

1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:03,180

2  
00:00:03,180 --> 00:00:05,670  
And so it was [INAUDIBLE]  
with the Gestapo,

3  
00:00:05,670 --> 00:00:07,560  
I was interrogated.

4  
00:00:07,560 --> 00:00:13,500  
And like a stroke of luck  
in this special second of--

5  
00:00:13,500 --> 00:00:16,410  
some events where you  
had like a split second,

6  
00:00:16,410 --> 00:00:19,020  
I admitted I'm Jewish.

7  
00:00:19,020 --> 00:00:24,240  
Well, my friend insists that  
he is non-Jewish and stayed

8  
00:00:24,240 --> 00:00:26,940  
with his false name.

9  
00:00:26,940 --> 00:00:30,710  
After the interrogation, we  
were sent to prison in Fresnes,

10  
00:00:30,710 --> 00:00:32,159  
in Paris.

11  
00:00:32,159 --> 00:00:35,610  
Prison, it's a well-known  
prison in Paris

12  
00:00:35,610 --> 00:00:36,720  
What is it called?

13  
00:00:36,720 --> 00:00:46,295  
Fresnes, F-R-E-S-N-E-S.  
And there, I was put into--

14  
00:00:46,295 --> 00:00:49,650

15  
00:00:49,650 --> 00:00:52,280  
first of all, I was met  
there when I got there

16  
00:00:52,280 --> 00:00:58,850  
in the morning in the main  
hall where we were lined up

17  
00:00:58,850 --> 00:01:00,560  
a guy which I knew  
from the resistance,

18  
00:01:00,560 --> 00:01:05,418  
I knew from Holland, a  
friend, an acquaintance.

19  
00:01:05,418 --> 00:01:06,960  
And he said, look,  
they're going to--

20  
00:01:06,960 --> 00:01:10,490

21  
00:01:10,490 --> 00:01:12,940  
of course, when you're  
belongings in your clothes,

22  
00:01:12,940 --> 00:01:15,240  
and you have  
anything, be careful.

23  
00:01:15,240 --> 00:01:20,353  
And I had some money in me, in  
the money belt. And so I said,

24  
00:01:20,353 --> 00:01:21,270  
OK, here's some money.

25  
00:01:21,270 --> 00:01:21,980  
Throw it down.

26  
00:01:21,980 --> 00:01:24,870  
I'm sweeping, I sweep it away.

27  
00:01:24,870 --> 00:01:25,970  
And sure enough, I did.

28  
00:01:25,970 --> 00:01:28,490

29  
00:01:28,490 --> 00:01:34,610  
I saved some money at least  
for if I come out again.

30  
00:01:34,610 --> 00:01:36,710  
Then we were put  
into different cells.

31  
00:01:36,710 --> 00:01:41,630  
And I went into a cell there  
were two French guys in there

32  
00:01:41,630 --> 00:01:43,910  
for some minor crimes.

33  
00:01:43,910 --> 00:01:47,690  
One, he worked  
for the railroads.

34  
00:01:47,690 --> 00:01:50,660  
And he was stealing some  
food from the railroad car.

35  
00:01:50,660 --> 00:01:53,450  
Another one, some  
minor infractions,

36

00:01:53,450 --> 00:01:57,410  
little small criminals.

37

00:01:57,410 --> 00:02:00,590  
And, of course, when  
they saw me and so they

38

00:02:00,590 --> 00:02:03,710  
heard my accent,  
my German accent,

39

00:02:03,710 --> 00:02:06,530  
they didn't believe me  
that I am the prisoner.

40

00:02:06,530 --> 00:02:09,949  
They thought I'm a spy on them.

41

00:02:09,949 --> 00:02:14,090  
And they ignored me and  
treated me poorly also,

42

00:02:14,090 --> 00:02:16,700  
but it wasn't important.

43

00:02:16,700 --> 00:02:18,382  
Till about a week  
or so later, then--

44

00:02:18,382 --> 00:02:20,090  
What do you mean they  
treated you poorly?

45

00:02:20,090 --> 00:02:22,070  
Well, they ignored me.

46

00:02:22,070 --> 00:02:24,920  
They had a lot of food and  
get packages from home.

47

00:02:24,920 --> 00:02:26,810  
They never shared.

48  
00:02:26,810 --> 00:02:29,420  
I didn't get anything from them.

49  
00:02:29,420 --> 00:02:33,140  
But it wasn't  
important really to me.

50  
00:02:33,140 --> 00:02:38,000  
Then a week later, I was pulled  
out of that cell in the morning

51  
00:02:38,000 --> 00:02:42,170  
at 6 o'clock and walked back to  
the [PLACE NAME] of the Gestapo

52  
00:02:42,170 --> 00:02:44,690  
for interrogation.

53  
00:02:44,690 --> 00:02:49,760  
And there they interrogated me  
all day long from morning 7:00

54  
00:02:49,760 --> 00:02:53,630  
till late afternoon,  
5:00, 6 o'clock.

55  
00:02:53,630 --> 00:02:56,330  
And I was handcuffed.

56  
00:02:56,330 --> 00:03:00,140  
And I had to break down on  
my knees on a metal bar.

57  
00:03:00,140 --> 00:03:03,530  
And they were beating me.

58  
00:03:03,530 --> 00:03:06,300  
And I fainted.

59  
00:03:06,300 --> 00:03:10,940  
So a bucket of water on my

head to get me back up again.

60

00:03:10,940 --> 00:03:13,130

And I was going all day long.

61

00:03:13,130 --> 00:03:16,070

Finally, when they sent me  
back to the prison that night

62

00:03:16,070 --> 00:03:19,970

and these guys saw what  
I looked like, then

63

00:03:19,970 --> 00:03:21,728

they became nice to me.

64

00:03:21,728 --> 00:03:22,895

They saw that I'm not a spy.

65

00:03:22,895 --> 00:03:26,690

They knew I was very beaten up.

66

00:03:26,690 --> 00:03:27,570

They paced me.

67

00:03:27,570 --> 00:03:29,030

They helped me with my wounds.

