263
00:15:33,360 --> 00:15:35,820
impossible.

264
00:15:35,820 --> 00:15:41,615
OK, so they're put in a
camp, don't get much to eat,

265
00:15:41,615 --> 00:15:42,115
but killing?

266
00:15:42,115 --> 00:15:46,760

267
00:15:46,760 --> 00:15:57,930
How can-- and I was a
young punk who loved life,

268
00:15:57,930 --> 00:15:58,650
and I don't know.

269
00:15:58,650 --> 00:16:00,630
I still do.

270
00:16:00,630 --> 00:16:05,100

At the age of 70,
I still believe

271
00:16:05,100 --> 00:16:08,530
that I'm one of the luckiest
people in the world,

272
00:16:08,530 --> 00:16:10,710
and this is what
I tell the people.

273
00:16:10,710 --> 00:16:12,660
What kept me alive is--

274
00:16:12,660 --> 00:16:17,690

275
00:16:17,690 --> 00:16:24,740
I don't know, but I wanted
to stay alive because--

276
00:16:24,740 --> 00:16:26,990
I don't want to be
a saint or anything,

277
00:16:26,990 --> 00:16:30,281
but I hope the next day is
better than the one yesterday.

278
00:16:30,281 --> 00:16:32,940

279
00:16:32,940 --> 00:16:37,410
When Rabbi Kushner says bad
things happen to good people,

280
00:16:37,410 --> 00:16:39,270
look, I'm not good people.

281
00:16:39,270 --> 00:16:41,490
Bad things happen anyway.

282

00:16:41,490 --> 00:16:46,020

Bad things can happen to anyone,
and not everybody is good.

283

00:16:46,020 --> 00:16:47,790

It's easy to say.

284

00:16:47,790 --> 00:16:51,930

Bad things happened
to six million.

285

00:16:51,930 --> 00:16:55,500

They were all good people.

286

00:16:55,500 --> 00:16:58,350

And you asked me a while ago.

287

00:16:58,350 --> 00:17:01,080

My father had a
big influence on me

288

00:17:01,080 --> 00:17:04,980

despite that I only knew
him for a few years.

289

00:17:04,980 --> 00:17:08,010

And my love for him--

290

00:17:08,010 --> 00:17:11,190

I don't know how.

291

00:17:11,190 --> 00:17:16,530

Children ask me-- and this
is what I say at the end--

292

00:17:16,530 --> 00:17:20,710

why do you still believe in God?

293

00:17:20,710 --> 00:17:22,720

I keep a kosher home.

294

00:17:22,720 --> 00:17:26,920

I'm not what you
call an Orthodox Jew.

295
00:17:26,920 --> 00:17:30,280
I wear a kippah when I go
to the Holocaust Museum.

296
00:17:30,280 --> 00:17:33,400
I am not a fanatic.

297
00:17:33,400 --> 00:17:36,790
As a child, I wore
a tallit katan.

298
00:17:36,790 --> 00:17:42,490
As a child, we were
a very firm home.

299
00:17:42,490 --> 00:17:47,380
The question is, why do
I still believe in God?

300
00:17:47,380 --> 00:17:49,540
The answer is, why not?

301
00:17:49,540 --> 00:17:54,560

302
00:17:54,560 --> 00:17:56,450
And that's me.

303
00:17:56,450 --> 00:17:59,090

304
00:17:59,090 --> 00:18:01,250
You were talking about
the fact that you still

305
00:18:01,250 --> 00:18:04,430
had dreams about those times.

306
00:18:04,430 --> 00:18:07,340

And in any other way
has the Holocaust

307
00:18:07,340 --> 00:18:10,820
affected your everyday life?

308
00:18:10,820 --> 00:18:20,720
Oh, I was told that I get very
emotional at the time of Yom

309
00:18:20,720 --> 00:18:25,080
HaShoah, and I found
out that other people

310
00:18:25,080 --> 00:18:31,350
are in the same boat,
that it is amazing.

311
00:18:31,350 --> 00:18:34,010
There is a scar.

312
00:18:34,010 --> 00:18:41,990
We all have scars, and this scar
maybe healed, but it's there.

313
00:18:41,990 --> 00:18:51,560
Why did it take 50 years
to get a Holocaust Museum?

314
00:18:51,560 --> 00:18:53,230
All of a sudden--

315
00:18:53,230 --> 00:18:57,260
in 1950, nobody wanted
to talk about it.

316
00:18:57,260 --> 00:18:59,070
Was America ashamed of it?

