

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:05,360

2

00:00:05,360 --> 00:00:09,770

The following is an
interview of Ionel Ghelman.

3

00:00:09,770 --> 00:00:14,930

Today is May 9, 1996.

4

00:00:14,930 --> 00:00:20,300

The interview is being conducted
in Silver Spring, Maryland

5

00:00:20,300 --> 00:00:23,510

by Gail Schwartz on behalf of
the United States Holocaust

6

00:00:23,510 --> 00:00:24,350

Memorial Museum.

7

00:00:24,350 --> 00:00:26,950

8

00:00:26,950 --> 00:00:30,890

Could you please give
us your full name?

9

00:00:30,890 --> 00:00:38,020

My first name is Ionel, last
name Ghelman, not middle name.

10

00:00:38,020 --> 00:00:49,180

I was born in Bucharest,
Romania on March 27, 1929.

11

00:00:49,180 --> 00:00:51,940

Let's begin by talking
about your family.

12

00:00:51,940 --> 00:00:54,685

Who made up the members
of your immediate family?

13
00:00:54,685 --> 00:00:57,560

14
00:00:57,560 --> 00:01:08,200
My father name [? Yankiel ?]
Ghelman, born in Briceni,

15
00:01:08,200 --> 00:01:12,835
Hotin County,
Russia, on March 13.

16
00:01:12,835 --> 00:01:15,430

17
00:01:15,430 --> 00:01:17,980
1895.

18
00:01:17,980 --> 00:01:25,030
My mother, Edna
[? Steiner, ?] maiden Wolf,

19
00:01:25,030 --> 00:01:33,170
born in Vutcani,
Vaslui County, Romania.

20
00:01:33,170 --> 00:01:37,520

21
00:01:37,520 --> 00:01:47,600
And the only sister what I
have, Anneta married [? Lebu. ?]

22
00:01:47,600 --> 00:01:51,460
She is living right now
in Tel Aviv, Israel.

23
00:01:51,460 --> 00:01:53,610
That was my family.

24

00:01:53,610 --> 00:01:55,360

Was your sister older
or younger than you?

25

00:01:55,360 --> 00:01:58,420

No, my sister is
younger than me.

26

00:01:58,420 --> 00:02:03,280

She is born on November 1934.

27

00:02:03,280 --> 00:02:06,320

And tell me a little
bit about your father.

28

00:02:06,320 --> 00:02:11,980

What kind of work did he do, and
when did he come to Bucharest?

29

00:02:11,980 --> 00:02:17,770

My father, he is taking the
skill from my grandfather.

30

00:02:17,770 --> 00:02:21,070

They were watch repairmen.

31

00:02:21,070 --> 00:02:23,340

My grandfather was also.

32

00:02:23,340 --> 00:02:28,120

He had his little shop on
Briceni, would buy and sell

33

00:02:28,120 --> 00:02:31,300

some jewelry, some watches.

34

00:02:31,300 --> 00:02:34,360

And he was also a
watch repairman.

35

00:02:34,360 --> 00:02:38,200

My father, as far
as I know, he's

36
00:02:38,200 --> 00:02:41,130
coming in Bucharest
because was not

37
00:02:41,130 --> 00:02:45,880
a future for him in the
little town where he was born.

38
00:02:45,880 --> 00:02:56,950
Around 1925-- '26,
something, and two years

39
00:02:56,950 --> 00:03:01,860
before I was born,
he married my mother,

40
00:03:01,860 --> 00:03:05,500
who is coming from Vutcani
in Bucharest, Romania

41
00:03:05,500 --> 00:03:06,860
with her family.

42
00:03:06,860 --> 00:03:08,220
They meet there.

43
00:03:08,220 --> 00:03:10,060
They married there.

44
00:03:10,060 --> 00:03:17,315
And they build
their little family.

45
00:03:17,315 --> 00:03:20,792
Did they themselves come
from large families?

46
00:03:20,792 --> 00:03:22,250
Did they have
brothers and sisters?

47

00:03:22,250 --> 00:03:31,365
Yes, my father's side, he have
two brother and one sister,

48
00:03:31,365 --> 00:03:34,000
a brother older than him.

49
00:03:34,000 --> 00:03:35,610
He was the second.

50
00:03:35,610 --> 00:03:38,760
After he is coming
a sister, Rachela.

51
00:03:38,760 --> 00:03:44,100
And the last one
was Nathan Ghelman.

52
00:03:44,100 --> 00:03:48,120
Except my father, all of
them, they were remain--

53
00:03:48,120 --> 00:03:53,700
living in Hotin County,
in different little town

54
00:03:53,700 --> 00:03:58,230
like Secureni, where
they have their families.

55
00:03:58,230 --> 00:04:00,180
So your father was the
only one of his family

56
00:04:00,180 --> 00:04:00,890
to come to Bucharest.

57
00:04:00,890 --> 00:04:01,390
Exactly.

58
00:04:01,390 --> 00:04:05,260
So you didn't have extended
family, then, in Bucharest.

59
00:04:05,260 --> 00:04:06,600
No, no.

60
00:04:06,600 --> 00:04:10,440
I have the extended family
only from my mother's side,

61
00:04:10,440 --> 00:04:15,870
her parents and her
sister and brothers

62
00:04:15,870 --> 00:04:22,320
who were, all of them
living in Bucharest.

63
00:04:22,320 --> 00:04:27,630
So did you get together with
cousins and aunts and uncles

64
00:04:27,630 --> 00:04:29,330
for special occasions?

65
00:04:29,330 --> 00:04:35,430
Yes, I have cousin only from
my mother brother's side.

66
00:04:35,430 --> 00:04:38,370
Because the other two
sister of my mother,

67
00:04:38,370 --> 00:04:39,570
they don't have kids.

68
00:04:39,570 --> 00:04:42,360
They are married
but without kids.

69
00:04:42,360 --> 00:04:49,020
Then my mother died in 1938.

70
00:04:49,020 --> 00:04:59,240

Me and my sister, my mother's
sister take care of us.

71
00:04:59,240 --> 00:05:03,590
Her name was Blima
Hoffner, and she

72
00:05:03,590 --> 00:05:08,600
was living with her husband
in the same building with us

73
00:05:08,600 --> 00:05:10,580
in different apartments.

74
00:05:10,580 --> 00:05:13,040
So you lived in an
apartment house?

75
00:05:13,040 --> 00:05:21,560
No, we are living in our own
house, who was built on--

76
00:05:21,560 --> 00:05:24,200
and the house is two apartments.

77
00:05:24,200 --> 00:05:27,350
It was only two apartment
house with a little yard

78
00:05:27,350 --> 00:05:29,180
around the house.

79
00:05:29,180 --> 00:05:33,770
Was the house in the center of
Bucharest or on the outskirts?

80
00:05:33,770 --> 00:05:35,960
It was on the
outskirts of Bucharest.

81
00:05:35,960 --> 00:05:40,790
The name was Parcul
[? Berindei. ?]

82
00:05:40,790 --> 00:05:46,370
Was our little village on
outskirt of Bucharest, close

83
00:05:46,370 --> 00:05:56,988
to Dudesti Avenue, who
was a half Jewish--

84
00:05:56,988 --> 00:05:57,530
Neighborhood.

85
00:05:57,530 --> 00:05:59,280
Neighborhood.

86
00:05:59,280 --> 00:06:02,660
So when you were young, you
had neighbors who were Jewish

87
00:06:02,660 --> 00:06:03,660
and some who were not.

88
00:06:03,660 --> 00:06:04,160
Exactly.

89
00:06:04,160 --> 00:06:05,180
Did you play with the--

90
00:06:05,180 --> 00:06:09,440
I play with all my friends.

91
00:06:09,440 --> 00:06:10,910
Half of them was Jewish.

92
00:06:10,910 --> 00:06:14,210
Half of them was not Jewish.

93
00:06:14,210 --> 00:06:20,960
I was in elementary school,
in a public elementary school.

94

00:06:20,960 --> 00:06:26,360
Was in Bucharest at this time
some private, but very, very

95
00:06:26,360 --> 00:06:28,580
few of them and very expensive.

96
00:06:28,580 --> 00:06:35,540
My father-- my
family were middle--

97
00:06:35,540 --> 00:06:38,450
middle class family.

98
00:06:38,450 --> 00:06:43,580
And my father was
working for somebody else

99
00:06:43,580 --> 00:06:46,910
in downtown Bucharest.

100
00:06:46,910 --> 00:06:51,110
My mother, before
she was married

101
00:06:51,110 --> 00:07:00,950
she was a tailor working
for a big family who

102
00:07:00,950 --> 00:07:04,120
was close to the royal--

103
00:07:04,120 --> 00:07:09,340
to the royal palace
in Bucharest, Romania.

104
00:07:09,340 --> 00:07:13,150
And this time the
King was Carl II.

105
00:07:13,150 --> 00:07:17,590

106

00:07:17,590 --> 00:07:24,000

I was in elementary school,
a public elementary school.

107

00:07:24,000 --> 00:07:29,080

95% from the kids
there was not Jewish.

108

00:07:29,080 --> 00:07:35,020

I was the only few of
the Jewish kids what we

109

00:07:35,020 --> 00:07:37,660

were at this elementary school.

110

00:07:37,660 --> 00:07:45,580

And all around I
have a lot of trouble

111

00:07:45,580 --> 00:07:48,100

when I was a kid in
the elementary school

112

00:07:48,100 --> 00:07:50,110

because I was a Jew.

113

00:07:50,110 --> 00:07:53,770

I remember the
first day when I go

114

00:07:53,770 --> 00:07:58,820

in the school the other
kids was looking to me

115

00:07:58,820 --> 00:08:07,880

and say a Romanian slang, which
is "jidan" and pointed to me.

116

00:08:07,880 --> 00:08:09,960

I don't understand why.

117

00:08:09,960 --> 00:08:15,250

And when I'm coming home,
I ask my mother "mom,

118
00:08:15,250 --> 00:08:18,530
why they named me like this?"

119
00:08:18,530 --> 00:08:21,610
And she said, "don't worry.

120
00:08:21,610 --> 00:08:28,560
Close your mouth, be
quiet, and started going."

121
00:08:28,560 --> 00:08:32,169
Were there any other incidents
at school besides that?

122
00:08:32,169 --> 00:08:32,740
No.

123
00:08:32,740 --> 00:08:35,760
No, I remember and
the school what

124
00:08:35,760 --> 00:08:40,419
I was in the first class,
the principal of the school

125
00:08:40,419 --> 00:08:44,290
was also the priest
of the church

126
00:08:44,290 --> 00:08:46,780
close to the elementary school.

127
00:08:46,780 --> 00:08:51,730
In Romania, from the first
grade to the fourth grade,

128
00:08:51,730 --> 00:08:54,730
we have some religion classes.

129

00:08:54,730 --> 00:08:59,620

And the only religion classes
was Romanian Orthodox.