68

00:03:29,030 --> 00:03:31,970

69

00:03:31,970 --> 00:03:41,210

And as the American armies  
advanced and [INAUDIBLE]

70

00:03:41,210 --> 00:03:45,020

came towards Paris, they  
evacuated the prison

71

00:03:45,020 --> 00:03:47,270

and took the  
prisoners to Germany

72  
00:03:47,270 --> 00:03:50,510  
with the exception of  
those who were Jewish.

73  
00:03:50,510 --> 00:03:53,720  
Among them was I.  
And they took me

74  
00:03:53,720 --> 00:03:57,200  
to Drancy, the Jewish  
camp north of Paris

75  
00:03:57,200 --> 00:04:01,370  
where all the Jewish  
you have heard?

76  
00:04:01,370 --> 00:04:04,700  
This is the transit camp?

77  
00:04:04,700 --> 00:04:07,100  
But there was not regular camp.

78  
00:04:07,100 --> 00:04:11,090  
I was in a special  
cellular prison

79  
00:04:11,090 --> 00:04:15,190  
because I was a so-called  
dangerous person to the Third

80  
00:04:15,190 --> 00:04:16,519  
Reich.

81  
00:04:16,519 --> 00:04:18,040  
You were a dangerous person?

82  
00:04:18,040 --> 00:04:18,790  
Yeah.

83  
00:04:18,790 --> 00:04:19,290  
And--

84  
00:04:19,290 --> 00:04:20,860  
Why were you a dangerous?

85  
00:04:20,860 --> 00:04:22,490  
Yeah, because, you  
know, they knew

86  
00:04:22,490 --> 00:04:25,400  
I stole the weapons  
from them and was

87  
00:04:25,400 --> 00:04:26,930  
involved with the resistance.

88  
00:04:26,930 --> 00:04:30,610

89  
00:04:30,610 --> 00:04:35,340  
We were about 20, 30  
people down there maybe.

90  
00:04:35,340 --> 00:04:38,910  
And finally, as  
Americans advanced more,

91  
00:04:38,910 --> 00:04:39,855  
came towards Paris--

92  
00:04:39,855 --> 00:04:42,770  
[COUGHING] excuse me.

93  
00:04:42,770 --> 00:04:46,650  
They decided to let the Jewish  
go which were left in the camp,

94  
00:04:46,650 --> 00:04:50,430  
with the exception of those  
who were criminal or dangerous

95  
00:04:50,430 --> 00:04:53,370  
to the Third Reich,



among them I.

96

00:04:53,370 --> 00:04:58,380

And we were transported in the  
last cattle car [INAUDIBLE]

97

00:04:58,380 --> 00:05:03,930

France [? and ?] [PLACE NAME]  
back to Germany to Buchenwald.

98

00:05:03,930 --> 00:05:06,390

How many were in your group?

99

00:05:06,390 --> 00:05:09,900

49, 50 people.

100

00:05:09,900 --> 00:05:11,100

50 men?

101

00:05:11,100 --> 00:05:14,370

No, there were men, women.

102

00:05:14,370 --> 00:05:15,660

There was a mixture.

103

00:05:15,660 --> 00:05:18,030

According to the book,  
there would have been 51.

104

00:05:18,030 --> 00:05:21,840

They were undocumented 49.

105

00:05:21,840 --> 00:05:24,300

Anyhow, my first  
thought was always

106

00:05:24,300 --> 00:05:26,980

to escape, escape, escape.

107

00:05:26,980 --> 00:05:29,480

I had to been to Buchenwald and  
didn't want to see it again.

108  
00:05:29,480 --> 00:05:32,320

109  
00:05:32,320 --> 00:05:36,050  
And many of the railroad  
places were bombarded.

110  
00:05:36,050 --> 00:05:38,200  
The train moved very slowly.

111  
00:05:38,200 --> 00:05:43,090  
Many times, it was parked  
during the day in tunnels.

112  
00:05:43,090 --> 00:05:46,660  
Because they don't  
want the train so

113  
00:05:46,660 --> 00:05:49,360  
the Allied fighters could  
see it and bombard it.

114  
00:05:49,360 --> 00:05:52,510  
Because most of the  
train was German weapons

115  
00:05:52,510 --> 00:05:55,060  
they took back in German troops.

116  
00:05:55,060 --> 00:06:00,400  
Only the one wagon was this  
Jewish dangerous people

117  
00:06:00,400 --> 00:06:02,950  
to the--

118  
00:06:02,950 --> 00:06:03,927  
Did you know--

119  
00:06:03,927 --> 00:06:04,510  
[INTERRUPTION]

120  
00:06:04,510 --> 00:06:06,343  
--did you know any of  
these other prisoners?

121  
00:06:06,343 --> 00:06:08,940  
Yes, some of them I knew.

122  
00:06:08,940 --> 00:06:10,790  
[INAUDIBLE], that one.

123  
00:06:10,790 --> 00:06:13,210  
His name is mentioned  
here too who

124  
00:06:13,210 --> 00:06:16,480  
picked up my money in prison.

125  
00:06:16,480 --> 00:06:20,410  
And then when we were in the  
train, he gave it back to me.

126  
00:06:20,410 --> 00:06:21,370  
What was his name?

127  
00:06:21,370 --> 00:06:25,600  
[? Reilinger. ?] His  
name is listed here too.

128  
00:06:25,600 --> 00:06:30,602

129  
00:06:30,602 --> 00:06:32,810  
His name was [? Reilinger, ?]  
[Kurt] [? Reilinger. ?]

130  
00:06:32,810 --> 00:06:33,703  
Kurt, huh?

131  
00:06:33,703 --> 00:06:38,640

132

00:06:38,640 --> 00:06:40,680

So we were sitting in this car.

133

00:06:40,680 --> 00:06:47,490

It's standing still or moved  
maybe 20, 30 miles at night.

134

00:06:47,490 --> 00:06:52,020

During the day, I didn't dare  
to run the train because Allied

135

00:06:52,020 --> 00:06:54,810

planes could attack it,  
and destroy their weapons

136

00:06:54,810 --> 00:06:56,240

and their soldiers.

137

00:06:56,240 --> 00:06:57,600

They didn't care about us.

138

00:06:57,600 --> 00:07:00,520

What kind-- what  
kind of car was it?

139

00:07:00,520 --> 00:07:01,020

Was it--

140

00:07:01,020 --> 00:07:01,750

A cattle car.

