

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:05,790

2
00:00:05,790 --> 00:00:10,170
The following is an
interview of Ludwig Jacob.

3
00:00:10,170 --> 00:00:16,770
It is taking place on May
23rd, 1996 in New York City.

4
00:00:16,770 --> 00:00:19,080
It is being conducted
by Gail Schwartz

5
00:00:19,080 --> 00:00:21,995
on behalf of the United States
Holocaust Memorial Museum.

6
00:00:21,995 --> 00:00:25,110

7
00:00:25,110 --> 00:00:28,030
Please give us your full name.

8
00:00:28,030 --> 00:00:30,090
My name is Ludwig Jacob.

9
00:00:30,090 --> 00:00:31,660
And where were you born?

10
00:00:31,660 --> 00:00:35,960
I was born in Schmalkalden,
in Germany, which was--

11
00:00:35,960 --> 00:00:41,400
it was in the eastern section
of Germany up till 1990.

12
00:00:41,400 --> 00:00:42,580
And your date of birth.

13
00:00:42,580 --> 00:00:48,710
My date of birth
is May 5th, 1923.

14
00:00:48,710 --> 00:00:50,570
Let's talk about
your family life.

15
00:00:50,570 --> 00:00:53,730
Who were the members of
your immediate family?

16
00:00:53,730 --> 00:00:55,970
My father, my mother,
and my brother.

17
00:00:55,970 --> 00:00:57,300
And their names.

18
00:00:57,300 --> 00:00:59,360
My father's name was Karl.

19
00:00:59,360 --> 00:01:00,740
My mother's name was Rosa.

20
00:01:00,740 --> 00:01:04,220
My brother's name
Rudolph, called Rudy.

21
00:01:04,220 --> 00:01:07,200
He was 10 years older than I am.

22
00:01:07,200 --> 00:01:08,960
I am, yes.

23
00:01:08,960 --> 00:01:12,740

24
00:01:12,740 --> 00:01:14,960
Did you did you have
an extended family?

25
00:01:14,960 --> 00:01:16,550
Did you have
grandparents, aunts,

26
00:01:16,550 --> 00:01:18,080
and uncles living nearby?

27
00:01:18,080 --> 00:01:21,860
I did not know any
of my grandparents.

28
00:01:21,860 --> 00:01:25,010
They were deceased at the time.

29
00:01:25,010 --> 00:01:28,470
I had some uncles
and aunts, which

30
00:01:28,470 --> 00:01:32,390
I saw very occasionally, maybe
once a year, especially one

31
00:01:32,390 --> 00:01:36,680
uncle and aunt who
lived in Bayern.

32
00:01:36,680 --> 00:01:39,970
And I went there, like
on a vacation for a week.

33
00:01:39,970 --> 00:01:43,700

34
00:01:43,700 --> 00:01:45,860
And where did your
father come from?

35
00:01:45,860 --> 00:01:50,180
My father came from the same
town where I was born in.

36

00:01:50,180 --> 00:01:52,430
He was born there too.

37
00:01:52,430 --> 00:01:54,050
He had a business.

38
00:01:54,050 --> 00:01:57,470
He had a cattle-- he
was a cattle dealer.

39
00:01:57,470 --> 00:02:01,010
He bought, in other words,
cows, and re-sold them

40
00:02:01,010 --> 00:02:06,380
to farmers or cows us to be
slaughtered for butchers.

41
00:02:06,380 --> 00:02:11,180
And were his clients
Jewish and non-Jewish?

42
00:02:11,180 --> 00:02:12,560
They were mostly non-Jewish.

43
00:02:12,560 --> 00:02:16,100
There was no body he sold
to which were Jewish, as

44
00:02:16,100 --> 00:02:18,560
much as I remember.

45
00:02:18,560 --> 00:02:20,570
Describe the town
that you grew up in.

46
00:02:20,570 --> 00:02:21,890
How large was that it?

47
00:02:21,890 --> 00:02:27,230
It was a town of about
11-12,000 inhabitants.

48

00:02:27,230 --> 00:02:31,520

But nowadays, I think
it grew to about 17,000.

49

00:02:31,520 --> 00:02:36,350

I've been visiting last
year for three days

50

00:02:36,350 --> 00:02:39,830

because the house my
parents had was still there.

51

00:02:39,830 --> 00:02:43,160

And we finally were
able to sell it now.

52

00:02:43,160 --> 00:02:45,540

Did you live right in the
town when you were growing--

53

00:02:45,540 --> 00:02:46,040

Yes.

54

00:02:46,040 --> 00:02:47,270

--in the center of town.

55

00:02:47,270 --> 00:02:50,340

Yes, I lived in
the center of town.

56

00:02:50,340 --> 00:02:52,190

I went to school there,
to public school,

57

00:02:52,190 --> 00:02:53,230

first, for four years.

58

00:02:53,230 --> 00:02:56,100

59

00:02:56,100 --> 00:03:01,680

And then I went to high school,

which was gymnasium in Germany.

60
00:03:01,680 --> 00:03:02,180
Right.

61
00:03:02,180 --> 00:03:05,750
And there I was
about three years

62
00:03:05,750 --> 00:03:09,870
till the situation got
so uncomfortable for me,

63
00:03:09,870 --> 00:03:10,820
that I get out.

64
00:03:10,820 --> 00:03:13,360

65
00:03:13,360 --> 00:03:15,820
OK.

66
00:03:15,820 --> 00:03:18,040
Let's talk about the
neighborhood that you lived in.

67
00:03:18,040 --> 00:03:20,050
Did you live in a
house or an apartment?

68
00:03:20,050 --> 00:03:22,130
In an apartment in a house.

69
00:03:22,130 --> 00:03:23,920
It was a three-story building.

70
00:03:23,920 --> 00:03:25,190
There were two apartments.

71
00:03:25,190 --> 00:03:27,508
One apartment above
and then we were--

72
00:03:27,508 --> 00:03:29,050
And what kind of
neighborhood was it?

73
00:03:29,050 --> 00:03:30,880
Was it a mixed neighborhood
of Jews and non-Jews?

74
00:03:30,880 --> 00:03:31,380
Yes.

75
00:03:31,380 --> 00:03:34,400

76
00:03:34,400 --> 00:03:38,500
What percentage, or approximate
what part of the city

77
00:03:38,500 --> 00:03:39,160
was Jewish?

78
00:03:39,160 --> 00:03:40,550
Was it a large percentage?

79
00:03:40,550 --> 00:03:43,510
We had about 25
Jewish families there.

80
00:03:43,510 --> 00:03:44,360
In the town?

81
00:03:44,360 --> 00:03:44,860
Yeah.

82
00:03:44,860 --> 00:03:49,150
Oh so it was just a very
small part of the town.

83
00:03:49,150 --> 00:03:51,880
So when you said that you
went to public school,

84
00:03:51,880 --> 00:03:55,580
this is obviously with a
lot of non-Jewish children.

85
00:03:55,580 --> 00:03:56,710
Yes, of course.

86
00:03:56,710 --> 00:03:57,880
Yeah.

87
00:03:57,880 --> 00:04:00,730
And all the way
through your education?

88
00:04:00,730 --> 00:04:04,240
There was really no
Jewish child at my age.

89
00:04:04,240 --> 00:04:08,280
Either they'd be a year or three
younger or three years older.

90
00:04:08,280 --> 00:04:12,160
I was really, in my
age group, isolated.

91
00:04:12,160 --> 00:04:14,800
Did your family
have close contact

92
00:04:14,800 --> 00:04:17,070
with these other 24 families?

93
00:04:17,070 --> 00:04:19,940
With most of them.

94
00:04:19,940 --> 00:04:23,080
The Jewish people have got
together on the Shabbat.

95
00:04:23,080 --> 00:04:24,600

They went for walks.

96

00:04:24,600 --> 00:04:26,260

They went into the woods.

97

00:04:26,260 --> 00:04:30,760

They had been to a cafe with my mother and some of the friends.

98

00:04:30,760 --> 00:04:34,690

They're not all together, but there was a good relationship

99

00:04:34,690 --> 00:04:36,460

among the Jews in general.

100

00:04:36,460 --> 00:04:40,270

Did the Jews all live within close proximity of each other?

101

00:04:40,270 --> 00:04:42,010

It's a small town.

102

00:04:42,010 --> 00:04:43,906

You're not far apart.

103

00:04:43,906 --> 00:04:47,430

At that time, it was walking distance.

104

00:04:47,430 --> 00:04:50,080

And today, it's still walking distance,

105

00:04:50,080 --> 00:04:55,360

but people are more inclined to use cars for every step.

106

00:04:55,360 --> 00:04:56,930

Was there a synagogue in the town?

107

00:04:56,930 --> 00:04:58,890

Yes, we had a synagogue in town.

108

00:04:58,890 --> 00:05:00,705

For the 25 families?

109

00:05:00,705 --> 00:05:01,205

Yeah.

110

00:05:01,205 --> 00:05:08,310

The synagogue originally
originated in 1600--

111

00:05:08,310 --> 00:05:12,710

1600 and-- I don't
know the exact day--

112

00:05:12,710 --> 00:05:15,420

in the 17th century.

113

00:05:15,420 --> 00:05:19,430

And it burned down
by accident once

114

00:05:19,430 --> 00:05:23,600

and was rebuilt.
And finally, it was

115

00:05:23,600 --> 00:05:27,050

modernized in the year 1930--

116

00:05:27,050 --> 00:05:32,630

1929-1930, it was reopened
as a new, modern synagogue.

117

00:05:32,630 --> 00:05:35,415

We didn't go to shul
on Fridays and Shabbat.

118

00:05:35,415 --> 00:05:39,430

It was on high holidays there
was services, of course.

119

00:05:39,430 --> 00:05:42,380

But the rest of the
time, there was not

120

00:05:42,380 --> 00:05:44,390

much interest on
the Jewish people

121

00:05:44,390 --> 00:05:49,920

on practicing Jewish religion,
as much as I remember.

122

00:05:49,920 --> 00:05:52,600

So how religious was
your family then?

123

00:05:52,600 --> 00:05:59,260

Well, they were, I would
think, like we are reformed.

124

00:05:59,260 --> 00:05:59,840

Equivalent.

125

00:05:59,840 --> 00:06:04,280

But we had a kosher
house till the time

126

00:06:04,280 --> 00:06:08,690

came that it was
forbidden to eat

127

00:06:08,690 --> 00:06:14,250

cattle killed in a ritual way.

128

00:06:14,250 --> 00:06:19,760

And I remember as a
child, at the time

129

00:06:19,760 --> 00:06:22,100

my mother did not tell us.

130

00:06:22,100 --> 00:06:24,230

I didn't know exactly
what day it was,

131
00:06:24,230 --> 00:06:28,032
but she just bought a non-kosher
meat and they served us.

132
00:06:28,032 --> 00:06:29,490
If we would have
known, we probably

133
00:06:29,490 --> 00:06:32,830
wouldn't have eaten
it, because it was--

134
00:06:32,830 --> 00:06:36,460
as tradition, it was ingrained
into you not to eat it.

135
00:06:36,460 --> 00:06:38,630
But since we didn't
know, my mother

136
00:06:38,630 --> 00:06:40,370
was smart enough not to tell us.

137
00:06:40,370 --> 00:06:41,865
We didn't know
exactly they didn't.

138
00:06:41,865 --> 00:06:44,590
The next-- afterwards,
she told us no kosher.

139
00:06:44,590 --> 00:06:47,090
We overheard her.

140
00:06:47,090 --> 00:06:49,290
Did you go to Hebrew school?

141
00:06:49,290 --> 00:06:49,790
Yes.

142
00:06:49,790 --> 00:06:51,290
Have any kind of
religious training?

143
00:06:51,290 --> 00:06:52,460
Yes, we had Hebrew school.

144
00:06:52,460 --> 00:06:55,160
Not Hebrew school, we
had a Hebrew teacher

145
00:06:55,160 --> 00:07:00,740
coming to town every other
week from another area who

146
00:07:00,740 --> 00:07:02,260
taught the children.

147
00:07:02,260 --> 00:07:05,000
Since we were very few children,
and very few in age group

148
00:07:05,000 --> 00:07:06,980
together, it was really
not possible to have

149
00:07:06,980 --> 00:07:09,230
an individual Hebrew teacher.

150
00:07:09,230 --> 00:07:11,480
Were the boys and girls
taught together or separately?

151
00:07:11,480 --> 00:07:12,790
Yeah.

152
00:07:12,790 --> 00:07:15,230
Together.

153
00:07:15,230 --> 00:07:17,340
What language did
you speak at home?

154
00:07:17,340 --> 00:07:18,680
German.

155
00:07:18,680 --> 00:07:20,510
German.

156
00:07:20,510 --> 00:07:22,320
Did you have a bar mitzvah?

157
00:07:22,320 --> 00:07:23,060
Yes, I did.

158
00:07:23,060 --> 00:07:25,430
Can you describe that?

159
00:07:25,430 --> 00:07:27,120
What's there to describe?

160
00:07:27,120 --> 00:07:30,620
It was a ceremony in shul.

161
00:07:30,620 --> 00:07:36,200
Like every other, it was
really short, a little speech.

162
00:07:36,200 --> 00:07:41,840
The Hebrew teacher who assisted
me came from another town,

163
00:07:41,840 --> 00:07:43,670
as I said before.

164
00:07:43,670 --> 00:07:47,220
And we had some of the families,
and friends, and relatives all

165
00:07:47,220 --> 00:07:52,140
waited at home, a little
banquet afterwards.

166

00:07:52,140 --> 00:07:54,680
So there was no problems
having a bar mitzvah in 1936?

167
00:07:54,680 --> 00:07:56,320
No.

168
00:07:56,320 --> 00:07:58,160
OK.

169
00:07:58,160 --> 00:08:01,280
Did you have any
hobbies as a child.

170
00:08:01,280 --> 00:08:02,190
No, not really.

171
00:08:02,190 --> 00:08:04,560
We liked to play football--
soccer in Germany.

172
00:08:04,560 --> 00:08:05,060
Soccer.

173
00:08:05,060 --> 00:08:07,580
Not football, like in football.

174
00:08:07,580 --> 00:08:10,780
But that's what is--

175
00:08:10,780 --> 00:08:14,870
And did you go on hikes?

176
00:08:14,870 --> 00:08:16,690
Yeah, we went on hikes.

177
00:08:16,690 --> 00:08:19,810
I went on Saturdays, on
Shabbat with my mother.

178
00:08:19,810 --> 00:08:22,550
Or Sundays, we went

to the neighborhood.

179

00:08:22,550 --> 00:08:26,830

We went on walks into
the woods, and we met--

180

00:08:26,830 --> 00:08:28,860

we reached a place
where there was a coffee

181

00:08:28,860 --> 00:08:30,650

house or a little restaurant.

