

1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:09,910

2  
00:00:09,910 --> 00:00:16,795  
April 19th, 1996, Joshua Gray  
interviewing Peter Masters.

3  
00:00:16,795 --> 00:00:19,630

4  
00:00:19,630 --> 00:00:23,950  
Perhaps we should just  
start with some basic facts,

5  
00:00:23,950 --> 00:00:29,280  
your date of birth, where you  
were born, stuff like that.

6  
00:00:29,280 --> 00:00:31,720  
I was born on the  
5th of February,

7  
00:00:31,720 --> 00:00:36,880  
1922 in Vienna, Austria.

8  
00:00:36,880 --> 00:00:42,580  
My father was a  
Hungarian born in Szeged

9  
00:00:42,580 --> 00:00:48,900  
in Hungary near the border  
of Yugoslavia and Romania

10  
00:00:48,900 --> 00:00:52,540  
on the Tisza River.

11  
00:00:52,540 --> 00:00:58,360  
My mother was a  
second-generation Viennese.

12  
00:00:58,360 --> 00:01:00,130

Or maybe I should  
say first generation,

13  
00:01:00,130 --> 00:01:07,240  
because her father came from  
Poland, which was then Austria,

14  
00:01:07,240 --> 00:01:13,990  
to learn a profession  
in Austria,

15  
00:01:13,990 --> 00:01:17,620  
in Vienna, in the  
imperial capital.

16  
00:01:17,620 --> 00:01:22,150  
He was an apprentice  
gold and silversmith

17  
00:01:22,150 --> 00:01:26,710  
and became a leading  
one in Vienna,

18  
00:01:26,710 --> 00:01:30,670  
an expert on diamonds, pearls  
and precious and semi-precious

19  
00:01:30,670 --> 00:01:34,670  
stones known all over Europe.

20  
00:01:34,670 --> 00:01:47,050  
And he came at the age of 14  
or 15 from Krakow to Vienna,

21  
00:01:47,050 --> 00:01:53,440  
and lived in Vienna all  
his life until finally, he

22  
00:01:53,440 --> 00:02:00,550  
understood that the Nazis were  
a government whose rules you

23  
00:02:00,550 --> 00:02:04,330

couldn't obey, and that  
you had to try and get out.

24  
00:02:04,330 --> 00:02:07,360  
He had always been  
a respected citizen.

25  
00:02:07,360 --> 00:02:09,250  
It was very hard for  
him to grasp that.

26  
00:02:09,250 --> 00:02:11,680  
He went to Antwerp  
where he was well

27  
00:02:11,680 --> 00:02:14,830  
known because it was the center  
of the world diamond trade.

28  
00:02:14,830 --> 00:02:17,710  
And he came to visit in  
London, couldn't stay,

29  
00:02:17,710 --> 00:02:21,520  
and came back to Antwerp  
because there, he could work.

30  
00:02:21,520 --> 00:02:26,020  
He was 74 years old, exactly  
my age at the moment, when

31  
00:02:26,020 --> 00:02:27,851  
he was murdered in Auschwitz.

32  
00:02:27,851 --> 00:02:30,740

33  
00:02:30,740 --> 00:02:34,010  
And you talk about the  
fact that your parents

34  
00:02:34,010 --> 00:02:36,230  
were divorced in the book.

35

00:02:36,230 --> 00:02:39,710

And how did that affect you  
and also with your sister?

36

00:02:39,710 --> 00:02:43,220

37

00:02:43,220 --> 00:02:44,390

And also with what?

38

00:02:44,390 --> 00:02:45,920

Your sister.

39

00:02:45,920 --> 00:02:47,960

Yes.

40

00:02:47,960 --> 00:02:53,450

Well, I have to  
say that I accepted

41

00:02:53,450 --> 00:02:56,330

the fact that my parents  
were in fact divorced twice,

42

00:02:56,330 --> 00:02:58,400

because the first  
time, my grandfather

43

00:02:58,400 --> 00:03:00,860

said we don't have  
divorces in our family,

44

00:03:00,860 --> 00:03:04,010

and he made them remarry  
or threatened sanctions.

45

00:03:04,010 --> 00:03:10,820

And since he was the financially  
solvent part of the family,

46

00:03:10,820 --> 00:03:14,270

that was a very serious threat.

47

00:03:14,270 --> 00:03:19,580

I saw my father  
occasionally, but I

48

00:03:19,580 --> 00:03:26,870

must say it was not a traumatic  
loss because after all,

49

00:03:26,870 --> 00:03:30,590

the first time he left, I  
was, I think, eight years old.

50

00:03:30,590 --> 00:03:35,750

And my mother was  
very supportive

51

00:03:35,750 --> 00:03:40,160

even when she had a full  
time job subsequently.

52

00:03:40,160 --> 00:03:44,100

And I remember, you know,  
children, we were brought up.

53

00:03:44,100 --> 00:03:48,200

We were asked silly questions,  
I thought tasteless questions

54

00:03:48,200 --> 00:03:52,580

by adults customarily, like  
whom do you like better,

55

00:03:52,580 --> 00:03:54,470

your mommy or your daddy.

56

00:03:54,470 --> 00:03:58,250

And I always felt the  
politically correct answer

57

00:03:58,250 --> 00:04:02,900

was both the same, and said

that automatically by reflex.

58

00:04:02,900 --> 00:04:07,310

My sister who was two years,  
2 and 1/2 years older,

59

00:04:07,310 --> 00:04:11,270

objected to that, and she  
said, why should I say I like

60

00:04:11,270 --> 00:04:14,630

my father equally when I don't.

61

00:04:14,630 --> 00:04:15,860

And she would speak out.

62

00:04:15,860 --> 00:04:22,730

63

00:04:22,730 --> 00:04:27,380

The most I saw of my father  
as an adult, as a teenager,

64

00:04:27,380 --> 00:04:31,220

was when we were interned  
together briefly in Britain

65

00:04:31,220 --> 00:04:35,920

as friendly enemy aliens.

66

00:04:35,920 --> 00:04:42,280

And he took a keen  
interest in my well-being

67

00:04:42,280 --> 00:04:43,405

in the internment camp.

68

00:04:43,405 --> 00:04:47,976

69

00:04:47,976 --> 00:04:50,940

When you were

growing up in Vienna,

70

00:04:50,940 --> 00:04:53,595

were you raised as  
religious or secularist,

71

00:04:53,595 --> 00:04:57,480

and how did that factor  
into your childhood?

72

00:04:57,480 --> 00:05:04,260

My maternal grandfather  
was a very religious man.

73

00:05:04,260 --> 00:05:07,680

My paternal  
grandfather, I'm told,

74

00:05:07,680 --> 00:05:10,170

also was a very religious  
man, but of course, he

75

00:05:10,170 --> 00:05:14,820

died decades before I was born,  
and I never saw him at all.

76

00:05:14,820 --> 00:05:19,000

I saw his first wife.

77

00:05:19,000 --> 00:05:21,130

He was married twice.

78

00:05:21,130 --> 00:05:24,690

I saw his first wife once  
on a very brief visit,

79

00:05:24,690 --> 00:05:27,990

which was very, very  
uneventful and disappointing.

80

00:05:27,990 --> 00:05:32,250

We expected a new  
grandmother, and she

81  
00:05:32,250 --> 00:05:34,810  
was going to bring us  
toys and what have you.

82  
00:05:34,810 --> 00:05:38,580  
And I think she bought us a  
couple of oranges and an apple

83  
00:05:38,580 --> 00:05:46,620  
and allegedly pulled up a chair  
to any wardrobe or cupboard

84  
00:05:46,620 --> 00:05:50,940  
in our apartment in Vienna  
to see whether my mother had

85  
00:05:50,940 --> 00:05:54,360  
dusted the top properly.

86  
00:05:54,360 --> 00:05:56,430  
Whether that's true or  
not, I'm not quite sure.

87  
00:05:56,430 --> 00:05:59,940  
But I was brought up with  
that story going around.

88  
00:05:59,940 --> 00:06:01,980  
And she left after two days.

89  
00:06:01,980 --> 00:06:04,290  
I never saw her again.

90  
00:06:04,290 --> 00:06:10,380  
My maternal grandfather,  
who was religious,

91  
00:06:10,380 --> 00:06:13,320  
would take us to the  
synagogue in Vienna,

92



00:06:13,320 --> 00:06:15,135  
of which he was a member.

93  
00:06:15,135 --> 00:06:18,171

94  
00:06:18,171 --> 00:06:21,540  
That was on main holidays.

95  
00:06:21,540 --> 00:06:26,010  
When I was bar mitzvahed,  
that was for some reason

96  
00:06:26,010 --> 00:06:29,730  
not to be at the main synagogue  
but at the local synagogue

97  
00:06:29,730 --> 00:06:32,110  
in my neighborhood.

98  
00:06:32,110 --> 00:06:34,740  
I don't think I'd ever  
been inside it before

99  
00:06:34,740 --> 00:06:38,670  
because my parents  
certainly gravitated

100  
00:06:38,670 --> 00:06:43,770  
towards my grandfather's  
practice of religion, which,

101  
00:06:43,770 --> 00:06:46,020  
incidentally, had  
some reservations.

102  
00:06:46,020 --> 00:06:51,330  
For instance, say the idea  
is to explain to the children

103  
00:06:51,330 --> 00:06:53,250  
what it's all about.

104

00:06:53,250 --> 00:06:55,695

My grandfather would  
do the Hebrew part

105

00:06:55,695 --> 00:07:00,030

very rapidly and sort of  
to himself, as it were,

106

00:07:00,030 --> 00:07:05,430

and never translate a word  
of what he was saying.

107

00:07:05,430 --> 00:07:08,790

So insofar as religion was  
taught in the schools--

108

00:07:08,790 --> 00:07:13,020

there's no church and state  
separation in Austria--

109

00:07:13,020 --> 00:07:17,970

the only thing we learned  
about Hebrew at all

110

00:07:17,970 --> 00:07:24,720

was in school during one  
hour of religion every week.

111

00:07:24,720 --> 00:07:28,590

The American practice of  
kids going to Sunday school

112

00:07:28,590 --> 00:07:31,470

certainly hadn't reached us.

113

00:07:31,470 --> 00:07:35,730

If it happened, it happened in  
different circles, not in ours.

114

00:07:35,730 --> 00:07:38,090

So I didn't learn anything.

115

00:07:38,090 --> 00:07:40,540  
So when I had my bar  
mitzvah, my grandfather--

116  
00:07:40,540 --> 00:07:42,360  
my father being abroad--

117  
00:07:42,360 --> 00:07:48,810  
took me to the local shul  
and talked to the shamash.

118  
00:07:48,810 --> 00:07:56,910  
And the shamash said, [YIDDISH],,  
what is the boy's Hebrew name?

119  
00:07:56,910 --> 00:07:59,310  
My grandfather hadn't  
thought that was

120  
00:07:59,310 --> 00:08:03,450  
going to come up because I  
didn't have a Hebrew name.

121  
00:08:03,450 --> 00:08:10,110  
So he saw Peter,  
and he said Pincus.

122  
00:08:10,110 --> 00:08:16,710  
And the shamash said,  
[YIDDISH],, for heaven's sake,

123  
00:08:16,710 --> 00:08:18,210  
[YIDDISH], you are still alive.

124  
00:08:18,210 --> 00:08:20,890

125  
00:08:20,890 --> 00:08:24,790  
And your name is Abraham Pincus.

126  
00:08:24,790 --> 00:08:27,490  
And my grandfather got  
very red in the face.

127  
00:08:27,490 --> 00:08:29,770  
And the shamash quickly  
said, you made a mistake.

128  
00:08:29,770 --> 00:08:30,580  
You forgot.

129  
00:08:30,580 --> 00:08:32,559  
And my grandfather said yes.

130  
00:08:32,559 --> 00:08:36,204  
And the shamash said,  
his name is Peretz.

131  
00:08:36,204 --> 00:08:38,860

132  
00:08:38,860 --> 00:08:41,260  
So my Hebrew name has  
been Peretz ever since.

133  
00:08:41,260 --> 00:08:46,150

134  
00:08:46,150 --> 00:08:49,420  
Did you ever experience  
trouble growing up

135  
00:08:49,420 --> 00:08:53,245  
because of anti-Semitic  
beliefs or political beliefs?

136  
00:08:53,245 --> 00:08:55,960

137  
00:08:55,960 --> 00:08:56,590  
Yes.

138  
00:08:56,590 --> 00:09:03,280  
And this is very hard to  
understand because what happens

139  
00:09:03,280 --> 00:09:08,950  
is the casual anti-Semitic  
remark which you might

140  
00:09:08,950 --> 00:09:13,720  
run into in any country, which  
was to some extent fostered,

141  
00:09:13,720 --> 00:09:17,140  
perhaps, by the church.

142  
00:09:17,140 --> 00:09:22,570  
The Roman Catholic Church in  
Austria was the state religion.

143  
00:09:22,570 --> 00:09:27,580  
And there was an awful lot  
of, at times, especially

144  
00:09:27,580 --> 00:09:29,980  
during nationalistic  
governments,

145  
00:09:29,980 --> 00:09:33,520  
saying we are a  
Christian German nation.

146  
00:09:33,520 --> 00:09:38,980  
And what exactly they meant by  
"German" was not, by any means,

147  
00:09:38,980 --> 00:09:41,230  
connected to the  
Nazis and Anschluss.

148  
00:09:41,230 --> 00:09:43,270  
It preceded it by years.

149  
00:09:43,270 --> 00:09:45,520  
And there was also  
an undercurrent

150

00:09:45,520 --> 00:09:48,560  
of anti-Prussianism.

151

00:09:48,560 --> 00:09:50,980  
And to an Austrian,  
almost anybody north

152

00:09:50,980 --> 00:09:55,390  
of the border, whether they  
are Bavarians or southern

153

00:09:55,390 --> 00:09:59,630  
Germans or Prussians doesn't  
really make any difference.

154

00:09:59,630 --> 00:10:01,540  
They were all  
Prussians collectively

155

00:10:01,540 --> 00:10:05,475  
in popular opinion.

156

00:10:05,475 --> 00:10:06,850  
And there had been  
a seven years'

157

00:10:06,850 --> 00:10:12,460  
war against the Prussians at  
the end of the previous century.