141

00:07:01,750 --> 00:07:02,750

A cattle car.

142

00:07:02,750 --> 00:07:06,030

143

00:07:06,030 --> 00:07:09,780

And we were {? much ?}  
in front locomotive,

144

00:07:09,780 --> 00:07:12,090  
but they had really arranged  
sometime and, finally,

145  
00:07:12,090 --> 00:07:16,640  
we bring the last  
car off the train.

146  
00:07:16,640 --> 00:07:19,150  
And then I thought, we have  
a chance of breaking out

147  
00:07:19,150 --> 00:07:21,010  
through the back wall  
to try to [INAUDIBLE]

148  
00:07:21,010 --> 00:07:23,065  
and jump out this way,  
but it didn't work.

149  
00:07:23,065 --> 00:07:24,430  
Train stopped again.

150  
00:07:24,430 --> 00:07:28,090  
So we were ready to do  
something, the train stopped.

151  
00:07:28,090 --> 00:07:31,730  
How did you-- how did  
you intend to jump out?

152  
00:07:31,730 --> 00:07:33,850  
Through the-- through  
the back wall.

153  
00:07:33,850 --> 00:07:36,030  
You know, a car,  
it's a cattle car.

154  
00:07:36,030 --> 00:07:37,600  
There's a wall here.

155  
00:07:37,600 --> 00:07:39,390

These are some doors here.

156

00:07:39,390 --> 00:07:41,380

There are some windows up there.

157

00:07:41,380 --> 00:07:42,910

And these are solid walls.

158

00:07:42,910 --> 00:07:44,470

I figured, we are  
the last car, we

159

00:07:44,470 --> 00:07:48,293

could break out one or two  
of these things and jump out.

160

00:07:48,293 --> 00:07:52,240

[COUGH] Now the  
train, it's a big one.

161

00:07:52,240 --> 00:07:53,530

Yes.

162

00:07:53,530 --> 00:07:56,580

The train moved  
slowly and very seldom

163

00:07:56,580 --> 00:08:00,070

was it moving, not  
just standing still

164

00:08:00,070 --> 00:08:01,780

train you could  
really not jump out.

165

00:08:01,780 --> 00:08:04,880

You're always surrounded  
with [INAUDIBLE] the polizei,

166

00:08:04,880 --> 00:08:08,120

the police, the Germans.

167

00:08:08,120 --> 00:08:13,290  
So, finally, on the fourth  
night, the train was moving.

168  
00:08:13,290 --> 00:08:14,870  
We were able to break out.

169  
00:08:14,870 --> 00:08:17,152  
But instead of what I had  
planned, since we were not

170  
00:08:17,152 --> 00:08:18,110  
the last wagon anymore.

171  
00:08:18,110 --> 00:08:20,580  
We were somewhere in  
the middle of the train,

172  
00:08:20,580 --> 00:08:24,770  
we forced one of the  
metal bars of the window.

173  
00:08:24,770 --> 00:08:28,100  
And we jumped out from there.

174  
00:08:28,100 --> 00:08:29,250  
How did you do that?

175  
00:08:29,250 --> 00:08:32,330  
How did you force the bar?

176  
00:08:32,330 --> 00:08:34,809  
Forced, a couple of guys,  
you know, they were strong.

177  
00:08:34,809 --> 00:08:36,500  
We ripped them loose.

178  
00:08:36,500 --> 00:08:37,455  
You pushed them out.

179  
00:08:37,455 --> 00:08:38,330

You couldn't pull in.

180  
00:08:38,330 --> 00:08:39,262  
They pushed them out.

181  
00:08:39,262 --> 00:08:40,679  
And evidently they  
didn't realize.

182  
00:08:40,679 --> 00:08:41,887  
Just with your bare strength?

183  
00:08:41,887 --> 00:08:42,860  
Yeah.

184  
00:08:42,860 --> 00:08:44,490  
And then one bar was left.

185  
00:08:44,490 --> 00:08:46,230  
And I jumped-- we  
climbed up like this

186  
00:08:46,230 --> 00:08:50,210  
and slipped my feet out first  
and then jumped off the train,

187  
00:08:50,210 --> 00:08:51,290  
off the running train.

188  
00:08:51,290 --> 00:08:53,900  
While you were doing this,  
what were the other people

189  
00:08:53,900 --> 00:08:54,920  
in the car saying?

190  
00:08:54,920 --> 00:08:57,230  
Oh, a lot of them were very  
much afraid, don't do it,

191  
00:08:57,230 --> 00:08:58,397  
don't do it, don't jump out.



192  
00:08:58,397 --> 00:09:00,530  
They're going to shoot us  
all when they find out.

193  
00:09:00,530 --> 00:09:03,740  
You know, the normal  
reaction of people.

194  
00:09:03,740 --> 00:09:07,140  
Was there a wide age range  
of people in the car?

195  
00:09:07,140 --> 00:09:07,640  
Pardon me?

196  
00:09:07,640 --> 00:09:10,500  
A wide range of ages  
of people in the car?

197  
00:09:10,500 --> 00:09:14,210  
A wide range of, yes, I  
think the oldest were maybe

198  
00:09:14,210 --> 00:09:16,920  
in their 50s.

199  
00:09:16,920 --> 00:09:20,840  
And, of course, the  
young ones like me,

200  
00:09:20,840 --> 00:09:22,830  
but I was determined  
to get out of

201  
00:09:22,830 --> 00:09:24,770  
and so were many others  
had the opportunity,

202  
00:09:24,770 --> 00:09:26,555  
they don't take a chance.

203

00:09:26,555 --> 00:09:30,080

Go back to Buchenwald, you don't know what happens tomorrow.

204

00:09:30,080 --> 00:09:31,970

So how many people jumped out?

205

00:09:31,970 --> 00:09:33,260

No, quite a few.

206

00:09:33,260 --> 00:09:37,490

I'd say about 23 which came out.

207

00:09:37,490 --> 00:09:40,020

So about half stayed and half jumped down?

208

00:09:40,020 --> 00:09:42,710

Yeah, maybe a little less than half

209

00:09:42,710 --> 00:09:44,476

according to this [INAUDIBLE].