130

00:08:59,620 --> 00:09:04,030

And I was so good I
remember in the religion

131

00:09:04,030 --> 00:09:09,070

because the priest who was the
principal and also the religion

132

00:09:09,070 --> 00:09:12,130

teacher, he pointed
me-- once he put me

133

00:09:12,130 --> 00:09:13,570

on the front of
the class and say,

134

00:09:13,570 --> 00:09:20,560

"look, this guy who is not
a Romanian-- a Christian

135

00:09:20,560 --> 00:09:23,590

Orthodox, he know
better religion.

136

00:09:23,590 --> 00:09:27,940

This Jew who is not
a Christian Orthodox,

137

00:09:27,940 --> 00:09:31,000

he know about your
religion than you."

138

00:09:31,000 --> 00:09:34,360

That was one of the
memory what I have

139

00:09:34,360 --> 00:09:37,090

from the elementary school.

140

00:09:37,090 --> 00:09:40,540
From the second grade on
the elementary school,

141
00:09:40,540 --> 00:09:44,830
my parents moved me
to the other school.

142
00:09:44,830 --> 00:09:49,610
Also not too far from
where we're living.

143
00:09:49,610 --> 00:09:53,620
And I have good
teacher, good teacher.

144
00:09:53,620 --> 00:10:00,370
A good teacher, yes, who
was not anti-Semitic.

145
00:10:00,370 --> 00:10:07,210
He was very friendly
with me, and he liked me

146
00:10:07,210 --> 00:10:12,160
because I was from
the couple of kids

147
00:10:12,160 --> 00:10:21,640
what we know and we
like to understand

148
00:10:21,640 --> 00:10:24,640
what I'm doing in this school.

149
00:10:24,640 --> 00:10:26,860
Why did your parents
change your school?

150
00:10:26,860 --> 00:10:30,610
Because the school what
I was in the first grade

151

00:10:30,610 --> 00:10:40,390
was low class, in the
low class, and Bucharest,

152
00:10:40,390 --> 00:10:43,030
Romania at this thing
was more anti-Semitic

153
00:10:43,030 --> 00:10:48,040
than the upper level,
who are more intellectual

154
00:10:48,040 --> 00:10:52,630
and are more friendly with
the other Jewish people.

155
00:10:52,630 --> 00:10:54,115
How religious was your family?

156
00:10:54,115 --> 00:10:57,120

157
00:10:57,120 --> 00:11:02,170
In our neighbor where we were
living in Bucharest, my father

158
00:11:02,170 --> 00:11:09,040
and with other Jewish people,
they built a little synagogue.

159
00:11:09,040 --> 00:11:15,640
The synagogue name was
[? Ahavat ?] [? Stora. ?] Was

160
00:11:15,640 --> 00:11:17,140
a little building.

161
00:11:17,140 --> 00:11:21,820
First by the beginning
was a wood building.

162
00:11:21,820 --> 00:11:26,740
After years when they make

some money selling places

163

00:11:26,740 --> 00:11:31,390

for Rosh Hashanah and Yom

Kippur and we make some money,

164

00:11:31,390 --> 00:11:37,000

they built a brick house

for this little synagogue.

165

00:11:37,000 --> 00:11:40,600

166

00:11:40,600 --> 00:11:44,830

After I am coming on this State,

I was two times in Romania.

167

00:11:44,830 --> 00:11:49,900

The first time when

I was in Bucharest,

168

00:11:49,900 --> 00:11:52,180

I was there to see

the neighborhood

169

00:11:52,180 --> 00:11:54,980

where I was growing up.

170

00:11:54,980 --> 00:12:00,200

And the little synagogue

was an empty building.

171

00:12:00,200 --> 00:12:03,230

They move all the Torahs

and everything, the Siddurim

172

00:12:03,230 --> 00:12:06,770

and everything, to

the main synagogue

173

00:12:06,770 --> 00:12:11,540

and the main temple

in Bucharest,

174
00:12:11,540 --> 00:12:17,300
the Choral Temple in
downtown Bucharest.

175
00:12:17,300 --> 00:12:22,760
The second time when I was,
they destroyed the synagogue

176
00:12:22,760 --> 00:12:26,540
and all the houses
and the neighborhood,

177
00:12:26,540 --> 00:12:28,890
and they built
high rise building.

178
00:12:28,890 --> 00:12:32,780
But it's improper to
name high rise building,

179
00:12:32,780 --> 00:12:35,780
because everything was so dirty.

180
00:12:35,780 --> 00:12:44,740
So the grass was
tall to the first--

181
00:12:44,740 --> 00:12:46,862
the second level.

182
00:12:46,862 --> 00:12:51,140
And the synagogue
don't exist more.

183
00:12:51,140 --> 00:12:59,330
and the house what I was raised
in Bucharest was demolished,

184
00:12:59,330 --> 00:13:03,020
and they built all kinds
of damn buildings there.

185

00:13:03,020 --> 00:13:06,340

What kind of-- what language
did you speak at home?

186

00:13:06,340 --> 00:13:07,290

Only Romanian.

187

00:13:07,290 --> 00:13:12,920

And my mother and my father--

188

00:13:12,920 --> 00:13:15,980

my mother, she died in 1938.

189

00:13:15,980 --> 00:13:22,190

But I remember my father and
my mother, they speak Yiddish.

190

00:13:22,190 --> 00:13:25,190

And my second mother
and the third mother,

191

00:13:25,190 --> 00:13:29,660

because I have two
stepmothers, both of them

192

00:13:29,660 --> 00:13:32,660

they speak with
my father Yiddish.

193

00:13:32,660 --> 00:13:36,080

When I was a child, I
speak a little bit Yiddish,

194

00:13:36,080 --> 00:13:38,480

but I understand 100%.

195

00:13:38,480 --> 00:13:40,860

Here right now I
understand Yiddish,

196

00:13:40,860 --> 00:13:44,840

but because I don't practice

more, I don't speak, I forgot.

197

00:13:44,840 --> 00:13:47,255

Did you get any Jewish
religious training?

198

00:13:47,255 --> 00:13:50,240

199

00:13:50,240 --> 00:13:55,790

After the elementary school, I
was in a technical industrial

200

00:13:55,790 --> 00:14:01,340

school, a Jewish on
the DudeTM Avenue.

201

00:14:01,340 --> 00:14:11,790

Was Ciocanul, was Foundation
Adolf Salomon for only--

202

00:14:11,790 --> 00:14:14,590

for Jewish kids.

203

00:14:14,590 --> 00:14:19,360

And I was to have
to be a craftsman.

204

00:14:19,360 --> 00:14:22,210

And after this,
after the four years,

205

00:14:22,210 --> 00:14:25,870

to be a high school graduate.

206

00:14:25,870 --> 00:14:33,280

I was attending this
technical school.

207

00:14:33,280 --> 00:14:40,480

And when the German
army, they are coming

208

00:14:40,480 --> 00:14:47,130
in Romania, that was in 1940.

209

00:14:47,130 --> 00:14:52,670
They occupied our
school, Ciocanul.

210

00:14:52,670 --> 00:14:59,510
And we were moved in
a little Jewish temple

211

00:14:59,510 --> 00:15:01,100
in the neighborhood.

212

00:15:01,100 --> 00:15:07,610
The name of the Jewish temple
was CredinÈ»a in Radorin Park.

213

00:15:07,610 --> 00:15:10,300

214

00:15:10,300 --> 00:15:15,490
We don't have workshops.

215

00:15:15,490 --> 00:15:17,410
In the main building,
in the main school,

216

00:15:17,410 --> 00:15:19,700
we have also workshops.

217

00:15:19,700 --> 00:15:23,790
We make half day
school and half day

218

00:15:23,790 --> 00:15:26,470
we are training
in the workshops.

219

00:15:26,470 --> 00:15:30,020
When the German occupied
our school, the German army,

220
00:15:30,020 --> 00:15:33,380
and we were moved in
the Jewish temple,

221
00:15:33,380 --> 00:15:36,680
we make only half days,
because in the temple

222
00:15:36,680 --> 00:15:40,290
we don't have
workshops to practice.

223
00:15:40,290 --> 00:15:41,970
And after-- I don't know.

224
00:15:41,970 --> 00:15:47,030
I don't remember exactly-- after
one year, we moved from there.

225
00:15:47,030 --> 00:15:53,150
Was a rich Jewish man who
have a big building, and close

226
00:15:53,150 --> 00:15:56,860
to Romanian downtown--
not in downtown.

227
00:15:56,860 --> 00:15:58,250
In the neighborhood.

228
00:15:58,250 --> 00:16:03,170
And they give to our
school his big building.

229
00:16:03,170 --> 00:16:06,650
And we have there
our technical school

230
00:16:06,650 --> 00:16:08,990
with some little workshops.

231

00:16:08,990 --> 00:16:14,760

We can practice to be
some craftsmanship.

232

00:16:14,760 --> 00:16:18,800

So just to go back to the
religious life in your family,

233

00:16:18,800 --> 00:16:21,590

was your family a
very observant family?

234

00:16:21,590 --> 00:16:26,690

No, my father go to the
synagogue every Shabbos,

235

00:16:26,690 --> 00:16:28,570

every Sabbath.

236

00:16:28,570 --> 00:16:35,540

And he was on the
committee to the temple.

237

00:16:35,540 --> 00:16:37,880

Everybody give money.

238

00:16:37,880 --> 00:16:42,110

All the Jewish people from
our neighborhood give money.

239

00:16:42,110 --> 00:16:44,460

Did you get any
Hebrew instruction,

240

00:16:44,460 --> 00:16:45,510

Jewish instruction?

241

00:16:45,510 --> 00:16:46,010

No.

242

00:16:46,010 --> 00:16:48,820

No, I was not
instructed in Jewish.

243
00:16:48,820 --> 00:16:52,040
I have bar mitzvah.

244
00:16:52,040 --> 00:16:57,740
I was trained to read the
Siddurim for bar mitzvah.

245
00:16:57,740 --> 00:17:05,030
And when my sister was
born, also we have for--

246
00:17:05,030 --> 00:17:06,980
I don't remember the
name for the girl.

247
00:17:06,980 --> 00:17:08,478
When a girl--

248
00:17:08,478 --> 00:17:09,670
A naming ceremony.

249
00:17:09,670 --> 00:17:12,349
A naming ceremony, exactly.

250
00:17:12,349 --> 00:17:14,630
And we were--

251
00:17:14,630 --> 00:17:22,369
I remember every Friday evening,
my mother have two candlelight,

252
00:17:22,369 --> 00:17:24,900
and she covered her head.

253
00:17:24,900 --> 00:17:28,369
And we were not very religious--

254
00:17:28,369 --> 00:17:31,820
very observant, but we
were religion people.

255

00:17:31,820 --> 00:17:38,350

Before we move in our house
in Parcul [? Berindei, ?]

256

00:17:38,350 --> 00:17:43,430

a couple of months before
the house was ready,

257

00:17:43,430 --> 00:17:47,720

and they have a little
temple in our house

258

00:17:47,720 --> 00:17:52,580

before they built the
temple in our neighborhood.

259

00:17:52,580 --> 00:17:54,860

Do you remember
your early childhood

260

00:17:54,860 --> 00:17:58,550

as being a pleasant time?