158

00:10:12,460 --> 00:10:17,110  
And there were people around  
who remembered that war of 1866,

159

00:10:17,110 --> 00:10:19,480  
I think it was.

160

00:10:19,480 --> 00:10:25,120  
And so you'd find an  
occasional anti-Semitic remark

161

00:10:25,120 --> 00:10:27,820

and sidestep it or  
take it in your stride.

162  
00:10:27,820 --> 00:10:30,100  
You'd hardly challenge it.

163  
00:10:30,100 --> 00:10:33,310  
And then it got  
progressively more so.

164  
00:10:33,310 --> 00:10:42,490  
And one of the biggest  
syndromes of the Nazi experience

165  
00:10:42,490 --> 00:10:46,000  
was the ever-tightening noose.

166  
00:10:46,000 --> 00:10:48,520  
This was particularly  
so in Germany.

167  
00:10:48,520 --> 00:10:52,630  
In Austria, fortunately  
and unfortunately,

168  
00:10:52,630 --> 00:10:54,790  
it was much more rapid.

169  
00:10:54,790 --> 00:10:57,910  
There were immediate  
atrocities which

170  
00:10:57,910 --> 00:11:01,450  
caused people who could  
to run away immediately

171  
00:11:01,450 --> 00:11:03,010  
and saved many.

172  
00:11:03,010 --> 00:11:07,480  
But also, it hurt many people,  
whereas in Germany, they

173

00:11:07,480 --> 00:11:12,370  
were living in a sort of  
adjusted, more or less--

174

00:11:12,370 --> 00:11:14,530  
the Jews were living  
in an adjusted,

175

00:11:14,530 --> 00:11:16,960  
more or less comfortable way.

176

00:11:16,960 --> 00:11:19,870  
The Austrians couldn't  
believe that, in Germany, you

177

00:11:19,870 --> 00:11:25,420  
could go to public places and  
sit there or go into businesses

178

00:11:25,420 --> 00:11:30,130  
or have your hair done  
in a non-Jewish whatever.

179

00:11:30,130 --> 00:11:35,098

180

00:11:35,098 --> 00:11:38,210  
That doesn't mean  
that the awful things

181

00:11:38,210 --> 00:11:39,800  
didn't happen in Germany.

182

00:11:39,800 --> 00:11:43,400  
They simply happened  
more gradually

183

00:11:43,400 --> 00:11:47,390  
and lulled a lot of people  
into a false confidence, which

184

00:11:47,390 --> 00:11:50,390



caused them not to  
run away until it was

185  
00:11:50,390 --> 00:11:53,280  
very difficult or impossible.

186  
00:11:53,280 --> 00:11:57,710  
So of course, as soon as the  
Nazis came or even before,

187  
00:11:57,710 --> 00:12:00,830  
when the Nazi party was  
legalized by pressuring

188  
00:12:00,830 --> 00:12:04,440  
the preceding  
Austrian government,

189  
00:12:04,440 --> 00:12:14,260  
which was a nationalistic,  
anti-Nazi government but also

190  
00:12:14,260 --> 00:12:18,040  
anti-socialist and  
anti-democratic--

191  
00:12:18,040 --> 00:12:22,960  
so that the Nazi  
party was legalized.

192  
00:12:22,960 --> 00:12:26,380  
And there were more newspapers.

193  
00:12:26,380 --> 00:12:29,470  
They built little  
wooden frames on stands.

194  
00:12:29,470 --> 00:12:34,930  
And there, they published--  
they displayed papers like Der

195  
00:12:34,930 --> 00:12:42,220  
StÄ¼rmer, which was Julius

## Streicher's anti-Semitic paper

196

00:12:42,220 --> 00:12:46,570  
which had retouched photos of  
Jews with crossed eyes and long

197

00:12:46,570 --> 00:12:53,890  
noses, supposedly actual photos  
of perpetrators of horrible

198

00:12:53,890 --> 00:13:03,650  
crimes from miscegenation to  
rape to stealing and cheating

199

00:13:03,650 --> 00:13:07,280  
and what have you in the  
clumsiest kind of way,

200

00:13:07,280 --> 00:13:08,480  
heavy handedly.

201

00:13:08,480 --> 00:13:10,730  
And one stood  
there and saw this.

202

00:13:10,730 --> 00:13:14,090  
And then they would  
have stickers and flyers

203

00:13:14,090 --> 00:13:15,690  
displayed with it.

204

00:13:15,690 --> 00:13:21,230  
And some of those had quite  
an effect on us youngsters.

205

00:13:21,230 --> 00:13:24,590  
For instance, there was  
one little sticker flyer

206

00:13:24,590 --> 00:13:28,340  
with a picture of a  
caricature of a Jew.

207  
00:13:28,340 --> 00:13:31,576  
And with it was a  
verse that, translated,

208  
00:13:31,576 --> 00:13:36,890  
it would say, who is advancing--

209  
00:13:36,890 --> 00:13:46,610  
who comes here on flat feet with  
a crooked nose and curly hair?

210  
00:13:46,610 --> 00:13:49,640

211  
00:13:49,640 --> 00:13:52,250  
Every German must  
know the answer.

212  
00:13:52,250 --> 00:13:57,830  
It is the Jew, and  
he must be expelled.

213  
00:13:57,830 --> 00:14:01,050

214  
00:14:01,050 --> 00:14:11,270  
So there was a scenario created  
that the Jews were indoor,

215  
00:14:11,270 --> 00:14:17,000  
weakling [? keeper. ?]  
And that caused some of us

216  
00:14:17,000 --> 00:14:22,640  
by reflex to want to be back  
to nature, outdoor people.

217  
00:14:22,640 --> 00:14:28,880  
It caused people to  
join all kinds of--

218

00:14:28,880 --> 00:14:31,310  
what shall I say--

219  
00:14:31,310 --> 00:14:36,890  
Zionist organizations not only  
because they wanted Israel

220  
00:14:36,890 --> 00:14:41,900  
to arise, which seemed a very  
far-fetched idea at the time,

221  
00:14:41,900 --> 00:14:44,510  
but because they wanted  
to show that Jews could

222  
00:14:44,510 --> 00:14:49,340  
work on the land and not be  
intellectualized bookkeepers

223  
00:14:49,340 --> 00:14:54,480  
but were tough and get into  
sports and this and that.

224  
00:14:54,480 --> 00:14:57,350  
So this had quite  
an effect on us.

225  
00:14:57,350 --> 00:15:01,580  
And we certainly wanted to  
prove that we were different.

226  
00:15:01,580 --> 00:15:04,820  
Now, I also think that  
that caused a great danger

227  
00:15:04,820 --> 00:15:08,000  
to many of us because  
inevitably, all of us

228  
00:15:08,000 --> 00:15:13,100  
are pondering, if we didn't  
go to a concentration camp,

229

00:15:13,100 --> 00:15:16,520  
if we weren't arrested--  
and many of us

230  
00:15:16,520 --> 00:15:18,050  
were not because we were young.

231  
00:15:18,050 --> 00:15:20,000  
The danger was  
greater for people

232  
00:15:20,000 --> 00:15:24,170  
who were 18 or thereabouts.

233  
00:15:24,170 --> 00:15:28,190  
We said, well, what  
would I have done?

234  
00:15:28,190 --> 00:15:31,880  
Now, after Green Beret  
Commando training,

235  
00:15:31,880 --> 00:15:34,880  
I can think of all kinds of  
things that I would have done.

236  
00:15:34,880 --> 00:15:37,100  
But I didn't have  
that training then.

237  
00:15:37,100 --> 00:15:40,280  
And what I would  
have done, the answer

238  
00:15:40,280 --> 00:15:43,730  
which I'm gradually  
arriving at now

239  
00:15:43,730 --> 00:15:49,340  
is I probably would have said  
what many people of my kind

240  
00:15:49,340 --> 00:15:51,870

did say.

241

00:15:51,870 --> 00:15:56,400

I will show them  
that I can work.

242

00:15:56,400 --> 00:16:02,770

And I'll be such a valuable  
asset that, surely, nothing

243

00:16:02,770 --> 00:16:07,360

will happen to me because they  
will appreciate how tough I am

244

00:16:07,360 --> 00:16:08,860

and how determined I am.

245

00:16:08,860 --> 00:16:13,540

And I'll show them that  
I'll do useful things--

246

00:16:13,540 --> 00:16:17,300

not just for the  
Nazi cause, simply--

247

00:16:17,300 --> 00:16:21,220

the thing was dressed up that  
we were going, after all,

248

00:16:21,220 --> 00:16:22,420

[NON-ENGLISH].

249

00:16:22,420 --> 00:16:25,420

250

00:16:25,420 --> 00:16:26,800

They thought we couldn't work.

251

00:16:26,800 --> 00:16:28,690

We'll show them we could work.

252

00:16:28,690 --> 00:16:32,140

And I bet you that many people  
walked into the gas chamber

253  
00:16:32,140 --> 00:16:35,710  
having come in with  
the determination

254  
00:16:35,710 --> 00:16:40,640  
that they were going to show  
them that they were tough.

255  
00:16:40,640 --> 00:16:43,319

256  
00:16:43,319 --> 00:16:47,185  
Didn't matter, of course,  
how tough you were, right?

257  
00:16:47,185 --> 00:16:49,560  
So you're saying that's one  
of the reasons why you joined

258  
00:16:49,560 --> 00:16:51,630  
the Boy Scouts as a youth.

259  
00:16:51,630 --> 00:16:54,630  
The Boy Scouts were an  
international organization.

260  
00:16:54,630 --> 00:16:58,500  
And it was something that--

261  
00:16:58,500 --> 00:17:02,760  
they were for peace and ethics.

262  
00:17:02,760 --> 00:17:05,310  
And joining the Boy  
Scouts was probably more

263  
00:17:05,310 --> 00:17:09,839  
or less a social thing  
plus, yes, what you say

264

00:17:09,839 --> 00:17:12,060  
is quite right.

265

00:17:12,060 --> 00:17:15,630  
Incidentally, the scouts  
are quite different

266

00:17:15,630 --> 00:17:18,869  
or were quite different in  
Australia than they are here.

267

00:17:18,869 --> 00:17:21,180  
I was a Scoutmaster  
in America, press

268

00:17:21,180 --> 00:17:23,859  
ganged in by one of my children.

269

00:17:23,859 --> 00:17:30,090  
And that was almost  
unheard of in Austria,

270

00:17:30,090 --> 00:17:33,570  
that a parent would  
be the Scoutmaster.

271

00:17:33,570 --> 00:17:36,180  
The hierarchy of the  
Scouts leadership

272

00:17:36,180 --> 00:17:42,720  
starting at the lowest level  
and on up was from the boys.

273

00:17:42,720 --> 00:17:46,200  
That is to say, the boys  
were patrol leaders.

274

00:17:46,200 --> 00:17:48,030  
The boys were troop leaders.

275

00:17:48,030 --> 00:17:52,230



The boys were leaders  
of the higher--

276  
00:17:52,230 --> 00:17:55,050  
as they got older,  
all the scouts.

277  
00:17:55,050 --> 00:17:59,400  
And then the leadership of  
the whole Scout organization

278  
00:17:59,400 --> 00:18:01,950  
would be in the  
hands of boys who

279  
00:18:01,950 --> 00:18:05,700  
had come up through the  
Scouts, never parents.

280  
00:18:05,700 --> 00:18:09,690  
The whole idea was to go  
away weekends independently

281  
00:18:09,690 --> 00:18:15,210  
and self-reliance of boys  
cooking, boys putting up tents,

282  
00:18:15,210 --> 00:18:16,710  
boys hiking.

283  
00:18:16,710 --> 00:18:21,060

284  
00:18:21,060 --> 00:18:24,520  
One of the Scouts groups  
to which I belonged

285  
00:18:24,520 --> 00:18:28,950  
spent the summer in  
what was Yugoslavia

286  
00:18:28,950 --> 00:18:32,670  
in Croatia on the Dalmatian

Coast on an island.

287

00:18:32,670 --> 00:18:37,590

And the whole thing was run  
by boys and grown-up boys who

288

00:18:37,590 --> 00:18:39,240

had been through the system.

289

00:18:39,240 --> 00:18:45,130

And we set up a camp on  
nothing, primitive conditions.

290

00:18:45,130 --> 00:18:46,560

There were no facilities.

291

00:18:46,560 --> 00:18:47,910

There are no houses, nothing.

292

00:18:47,910 --> 00:18:52,530

We built tents, and we set  
up a kitchen and latrines.

293

00:18:52,530 --> 00:18:56,130

And we washed our  
dishes in the ocean.

294

00:18:56,130 --> 00:19:00,990

And we were miles  
away from any--

295

00:19:00,990 --> 00:19:03,210

two hours from the  
nearest civilization.

296

00:19:03,210 --> 00:19:05,820

297

00:19:05,820 --> 00:19:10,500

So did events such as the Nazi  
party rallies and the 1936

298

00:19:10,500 --> 00:19:14,670  
Olympics affect your  
views and your actions?

299  
00:19:14,670 --> 00:19:16,710  
Yes.

300  
00:19:16,710 --> 00:19:20,910  
We were so keen on sports that  
we followed the Olympics very,

301  
00:19:20,910 --> 00:19:22,540  
very carefully.

302  
00:19:22,540 --> 00:19:26,250  
We saw the Leni Riefenstahl  
film on the '36 Olympics

303  
00:19:26,250 --> 00:19:30,840  
and we embraced Austria.

304  
00:19:30,840 --> 00:19:34,620  
We were patriotic  
Austrians in '36,

305  
00:19:34,620 --> 00:19:37,680  
two years before the Nazis came.

306  
00:19:37,680 --> 00:19:41,100  
There was an incident  
involving the Hakoah,

307  
00:19:41,100 --> 00:19:49,110  
the Austrian Jewish  
sports club called Hakoah,

308  
00:19:49,110 --> 00:19:52,860  
who had a soccer team and had--

309  
00:19:52,860 --> 00:19:57,150  
but they were particularly  
famous for their swimmers.

310

00:19:57,150 --> 00:20:07,500

And the women's swim team  
refused to go to Berlin.