182

00:08:30,650 --> 00:08:33,440

We stated through the
afternoon, had coffee and cake.

183

00:08:33,440 --> 00:08:36,110

And this as I remember
a young child.

184

00:08:36,110 --> 00:08:42,200

I also took some skiing, little
trips in the neighborhood.

185

00:08:42,200 --> 00:08:46,080

Because we were in a
mountainous area and 15 minutes,

186

00:08:46,080 --> 00:08:50,030

half an hour from home there
was a place where we could ski.

187

00:08:50,030 --> 00:08:52,600

And my parents
usually sent me out

188

00:08:52,600 --> 00:08:57,410

with an instructor or
somebody like that.

189

00:08:57,410 --> 00:09:00,350

Were you a member

of any youth group?

190
00:09:00,350 --> 00:09:03,590
No, I was not.

191
00:09:03,590 --> 00:09:06,470
Were your parents
Zionistic in any way?

192
00:09:06,470 --> 00:09:09,710
No, I couldn't say that.

193
00:09:09,710 --> 00:09:12,260
As a matter of fact, my
parents always were--

194
00:09:12,260 --> 00:09:17,570
my brother, who was
married in 1936 in Berlin,

195
00:09:17,570 --> 00:09:24,440
he worked for an international
company, a trading company,

196
00:09:24,440 --> 00:09:25,895
called Hirsh Kupfer.

197
00:09:25,895 --> 00:09:30,010
And they, at the time knew--

198
00:09:30,010 --> 00:09:34,460
this was a partly Jewish firm--
sent the Jewish employees

199
00:09:34,460 --> 00:09:38,800
or workers out of Germany.

200
00:09:38,800 --> 00:09:41,205
And my brother was sent
at the time to Amsterdam

201
00:09:41,205 --> 00:09:42,830

and worked for the
company while there.

202
00:09:42,830 --> 00:09:45,710

203
00:09:45,710 --> 00:09:48,410
You were quite young, of course,
when Hitler came into power.

204
00:09:48,410 --> 00:09:50,120
You were 10 years old.

205
00:09:50,120 --> 00:09:50,900
Yeah.

206
00:09:50,900 --> 00:09:52,430
Do you remember any of that?

207
00:09:52,430 --> 00:09:54,110
Do you have any
recollections, even

208
00:09:54,110 --> 00:09:55,310
though you were quite young?

209
00:09:55,310 --> 00:09:58,870
Yeah, I do have
some recollections.

210
00:09:58,870 --> 00:10:01,850
I remember, for instance, there
was an election in Germany

211
00:10:01,850 --> 00:10:04,360
in January of 1933.

212
00:10:04,360 --> 00:10:07,430
And one of my father's
customers, who was non-Jewish,

213
00:10:07,430 --> 00:10:09,755

came up that morning after.

214

00:10:09,755 --> 00:10:13,170

And he said, "Well, you
Jews were lucky once again.

215

00:10:13,170 --> 00:10:16,500

Hitler didn't get elected."

216

00:10:16,500 --> 00:10:18,573

And then about three
or four weeks later,

217

00:10:18,573 --> 00:10:19,490

he went to Hindenburg.

218

00:10:19,490 --> 00:10:25,950

And Hindenburg gave him the
power to run the government.

219

00:10:25,950 --> 00:10:30,260

And did you notice any
change in your daily life?

220

00:10:30,260 --> 00:10:32,090

Not in the beginning.

221

00:10:32,090 --> 00:10:35,930

But later on, as soon as I
went to school, and especially

222

00:10:35,930 --> 00:10:39,860

in gymnasium, I
was very isolated.

223

00:10:39,860 --> 00:10:42,083

The other students isolated you?

224

00:10:42,083 --> 00:10:42,990

Yeah.

225

00:10:42,990 --> 00:10:45,690

Were there any Jewish
school teachers?

226
00:10:45,690 --> 00:10:46,190
No.

227
00:10:46,190 --> 00:10:48,155
No, all the teachers
were non-Jews.

228
00:10:48,155 --> 00:10:50,030
What about-- we'll get
to school in a minute.

229
00:10:50,030 --> 00:10:51,613
What about in your
neighborhood, where

230
00:10:51,613 --> 00:10:54,613
the other non-Jewish
children friendly to you?

231
00:10:54,613 --> 00:10:56,030
Did you have any
kind of insight--

232
00:10:56,030 --> 00:11:00,710
Yes, I had some, one or two
friends, I was friendly with.

233
00:11:00,710 --> 00:11:04,800
But not a real great, strong
relationship, I would say.

234
00:11:04,800 --> 00:11:07,420
Were there any
unpleasant incidents?

235
00:11:07,420 --> 00:11:07,920
No.

236
00:11:07,920 --> 00:11:10,060
Not in the-- not after school.

237
00:11:10,060 --> 00:11:12,320
The unpleasant incidents
were only in school.

238
00:11:12,320 --> 00:11:13,870
What were they?

239
00:11:13,870 --> 00:11:15,160
Can you describe one or two?

240
00:11:15,160 --> 00:11:20,630
Oh, for instance, we
had a class in design--

241
00:11:20,630 --> 00:11:22,520
I wouldn't say
design, in painting--

242
00:11:22,520 --> 00:11:24,340
not design, painting.

243
00:11:24,340 --> 00:11:26,925
And they went by and they
would put the paint on me

244
00:11:26,925 --> 00:11:29,090
and smear my clothes and so on.

245
00:11:29,090 --> 00:11:30,510
Put paint on your clothes?

246
00:11:30,510 --> 00:11:32,660
Yeah.

247
00:11:32,660 --> 00:11:35,790
Was this something you could
talk over with your parents?

248
00:11:35,790 --> 00:11:36,510
Yeah, they knew.

249

00:11:36,510 --> 00:11:37,952

And then they decided--

250

00:11:37,952 --> 00:11:40,160

I didn't want to go back to
school anymore because it

251

00:11:40,160 --> 00:11:43,200

was so difficult
to be in school,

252

00:11:43,200 --> 00:11:47,150

so they decided I should
learn something practical.

253

00:11:47,150 --> 00:11:50,080

And I went into the--

254

00:11:50,080 --> 00:11:52,580

they got me a job,
or an apprenticeship,

255

00:11:52,580 --> 00:11:57,770

I should say, with
an auto mechanic.

256

00:11:57,770 --> 00:11:59,690

Do you remember
what year that was?

257

00:11:59,690 --> 00:12:01,130

In 1938.

258

00:12:01,130 --> 00:12:02,270

In '38, OK.

259

00:12:02,270 --> 00:12:04,670

So you stayed in school
till you were 15.

260

00:12:04,670 --> 00:12:05,540

Right.

261
00:12:05,540 --> 00:12:09,860
And then you said things
got very uncomfortable.

262
00:12:09,860 --> 00:12:12,440
Any other experiences
at that point,

263
00:12:12,440 --> 00:12:15,395
besides that one
that you described?

264
00:12:15,395 --> 00:12:16,520
No, I wouldn't--

265
00:12:16,520 --> 00:12:18,380
Were there verbal
insults to you?

266
00:12:18,380 --> 00:12:21,410
Yes, verbal insults, but you
know, some things, they just

267
00:12:21,410 --> 00:12:24,660
run off on you, because
what could I do about it?

268
00:12:24,660 --> 00:12:26,370
Not that I remember
anything specific.

269
00:12:26,370 --> 00:12:28,830
But this was the last
straw, when they painted--

270
00:12:28,830 --> 00:12:32,640
put the paint on me, I
didn't want to go back.

271
00:12:32,640 --> 00:12:33,740
Right, right.

272

00:12:33,740 --> 00:12:38,000

And then I started working
for the auto mechanic--

273

00:12:38,000 --> 00:12:38,970

or start working--

274

00:12:38,970 --> 00:12:41,960

I learned, was an apprentice.

275

00:12:41,960 --> 00:12:45,810

And I was there only four weeks.

276

00:12:45,810 --> 00:12:48,054

And then came Kristallnacht.

277

00:12:48,054 --> 00:12:49,402

OK.

278

00:12:49,402 --> 00:12:49,902

OK.

279

00:12:49,902 --> 00:12:52,680

280

00:12:52,680 --> 00:12:56,490

What are your
recollections of that?

281

00:12:56,490 --> 00:12:58,440

Well, we didn't
know anything was

282

00:12:58,440 --> 00:13:01,770

going to happen, and suddenly
in the evening at 9 o'clock,

283

00:13:01,770 --> 00:13:03,810

they came in, the Nazis.

284

00:13:03,810 --> 00:13:06,730

And they arrested my
father, my mother, and me.

285
00:13:06,730 --> 00:13:12,090
And they took us to the police
station and put us in cells.

286
00:13:12,090 --> 00:13:14,010
Were the three of you together?

287
00:13:14,010 --> 00:13:14,640
No, no, no.

288
00:13:14,640 --> 00:13:17,970
My father was, and I was, and
my mother was with the women.

289
00:13:17,970 --> 00:13:18,690
The day--

290
00:13:18,690 --> 00:13:20,723
So this was three separate--

291
00:13:20,723 --> 00:13:23,140
you were-- the three of you
were separate from each other?

292
00:13:23,140 --> 00:13:25,830
Right.

293
00:13:25,830 --> 00:13:31,290
And the next morning,
they took the men out.

294
00:13:31,290 --> 00:13:33,570
They sent the women home.

295
00:13:33,570 --> 00:13:37,770
And the men went out into the
street and they had to clean up

296
00:13:37,770 --> 00:13:39,820

all that-- the
police, they made--

297
00:13:39,820 --> 00:13:42,690
from the German, from the-- not
from the German-- the German--

298
00:13:42,690 --> 00:13:46,205
the Nazis made all of
the German businesses.

299
00:13:46,205 --> 00:13:47,187
They had this--

300
00:13:47,187 --> 00:13:48,020
All the destruction.

301
00:13:48,020 --> 00:13:49,650
The businesses,
destruction and so on--

302
00:13:49,650 --> 00:13:50,450
and so on.

303
00:13:50,450 --> 00:13:52,740
As a matter of fact, when
I was in Germany last year,

304
00:13:52,740 --> 00:13:54,830
I got some pictures from this.

305
00:13:54,830 --> 00:14:00,600
Somebody secretly had the nerve
to take them and preserved.

306
00:14:00,600 --> 00:14:03,350
That's what we had to do the
next day-- here's my father,

307
00:14:03,350 --> 00:14:06,750
and that's me-- is to clean
up the mess they made.

308

00:14:06,750 --> 00:14:10,130

309

00:14:10,130 --> 00:14:15,860

When you were arrested, when
the Nazis came to your house,

310

00:14:15,860 --> 00:14:17,775

were you able to take
anything with you?

311

00:14:17,775 --> 00:14:18,275

No, nothing.

312

00:14:18,275 --> 00:14:19,460

Or was it a very quick--

313

00:14:19,460 --> 00:14:22,640

Very quick, very suddenly.

314

00:14:22,640 --> 00:14:24,840

And the other Jewish
families were also arrested?

315

00:14:24,840 --> 00:14:25,340

All of them.

316

00:14:25,340 --> 00:14:26,900

All of them.

317

00:14:26,900 --> 00:14:28,790

Now who-- you said
you were separated

318

00:14:28,790 --> 00:14:30,548

from your father in
the different cells.

319

00:14:30,548 --> 00:14:32,590

Were you with other
children, other young people?

320

00:14:32,590 --> 00:14:33,110

I don't know.

321

00:14:33,110 --> 00:14:33,818

You were only 15.

322

00:14:33,818 --> 00:14:35,390

No, there were no
other children.

323

00:14:35,390 --> 00:14:38,290

Nobody in my age group
I think was there,

324

00:14:38,290 --> 00:14:40,040

maybe some other men.

325

00:14:40,040 --> 00:14:43,490

I don't recall exactly who
was with me in that cell.

326

00:14:43,490 --> 00:14:46,640

But the next day after
that, we made this clean up.

327

00:14:46,640 --> 00:14:49,010

And they straightened out
everything and put everything

328

00:14:49,010 --> 00:14:52,998

in order again, there
came big trucks.

329

00:14:52,998 --> 00:14:55,040

And they put us in the
trucks and they shipped us

330

00:14:55,040 --> 00:14:57,830

to Mauthausen.

331

00:14:57,830 --> 00:14:59,750

Was your synagogue destroyed?

332
00:14:59,750 --> 00:15:03,740
Yes, but I didn't see it.

333
00:15:03,740 --> 00:15:11,390
Because as I said, after this,
I was straight into the truck,

334
00:15:11,390 --> 00:15:14,170
off to Buchenwald.

335
00:15:14,170 --> 00:15:19,010
Afterwards, the synagogue might
have been partially destroyed,

336
00:15:19,010 --> 00:15:21,640
because there was
a very solid rocks,

337
00:15:21,640 --> 00:15:25,400
granite kind of type of
things, which probably

338
00:15:25,400 --> 00:15:28,616
couldn't-- everything
couldn't be done over.

339
00:15:28,616 --> 00:15:31,700
And when I came back
from Buchenwald,

340
00:15:31,700 --> 00:15:35,200
which was four weeks later--

341
00:15:35,200 --> 00:15:39,530
OK, we want to go
into more detail.

342
00:15:39,530 --> 00:15:41,630
What were your
thoughts as a young--

343

00:15:41,630 --> 00:15:42,980
you were so young.

344
00:15:42,980 --> 00:15:44,970
You were only 15 years old.

345
00:15:44,970 --> 00:15:46,220
Do you remember?

346
00:15:46,220 --> 00:15:48,470
I don't remember many thoughts.

347
00:15:48,470 --> 00:15:53,548
But I took it, let's
say, very lying down.

348
00:15:53,548 --> 00:15:55,840
As a matter of fact, that's
what happens and that's it.

349
00:15:55,840 --> 00:15:59,060
There's nothing you
can do about it.

350
00:15:59,060 --> 00:16:03,950
As long as I was
there, I had to comply,

351
00:16:03,950 --> 00:16:06,830
follow suit, whatever was
ordered by the Nazis, what

352
00:16:06,830 --> 00:16:09,440
we had to do or not to do.

353
00:16:09,440 --> 00:16:18,710
And basically, I had no
difficulties living that way,

354
00:16:18,710 --> 00:16:20,420
to this life.

355

00:16:20,420 --> 00:16:23,550
The only time it became very
difficult, when I thought about

356
00:16:23,550 --> 00:16:24,875
how my mother--

357
00:16:24,875 --> 00:16:28,080

358
00:16:28,080 --> 00:16:29,637
otherwise, I accepted it.

359
00:16:29,637 --> 00:16:30,470
You just kept going.

360
00:16:30,470 --> 00:16:30,970
Yeah.

361
00:16:30,970 --> 00:16:32,800
Yeah, you just kept going.