261

00:17:58,550 --> 00:17:59,590

My childhood--

262

00:17:59,590 --> 00:18:01,130

The early childhood.

263

00:18:01,130 --> 00:18:03,770

The early childhood
was not very pleasant

264

00:18:03,770 --> 00:18:06,770

because we have in
our neighborhood

265

00:18:06,770 --> 00:18:12,500

not Jewish kids who
were instructed home

266

00:18:12,500 --> 00:18:15,050

to be anti-Semitics.

267

00:18:15,050 --> 00:18:17,030

Instructed at home, I said.

268

00:18:17,030 --> 00:18:20,810

Because when the

kids were young,

269

00:18:20,810 --> 00:18:23,730

they don't have

this feeling to be.

270

00:18:23,730 --> 00:18:27,710

But then their mother or father

told them to be like this.

271

00:18:27,710 --> 00:18:33,788

They were, and they give

to me and other Jewish pe--

272

00:18:33,788 --> 00:18:35,330

Can you describe

any other incidents?

273

00:18:35,330 --> 00:18:36,800

You talked about it in school.

274

00:18:36,800 --> 00:18:39,010

Anything else?

275

00:18:39,010 --> 00:18:45,560

I remember in the school I have

not Jewish boys friend with me,

276

00:18:45,560 --> 00:18:49,220

very good they were.

277

00:18:49,220 --> 00:18:55,940

And the higher

families, very educated.

278

00:18:55,940 --> 00:18:58,130
And I have neighbor,
not Jewish neighbor,

279
00:18:58,130 --> 00:19:01,120
who were very good people.

280
00:19:01,120 --> 00:19:05,050
When they have their
Easter, I remember,

281
00:19:05,050 --> 00:19:10,060
and they painted eggs, and they
make special cake for Easter,

282
00:19:10,060 --> 00:19:14,030
always I was invited there,
and they gave me some--

283
00:19:14,030 --> 00:19:18,740
I remember some years
was Passover and Orthodox

284
00:19:18,740 --> 00:19:21,470
Easter and the same.

285
00:19:21,470 --> 00:19:26,410
And I go to their
houses, and they give me

286
00:19:26,410 --> 00:19:30,300
painted eggs and cake flour.

287
00:19:30,300 --> 00:19:32,240
This is a cake was special.

288
00:19:32,240 --> 00:19:35,330
And I told them, don't tell
my mother or my father,

289
00:19:35,330 --> 00:19:40,310
because we have Passover, and
I have to eat only matzos.

290
00:19:40,310 --> 00:19:42,800
And they said, oh, OK.

291
00:19:42,800 --> 00:19:43,790
Don't worry.

292
00:19:43,790 --> 00:19:45,900
We don't tell them.

293
00:19:45,900 --> 00:19:52,440
And some of my friends,
what they are not Jewish,

294
00:19:52,440 --> 00:19:55,590
they are right now in New York,
and I'm very friendly and good

295
00:19:55,590 --> 00:19:56,970
relation.

296
00:19:56,970 --> 00:19:59,970
But I remember I have also
some friends, what they

297
00:19:59,970 --> 00:20:03,390
were very, very anti-Semites.

298
00:20:03,390 --> 00:20:11,040
And they play with me, and
every other hour or two hour,

299
00:20:11,040 --> 00:20:13,470
they name me, "hey,
jidan," "Jewish."

300
00:20:13,470 --> 00:20:16,340

301
00:20:16,340 --> 00:20:18,840
How did you feel as a
very young boy hearing

302
00:20:18,840 --> 00:20:20,930
that again and again?

303
00:20:20,930 --> 00:20:22,785
My feeling was-- when I was--

304
00:20:22,785 --> 00:20:23,285
Scared?

305
00:20:23,285 --> 00:20:25,940

306
00:20:25,940 --> 00:20:27,530
At the beginning, I was scared.

307
00:20:27,530 --> 00:20:31,910
But after months and months,
I don't worry more about this.

308
00:20:31,910 --> 00:20:36,320
I said, maybe that's
the way it has to be.

309
00:20:36,320 --> 00:20:38,360
I don't know.

310
00:20:38,360 --> 00:20:39,890
Did you have any hobbies?

311
00:20:39,890 --> 00:20:43,480
Were you interested in
other things besides school?

312
00:20:43,480 --> 00:20:44,270
Hobbies?

313
00:20:44,270 --> 00:20:50,120
I have some Jewish friend.

314
00:20:50,120 --> 00:20:53,745

My father bought me
a bicycle, and we

315
00:20:53,745 --> 00:20:56,520
are traveling with the bicycle.

316
00:20:56,520 --> 00:21:07,650
And we play ball, but because my
father was not a very rich man,

317
00:21:07,650 --> 00:21:11,000
he was a middle,
middle class man.

318
00:21:11,000 --> 00:21:15,890
And he have to have money
to put food on the table

319
00:21:15,890 --> 00:21:19,610
and to buy clothes
for me and my sister.

320
00:21:19,610 --> 00:21:24,680
I remember when we played ball,
always I looked to my shoes

321
00:21:24,680 --> 00:21:29,090
and I say you have to
[last--long last because I

322
00:21:29,090 --> 00:21:33,620
don't know if my father was
able to buy me other pair.

323
00:21:33,620 --> 00:21:36,380
Were you interested
in reading or music?

324
00:21:36,380 --> 00:21:39,890
I was interested in--

325
00:21:39,890 --> 00:21:43,760
always I was loving music.

326
00:21:43,760 --> 00:21:48,860
But I cannot have an instrument
and play because my father have

327
00:21:48,860 --> 00:21:51,440
not enough money to
buy me something.

328
00:21:51,440 --> 00:21:55,190
I was interested in
reading, and I have some--

329
00:21:55,190 --> 00:21:58,730
I remember-- not Jewish friend.

330
00:21:58,730 --> 00:22:02,690
We were in the same elementary
school, in the same class.

331
00:22:02,690 --> 00:22:05,150
Radu [? Aujin. ?] He died.

332
00:22:05,150 --> 00:22:11,180
He was a very high
mathematician in Romania.

333
00:22:11,180 --> 00:22:18,880
He was from a Romanian
English family.

334
00:22:18,880 --> 00:22:22,180
And he have a lot of
trouble over the years,

335
00:22:22,180 --> 00:22:24,670
when the communists take
the power in Romania,

336
00:22:24,670 --> 00:22:32,080
because he was raised
in English culture.

337

00:22:32,080 --> 00:22:37,060

And he defect Romania.

338

00:22:37,060 --> 00:22:40,720

He married, and have two girls.

339

00:22:40,720 --> 00:22:44,830

And he defect from Romania,
and he defect to Paris.

340

00:22:44,830 --> 00:22:49,230

He was a professor,
a top professor

341

00:22:49,230 --> 00:22:53,560

at Sorbonne University in Paris.

342

00:22:53,560 --> 00:22:56,170

And he traveled once
a week to Casablanca,

343

00:22:56,170 --> 00:23:00,070

because he was also a professor
at the University in Casa--

344

00:23:00,070 --> 00:23:02,800

and I was a very friend,
a good friend when we

345

00:23:02,800 --> 00:23:04,780

were in the elementary school.

346

00:23:04,780 --> 00:23:11,110

And he borrowed
me a lot of books.

347

00:23:11,110 --> 00:23:14,500

And I was started
to read, and liked

348

00:23:14,500 --> 00:23:18,640

to read from the books what

he gave to me to borrow.

349

00:23:18,640 --> 00:23:23,980

Because we were not
able to buy enough books

350

00:23:23,980 --> 00:23:29,110

to read and to be satisfied
with what I was reading.

351

00:23:29,110 --> 00:23:32,470

Would you call your family a
very close family, your parents

352

00:23:32,470 --> 00:23:33,550

and you and your sister?

353

00:23:33,550 --> 00:23:34,450

Yes, we were.

354

00:23:34,450 --> 00:23:36,460

Was your father very strict?

355

00:23:36,460 --> 00:23:39,130

My father was more
than very strict.

356

00:23:39,130 --> 00:23:41,840

He was very, very
strict with me.

357

00:23:41,840 --> 00:23:46,400

Not with my education, because
he was not very educated.

358

00:23:46,400 --> 00:23:50,110

He was educated in Russia.

359

00:23:50,110 --> 00:23:52,850

He was born and
raised in Bessarabia,

360

00:23:52,850 --> 00:23:56,980
which was a little territory
between Romania and Russia.

361
00:23:56,980 --> 00:24:00,610
This territory sometimes
under Russians, sometimes

362
00:24:00,610 --> 00:24:01,500
under Romanians.

363
00:24:01,500 --> 00:24:04,900
When he was born there,
the territory Bessarabia

364
00:24:04,900 --> 00:24:07,060
was under the Russian rule.

365
00:24:07,060 --> 00:24:11,200
He was-- I don't
know if he graduate

366
00:24:11,200 --> 00:24:12,860
from the elementary school.

367
00:24:12,860 --> 00:24:13,550
I don't know.

368
00:24:13,550 --> 00:24:19,330
But what I remember
always he have a problem

369
00:24:19,330 --> 00:24:23,570
with the Romanian language.

370
00:24:23,570 --> 00:24:26,615
And he have also a
problem anytime when

371
00:24:26,615 --> 00:24:29,620
he have to read some--

372

00:24:29,620 --> 00:24:33,430
write something in Romanian,
in Romanian language.

373
00:24:33,430 --> 00:24:34,150
Yeah.

374
00:24:34,150 --> 00:24:35,890
So you said he was very strict?

375
00:24:35,890 --> 00:24:37,300
Very strict.

376
00:24:37,300 --> 00:24:40,960
My mother was--
she died in 1938,

377
00:24:40,960 --> 00:24:45,760
when I was 9-year-old,
in the second grade

378
00:24:45,760 --> 00:24:47,980
in the elementary school.

379
00:24:47,980 --> 00:24:51,280
And my father after
a couple of years,

380
00:24:51,280 --> 00:24:59,800
he remarried with a
high educated woman

381
00:24:59,800 --> 00:25:07,150
from a Jewish, Sephardim Jewish,
from the other part of Romania,

382
00:25:07,150 --> 00:25:11,210
who was sometime in
the Bulgarian side,

383
00:25:11,210 --> 00:25:14,800
sometime on the Romanian side.

384

00:25:14,800 --> 00:25:20,110

Her name was Betty

[? Tiefermann. ?]

385

00:25:20,110 --> 00:25:24,910

She was married with my father,
and she lived with my father

386

00:25:24,910 --> 00:25:27,760

for four or five years.

387

00:25:27,760 --> 00:25:29,230

After she died.

388

00:25:29,230 --> 00:25:34,210

And my father remarried
again with my third mother,

389

00:25:34,210 --> 00:25:39,460

who was not very--

390

00:25:39,460 --> 00:25:42,640

educated, but not
very educated woman.

391

00:25:42,640 --> 00:25:45,310

But I remember with
my second mother,

392

00:25:45,310 --> 00:25:48,820

who was very well
educated, I have

393

00:25:48,820 --> 00:25:55,120

a lot of things she teach me.