311

00:20:07,500 --> 00:20:10,350

The women's swim team, I'm  
mentioning in particular,

312

00:20:10,350 --> 00:20:13,800

because they were considered  
the ones with the best chances.

313

00:20:13,800 --> 00:20:18,060

They were so good.

314

00:20:18,060 --> 00:20:20,610

Now, they refused  
to go to Berlin

315

00:20:20,610 --> 00:20:24,180

because of the Nazi setup.

316

00:20:24,180 --> 00:20:28,110

And the International  
Olympic Committee, I believe,

317

00:20:28,110 --> 00:20:31,950

banned them from competition  
for several years,

318

00:20:31,950 --> 00:20:35,730

enough years to mean that  
their career was finished--

319

00:20:35,730 --> 00:20:38,610

because a young swimmer, if you  
take a couple of years away,

320

00:20:38,610 --> 00:20:41,040

you're gone--

321

00:20:41,040 --> 00:20:44,280

which caused quite an  
outrage among us, certainly.

322  
00:20:44,280 --> 00:20:48,822

323  
00:20:48,822 --> 00:20:55,890  
So we saw the Olympics and  
heard about Jesse Owens

324  
00:20:55,890 --> 00:20:59,880  
being snubbed by Hitler.

325  
00:20:59,880 --> 00:21:03,420  
And we delighted in  
the American successes

326  
00:21:03,420 --> 00:21:08,910  
and the American Black  
successes because it

327  
00:21:08,910 --> 00:21:12,180  
was so very impressive to us.

328  
00:21:12,180 --> 00:21:16,200  
And it disproved all this  
master race nonsense.

329  
00:21:16,200 --> 00:21:22,200  
And the American athletic  
team came to Vienna on a tour

330  
00:21:22,200 --> 00:21:24,300  
after the Olympics.

331  
00:21:24,300 --> 00:21:30,060  
And the whole thing was  
astonishing and impressive.

332  
00:21:30,060 --> 00:21:38,640  
And we really enjoyed  
this whole setup.

333

00:21:38,640 --> 00:21:43,320

For instance, there was a  
film on the Olympics showing

334

00:21:43,320 --> 00:21:46,470

the qualifications  
for the high jump.

335

00:21:46,470 --> 00:21:55,680

And the Europeans, I think  
it was 1 meter 86 foot

336

00:21:55,680 --> 00:21:57,930

to qualify or something.

337

00:21:57,930 --> 00:21:59,820

And some of them had trouble.

338

00:21:59,820 --> 00:22:03,030

339

00:22:03,030 --> 00:22:07,590

It took them a couple of  
tries, if not on six foot

340

00:22:07,590 --> 00:22:10,230

but then on the next  
one up and so on.

341

00:22:10,230 --> 00:22:15,090

And the Afro Americans jumped  
it with their track suits

342

00:22:15,090 --> 00:22:19,980

on and barely taking a  
[? lunge, ?] like three steps

343

00:22:19,980 --> 00:22:21,480

and over.

344

00:22:21,480 --> 00:22:24,960

And only when it got

down towards the end

345

00:22:24,960 --> 00:22:29,070

did they stood down and  
mean business because now it

346

00:22:29,070 --> 00:22:31,030

was against each other.

347

00:22:31,030 --> 00:22:37,440

So we ate all this up in Vienna.

348

00:22:37,440 --> 00:22:40,110

So were you aware how  
Hitler disguised Germany

349

00:22:40,110 --> 00:22:42,720

and the Nazi rise of  
power during the Olympics

350

00:22:42,720 --> 00:22:46,177

and took off the sign that would  
say, "Jews not allowed here,"

351

00:22:46,177 --> 00:22:47,010

and stuff like that?

352

00:22:47,010 --> 00:22:50,790

353

00:22:50,790 --> 00:22:55,290

By this time, this certainly  
hadn't reached Austria.

354

00:22:55,290 --> 00:23:00,610

We had heard horror  
stories from Germany.

355

00:23:00,610 --> 00:23:09,990

Now, you have to understand that  
from an Austrian point of view,

356

00:23:09,990 --> 00:23:14,970  
the German people we saw,  
the visitors, tourists,

357  
00:23:14,970 --> 00:23:20,850  
the distant family and so  
on, we had a sort of attitude

358  
00:23:20,850 --> 00:23:27,180  
that said these people are  
notorious for exaggeration.

359  
00:23:27,180 --> 00:23:30,900  
You mustn't believe  
everything they say.

360  
00:23:30,900 --> 00:23:34,380  
There's an Austrian saying  
that says the soup is not

361  
00:23:34,380 --> 00:23:36,195  
eaten as hot as it is cooked.

362  
00:23:36,195 --> 00:23:41,660

363  
00:23:41,660 --> 00:23:46,440  
I think we used that as  
an excuse to say, well,

364  
00:23:46,440 --> 00:23:49,580  
this thing isn't  
all that serious.

365  
00:23:49,580 --> 00:23:54,920  
And in any case, we  
said, this could never

366  
00:23:54,920 --> 00:23:59,720  
happen here because we are much  
more civilized than they are.

367  
00:23:59,720 --> 00:24:05,150



And we are the hub of the  
world artistically, musically,

368  
00:24:05,150 --> 00:24:07,680  
medically, what have you.

369  
00:24:07,680 --> 00:24:12,470  
And the world wouldn't  
permit this to happen here.

370  
00:24:12,470 --> 00:24:18,310  
And certainly,  
it's a glib saying.

371  
00:24:18,310 --> 00:24:20,920  
I heard it in England  
after I emigrated.

372  
00:24:20,920 --> 00:24:23,470  
This cannot happen here.

373  
00:24:23,470 --> 00:24:27,280  
We wouldn't stand for it.

374  
00:24:27,280 --> 00:24:30,190  
Well, I was reminded  
of that when,

375  
00:24:30,190 --> 00:24:32,740  
in England, as a  
young refugee, I

376  
00:24:32,740 --> 00:24:42,280  
saw Boris Karloff film  
where he has been convicted

377  
00:24:42,280 --> 00:24:47,140  
to death by a jury and  
then mitigated or escaped

378  
00:24:47,140 --> 00:24:49,390  
or whatever, I don't know.

379

00:24:49,390 --> 00:24:54,670

And in the horror film,  
he decides that he's

380

00:24:54,670 --> 00:24:57,730

going to kill the entire jury.

381

00:24:57,730 --> 00:25:02,620

And he invites them over to  
a party very mysteriously

382

00:25:02,620 --> 00:25:03,730

and attractively.

383

00:25:03,730 --> 00:25:04,840

And so they all come.

384

00:25:04,840 --> 00:25:05,950

And there's nobody there.

385

00:25:05,950 --> 00:25:08,350

And they're all sitting in  
that house waiting for someone

386

00:25:08,350 --> 00:25:09,500

to appear.

387

00:25:09,500 --> 00:25:11,530

And there's an  
intercom system which

388

00:25:11,530 --> 00:25:16,000

says what the intention is,  
and all the doors are locked,

389

00:25:16,000 --> 00:25:19,750

and one after the other  
is going to be killed.

390

00:25:19,750 --> 00:25:22,090

And one is killed,  
and then another.

391  
00:25:22,090 --> 00:25:25,690  
And then a young  
woman is to be next,

392  
00:25:25,690 --> 00:25:29,950  
and her fianc  was also there  
or a young man is also there.

393  
00:25:29,950 --> 00:25:36,010  
And he says, you're not going  
to kill her over my dead body.

394  
00:25:36,010 --> 00:25:39,940  
And the voice says, that  
can easily be arranged.

395  
00:25:39,940 --> 00:25:41,740  
You can go first.

396  
00:25:41,740 --> 00:25:47,410  
And that's, within  
the horror film,

397  
00:25:47,410 --> 00:25:49,150  
a line that brings a laugh.

398  
00:25:49,150 --> 00:25:51,280  
That can easily be arranged.

399  
00:25:51,280 --> 00:25:53,200  
Well, you multiply that.

400  
00:25:53,200 --> 00:26:00,460  
And the whole attitude of  
saying they can't kill us

401  
00:26:00,460 --> 00:26:03,700  
all when you have  
accepted that they

402  
00:26:03,700 --> 00:26:09,910

are killing some people is then  
counteracted by someone saying,

403  
00:26:09,910 --> 00:26:11,370  
yes, we can.

404  
00:26:11,370 --> 00:26:17,470  
And over your dead  
body, fine, you

405  
00:26:17,470 --> 00:26:21,230  
get killed first and foremost.

406  
00:26:21,230 --> 00:26:26,770  
So you see the immensity.

407  
00:26:26,770 --> 00:26:30,220  
There's some difficulty  
grasping the immensity

408  
00:26:30,220 --> 00:26:36,580  
of such a plan, which is why  
it has horrified all of us

409  
00:26:36,580 --> 00:26:40,000  
for so long that when two  
of us get together now,

410  
00:26:40,000 --> 00:26:42,280  
within five minutes, we  
are speaking about it.

411  
00:26:42,280 --> 00:26:45,460

412  
00:26:45,460 --> 00:26:47,950  
But you have to appreciate.

413  
00:26:47,950 --> 00:26:51,400  
At first, it was, this  
can't happen here.

414

00:26:51,400 --> 00:26:53,440  
Then it happened.

415  
00:26:53,440 --> 00:26:57,110  
Then we said this  
can't last here.

416  
00:26:57,110 --> 00:27:02,960  
And the attitude of saying  
the Nazis can't last

417  
00:27:02,960 --> 00:27:08,358  
was extremely widespread by all  
those who suffered from them.

418  
00:27:08,358 --> 00:27:11,110

419  
00:27:11,110 --> 00:27:14,590  
So before the Nazis invaded  
Austria, took over Austria

420  
00:27:14,590 --> 00:27:17,810  
in 1938, did you have  
a desire to resist?

421  
00:27:17,810 --> 00:27:20,050  
Were you angry with what  
was happening in Germany?

422  
00:27:20,050 --> 00:27:22,990  
Or did you just go  
on living as usual?

423  
00:27:22,990 --> 00:27:26,950  
By this time, by the  
time of the Germans

424  
00:27:26,950 --> 00:27:32,920  
marching into Austria and the  
very visible local support,

425  
00:27:32,920 --> 00:27:38,560

which, of course, brings up  
the quite interesting question,

426  
00:27:38,560 --> 00:27:41,230  
of where does Australia  
belong in all this?

427  
00:27:41,230 --> 00:27:46,630  
And this is a good question  
because the Austrians

428  
00:27:46,630 --> 00:27:49,510  
have portrayed  
themselves as victims,

429  
00:27:49,510 --> 00:27:51,310  
Hitler's first victims.

430  
00:27:51,310 --> 00:27:52,750  
Now, how come?

431  
00:27:52,750 --> 00:28:01,060  
Well, the Allies-- certainly,  
Churchill and Roosevelt--

432  
00:28:01,060 --> 00:28:06,400  
didn't want the Russians,  
Stalin, to swallow up Austria

433  
00:28:06,400 --> 00:28:11,360  
as he swallowed  
up Eastern Europe.

434  
00:28:11,360 --> 00:28:18,490  
So it was very convenient and  
expedient to say that Austria

435  
00:28:18,490 --> 00:28:20,110  
was the first victim.

436  
00:28:20,110 --> 00:28:23,320  
Now, you needed a little  
more historical fact

437  
00:28:23,320 --> 00:28:24,610  
to back that up.

438  
00:28:24,610 --> 00:28:27,250  
And the historical  
fact was there.

439  
00:28:27,250 --> 00:28:32,530  
You could say Germany  
elected Hitler.

440  
00:28:32,530 --> 00:28:35,740  
Austria never elected Hitler.

441  
00:28:35,740 --> 00:28:39,520  
Austria was invaded by Hitler.

442  
00:28:39,520 --> 00:28:45,160  
The Germans marched in to  
stop the previous totalitarian

443  
00:28:45,160 --> 00:28:48,580  
Austrian nationalistic  
government of Schuschnigg

444  
00:28:48,580 --> 00:28:51,280  
from conducting a  
plebiscite, which

445  
00:28:51,280 --> 00:28:56,680  
he would have won, I'm  
convinced, against an Anschluss

446  
00:28:56,680 --> 00:28:57,445  
with Germany.

447  
00:28:57,445 --> 00:29:00,640

448  
00:29:00,640 --> 00:29:03,370  
Now, Hitler conducted

his own plebiscite,

449  
00:29:03,370 --> 00:29:06,880  
which was not an election--  
but the Nazis would have you

450  
00:29:06,880 --> 00:29:09,070  
believe it is  
tantamount to one--

451  
00:29:09,070 --> 00:29:11,560  
and won it by 99.8%.

452  
00:29:11,560 --> 00:29:15,130  
And nobody wins  
anything by 99.8%.

453  
00:29:15,130 --> 00:29:20,890  
So you see, the Austrians--

454  
00:29:20,890 --> 00:29:23,320  
who were all those  
Austrians cheering?

455  
00:29:23,320 --> 00:29:31,330  
Well, politically, in the  
first Austrian Republic,

456  
00:29:31,330 --> 00:29:38,230  
which is the republic after the  
Hapsburgs, after World War I,

457  
00:29:38,230 --> 00:29:43,300  
were politically opportunistic.

458  
00:29:43,300 --> 00:29:45,940  
They had been pretty  
well shaken by the fact

459  
00:29:45,940 --> 00:29:49,570  
that they lost the First World  
War and lost their empire.



460

00:29:49,570 --> 00:29:58,180  
And now a nation that had a  
huge Austro-Hungarian Empire

461

00:29:58,180 --> 00:30:03,100  
was reduced to a 6 million  
country with 2 million

462

00:30:03,100 --> 00:30:07,690  
living in Vienna in the  
capital, every third person.

463

00:30:07,690 --> 00:30:11,680  
Therefore, a surfeit of  
doctors, lawyers, and what

464

00:30:11,680 --> 00:30:16,220  
have you, 2 million in  
the capital of 6 million.

465

00:30:16,220 --> 00:30:18,730

466

00:30:18,730 --> 00:30:28,420  
So the dissatisfaction of the  
depression and unemployment

467

00:30:28,420 --> 00:30:36,400  
and so on led to extremism  
and opportunists.