317
00:18:59,070 --> 00:19:02,130

318

00:19:02,130 --> 00:19:04,790
Maybe they should
have, maybe not.

319
00:19:04,790 --> 00:19:09,980
I'm not a politician, but
America should have done more.

320
00:19:09,980 --> 00:19:10,700
And they know it.

321
00:19:10,700 --> 00:19:13,730

322
00:19:13,730 --> 00:19:17,160
All of a sudden, and not
necessarily all of a sudden,

323
00:19:17,160 --> 00:19:22,250
in the last 10 years or
so, the stories come about.

324
00:19:22,250 --> 00:19:26,090
There's a lot of
people, myself, who--

325
00:19:26,090 --> 00:19:29,138
I didn't mention what I
saw when we were running

326
00:19:29,138 --> 00:19:31,430
from the Germans, that the
Messerschmitts up there were

327
00:19:31,430 --> 00:19:35,780
shooting it at civilians
running away from Paris.

328
00:19:35,780 --> 00:19:41,426
We just saw people getting
killed and bloody stuff

329
00:19:41,426 --> 00:19:42,590

on the way to Limoges.

330

00:19:42,590 --> 00:19:46,570

331

00:19:46,570 --> 00:19:50,780

It's impossible to
explain these things.

332

00:19:50,780 --> 00:19:52,970

There are no witnesses to it.

333

00:19:52,970 --> 00:19:55,590

There are just
those who survived.

334

00:19:55,590 --> 00:19:56,840

And they didn't want to talk.

335

00:19:56,840 --> 00:20:01,590

I know people that were
in the same boat as I am.

336

00:20:01,590 --> 00:20:05,120

I met them out in Los Angeles.

337

00:20:05,120 --> 00:20:07,530

They didn't want
to talk about it.

338

00:20:07,530 --> 00:20:10,160

They have a new life.

339

00:20:10,160 --> 00:20:11,610

Some of them went to school.

340

00:20:11,610 --> 00:20:14,270

Some of them became
very wealthy.

341

00:20:14,270 --> 00:20:16,790

Some of them did well.

342
00:20:16,790 --> 00:20:21,170
I don't know if they have
done their share to Judaism

343
00:20:21,170 --> 00:20:24,560
or not because if I win
the lottery tomorrow,

344
00:20:24,560 --> 00:20:26,600
that's another story.

345
00:20:26,600 --> 00:20:29,660
But I think we have
now and I realize--

346
00:20:29,660 --> 00:20:31,490
and like I said,
I'm not a good guy.

347
00:20:31,490 --> 00:20:32,810
I'm not a saint.

348
00:20:32,810 --> 00:20:36,470
We now have an obligation
to spread the word.

349
00:20:36,470 --> 00:20:37,988
And as a school--

350
00:20:37,988 --> 00:20:40,280
I'll tell you, the teacher
is waiting for me over there

351
00:20:40,280 --> 00:20:42,455
now in a little county.

352
00:20:42,455 --> 00:20:46,490

353
00:20:46,490 --> 00:20:50,570
She says I am her-- and she's

a very devout Christian.

354
00:20:50,570 --> 00:20:51,740
I am the Jewish--

355
00:20:51,740 --> 00:20:55,390

356
00:20:55,390 --> 00:20:57,810
what do you call it, preacher?

357
00:20:57,810 --> 00:21:00,410
Prophet, messenger?

358
00:21:00,410 --> 00:21:03,115

359
00:21:03,115 --> 00:21:05,540
The man that goes around
and makes speeches, like--

360
00:21:05,540 --> 00:21:10,750

361
00:21:10,750 --> 00:21:13,478
what's the name of the
preacher that is on radio TV

362
00:21:13,478 --> 00:21:14,020
all the time?

363
00:21:14,020 --> 00:21:14,800
Billy Graham?

364
00:21:14,800 --> 00:21:17,210
Yeah, what is he called, a--

365
00:21:17,210 --> 00:21:18,970
Minister?

366
00:21:18,970 --> 00:21:19,990

Angelical?

367

00:21:19,990 --> 00:21:22,900

Well, whatever, it
is, a messenger,

368

00:21:22,900 --> 00:21:28,450

that I have-- and the teachers
really appreciate that.

369

00:21:28,450 --> 00:21:31,870

You said you never
wore a Jewish star.

370

00:21:31,870 --> 00:21:33,040

I was supposed to.

371

00:21:33,040 --> 00:21:34,030

When?

372

00:21:34,030 --> 00:21:36,970

I was supposed to
wear it in France.