394

00:25:55,120 --> 00:25:58,120

She gave me a lot
of books to read.

395

00:25:58,120 --> 00:26:03,790

And she gave me a lot of

books who educate-- give me--

396

00:26:03,790 --> 00:26:05,190

because I was a boy.

397

00:26:05,190 --> 00:26:09,363

I was, I don't know,

a 14, 15 year boy.

398

00:26:09,363 --> 00:26:10,780

And he gave me a

lot-- she gave me

399

00:26:10,780 --> 00:26:15,610

a lot of books to make

my sexual education.

400

00:26:15,610 --> 00:26:16,310

OK.

401

00:26:16,310 --> 00:26:20,785

Is there anything else that

you wanted to talk about,

402

00:26:20,785 --> 00:26:23,440

about your early childhood,

before conditions

403

00:26:23,440 --> 00:26:25,450

started to change?

404

00:26:25,450 --> 00:26:26,980

Anything else you'd

like to mention?

405

00:26:26,980 --> 00:26:27,480

Yeah.

406

00:26:27,480 --> 00:26:31,780

407

00:26:31,780 --> 00:26:32,790

What I remember--

408

00:26:32,790 --> 00:26:35,930

409

00:26:35,930 --> 00:26:43,240

I remember in close to the
elementary school, what I was,

410

00:26:43,240 --> 00:26:46,030

was a little park.

411

00:26:46,030 --> 00:26:50,850

And after we finished
school and we go home,

412

00:26:50,850 --> 00:26:54,430

we are traveling into the park.

413

00:26:54,430 --> 00:27:07,230

And that was in 1936.

414

00:27:07,230 --> 00:27:14,340

And I remember I saw in the park
young boys, bigger than I am,

415

00:27:14,340 --> 00:27:20,670

what they were seven,
eight people together.

416

00:27:20,670 --> 00:27:26,880

And they were
starting to be what

417

00:27:26,880 --> 00:27:31,070

later was the legionary
and the fascist party.

418

00:27:31,070 --> 00:27:39,470

That was the growing part of
the future legionnaires Iron

419

00:27:39,470 --> 00:27:47,720
Guards, what they make the
pogrom in Romania in 1940, '41.

420
00:27:47,720 --> 00:27:49,700
That was their start.

421
00:27:49,700 --> 00:27:51,830
How did you know
that, who they were?

422
00:27:51,830 --> 00:27:53,360
You were so young yourself.

423
00:27:53,360 --> 00:27:59,900
Because I have in the
elementary school kids

424
00:27:59,900 --> 00:28:04,010
in the same class with
me who his brother,

425
00:28:04,010 --> 00:28:07,850
his bigger brother was in
the park and the group.

426
00:28:07,850 --> 00:28:14,060
And later, I know him,
he was with a green shirt

427
00:28:14,060 --> 00:28:17,510
and with the leather
diagonal, what

428
00:28:17,510 --> 00:28:20,510
they were the legionnaires.

429
00:28:20,510 --> 00:28:22,670
So when you saw them,
you know who they were.

430
00:28:22,670 --> 00:28:23,210
Sure.

431
00:28:23,210 --> 00:28:26,060
And again, what were your
thoughts as a young boy?

432
00:28:26,060 --> 00:28:28,650
And yet I remember
his brother later,

433
00:28:28,650 --> 00:28:36,320
the guy who was with me
in the same class, later

434
00:28:36,320 --> 00:28:43,220
he was a major or a colonel
in the Romanian security.

435
00:28:43,220 --> 00:28:45,070
But was this a
disturbing experience

436
00:28:45,070 --> 00:28:46,570
for you at that
point in your life?

437
00:28:46,570 --> 00:28:47,590
You were so young.

438
00:28:47,590 --> 00:28:48,670
I was young.

439
00:28:48,670 --> 00:28:51,430
I don't understand what
they are doing there.

440
00:28:51,430 --> 00:28:57,820
But later, and I understand
what is the problem--

441
00:28:57,820 --> 00:28:59,120
what was the problem.

442

00:28:59,120 --> 00:29:00,250
Yeah.

443
00:29:00,250 --> 00:29:05,620
All right, well, let's now
start moving along in years.

444
00:29:05,620 --> 00:29:08,315
The government changed in 1940.

445
00:29:08,315 --> 00:29:10,210
What do you recall about that?

446
00:29:10,210 --> 00:29:14,440
What I remember in our
neighborhood, the 19--

447
00:29:14,440 --> 00:29:17,020
You were 11 years old now.

448
00:29:17,020 --> 00:29:21,100
1940, late '40.

449
00:29:21,100 --> 00:29:25,940
January 1941 was the program.

450
00:29:25,940 --> 00:29:28,280
The pogrom--

451
00:29:28,280 --> 00:29:30,230
But the country came
in, I understand,

452
00:29:30,230 --> 00:29:33,850
in September of 1940,
the fascist government.

453
00:29:33,850 --> 00:29:34,930
The fascist government.

454
00:29:34,930 --> 00:29:36,490
Did that have any

meaning for you?

455

00:29:36,490 --> 00:29:42,190

The fascist government, they
don't have a big meaning

456

00:29:42,190 --> 00:29:43,775

for me, because I was a kid.

457

00:29:43,775 --> 00:29:44,650

I was not traveling--

458

00:29:44,650 --> 00:29:45,490

You were only 11.

459

00:29:45,490 --> 00:29:47,920

I was not traveling
in downtown Bucharest.

460

00:29:47,920 --> 00:29:53,180

I was leaving in my part
of town in the Bucharest

461

00:29:53,180 --> 00:29:54,330

suburb, what I was living.

462

00:29:54,330 --> 00:29:56,950

And I don't have too
much to do with what

463

00:29:56,950 --> 00:29:58,510

was going on in Bucharest.

464

00:29:58,510 --> 00:30:00,715

But I remember in January--

465

00:30:00,715 --> 00:30:03,670

466

00:30:03,670 --> 00:30:09,640

what I remember, I
remember in 1938 or '39,

467

00:30:09,640 --> 00:30:14,440

Romanian give up
Bessarabia to the Russian.

468

00:30:14,440 --> 00:30:18,280

And what I remember, a
lot of Jewish people,

469

00:30:18,280 --> 00:30:22,150

they go to the Russian
embassy in Bucharest.

470

00:30:22,150 --> 00:30:27,160

They built-- the Russian
built a brand new embassy.

471

00:30:27,160 --> 00:30:35,920

On the same place where is
the Russian embassy right now,

472

00:30:35,920 --> 00:30:40,960

they built a brand new
embassy in 1938, '39.

473

00:30:40,960 --> 00:30:42,550

And a lot of Jewish
people what they

474

00:30:42,550 --> 00:30:48,050

were born in Bessarabia
to escape from what's

475

00:30:48,050 --> 00:30:49,310

going on in Romania.

476

00:30:49,310 --> 00:30:53,480

They put the paper in
the Russian embassy,

477

00:30:53,480 --> 00:30:59,480

and if they received approval
from the Romanian government,

478
00:30:59,480 --> 00:31:01,910
they left Romania
with their family,

479
00:31:01,910 --> 00:31:06,410
and they move in
Bessarabia to stay away

480
00:31:06,410 --> 00:31:10,450
from what would happen later
with the Jewish people.

481
00:31:10,450 --> 00:31:14,060
And that was their
reason to escape

482
00:31:14,060 --> 00:31:18,980
from the fascist
government, what

483
00:31:18,980 --> 00:31:22,847
was going on little by
little in Bucharest.

484
00:31:22,847 --> 00:31:32,600

485
00:31:32,600 --> 00:31:35,640
This is tape one, side B.

486
00:31:35,640 --> 00:31:45,080
And I remember my father, he
go also to the Russian embassy,

487
00:31:45,080 --> 00:31:46,650
and he put a paper.

488
00:31:46,650 --> 00:31:50,060
He fill up some paper
there, because he

489

00:31:50,060 --> 00:32:00,440
want to leave Romania and escape
with his family to Bessarabia.

490
00:32:00,440 --> 00:32:06,950
And the fascist, they take
their power in Romania.

491
00:32:06,950 --> 00:32:13,900
They put an end to the Jewish
emigration to the Bessarabia.

492
00:32:13,900 --> 00:32:17,630
And I remember, the Jewish
people said in the nighttime

493
00:32:17,630 --> 00:32:21,460
they sent some trucks, and they
pick up all the Jewish people,

494
00:32:21,460 --> 00:32:23,885
what they put a paper
to leave Romania

495
00:32:23,885 --> 00:32:25,640
and to go in Bessarabia.

496
00:32:25,640 --> 00:32:27,980
And they sent them
with their family

497
00:32:27,980 --> 00:32:31,380
in Transnistria,
over the Dniester,

498
00:32:31,380 --> 00:32:35,120
into what later was
concentration camps.

499
00:32:35,120 --> 00:32:40,610
And I remember, we stayed
packed with all our belongings,

500

00:32:40,610 --> 00:32:42,705
with what we have in
some bags waiting.

501
00:32:42,705 --> 00:32:45,710

502
00:32:45,710 --> 00:32:49,240
Listened to every sound what
was going on, on the street.

503
00:32:49,240 --> 00:32:53,270
And all the time, we say they
are coming to pick up us.

504
00:32:53,270 --> 00:32:57,650
That was one of my memories.

505
00:32:57,650 --> 00:33:02,840
Did your parents talk over with
you the changing situation?

506
00:33:02,840 --> 00:33:04,670
We were too little
to talk with us,

507
00:33:04,670 --> 00:33:09,410
but we understand, and we
talk with our other kids,

508
00:33:09,410 --> 00:33:12,270
what they listen what's
happened in their family,

509
00:33:12,270 --> 00:33:14,570
and we put together
everything to us

510
00:33:14,570 --> 00:33:16,610
to understand what's going on.

511
00:33:16,610 --> 00:33:18,950
What I remember in 19--

512
00:33:18,950 --> 00:33:23,950
January 1941, when was the
big pogrom in Bucharest,

513
00:33:23,950 --> 00:33:29,440
and our neighborhood
cop, a quarter

514
00:33:29,440 --> 00:33:35,170
of a mile from our house,
was Dudesti Avenue,

515
00:33:35,170 --> 00:33:40,690
what was an avenue
with a lot of shops,

516
00:33:40,690 --> 00:33:43,480
different shops with
some Jewish shops.

517
00:33:43,480 --> 00:33:45,510
The legionnaire,
they are coming,

518
00:33:45,510 --> 00:33:50,530
and they put fire over
a lot of Jewish stores.

519
00:33:50,530 --> 00:33:58,690
We have in our neighborhood
a store with clothing.

520
00:33:58,690 --> 00:34:00,880
And they put a fire there.

521
00:34:00,880 --> 00:34:04,480
We have other store
who have fabrics,

522
00:34:04,480 --> 00:34:06,130
different kinds of fabrics.

523

00:34:06,130 --> 00:34:08,020

They put also fire there.