468

00:30:36,400 --> 00:30:42,520  
And certainly, the Germans  
promised work for everyone.

469

00:30:42,520 --> 00:30:45,590  
Hitler did.

470

00:30:45,590 --> 00:30:48,010  
Now, there's another factor.

471

00:30:48,010 --> 00:30:53,920

In Poland, and I've just  
seen a film called Shtetl--

472  
00:30:53,920 --> 00:30:56,540  
I don't know  
whether you saw it--

473  
00:30:56,540 --> 00:30:57,775  
which is quite shocking.

474  
00:30:57,775 --> 00:31:04,150

475  
00:31:04,150 --> 00:31:06,940  
In the film, a young  
Polish historian,

476  
00:31:06,940 --> 00:31:09,430  
who comes across as a  
very positive figure

477  
00:31:09,430 --> 00:31:13,870  
to begin with, finally  
really chickens out

478  
00:31:13,870 --> 00:31:16,090  
when it comes to  
mentioning the fact

479  
00:31:16,090 --> 00:31:21,670  
that, in that particular shtetl  
in the small town in Poland,

480  
00:31:21,670 --> 00:31:27,040  
anti-Semitism was rampant, had  
been rampant, was rampant still

481  
00:31:27,040 --> 00:31:31,600  
and didn't mention the  
Jews in the celebration

482  
00:31:31,600 --> 00:31:36,100  
of its 500th

anniversary celebration

483  
00:31:36,100 --> 00:31:40,480  
when the Jews constituted,  
I believe, 50% or 60%

484  
00:31:40,480 --> 00:31:43,840  
of the population  
in [PLACE NAME]..

485  
00:31:43,840 --> 00:31:45,550  
Now, why?

486  
00:31:45,550 --> 00:31:48,330

487  
00:31:48,330 --> 00:31:49,530  
Pragmatist.

488  
00:31:49,530 --> 00:31:52,140  
He feels there's  
nobody there now.

489  
00:31:52,140 --> 00:31:56,850  
What support is he likely to  
elicit by speaking positively

490  
00:31:56,850 --> 00:31:59,520  
of the Jews?

491  
00:31:59,520 --> 00:32:02,730  
It's true that the  
Poles, also egged

492  
00:32:02,730 --> 00:32:09,870  
on by a narrow-minded  
Catholic church,

493  
00:32:09,870 --> 00:32:15,240  
were anti-Semitic, as were most  
countries, and perhaps more so.

494

00:32:15,240 --> 00:32:20,670  
Then they saw the opportunity  
of enriching themselves

495  
00:32:20,670 --> 00:32:26,390  
by just simply looting  
with official encouragement

496  
00:32:26,390 --> 00:32:30,020  
what had belonged to the Jews.

497  
00:32:30,020 --> 00:32:35,120  
This kind of-- what you want  
to call it-- blue-collar

498  
00:32:35,120 --> 00:32:43,630  
envy of Jewish shopkeepers,  
as in the old film,

499  
00:32:43,630 --> 00:32:45,910  
The Shop on Main Street  
in Czechoslovakia,

500  
00:32:45,910 --> 00:32:49,150  
where a woman has a button  
shop and barely makes a living.

501  
00:32:49,150 --> 00:32:51,820  
But they all think  
she's rich because it's

502  
00:32:51,820 --> 00:32:53,710  
in the Main Street.

503  
00:32:53,710 --> 00:32:56,200  
And after they get  
rid of her, they

504  
00:32:56,200 --> 00:32:59,410  
search and search to find  
where she has hidden her money.

505  
00:32:59,410 --> 00:33:01,600

She didn't have any.

506

00:33:01,600 --> 00:33:09,920

The idea that all the business  
is in Jewish hands and so on,

507

00:33:09,920 --> 00:33:19,420

the envy from below has always  
been affect anti-Semitism.

508

00:33:19,420 --> 00:33:28,180

Now, subsequently, under  
the Nazis in Poland,

509

00:33:28,180 --> 00:33:30,730

it was like bounty hunting.

510

00:33:30,730 --> 00:33:33,790

In other words, looting was  
authorized and encouraged.

511

00:33:33,790 --> 00:33:36,340

512

00:33:36,340 --> 00:33:39,550

In Austria, also, anybody  
puts up a swastika [INAUDIBLE]

513

00:33:39,550 --> 00:33:41,470

goes looting.

514

00:33:41,470 --> 00:33:48,430

Well, where there is  
greed meeting opportunity,

515

00:33:48,430 --> 00:33:54,640

it takes ethical principle  
of a rare kind, apparently,

516

00:33:54,640 --> 00:34:01,210

regrettably, to resist the  
temptation of enriching

517

00:34:01,210 --> 00:34:05,772

yourself, especially  
if you don't want

518

00:34:05,772 --> 00:34:07,000

to think about it too much.

519

00:34:07,000 --> 00:34:09,040

And the powers  
that be say, well,

520

00:34:09,040 --> 00:34:11,290

not only is that  
the thing to do.

521

00:34:11,290 --> 00:34:12,250

You must do it.

522

00:34:12,250 --> 00:34:15,010

It's your patriotic  
duty to do it.

523

00:34:15,010 --> 00:34:21,310

So everybody starts  
going looting.

524

00:34:21,310 --> 00:34:23,980

At the time, there  
were black humor jokes.

525

00:34:23,980 --> 00:34:30,929

A comedian said great,  
big Mercedes drove by.

526

00:34:30,929 --> 00:34:34,560

And would you believe?

527

00:34:34,560 --> 00:34:38,760

There wasn't a Nazi driving it.

528

00:34:38,760 --> 00:34:46,020

This was early with Nazis in

power, about to take power,

529  
00:34:46,020 --> 00:34:46,639  
in power.

530  
00:34:46,639 --> 00:34:50,929  
So they arrested  
him for saying that.

531  
00:34:50,929 --> 00:34:55,310  
After he got out-- in those  
days, when still got out--

532  
00:34:55,310 --> 00:35:00,320  
he went back on the stage  
of his cabaret and said,

533  
00:35:00,320 --> 00:35:05,660  
a great, big Mercedes drove up.

534  
00:35:05,660 --> 00:35:09,300  
And I must correct  
what I said before.

535  
00:35:09,300 --> 00:35:12,170  
There was a Nazi driving it.

536  
00:35:12,170 --> 00:35:15,200  
So he was arrested again.

537  
00:35:15,200 --> 00:35:17,750  
You see the thing.

538  
00:35:17,750 --> 00:35:18,930  
You're damned if you do.

539  
00:35:18,930 --> 00:35:21,020  
You're damned if you don't.

540  
00:35:21,020 --> 00:35:25,850  
And this was a joke.

541

00:35:25,850 --> 00:35:32,510

There were jokes to the end  
until the horror sunk in fully.

542

00:35:32,510 --> 00:35:36,590

One of the famous  
Viennese Jewish comedians

543

00:35:36,590 --> 00:35:42,190

who was in the  
concentration camp early

544

00:35:42,190 --> 00:35:45,520

supposedly wrote  
a letter saying,

545

00:35:45,520 --> 00:35:51,760

I must say I'm being  
treated very well,

546

00:35:51,760 --> 00:35:55,890

letting it stand at that,  
which, of course, has

547

00:35:55,890 --> 00:35:58,520

a double meaning.

548

00:35:58,520 --> 00:36:01,210

I must say, meaning  
in spite of myself--

549

00:36:01,210 --> 00:36:03,260

I must say, I'm being  
forced because somebody

550

00:36:03,260 --> 00:36:05,850

is holding a gun to my head.

551

00:36:05,850 --> 00:36:11,565

Now, to me, the horrendous  
thing is that there were jokes.

552



00:36:11,565 --> 00:36:14,770

553

00:36:14,770 --> 00:36:20,010

There is a main street  
in Vienna called Graben.

554

00:36:20,010 --> 00:36:26,730

It means when the city  
was surrounded by a moat.

555

00:36:26,730 --> 00:36:31,200

But the word Graben  
meaning "moat"

556

00:36:31,200 --> 00:36:33,660

is retained by one  
of the main streets.

557

00:36:33,660 --> 00:36:44,490

And it also has another meaning,  
namely to dig is [INAUDIBLE]

558

00:36:44,490 --> 00:36:51,120

And one of the black humor  
jokes in the early days

559

00:36:51,120 --> 00:36:55,710

was that somebody referred  
to this street in Vienna.

560

00:36:55,710 --> 00:36:59,970

And his Jewish friend  
says, oh my god, they're

561

00:36:59,970 --> 00:37:01,620

digging, too, now?

562

00:37:01,620 --> 00:37:03,150

And this doesn't translate well.

563

00:37:03,150 --> 00:37:07,840

But what I'm saying is they

were scrubbing the streets.

564

00:37:07,840 --> 00:37:11,470

They were doing this  
and that under duress.

565

00:37:11,470 --> 00:37:17,490

And naming that street in  
Vienna suggested to someone

566

00:37:17,490 --> 00:37:23,280

that they were being  
forced to dig up a street.

567

00:37:23,280 --> 00:37:29,220

But as I said, the  
horrendous thing

568

00:37:29,220 --> 00:37:33,270

was that there was  
actually black humor,

569

00:37:33,270 --> 00:37:37,260

people saying  
so-and-so was arrested.

570

00:37:37,260 --> 00:37:41,000

In the beginning, if somebody  
told you somebody was arrested,

571

00:37:41,000 --> 00:37:43,350

the natural reflex  
question is, why?

572

00:37:43,350 --> 00:37:46,370

573

00:37:46,370 --> 00:37:49,750

That was going out of style.

574

00:37:49,750 --> 00:37:53,350

The black humor response was  
because he had scrambled eggs

575  
00:37:53,350 --> 00:37:56,250  
for breakfast.

576  
00:37:56,250 --> 00:38:01,240  
Again, that this is a bad joke  
is neither here nor there.

577  
00:38:01,240 --> 00:38:04,440  
What I'm pointing  
out is that it wasn't

578  
00:38:04,440 --> 00:38:10,610  
taken so seriously yet that you  
wouldn't make jokes about it.

579  
00:38:10,610 --> 00:38:13,090  
So people were making jokes.

580  
00:38:13,090 --> 00:38:15,970  
But at the same time, and  
progressively more so,

581  
00:38:15,970 --> 00:38:23,730  
they lived in horror,  
horror from the fear

582  
00:38:23,730 --> 00:38:28,420  
of the knock on the door at  
an unusual time of the day.

583  
00:38:28,420 --> 00:38:31,230  
Doors had these little  
peepholes where you looked.

584  
00:38:31,230 --> 00:38:35,010  
And I remember looking out  
at an unusual hour when

585  
00:38:35,010 --> 00:38:36,480  
there was a knock at the door.

586

00:38:36,480 --> 00:38:44,140  
And I saw a black hat with  
the eagle and swastika.

587  
00:38:44,140 --> 00:38:48,580  
And I said, oh my god, the SS.

588  
00:38:48,580 --> 00:38:50,675  
And it was a postman  
with a new uniform.

589  
00:38:50,675 --> 00:38:53,350

590  
00:38:53,350 --> 00:38:54,970  
But in the meantime,  
I was shaking.

591  
00:38:54,970 --> 00:39:02,850

592  
00:39:02,850 --> 00:39:05,380  
I was such a keen  
soccer fan that I

593  
00:39:05,380 --> 00:39:09,010  
went to watch the  
first big soccer

594  
00:39:09,010 --> 00:39:16,250  
game of Germany versus Ostmark,  
the new name for incorporated

595  
00:39:16,250 --> 00:39:16,750  
Austria.

596  
00:39:16,750 --> 00:39:27,120

597  
00:39:27,120 --> 00:39:30,810  
The Nazis being Nazis, they  
combined with a political gala

598

00:39:30,810 --> 00:39:35,880  
and the Reichssportführer,  
the sports leader of Germany,

599

00:39:35,880 --> 00:39:39,947  
von Tschammer und Osten, who  
I think was subsequently tried

600

00:39:39,947 --> 00:39:40,530  
at Nuremberg--

601

00:39:40,530 --> 00:39:44,460  
I'm not sure-- spoke.

602

00:39:44,460 --> 00:39:47,840  
The whole place decked out in  
swastika flags and everybody

603

00:39:47,840 --> 00:39:51,600  
standing with their right hand  
raised, which, in Austria,

604

00:39:51,600 --> 00:39:53,130  
Jews were not allowed to do.

605

00:39:53,130 --> 00:39:55,260  
In Germany, some  
pupils in school

606

00:39:55,260 --> 00:39:57,210  
were forced to give  
the Hitler salute.

607

00:39:57,210 --> 00:39:59,430  
In Austria, the Jews  
were not allowed

608

00:39:59,430 --> 00:40:04,890  
to desecrate the Hitler salute  
by raising their right hand.

609

00:40:04,890 --> 00:40:06,450

Everybody, of  
course, was wearing

610  
00:40:06,450 --> 00:40:09,180  
swastika lapel buttons--

611  
00:40:09,180 --> 00:40:12,360  
if they were party members, the  
one in the little red circle.

612  
00:40:12,360 --> 00:40:16,830  
And if they were not, just  
shiny chromium ones to show off

613  
00:40:16,830 --> 00:40:21,300  
that they were loyal.

614  
00:40:21,300 --> 00:40:25,170  
I went down to the soccer game.

615  
00:40:25,170 --> 00:40:29,370  
And the newspapers  
had printed in advance

616  
00:40:29,370 --> 00:40:31,890  
all kinds of stories  
saying, of course,

617  
00:40:31,890 --> 00:40:34,050  
the Ostmark players  
don't have a chance

618  
00:40:34,050 --> 00:40:35,850  
because they've  
been undernourished.

619  
00:40:35,850 --> 00:40:44,790  
And the regime didn't  
foster their sports people,

620  
00:40:44,790 --> 00:40:47,910  
whereas the Germans, of course,  
had been under the Nazi diet

621  
00:40:47,910 --> 00:40:48,690  
and are well fed.

622  
00:40:48,690 --> 00:40:51,600

623  
00:40:51,600 --> 00:41:00,800  
The Austrians won  
2 to 1, which was

624  
00:41:00,800 --> 00:41:03,840  
really embarrassing for the  
people who had been printing

625  
00:41:03,840 --> 00:41:05,820  
all these stories, you see.