210

00:09:44,476 --> 00:09:54,010

211

00:09:54,010 --> 00:09:55,630

Escaped.

212

00:09:55,630 --> 00:09:56,680

20 people escaped.

213

00:09:56,680 --> 00:09:59,170

20 escaped, but it is not quite correct

214

00:09:59,170 --> 00:10:02,920

because one of these guys was very close to him.

215

00:10:02,920 --> 00:10:04,660

And he escaped too.

216  
00:10:04,660 --> 00:10:07,900  
Right here, his  
destiny is unknown.

217  
00:10:07,900 --> 00:10:12,920

218  
00:10:12,920 --> 00:10:15,500  
So it was just one after  
the other jumping out?

219  
00:10:15,500 --> 00:10:16,930  
Yeah.

220  
00:10:16,930 --> 00:10:18,150  
Were you one of the first?

221  
00:10:18,150 --> 00:10:21,060  
No, I was probably maybe  
one or two a little later.

222  
00:10:21,060 --> 00:10:22,510  
I don't know which one I was.

223  
00:10:22,510 --> 00:10:24,520  
It was dark [INAUDIBLE].

224  
00:10:24,520 --> 00:10:25,810  
I didn't look around.

225  
00:10:25,810 --> 00:10:28,030  
The opportunity was  
there and I went.

226  
00:10:28,030 --> 00:10:30,610

227  
00:10:30,610 --> 00:10:32,725  
And later on, and I jumped--

228  
00:10:32,725 --> 00:10:33,850  
Where did you jump-- yeah.

229  
00:10:33,850 --> 00:10:34,350  
You jumped--

230  
00:10:34,350 --> 00:10:37,570  
And we were in the northern  
of France, near St. Quentin.

231  
00:10:37,570 --> 00:10:44,080  
That's with an  
S-T-Q-U-E-N-T-I-N.

232  
00:10:44,080 --> 00:10:47,380  
When you jumped out, what was it  
like to jump out of the train?

233  
00:10:47,380 --> 00:10:48,200  
I jumped out.

234  
00:10:48,200 --> 00:10:50,980  
I try to push myself away  
from the train on the jump

235  
00:10:50,980 --> 00:10:55,210  
and landed in the ditch  
next to the tracks.

236  
00:10:55,210 --> 00:10:57,640  
And I kept low because  
I'm afraid [INAUDIBLE]

237  
00:10:57,640 --> 00:10:59,410  
a gun shooting either way.

238  
00:10:59,410 --> 00:11:01,420  
But evidently, they  
were not aware of it

239  
00:11:01,420 --> 00:11:04,390  
till maybe an hour or two later.

240  
00:11:04,390 --> 00:11:07,090  
And the train stopped in  
St. Quentin at the station.

241  
00:11:07,090 --> 00:11:08,500  
It couldn't go any further.

242  
00:11:08,500 --> 00:11:10,740  
And they came to  
inspect the prisoners.

243  
00:11:10,740 --> 00:11:13,630  
And half were  
gone, 20 were gone.

244  
00:11:13,630 --> 00:11:16,120  
We were in the  
fields [INAUDIBLE]..

245  
00:11:16,120 --> 00:11:17,470  
Did you hook up with the other--

246  
00:11:17,470 --> 00:11:19,020  
I hooked up with  
some other people.

247  
00:11:19,020 --> 00:11:20,440  
I said, shalom--

248  
00:11:20,440 --> 00:11:21,607  
--to the others who jumped?

249  
00:11:21,607 --> 00:11:22,440  
--that's a password.

250  
00:11:22,440 --> 00:11:24,790  
Yeah, that they know  
which was [BOTH TALKING]..

251  
00:11:24,790 --> 00:11:26,270  
Oh, that was your password?

252

00:11:26,270 --> 00:11:32,080

Yeah, so I met one guy and  
a brother and a sister.

253

00:11:32,080 --> 00:11:35,290

And we stayed together that  
night and the next day.

254

00:11:35,290 --> 00:11:36,760

So some women escaped too?

255

00:11:36,760 --> 00:11:37,260

Yeah.

256

00:11:37,260 --> 00:11:40,070

257

00:11:40,070 --> 00:11:45,600

And then we decided, there's  
too many to be four together.

258

00:11:45,600 --> 00:11:48,420

We split up into the boy  
and sister went together

259

00:11:48,420 --> 00:11:50,180

and I went together  
with the other guy.

260

00:11:50,180 --> 00:11:53,270

His name is Joseph Bleiberg.

261

00:11:53,270 --> 00:11:55,740

And he lived in France.

262

00:11:55,740 --> 00:11:57,200

And he spoke pretty good French.

263

00:11:57,200 --> 00:11:59,510

He was from Polish origin.

264

00:11:59,510 --> 00:12:04,460

But he had no accent, at least  
not the accent like I had.

265

00:12:04,460 --> 00:12:07,040

So as we went along--

266

00:12:07,040 --> 00:12:09,920

Had these other people all  
worked for the resistance?

267

00:12:09,920 --> 00:12:11,450

I don't know too much about it.

268

00:12:11,450 --> 00:12:12,900

I know some of  
these people which

269

00:12:12,900 --> 00:12:17,420

were close with the  
resistance, like some

270

00:12:17,420 --> 00:12:18,750

of these names I can give you.

271

00:12:18,750 --> 00:12:22,010

But it's Cohen, they're  
sister and brother, Philip

272

00:12:22,010 --> 00:12:25,220

and Rosemary Cohen, I don't  
know what was their connection

273

00:12:25,220 --> 00:12:27,920

or how they got on this train.

274

00:12:27,920 --> 00:12:30,200

I didn't ask them any questions.

275

00:12:30,200 --> 00:12:32,480

Look, you don't  
want to know which

276

00:12:32,480 --> 00:12:36,200  
is not your concern because  
next on the occasion,

277

00:12:36,200 --> 00:12:38,700  
they can squeeze anything out  
of you with the treatments you

278

00:12:38,700 --> 00:12:39,770  
get.

279

00:12:39,770 --> 00:12:42,140  
If you don't know,  
you can't answer.

280

00:12:42,140 --> 00:12:45,170  
What kind-- what did you  
talk about in the cattle car

281

00:12:45,170 --> 00:12:46,190  
before you escaped?