524

00:34:08,020 --> 00:34:13,360

And to listen, we
don't have a radio,

525

00:34:13,360 --> 00:34:15,580

because when the
fascist government take

526

00:34:15,580 --> 00:34:19,179

the power in Bucharest,
they give a law,

527

00:34:19,179 --> 00:34:23,139

all the Jewish family
have to pack their radio

528

00:34:23,139 --> 00:34:27,190

and give to all of them--

529

00:34:27,190 --> 00:34:30,290

to put all of them
in police station.

530

00:34:30,290 --> 00:34:34,060

What I remember more,
later when the fascists was

531

00:34:34,060 --> 00:34:39,670

in power, every--

532

00:34:39,670 --> 00:34:42,550

I don't know exactly,
but every couple

533

00:34:42,550 --> 00:34:45,130

of months or every
three, four months,

534

00:34:45,130 --> 00:34:48,370

we have to give clothes.

535

00:34:48,370 --> 00:34:54,280

If we don't have, we have to go
to buy clothes and give clothes

536

00:34:54,280 --> 00:34:57,970

to the police station
for the Romanian people,

537

00:34:57,970 --> 00:35:01,300

because that was one of
the Jewish obligation,

538

00:35:01,300 --> 00:35:04,462

to give clothes to the
fascist government.

539

00:35:04,462 --> 00:35:07,420

540

00:35:07,420 --> 00:35:10,330

A lot of Jewish
people, they have

541

00:35:10,330 --> 00:35:15,160

to go to clean up the street
any time when was snow.

542

00:35:15,160 --> 00:35:20,890

Because I was younger
than was the law,

543

00:35:20,890 --> 00:35:22,510

I don't go to clean
up the street,

544

00:35:22,510 --> 00:35:26,470

but I have friends what they
were one year older than I am,

545

00:35:26,470 --> 00:35:31,940

and they have to clean up

every winter after a storm.

546

00:35:31,940 --> 00:35:33,700

And one hour after
the storm, they

547

00:35:33,700 --> 00:35:36,720

have to be all
together in some places

548

00:35:36,720 --> 00:35:38,420

and go to clean up the streets.

549

00:35:38,420 --> 00:35:40,720

What was the age?

550

00:35:40,720 --> 00:35:44,865

If I was born in
'29, that was 19--

551

00:35:44,865 --> 00:35:47,820

552

00:35:47,820 --> 00:35:54,750

the minimum age I
believe was '30--

553

00:35:54,750 --> 00:35:58,200

'41-- I was 13.

554

00:35:58,200 --> 00:36:00,390

I believe from 14 or 15 year.

555

00:36:00,390 --> 00:36:02,210

So we're talking about
the winter of '41.

556

00:36:02,210 --> 00:36:03,540

Exactly, exactly.

557

00:36:03,540 --> 00:36:04,440

Yeah.

558
00:36:04,440 --> 00:36:06,930
That was winter or '41.

559
00:36:06,930 --> 00:36:13,350
And we listened from the
other Jewish people what's

560
00:36:13,350 --> 00:36:18,870
going on when they go to
the main slaughterhouse

561
00:36:18,870 --> 00:36:21,960
in Bucharest, Romania,
and they kill.

562
00:36:21,960 --> 00:36:25,020
They kill and they
slaughter Jewish people.

563
00:36:25,020 --> 00:36:30,180
They hang and they
slaughter in slaughterhouse.

564
00:36:30,180 --> 00:36:32,610
They hang Jewish people.

565
00:36:32,610 --> 00:36:39,790
And the night when was
the pogrom, some 21st or--

566
00:36:39,790 --> 00:36:44,510
20 or 21st of January
1941 when was the program,

567
00:36:44,510 --> 00:36:48,890
they kill and hang in the
slaughterhouse Jewish people.

568
00:36:48,890 --> 00:36:53,240
And are Jewish-- if you go
in the main Jewish cemetery

569

00:36:53,240 --> 00:37:02,060
in Bucharest, Giurgiu,
highway Giurgiu from Bucharest

570

00:37:02,060 --> 00:37:05,990
to Giurgiu City is the
main Jewish cemetery.

571

00:37:05,990 --> 00:37:09,440
If you go in the old
part of the cemetery,

572

00:37:09,440 --> 00:37:13,780
immediately after the
gate on the right side,

573

00:37:13,780 --> 00:37:22,660
you will find a big couple
of hundred of graves.

574

00:37:22,660 --> 00:37:25,900
All of them was kiddush hashem.

575

00:37:25,900 --> 00:37:29,800
All the people what were
killed in the Bucharest

576

00:37:29,800 --> 00:37:37,060
Pogrom on night
January 20 or 21, 1941.

577

00:37:37,060 --> 00:37:38,740
All of them kiddush hashem.

578

00:37:38,740 --> 00:37:42,280
I was there a couple of years
ago, and I go specially,

579

00:37:42,280 --> 00:37:44,380
and I show my wife.

580

00:37:44,380 --> 00:37:45,790

She is not Jewish.

581
00:37:45,790 --> 00:37:50,830
And I show her to find out and
to understand it's not lie,

582
00:37:50,830 --> 00:37:53,470
to see with her eyes.

583
00:37:53,470 --> 00:37:57,620
All the graves what
they have stone.

584
00:37:57,620 --> 00:38:01,930
And all the stone with the
date kiddush hashem, January 20

585
00:38:01,930 --> 00:38:04,630
or 21, 1941.

586
00:38:04,630 --> 00:38:07,870
Did you know that that
was happening that night?

587
00:38:07,870 --> 00:38:12,010
After a couple of days,
because we don't have a radio,

588
00:38:12,010 --> 00:38:12,970
we can't listen--

589
00:38:12,970 --> 00:38:15,880
we cannot listen to the radio.

590
00:38:15,880 --> 00:38:19,480
But was not in the newspaper,
but was some rumors.

591
00:38:19,480 --> 00:38:20,770
And the Jewish families--

592
00:38:20,770 --> 00:38:21,270

After.

593

00:38:21,270 --> 00:38:22,510

After this.

594

00:38:22,510 --> 00:38:24,990

But while it was happening,
your family was no aware.

595

00:38:24,990 --> 00:38:27,290

No, no, no, no.

596

00:38:27,290 --> 00:38:28,970

And then your family
heard about this.

597

00:38:28,970 --> 00:38:30,073

Right.

598

00:38:30,073 --> 00:38:31,240

And what was their response?

599

00:38:31,240 --> 00:38:34,030

What was their reaction?

600

00:38:34,030 --> 00:38:36,490

Afraid.

601

00:38:36,490 --> 00:38:38,290

There was nothing else to do.

602

00:38:38,290 --> 00:38:39,430

We don't have--

603

00:38:39,430 --> 00:38:42,860

Who were the people that
were targeted for the pogrom?

604

00:38:42,860 --> 00:38:46,480

They take-- the legionnaires,
they take the Jewish people

605

00:38:46,480 --> 00:38:49,030

from the streets, and
they go to slaughter them.

606

00:38:49,030 --> 00:38:51,550

607

00:38:51,550 --> 00:38:54,370

And not downtown-- close
to downtown Bucharest

608

00:38:54,370 --> 00:38:57,670

was a Jewish Sephardic temple.

609

00:38:57,670 --> 00:39:02,050

They name it spaniol,
Spanish Jewish temple.

610

00:39:02,050 --> 00:39:05,020

The legionnaire, they burned
the temple, and they danced.

611

00:39:05,020 --> 00:39:06,910

When the flame was--

612

00:39:06,910 --> 00:39:11,860

the temple was burning, they
danced around the temple.

613

00:39:11,860 --> 00:39:20,780

And inside the temple
was a lot of Torahs

614

00:39:20,780 --> 00:39:22,220

and a lot of Siddurim.

615

00:39:22,220 --> 00:39:25,070

Everything was
burned to the ground.

616

00:39:25,070 --> 00:39:29,300

But they didn't come to

the outskirts of the city.

617

00:39:29,300 --> 00:39:31,850

The Jews who were taken were
Jews from the inner city.

618

00:39:31,850 --> 00:39:32,750

From the street.

619

00:39:32,750 --> 00:39:33,920

I don't know exactly.

620

00:39:33,920 --> 00:39:34,740

So they didn't
come to your area.

621

00:39:34,740 --> 00:39:35,573

That's what I meant.

622

00:39:35,573 --> 00:39:39,020

No, only in our area
they burned Jewish shops.

623

00:39:39,020 --> 00:39:40,010

Did you see that?

624

00:39:40,010 --> 00:39:41,690

I saw it with my eyes.

625

00:39:41,690 --> 00:39:44,430

Next days, when I go out--

626

00:39:44,430 --> 00:39:47,900

I go outside, because on the
same day we stay in the house.

627

00:39:47,900 --> 00:39:50,480

We were afraid what is
going around the street.

628

00:39:50,480 --> 00:39:54,410

But after a couple days we have

the courage to go a little bit,

629

00:39:54,410 --> 00:39:57,020

we see with my
eyes Jewish shops.

630

00:39:57,020 --> 00:39:59,555

631

00:39:59,555 --> 00:40:01,595

If my memory was--

632

00:40:01,595 --> 00:40:05,330

[INAUDIBLE] family
shop, what was burnt

633

00:40:05,330 --> 00:40:10,280

was the express train.

634

00:40:10,280 --> 00:40:14,000

Other Jewish shop what
was burned to the ground.

635

00:40:14,000 --> 00:40:14,780

Everything was--

636

00:40:14,780 --> 00:40:19,010

637

00:40:19,010 --> 00:40:26,510

What I want to tell them more
is when the fascist government

638

00:40:26,510 --> 00:40:30,770

take the power in Romania,
all the Jewish people,

639

00:40:30,770 --> 00:40:36,290

they have to go to enlist
in the police station,

640

00:40:36,290 --> 00:40:41,450

and go to work for the
government, all kinds of work,

641
00:40:41,450 --> 00:40:42,920
dirty work.

642
00:40:42,920 --> 00:40:47,390
And my father,
because he was working

643
00:40:47,390 --> 00:40:54,840
for a Romanian boss,
who was a watch

644
00:40:54,840 --> 00:41:00,710
importer from Switzerland,
and he imported very expensive

645
00:41:00,710 --> 00:41:03,650
watches from there,
the watches, they

646
00:41:03,650 --> 00:41:06,440
are not coming
directly like they are.

647
00:41:06,440 --> 00:41:11,020
The machinery is coming
in little aluminum boxes.

648
00:41:11,020 --> 00:41:15,410
And the rest of
the watch, what was

649
00:41:15,410 --> 00:41:18,520
platinum or gold
for rich people,

650
00:41:18,520 --> 00:41:20,840
they are coming
on the other side.

651
00:41:20,840 --> 00:41:24,030

My father, he have
to put together.

652
00:41:24,030 --> 00:41:26,180
And he was working for--

653
00:41:26,180 --> 00:41:29,960
his name was Ion Ionescu.

654
00:41:29,960 --> 00:41:34,750
Very good, very attached
to the Jewish people.