362
00:16:32,800 --> 00:16:38,300
All right, so the next morning
after the cleanup, then what--

363
00:16:38,300 --> 00:16:40,962
can you describe as
much as you remember?

364
00:16:40,962 --> 00:16:42,295
We were all put it into a truck.

365
00:16:42,295 --> 00:16:44,950

366
00:16:44,950 --> 00:16:46,990
Children-- boys and adult men?

367
00:16:46,990 --> 00:16:48,070
The whole group.

368

00:16:48,070 --> 00:16:51,050

How many were there, 25--

369

00:16:51,050 --> 00:16:52,480

25 men, maybe not even.

370

00:16:52,480 --> 00:16:54,550

Because some of them

emigrated already--

371

00:16:54,550 --> 00:16:57,340

emigrated already and

were no longer in town.

372

00:16:57,340 --> 00:17:00,212

Had your--

373

00:17:00,212 --> 00:17:02,742

I just remembered something.

374

00:17:02,742 --> 00:17:03,940

No, it's not important.

375

00:17:03,940 --> 00:17:09,160

Had your father ever considered

leaving, the family leaving?

376

00:17:09,160 --> 00:17:10,089

No.

377

00:17:10,089 --> 00:17:12,500

They had-- leaving,

yes, but in the way,

378

00:17:12,500 --> 00:17:15,020

but in a very vague way.

379

00:17:15,020 --> 00:17:19,079

They thought, look, your

children go out first.

380

00:17:19,079 --> 00:17:23,170
And when you are established
somewhere, follow him.

381
00:17:23,170 --> 00:17:25,210
That was the story.

382
00:17:25,210 --> 00:17:26,910
I told you before,
my brother already

383
00:17:26,910 --> 00:17:28,329
was in Amsterdam, in Holland.

384
00:17:28,329 --> 00:17:28,990
Right.

385
00:17:28,990 --> 00:17:33,490
And then they felt if I go out,
and leave, and be a step, if we

386
00:17:33,490 --> 00:17:36,940
have an existence in a foreign
country, they will follow us.

387
00:17:36,940 --> 00:17:39,390
Because they felt that
to go out, to recreate,

388
00:17:39,390 --> 00:17:41,080
and restart something.

389
00:17:41,080 --> 00:17:45,010
Right, now, before
Kristallnacht,

390
00:17:45,010 --> 00:17:52,550
were there laws in your town,
restrictive laws, gradually?

391
00:17:52,550 --> 00:17:54,110
They were all the
same for Germany.

392
00:17:54,110 --> 00:17:57,040
There was not any
difference in our town.

393
00:17:57,040 --> 00:17:57,670
In that town--

394
00:17:57,670 --> 00:18:00,370
OK, so what was the first
restriction that you remember?

395
00:18:00,370 --> 00:18:02,770
I really can't
remember anything.

396
00:18:02,770 --> 00:18:04,840
But at this time,
there was not many.

397
00:18:04,840 --> 00:18:06,530
The first restriction
was the you could

398
00:18:06,530 --> 00:18:10,640
have no kosher meat anymore.

399
00:18:10,640 --> 00:18:12,860
Otherwise, I really
don't remember.

400
00:18:12,860 --> 00:18:15,610
What about your
father's job, business?

401
00:18:15,610 --> 00:18:20,665
Well, his business went down
more and more every year,

402
00:18:20,665 --> 00:18:24,190
every day, every week,
when it finally stopped.

403

00:18:24,190 --> 00:18:26,080

Because people were
not coming to him?

404

00:18:26,080 --> 00:18:29,140

Now, people wouldn't
buy from Jews anymore.

405

00:18:29,140 --> 00:18:32,080

And so how did your
father support the family?

406

00:18:32,080 --> 00:18:33,390

Well, we had some money left.

407

00:18:33,390 --> 00:18:36,850

I don't know really the
financial situation.

408

00:18:36,850 --> 00:18:41,860

Because I assume over the years,
they had put some money aside.

409

00:18:41,860 --> 00:18:44,140

And it's what they lived off of.

410

00:18:44,140 --> 00:18:47,090

And were there any
curfews on the street?

411

00:18:47,090 --> 00:18:51,330

Were you limited to
going out at night?

412

00:18:51,330 --> 00:18:52,570

No, not that I remember.

413

00:18:52,570 --> 00:18:53,560

OK.

414

00:18:53,560 --> 00:18:56,020

So you had freedom of movement?

415
00:18:56,020 --> 00:18:56,520
Yeah.

416
00:18:56,520 --> 00:18:57,560
Yeah.

417
00:18:57,560 --> 00:19:03,070
There were people around,
which officially might not

418
00:19:03,070 --> 00:19:06,880
want to be in contact with
you, but basically they

419
00:19:06,880 --> 00:19:07,630
were friendly.

420
00:19:07,630 --> 00:19:15,810
I mean, the family lived in
this area for generations.

421
00:19:15,810 --> 00:19:17,110
Your family lived for gen--

422
00:19:17,110 --> 00:19:17,610
Yeah.

423
00:19:17,610 --> 00:19:18,410
--yes, right.

424
00:19:18,410 --> 00:19:21,260

425
00:19:21,260 --> 00:19:22,490
Did you have a radio?

426
00:19:22,490 --> 00:19:24,972
Were you permitted
to keep a radio?

427

00:19:24,972 --> 00:19:26,570
We didn't have a radio.

428
00:19:26,570 --> 00:19:27,430
Didn't have a radio.

429
00:19:27,430 --> 00:19:30,830

430
00:19:30,830 --> 00:19:32,877
In other words, your
family never had a radio,

431
00:19:32,877 --> 00:19:33,380
is that what you're--

432
00:19:33,380 --> 00:19:34,630
I don't think we ever had one.

433
00:19:34,630 --> 00:19:36,308
You never had a radio, OK.

434
00:19:36,308 --> 00:19:41,050

435
00:19:41,050 --> 00:19:43,568
As a matter of fact,
yes-- as a matter of fact,

436
00:19:43,568 --> 00:19:45,860
I'm sure we didn't have a
radio, because when something

437
00:19:45,860 --> 00:19:50,570
was to be listened to, I went
to my relatives on the corner.

438
00:19:50,570 --> 00:19:52,910
They had a radio.

439
00:19:52,910 --> 00:19:54,910
Yeah.

440
00:19:54,910 --> 00:19:55,410
What would--

441
00:19:55,410 --> 00:19:57,890
[INAUDIBLE]

442
00:19:57,890 --> 00:20:03,260
What was it like for a young
boy to see a Nazi in uniform?

443
00:20:03,260 --> 00:20:06,410
What was your feeling
when you looked at--

444
00:20:06,410 --> 00:20:08,960
It was not comfortable
to look at them.

445
00:20:08,960 --> 00:20:15,100
But as I said, we had to accept
the facts of the way it is.

446
00:20:15,100 --> 00:20:18,590
Nothing I could do about it.

447
00:20:18,590 --> 00:20:21,740
Did you talk about the situation
with other young people?

448
00:20:21,740 --> 00:20:22,457
No.

449
00:20:22,457 --> 00:20:23,540
It wasn't something that--

450
00:20:23,540 --> 00:20:23,830
No.

451
00:20:23,830 --> 00:20:24,960
--the teenagers talked--

452

00:20:24,960 --> 00:20:29,660

We had sometimes a meeting, a--

453

00:20:29,660 --> 00:20:32,330

there was a special--

454

00:20:32,330 --> 00:20:39,830

one of the member-- one of
the congregants was a Zionist.

455

00:20:39,830 --> 00:20:42,710

And he organized some, some
get together of some people,

456

00:20:42,710 --> 00:20:46,210

and we sang some Hebrew songs,
some Jewish songs, Hatikvah

457

00:20:46,210 --> 00:20:47,380

and things like that.

458

00:20:47,380 --> 00:20:49,287

This was a Zionist youth group?

459

00:20:49,287 --> 00:20:50,120

That's not a youth--

460

00:20:50,120 --> 00:20:50,953

Or general Zionists?

461

00:20:50,953 --> 00:20:54,410

General-- generally a group
of people getting together.

462

00:20:54,410 --> 00:20:56,370

I couldn't call
it a youth group.

463

00:20:56,370 --> 00:21:00,650

The town was really very
inactive in Jewish things,

464

00:21:00,650 --> 00:21:02,390
as much as I remember.

465

00:21:02,390 --> 00:21:06,300
Except I remember one man who
was from way back a Zionist,

466

00:21:06,300 --> 00:21:08,454
and he tried to
organize something.

467

00:21:08,454 --> 00:21:12,440

468

00:21:12,440 --> 00:21:16,940
OK, you said then the morning
after the destruction,

469

00:21:16,940 --> 00:21:18,620
the men were taken away.

470

00:21:18,620 --> 00:21:20,600
And where were you taken to?

471

00:21:20,600 --> 00:21:21,230
To Buchenwald.

472

00:21:21,230 --> 00:21:24,080
To Buchenwald.

473

00:21:24,080 --> 00:21:25,460
And how long did that take?

474

00:21:25,460 --> 00:21:28,020

475

00:21:28,020 --> 00:21:30,050
Maybe two-three hours.

476

00:21:30,050 --> 00:21:32,400
Did you know where

you were going?

477

00:21:32,400 --> 00:21:32,900

Not exactly.

478

00:21:32,900 --> 00:21:33,910

Did they tell you?

479

00:21:33,910 --> 00:21:37,670

Yeah, maybe they told us, but
I can't remember who or what.

480

00:21:37,670 --> 00:21:39,610

Were you with your
father in the same truck.

481

00:21:39,610 --> 00:21:40,610

It was one truck, yeah.

482

00:21:40,610 --> 00:21:42,110

It was my truck for everybody?

483

00:21:42,110 --> 00:21:43,780

Right.

484

00:21:43,780 --> 00:21:47,000

And, again, you hadn't taken
anything special with you.

485

00:21:47,000 --> 00:21:47,500

Nothing.

486

00:21:47,500 --> 00:21:49,190

You just had the
clothes that you had on?

487

00:21:49,190 --> 00:21:49,690

Exactly.

488

00:21:49,690 --> 00:21:52,530

489

00:21:52,530 --> 00:21:54,040
And you arrive at Buchenwald.

490

00:21:54,040 --> 00:21:56,980
What was that like, the arrival?

491

00:21:56,980 --> 00:22:00,680
The arrival was
unloaded from the trucks

492

00:22:00,680 --> 00:22:04,118
and put on a big place.

493

00:22:04,118 --> 00:22:06,160
And you had to stand there
for a couple of hours.

494

00:22:06,160 --> 00:22:10,340
And they handed out a
blanket to each person.

495

00:22:10,340 --> 00:22:12,220
I think it was a
blanket to each person,

496

00:22:12,220 --> 00:22:16,065
because after that people
told me I always walked around

497

00:22:16,065 --> 00:22:16,750
with my blanket.

498

00:22:16,750 --> 00:22:17,760
I never let it go.

499

00:22:17,760 --> 00:22:20,040
It was always on my--

500

00:22:20,040 --> 00:22:25,130
And we were put in big barracks.

501

00:22:25,130 --> 00:22:27,128
And the barrack was not--

502
00:22:27,128 --> 00:22:28,420
there were no beds, no nothing.

503
00:22:28,420 --> 00:22:31,390
It was like a shelving.

504
00:22:31,390 --> 00:22:35,530
Only three-feet high shelving.

505
00:22:35,530 --> 00:22:37,090
Three-feet high shelving.

506
00:22:37,090 --> 00:22:38,740
We have shelves we
need to climb up.

507
00:22:38,740 --> 00:22:40,210
And in every
shelving, there were

508
00:22:40,210 --> 00:22:42,310
as many people put
in it as they could

509
00:22:42,310 --> 00:22:46,030
to lay there comfortable--
uncomfortably at night.

510
00:22:46,030 --> 00:22:49,120
Except there was no straw,
no nothing to lie on.

511
00:22:49,120 --> 00:22:51,130
It was just plain wood.

512
00:22:51,130 --> 00:22:52,190
And your blanket.

513
00:22:52,190 --> 00:22:53,180

And the blanket.

514

00:22:53,180 --> 00:22:54,520

Were you still with your father?

515

00:22:54,520 --> 00:22:55,200

Yes.

516

00:22:55,200 --> 00:22:56,890

Allowed to be with your father.

517

00:22:56,890 --> 00:22:58,910

What did he say to you?

518

00:22:58,910 --> 00:23:00,880

I don't remember.

519

00:23:00,880 --> 00:23:02,410

I don't remember

he talked about.

520

00:23:02,410 --> 00:23:07,030

He had a lot other friends

and people with him.

521

00:23:07,030 --> 00:23:08,530

What was his personality like?

522

00:23:08,530 --> 00:23:09,750

Was he a very strict father?

523

00:23:09,750 --> 00:23:20,510

524

00:23:20,510 --> 00:23:22,500

I really had no

problem with my father,

525

00:23:22,500 --> 00:23:25,680

not as a strict person

or non-strict person.

526

00:23:25,680 --> 00:23:30,120

I think my mother
was more the educator

527

00:23:30,120 --> 00:23:33,160

or raising of the children
than my father was involved.

528

00:23:33,160 --> 00:23:36,630

529

00:23:36,630 --> 00:23:45,380

I remember that in Buchenwald,
that on a given day everybody

530

00:23:45,380 --> 00:23:48,440

was marshaled out of
barracks in the morning, put

531

00:23:48,440 --> 00:23:51,210

on a big parade place.

532

00:23:51,210 --> 00:23:52,460

And they let us--

533

00:23:52,460 --> 00:23:55,230

put us-- sit down on the ground.

534

00:23:55,230 --> 00:23:58,870

It was cold, in November.

535

00:23:58,870 --> 00:24:01,100

And let us still there all day.

536

00:24:01,100 --> 00:24:01,910

Couldn't get up.

537

00:24:01,910 --> 00:24:05,700

And they got up,
they beat the people.

538

00:24:05,700 --> 00:24:08,690
And no food, nothing, all day.

539
00:24:08,690 --> 00:24:10,640
Finally, in the
evening, they gave

540
00:24:10,640 --> 00:24:16,170
some kind of a soup with a
small piece of bread and put--

541
00:24:16,170 --> 00:24:18,910
let you go back to your barracks
where you were supposed to be.

542
00:24:18,910 --> 00:24:20,720
Build up five
emergency barracks,

543
00:24:20,720 --> 00:24:23,530
because all those many
people which came,

544
00:24:23,530 --> 00:24:26,570
who were all arrested in Germany
during Kristallnacht, not just

545
00:24:26,570 --> 00:24:29,860
from our town, from all over.

546
00:24:29,860 --> 00:24:31,490
| then they locked
up the barracks.