626  
00:41:05,820 --> 00:41:12,180  
And they salvaged something by  
saying the outstanding player

627  
00:41:12,180 --> 00:41:17,760  
was the center half,  
SS man so-and-so,

628  
00:41:17,760 --> 00:41:19,952  
who had been an illegal  
party member, you see,

629  
00:41:19,952 --> 00:41:20,910  
or something like that.

630  
00:41:20,910 --> 00:41:23,910

631  
00:41:23,910 --> 00:41:26,160  
The audience all stood with  
their right hands raised.

632  
00:41:26,160 --> 00:41:28,250  
And I looked through

my binoculars

633

00:41:28,250 --> 00:41:32,940

at the Reichssportführer because  
I didn't want to be out there

634

00:41:32,940 --> 00:41:37,260

visible without my hand raised.

635

00:41:37,260 --> 00:41:41,850

It was really an act of  
daring to go to the game,

636

00:41:41,850 --> 00:41:43,240

you understand.

637

00:41:43,240 --> 00:41:49,800

But as I say, my being a soccer  
fan overloaded those risks.

638

00:41:49,800 --> 00:41:53,860

639

00:41:53,860 --> 00:41:55,930

And I was cycling  
all over Vienna.

640

00:41:55,930 --> 00:42:00,010

And on one occasion, I  
carried an amount of money

641

00:42:00,010 --> 00:42:05,590

to my mother's business because  
it was deemed in the family

642

00:42:05,590 --> 00:42:10,900

that this money had to be  
transferred because it was

643

00:42:10,900 --> 00:42:13,210

already known that if  
you left, you could only



644

00:42:13,210 --> 00:42:15,370  
take 10 deutschemarks with you.

645

00:42:15,370 --> 00:42:18,040  
And so to try and  
get some money out--

646

00:42:18,040 --> 00:42:22,420  
which usually meant giving  
it to some foreign diplomat

647

00:42:22,420 --> 00:42:29,800  
and pay 75% to him and get 25%  
out or some such arrangement.

648

00:42:29,800 --> 00:42:32,290  
All kinds of things  
were being attempted.

649

00:42:32,290 --> 00:42:37,390  
Anyway, I, as a teenager,  
was considered a better risk

650

00:42:37,390 --> 00:42:40,120  
to carry the money  
than an adult who

651

00:42:40,120 --> 00:42:42,280  
might have been stopped  
in the street any time,

652

00:42:42,280 --> 00:42:43,330  
as might I have.

653

00:42:43,330 --> 00:42:45,670  
But I was on my bicycle.

654

00:42:45,670 --> 00:42:49,990  
So I stuffed it all inside  
my shirt in banknotes

655

00:42:49,990 --> 00:42:51,970

and cycled and  
transferred the money.

656  
00:42:51,970 --> 00:42:56,200

657  
00:42:56,200 --> 00:43:01,180  
On the way back, I was assailed  
by a Nazi from my neighborhood

658  
00:43:01,180 --> 00:43:04,660  
who knew me and who  
started to shout

659  
00:43:04,660 --> 00:43:07,600  
some Jewish epithets at me.

660  
00:43:07,600 --> 00:43:09,490  
And by sheer reflex--

661  
00:43:09,490 --> 00:43:11,380  
also, the Nazis were  
already in power--

662  
00:43:11,380 --> 00:43:16,340  
I responded in four-letter  
word responses, which

663  
00:43:16,340 --> 00:43:18,250  
was a dangerous thing to do.

664  
00:43:18,250 --> 00:43:19,760  
And he said, I'm  
going to get you.

665  
00:43:19,760 --> 00:43:22,010  
And he started to ride after me.

666  
00:43:22,010 --> 00:43:24,010  
And I cycled faster.

667  
00:43:24,010 --> 00:43:26,110

I knew my neighborhoods well.

668

00:43:26,110 --> 00:43:32,440

And I turned the corner and  
put my bike in between a taxi

669

00:43:32,440 --> 00:43:35,230

stand, and he went on by.

670

00:43:35,230 --> 00:43:37,570

But the terror of these  
things was that these guys

671

00:43:37,570 --> 00:43:39,070

knew where I lived.

672

00:43:39,070 --> 00:43:41,670

So you never knew what was  
going to happen next, you see.

673

00:43:41,670 --> 00:43:44,350

674

00:43:44,350 --> 00:43:47,890

And these things happened  
a couple of times, things

675

00:43:47,890 --> 00:43:51,820

like that, barely  
worth mentioning.

676

00:43:51,820 --> 00:43:57,490

But somebody calling your  
name, you calling it back.

677

00:43:57,490 --> 00:44:03,010

I have one story in  
the book about it

678

00:44:03,010 --> 00:44:05,680

and other ones that I  
don't have in the book.

679

00:44:05,680 --> 00:44:14,630

I went to visit my great  
aunt and her daughter

680

00:44:14,630 --> 00:44:19,960

in the Vienna second district,  
which was predominantly Jewish.

681

00:44:19,960 --> 00:44:25,330

And when I came over the bridge  
on my bicycle, over the bridge

682

00:44:25,330 --> 00:44:33,910

to the Danube Canal, a  
uniformed Nazi of the NSKK--

683

00:44:33,910 --> 00:44:38,320

that is, the Kraftfahrkorps,  
the automotive corps

684

00:44:38,320 --> 00:44:39,880

of the Nazi party--

685

00:44:39,880 --> 00:44:42,830

686

00:44:42,830 --> 00:44:45,350

pulled me over.

687

00:44:45,350 --> 00:44:50,810

Again, pulling over, it's  
like a cop giving you

688

00:44:50,810 --> 00:44:54,170

a ticket or something,  
which usually gives you

689

00:44:54,170 --> 00:44:56,390

sort of a pang of  
something happening.

690

00:44:56,390 --> 00:44:59,883

It's no comparison  
with what you felt then

691  
00:44:59,883 --> 00:45:02,300  
because you didn't know whether  
you were going to get away

692  
00:45:02,300 --> 00:45:04,280  
from this or whether  
they were going

693  
00:45:04,280 --> 00:45:06,680  
to pull you in for no reason.

694  
00:45:06,680 --> 00:45:10,180  
There was never any reason.

695  
00:45:10,180 --> 00:45:15,640  
He had a microphone like you  
have, and he had a loudspeaker.

696  
00:45:15,640 --> 00:45:23,420  
And he started to address  
me very pompously.

697  
00:45:23,420 --> 00:45:25,540  
Here, I'm 16 years old, right?

698  
00:45:25,540 --> 00:45:27,770  
And I've been stopped in  
the middle of a bridge

699  
00:45:27,770 --> 00:45:30,350  
in the center of Vienna.

700  
00:45:30,350 --> 00:45:35,250  
And he said, we have  
here a young man

701  
00:45:35,250 --> 00:45:39,670  
who has committed a  
very serious offense.

702

00:45:39,670 --> 00:45:42,850

I had no idea what  
he was talking about.

703

00:45:42,850 --> 00:45:47,285

And a crowd gathered, of course,  
because of this loudspeaker

704

00:45:47,285 --> 00:45:48,415

in the middle of a bridge.

705

00:45:48,415 --> 00:45:51,500

706

00:45:51,500 --> 00:45:58,670

And he said, you are no doubt  
aware of what your crime is.

707

00:45:58,670 --> 00:46:00,890

I had no idea.

708

00:46:00,890 --> 00:46:05,690

And I didn't say anything.

709

00:46:05,690 --> 00:46:11,380

And he said, were  
you going too fast?

710

00:46:11,380 --> 00:46:13,630

I said, no, sir.

711

00:46:13,630 --> 00:46:16,850

They asked silly  
questions like that.

712

00:46:16,850 --> 00:46:23,050

And then he said, I will tell  
you all what he was doing.

713

00:46:23,050 --> 00:46:26,830

And I'll tell you  
so you remember it.

714  
00:46:26,830 --> 00:46:31,130  
You were cycling too  
close to the curb.

715  
00:46:31,130 --> 00:46:34,930  
What if a pedestrian had  
stepped off the curb?

716  
00:46:34,930 --> 00:46:38,280

717  
00:46:38,280 --> 00:46:40,050  
My reflex answer  
would have been,

718  
00:46:40,050 --> 00:46:41,810  
I would have put on my brakes.

719  
00:46:41,810 --> 00:46:44,730

720  
00:46:44,730 --> 00:46:46,830  
In the middle of  
Vienna, you don't speed

721  
00:46:46,830 --> 00:46:48,240  
on a bicycle over the bridge.

722  
00:46:48,240 --> 00:46:50,020  
It's not possible.

723  
00:46:50,020 --> 00:46:51,870  
I didn't say anything at all.

724  
00:46:51,870 --> 00:46:54,450  
I was just hoping he'd  
let me go at the end.

725  
00:46:54,450 --> 00:46:58,740  
He did with a severe warning.

726  
00:46:58,740 --> 00:47:00,360  
He wanted to create an incident.

727  
00:47:00,360 --> 00:47:03,672

728  
00:47:03,672 --> 00:47:07,080  
The fact that I was  
Jewish didn't come up.

729  
00:47:07,080 --> 00:47:10,340  
I didn't wear a badge.

730  
00:47:10,340 --> 00:47:13,390  
That's enough, you see.

731  
00:47:13,390 --> 00:47:17,740  
But the terror of  
being confronted

732  
00:47:17,740 --> 00:47:22,180  
by a uniformed person in  
public in any manner at all--

733  
00:47:22,180 --> 00:47:24,560  
because it could  
end any way at all.

734  
00:47:24,560 --> 00:47:27,760  
There is no telling  
how it could end.

735  
00:47:27,760 --> 00:47:30,550  
And this is a nothing  
story, you see?

736  
00:47:30,550 --> 00:47:31,630  
Nothing.

737  
00:47:31,630 --> 00:47:36,840  
But it contributes to feeling,  
let's get the hell out of here.



738  
00:47:36,840 --> 00:47:40,080

739  
00:47:40,080 --> 00:47:42,570  
What about contributing to  
the feeling of resistance

740  
00:47:42,570 --> 00:47:45,130  
or wanting to do  
something, take up arms?

741  
00:47:45,130 --> 00:47:48,210  
Or did you just want  
to flee and emigrate

742  
00:47:48,210 --> 00:47:49,830  
to Britain, for instance?

743  
00:47:49,830 --> 00:47:53,880  
It didn't-- there was no--

744  
00:47:53,880 --> 00:47:57,480  
OK, when the Nazis  
first moved in,

745  
00:47:57,480 --> 00:48:00,270  
there was actually resistance.

746  
00:48:00,270 --> 00:48:06,060  
Relatively little publicity  
reached the outside world.

747  
00:48:06,060 --> 00:48:07,470  
But there were socialists.

748  
00:48:07,470 --> 00:48:08,640  
There were communists.

749  
00:48:08,640 --> 00:48:14,160  
There were dedicated members  
of the nationalistic right-wing

750  
00:48:14,160 --> 00:48:18,570  
party that was the government.

751  
00:48:18,570 --> 00:48:23,370  
One of my best friends  
was a doctor in emergency.

752  
00:48:23,370 --> 00:48:27,300  
He told me that  
people were coming in,

753  
00:48:27,300 --> 00:48:34,660  
Nazis, with their throat  
cut, some with knife and shot

754  
00:48:34,660 --> 00:48:37,960  
wounds of all natures.

755  
00:48:37,960 --> 00:48:46,690  
And this doctor was quarter  
Jewish and certainly

756  
00:48:46,690 --> 00:48:50,320  
a liberal-thinking person.

757  
00:48:50,320 --> 00:48:53,440  
But he had an awful time.

758  
00:48:53,440 --> 00:48:58,390  
The Nazis would lie there in  
emergency with their throat cut

759  
00:48:58,390 --> 00:49:00,670  
and say heil Hitler.

760  
00:49:00,670 --> 00:49:03,490  
Say heil Hitler, doctor.

761  
00:49:03,490 --> 00:49:06,370  
And he would say, shut up.

762  
00:49:06,370 --> 00:49:09,650  
I'm doing a job.

763  
00:49:09,650 --> 00:49:14,370  
And the Nazi would say, if  
you don't say heil Hitler,

764  
00:49:14,370 --> 00:49:18,210  
I won't let you stitch me up.

765  
00:49:18,210 --> 00:49:22,350  
And he would say, if  
it weren't for my oath,

766  
00:49:22,350 --> 00:49:24,330  
I wouldn't stitch you up.

767  
00:49:24,330 --> 00:49:25,280  
So shut up.

768  
00:49:25,280 --> 00:49:28,260

769  
00:49:28,260 --> 00:49:32,730  
They wanted their photo  
taken to show the party how

770  
00:49:32,730 --> 00:49:39,460  
they had been mutilated  
for the sake of the party

771  
00:49:39,460 --> 00:49:42,250  
as capital towards  
their future careers.

772  
00:49:42,250 --> 00:49:45,450

773  
00:49:45,450 --> 00:49:53,100  
I think that they alone in  
operating, in emergency,

774

00:49:53,100 --> 00:50:00,180  
convinced my doctor friend  
that he had to get out quickly.

775

00:50:00,180 --> 00:50:02,340  
The next day, he was  
demoted from being

776

00:50:02,340 --> 00:50:06,960  
the 6th assistant as a  
young man to the 17th

777

00:50:06,960 --> 00:50:09,090  
because there were only 17.

778

00:50:09,090 --> 00:50:11,700  
He was not yet  
fired, but you could

779

00:50:11,700 --> 00:50:15,840  
see what was going to happen.

780

00:50:15,840 --> 00:50:20,310  
But for unorganized,  
apolitical people

781

00:50:20,310 --> 00:50:24,090  
like myself, because there  
was this idea of keeping away

782

00:50:24,090 --> 00:50:29,820  
from politics that my parents  
certainly-- my mother had.

783

00:50:29,820 --> 00:50:33,120  
Politics were a no-no.

784

00:50:33,120 --> 00:50:39,880  
I wasn't allowed to join  
any political group.

785

00:50:39,880 --> 00:50:42,960

It is considered dangerous.