655
00:41:34,750 --> 00:41:37,790
He give, and his family special.

656
00:41:37,790 --> 00:41:40,610
His wife, they give
us a lot of food.

657
00:41:40,610 --> 00:41:45,050
Because for the Jewish
people in this time,

658
00:41:45,050 --> 00:41:47,510
everything was with--

659
00:41:47,510 --> 00:41:48,570
Ration.

660
00:41:48,570 --> 00:41:49,790
Ration, ration.

661
00:41:49,790 --> 00:41:52,430
And we have some little--

662
00:41:52,430 --> 00:41:55,020

663
00:41:55,020 --> 00:41:55,940
what do you name it?

664
00:41:55,940 --> 00:41:56,630
Cards?

665
00:41:56,630 --> 00:41:57,680
Cards.

666
00:41:57,680 --> 00:42:01,010
The Jewish people, which
I remember with my hand,

667
00:42:01,010 --> 00:42:03,150
because I was in the school.

668
00:42:03,150 --> 00:42:09,980
I have to put a diagonal with
ink on every little ticket

669
00:42:09,980 --> 00:42:10,700
and with ink.

670
00:42:10,700 --> 00:42:12,560
And to have half of the--

671
00:42:12,560 --> 00:42:15,940

672
00:42:15,940 --> 00:42:16,480
Ration.

673
00:42:16,480 --> 00:42:19,790
Ration, what the
Romanian people have it.

674
00:42:19,790 --> 00:42:25,910
If Romanian people have half
bread, half black bread a day,

675
00:42:25,910 --> 00:42:29,190
because we are Jewish,
we have a quarter.

676

00:42:29,190 --> 00:42:31,570

And I had remember, we
have in our neighborhood

677

00:42:31,570 --> 00:42:35,780

a bakery, from where
we go to buy bread.

678

00:42:35,780 --> 00:42:38,330

My father will wake me up--

679

00:42:38,330 --> 00:42:39,740

was big lines.

680

00:42:39,740 --> 00:42:41,630

And I remember, my
father wake me up

681

00:42:41,630 --> 00:42:43,270

at 2 o'clock in the nighttime.

682

00:42:43,270 --> 00:42:44,960

And I have a little chair.

683

00:42:44,960 --> 00:42:46,700

And I go with that
little chair and stay

684

00:42:46,700 --> 00:42:49,100

on the line at the bakery.

685

00:42:49,100 --> 00:42:52,970

When the bakery is open at
7:00 or 8:00 in the morning,

686

00:42:52,970 --> 00:42:56,600

to be close to the gate,
you can have bread.

687

00:42:56,600 --> 00:42:59,630

Because if I was late,
was not more bread.

688

00:42:59,630 --> 00:43:04,010

And I remember I give
the little ticket.

689

00:43:04,010 --> 00:43:09,520

And because we were four
people and we have the right--

690

00:43:09,520 --> 00:43:12,110

four people, four Jewish people.

691

00:43:12,110 --> 00:43:17,180

Our bread was black,
only black bread.

692

00:43:17,180 --> 00:43:20,610

And my father gave me money.

693

00:43:20,610 --> 00:43:23,000

And there was a little window.

694

00:43:23,000 --> 00:43:30,230

And I was friendly with the
store, the bakery owner.

695

00:43:30,230 --> 00:43:34,100

I buy some bread on
the black market.

696

00:43:34,100 --> 00:43:39,200

I give him I don't know how many
times the price of the bread.

697

00:43:39,200 --> 00:43:43,295

And I have instead to have
one bread, I have two breads.

698

00:43:43,295 --> 00:43:46,580

699

00:43:46,580 --> 00:43:51,010

We have also now also in

our neighborhood food,

700

00:43:51,010 --> 00:43:52,400

a little food store.

701

00:43:52,400 --> 00:43:53,850

Everything was private.

702

00:43:53,850 --> 00:43:55,760

A little food
store from where do

703

00:43:55,760 --> 00:44:01,790

we buy different oil,
and rice, and flour.

704

00:44:01,790 --> 00:44:05,060

And I was in the same
elementary school,

705

00:44:05,060 --> 00:44:11,600

in the same class with
one of the owner boys.

706

00:44:11,600 --> 00:44:17,270

And for this reason,
only we paid them

707

00:44:17,270 --> 00:44:19,710

I don't know how many
times that price,

708

00:44:19,710 --> 00:44:22,950

we can have more
food than we were--

709

00:44:22,950 --> 00:44:30,000

sugar we were able to have,
something on the black market.

710

00:44:30,000 --> 00:44:36,240

Did you ever hear of a man
named Hitler at that point?

711
00:44:36,240 --> 00:44:36,820
No.

712
00:44:36,820 --> 00:44:38,060
Later I know.

713
00:44:38,060 --> 00:44:38,750
Later, yeah.

714
00:44:38,750 --> 00:44:39,660
Later.

715
00:44:39,660 --> 00:44:40,470
Later.

716
00:44:40,470 --> 00:44:41,430
'40, '41.

717
00:44:41,430 --> 00:44:44,040
In '40, '41 we know.

718
00:44:44,040 --> 00:44:53,650
We know because the German
occupied our technical school,

719
00:44:53,650 --> 00:44:56,150
the German soldier.

720
00:44:56,150 --> 00:44:59,060
They are coming, I
remember, with bicycle.

721
00:44:59,060 --> 00:45:01,050
Hercules bicycle.

722
00:45:01,050 --> 00:45:05,840
And from this time, we know
what was the German army

723
00:45:05,840 --> 00:45:08,830

and who were their
Fuhrer, Hitler.

724
00:45:08,830 --> 00:45:10,160
And that was--

725
00:45:10,160 --> 00:45:11,376
And that was in 19--

726
00:45:11,376 --> 00:45:16,128

727
00:45:16,128 --> 00:45:18,890
19-- '39 or '40.

728
00:45:18,890 --> 00:45:22,450

729
00:45:22,450 --> 00:45:24,600
That was when the German army--

730
00:45:24,600 --> 00:45:28,510
it was the first time when
I saw German soldiers.

731
00:45:28,510 --> 00:45:30,370
What was your reaction
to seeing a German?

732
00:45:30,370 --> 00:45:31,280
To seeing Germans?

733
00:45:31,280 --> 00:45:36,700
We were afraid, because we
know that they are looking--

734
00:45:36,700 --> 00:45:38,980
because they know they are
coming on a Jewish school,

735
00:45:38,980 --> 00:45:40,720
and they occupy

the Jewish school.

736

00:45:40,720 --> 00:45:43,050

For the little
time when they are

737

00:45:43,050 --> 00:45:46,630

coming till we left the
school definitively,

738

00:45:46,630 --> 00:45:50,830

they are looking to
us with big eyes.

739

00:45:50,830 --> 00:45:58,840

And they tell us
"verfluchte Juden."

740

00:45:58,840 --> 00:46:00,670

Did you understand German?

741

00:46:00,670 --> 00:46:03,520

We have some German
classes in the school.

742

00:46:03,520 --> 00:46:05,660

You took German as a subject.

743

00:46:05,660 --> 00:46:09,710

German as a Subject
and we have a German--

744

00:46:09,710 --> 00:46:13,870

a Jewish German
teacher, who teach

745

00:46:13,870 --> 00:46:16,810

us German and Gothic writing.

746

00:46:16,810 --> 00:46:19,716

747

00:46:19,716 --> 00:46:21,950
You were saying the
Germans spoke to you?

748
00:46:21,950 --> 00:46:24,780
Right, they are
looking to us, and they

749
00:46:24,780 --> 00:46:28,200
said "verfluchte Juden."

750
00:46:28,200 --> 00:46:29,910
Which means?

751
00:46:29,910 --> 00:46:30,555
"Dirty Jews."

752
00:46:30,555 --> 00:46:35,270

753
00:46:35,270 --> 00:46:37,890
Did you have to wear
anything on your clothing?

754
00:46:37,890 --> 00:46:38,390
No.

755
00:46:38,390 --> 00:46:39,830
In Bucharest, no.

756
00:46:39,830 --> 00:46:43,175
In Bucharest-- I
heard in other parts,

757
00:46:43,175 --> 00:46:47,150
in the other cities of Romania,
they have to have the white--

758
00:46:47,150 --> 00:46:49,130
the yellow star.

759
00:46:49,130 --> 00:46:53,150

But in Bucharest, we
don't have to wear.

760
00:46:53,150 --> 00:46:56,440
What I want to mention
also is-- and this time--

761
00:46:56,440 --> 00:46:58,770
not this time.

762
00:46:58,770 --> 00:47:03,950
And this time, the
chief rabbi in Bucharest

763
00:47:03,950 --> 00:47:07,670
was Dr. Niemirower.

764
00:47:07,670 --> 00:47:13,280
After he died is
coming the chief rabbi

765
00:47:13,280 --> 00:47:15,180
was Alexander Safron.

766
00:47:15,180 --> 00:47:20,050

767
00:47:20,050 --> 00:47:27,960
When the communist, the 1940--

768
00:47:27,960 --> 00:47:30,120
'45.

769
00:47:30,120 --> 00:47:32,670
They take the power in '40.

770
00:47:32,670 --> 00:47:35,070
The Russians, they are
coming to Romania in '44.

771
00:47:35,070 --> 00:47:38,280
I believe in '45

something, early '46,

772

00:47:38,280 --> 00:47:42,090

late '45, the chief

rabbi, Alexander Safron,

773

00:47:42,090 --> 00:47:45,510

he was arrested and put in jail.

774

00:47:45,510 --> 00:47:48,840

Because in this time in

Romania was forbidden

775

00:47:48,840 --> 00:47:56,040

to have foreign currency.

776

00:47:56,040 --> 00:47:58,380

And the Jewish Agency--

777

00:47:58,380 --> 00:47:59,730

I've heard of this.

778

00:47:59,730 --> 00:48:02,730

The Jewish Agency

from United state

779

00:48:02,730 --> 00:48:08,070

sent American currencies

to the chief rabbi

780

00:48:08,070 --> 00:48:11,490

to help the Jewish community.

781

00:48:11,490 --> 00:48:18,510

The Communist Party, they make

something, a scenario of this,

782

00:48:18,510 --> 00:48:25,770

and they said he is a

broker with hard currency.

783

00:48:25,770 --> 00:48:28,110

They put him in jail.

784

00:48:28,110 --> 00:48:32,370

And what I know also
after a couple of months

785

00:48:32,370 --> 00:48:35,190

in jail, the American--

786

00:48:35,190 --> 00:48:38,490

the Jewish Agency paid
the Romanian government

787

00:48:38,490 --> 00:48:43,050

hard currency, and they take
him from prison, and he left.

788

00:48:43,050 --> 00:48:49,260

And he left, and he is
right now the chief rabbi

789

00:48:49,260 --> 00:48:51,840

from Geneva, Switzerland.

790

00:48:51,840 --> 00:48:53,790

I know this, and I
want to tell this,

791

00:48:53,790 --> 00:48:57,810

because I heard from my friend.

792

00:48:57,810 --> 00:49:03,210

Last year or two years ago, he
was like a witness in Romania.