282

00:12:46,190 --> 00:12:47,810  
Very little.

283

00:12:47,810 --> 00:12:52,160  
Escape, that was  
all my entire idea.

284

00:12:52,160 --> 00:12:53,900  
Otherwise, you couldn't talk.

285

00:12:53,900 --> 00:12:55,790  
You were afraid to talk.

286

00:12:55,790 --> 00:12:57,110  
The Gestapo is outside.

287

00:12:57,110 --> 00:13:02,420  
You couldn't [INAUDIBLE] what  
could-- they can listen to you.



288  
00:13:02,420 --> 00:13:03,245  
Nobody talked.

289  
00:13:03,245 --> 00:13:08,070

290  
00:13:08,070 --> 00:13:13,360  
Anyhow, we were in field  
there during the night

291  
00:13:13,360 --> 00:13:16,660  
and the next day.

292  
00:13:16,660 --> 00:13:19,340  
And then we split up.

293  
00:13:19,340 --> 00:13:22,992  
I went with Joseph Bleiberg  
and brother and sister

294  
00:13:22,992 --> 00:13:23,575  
went together.

295  
00:13:23,575 --> 00:13:28,540

296  
00:13:28,540 --> 00:13:32,290  
From there on, I  
more or less told

297  
00:13:32,290 --> 00:13:35,290  
Bleiberg when we met  
people what to tell them.

298  
00:13:35,290 --> 00:13:36,520  
What was your version?

299  
00:13:36,520 --> 00:13:39,970  
My version was we are  
parachutists, English.

300

00:13:39,970 --> 00:13:41,620

Our plane was shot down.

301

00:13:41,620 --> 00:13:42,700

You're English?

302

00:13:42,700 --> 00:13:45,550

We're English and our  
plane was shot down.

303

00:13:45,550 --> 00:13:49,480

And we [INAUDIBLE] escaping  
the German to be detected.

304

00:13:49,480 --> 00:13:52,600

Most of the days, we  
went through the woods.

305

00:13:52,600 --> 00:13:55,960

We lived off an  
apple here or there.

306

00:13:55,960 --> 00:13:59,110

And one night, we  
came to a farm.

307

00:13:59,110 --> 00:14:03,880

And Bleiberg told them story,  
but I explained to him to say.

308

00:14:03,880 --> 00:14:05,560

Did you speak  
English at that time?

309

00:14:05,560 --> 00:14:08,420

No, but I spoke to  
him in my French,

310

00:14:08,420 --> 00:14:11,470

which was heavy  
accent with German.

311

00:14:11,470 --> 00:14:13,270  
But his French was pretty good.

312  
00:14:13,270 --> 00:14:13,900  
Right.

313  
00:14:13,900 --> 00:14:14,760  
So--

314  
00:14:14,760 --> 00:14:16,510  
How did you intend to  
say you were English

315  
00:14:16,510 --> 00:14:18,520  
if you didn't speak English?

316  
00:14:18,520 --> 00:14:19,960  
Well, the French didn't know.

317  
00:14:19,960 --> 00:14:22,780  
They think it's some kind  
of a story why what we want

318  
00:14:22,780 --> 00:14:24,190  
and what we are.

319  
00:14:24,190 --> 00:14:29,624  
Anyhow, this happened to  
be extremely nice people.

320  
00:14:29,624 --> 00:14:33,340  
They saw our condition.

321  
00:14:33,340 --> 00:14:37,660  
They gave us [FRENCH]  
for one night.

322  
00:14:37,660 --> 00:14:38,920  
And they fed us well.

323  
00:14:38,920 --> 00:14:40,570  
They treated us well.

324  
00:14:40,570 --> 00:14:42,940  
They went on the next day.

325  
00:14:42,940 --> 00:14:49,120  
So then finally, after  
about four days walking back

326  
00:14:49,120 --> 00:14:51,760  
from the sun south,  
the only orientation

327  
00:14:51,760 --> 00:14:56,110  
we had, going after the  
sun which way to travel.

328  
00:14:56,110 --> 00:14:58,150  
Because there were no  
street signs or road

329  
00:14:58,150 --> 00:14:59,320  
signs or anything.

330  
00:14:59,320 --> 00:15:01,630  
During wartime, all the  
signs are disturbed.

331  
00:15:01,630 --> 00:15:02,860  
They never write.

332  
00:15:02,860 --> 00:15:05,920  
The enemy shouldn't  
find its way.

333  
00:15:05,920 --> 00:15:10,720  
So we finally got to an area  
about 60 kilometers north

334  
00:15:10,720 --> 00:15:19,540  
of Paris in Creil,  
spelled C-R-E-I-L.

335

00:15:19,540 --> 00:15:23,410  
And there we found a  
resistance group in the woods.

336  
00:15:23,410 --> 00:15:25,047  
How did you find them?

337  
00:15:25,047 --> 00:15:26,380  
We were going through the woods.

338  
00:15:26,380 --> 00:15:28,000  
And we found these people there.

339  
00:15:28,000 --> 00:15:28,960  
And they stopped us.

340  
00:15:28,960 --> 00:15:30,430  
They interrogated us.

341  
00:15:30,430 --> 00:15:33,580  
And they found out what we are  
and what we are coming from.

342  
00:15:33,580 --> 00:15:37,030  
And then, OK, you're going  
to come in our group.

343  
00:15:37,030 --> 00:15:40,180  
And there I found out a  
real French resistance,

344  
00:15:40,180 --> 00:15:45,400  
that they were 95% foreigners--

345  
00:15:45,400 --> 00:15:50,140  
Polish, Italian,  
refugees like me.

346  
00:15:50,140 --> 00:15:52,510  
When you met up with  
this resistance group

347

00:15:52,510 --> 00:15:55,150  
and they asked you your story,  
what story did you give them?

348  
00:15:55,150 --> 00:15:56,260  
The real story.

349  
00:15:56,260 --> 00:15:57,550  
You gave them the real story?

350  
00:15:57,550 --> 00:15:58,900  
Yeah, of course.

351  
00:15:58,900 --> 00:16:00,640  
Because you knew  
they were resistance?

352  
00:16:00,640 --> 00:16:01,140  
Yeah.