786

00:50:42,960 --> 00:50:45,030

And all political  
parties had been

787

00:50:45,030 --> 00:50:48,600

outlawed by the previous  
Austrian government.

788

00:50:48,600 --> 00:50:53,410

So the Boy Scouts were  
apolitical, you see.

789

00:50:53,410 --> 00:51:00,000

So the idea of now joining a  
resistance was unthinkable.

790

00:51:00,000 --> 00:51:06,660

The wanting to do something,  
as soon as I was outside

791

00:51:06,660 --> 00:51:08,460

and it was evident  
that there was

792

00:51:08,460 --> 00:51:14,850

going to be a war, that  
became very, very compelling.

793

00:51:14,850 --> 00:51:22,360

Now, you must appreciate  
the atmosphere in Britain

794

00:51:22,360 --> 00:51:29,050

in 1938 when we came  
out was not at all

795

00:51:29,050 --> 00:51:33,310

[? prepared ?] for a war.

796

00:51:33,310 --> 00:51:36,610

They're our good friends,

the Germans, you know.

797

00:51:36,610 --> 00:51:39,760

And if you saw any  
airplanes in the air,

798

00:51:39,760 --> 00:51:43,420

they were double-decker  
yellow-painted training planes,

799

00:51:43,420 --> 00:51:47,650

Tiger Moth, that would  
do all kinds of stunts

800

00:51:47,650 --> 00:51:50,890

because that's where they  
trained their Air Force.

801

00:51:50,890 --> 00:51:54,190

And what you had  
seen in Austria,

802

00:51:54,190 --> 00:51:57,610

over flying of the  
German Luftwaffe,

803

00:51:57,610 --> 00:52:00,260

it was very, very intimidating.

804

00:52:00,260 --> 00:52:06,130

I never saw a tank in  
Britain in '38 or '39

805

00:52:06,130 --> 00:52:10,600

until the war started  
in September '39.

806

00:52:10,600 --> 00:52:17,320

The whole attitude  
was isolationist.

807

00:52:17,320 --> 00:52:20,890

808  
00:52:20,890 --> 00:52:22,600  
Once you're over  
in England, though,

809  
00:52:22,600 --> 00:52:24,610  
and you were labeled  
friendly enemy alien,

810  
00:52:24,610 --> 00:52:26,440  
did that have any  
influence on you?

811  
00:52:26,440 --> 00:52:27,700  
Sure.

812  
00:52:27,700 --> 00:52:29,740  
The war had started  
by this time.

813  
00:52:29,740 --> 00:52:35,860  
And the thing is  
that we had to--

814  
00:52:35,860 --> 00:52:39,610  
if you had seen the  
Nazis in operation,

815  
00:52:39,610 --> 00:52:41,530  
there was no doubt  
which way they

816  
00:52:41,530 --> 00:52:45,040  
were going, that what they were  
aiming for was that they were

817  
00:52:45,040 --> 00:52:48,970  
aiming for world domination,  
that they were aiming

818  
00:52:48,970 --> 00:52:55,390  
for killing and  
eliminating whomever

819  
00:52:55,390 --> 00:52:59,710  
they perceived to  
be their enemies.

820  
00:52:59,710 --> 00:53:03,940  
That meant your friends and  
your family, for a start.

821  
00:53:03,940 --> 00:53:07,450  
So we actually found ourselves  
in the perverse position

822  
00:53:07,450 --> 00:53:12,730  
of having to hope for a war  
because without the war,

823  
00:53:12,730 --> 00:53:17,920  
the notion that they would  
collapse to their rotten core

824  
00:53:17,920 --> 00:53:23,630  
from within appeared  
less and less likely.

825  
00:53:23,630 --> 00:53:27,850  
So now, the big  
thing was to strive

826  
00:53:27,850 --> 00:53:31,270  
to be allowed to participate  
in what, after all, was

827  
00:53:31,270 --> 00:53:33,544  
going to be our war.

828  
00:53:33,544 --> 00:53:34,930  
[BOTH TALKING]

829  
00:53:34,930 --> 00:53:36,388  
What do you mean by "our war?"

830



00:53:36,388 --> 00:53:37,180  
Sorry to interrupt.

831  
00:53:37,180 --> 00:53:38,470  
Oh.

832  
00:53:38,470 --> 00:53:40,390  
We had lived under the Nazis.

833  
00:53:40,390 --> 00:53:41,950  
We had seen where  
they were going

834  
00:53:41,950 --> 00:53:44,890  
and what they were doing long  
before the people in England

835  
00:53:44,890 --> 00:53:46,120  
became aware of it.

836  
00:53:46,120 --> 00:53:48,940

837  
00:53:48,940 --> 00:53:54,370  
Britain declared war on the 3rd  
of September, 1939 and France

838  
00:53:54,370 --> 00:53:58,360  
because of the ultimatum to  
withdraw from-- the Nazis

839  
00:53:58,360 --> 00:54:01,450  
to withdraw from Poland,  
which they ignored.

840  
00:54:01,450 --> 00:54:04,120  
And now there was  
going to be a war.

841  
00:54:04,120 --> 00:54:08,380  
And we thought, surely,  
this is our war where

842

00:54:08,380 --> 00:54:14,920

we can participate in  
fighting our nemesis.

843

00:54:14,920 --> 00:54:16,890

And of course, now,  
we were suspect,

844

00:54:16,890 --> 00:54:23,530

and they decided to  
intern us in stages

845

00:54:23,530 --> 00:54:29,230

and sent 2,000 to  
Australia, 2,000 to Canada,

846

00:54:29,230 --> 00:54:30,730

and what have you.

847

00:54:30,730 --> 00:54:35,380

And what we wanted  
to do was fight.

848

00:54:35,380 --> 00:54:36,670

Not everybody.

849

00:54:36,670 --> 00:54:39,730

There were some who said, well,  
we've been through enough.

850

00:54:39,730 --> 00:54:41,170

Let someone else do it now.

851

00:54:41,170 --> 00:54:45,650

But not my guys.

852

00:54:45,650 --> 00:54:47,630

Those of you who  
wanted to fight,

853

00:54:47,630 --> 00:54:50,440

did you view yourselves

as friendly enemy aliens?

854

00:54:50,440 --> 00:54:53,260

Or did you view yourselves  
as Jewish refugees?

855

00:54:53,260 --> 00:54:58,990

I got into trouble because of  
that, of the self image, right?

856

00:54:58,990 --> 00:55:01,920

I was working on  
[? Farm Hill ?] farm

857

00:55:01,920 --> 00:55:07,420

in the Thames Valley between  
Henley and Maidenhead.

858

00:55:07,420 --> 00:55:10,810

And I heard a radio broadcast.

859

00:55:10,810 --> 00:55:13,780

And it said, enemy  
aliens must register.

860

00:55:13,780 --> 00:55:16,820

861

00:55:16,820 --> 00:55:19,010

And I thought about  
that for a moment.

862

00:55:19,010 --> 00:55:24,560

And I said, well, I guess  
technically that could mean me.

863

00:55:24,560 --> 00:55:28,280

But then I said,  
if they want me,

864

00:55:28,280 --> 00:55:34,430

they'll tell me  
more specifically.

865  
00:55:34,430 --> 00:55:35,180  
I'm registered.

866  
00:55:35,180 --> 00:55:37,700  
They know where I am.

867  
00:55:37,700 --> 00:55:40,880  
But I'm not going  
to volunteer that.

868  
00:55:40,880 --> 00:55:44,180  
I won't even make a phone  
call because if I ask,

869  
00:55:44,180 --> 00:55:47,450  
maybe they think I  
am an enemy alien.

870  
00:55:47,450 --> 00:55:48,950  
So I didn't.

871  
00:55:48,950 --> 00:55:51,470  
Next thing comes the  
little police car

872  
00:55:51,470 --> 00:55:54,530  
driving down the  
lane to the farm.

873  
00:55:54,530 --> 00:55:57,680  
And there is a constable.

874  
00:55:57,680 --> 00:56:05,600  
And he says, you failed to  
register as an enemy alien.

875  
00:56:05,600 --> 00:56:08,390  
And I said, well, I consider  
myself a refugee and not

876  
00:56:08,390 --> 00:56:10,130

an enemy alien.

877

00:56:10,130 --> 00:56:14,600

And he said, that doesn't wash.

878

00:56:14,600 --> 00:56:17,090

You are an enemy alien.

879

00:56:17,090 --> 00:56:18,440

You will have to come with me.

880

00:56:18,440 --> 00:56:21,170

881

00:56:21,170 --> 00:56:23,660

Well, I was just  
mowing the lawn,

882

00:56:23,660 --> 00:56:26,060

which was an extra job  
for the farmer's wife

883

00:56:26,060 --> 00:56:28,370

after a day's work.

884

00:56:28,370 --> 00:56:31,465

And I remember because as I  
was mowing the lawn, I said,

885

00:56:31,465 --> 00:56:32,840

oh, I wish something  
would happen

886

00:56:32,840 --> 00:56:36,140

that I don't have to finish  
this lousy, boring job.

887

00:56:36,140 --> 00:56:37,370

And there it was.

888

00:56:37,370 --> 00:56:40,887

I had to put the lawn mower

aside and-- had push lawn

889  
00:56:40,887 --> 00:56:41,560  
mower--

890  
00:56:41,560 --> 00:56:45,620  
and go with the policeman.

891  
00:56:45,620 --> 00:56:51,290  
I was still in my cowshed  
clothes and pigsty

892  
00:56:51,290 --> 00:56:54,200  
clothes, which smelled badly.

893  
00:56:54,200 --> 00:56:57,830  
And I said, can I change?

894  
00:56:57,830 --> 00:57:01,520  
And he said, if you hurry up.

895  
00:57:01,520 --> 00:57:04,700  
And I said, I'll be right down.

896  
00:57:04,700 --> 00:57:11,560  
I went to the stairs to  
go upstairs to my room,

897  
00:57:11,560 --> 00:57:13,030  
change my clothes.

898  
00:57:13,030 --> 00:57:16,720  
And he came with me,  
the police constable.

899  
00:57:16,720 --> 00:57:21,640  
And so at the bottom of the  
stairs, I said, after you.

900  
00:57:21,640 --> 00:57:25,420  
And he said, nuh-uh, after you.

901

00:57:25,420 --> 00:57:32,220

And that "after you" convinced me that I was under arrest.

902

00:57:32,220 --> 00:57:34,410

I hadn't realized.

903

00:57:34,410 --> 00:57:37,200

Then there was another sequel.

904

00:57:37,200 --> 00:57:40,500

He said, do you have a camera or any weapons?

905

00:57:40,500 --> 00:57:41,850

I said I had a pocketknife.

906

00:57:41,850 --> 00:57:43,980

He wasn't interested.

907

00:57:43,980 --> 00:57:48,990

And I have a camera, but it doesn't work much.

908

00:57:48,990 --> 00:57:53,340

And here it is.

909

00:57:53,340 --> 00:58:01,285

And one of the farmer's kids said, you had another camera.

910

00:58:01,285 --> 00:58:03,880

911

00:58:03,880 --> 00:58:05,230

Gratuitous remark.

912

00:58:05,230 --> 00:58:08,140

Well, here's what happened.

913

00:58:08,140 --> 00:58:14,610

One of the farmer's kids  
had a cheap box camera.

914  
00:58:14,610 --> 00:58:18,750  
And he said, it's broken.

915  
00:58:18,750 --> 00:58:20,820  
And they saw it in the trash.

916  
00:58:20,820 --> 00:58:23,790  
Now, to a Viennese kid,  
the idea that somebody

917  
00:58:23,790 --> 00:58:28,570  
would throw a camera in the  
trash seemed unacceptable.

918  
00:58:28,570 --> 00:58:31,560  
So I said, well,  
maybe it can be fixed.

919  
00:58:31,560 --> 00:58:34,350  
And I fished it  
out of the trash.

920  
00:58:34,350 --> 00:58:38,790  
And the shutter didn't work,  
and I couldn't make it work.

921  
00:58:38,790 --> 00:58:42,180  
I played with it for  
an evening or two.

922  
00:58:42,180 --> 00:58:46,710  
And when it didn't work, I  
threw it back in the trash.

923  
00:58:46,710 --> 00:58:49,200  
So I told the police constable.

924  
00:58:49,200 --> 00:58:51,030  
Yes, there was another camera.



925

00:58:51,030 --> 00:58:54,190

It didn't belong to me--  
what I just told you.

926

00:58:54,190 --> 00:58:56,440

So he said, where is it?

927

00:58:56,440 --> 00:59:01,050

I said, in the trash if they  
haven't picked it up yet.

928

00:59:01,050 --> 00:59:03,090

Let's go there.

929

00:59:03,090 --> 00:59:07,860

Well, this was a big  
farm, 300 cows, 500 pigs.

930

00:59:07,860 --> 00:59:14,700

There were about 12  
trash cans or more.

931

00:59:14,700 --> 00:59:23,810

Police constable emptied one  
after the other on the ground

932

00:59:23,810 --> 00:59:26,840

until we found the camera.

933

00:59:26,840 --> 00:59:30,320

He was doing his job thoroughly.

934

00:59:30,320 --> 00:59:33,110

So then he had  
the broken camera.

935

00:59:33,110 --> 00:59:37,970

And we drove to the police  
station seven miles away

936

00:59:37,970 --> 00:59:42,200

and waited for a couple

of hours for my turn.

937

00:59:42,200 --> 00:59:43,850

And they said,  
you really must be

938

00:59:43,850 --> 00:59:48,350

more careful to report when you  
hear something on the radio.

939

00:59:48,350 --> 00:59:50,900

And I explained why I hadn't.

940

00:59:50,900 --> 00:59:55,980

And they said, well, that's all.

941

00:59:55,980 --> 00:59:57,600

And I could go back to the farm.

942

00:59:57,600 --> 01:00:00,180

Of course, now, I  
had to go seven miles

943

01:00:00,180 --> 01:00:03,750

with no public transportation,  
which was a little difficult.

944

01:00:03,750 --> 01:00:08,820

And happily, there was a  
very comely young woman

945

01:00:08,820 --> 01:00:14,700

who was a nurse at a nearby  
estate, a babysitter or an au

946

01:00:14,700 --> 01:00:17,430

pair or something who  
was a German refugee.