373

00:21:36,970 --> 00:21:38,515

And why did you not wear it?

374

00:21:38,515 --> 00:21:39,741

I ran away, didn't I?

375

00:21:39,741 --> 00:21:42,510

376

00:21:42,510 --> 00:21:44,370

What were your
thoughts on the star?

377

00:21:44,370 --> 00:21:47,460

[INAUDIBLE] was the one that--

378

00:21:47,460 --> 00:21:49,530

my thoughts on it?

379
00:21:49,530 --> 00:21:54,150
Well, I don't know.

380
00:21:54,150 --> 00:22:02,670
I disguised myself as
a Frenchman to survive.

381
00:22:02,670 --> 00:22:06,550
Why should I put a thing on
there and give myself away?

382
00:22:06,550 --> 00:22:07,853
That was my--

383
00:22:07,853 --> 00:22:08,520
Do you receive--

384
00:22:08,520 --> 00:22:12,450
Now, in the camp, where
I wore the [INAUDIBLE]----

385
00:22:12,450 --> 00:22:14,400
I never understood that.

386
00:22:14,400 --> 00:22:17,100
Why wear in the
camp a [INAUDIBLE]??

387
00:22:17,100 --> 00:22:18,720
So you did not even wear it?

388
00:22:18,720 --> 00:22:20,790
No.

389
00:22:20,790 --> 00:22:21,780
I never had to.

390
00:22:21,780 --> 00:22:24,530
I never was forced to.

391

00:22:24,530 --> 00:22:26,370
You never were
forced to, you said.

392
00:22:26,370 --> 00:22:28,170
I never were forced.

393
00:22:28,170 --> 00:22:31,630
Do you receive reparations?

394
00:22:31,630 --> 00:22:35,530
Oh, my mother-- she
messed this up years ago,

395
00:22:35,530 --> 00:22:39,120
years ago for education.

396
00:22:39,120 --> 00:22:40,950
We got a lump sum or something.

397
00:22:40,950 --> 00:22:45,320
Now, my mother was--

398
00:22:45,320 --> 00:22:51,170
financially, she was all
right, and I tell you why.

399
00:22:51,170 --> 00:22:54,930
My father was an employee
of the German government.

400
00:22:54,930 --> 00:23:01,970
The clergy was paid by
the government until 1938,

401
00:23:01,970 --> 00:23:05,240
and she now--

402
00:23:05,240 --> 00:23:08,750
all these years that she
was in a nursing home

403

00:23:08,750 --> 00:23:13,340
was paid with the pension
from the German government.

404
00:23:13,340 --> 00:23:17,960
How do you feel about her having
gotten money from Germany?

405
00:23:17,960 --> 00:23:20,390
Should have gotten more.

406
00:23:20,390 --> 00:23:23,240
Money doesn't pay lives.

407
00:23:23,240 --> 00:23:25,250
A lot of people say
that, but it's not true.

408
00:23:25,250 --> 00:23:27,350
Money can do a lot of things.

409
00:23:27,350 --> 00:23:32,450
And I know people who
went back to Germany.

410
00:23:32,450 --> 00:23:35,630
It's amazing how long
Jewish people feel that way,

411
00:23:35,630 --> 00:23:37,862
and they say "my hometown."

412
00:23:37,862 --> 00:23:38,780
Uh-uh.

413
00:23:38,780 --> 00:23:40,610
I have no hometown.

414
00:23:40,610 --> 00:23:44,510
My hometown is where I live
now, where I have a wife.

415

00:23:44,510 --> 00:23:45,820
That's my hometown.

416
00:23:45,820 --> 00:23:49,070
I hear people, going back to
my hometown in [?Kassel?],,

417
00:23:49,070 --> 00:23:50,390
wherever they are.

418
00:23:50,390 --> 00:23:51,895
That's not a hometown.

419
00:23:51,895 --> 00:23:52,770
She never had a home.

420
00:23:52,770 --> 00:23:55,430
She got chased out of there.

421
00:23:55,430 --> 00:24:01,610
We have our own Jewish people
buy Mercedes-Benz, of course,

422
00:24:01,610 --> 00:24:05,480
and to me--

423
00:24:05,480 --> 00:24:10,590
I said at one time, I says, I
won't go with that Nazi car.

424
00:24:10,590 --> 00:24:15,320
And the man was very upset
about that, what I said.

425
00:24:15,320 --> 00:24:16,790
Let them do what they want.

426
00:24:16,790 --> 00:24:20,760

427
00:24:20,760 --> 00:24:22,010
I don't want to go to Germany.