547
00:24:31,490 --> 00:24:34,880
And evidently the soup they
gave us gave everybody diarrhea.

548
00:24:34,880 --> 00:24:37,015
And people got crazy at night.

549
00:24:37,015 --> 00:24:38,140
They wouldn't let them out.

550
00:24:38,140 --> 00:24:44,580

551
00:24:44,580 --> 00:24:46,660
Of course, there were
no toilet facilities.

552
00:24:46,660 --> 00:24:49,320
They had a big latrine.

553
00:24:49,320 --> 00:24:50,540
It's an open ditch.

554
00:24:50,540 --> 00:24:55,540
There's a wooden bowl
on it and that's it.

555
00:24:55,540 --> 00:25:00,130
Water, washing--
impossible, nothing.

556
00:25:00,130 --> 00:25:03,340
One day, a guy
came by, an SS guy,

557
00:25:03,340 --> 00:25:05,610
which knew me from my hometown.

558
00:25:05,610 --> 00:25:07,806
He was from the same town.

559
00:25:07,806 --> 00:25:09,880
He said, "Oh, you need water.

560
00:25:09,880 --> 00:25:10,780
There's no water.

561
00:25:10,780 --> 00:25:13,810
But I sell you a bottle of
seltzer for a mark," which

562

00:25:13,810 --> 00:25:14,980
was two marks.

563

00:25:14,980 --> 00:25:17,422
I think I had some
money in my pocket.

564

00:25:17,422 --> 00:25:19,630
And with this, I used a
little to drink, a little bit

565

00:25:19,630 --> 00:25:23,212
to wash my face with.

566

00:25:23,212 --> 00:25:24,790
This was the only time.

567

00:25:24,790 --> 00:25:28,300

568

00:25:28,300 --> 00:25:31,540
What else-- what was a
typical day like there?

569

00:25:31,540 --> 00:25:33,520
What did you do?

570

00:25:33,520 --> 00:25:34,790
There was really no work.

571

00:25:34,790 --> 00:25:35,290
No work.

572

00:25:35,290 --> 00:25:38,350
They just let you stand
or sit around all day.

573

00:25:38,350 --> 00:25:39,300
Day after day?

574

00:25:39,300 --> 00:25:41,510

Day after day.

575

00:25:41,510 --> 00:25:47,380

After-- my father was released
after about 14 or 15 days

576

00:25:47,380 --> 00:25:49,750

because he was over
60 years of age.

577

00:25:49,750 --> 00:25:52,020

They let the old people go.

578

00:25:52,020 --> 00:25:52,860

And he went back--

579

00:25:52,860 --> 00:25:53,360

Back home.

580

00:25:53,360 --> 00:25:55,540

--to the--

581

00:25:55,540 --> 00:25:59,410

And I was let go about a month--

582

00:25:59,410 --> 00:26:05,166

after four weeks-- from night
of.., to December 8 or 10th--

583

00:26:05,166 --> 00:26:07,520

I don't remember the date.

584

00:26:07,520 --> 00:26:09,970

I know you'll pick it up here.

585

00:26:09,970 --> 00:26:13,970

Anyhow, because my
brother was in Amsterdam,

586

00:26:13,970 --> 00:26:15,530

were able to send me papers.

587

00:26:15,530 --> 00:26:20,350

I could emigrate to Holland
with the Kindertransport.

588

00:26:20,350 --> 00:26:24,080

Have you heard the
expression before?

589

00:26:24,080 --> 00:26:26,200

A similar thing happened--

590

00:26:26,200 --> 00:26:29,210

she went on the Kindertransport,
Ruth Westheimer.

591

00:26:29,210 --> 00:26:31,800

I don't know if you
read her biography.

592

00:26:31,800 --> 00:26:32,800

I just read it recently.

593

00:26:32,800 --> 00:26:35,350

And I saw she was
sent out a day later.

594

00:26:35,350 --> 00:26:38,190

I left January 4th,
also from Frankfurt.

595

00:26:38,190 --> 00:26:39,760

And she left January 5th.

596

00:26:39,760 --> 00:26:43,480

But she went to
Switzerland, luckily.

597

00:26:43,480 --> 00:26:46,630

So you left the camp
and came back home?

598

00:26:46,630 --> 00:26:47,470

Came back home.

599

00:26:47,470 --> 00:26:49,772

How did you get back home?

600

00:26:49,772 --> 00:26:51,730

Oh, I don't know, they
must have driven us home

601

00:26:51,730 --> 00:26:54,130

or give us some kind
of transportation.

602

00:26:54,130 --> 00:26:55,880

What did you feel like
when they told you,

603

00:26:55,880 --> 00:26:58,000

you were leaving the camp?

604

00:26:58,000 --> 00:27:01,040

I guess people left
before me, so everybody

605

00:27:01,040 --> 00:27:03,236

are expecting to leave.

606

00:27:03,236 --> 00:27:06,290

It's only a question
when we could get out.

607

00:27:06,290 --> 00:27:09,220

It was, OK, my father went
out at two weeks before me.

608

00:27:09,220 --> 00:27:11,850

Others went out--

609

00:27:11,850 --> 00:27:13,520

I've seen people leaving.

610

00:27:13,520 --> 00:27:17,530

But if they got papers to
emigrate, they let them go.

611
00:27:17,530 --> 00:27:20,110
Was it very upsetting
when your father

612
00:27:20,110 --> 00:27:21,790
left that you were left there?

613
00:27:21,790 --> 00:27:22,642
Not too much.

614
00:27:22,642 --> 00:27:23,350
I don't think so.

615
00:27:23,350 --> 00:27:24,170
You managed OK.

616
00:27:24,170 --> 00:27:25,140
Yeah.

617
00:27:25,140 --> 00:27:26,440
Yeah.

618
00:27:26,440 --> 00:27:30,490
Were you a very
self-reliant young teenager?

619
00:27:30,490 --> 00:27:32,669
How would you describe
yourself as a--

620
00:27:32,669 --> 00:27:33,502
How can I describe--

621
00:27:33,502 --> 00:27:35,200
--15-year-old?

622
00:27:35,200 --> 00:27:36,700
I really can't.

623

00:27:36,700 --> 00:27:38,980

Evidently, I managed OK.

624

00:27:38,980 --> 00:27:40,632

Yes, you did.

625

00:27:40,632 --> 00:27:42,000

Yeah.

626

00:27:42,000 --> 00:27:44,250

So you kept yourself together
after your father left--

627

00:27:44,250 --> 00:27:44,750

Yeah.

628

00:27:44,750 --> 00:27:45,660

--and you were there.

629

00:27:45,660 --> 00:27:47,952

Well, that's the main thing,
to keep yourself together.

630

00:27:47,952 --> 00:27:50,560

631

00:27:50,560 --> 00:27:52,920

You couldn't
deteriorate morally.

632

00:27:52,920 --> 00:27:57,000

633

00:27:57,000 --> 00:28:00,990

What do you attribute that
to at such a young age?

634

00:28:00,990 --> 00:28:01,612

I don't know.

635

00:28:01,612 --> 00:28:02,445

It was in the genes.

636
00:28:02,445 --> 00:28:05,230

637
00:28:05,230 --> 00:28:08,860
Were you with other
younger relatives of yours?

638
00:28:08,860 --> 00:28:10,900
I was not with younger--

639
00:28:10,900 --> 00:28:12,760
I knew some people there.

640
00:28:12,760 --> 00:28:17,110
I knew distant relatives there,
which I later met in America,

641
00:28:17,110 --> 00:28:19,620
here in New York after the war.

642
00:28:19,620 --> 00:28:22,220
And he always told me the
story about the blanket--

643
00:28:22,220 --> 00:28:23,270
Oh, yes, yeah.

644
00:28:23,270 --> 00:28:26,050
--which he remembered so well.

645
00:28:26,050 --> 00:28:29,035
So now you come home,
back to your home.

646
00:28:29,035 --> 00:28:29,770
Home, yes.

647
00:28:29,770 --> 00:28:31,372
What was it like to
come home to see--

648
00:28:31,372 --> 00:28:32,080
It was very nice.

649
00:28:32,080 --> 00:28:33,344
--your mother and father?

650
00:28:33,344 --> 00:28:35,280
Yeah.

651
00:28:35,280 --> 00:28:38,963
And I started prepare
for my trip to Holland.

652
00:28:38,963 --> 00:28:40,630
Because the papers
had arrived already--

653
00:28:40,630 --> 00:28:41,130
Yeah.

654
00:28:41,130 --> 00:28:42,070
--from your brother.

655
00:28:42,070 --> 00:28:45,150

656
00:28:45,150 --> 00:28:50,660
And so I remember my--
we packed a camp trunk

657
00:28:50,660 --> 00:28:54,160
with my clothes and
my things in it.

658
00:28:54,160 --> 00:28:56,860
But whatever he put in there,
which was shipped to Holland,

659
00:28:56,860 --> 00:28:59,410
was under the eyes of the Nazis.

660

00:28:59,410 --> 00:29:02,650

They had to inspect
what we were taking out.

661

00:29:02,650 --> 00:29:06,040

But one of the guys, evidently,
at one moment or another

662

00:29:06,040 --> 00:29:09,210

didn't look when my father
tucked in his gold watch

663

00:29:09,210 --> 00:29:11,450

and gold chain.

664

00:29:11,450 --> 00:29:13,825

So they were there while
you were packing your trunk?

665

00:29:13,825 --> 00:29:14,325

Yeah.

666

00:29:14,325 --> 00:29:15,150

They were watching?

667

00:29:15,150 --> 00:29:15,650

Right.

668

00:29:15,650 --> 00:29:18,760

669

00:29:18,760 --> 00:29:21,270

On the papers that
your brother got

670

00:29:21,270 --> 00:29:22,750

for you, was your name the same?

671

00:29:22,750 --> 00:29:23,250

He was--

672

00:29:23,250 --> 00:29:23,750
Yeah.

673
00:29:23,750 --> 00:29:24,820
--using the same name--

674
00:29:24,820 --> 00:29:25,320
Yeah, sure.

675
00:29:25,320 --> 00:29:28,410
--so they were
true papers, yeah.

676
00:29:28,410 --> 00:29:30,900
What did you bring
with you besides what

677
00:29:30,900 --> 00:29:32,010
your father put in?

678
00:29:32,010 --> 00:29:34,000
Did you bring anything
personal to yourself?

679
00:29:34,000 --> 00:29:34,140
Nothing--

680
00:29:34,140 --> 00:29:34,848
Anything special?

681
00:29:34,848 --> 00:29:35,610
--just clothes.

682
00:29:35,610 --> 00:29:36,580
Just clothes.

683
00:29:36,580 --> 00:29:38,704
That's all, nothing special.

684
00:29:38,704 --> 00:29:39,690
Yeah.

685

00:29:39,690 --> 00:29:41,560

And there, I--

686

00:29:41,560 --> 00:29:44,270

And how long were you home for?

687

00:29:44,270 --> 00:29:46,280

I was home about three weeks.

688

00:29:46,280 --> 00:29:51,220

689

00:29:51,220 --> 00:29:52,660

Did you want to leave?

690

00:29:52,660 --> 00:29:55,030

Was it hard for you to
leave your family again?

691

00:29:55,030 --> 00:29:56,860

No, it wasn't hard.

692

00:29:56,860 --> 00:29:58,800

There was no future in
Germany to stay around.

693

00:29:58,800 --> 00:30:08,670

694

00:30:08,670 --> 00:30:11,900

And my brother was in Holland,
so I had somebody to go to.

695

00:30:11,900 --> 00:30:13,360

Right, right.

696

00:30:13,360 --> 00:30:15,380

And he was already
established, was married.

697

00:30:15,380 --> 00:30:19,900

698
00:30:19,900 --> 00:30:22,060
So you left after three weeks.

699
00:30:22,060 --> 00:30:24,298
Yeah, and went to Holland.

700
00:30:24,298 --> 00:30:25,590
And how did you get to Holland?

701
00:30:25,590 --> 00:30:28,120
In this Kindertransport,
by train.

702
00:30:28,120 --> 00:30:29,540
By yourself or with others?

703
00:30:29,540 --> 00:30:31,330
No, no, in a whole
group of people,

704
00:30:31,330 --> 00:30:32,590
a whole group of young people.

705
00:30:32,590 --> 00:30:35,550
No, no, just getting to
Holland, getting to Holland.

706
00:30:35,550 --> 00:30:38,200
We assembled in Frankfurt.

707
00:30:38,200 --> 00:30:38,700
Oh.

708
00:30:38,700 --> 00:30:39,610
I had to go to Frankfurt.

709
00:30:39,610 --> 00:30:41,027
You went to Frankfurt
by yourself?

710

00:30:41,027 --> 00:30:43,220

With my parents, they
took me to Frankfurt.

711

00:30:43,220 --> 00:30:44,170

They did.

712

00:30:44,170 --> 00:30:47,580

And then, the next morning,
the train was waiting there.

713

00:30:47,580 --> 00:30:51,010

And there were a lot
of young Jewish kids,

714

00:30:51,010 --> 00:30:54,290

which came into the same
transport to Holland.

715

00:30:54,290 --> 00:31:05,290

716

00:31:05,290 --> 00:31:10,030

This is tape one,
side B. And we were

717

00:31:10,030 --> 00:31:11,770

talking about how
you left your home,

718

00:31:11,770 --> 00:31:14,560

went to Frankfurt
with your parents

719

00:31:14,560 --> 00:31:18,040

to get onto the Kindertransport.

720

00:31:18,040 --> 00:31:21,327

So now you're in Frankfurt.

721

00:31:21,327 --> 00:31:22,660

And how long did you stay there?

722
00:31:22,660 --> 00:31:25,240
I stayed about a couple of days.

723
00:31:25,240 --> 00:31:30,085
Because the transport
left on January 4th, 19--

724
00:31:30,085 --> 00:31:30,940
'39.

725
00:31:30,940 --> 00:31:33,280
'39, thank you.

726
00:31:33,280 --> 00:31:38,470
And this train took us
to Eindhoven in Holland,

727
00:31:38,470 --> 00:31:46,300
spelled E-I-N-D-H-O-V-E-N.

728
00:31:46,300 --> 00:31:50,170
What was it like to say
goodbye to your parents?

729
00:31:50,170 --> 00:31:52,480
It wasn't easy, I'm sure.

730
00:31:52,480 --> 00:31:54,340
Yeah, yeah.

731
00:31:54,340 --> 00:31:57,370
Did your mother give
you anything special?

732
00:31:57,370 --> 00:31:59,800
You said your father had.

733
00:31:59,800 --> 00:32:00,562
No.

734

00:32:00,562 --> 00:32:02,370
No.

735
00:32:02,370 --> 00:32:05,070
And now you're on
the Kindertransport.