353  
00:16:01,140 --> 00:16:04,950

354  
00:16:04,950 --> 00:16:06,375  
[COUGH]

355  
00:16:06,375 --> 00:16:10,180

356  
00:16:10,180 --> 00:16:12,400  
How do you know that a  
resistance group is truly

357  
00:16:12,400 --> 00:16:13,360  
a resistance group?

358  
00:16:13,360 --> 00:16:15,620  
You could see.

359  
00:16:15,620 --> 00:16:18,600  
Look, what choice do I have?

360

00:16:18,600 --> 00:16:19,230

We were alone.

361

00:16:19,230 --> 00:16:20,140

We had nothing.

362

00:16:20,140 --> 00:16:20,890

There was a group.

363

00:16:20,890 --> 00:16:23,290

There was some  
organization there.

364

00:16:23,290 --> 00:16:25,570

They had some weapons there.

365

00:16:25,570 --> 00:16:29,680

So our job was to take  
up positions the next day

366

00:16:29,680 --> 00:16:31,330

against the Germans.

367

00:16:31,330 --> 00:16:34,610

The Germans were on the retreat.

368

00:16:34,610 --> 00:16:36,940

And that was also--  
they were very

369

00:16:36,940 --> 00:16:41,770

careful who we are because they  
wanted to protect themselves.

370

00:16:41,770 --> 00:16:45,700

When they found out that we  
are for real and determined

371

00:16:45,700 --> 00:16:50,680

that we are escapees,  
then they were satisfied.

372

00:16:50,680 --> 00:16:52,550

And they knew you were Jewish?

373

00:16:52,550 --> 00:16:53,050

Yeah.

374

00:16:53,050 --> 00:16:56,020

375

00:16:56,020 --> 00:16:59,920

Did this resistance group  
have a particular name?

376

00:16:59,920 --> 00:17:01,630

Was there a leader  
that you knew of?

377

00:17:01,630 --> 00:17:03,460

Yeah, but I don't remember them.

378

00:17:03,460 --> 00:17:04,741

OK.

379

00:17:04,741 --> 00:17:06,504

How big a group was it?

380

00:17:06,504 --> 00:17:09,145

About 25, 30 people.

381

00:17:09,145 --> 00:17:11,680

They were a few  
French guys in there,

382

00:17:11,680 --> 00:17:14,560

but they were really not  
serious because they came there

383

00:17:14,560 --> 00:17:15,280

during the day.

384

00:17:15,280 --> 00:17:17,560



[INAUDIBLE] every night,  
they went home to mother.

385  
00:17:17,560 --> 00:17:21,380

386  
00:17:21,380 --> 00:17:23,349  
That was what  
shocked me the most.

387  
00:17:23,349 --> 00:17:25,790  
The so-called resistance  
and they go home at night.

388  
00:17:25,790 --> 00:17:29,255

389  
00:17:29,255 --> 00:17:31,930  
From there on, once the  
Germans were gone from there,

390  
00:17:31,930 --> 00:17:34,480  
we went back to Paris.

391  
00:17:34,480 --> 00:17:36,690  
So what did you do  
for the resistance?

392  
00:17:36,690 --> 00:17:38,290  
What was your job?

393  
00:17:38,290 --> 00:17:39,970  
[INAUDIBLE] nothing much.

394  
00:17:39,970 --> 00:17:40,690  
[INAUDIBLE]

395  
00:17:40,690 --> 00:17:41,710  
I had a gun.

396  
00:17:41,710 --> 00:17:44,440  
They took some positions

on the side of the road

397

00:17:44,440 --> 00:17:47,770

protect against Germans  
in case the Germans come.

398

00:17:47,770 --> 00:17:49,653

But there was really  
no action anymore.

399

00:17:49,653 --> 00:17:51,070

So you didn't have  
to use the gun?

400

00:17:51,070 --> 00:17:54,425

No, we were finished.

401

00:17:54,425 --> 00:17:55,050

Things didn't--

402

00:17:55,050 --> 00:17:59,230

No no more actions any more  
because it was already the end.

403

00:17:59,230 --> 00:17:59,870

Right.

404

00:17:59,870 --> 00:18:02,480

And in Paris again  
I met up with some--

405

00:18:02,480 --> 00:18:04,480

How long did you stay  
with the resistance group?

406

00:18:04,480 --> 00:18:05,772

A couple of days, maybe a week.

407

00:18:05,772 --> 00:18:08,640

A couple of days.

408

00:18:08,640 --> 00:18:11,300

And it was cleared  
clean of Germans

409  
00:18:11,300 --> 00:18:15,060  
and Paris was free August 25.

410  
00:18:15,060 --> 00:18:19,570  
So I escaped August 21.

411  
00:18:19,570 --> 00:18:21,100  
So it took us  
about three or four

412  
00:18:21,100 --> 00:18:23,630  
days to get down here to  
Paris because we had to walk.

413  
00:18:23,630 --> 00:18:25,390  
We had no transportation.

414  
00:18:25,390 --> 00:18:33,860  
We walked every day 50, 60  
kilometers, 40 kilometers.

415  
00:18:33,860 --> 00:18:36,250  
Forever it took.

416  
00:18:36,250 --> 00:18:39,918  
Wherever we felt safe to  
go, most of the times,

417  
00:18:39,918 --> 00:18:41,710  
we were in the woods,  
sometimes on the road

418  
00:18:41,710 --> 00:18:43,418  
when we felt it's safe  
to go on the road.

419  
00:18:43,418 --> 00:18:46,490

420

00:18:46,490 --> 00:18:48,080  
And food?

421  
00:18:48,080 --> 00:18:51,140  
I told you, apples from trees.

422  
00:18:51,140 --> 00:18:51,931  
Oh, right.

423  
00:18:51,931 --> 00:18:56,650

424  
00:18:56,650 --> 00:18:58,645  
That's basically the story.

425  
00:18:58,645 --> 00:18:59,770  
Now, well, now you're back.

426  
00:18:59,770 --> 00:19:00,850  
Now you're in Paris.

427  
00:19:00,850 --> 00:19:02,000  
We're back in Paris.

428  
00:19:02,000 --> 00:19:04,030  
And what did you do  
when you got to Paris?