793

00:49:03,210 --> 00:49:05,940

Because right now the
Romanian government

794

00:49:05,940 --> 00:49:15,030

want to show the
world the Romanian--

795

00:49:15,030 --> 00:49:19,410

796

00:49:19,410 --> 00:49:22,530

the General Antonescu,
who was the head

797

00:49:22,530 --> 00:49:26,400

of the fascist
government in Romania,

798

00:49:26,400 --> 00:49:31,110

he was not guilty to
murdering Jewish people.

799

00:49:31,110 --> 00:49:34,620

He was not murdering
Jewish people in Bucharest.

800

00:49:34,620 --> 00:49:38,040

But over the Dniester
in Transnistria,

801

00:49:38,040 --> 00:49:43,260

where the Romanian army was
altogether with the German,

802

00:49:43,260 --> 00:49:48,230

the Romanian army murdered
thousand and thousand of Jews.

803

00:49:48,230 --> 00:49:50,940

All of my father
family was murdered,

804

00:49:50,940 --> 00:49:57,840

22 person was murdered
in Hotin County.

805

00:49:57,840 --> 00:49:59,250

Not the German killed them.

806

00:49:59,250 --> 00:50:03,000

The Romanian army,
they killed all of them

807

00:50:03,000 --> 00:50:07,320

in the name for the cross
and the right thing,

808

00:50:07,320 --> 00:50:09,090

we have to kill Jewish people.

809

00:50:09,090 --> 00:50:13,110

And all of them were killed
from the Romanian army.

810

00:50:13,110 --> 00:50:16,500

I know this because of
my father after the war,

811

00:50:16,500 --> 00:50:19,920

there are coming some
people from his little town,

812

00:50:19,920 --> 00:50:24,640

and they told him the Romanian
army occupied Bessarabia.

813

00:50:24,640 --> 00:50:26,910

They killed all his family.

814

00:50:26,910 --> 00:50:29,850

And I want to mention
especially this,

815

00:50:29,850 --> 00:50:37,260

because the truth is,
Romanian army killed thousand

816

00:50:37,260 --> 00:50:41,250

of thousand of Jews
in Bessarabia when

817

00:50:41,250 --> 00:50:44,220

they go together
with the German army

818
00:50:44,220 --> 00:50:47,310
against the Russian troops.

819
00:50:47,310 --> 00:50:49,920
Let's go back in time.

820
00:50:49,920 --> 00:50:52,800
The pogrom is
over, and then what

821
00:50:52,800 --> 00:50:55,120
were the changes in your
life right after that?

822
00:50:55,120 --> 00:50:57,860

823
00:50:57,860 --> 00:51:00,440
The changes of my life?

824
00:51:00,440 --> 00:51:02,840
It's winter of 1941 now.

825
00:51:02,840 --> 00:51:06,410
I want to mention
my father was not

826
00:51:06,410 --> 00:51:13,260
to work for the fascists
like the other Jew.

827
00:51:13,260 --> 00:51:17,110
They have to work
seven days a week,

828
00:51:17,110 --> 00:51:20,730
clean up streets, make
all kinds of dirty work.

829

00:51:20,730 --> 00:51:27,260
And some of them have the right
to pay instead to go to work.

830
00:51:27,260 --> 00:51:33,100
Because my father was working
for the Romanian watch

831
00:51:33,100 --> 00:51:40,340
importer, and the
boss was a brother,

832
00:51:40,340 --> 00:51:45,620
was in the Romanian royal
palace, working for the King,

833
00:51:45,620 --> 00:51:48,440
was in his entourage.

834
00:51:48,440 --> 00:51:55,640
And the King have sent to my
father to repair his watches.

835
00:51:55,640 --> 00:51:59,330
They give my father
a little card,

836
00:51:59,330 --> 00:52:04,940
what they show he is working
for the Romanian King,

837
00:52:04,940 --> 00:52:11,960
and he don't have to work,
to make obligatory work.

838
00:52:11,960 --> 00:52:20,990
And after this-- you said
about what was the change?

839
00:52:20,990 --> 00:52:21,650
No, no.

840
00:52:21,650 --> 00:52:24,270

The changing on my
life after the war--

841
00:52:24,270 --> 00:52:26,000
What about school
after the pogrom?

842
00:52:26,000 --> 00:52:28,460
After the pogrom?

843
00:52:28,460 --> 00:52:30,980
Yes, February, March of '41.

844
00:52:30,980 --> 00:52:31,850
'41.

845
00:52:31,850 --> 00:52:33,960
Did school change
for you at all?

846
00:52:33,960 --> 00:52:35,730
Did you continue
going to school?

847
00:52:35,730 --> 00:52:39,170
No, after the program was, I
don't know how many months,

848
00:52:39,170 --> 00:52:40,940
everything was--

849
00:52:40,940 --> 00:52:42,420
school and everything was--

850
00:52:42,420 --> 00:52:43,210
Stopped?

851
00:52:43,210 --> 00:52:44,970
Stopped, especially
Jewish schools.

852
00:52:44,970 --> 00:52:45,470

OK.

853

00:52:45,470 --> 00:52:46,700

So what did you do?

854

00:52:46,700 --> 00:52:49,730

Staying home, nothing to do.

855

00:52:49,730 --> 00:52:51,770

Nothing to do.

856

00:52:51,770 --> 00:52:59,640

There was something special
feeling in the Jewish families.

857

00:52:59,640 --> 00:53:03,590

They don't want to go
in downtown Bucharest,

858

00:53:03,590 --> 00:53:07,850

because they were afraid
something happens with them.

859

00:53:07,850 --> 00:53:11,360

Because when was the pogrom
they catch Jewish people

860

00:53:11,360 --> 00:53:14,690

from downtown Bucharest from the
street, and they hanged them,

861

00:53:14,690 --> 00:53:15,800

and they killed him.

862

00:53:15,800 --> 00:53:17,400

And you're a 12-year-old boy.

863

00:53:17,400 --> 00:53:21,530

So what did you do
to occupy your time?

864

00:53:21,530 --> 00:53:22,310

Nothing.

865
00:53:22,310 --> 00:53:24,950
Did you go out on the street?

866
00:53:24,950 --> 00:53:26,240
Around the house.

867
00:53:26,240 --> 00:53:27,412
Only around the house.

868
00:53:27,412 --> 00:53:28,120
Around the house.

869
00:53:28,120 --> 00:53:30,640
And then in the
summertime comes?

870
00:53:30,640 --> 00:53:31,730
When the summer time was--

871
00:53:31,730 --> 00:53:33,310
Summer '41.

872
00:53:33,310 --> 00:53:37,618
Summer '41, we go
back to the school.

873
00:53:37,618 --> 00:53:38,660
You started school again.

874
00:53:38,660 --> 00:53:40,550
Starting school again.

875
00:53:40,550 --> 00:53:47,930
And that was-- and sometime
I go to my father's place,

876
00:53:47,930 --> 00:53:52,580
and I make some work for them,
because they have to make

877

00:53:52,580 --> 00:53:54,770

some--

878

00:53:54,770 --> 00:53:57,400

to help them to

clean up the shop,

879

00:53:57,400 --> 00:54:02,540

to make some little

jobs to make some money.

880

00:54:02,540 --> 00:54:04,490

And then when you

started school again,

881

00:54:04,490 --> 00:54:07,400

were there any

problems in school?

882

00:54:07,400 --> 00:54:12,620

Was not problem, but

the feelings was--

883

00:54:12,620 --> 00:54:17,480

Had it changed among your

non-Jewish friends towards you?

884

00:54:17,480 --> 00:54:18,750

Could you sense that?

885

00:54:18,750 --> 00:54:23,760

No, it was not big

changes, because all the--

886

00:54:23,760 --> 00:54:30,620

no Jewish people what was in our

area, they were not involved.

887

00:54:30,620 --> 00:54:35,090

There were some parents,

not close to our house

888

00:54:35,090 --> 00:54:39,380
but a little bit far,
what we see in the daytime

889
00:54:39,380 --> 00:54:42,840
they are coming
with the green shirt

890
00:54:42,840 --> 00:54:44,840
and with the leather diagonal.

891
00:54:44,840 --> 00:54:46,800
And we find out there
are legionnaires.

892
00:54:46,800 --> 00:54:51,020
Ah, what's happened after this.

893
00:54:51,020 --> 00:54:54,740
In our neighborhood, we
have some neighbors what

894
00:54:54,740 --> 00:54:57,230
their houses were occupied--

895
00:54:57,230 --> 00:55:00,290

896
00:55:00,290 --> 00:55:03,250
The Jewish neighbors or
non-Jewish neighbors?

897
00:55:03,250 --> 00:55:05,560
No, it was also Jewish
people and not Jewish people.

898
00:55:05,560 --> 00:55:06,560
So both kinds of houses.

899
00:55:06,560 --> 00:55:07,880
The Jewish people, yes.

900

00:55:07,880 --> 00:55:11,510

But some houses, they
have to leave their houses

901

00:55:11,510 --> 00:55:14,750

because there are coming
some people, Romanian people,

902

00:55:14,750 --> 00:55:16,430

and they occupied their houses.

903

00:55:16,430 --> 00:55:19,520

And they evicted them
from their houses.

904

00:55:19,520 --> 00:55:24,290

And I remember my aunt,
what they take care of us

905

00:55:24,290 --> 00:55:26,660

because my mother was dead.

906

00:55:26,660 --> 00:55:28,400

She have two rooms.

907

00:55:28,400 --> 00:55:32,600

One of the rooms, we
take some Jewish people

908

00:55:32,600 --> 00:55:34,730

what they get evicted
from their house

909

00:55:34,730 --> 00:55:37,330

because the Romanian people
occupied their house.

910

00:55:37,330 --> 00:55:39,360

So it was the Jewish
people who were evicted.

911

00:55:39,360 --> 00:55:39,860

Exactly.

912
00:55:39,860 --> 00:55:43,070
The Jewish people
were evicted, Yes.

913
00:55:43,070 --> 00:55:47,090
And they were Sapira family.

914
00:55:47,090 --> 00:55:50,840

915
00:55:50,840 --> 00:55:56,760
One of them there, my neighbors,
my friends, one of them

916
00:55:56,760 --> 00:56:01,010
right now is in Los Angeles, and
the other one is in New Jersey.

917
00:56:01,010 --> 00:56:03,990
OK, so now you've
started back to school.

918
00:56:03,990 --> 00:56:04,910
I started back--

919
00:56:04,910 --> 00:56:06,020
Summer, fall of '41.

920
00:56:06,020 --> 00:56:07,245
'41.

921
00:56:07,245 --> 00:56:07,745
And--

922
00:56:07,745 --> 00:56:11,150

923
00:56:11,150 --> 00:56:14,430
Anything that you recall there?

924

00:56:14,430 --> 00:56:16,520
Nothing, nothing, nothing.

925
00:56:16,520 --> 00:56:19,240
We go to school and
we are coming back,

926
00:56:19,240 --> 00:56:22,520
because we are afraid
what's going on.