947

01:00:17,430 --> 01:00:20,820

948

01:00:20,820 --> 01:00:22,948  
So I offered to walk with her.

949  
01:00:22,948 --> 01:00:23,990  
And it was very exciting.

950  
01:00:23,990 --> 01:00:27,960  
It was the first time I had  
any kind of date of any kind.

951  
01:00:27,960 --> 01:00:32,190  
And unfortunately, after we  
had walked a mile or two,

952  
01:00:32,190 --> 01:00:37,260  
the farmer came in his  
Vauxhall and picked us up.

953  
01:00:37,260 --> 01:00:38,850  
He was looking for me.

954  
01:00:38,850 --> 01:00:42,360  
The police had told him  
that we had been let go.

955  
01:00:42,360 --> 01:00:46,290  
And so my first  
date was a fiasco,

956  
01:00:46,290 --> 01:00:52,200  
and it ended right there  
because he drove her home

957  
01:00:52,200 --> 01:00:54,840  
and then me home  
back to the farm.

958  
01:00:54,840 --> 01:00:59,460  
And he told everybody that I  
was walking with this young girl

959  
01:00:59,460 --> 01:01:02,490  
and that she was not

a suitable person

960

01:01:02,490 --> 01:01:05,717  
to walk with anyway because  
she painted her fingernails.

961

01:01:05,717 --> 01:01:11,690

962

01:01:11,690 --> 01:01:14,390  
When you decide to  
join the Pioneer Corps,

963

01:01:14,390 --> 01:01:17,720  
did you experience any  
anti-Semitism in the army

964

01:01:17,720 --> 01:01:21,340  
from a British officer  
corps, perhaps?

965

01:01:21,340 --> 01:01:22,750  
No.

966

01:01:22,750 --> 01:01:25,230  
No, didn't come up at all.

967

01:01:25,230 --> 01:01:29,880

968

01:01:29,880 --> 01:01:32,750  
None that I recall of any kind.

969

01:01:32,750 --> 01:01:34,820  
First, of course,  
within the unit,

970

01:01:34,820 --> 01:01:40,550  
there were British non-coms and  
British officers to begin with.

971

01:01:40,550 --> 01:01:45,170

Well, if you mention it, yes,  
perhaps one could say so.

972  
01:01:45,170 --> 01:01:48,110  
We had one major in charge  
in one of the companies

973  
01:01:48,110 --> 01:01:56,305  
I was in who said that he  
had previously been in Fiji.

974  
01:01:56,305 --> 01:01:58,860

975  
01:01:58,860 --> 01:02:04,410  
And he compared the natives  
of Fiji favorably with us,

976  
01:02:04,410 --> 01:02:07,830  
saying that they were nature's  
gentlemen-- it was his phrase,

977  
01:02:07,830 --> 01:02:10,080  
first time I heard that phrase--

978  
01:02:10,080 --> 01:02:15,120  
and that we were  
lacking in that trait.

979  
01:02:15,120 --> 01:02:19,950  
But that was about  
the measure of it.

980  
01:02:19,950 --> 01:02:25,860  
I mean, that's not exactly  
being exposed to anti-Semitism.

981  
01:02:25,860 --> 01:02:33,810  
There were better and worse  
non-coms, better and worse--

982  
01:02:33,810 --> 01:02:36,870  
some good, some bad,

some indifferent.

983  
01:02:36,870 --> 01:02:44,790  
Some non-coms say this  
on principle, I suppose,

984  
01:02:44,790 --> 01:02:50,100  
which I think made some of us  
resolve to be different if ever

985  
01:02:50,100 --> 01:02:53,610  
we reached that plateau.

986  
01:02:53,610 --> 01:02:58,710  
I must say the idea of becoming  
a non-commissioned officer

987  
01:02:58,710 --> 01:03:03,230  
never occurred to me  
in the Pioneer Corps.

988  
01:03:03,230 --> 01:03:04,430  
I was a kid.

989  
01:03:04,430 --> 01:03:06,050  
I was one of the younger ones.

990  
01:03:06,050 --> 01:03:12,050  
And I was fairly--

991  
01:03:12,050 --> 01:03:14,120  
what shall we call  
it-- free spirited,

992  
01:03:14,120 --> 01:03:16,610  
and I was more likely  
to get into trouble

993  
01:03:16,610 --> 01:03:19,280  
than to get promoted.

994  
01:03:19,280 --> 01:03:22,670

And in fact, didn't get promoted until the Commandos just

995  
01:03:22,670 --> 01:03:23,490  
before D-Day.

996  
01:03:23,490 --> 01:03:26,110

997  
01:03:26,110 --> 01:03:28,150  
So when you did join the army, did you

998  
01:03:28,150 --> 01:03:31,570  
do so aware of what was currently going on

999  
01:03:31,570 --> 01:03:33,580  
in Germany, such as the Einsatzgruppen

1000  
01:03:33,580 --> 01:03:37,480  
and the mass murders over there?

1001  
01:03:37,480 --> 01:03:44,560  
To which degree one realized the wholesale aspect

1002  
01:03:44,560 --> 01:03:50,510  
of the Holocaust is very difficult to pin down.

1003  
01:03:50,510 --> 01:03:55,290  
We knew of concentration camps from very early on,

1004  
01:03:55,290 --> 01:03:59,810  
even in my six months under the Nazis in Austria.

1005  
01:03:59,810 --> 01:04:05,090  
There were people who were being arrested for what reason?

1006  
01:04:05,090 --> 01:04:09,210  
Because they had scrambled  
eggs for breakfast or whatever.

1007  
01:04:09,210 --> 01:04:11,270  
There's a story-- I'm not  
sure I wrote about it--

1008  
01:04:11,270 --> 01:04:16,880  
of a friend of my  
parents who had

1009  
01:04:16,880 --> 01:04:24,950  
a food business, [INAUDIBLE]  
a food shop specializing

1010  
01:04:24,950 --> 01:04:26,190  
in exotic food.

1011  
01:04:26,190 --> 01:04:29,750  
He would have pineapples  
and bananas and things which

1012  
01:04:29,750 --> 01:04:31,790  
were hard to get in Vienna.

1013  
01:04:31,790 --> 01:04:34,640  
Grapefruit.

1014  
01:04:34,640 --> 01:04:39,860  
And the story was that some  
SS men one evening said, gee,

1015  
01:04:39,860 --> 01:04:45,030  
I feel like eating  
one of these items.

1016  
01:04:45,030 --> 01:04:47,218  
But where would I get it  
this time of the night?

1017



01:04:47,218 --> 01:04:48,760  
And the other one  
said, well, there's

1018  
01:04:48,760 --> 01:04:54,080  
the Jew over in the  
second district who

1019  
01:04:54,080 --> 01:04:59,690  
is very industrious and usually  
in his shop until late at night

1020  
01:04:59,690 --> 01:05:02,390  
getting ready for  
the next morning.

1021  
01:05:02,390 --> 01:05:07,490  
And because he gets  
fresh deliveries,

1022  
01:05:07,490 --> 01:05:09,380  
let's walk over there.

1023  
01:05:09,380 --> 01:05:17,050  
And they did and arrested him  
and helped themselves to food.

1024  
01:05:17,050 --> 01:05:20,830  
And he was sent to concentration  
camp there and then, just

1025  
01:05:20,830 --> 01:05:22,300  
like that.

1026  
01:05:22,300 --> 01:05:27,520  
And he was released some  
months later in the beginning.

1027  
01:05:27,520 --> 01:05:30,310  
In the beginning, all kinds  
of things happened like that.

1028  
01:05:30,310 --> 01:05:32,260

People were released.

1029  
01:05:32,260 --> 01:05:38,500  
He had been beaten and was  
supposedly out of his mind.

1030  
01:05:38,500 --> 01:05:39,670  
I never saw him.

1031  
01:05:39,670 --> 01:05:43,600  
He went to Israel  
almost immediately.

1032  
01:05:43,600 --> 01:05:48,310  
I'm still corresponding  
with his daughter.

1033  
01:05:48,310 --> 01:05:52,390  
But it affected his  
mind, apparently.

1034  
01:05:52,390 --> 01:05:55,870  
One of my Boy Scout  
leaders was arrested

1035  
01:05:55,870 --> 01:06:02,110  
and out with  
completely distracted

1036  
01:06:02,110 --> 01:06:04,855  
symptoms of mental disorder.

1037  
01:06:04,855 --> 01:06:08,360

1038  
01:06:08,360 --> 01:06:14,090  
Many people in the  
early days received urns

1039  
01:06:14,090 --> 01:06:22,380  
with ashes, [? labored ?]  
shot while trying to escape.

1040

01:06:22,380 --> 01:06:26,160  
Obviously, this must have been  
a period where the Nazis were

1041

01:06:26,160 --> 01:06:30,900  
anxious to demonstrate  
a degree of legitimacy

1042

01:06:30,900 --> 01:06:34,650  
that they had arrested  
somebody for political reasons

1043

01:06:34,650 --> 01:06:42,990  
or because they were, whatever,  
dangers to the regime.

1044

01:06:42,990 --> 01:06:45,630  
And they were trying to  
escape, and so they were shot.

1045

01:06:45,630 --> 01:06:48,150

1046

01:06:48,150 --> 01:06:51,030  
They were probably  
shot out of hand

1047

01:06:51,030 --> 01:06:53,760  
and murdered without any  
real attempt to escape.

1048

01:06:53,760 --> 01:06:55,530  
This is really irrelevant.

1049

01:06:55,530 --> 01:06:59,040  
But what is remarkable is  
that they took the trouble

1050

01:06:59,040 --> 01:07:02,370  
to send the ashes to the family  
saying, trying to escape.

1051

01:07:02,370 --> 01:07:05,160  
And this happened  
in the beginning.

1052  
01:07:05,160 --> 01:07:09,540  
Now, later, it got  
progressively more so.

1053  
01:07:09,540 --> 01:07:13,290  
But there are some things  
that stick in my mind

1054  
01:07:13,290 --> 01:07:15,570  
as being absolutely amazing.

1055  
01:07:15,570 --> 01:07:19,710  
For instance, in  
England, there was

1056  
01:07:19,710 --> 01:07:23,190  
a thing like The Three  
Stooges, you know,

1057  
01:07:23,190 --> 01:07:24,630  
called The Crazy Gang.

1058  
01:07:24,630 --> 01:07:26,350  
I don't know if you  
ever heard of them.

1059  
01:07:26,350 --> 01:07:27,810  
OK.

1060  
01:07:27,810 --> 01:07:31,890  
There was actually a feature  
film called The Crazy Gang

1061  
01:07:31,890 --> 01:07:34,950  
in the Concentration Camp.

1062  
01:07:34,950 --> 01:07:36,924  
Funny.

1063

01:07:36,924 --> 01:07:43,630

Now, I vaguely remember  
seeing it but not really.

1064

01:07:43,630 --> 01:07:48,010

I mean, what is horrifying  
is the idea that somebody

1065

01:07:48,010 --> 01:07:50,200

would make such a movie.

1066

01:07:50,200 --> 01:07:54,130

Of course, Stalag 17 or  
whatever it was called,

1067

01:07:54,130 --> 01:07:56,610

that was a television  
series subsequently,

1068

01:07:56,610 --> 01:08:01,090

you remember, of  
prisoner of war camp

1069

01:08:01,090 --> 01:08:05,506

with a funny German  
guard who was a nice guy.

1070

01:08:05,506 --> 01:08:09,700

These are all highly  
questionable taste wise.

1071

01:08:09,700 --> 01:08:12,580

1072

01:08:12,580 --> 01:08:15,355

To me, there is no such thing  
as a joke about a concentration

1073

01:08:15,355 --> 01:08:17,830

camp, obviously.

1074

01:08:17,830 --> 01:08:20,109

It's not funny.

1075

01:08:20,109 --> 01:08:21,263

Nothing is funny.

1076

01:08:21,263 --> 01:08:25,439

1077

01:08:25,439 --> 01:08:30,770

So at which point  
exactly one realized--

1078

01:08:30,770 --> 01:08:33,800

at one point, I thought I  
volunteered for the Commandos

1079

01:08:33,800 --> 01:08:35,970

because they had  
killed my grandfather.

1080

01:08:35,970 --> 01:08:37,939

And then I found out I hadn't--

1081

01:08:37,939 --> 01:08:40,220

I didn't really know  
that my grandfather

1082

01:08:40,220 --> 01:08:43,850

had been killed until after  
I was in the Commandos.

1083

01:08:43,850 --> 01:08:49,890

It became a matter of  
principle, making up

1084

01:08:49,890 --> 01:08:53,139

one's mind to be a  
carte blanche volunteer.

1085

01:08:53,139 --> 01:08:55,020

You want me to do  
something, I'll do it.

1086

01:08:55,020 --> 01:08:58,439

If somebody had said,  
be a kamikaze and crash

1087

01:08:58,439 --> 01:09:02,189

land an explosive  
plane on Berchtesgaden,

1088

01:09:02,189 --> 01:09:05,250

I would have done it.

1089

01:09:05,250 --> 01:09:11,189

And I think so would a  
good many of my colleagues.

1090

01:09:11,189 --> 01:09:13,979

Would you have done it for  
yourself or for the Austrians

1091

01:09:13,979 --> 01:09:15,090

or for the Jews?

1092

01:09:15,090 --> 01:09:20,609

1093

01:09:20,609 --> 01:09:22,049

I would say all of the above.

1094

01:09:22,049 --> 01:09:29,733

1095

01:09:29,733 --> 01:09:32,960

We've had a lot of discussion,  
some of ourselves, about some

1096

01:09:32,960 --> 01:09:35,359

of these things,  
sometimes serious,

1097

01:09:35,359 --> 01:09:42,890

sometimes perhaps  
lightheartedly.

1098  
01:09:42,890 --> 01:09:47,390  
I remember, for instance,  
when the Israeli athletes were

1099  
01:09:47,390 --> 01:09:52,290  
assassinated in the  
Munich Olympics,

1100  
01:09:52,290 --> 01:09:57,880  
reflecting that if  
someone had said to me,

1101  
01:09:57,880 --> 01:10:05,470  
there is a planeload that  
contains the German soccer

1102  
01:10:05,470 --> 01:10:15,860  
team during Nazi period,  
you can get some explosives

1103  
01:10:15,860 --> 01:10:23,390  
on their plane and blow them up,  
I think I would have said no.