429  
00:19:04,030 --> 00:19:10,180  
Well, I was-- again, I met  
up with people from the group

430  
00:19:10,180 --> 00:19:12,670  
from resistance.

431  
00:19:12,670 --> 00:19:19,210  
And then they gave me  
a job as interpreter.

432  
00:19:19,210 --> 00:19:23,260  
From there were a lot of French  
prisoners in German prison

433  
00:19:23,260 --> 00:19:25,450  
camps.

434  
00:19:25,450 --> 00:19:29,920  
And many had to write  
the letters in German

435  
00:19:29,920 --> 00:19:33,010  
to their family so the  
Germans could read it.

436  
00:19:33,010 --> 00:19:33,976  
I know how.

437  
00:19:33,976 --> 00:19:36,415  
And I would translate the  
letters for the families.

438  
00:19:36,415 --> 00:19:42,050

439  
00:19:42,050 --> 00:19:47,900  
Not too much work, but  
I got paid some money

440  
00:19:47,900 --> 00:19:49,510  
so I could exist.

441  
00:19:49,510 --> 00:19:50,390  
Who paid you?

442  
00:19:50,390 --> 00:19:51,210  
The resistance?

443  
00:19:51,210 --> 00:19:54,890  
It was from a  
newspaper, [FRENCH]..

444  
00:19:54,890 --> 00:19:59,540

445

00:19:59,540 --> 00:20:01,220

They paid you to  
do the translation?

446

00:20:01,220 --> 00:20:08,170

Yeah, but it was really a  
lousy job because many times,

447

00:20:08,170 --> 00:20:08,770

I had nothing.

448

00:20:08,770 --> 00:20:10,040

I was just sitting there.

449

00:20:10,040 --> 00:20:11,890

It just wasn't for me.

450

00:20:11,890 --> 00:20:16,030

Then I found an  
advertisement in the paper,

451

00:20:16,030 --> 00:20:19,390

said the American army is  
looking for a chauffeur

452

00:20:19,390 --> 00:20:20,920

interpreter.

453

00:20:20,920 --> 00:20:22,750

Chauffeur and interpreter?

454

00:20:22,750 --> 00:20:27,590

--and interpreter, so  
three words of English.

455

00:20:27,590 --> 00:20:33,060

And I got a job with the  
American army in Le Havre.

456

00:20:33,060 --> 00:20:37,040

I didn't know how to drive,  
didn't know much English.

457  
00:20:37,040 --> 00:20:39,820  
So the first three days,  
I didn't meet my captain,

458  
00:20:39,820 --> 00:20:41,220  
whom I was supposed to drive.

459  
00:20:41,220 --> 00:20:46,700  
I was just trying out a  
Jeep and learned to drive.

460  
00:20:46,700 --> 00:20:50,480  
And from there on, I  
was working for them.

461  
00:20:50,480 --> 00:20:52,073  
With the American army?

462  
00:20:52,073 --> 00:20:53,000  
Mm-hm.

463  
00:20:53,000 --> 00:20:55,510  
And for how long did you  
work for the American army?

464  
00:20:55,510 --> 00:20:58,690  
Oh, almost a year.

465  
00:20:58,690 --> 00:20:59,540  
I have dates here.

466  
00:20:59,540 --> 00:21:01,730  
I have papers here maybe.

467  
00:21:01,730 --> 00:21:02,960  
And now she can pick me up.

468  
00:21:02,960 --> 00:21:04,550  
My voice is already giving out.

469

00:21:04,550 --> 00:21:10,110

470

00:21:10,110 --> 00:21:10,897

OK.

471

00:21:10,897 --> 00:21:12,980

The dates are really not  
that important, are they?

472

00:21:12,980 --> 00:21:14,790

Yeah, I just-- no,  
not at this point.

473

00:21:14,790 --> 00:21:16,800

OK, just generally  
then, what happened?

474

00:21:16,800 --> 00:21:17,580

After this--

475

00:21:17,580 --> 00:21:19,380

So you stayed for a  
year with the army?

476

00:21:19,380 --> 00:21:22,680

That same body, so  
I worked for them.

477

00:21:22,680 --> 00:21:27,600

And my, I shouldn't  
say father-in-law,

478

00:21:27,600 --> 00:21:29,340

it's really not a father-in-law.

479

00:21:29,340 --> 00:21:33,480

It's my sister's  
father-in-law was in Paris--

480

00:21:33,480 --> 00:21:35,130

You had a sister?



481  
00:21:35,130 --> 00:21:37,830  
My sister-in-law's brother.

482  
00:21:37,830 --> 00:21:39,820  
Your sister-in-law's brother?

483  
00:21:39,820 --> 00:21:40,570  
In-law.

484  
00:21:40,570 --> 00:21:41,070  
In-law.

485  
00:21:41,070 --> 00:21:42,330

486  
00:21:42,330 --> 00:21:42,830  
OK.

487  
00:21:42,830 --> 00:21:43,970  
It makes me I don't know.

488  
00:21:43,970 --> 00:21:45,010  
Right, right.

489  
00:21:45,010 --> 00:21:51,240  
OK, he started to work  
in handbags in Paris.

490  
00:21:51,240 --> 00:21:53,010  
And he went back to Holland.

491  
00:21:53,010 --> 00:21:56,440  
And in Holland, he started  
up a little factory.

492  
00:21:56,440 --> 00:21:58,680  
And then I was  
repatriated to Holland

493  
00:21:58,680 --> 00:22:00,660  
since I was a refugee

out of Holland,

494

00:22:00,660 --> 00:22:02,370

not of Germany anymore.

495

00:22:02,370 --> 00:22:05,980

Because in 1943, I went  
out of Holland to France.

496

00:22:05,980 --> 00:22:06,480

Right.

497

00:22:06,480 --> 00:22:09,144

498

00:22:09,144 --> 00:22:12,210

When I went back to  
Holland, I worked for him

499

00:22:12,210 --> 00:22:15,540

for about a year and a  
half, a little over a year.

500

00:22:15,540 --> 00:22:17,220

And I thought there's  
no future for me

501

00:22:17,220 --> 00:22:19,110

because it's all his family.

502

00:22:19,110 --> 00:22:21,480

And [INAUDIBLE] on your own.