927
00:56:22,520 --> 00:56:25,220
My father, sometime
I go with my father

928
00:56:25,220 --> 00:56:30,340
because Bucharest in
this time was streetcars.

929
00:56:30,340 --> 00:56:32,290
And we are traveling
with the streetcar.

930
00:56:32,290 --> 00:56:34,740
Same time I remember
on the streetcar

931
00:56:34,740 --> 00:56:38,850
they are coming Romanian
soldier, an officer.

932
00:56:38,850 --> 00:56:41,480
And they check
everybody's identity.

933
00:56:41,480 --> 00:56:44,210
And when my father, he
showed his identity,

934
00:56:44,210 --> 00:56:47,450
he is asking him about
what is going on with you?

935

00:56:47,450 --> 00:56:50,010

You are not working
for the government.

936

00:56:50,010 --> 00:56:53,230

937

00:56:53,230 --> 00:56:59,170

First, it's not a free
[? way. ?] And my father,

938

00:56:59,170 --> 00:57:02,120

he showed them his
little paper, what

939

00:57:02,120 --> 00:57:04,330

they give him from
the royal palace

940

00:57:04,330 --> 00:57:06,310

because he is working for them.

941

00:57:06,310 --> 00:57:08,770

And they give him--

942

00:57:08,770 --> 00:57:10,700

he was free to go.

943

00:57:10,700 --> 00:57:12,910

Did you have your
own identity card?

944

00:57:12,910 --> 00:57:15,700

No, because I was a teenager.

945

00:57:15,700 --> 00:57:21,770

In Romania at this
time, you have

946

00:57:21,770 --> 00:57:28,800

to have an ID card
from 17 or 18-year-old.

947

00:57:28,800 --> 00:57:30,950

So if someone saw
you on the street,

948

00:57:30,950 --> 00:57:33,330

he wouldn't know
that you were Jewish.

949

00:57:33,330 --> 00:57:38,150

No, because again,
in Bucharest we

950

00:57:38,150 --> 00:57:40,400

don't have to carry
the yellow star.

951

00:57:40,400 --> 00:57:43,490

But some people, I don't know.

952

00:57:43,490 --> 00:57:46,220

After this I meet some
people, Jewish people,

953

00:57:46,220 --> 00:57:50,750

what they are from Iasi, from
other parts of Romania, what

954

00:57:50,750 --> 00:57:57,060

they show me the little
badge with the yellow star.

955

00:57:57,060 --> 00:58:01,160

Tell me about your bar
mitzvah in March of '42.

956

00:58:01,160 --> 00:58:03,470

My little bar mitzvah?

957

00:58:03,470 --> 00:58:06,420

Was in the little temple,
the little synagogue what

958

00:58:06,420 --> 00:58:08,460
we have in our neighborhood.

959
00:58:08,460 --> 00:58:13,060
And I remember
was there shammes.

960
00:58:13,060 --> 00:58:19,370
A shammes is a guy who take care
about the cleaning the temple.

961
00:58:19,370 --> 00:58:23,990
My father, he pays him
something to teach me

962
00:58:23,990 --> 00:58:28,040
about to read the
Siddurim and everything,

963
00:58:28,040 --> 00:58:31,050
the ritual what for
the bar mitzvah.

964
00:58:31,050 --> 00:58:37,010
And I remember I put that
tvilum on my hand, on my head.

965
00:58:37,010 --> 00:58:40,640
And I have to
[? sing ?] some brachas.

966
00:58:40,640 --> 00:58:44,970
And I go to the Torah, and
I remembered it was a long,

967
00:58:44,970 --> 00:58:46,550
long time ago.

968
00:58:46,550 --> 00:58:48,660
Was there any celebration
in your house?

969
00:58:48,660 --> 00:58:52,540

970

00:58:52,540 --> 00:58:54,740

No, it was a celebration
in the synagogue.

971

00:58:54,740 --> 00:58:58,730

Because all our friend, they
are coming in the synagogue,

972

00:58:58,730 --> 00:59:01,708

and they celebrate
with the lekach.

973

00:59:01,708 --> 00:59:02,500

You know what that?

974

00:59:02,500 --> 00:59:05,580

Is little-- some
special cake, Jewish

975

00:59:05,580 --> 00:59:10,520

cake, and brought this
with the wine and brandy,

976

00:59:10,520 --> 00:59:13,850

all the celebration for bar
mitzvah and all the holidays.

977

00:59:13,850 --> 00:59:17,030

So there was no problem in
holding religious services.

978

00:59:17,030 --> 00:59:21,218

The fascists didn't make
it difficult for you?

979

00:59:21,218 --> 00:59:23,990

980

00:59:23,990 --> 00:59:27,280

You cannot go on the street
and celebrate, but the syna--

981
00:59:27,280 --> 00:59:29,570
It was still safe to
be in the synagogue.

982
00:59:29,570 --> 00:59:34,400
It was safe to be
in the synagogue.

983
00:59:34,400 --> 00:59:35,820
At that time.

984
00:59:35,820 --> 00:59:36,320
Mm-hmm.

985
00:59:36,320 --> 00:59:40,000

986
00:59:40,000 --> 00:59:41,230
Yes.

987
00:59:41,230 --> 00:59:43,630
Yes, and also safe--

988
00:59:43,630 --> 00:59:49,300
was safe also because
I remember we celebrate

989
00:59:49,300 --> 00:59:51,650
Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur.

990
00:59:51,650 --> 00:59:55,480
And I remember I was a kid,
and it was very hard for me

991
00:59:55,480 --> 00:59:57,940
to fast on Yom Kippur.

992
00:59:57,940 --> 01:00:00,930
But I remember it
was some hard days,

993

01:00:00,930 --> 01:00:04,420

and you cannot
celebrate on the street.

994

01:00:04,420 --> 01:00:07,640

But everybody
celebrate in his house

995

01:00:07,640 --> 01:00:09,190

and in the little synagogue.

996

01:00:09,190 --> 01:00:12,850

How far was your house from
the central part of Bucharest?

997

01:00:12,850 --> 01:00:14,140

How far?

998

01:00:14,140 --> 01:00:16,210

How far?

999

01:00:16,210 --> 01:00:17,720

Five, six miles.

1000

01:00:17,720 --> 01:00:20,290

Five, six.

1001

01:00:20,290 --> 01:00:22,310

Something like this, five, six.

1002

01:00:22,310 --> 01:00:22,810

A little.

1003

01:00:22,810 --> 01:00:24,440

Seven miles,
something like this.

1004

01:00:24,440 --> 01:00:29,740

So it was very ordinary for
you to see Iron Guard troops?

1005

01:00:29,740 --> 01:00:30,760
Oh, yeah.

1006
01:00:30,760 --> 01:00:31,570
Oh, yeah.

1007
01:00:31,570 --> 01:00:32,330
Oh, yeah.

1008
01:00:32,330 --> 01:00:37,580
They are marching on the
streets with their right hand.

1009
01:00:37,580 --> 01:00:40,380
And it was not
like on the German.

1010
01:00:40,380 --> 01:00:43,150
The legionnaire also
with the right hand,

1011
01:00:43,150 --> 01:00:45,940
and they said not
"Heil Hitler," but they

1012
01:00:45,940 --> 01:00:50,170
said [SPEAKING ROMANIAN]
--is the head,

1013
01:00:50,170 --> 01:00:52,990
was the head of the Legionnaire.

1014
01:00:52,990 --> 01:00:56,997
His name was Corneliu
Zelea Codreanu.

1015
01:00:56,997 --> 01:00:57,497
And--

1016
01:00:57,497 --> 01:01:04,100

1017

01:01:04,100 --> 01:01:06,920
Was this a frightening
spectacle for you?

1018
01:01:06,920 --> 01:01:07,670
Was.

1019
01:01:07,670 --> 01:01:10,670
Because we see so many time.

1020
01:01:10,670 --> 01:01:11,683
Was not more--

1021
01:01:11,683 --> 01:01:12,350
Became ordinary.

1022
01:01:12,350 --> 01:01:13,040
Ordinary.

1023
01:01:13,040 --> 01:01:14,840
Right, right.

1024
01:01:14,840 --> 01:01:16,110
Yeah.

1025
01:01:16,110 --> 01:01:16,610
All right.

1026
01:01:16,610 --> 01:01:22,340
And just to continue on, in the
summer of '42 or early fall,

1027
01:01:22,340 --> 01:01:27,410
things just continued on your
13th year, your 14th year.

1028
01:01:27,410 --> 01:01:28,310
I remember.

1029
01:01:28,310 --> 01:01:29,930
When was the next change?

1030

01:01:29,930 --> 01:01:37,780

Next big change was in '44.

1031

01:01:37,780 --> 01:01:39,690

So things went on '42, '43.

1032

01:01:39,690 --> 01:01:40,400

'43.

1033

01:01:40,400 --> 01:01:41,560

You stayed in school.

1034

01:01:41,560 --> 01:01:43,290

I stay in school.

1035

01:01:43,290 --> 01:01:45,330

And was nothing to do.

1036

01:01:45,330 --> 01:01:46,180

In this high school.

1037

01:01:46,180 --> 01:01:47,300

You were in this--

1038

01:01:47,300 --> 01:01:48,640

Exactly.

1039

01:01:48,640 --> 01:01:51,880

And was nothing, not too much.

1040

01:01:51,880 --> 01:01:54,010

Were you involved in any
youth groups at that time?

1041

01:01:54,010 --> 01:01:55,390

No, no.

1042

01:01:55,390 --> 01:01:57,270

What youth group?

1043

01:01:57,270 --> 01:01:58,020
Nothing permitted?

1044
01:01:58,020 --> 01:01:59,620
Nothing permitted there.

1045
01:01:59,620 --> 01:02:02,140
No, no.

1046
01:02:02,140 --> 01:02:12,950
What I you remember, I
remember in late '40--

1047
01:02:12,950 --> 01:02:19,870
late '43 or early '44 started
night and day bombardment

1048
01:02:19,870 --> 01:02:22,480
in Romania, in Bucharest.

1049
01:02:22,480 --> 01:02:26,970
in the nighttime, the
RAF, Royal English--

1050
01:02:26,970 --> 01:02:27,970
Royal Air--

1051
01:02:27,970 --> 01:02:32,610
Royal Air Force is
coming in the nighttime.

1052
01:02:32,610 --> 01:02:37,870
In the daytime is coming the
Air Force, American Air Force.

1053
01:02:37,870 --> 01:02:39,950
And the bombed Bucharest.

1054
01:02:39,950 --> 01:02:47,470
Just for a moment, were people
being picked up in '42, '43,

1055

01:02:47,470 --> 01:02:49,197
other Jews?

1056
01:02:49,197 --> 01:02:50,011
No.

1057
01:02:50,011 --> 01:02:52,000
Or do things quiet down?

1058
01:02:52,000 --> 01:02:53,980
No, not quiet down.

1059
01:02:53,980 --> 01:03:00,370
Everybody was
working without pay

1060
01:03:00,370 --> 01:03:05,400
for the Romanian government,
for the fascist government.