736
00:32:05,070 --> 00:32:08,550
How many-- do you know how
many people, how many children

737
00:32:08,550 --> 00:32:09,840
were on?

738
00:32:09,840 --> 00:32:12,990
I would assume at least
two maybe 50, 60, 80.

739
00:32:12,990 --> 00:32:15,310
I really don't know the number.

740
00:32:15,310 --> 00:32:19,080
But in Holland, we
went to a Kinderheim.

741
00:32:19,080 --> 00:32:21,900

742
00:32:21,900 --> 00:32:23,250
In what city?

743
00:32:23,250 --> 00:32:24,400
In Eindhoven.

744
00:32:24,400 --> 00:32:27,570
Oh, right, right.

745
00:32:27,570 --> 00:32:30,690
And I stayed there a while.

746
00:32:30,690 --> 00:32:34,840
Was the train ride one in which

children talked to each other?

747

00:32:34,840 --> 00:32:35,660

Yes, of course.

748

00:32:35,660 --> 00:32:37,740

We had no problem there.

749

00:32:37,740 --> 00:32:40,170

As much as-- there was
nothing unusual about it.

750

00:32:40,170 --> 00:32:44,340

It just-- the Germans were
glad to get rid of the Jews.

751

00:32:44,340 --> 00:32:47,233

This was the whole
idea at the time.

752

00:32:47,233 --> 00:32:49,650

Who were the leaders of this
Kindertransport, do you know?

753

00:32:49,650 --> 00:32:50,358

I don't remember.

754

00:32:50,358 --> 00:32:54,690

Counselors, or-- you don't know.

755

00:32:54,690 --> 00:32:56,460

And the trip took how long?

756

00:32:56,460 --> 00:32:59,268

757

00:32:59,268 --> 00:33:00,670

Maybe six, eight hours.

758

00:33:00,670 --> 00:33:02,140

I don't remember the time.

759

00:33:02,140 --> 00:33:03,190

And then you're in--

760

00:33:03,190 --> 00:33:04,200

you're in Holland.

761

00:33:04,200 --> 00:33:06,310

And you stayed at this
children's home you said?

762

00:33:06,310 --> 00:33:10,530

763

00:33:10,530 --> 00:33:12,200

For how long were you there?

764

00:33:12,200 --> 00:33:17,225

I was there about
six, eight months.

765

00:33:17,225 --> 00:33:20,500

766

00:33:20,500 --> 00:33:24,065

And there was opportunity to
leave and go to a Hakhshara

767

00:33:24,065 --> 00:33:25,420

in Holland.

768

00:33:25,420 --> 00:33:27,760

OK, let's talk about those
six to eight months first.

769

00:33:27,760 --> 00:33:30,200

What did you do during those--

770

00:33:30,200 --> 00:33:30,835

We had school.

771

00:33:30,835 --> 00:33:33,880

772
00:33:33,880 --> 00:33:34,900
We had regular classes.

773
00:33:34,900 --> 00:33:37,840

774
00:33:37,840 --> 00:33:40,100
And what were your
living conditions like?

775
00:33:40,100 --> 00:33:42,130
Well, it was a heim.

776
00:33:42,130 --> 00:33:43,280
You know what a heim is?

777
00:33:43,280 --> 00:33:46,850
A home for children,
for young adults.

778
00:33:46,850 --> 00:33:50,530
So living conditions were OK.

779
00:33:50,530 --> 00:33:53,010
Nothing to complain about.

780
00:33:53,010 --> 00:33:54,750
We had a lot of fun too.

781
00:33:54,750 --> 00:33:56,170
And the kids played together.

782
00:33:56,170 --> 00:33:59,560
We played-- well, one
guy was very much--

783
00:33:59,560 --> 00:34:00,400
Monopoly.

784

00:34:00,400 --> 00:34:01,420
We played Monopoly.

785
00:34:01,420 --> 00:34:04,485
We played bridge
already at the time.

786
00:34:04,485 --> 00:34:08,489
And all kind of those
things we did-- activities,

787
00:34:08,489 --> 00:34:10,280
sporting things.

788
00:34:10,280 --> 00:34:12,600
And we were very
well taken care of.

789
00:34:12,600 --> 00:34:13,720
Who were the teachers?

790
00:34:13,720 --> 00:34:18,210
The teacher were
also Dutch people,

791
00:34:18,210 --> 00:34:20,389
who mostly spoke German too.

792
00:34:20,389 --> 00:34:21,929
Because Dutch is a very--

793
00:34:21,929 --> 00:34:24,070
I know a lot of languages.

794
00:34:24,070 --> 00:34:28,090
I speak a lot of languages,
but nobody speaks Dutch.

795
00:34:28,090 --> 00:34:30,489
So they are obliged to speak--

796
00:34:30,489 --> 00:34:32,440

and it was really--

797

00:34:32,440 --> 00:34:34,790

we were well taken care of.

798

00:34:34,790 --> 00:34:36,040

And you have enough food?

799

00:34:36,040 --> 00:34:38,060

Oh, yes, no problem.

800

00:34:38,060 --> 00:34:40,389

Were the Dutch people

Jews, Dutch Jews?

801

00:34:40,389 --> 00:34:41,199

Some were Jewish.

802

00:34:41,199 --> 00:34:42,287

Some were non-Jewish.

803

00:34:42,287 --> 00:34:47,340

804

00:34:47,340 --> 00:34:49,082

And you had free time?

805

00:34:49,082 --> 00:34:49,582

Yes.

806

00:34:49,582 --> 00:34:50,124

To do sports?

807

00:34:50,124 --> 00:34:50,980

We had free time.

808

00:34:50,980 --> 00:34:53,219

We would go out in the evening, and take walks,

809

00:34:53,219 --> 00:34:55,100

and meet some people.

810
00:34:55,100 --> 00:34:57,500
So you didn't have to stay
on the grounds of the home.

811
00:34:57,500 --> 00:34:57,765
No.

812
00:34:57,765 --> 00:34:59,432
You could-- you had
freedom in the town.

813
00:34:59,432 --> 00:35:00,840
Yeah, freedom in town.

814
00:35:00,840 --> 00:35:05,180
And what kind of
correspondence or connection

815
00:35:05,180 --> 00:35:08,050
did you have, communication
with your parents?

816
00:35:08,050 --> 00:35:10,080
We could write to each other.

817
00:35:10,080 --> 00:35:11,740
So you received mail from them?

818
00:35:11,740 --> 00:35:13,270
Yeah.

819
00:35:13,270 --> 00:35:15,100
And did you communicate
with your brother?

820
00:35:15,100 --> 00:35:16,640
Yes, of course.

821
00:35:16,640 --> 00:35:17,140
Did you--

822
00:35:17,140 --> 00:35:19,510
As a matter of fact, I
went up to Amsterdam.

823
00:35:19,510 --> 00:35:23,090
I got to there in January,
maybe the 4th or the 5th--

824
00:35:23,090 --> 00:35:25,283
4th, I went.

825
00:35:25,283 --> 00:35:28,460
And end of February, I
went to Amsterdam by train

826
00:35:28,460 --> 00:35:31,017
because my nephew was born.

827
00:35:31,017 --> 00:35:31,850
I went to his birth.

828
00:35:31,850 --> 00:35:35,340

829
00:35:35,340 --> 00:35:41,930
But as the situation got
more and more, how should

830
00:35:41,930 --> 00:35:43,620
I say-- in '39
the war broke out.

831
00:35:43,620 --> 00:35:46,580
All right, so you stayed there
till September, at least--

832
00:35:46,580 --> 00:35:47,410
About.

833
00:35:47,410 --> 00:35:49,860
And I felt that the

Germans would also

834
00:35:49,860 --> 00:35:51,630
come to invade Holland.

835
00:35:51,630 --> 00:35:55,600
And Eindhoven is very
close to the German border.

836
00:35:55,600 --> 00:35:57,890
And I felt I don't
want to stay there,

837
00:35:57,890 --> 00:36:00,540
but I want to get further
away from the German border

838
00:36:00,540 --> 00:36:02,120
than I am now.

839
00:36:02,120 --> 00:36:05,160
And the opportunity came
that people could sign up

840
00:36:05,160 --> 00:36:08,940
for hachschara, or different
kind of schools they went to.

841
00:36:08,940 --> 00:36:11,590
So I went to Wieringermeer.

842
00:36:11,590 --> 00:36:14,580
That's in the north of Holland.

843
00:36:14,580 --> 00:36:16,756
If you ask me how to spell
it, I don't remember.

844
00:36:16,756 --> 00:36:17,256
OK.

845
00:36:17,256 --> 00:36:22,246

A W-- I-E--

846
00:36:22,246 --> 00:36:34,450
R-- I-N-G-- and Meer
is M-double-E-R.

847
00:36:34,450 --> 00:36:38,907
So you had stayed, you said
from January to September?

848
00:36:38,907 --> 00:36:39,490
Approximately.

849
00:36:39,490 --> 00:36:40,323
Approximately, yeah.

850
00:36:40,323 --> 00:36:44,230
I can't give you
exact dates anymore.

851
00:36:44,230 --> 00:36:49,220
And there I started to train
for Israel in the hachschara.

852
00:36:49,220 --> 00:36:52,450
We did agricultural work.

853
00:36:52,450 --> 00:36:53,500
Such as?

854
00:36:53,500 --> 00:37:00,590
Such as plowing, and digging
ditches, and there was--

855
00:37:00,590 --> 00:37:06,240
the Dutch area was
low, below sea level.

856
00:37:06,240 --> 00:37:11,030
So we had to make irrigation
channels, canals, like, things

857

00:37:11,030 --> 00:37:11,960
like that.

858
00:37:11,960 --> 00:37:13,860
How was your health
at that point?

859
00:37:13,860 --> 00:37:14,840
Oh, I had no problem.

860
00:37:14,840 --> 00:37:16,220
You were strong, still strong?

861
00:37:16,220 --> 00:37:17,460
I guess I was strong enough.

862
00:37:17,460 --> 00:37:21,120

863
00:37:21,120 --> 00:37:22,970
And just to backup,
when you were

864
00:37:22,970 --> 00:37:24,560
in the camp for
those four weeks,

865
00:37:24,560 --> 00:37:26,410
did your health hold up in the--

866
00:37:26,410 --> 00:37:26,910
Yeah.

867
00:37:26,910 --> 00:37:29,720
Yeah, you were OK.

868
00:37:29,720 --> 00:37:32,310
Did you learn Hebrew?

869
00:37:32,310 --> 00:37:33,150
Very little, no.

870

00:37:33,150 --> 00:37:33,440

I would say no.

871

00:37:33,440 --> 00:37:33,982

They didn't--

872

00:37:33,982 --> 00:37:35,352

They didn't teach us.

873

00:37:35,352 --> 00:37:36,560

They didn't teach you Hebrew.

874

00:37:36,560 --> 00:37:38,240

It was more agricultural skills?

875

00:37:38,240 --> 00:37:40,280

Yeah.

876

00:37:40,280 --> 00:37:44,280

And how long were you there then for that arrangement?

877

00:37:44,280 --> 00:37:47,320

I was there until the Germans invaded Holland.

878

00:37:47,320 --> 00:37:51,225

And one day, they decided to get rid of this Jewish camp.

879

00:37:51,225 --> 00:37:53,130

And they evacuated everybody.

880

00:37:53,130 --> 00:37:57,830

And they sent me to my brother in Amsterdam.

881

00:37:57,830 --> 00:38:02,710

OK, who closed down the camp?

882

00:38:02,710 --> 00:38:03,420

The Gestapo.

883

00:38:03,420 --> 00:38:04,410

The Gestapo.

884

00:38:04,410 --> 00:38:08,120

OK, so you were at
the camp at the--

885

00:38:08,120 --> 00:38:10,010

there at the time.

886

00:38:10,010 --> 00:38:11,890

And how did they do that?

887

00:38:11,890 --> 00:38:13,785

How did you know
that was happening?

888

00:38:13,785 --> 00:38:14,410

We didn't know.

889

00:38:14,410 --> 00:38:15,780

It just happened suddenly.

890

00:38:15,780 --> 00:38:17,330

And that's it.

891

00:38:17,330 --> 00:38:20,220

They loaded us in trucks
again, and they brought us

892

00:38:20,220 --> 00:38:21,690

to Amsterdam.

893

00:38:21,690 --> 00:38:23,370

What did you take with you?

894

00:38:23,370 --> 00:38:24,012

My clothes.

895

00:38:24,012 --> 00:38:25,720
Could you take your
trunk and everything?

896
00:38:25,720 --> 00:38:26,678
I guess whatever I had.

897
00:38:26,678 --> 00:38:29,040
They gave you time
to get your stuff.

898
00:38:29,040 --> 00:38:30,700
What were your thoughts then?

899
00:38:30,700 --> 00:38:32,100
Here is another--

900
00:38:32,100 --> 00:38:36,420
You ask me questions which
I really don't remember.

901
00:38:36,420 --> 00:38:38,536
We [INAUDIBLE] Amsterdam.

902
00:38:38,536 --> 00:38:40,770
A nice city, a big city.

903
00:38:40,770 --> 00:38:43,540
I was comfortable at home
in my brother's house.

904
00:38:43,540 --> 00:38:45,040
You went directly
to your brother's?

905
00:38:45,040 --> 00:38:46,863
Yeah.

906
00:38:46,863 --> 00:38:48,030
Did he know you were coming?

907
00:38:48,030 --> 00:38:49,650

Yeah, I guess so.

908
00:38:49,650 --> 00:38:50,610
I'm not sure.

909
00:38:50,610 --> 00:38:52,876
They maybe were
notified before or not.

910
00:38:52,876 --> 00:38:55,160
I don't remember.

911
00:38:55,160 --> 00:38:58,210
Where did a lot of the
other young people go to?

912
00:38:58,210 --> 00:39:02,540
Also to relatives.

913
00:39:02,540 --> 00:39:03,210
In Amsterdam?

914
00:39:03,210 --> 00:39:05,610
Yeah, Amsterdam, wherever
they had some relatives

915
00:39:05,610 --> 00:39:08,730
or connections in Holland.

916
00:39:08,730 --> 00:39:14,890
Had you been physically
maltreated at the four weeks

917
00:39:14,890 --> 00:39:17,210
in the camp, at this point?

918
00:39:17,210 --> 00:39:21,730
Not-- no, nothing particular
difference than everybody else.

919
00:39:21,730 --> 00:39:24,660
I was badly treated

and everybody else was.

920
00:39:24,660 --> 00:39:25,740
Such as-- when you say--

921
00:39:25,740 --> 00:39:27,750
Like I say, you had to
sit all day in one spot.

922
00:39:27,750 --> 00:39:28,360
Right.

923
00:39:28,360 --> 00:39:30,660
Or they make your
stand up all day.

924
00:39:30,660 --> 00:39:32,210
Or you had on your
knees or whatever.