1104  
01:10:23,390 --> 01:10:26,210  
Not because I'm a soccer fan.

1105  
01:10:26,210 --> 01:10:35,450  
Not because I sympathize  
with Nazis of any ilk.

1106  
01:10:35,450 --> 01:10:45,270  
But because I think  
that my hatred,

1107  
01:10:45,270 --> 01:10:48,360  
if you can call it that,  
my revenge motivation

1108  
01:10:48,360 --> 01:10:51,780  
is more targeted to people  
who have done something.



1109  
01:10:51,780 --> 01:10:54,640

1110  
01:10:54,640 --> 01:10:57,070  
Now, if it had  
been a German army

1111  
01:10:57,070 --> 01:11:01,420  
unit, a planeload  
of German soldiers

1112  
01:11:01,420 --> 01:11:04,720  
during the war,  
the most innocent

1113  
01:11:04,720 --> 01:11:08,290  
of country bumpkin  
Nazi soldiers,

1114  
01:11:08,290 --> 01:11:11,470  
I would have said yes.

1115  
01:11:11,470 --> 01:11:12,460  
You see the difference?

1116  
01:11:12,460 --> 01:11:17,530  
I mean, and I'm saying  
that one does not

1117  
01:11:17,530 --> 01:11:26,400  
perpetrate horror measures  
against, quote unquote,

1118  
01:11:26,400 --> 01:11:27,510  
"innocent civilians."

1119  
01:11:27,510 --> 01:11:30,600

1120  
01:11:30,600 --> 01:11:32,070  
And if I don't

watch it, then I'll

1121  
01:11:32,070 --> 01:11:37,560  
get into the recent  
Beirut situation.

1122  
01:11:37,560 --> 01:11:42,280  
And I think it's unfortunate.

1123  
01:11:42,280 --> 01:11:47,910  
And I think that it's  
borne of the frustration

1124  
01:11:47,910 --> 01:11:54,600  
against suicidal  
bombers hitting you.

1125  
01:11:54,600 --> 01:11:57,180  
And whom do you  
target in response?

1126  
01:11:57,180 --> 01:12:00,300

1127  
01:12:00,300 --> 01:12:02,700  
An action must be taken.

1128  
01:12:02,700 --> 01:12:05,224  
And the next question  
is, what action?

1129  
01:12:05,224 --> 01:12:09,490

1130  
01:12:09,490 --> 01:12:13,150  
So do you recall what you  
were feeling when you first

1131  
01:12:13,150 --> 01:12:16,600  
heard the notice to  
come up if you're

1132

01:12:16,600 --> 01:12:21,100  
interested in a secretive,  
dangerous position, which would

1133  
01:12:21,100 --> 01:12:23,500  
eventually become a 3 Troop?

1134  
01:12:23,500 --> 01:12:24,910  
Oh, yes.

1135  
01:12:24,910 --> 01:12:30,700  
I saw the notice on  
the board which said,

1136  
01:12:30,700 --> 01:12:32,410  
special and hazardous duty.

1137  
01:12:32,410 --> 01:12:36,080  
And I said, that's  
for me, surely.

1138  
01:12:36,080 --> 01:12:39,320  
I tried to volunteer before  
for a couple of things

1139  
01:12:39,320 --> 01:12:43,880  
and never even gotten  
an interview, possibly

1140  
01:12:43,880 --> 01:12:49,460  
because I'd been interned and  
some bureaucrat somewhere said,

1141  
01:12:49,460 --> 01:12:51,380  
anybody who's been  
interned is suspect.

1142  
01:12:51,380 --> 01:12:53,660  
I don't know.

1143  
01:12:53,660 --> 01:12:56,540  
So when they-- an opportunity  
had to be grabbed.

1144  
01:12:56,540 --> 01:12:59,330

1145  
01:12:59,330 --> 01:13:02,270  
So do you consider what  
you did, fighting for a 3

1146  
01:13:02,270 --> 01:13:03,980  
Troop, a form of resistance?

1147  
01:13:03,980 --> 01:13:07,740

1148  
01:13:07,740 --> 01:13:08,760  
Call it what you will.

1149  
01:13:08,760 --> 01:13:15,840  
Resistance or  
revenge or trying--

1150  
01:13:15,840 --> 01:13:21,120  
I mean, one of my Commando  
friends, Steve Ross,

1151  
01:13:21,120 --> 01:13:22,660  
phrased it perfectly.

1152  
01:13:22,660 --> 01:13:27,240  
He said, we may not have known  
what we are fighting for.

1153  
01:13:27,240 --> 01:13:29,400  
We had no great  
illusions the world was

1154  
01:13:29,400 --> 01:13:32,040  
going to be perfect  
afterwards, and this

1155  
01:13:32,040 --> 01:13:34,420  
was a war to end all wars.

1156  
01:13:34,420 --> 01:13:38,730  
But we knew what we  
were fighting against.

1157  
01:13:38,730 --> 01:13:40,320  
And there wasn't  
the slightest doubt

1158  
01:13:40,320 --> 01:13:44,460  
about that, not the slightest.

1159  
01:13:44,460 --> 01:13:47,350  
Evil personified.

1160  
01:13:47,350 --> 01:13:49,650  
So did you feel that you had  
a choice whether to fight

1161  
01:13:49,650 --> 01:13:51,442  
or not or that you  
definitely had to fight?

1162  
01:13:51,442 --> 01:13:54,050

1163  
01:13:54,050 --> 01:13:55,760  
Well, we made the  
choice to fight.

1164  
01:13:55,760 --> 01:13:59,760  
And I felt ethically  
there was no choice.

1165  
01:13:59,760 --> 01:14:00,260  
None.

1166  
01:14:00,260 --> 01:14:04,710

1167  
01:14:04,710 --> 01:14:07,440  
Why did it become necessary to

disguise your identity in the 3

1168  
01:14:07,440 --> 01:14:08,340  
Troop?

1169  
01:14:08,340 --> 01:14:09,060  
To what?

1170  
01:14:09,060 --> 01:14:10,920  
To disguise your identity.

1171  
01:14:10,920 --> 01:14:13,690  
Oh, for two reasons.

1172  
01:14:13,690 --> 01:14:17,070  
One, and I think  
the main reason,

1173  
01:14:17,070 --> 01:14:21,450  
was so that the Nazis  
shouldn't realize there was

1174  
01:14:21,450 --> 01:14:23,835  
an elite-sort parachute unit.

1175  
01:14:23,835 --> 01:14:27,090

1176  
01:14:27,090 --> 01:14:29,280  
Every person spoke fluent  
German and knew all

1177  
01:14:29,280 --> 01:14:33,300  
about the German army in  
which we were trained--

1178  
01:14:33,300 --> 01:14:36,310  
organization, weapons,  
and everything else.

1179  
01:14:36,310 --> 01:14:40,690  
And secondly, to protect us in

case we were taken prisoner.

1180  
01:14:40,690 --> 01:14:43,560

1181  
01:14:43,560 --> 01:14:47,050  
Several people were taken  
prisoner and got away with it.

1182  
01:14:47,050 --> 01:14:50,910  
And several did not.

1183  
01:14:50,910 --> 01:14:55,510  
Several people captured  
at Dieppe disappeared.

1184  
01:14:55,510 --> 01:14:58,980  
There were, I think,  
three or four--

1185  
01:14:58,980 --> 01:15:01,020  
three, Bate, Rice, and Smith.

1186  
01:15:01,020 --> 01:15:01,920  
Never heard of again.

1187  
01:15:01,920 --> 01:15:02,740  
I never met them.

1188  
01:15:02,740 --> 01:15:07,140  
They were gone before  
I joined the Commandos.

1189  
01:15:07,140 --> 01:15:08,880  
Ernest Lawrence,  
I knew very well.

1190  
01:15:08,880 --> 01:15:11,130  
And he was taken prisoner.

1191  
01:15:11,130 --> 01:15:13,920  
And I interrogated

the people in the line

1192

01:15:13,920 --> 01:15:15,180  
where he was taken prisoner.

1193

01:15:15,180 --> 01:15:18,030  
He was not heard while he  
was being taken prisoner.

1194

01:15:18,030 --> 01:15:19,440  
And he was never heard of again.

1195

01:15:19,440 --> 01:15:22,860

1196

01:15:22,860 --> 01:15:25,510  
A man who left the troop  
just before I joined it,

1197

01:15:25,510 --> 01:15:31,680  
Giles, probably went  
in a civilian capacity

1198

01:15:31,680 --> 01:15:36,750  
into Yugoslavia by parachute  
and was allegedly tortured

1199

01:15:36,750 --> 01:15:43,140  
and certainly disappeared  
without notification.

1200

01:15:43,140 --> 01:15:45,390  
There were also  
some people-- there

1201

01:15:45,390 --> 01:15:48,690  
was a man called [? Hiscot ?]  
in 3 Troop who was just

1202

01:15:48,690 --> 01:15:50,970  
leaving when I joined it.

1203



01:15:50,970 --> 01:15:56,130  
And he had to go elsewhere  
because he had an English

1204  
01:15:56,130 --> 01:16:00,400  
fiancée who worked in a top  
security capacity somewhere.

1205  
01:16:00,400 --> 01:16:03,060  
And they were afraid  
if he were in the field

1206  
01:16:03,060 --> 01:16:05,660  
and taken prisoner, he would  
be subject to blackmail.

1207  
01:16:05,660 --> 01:16:08,411

1208  
01:16:08,411 --> 01:16:11,250  
It seems a little  
peculiar, that,

1209  
01:16:11,250 --> 01:16:14,220  
because that could have  
been argued about any of us.

1210  
01:16:14,220 --> 01:16:16,980  
But the name change,  
change of identity

1211  
01:16:16,980 --> 01:16:24,000  
was deemed to be sufficient  
to protect us and get

1212  
01:16:24,000 --> 01:16:24,840  
us treatment.

1213  
01:16:24,840 --> 01:16:27,990  
I mean, my dog tags  
said Peter Masters,

1214  
01:16:27,990 --> 01:16:29,850

had a number from the  
[? Queens Own Royal ?]

1215  
01:16:29,850 --> 01:16:31,530  
[INAUDIBLE] regiment.

1216  
01:16:31,530 --> 01:16:33,060  
And it said Church of England.

1217  
01:16:33,060 --> 01:16:37,730

1218  
01:16:37,730 --> 01:16:41,420  
The fact that the Church of  
England-- did that upset you?

1219  
01:16:41,420 --> 01:16:44,060  
Or how did that factor in?

1220  
01:16:44,060 --> 01:16:44,960  
Amused me.

1221  
01:16:44,960 --> 01:16:48,260

1222  
01:16:48,260 --> 01:16:50,570  
I think it's in  
my story that when

1223  
01:16:50,570 --> 01:16:54,650  
we were in London  
being interviewed,

1224  
01:16:54,650 --> 01:16:58,190  
there was the obligatory  
church parade.

1225  
01:16:58,190 --> 01:17:02,210  
And we Jewish refugees were  
leading the parade because, I

1226  
01:17:02,210 --> 01:17:06,380

guess, it was alphabetical and  
the Auxiliary Military Pioneer

1227  
01:17:06,380 --> 01:17:08,660  
Corps started with  
an A. And that put us

1228  
01:17:08,660 --> 01:17:15,170  
in front of the Irish Guards,  
Scots Guards, lifeguards,

1229  
01:17:15,170 --> 01:17:18,110  
and whatever else.

1230  
01:17:18,110 --> 01:17:20,720  
So we led the parade  
through London.

1231  
01:17:20,720 --> 01:17:24,518  
And we were quite  
amused by that.

1232  
01:17:24,518 --> 01:17:26,560  
Did you ever feel you were  
compromising something

1233  
01:17:26,560 --> 01:17:30,040  
by creating this new identity?

1234  
01:17:30,040 --> 01:17:32,320  
No, not at all.

1235  
01:17:32,320 --> 01:17:33,000  
Not at all.

1236  
01:17:33,000 --> 01:17:37,230

1237  
01:17:37,230 --> 01:17:40,530  
Whatever happened?

1238  
01:17:40,530 --> 01:17:44,550

When you created  
this double identity,

1239  
01:17:44,550 --> 01:17:46,890  
what happened to your  
original identity?

1240  
01:17:46,890 --> 01:17:47,760  
How did you feel?

1241  
01:17:47,760 --> 01:17:50,440  
Did you ever feel like  
it could come back?

1242  
01:17:50,440 --> 01:17:53,110  
Some people took their  
names back after the war.

1243  
01:17:53,110 --> 01:17:57,360  
But I was quite pleased  
having the new identity

1244  
01:17:57,360 --> 01:18:01,290  
and being known by that  
name for the duration.

1245  
01:18:01,290 --> 01:18:04,800  
And most people by that time  
knew me under that name,

1246  
01:18:04,800 --> 01:18:09,660  
so there seemed to be no  
reason to take it back.

1247  
01:18:09,660 --> 01:18:18,060  
And no, really, I  
simply became the person

1248  
01:18:18,060 --> 01:18:19,995  
whose name I had chosen.

1249  
01:18:19,995 --> 01:18:22,530

1250  
01:18:22,530 --> 01:18:25,260  
Didn't bother me at all.

1251  
01:18:25,260 --> 01:18:27,030  
What about the religion?

1252  
01:18:27,030 --> 01:18:29,910  
Did you return to Judaism?

1253  
01:18:29,910 --> 01:18:35,010  
Yes, more so perhaps because--

1254  
01:18:35,010 --> 01:18:37,520  
returned, I never left it.

1255  
01:18:37,520 --> 01:18:40,710  
The fact my tags said that--

1256  
01:18:40,710 --> 01:18:41,410  
irrelevant.

1257  
01:18:41,410 --> 01:18:47,340

1258  
01:18:47,340 --> 01:18:51,390  
Well, it turned out  
that I married a refugee

1259  
01:18:51,390 --> 01:18:56,790  
from Czechoslovakia who had come  
out on a children's transport.

1260  
01:18:56,790 --> 01:19:01,230  
And she had--

1261  
01:19:01,230 --> 01:19:02,000