428
00:24:22,010 --> 00:24:25,640

429
00:24:25,640 --> 00:24:30,230
People went to Germany
as guests of the German--

430
00:24:30,230 --> 00:24:32,690
I vote for the heck of it.

431
00:24:32,690 --> 00:24:35,540
I go to the town of Speyer.

432
00:24:35,540 --> 00:24:44,030
I am Ernst Marx, son of
Lehrer Marx, [INAUDIBLE] Marx.

433
00:24:44,030 --> 00:24:49,310
And I hear that I'm not
welcome in your city.

434
00:24:49,310 --> 00:24:54,070

435
00:24:54,070 --> 00:24:59,440
When shall I-- we intend
to visit you next year.

436
00:24:59,440 --> 00:25:00,010
I don't know.

437
00:25:00,010 --> 00:25:02,020
We wrote it in German.

438
00:25:02,020 --> 00:25:04,240
Anyway, I said, what is your--

439
00:25:04,240 --> 00:25:08,000
what do you-- help
us out financially.

440

00:25:08,000 --> 00:25:10,270

The answer came.

441

00:25:10,270 --> 00:25:12,040

My name is not Burgermeister.

442

00:25:12,040 --> 00:25:16,000

My name is Ober

Burgermeister [INAUDIBLE]..

443

00:25:16,000 --> 00:25:19,200

444

00:25:19,200 --> 00:25:23,160

And he says, I am 42 years old.

445

00:25:23,160 --> 00:25:26,220

I do not know anything
about the past.

446

00:25:26,220 --> 00:25:30,450

Our town is not in the
position to finance your trip.

447

00:25:30,450 --> 00:25:34,490

However, you will always
be welcome in our city,

448

00:25:34,490 --> 00:25:41,100

Hochachtungsvol,
very truly yours.

449

00:25:41,100 --> 00:25:47,430

So I am-- no, a lot of people
ask me, do I want to go back?

450

00:25:47,430 --> 00:25:50,970

I went to Israel three times.

451

00:25:50,970 --> 00:25:54,860

I went to Israel to pick up
my mother, who was in Israel

452
00:25:54,860 --> 00:25:56,340
and had another
stroke in Israel.

453
00:25:56,340 --> 00:26:02,800
I had to bring her back,
first class on Lufthansa

454
00:26:02,800 --> 00:26:03,550
through Frankfurt.

455
00:26:03,550 --> 00:26:05,940
This is the funniest thing.

456
00:26:05,940 --> 00:26:08,880
And because El Al
didn't have any room.

457
00:26:08,880 --> 00:26:14,400
And went back on two
trips with the synagogue

458
00:26:14,400 --> 00:26:21,130
to Israel as part I
was at the Yad Vashem.

459
00:26:21,130 --> 00:26:26,650
And I said Kaddish at
the plane down there.

460
00:26:26,650 --> 00:26:32,810
I think this was the
highlight of my whole life.

461
00:26:32,810 --> 00:26:41,160

462
00:26:41,160 --> 00:26:45,960
We have a beautiful museum right
over here, which is historical.

463

00:26:45,960 --> 00:26:50,860
It's not for us, I think, our--

464
00:26:50,860 --> 00:26:54,008
it's not a museum, a
memorial museum in Israel.

465
00:26:54,008 --> 00:26:57,570

466
00:26:57,570 --> 00:27:00,670
They're building
more, understand?

467
00:27:00,670 --> 00:27:09,370

468
00:27:09,370 --> 00:27:11,080
Is there anything else
you'd like to add?

469
00:27:11,080 --> 00:27:11,620
No.

470
00:27:11,620 --> 00:27:13,720
Well, thank you very much
for doing the interview.

471
00:27:13,720 --> 00:27:15,940
What are you going to
do with this thing now?

472
00:27:15,940 --> 00:27:18,340
What are you going to
do with this, sell it?

473
00:27:18,340 --> 00:27:20,360
Thank you for doing
the interview.

474
00:27:20,360 --> 00:27:23,120

475

00:27:23,120 --> 00:27:26,590

This concludes the
interview of Ernst Marx.

476

00:27:26,590 --> 00:27:32,980

It took place on July 26,
1995 in Washington, DC.

477

00:27:32,980 --> 00:27:34,840

It was conducted
by Gail Schwartz

478

00:27:34,840 --> 00:27:38,820

on behalf of the United States
Holocaust Memorial Museum.

479

00:27:38,820 --> 00:27:40,391