925
00:39:32,210 --> 00:39:34,910
Yeah, but you weren't-- yes,
but there was no particular

926
00:39:34,910 --> 00:39:35,500
physical--

927
00:39:35,500 --> 00:39:36,000
Nothing.

928
00:39:36,000 --> 00:39:36,623
I was not so--

929
00:39:36,623 --> 00:39:37,540
--mistreatment of you?

930
00:39:37,540 --> 00:39:40,480
No, I always tried
to stay in the crowd,

931
00:39:40,480 --> 00:39:42,510
not to stand out in any way.

932
00:39:42,510 --> 00:39:44,010
How did you know to do that?

933
00:39:44,010 --> 00:39:45,085
You were so young.

934
00:39:45,085 --> 00:39:45,585
Instinct.

935
00:39:45,585 --> 00:39:52,290

936
00:39:52,290 --> 00:39:55,530
All right, now you're with
your brother in Amsterdam.

937
00:39:55,530 --> 00:39:56,300
Yeah.

938
00:39:56,300 --> 00:39:57,780
And what did you--

939
00:39:57,780 --> 00:40:02,720
Well, in Amsterdam I met a
lot of other young people

940
00:40:02,720 --> 00:40:04,080
and friends.

941
00:40:04,080 --> 00:40:08,410

942
00:40:08,410 --> 00:40:11,010
And unfortunately,
shortly after I

943
00:40:11,010 --> 00:40:15,720
was there, maybe four months--

944
00:40:15,720 --> 00:40:18,690

I don't remember the timeframe--

945
00:40:18,690 --> 00:40:20,090
they picked up my brother.

946
00:40:20,090 --> 00:40:23,170

947
00:40:23,170 --> 00:40:29,761
And my brother, with about
100-120 other people,

948
00:40:29,761 --> 00:40:32,710
were picked up and kept.

949
00:40:32,710 --> 00:40:35,570
They were arrested in Amsterdam.

950
00:40:35,570 --> 00:40:40,350
They checked him out for good
health and for health reasons.

951
00:40:40,350 --> 00:40:43,035
And then finally they
sent him to Mauthausen.

952
00:40:43,035 --> 00:40:51,120

953
00:40:51,120 --> 00:40:53,980
Were you home when
he was arrested?

954
00:40:53,980 --> 00:40:56,580
I don't-- no, I don't
think I was home.

955
00:40:56,580 --> 00:40:58,020
Or maybe I was home.

956
00:40:58,020 --> 00:40:59,723
Yeah, I think I was home.

957
00:40:59,723 --> 00:41:00,890
I know they took my brother.

958
00:41:00,890 --> 00:41:11,660
And they send him to
Mauthausen And a couple of--

959
00:41:11,660 --> 00:41:15,680
or two or three months
later, we got this.

960
00:41:15,680 --> 00:41:17,610
That's a death certificate,
which they still

961
00:41:17,610 --> 00:41:18,560
sent at the time.

962
00:41:18,560 --> 00:41:25,860

963
00:41:25,860 --> 00:41:30,370
Meanwhile, I just find out
three weeks ago from the man who

964
00:41:30,370 --> 00:41:32,920
helped-- he helped sell
the house in Germany

965
00:41:32,920 --> 00:41:36,940
for my parents, he
went to my Mauthausen.

966
00:41:36,940 --> 00:41:40,197
And he said they made a
lot of medical experiments

967
00:41:40,197 --> 00:41:40,780
of the people.

968
00:41:40,780 --> 00:41:49,930

969

00:41:49,930 --> 00:41:53,940

So you are with your
sister-in-law and your nephew--

970

00:41:53,940 --> 00:41:54,440

Right.

971

00:41:54,440 --> 00:41:55,840

--in Amsterdam.

972

00:41:55,840 --> 00:42:00,050

And while you were there,
were you working or studying?

973

00:42:00,050 --> 00:42:02,590

We were-- my sister-in-law
started a little business

974

00:42:02,590 --> 00:42:05,530

for herself to have
some kind of an income.

975

00:42:05,530 --> 00:42:08,033

And I helped her, was
like her delivery boy.

976

00:42:08,033 --> 00:42:08,950

What kind of business?

977

00:42:08,950 --> 00:42:15,000

She used to do
repairs on stockings.

978

00:42:15,000 --> 00:42:19,270

You know, the little machines,
they pick out the runs.

979

00:42:19,270 --> 00:42:21,380

It was something
during the wartime,

980

00:42:21,380 --> 00:42:24,800

there were no nylons
available, no silk stockings.

981

00:42:24,800 --> 00:42:25,940

And people did this.

982

00:42:25,940 --> 00:42:28,950

983

00:42:28,950 --> 00:42:31,645

And then she got this
notice about her husband?

984

00:42:31,645 --> 00:42:32,500

Yeah.

985

00:42:32,500 --> 00:42:35,260

Was she able to
continue working?

986

00:42:35,260 --> 00:42:36,040

Yes.

987

00:42:36,040 --> 00:42:38,024

Even with this news?

988

00:42:38,024 --> 00:42:38,870

Yeah.

989

00:42:38,870 --> 00:42:39,950

We had to do something.

990

00:42:39,950 --> 00:42:42,680

I mean--

991

00:42:42,680 --> 00:42:44,600

Yeah.

992

00:42:44,600 --> 00:42:47,140

So you stayed living

with her and the baby.

993

00:42:47,140 --> 00:42:49,350

Yeah.

994

00:42:49,350 --> 00:42:53,720

The baby already was two.

995

00:42:53,720 --> 00:42:56,610

At that time, it was Feb--

996

00:42:56,610 --> 00:42:58,690

1941.

997

00:42:58,690 --> 00:43:00,630

He was already two
and a half years old.

998

00:43:00,630 --> 00:43:03,870

999

00:43:03,870 --> 00:43:07,230

So how long did you live
with her in Amsterdam?

1000

00:43:07,230 --> 00:43:18,690

I lived with her till
the 15th of July 1942.

1001

00:43:18,690 --> 00:43:20,260

You stayed with her?

1002

00:43:20,260 --> 00:43:26,580

Because at that time they
started deporting the Jews

1003

00:43:26,580 --> 00:43:28,790

from Amsterdam, from Holland.

1004

00:43:28,790 --> 00:43:30,980

And I was lucky
they sent me this.

1005
00:43:30,980 --> 00:43:32,920
They'd just come to arrest me.

1006
00:43:32,920 --> 00:43:33,940
They sent me this thing.

1007
00:43:33,940 --> 00:43:38,005
This is called an Aufruf,
like you're called up

1008
00:43:38,005 --> 00:43:41,380
to present yourself at the
railroad station at 1 o'clock

1009
00:43:41,380 --> 00:43:45,190
at night on the 15th of
July with a few things

1010
00:43:45,190 --> 00:43:51,331
to bring along to go to work,
to voluntary work in Germany.

1011
00:43:51,331 --> 00:43:54,610
So you received this document
at your sister-in-law's house?

1012
00:43:54,610 --> 00:43:55,400
Yeah.

1013
00:43:55,400 --> 00:43:57,470
And what did you do
when you received it?

1014
00:43:57,470 --> 00:44:00,040
Well, when I received it, I
said, I have nothing to lose.

1015
00:44:00,040 --> 00:44:01,540
My brother is dead.

1016
00:44:01,540 --> 00:44:05,430

My parents were deported
two months before.

1017
00:44:05,430 --> 00:44:06,870
What can they do to me?

1018
00:44:06,870 --> 00:44:10,770
I disappeared.

1019
00:44:10,770 --> 00:44:11,840
You went underground?

1020
00:44:11,840 --> 00:44:12,250
Underground, yeah.

1021
00:44:12,250 --> 00:44:13,125
You went underground.

1022
00:44:13,125 --> 00:44:16,100
The day before, I went
out with my sister-in-law

1023
00:44:16,100 --> 00:44:19,140
to buy a bicycle.

1024
00:44:19,140 --> 00:44:23,177
And we were haggling about
the price of the bicycle.

1025
00:44:23,177 --> 00:44:25,260
Was a young man who said,
"I have to go to my boss

1026
00:44:25,260 --> 00:44:27,480
and find out if I can
sell you at this."

1027
00:44:27,480 --> 00:44:30,460
And he threw his wallet down.

1028
00:44:30,460 --> 00:44:34,170
In his wallet was

his ID card in it.

1029
00:44:34,170 --> 00:44:35,540
So we took the ID card.

1030
00:44:35,540 --> 00:44:39,240
My sister-in-law
left the ID card.

1031
00:44:39,240 --> 00:44:42,480
And I waited for him to come
back to buy the bicycle.

1032
00:44:42,480 --> 00:44:44,180
And then I left.

1033
00:44:44,180 --> 00:44:45,900
And meanwhile, I
had this new ID.

1034
00:44:45,900 --> 00:44:48,930
I took his ID for my own.

1035
00:44:48,930 --> 00:44:50,160
His name was Wilhelm--

1036
00:44:50,160 --> 00:44:51,280
Wilhelm Poplar.

1037
00:44:51,280 --> 00:44:54,750
And from there on, I
was Wilhelm Poplar.

1038
00:44:54,750 --> 00:44:56,430
Did he purposely do that?

1039
00:44:56,430 --> 00:44:57,388
I don't think so.

1040
00:44:57,388 --> 00:44:57,930
To give you--

1041
00:44:57,930 --> 00:45:00,452
He was negligent, a young guy.

1042
00:45:00,452 --> 00:45:01,660
He didn't do that on purpose.

1043
00:45:01,660 --> 00:45:02,760
Oh, he did not do--

1044
00:45:02,760 --> 00:45:03,260
No, no.

1045
00:45:03,260 --> 00:45:04,720
-- to give you papers.

1046
00:45:04,720 --> 00:45:06,440
No, no, no.

1047
00:45:06,440 --> 00:45:07,130
Now--

1048
00:45:07,130 --> 00:45:08,430
It was just a freak--

1049
00:45:08,430 --> 00:45:12,150
freak occurrence, a
lucky stork for me.

1050
00:45:12,150 --> 00:45:14,820

1051
00:45:14,820 --> 00:45:18,000
You had said that you had--
your parents had been deported.

1052
00:45:18,000 --> 00:45:19,560
When was that?

1053
00:45:19,560 --> 00:45:21,285
In May 1942.

1054

00:45:21,285 --> 00:45:23,170

And how did you hear about that?

1055

00:45:23,170 --> 00:45:24,080

They wrote me.

1056

00:45:24,080 --> 00:45:25,810

That they were going to.

1057

00:45:25,810 --> 00:45:26,890

Yeah.

1058

00:45:26,890 --> 00:45:28,957

And where would they taken to?

1059

00:45:28,957 --> 00:45:29,540

We don't know.

1060

00:45:29,540 --> 00:45:30,510

You don't know.

1061

00:45:30,510 --> 00:45:32,090

I couldn't find out yet.

1062

00:45:32,090 --> 00:45:33,990

I'm still trying to inquire.

1063

00:45:33,990 --> 00:45:34,720

Yeah.

1064

00:45:34,720 --> 00:45:36,160

Yeah.

1065

00:45:36,160 --> 00:45:39,650

My father wrote
me a long letter.

1066

00:45:39,650 --> 00:45:43,820

He said, at the 15th
of May, we are leaving.

1067

00:45:43,820 --> 00:45:47,340

We are-- you won't
hear from us probably

1068

00:45:47,340 --> 00:45:49,488

for six months or longer.

1069

00:45:49,488 --> 00:45:51,030

And he wrote me
about other relatives

1070

00:45:51,030 --> 00:45:52,155

who were send away already.

1071

00:45:52,155 --> 00:45:55,760

He hasn't heard
from them either.

1072

00:45:55,760 --> 00:45:57,240

And just finally--

1073

00:45:57,240 --> 00:45:59,400

I forgot to put bring it today--

1074

00:45:59,400 --> 00:46:04,620

I got a list of the people who
were on the same transport.

1075

00:46:04,620 --> 00:46:05,560

To?

1076

00:46:05,560 --> 00:46:06,623

To where we don't know.

1077

00:46:06,623 --> 00:46:08,290

Oh, you don't know
where the transport--

1078

00:46:08,290 --> 00:46:10,110

They just said it--

1079

00:46:10,110 --> 00:46:11,630
"to resettle else-where."

1080
00:46:11,630 --> 00:46:12,586
Right.

1081
00:46:12,586 --> 00:46:14,020
Right.

1082
00:46:14,020 --> 00:46:17,470
The Jews from this area were
resettled someplace else.

1083
00:46:17,470 --> 00:46:18,630
Where to, they don't say.

1084
00:46:18,630 --> 00:46:21,000
From your hometown, yeah.

1085
00:46:21,000 --> 00:46:22,870
They had stayed in your town--

1086
00:46:22,870 --> 00:46:23,370
Yeah.

1087
00:46:23,370 --> 00:46:25,960
--up to that point.

1088
00:46:25,960 --> 00:46:28,840
OK, now, you are in Amsterdam.

1089
00:46:28,840 --> 00:46:31,970
You have this false
paper and this bicycle.

1090
00:46:31,970 --> 00:46:33,200
Yeah.

1091
00:46:33,200 --> 00:46:37,580
And we had acquired
some friendship

1092
00:46:37,580 --> 00:46:41,750
with some non-Jewish people
out in a really goyishe section

1093
00:46:41,750 --> 00:46:46,570
on Amsterdam, who
were very nice.

1094
00:46:46,570 --> 00:46:49,380
Because my sister-in-law
saw what was coming,

1095
00:46:49,380 --> 00:46:50,730
she gave them her furniture.

1096
00:46:50,730 --> 00:46:52,350
And she had took it out there.

1097
00:46:52,350 --> 00:46:55,563
And they gave me like
a home, a refuge there.

1098
00:46:55,563 --> 00:46:56,480
What were their names?

1099
00:46:56,480 --> 00:47:01,250
Their name-- I don't
remember their name.

1100
00:47:01,250 --> 00:47:05,560
They had also the same kind of
business as my sister-in-law.

1101
00:47:05,560 --> 00:47:07,470
That's why she
somehow knew with.

1102
00:47:07,470 --> 00:47:08,620
Repairing the nylons?

1103
00:47:08,620 --> 00:47:09,920
Right.

1104
00:47:09,920 --> 00:47:10,420
Up to--

1105
00:47:10,420 --> 00:47:12,060
Their daughters were doing that.

1106
00:47:12,060 --> 00:47:17,325
Up to that point, what was
it like living in Amsterdam?

1107
00:47:17,325 --> 00:47:18,450
What were the restrictions?

1108
00:47:18,450 --> 00:47:19,450
There were restrictions.

1109
00:47:19,450 --> 00:47:21,740
There were curfews for
going out at night.

1110
00:47:21,740 --> 00:47:23,240
We had to wear the yellow star.

1111
00:47:23,240 --> 00:47:25,740
So that was the first time you
had to wear the yellow star--

1112
00:47:25,740 --> 00:47:25,980
Yeah.

1113
00:47:25,980 --> 00:47:26,772
--was in Amsterdam?

1114
00:47:26,772 --> 00:47:29,886
How did you feel
wearing a yellow star?

1115
00:47:29,886 --> 00:47:30,930
How did I feel?

1116

00:47:30,930 --> 00:47:32,898
Marked.

1117
00:47:32,898 --> 00:47:34,802
How do you feel?

1118
00:47:34,802 --> 00:47:40,040

1119
00:47:40,040 --> 00:47:41,390
Marked like a branded animal.

1120
00:47:41,390 --> 00:47:50,880

1121
00:47:50,880 --> 00:47:53,470
What other-- you said
you had nighttime--

1122
00:47:53,470 --> 00:47:55,050
was it nighttime curfews?

1123
00:47:55,050 --> 00:47:55,550
Yes.

1124
00:47:55,550 --> 00:47:57,640
Were you restricted
to certain streets?

1125
00:47:57,640 --> 00:48:00,395
No.

1126
00:48:00,395 --> 00:48:02,700
And what about stores?

1127
00:48:02,700 --> 00:48:04,300
Could you shop at
all the stores?

1128
00:48:04,300 --> 00:48:05,450
Yeah, I think so.

1129

00:48:05,450 --> 00:48:06,522

We went shopping.

1130

00:48:06,522 --> 00:48:07,230

We had our money.

1131

00:48:07,230 --> 00:48:13,230

1132

00:48:13,230 --> 00:48:15,580

I remember the next
day when it was

1133

00:48:15,580 --> 00:48:17,665

time to go there, on the 15th.

1134

00:48:17,665 --> 00:48:19,647

In the morning, I
left on the bicycle.

1135

00:48:19,647 --> 00:48:21,230

Of course, I took
off the yellow star.

1136

00:48:21,230 --> 00:48:25,900

And I went to that very
goyishe neighborhood,

1137

00:48:25,900 --> 00:48:28,240

where these people lived.

1138

00:48:28,240 --> 00:48:32,650

And they were nice enough
to take me in and feed me.

1139

00:48:32,650 --> 00:48:37,460

My sister-in-law evidently
provided them her furnishing

1140

00:48:37,460 --> 00:48:40,770

and her household
goods, which they

1141
00:48:40,770 --> 00:48:42,670
were supposed to keep
till after the war

1142
00:48:42,670 --> 00:48:45,060
and if everything happened.

1143
00:48:45,060 --> 00:48:50,570
Anyhow, I was sitting
there in their basement.

1144
00:48:50,570 --> 00:48:58,820
And a friend of mine, who was
also in that neighborhood and I

1145
00:48:58,820 --> 00:48:59,510
decided--

1146
00:48:59,510 --> 00:49:02,780
with our forged papers, I
have freedom of movement.

1147
00:49:02,780 --> 00:49:04,240
I went around.

1148
00:49:04,240 --> 00:49:07,520
Because after all, I
have no more Jewish name.

1149
00:49:07,520 --> 00:49:09,230
I have no Jewish identity card.

1150
00:49:09,230 --> 00:49:11,810
I have a false identity card.

1151
00:49:11,810 --> 00:49:17,440
And we finally got a job
working in a toy factory.

1152
00:49:17,440 --> 00:49:20,420
The toy factory

was owned by Jews.

1153

00:49:20,420 --> 00:49:24,400

But the foreman and the guy
who ran the factory for them

1154

00:49:24,400 --> 00:49:27,020

was a German goy.

1155

00:49:27,020 --> 00:49:32,440

But he left early Germany, right
when Hitler came to power too.

1156

00:49:32,440 --> 00:49:33,980

So he was anti Hitler?

1157

00:49:33,980 --> 00:49:34,880

Yeah.

1158

00:49:34,880 --> 00:49:38,470

And he knew, of course,
it was false papers.

1159

00:49:38,470 --> 00:49:40,810

But he didn't want
to know from us.

1160

00:49:40,810 --> 00:49:42,195

He let us work there.

1161

00:49:42,195 --> 00:49:43,490

He did let you work?

1162

00:49:43,490 --> 00:49:45,540

Yeah.

1163

00:49:45,540 --> 00:49:47,360

And that was a lucky thing.

1164

00:49:47,360 --> 00:49:48,650

What was his name?

1165

00:49:48,650 --> 00:49:50,250

His name was Hirsch, I think.

1166

00:49:50,250 --> 00:49:53,760

1167

00:49:53,760 --> 00:49:55,295

But he was not Jewish.

1168

00:49:55,295 --> 00:49:57,830

1169

00:49:57,830 --> 00:50:05,090

And we tried to live
a very normal life,

1170

00:50:05,090 --> 00:50:08,560

just to disappear
among people, not

1171

00:50:08,560 --> 00:50:11,120

to stand out in any
reason or another.

1172

00:50:11,120 --> 00:50:13,400

But since my looks--

1173

00:50:13,400 --> 00:50:15,490

we went out at night,
went to the movies.

1174

00:50:15,490 --> 00:50:19,660

I went in town, walking
around after work.

1175

00:50:19,660 --> 00:50:22,402

1176

00:50:22,402 --> 00:50:27,490

But my looks somehow were
still standing out in Holland

1177
00:50:27,490 --> 00:50:30,700
because everybody's
so blonde and tall.

1178
00:50:30,700 --> 00:50:32,050
And what was your coloring?

1179
00:50:32,050 --> 00:50:33,430
My coloring is as I was.

1180
00:50:33,430 --> 00:50:36,530
I was brownish hair, but
my whole look of face

1181
00:50:36,530 --> 00:50:38,200
shows that I am Jewish born.

1182
00:50:38,200 --> 00:50:44,130

1183
00:50:44,130 --> 00:50:50,260
And twice we were
stopped and looked

1184
00:50:50,260 --> 00:50:54,430
at the papers from the
Nazis and the SR, Gestapo,

1185
00:50:54,430 --> 00:50:58,650
whatever it was, or sometimes
from the Wehrmacht already.

1186
00:50:58,650 --> 00:51:00,880
They want to see our ID papers.

1187
00:51:00,880 --> 00:51:10,330
And since my paper had the
identity of a Dutch man

1188
00:51:10,330 --> 00:51:16,770
with a Dutch name, and
in addition I created a--

1189
00:51:16,770 --> 00:51:23,650
you had a card which says
I am partially Jewish,

1190
00:51:23,650 --> 00:51:29,700
that my mother was Jewish,
married to a Dutchman,

1191
00:51:29,700 --> 00:51:33,438
because I had also to
give them some reason why

1192
00:51:33,438 --> 00:51:34,605
I have such a German accent.

1193
00:51:34,605 --> 00:51:37,710

1194
00:51:37,710 --> 00:51:40,590
Two, three times,
I got away with it,

1195
00:51:40,590 --> 00:51:43,460
until they got me to the point
that it doesn't make sense.

1196
00:51:43,460 --> 00:51:46,290
One day, it's not going
to work any longer.

1197
00:51:46,290 --> 00:51:49,033
And we decided we go to France.

1198
00:51:49,033 --> 00:51:50,200
This is you and your friend?

1199
00:51:50,200 --> 00:51:50,900
Yeah.

1200
00:51:50,900 --> 00:51:54,080
Because in France,

our appearance

1201
00:51:54,080 --> 00:51:57,370
would blend in much
better among the people.

1202
00:51:57,370 --> 00:52:03,620
It's a more of a
Mediterranean type person.

1203
00:52:03,620 --> 00:52:05,230
That would be better.

1204
00:52:05,230 --> 00:52:07,270
And sure enough,
it worked out fine.

1205
00:52:07,270 --> 00:52:10,270
How was your Dutch language
ability by that time?

1206
00:52:10,270 --> 00:52:11,920
I fear not great.

1207
00:52:11,920 --> 00:52:14,800

1208
00:52:14,800 --> 00:52:17,500
And your friend's name,
who you were with?

1209
00:52:17,500 --> 00:52:19,866
His name was Heinz Goldschmidt.

1210
00:52:19,866 --> 00:52:23,250
Today, he calls himself Henry.

1211
00:52:23,250 --> 00:52:25,600
He has a fantastic memory.

1212
00:52:25,600 --> 00:52:28,000
He writes things still today.

1213
00:52:28,000 --> 00:52:31,612
And he wrote a lot of stories,
what happened in our time.

1214
00:52:31,612 --> 00:52:35,070
And to me, I don't
know, I don't remember.

1215
00:52:35,070 --> 00:52:37,430
Yeah.

1216
00:52:37,430 --> 00:52:40,310
So you-- the two of
you decided together--

1217
00:52:40,310 --> 00:52:40,810
Yeah.

1218
00:52:40,810 --> 00:52:43,860
--to go into France.

1219
00:52:43,860 --> 00:52:44,910
And did you do that--

1220
00:52:44,910 --> 00:52:45,410
Yeah.

1221
00:52:45,410 --> 00:52:47,300
--soon after that decision?

1222
00:52:47,300 --> 00:52:50,130
We made a decision in 1943.

1223
00:52:50,130 --> 00:52:51,300
What month?

1224
00:52:51,300 --> 00:52:52,410
September.

1225
00:52:52,410 --> 00:52:56,340

September '43, for
the two of you to go?

1226
00:52:56,340 --> 00:52:58,890
Yeah.

1227
00:52:58,890 --> 00:53:01,107
And how did that journey go?

1228
00:53:01,107 --> 00:53:02,690
To get across the
border and all that?

1229
00:53:02,690 --> 00:53:06,170
Well, we went to the
train, to near the border.

1230
00:53:06,170 --> 00:53:08,820
And we went over the
border illegally.

1231
00:53:08,820 --> 00:53:10,710
Met with somebody
in the underground,

1232
00:53:10,710 --> 00:53:11,780
who helped us across.

1233
00:53:11,780 --> 00:53:13,670
How did you have
that connection?

1234
00:53:13,670 --> 00:53:15,814
Henry-- Heinz had a
connection with somebody

1235
00:53:15,814 --> 00:53:16,856
in the underground there.

1236
00:53:16,856 --> 00:53:19,500
OK, because at the moment, you
weren't with the underground.

1237
00:53:19,500 --> 00:53:20,730
You just had false papers.

1238
00:53:20,730 --> 00:53:21,540
Is that correct?

1239
00:53:21,540 --> 00:53:22,180
Right, right.

1240
00:53:22,180 --> 00:53:23,120
Yeah, you weren't--

1241
00:53:23,120 --> 00:53:24,260
OK.

1242
00:53:24,260 --> 00:53:25,725
And he took us over the border.

1243
00:53:25,725 --> 00:53:26,850
And he took us to Brussels.

1244
00:53:26,850 --> 00:53:29,420
And we stayed in his
house for a night.

1245
00:53:29,420 --> 00:53:32,340
And he instructed us to
get further out of Belgium

1246
00:53:32,340 --> 00:53:33,750
into France.

1247
00:53:33,750 --> 00:53:36,520
He helped-- he went
with us part of the way.

1248
00:53:36,520 --> 00:53:39,370
And there again, we went
over the border, the Dutch--

1249
00:53:39,370 --> 00:53:42,830

of the Belgium-French border.

1250

00:53:42,830 --> 00:53:45,100

And wound up in Lille, in
the northern part of France.

1251

00:53:45,100 --> 00:53:50,280

And there we took trains and
behaved like everybody else,

1252

00:53:50,280 --> 00:53:51,560

being Dutch people.

1253

00:53:51,560 --> 00:53:52,560

Being Dutch people.

1254

00:53:52,560 --> 00:53:55,710

Was this a very frightening
journey for you?

1255

00:53:55,710 --> 00:53:59,250

Look, when you are young,
nothing's as frightening.

1256

00:53:59,250 --> 00:54:00,690

And I was 20 years old.

1257

00:54:00,690 --> 00:54:02,230

20 years old.

1258

00:54:02,230 --> 00:54:03,690

You take things in stride.

1259

00:54:03,690 --> 00:54:06,090

And you do the best to survive.

1260

00:54:06,090 --> 00:54:07,983

There was only one
thing in my mind--

1261

00:54:07,983 --> 00:54:11,370

survive, survive, survive.

1262
00:54:11,370 --> 00:54:14,430
Did you still have your
father's gold watch with you?

1263
00:54:14,430 --> 00:54:15,070
No.

1264
00:54:15,070 --> 00:54:15,570
Why?

1265
00:54:15,570 --> 00:54:20,580
I had to sell this in Amsterdam
before I went into a illegality

1266
00:54:20,580 --> 00:54:22,800
in order to have some money.

1267
00:54:22,800 --> 00:54:23,950
Who did you sell it to?

1268
00:54:23,950 --> 00:54:25,170
To an antique dealer.

1269
00:54:25,170 --> 00:54:29,130

1270
00:54:29,130 --> 00:54:34,560
This what gave me my
ability to live a while.

1271
00:54:34,560 --> 00:54:36,850
Because after this, when I
started working at the toy

1272
00:54:36,850 --> 00:54:40,950
factory, I earned some money.

1273
00:54:40,950 --> 00:54:42,850
I still have some left.

1274

00:54:42,850 --> 00:54:47,200

And I care for this
money all the time.

1275

00:54:47,200 --> 00:54:48,415

OK, now you're in France.

1276

00:54:48,415 --> 00:54:49,790

Now we're in France.

1277

00:54:49,790 --> 00:54:51,683

So you are able--
you speak German

1278

00:54:51,683 --> 00:54:53,350

and you're able to
speak a little Dutch.

1279

00:54:53,350 --> 00:54:55,160

Did you know any
French at this point?

1280

00:54:55,160 --> 00:54:59,170

Yeah, in the gymnasium, I
see three years of French--

1281

00:54:59,170 --> 00:55:00,250

French.

1282

00:55:00,250 --> 00:55:02,350

Not that I knew much.

1283

00:55:02,350 --> 00:55:04,900

But my friend
didn't know a word.

1284

00:55:04,900 --> 00:55:06,830

So went to the--

1285

00:55:06,830 --> 00:55:09,950

all the second-hand
bookstores in France

1286

00:55:09,950 --> 00:55:14,180

had the-- on the Seine, on the
left side, [SPEAKING FRENCH]..

1287

00:55:14,180 --> 00:55:15,160

And I bought a book.

1288

00:55:15,160 --> 00:55:16,410

I was reading it.

1289

00:55:16,410 --> 00:55:19,292

This comes back very quickly.

1290

00:55:19,292 --> 00:55:20,500

And since I didn't speak it--

1291

00:55:20,500 --> 00:55:21,220

I had to speak.

1292

00:55:21,220 --> 00:55:21,960

I was all right.

1293

00:55:21,960 --> 00:55:25,060

I could get by in a couple
of-- within two or three weeks,

1294

00:55:25,060 --> 00:55:25,807

I could--

1295

00:55:25,807 --> 00:55:26,890

You were able to converse?

1296

00:55:26,890 --> 00:55:28,370

Yeah.

1297

00:55:28,370 --> 00:55:32,510

So you got to Paris then,
as soon as possible?

1298

00:55:32,510 --> 00:55:34,060

Yes, we got to Paris.

1299
00:55:34,060 --> 00:55:36,040
Paris, and where did you live?

1300
00:55:36,040 --> 00:55:37,630
Or how did you know
to find a place?

1301
00:55:37,630 --> 00:55:41,830
A furnished room,
hotels, cheap hotels.

1302
00:55:41,830 --> 00:55:44,920
And were you in contact with
the underground resistance?

1303
00:55:44,920 --> 00:55:46,050
Not yet.

1304
00:55:46,050 --> 00:55:47,710
But eventually, we got to it.

1305
00:55:47,710 --> 00:55:50,190
So what did you do when
you first got to Paris?

1306
00:55:50,190 --> 00:55:52,080
A little black market.

1307
00:55:52,080 --> 00:55:53,620
And what were you selling?

1308
00:55:53,620 --> 00:55:55,903
Cigarettes.

1309
00:55:55,903 --> 00:55:57,320
And you're still
with your friend?

1310
00:55:57,320 --> 00:56:00,460
My friend, yeah, it was.

1311
00:56:00,460 --> 00:56:04,320
And then what was
the condition like?

1312
00:56:04,320 --> 00:56:06,553
The France condition
wasn't very good.

1313
00:56:06,553 --> 00:56:07,220
I mean, really--

1314
00:56:07,220 --> 00:56:07,720
Right.

1315
00:56:07,720 --> 00:56:11,860
--we had a tough time
feeding ourselves.

1316
00:56:11,860 --> 00:56:12,860
Everything was rationed.

1317
00:56:12,860 --> 00:56:15,840
You needed to buy something,
so you need a ration card.

1318
00:56:15,840 --> 00:56:21,370
And one ration card is
nothing, because it is not

1319
00:56:21,370 --> 00:56:24,270
enough to survive for a person.

1320
00:56:24,270 --> 00:56:26,020
But through the
underground, eventually we

1321
00:56:26,020 --> 00:56:28,690
got two and three ration
cards so we could manage.

1322
00:56:28,690 --> 00:56:31,898
How did you get in touch

with the underground?

1323
00:56:31,898 --> 00:56:32,440
I don't know.

1324
00:56:32,440 --> 00:56:34,150
They found us I think.

1325
00:56:34,150 --> 00:56:34,990
They found you.

1326
00:56:34,990 --> 00:56:35,856
Yeah.

1327
00:56:35,856 --> 00:56:38,800
You realize, they found
us already from Belgium,

1328
00:56:38,800 --> 00:56:40,490
from that guy in Belgium.

1329
00:56:40,490 --> 00:56:42,550
He had good
connections all over.

1330
00:56:42,550 --> 00:56:47,530

1331
00:56:47,530 --> 00:56:50,710
And so you were in Paris
and then what happened?

1332
00:56:50,710 --> 00:56:53,670

1333
00:56:53,670 --> 00:56:54,580
We were hanging on.

1334
00:56:54,580 --> 00:56:58,240
We were trying to
get to Switzerland.

1335

00:56:58,240 --> 00:57:00,130

And again, through
the rumor mill,

1336

00:57:00,130 --> 00:57:02,170

here and there, you
go down to Marseilles.

1337

00:57:02,170 --> 00:57:03,740

In Marseilles you
can make contact.

1338

00:57:03,740 --> 00:57:05,490

These people will take
you to Switzerland.

1339

00:57:05,490 --> 00:57:07,830

And we went to Marseilles.

1340

00:57:07,830 --> 00:57:11,212

So how long had you
stayed in Paris?

1341

00:57:11,212 --> 00:57:12,520

Probably a couple of months.

1342

00:57:12,520 --> 00:57:14,890

A couple of months.

1343

00:57:14,890 --> 00:57:17,010

And the thing turned
out to be a hoax.

1344

00:57:17,010 --> 00:57:19,197

We couldn't find any
connections at all.

1345

00:57:19,197 --> 00:57:19,780

In Marseilles.

1346

00:57:19,780 --> 00:57:22,655

In Marseilles to get us back,

so we went back to Paris.

1347
00:57:22,655 --> 00:57:25,030
So you didn't-- how long did
you stay in Marseilles then?

1348
00:57:25,030 --> 00:57:26,320
Oh, maybe a couple
of days, a week.

1349
00:57:26,320 --> 00:57:27,028
A couple of days.

1350
00:57:27,028 --> 00:57:29,410

1351
00:57:29,410 --> 00:57:32,470
And you still have
these false papers.

1352
00:57:32,470 --> 00:57:34,540
The false papers I
don't have anymore.

1353
00:57:34,540 --> 00:57:35,200
Oh, you don't.

1354
00:57:35,200 --> 00:57:38,470
So are you back being your
regular name at this point?

1355
00:57:38,470 --> 00:57:40,570
No, no, I still had my
false papers in France.

1356
00:57:40,570 --> 00:57:41,670
Today, I don't
have them anymore.

1357
00:57:41,670 --> 00:57:43,503
Oh, no, no, I meant--
when I said you still,

1358

00:57:43,503 --> 00:57:47,460

I meant at that point, you're still Wilhelm at that point?

1359

00:57:47,460 --> 00:57:48,310

Yeah, sure.

1360

00:57:48,310 --> 00:57:49,720

Right.

1361

00:57:49,720 --> 00:57:53,743

And did you have any direct contact

1362

00:57:53,743 --> 00:57:54,910

with the underground people?

1363

00:57:54,910 --> 00:57:56,290

How did you get their messages?

1364

00:57:56,290 --> 00:57:58,660

How did you get their advice?

1365

00:57:58,660 --> 00:58:01,330

Did they come to see you?

1366

00:58:01,330 --> 00:58:02,820

We got in touch with them.

1367

00:58:02,820 --> 00:58:05,035

They met us in hotel rooms.

1368

00:58:05,035 --> 00:58:10,220

1369

00:58:10,220 --> 00:58:11,540

Were these Jews or non-Jews?

1370

00:58:11,540 --> 00:58:13,910

Some were Jews, some non-Jews.

1371

00:58:13,910 --> 00:58:16,570

A lot of them were foreigners.

1372

00:58:16,570 --> 00:58:20,830

Because the French
resistance was very weak,

1373

00:58:20,830 --> 00:58:22,850

even though they give
themselves the big ado,

1374

00:58:22,850 --> 00:58:24,060

like they did everything.

1375

00:58:24,060 --> 00:58:25,730

Like they just recently.

1376

00:58:25,730 --> 00:58:29,986

There's a peace negotiation
in Beirut with Israel.

1377

00:58:29,986 --> 00:58:33,100

If you just read the French
magazine, they did it all.

1378

00:58:33,100 --> 00:58:36,950

They then talk about
[INAUDIBLE] did the work.

1379

00:58:36,950 --> 00:58:37,650

They did it.

1380

00:58:37,650 --> 00:58:38,950

Right.

1381

00:58:38,950 --> 00:58:41,240

And what was happening in
the French resistance was

1382

00:58:41,240 --> 00:58:44,560

because of mostly foreigners--

1383
00:58:44,560 --> 00:58:50,100
Polish people, people
like me, Germans refugees,

1384
00:58:50,100 --> 00:58:51,160
Austrian refugees.

1385
00:58:51,160 --> 00:58:56,560
I know our leader was
an Austrian refugee boy.

1386
00:58:56,560 --> 00:59:05,795
And we somehow managed
to get by and exist.

1387
00:59:05,795 --> 00:59:08,360

1388
00:59:08,360 --> 00:59:11,900
You are in Paris after
coming back from Marseilles.

1389
00:59:11,900 --> 00:59:12,920
Yeah.

1390
00:59:12,920 --> 00:59:16,280
And working on the
black market again.

1391
00:59:16,280 --> 00:59:17,190
Yeah.

1392
00:59:17,190 --> 00:59:18,360
And what then?

1393
00:59:18,360 --> 00:59:20,840
And then nothing happened till--

1394
00:59:20,840 --> 00:59:25,970
because beginning
in July 1944, when

1395

00:59:25,970 --> 00:59:28,810

things turned already
bad with the German war,

1396

00:59:28,810 --> 00:59:32,345

and American invasion came--

1397

00:59:32,345 --> 00:59:33,220

This was after D-Day.

1398

00:59:33,220 --> 00:59:33,990

June 6th, yeah.

1399

00:59:33,990 --> 00:59:35,300

Right.

1400

00:59:35,300 --> 00:59:37,660

Had you had-- had you
had-- up to that point,

1401

00:59:37,660 --> 00:59:40,630

did you have any close
calls on the street or any--

1402

00:59:40,630 --> 00:59:42,700

Not in Paris at all.

1403

00:59:42,700 --> 00:59:43,570

In Paris?

1404

00:59:43,570 --> 00:59:44,500

No close calls.

1405

00:59:44,500 --> 00:59:49,060

As a matter of fact, they sent
me to a German organization

1406

00:59:49,060 --> 00:59:51,420

since I spoke German.

1407

00:59:51,420 --> 00:59:52,880

The underground sent you.

1408
00:59:52,880 --> 00:59:53,380
Yeah.

1409
00:59:53,380 --> 00:59:56,470
And I worked there
for about a week.

1410
00:59:56,470 --> 00:59:58,940
What kind of
organization was it?

1411
00:59:58,940 --> 01:00:01,885
The organization for
the constructed defense

1412
01:00:01,885 --> 01:00:04,932
work and things like that.

1413
01:00:04,932 --> 01:00:07,412
What was it called.

1414
01:00:07,412 --> 01:00:13,370

1415
01:00:13,370 --> 01:00:16,200
Right now, the name escapes me.

1416
01:00:16,200 --> 01:00:18,980
Anyhow, in the--

1417
01:00:18,980 --> 01:00:19,865
Was this a--

1418
01:00:19,865 --> 01:00:20,567
In the way--

1419
01:00:20,567 --> 01:00:21,650
--resistance organization?

1420

01:00:21,650 --> 01:00:23,480
It was organisation--
organization.

1421
01:00:23,480 --> 01:00:25,530
Yeah, but organized
by the resistance?

1422
01:00:25,530 --> 01:00:27,505
No, no, this was a German--

1423
01:00:27,505 --> 01:00:32,040
I was working for a
German corp there.

1424
01:00:32,040 --> 01:00:33,780
And there we are
building things.

1425
01:00:33,780 --> 01:00:36,230
We're building
highways, or housing,

1426
01:00:36,230 --> 01:00:40,480
or whatever it was, some kind
of construction work, I think.

1427
01:00:40,480 --> 01:00:42,150
I don't remember exactly.

1428
01:00:42,150 --> 01:00:44,400
I was there a very short time.

1429
01:00:44,400 --> 01:00:46,050
And I'm sitting there.

1430
01:00:46,050 --> 01:00:50,570
And all of a sudden, the radio
goes on, the invasion is on,

1431
01:00:50,570 --> 01:00:51,320
June 6th.

1432
01:00:51,320 --> 01:00:53,920
June 6th, 1944.

1433
01:00:53,920 --> 01:00:55,970
And I saw they had
some weapons there.

1434
01:00:55,970 --> 01:01:00,660
And I prepared to
organize handguns

1435
01:01:00,660 --> 01:01:03,740
from their closet
for the Resistance.

1436
01:01:03,740 --> 01:01:06,925

1437
01:01:06,925 --> 01:01:11,190
I fashioned a brick into
the form of a handgun

1438
01:01:11,190 --> 01:01:12,720
and exchanged it for the guns.

1439
01:01:12,720 --> 01:01:14,020
And wrapped it like this.

1440
01:01:14,020 --> 01:01:14,890
And I took off.

1441
01:01:14,890 --> 01:01:17,180
And I came back the next day--

1442
01:01:17,180 --> 01:01:19,570
I was really stupid to
come back the next day,

1443
01:01:19,570 --> 01:01:20,670
make believe it's not me.

1444

01:01:20,670 --> 01:01:24,820
Because they could have had
some kind of way to find me.

1445
01:01:24,820 --> 01:01:29,295
And they just said, the guns
are gone, what's going on here?

1446
01:01:29,295 --> 01:01:31,420
A day or two later, then
I didn't got back anymore.

1447
01:01:31,420 --> 01:01:33,910
I disappeared.

1448
01:01:33,910 --> 01:01:38,130
And unfortunately, that
friend of mine, that Henry--

1449
01:01:38,130 --> 01:01:42,030
Heinz Goldschmidt,
befriended a German soldier

1450
01:01:42,030 --> 01:01:44,470
in a cafe in Paris.

1451
01:01:44,470 --> 01:01:46,680
And this guy told him,
he was sick and tired,

1452
01:01:46,680 --> 01:01:49,800
"We are losing the war, and it's
ridiculous what we are doing,

1453
01:01:49,800 --> 01:01:51,190
I want to desert.

1454
01:01:51,190 --> 01:01:54,655
Can you help me in
civilian clothes?"

1455
01:01:54,655 --> 01:01:57,990
And he said, "Oh,

sure, I'll help you."

1456
01:01:57,990 --> 01:01:58,650
He helped him.

1457
01:01:58,650 --> 01:02:01,920
He took him to our
organization, our group.

1458
01:02:01,920 --> 01:02:06,120
And within five days,
we were all denounced.

1459
01:02:06,120 --> 01:02:08,880
In the middle of the night,
I was arrested in the hotel.

1460
01:02:08,880 --> 01:02:12,640
I woke up at 4 o'clock in the
morning, the guns sticking

1461
01:02:12,640 --> 01:02:16,230
in my face, the Gestapo there--

1462
01:02:16,230 --> 01:02:18,990
arrested.

1463
01:02:18,990 --> 01:02:22,980
And that night-- again they
were looking for-- of course,

1464
01:02:22,980 --> 01:02:24,910
they thought I had the
weapons there for me,

1465
01:02:24,910 --> 01:02:28,820
because this guy knew about it.

1466
01:02:28,820 --> 01:02:31,720
And we were taken to rue des
Saussaies, the headquarters

1467

01:02:31,720 --> 01:02:36,180
of the Gestapo,
and interrogated.

1468
01:02:36,180 --> 01:02:38,460
And there, they saw my papers--

1469
01:02:38,460 --> 01:02:41,630
Poplar and so on--
this false name.

1470
01:02:41,630 --> 01:02:43,483