503

00:22:21,480 --> 00:22:26,190

I couldn't very well look at his  
face to be a competitor to him.

504

00:22:26,190 --> 00:22:28,260

And I had some  
family and cousins

505

00:22:28,260 --> 00:22:30,000

here in the United States.

506  
00:22:30,000 --> 00:22:32,100  
And I decided I  
want to come here.

507  
00:22:32,100 --> 00:22:35,870

508  
00:22:35,870 --> 00:22:38,990  
Lots of the family was  
very helpful when I came.

509  
00:22:38,990 --> 00:22:40,760  
So you came to the  
United States when?

510  
00:22:40,760 --> 00:22:41,900  
1947.

511  
00:22:41,900 --> 00:22:43,410  
What month?

512  
00:22:43,410 --> 00:22:44,240  
In June.

513  
00:22:44,240 --> 00:22:46,130  
And where did you settle?

514  
00:22:46,130 --> 00:22:47,030  
New York.

515  
00:22:47,030 --> 00:22:49,640  
New York City, and  
what did you do

516  
00:22:49,640 --> 00:22:52,130  
when you got to New York City?

517  
00:22:52,130 --> 00:22:54,897  
Well, I knew something  
about handbag manufacturing.

518  
00:22:54,897 --> 00:22:57,230  
And one of my cousins said,  
oh, I have some connections.

519  
00:22:57,230 --> 00:23:01,340  
I work-- I'm a maid or a  
housekeeper to these people

520  
00:23:01,340 --> 00:23:06,270  
manage a handbag factory  
because you get a job.

521  
00:23:06,270 --> 00:23:09,140  
So I went and I got a job.

522  
00:23:09,140 --> 00:23:10,610  
And you were single?

523  
00:23:10,610 --> 00:23:11,970  
I was single.

524  
00:23:11,970 --> 00:23:13,910  
And then what happened?

525  
00:23:13,910 --> 00:23:14,990  
I worked at a factory.

526  
00:23:14,990 --> 00:23:18,980  
Then I got paid \$26 a week.

527  
00:23:18,980 --> 00:23:22,070  
In 1947, that wasn't big money.

528  
00:23:22,070 --> 00:23:23,660  
But it was a job.

529  
00:23:23,660 --> 00:23:26,750  
I stayed with my aunt.

530  
00:23:26,750 --> 00:23:30,560

So my living expenses  
were very little.

531  
00:23:30,560 --> 00:23:33,170  
Then the union guy  
comes along, says, look,

532  
00:23:33,170 --> 00:23:36,810  
kind of work you do, you  
shouldn't work for this money.

533  
00:23:36,810 --> 00:23:40,730  
So I'll be here for you, and  
we'll get you a better job.

534  
00:23:40,730 --> 00:23:43,850  
And they got me a better  
job for my abilities.

535  
00:23:43,850 --> 00:23:47,550  
And then I started to  
make \$57, which I was also

536  
00:23:47,550 --> 00:23:51,260  
underpaid by \$8, \$10 a week.

537  
00:23:51,260 --> 00:23:54,970  
But it was a lot more money.

538  
00:23:54,970 --> 00:24:01,560  
So I stayed with them till  
one day he said to me,

539  
00:24:01,560 --> 00:24:06,900  
we're closing the factory  
now 'till our fall season

540  
00:24:06,900 --> 00:24:08,420  
starts in July.

541  
00:24:08,420 --> 00:24:09,795  
That was in March.

542

00:24:09,795 --> 00:24:12,965

So I asked him, what  
am I going to do?

543

00:24:12,965 --> 00:24:14,090

There's no income, nothing.

544

00:24:14,090 --> 00:24:16,320

Said, oh, no, pop, you  
go to the unemployment,

545

00:24:16,320 --> 00:24:18,300

you get-- you get paid.

546

00:24:18,300 --> 00:24:20,010

So I said unemployment?

547

00:24:20,010 --> 00:24:22,730

Fine, I go to the unemployment.

548

00:24:22,730 --> 00:24:24,563

And I come to the  
unemployment and sat down.

549

00:24:24,563 --> 00:24:26,313

They said Jacob, you're  
here a short time.

550

00:24:26,313 --> 00:24:27,090

You're not vested.

551

00:24:27,090 --> 00:24:30,310

You're not entitled to anything.

552

00:24:30,310 --> 00:24:33,100

That was my story, so.

553

00:24:33,100 --> 00:24:35,650

I read The New York Times.

554

00:24:35,650 --> 00:24:39,010

And I saw an ad in The Times  
that Alexander's department--

555  
00:24:39,010 --> 00:24:39,745  
store--

556  
00:24:39,745 --> 00:24:42,130  
does the name mean  
something to you--

557  
00:24:42,130 --> 00:24:47,080  
looking for jewelry  
and handbag repairman.

558  
00:24:47,080 --> 00:24:47,840  
That's my story.

559  
00:24:47,840 --> 00:24:51,790

560  
00:24:51,790 --> 00:24:53,530  
And then when did  
you get married?

561  
00:24:53,530 --> 00:24:54,540  
1950.

562  
00:24:54,540 --> 00:24:55,040  
1950.

563  
00:24:55,040 --> 00:24:59,350  
And I stayed with  
Alexander for a while.

564  
00:24:59,350 --> 00:25:01,510  
And they treated me pretty well.

565  
00:25:01,510 --> 00:25:04,450  
Comparatively, I was  
well-paid compared

566  
00:25:04,450 --> 00:25:07,160

to all the other workers  
because that time,

567  
00:25:07,160 --> 00:25:11,140  
somebody got \$40 or \$35 a  
week was a lot of money.

568  
00:25:11,140 --> 00:25:13,630  
And they paid me \$55.

569  
00:25:13,630 --> 00:25:15,850  
And then I took off for--

570  
00:25:15,850 --> 00:25:18,850  
after we got married,  
we went back to France.

571  
00:25:18,850 --> 00:25:22,570  
My in-laws lived in  
France, my wife's parents.

572  
00:25:22,570 --> 00:25:24,400  
We stayed with them.

573  
00:25:24,400 --> 00:25:27,940  
And when I came back, I took  
a job in the belt factory.

574  
00:25:27,940 --> 00:25:30,910  
And Alexander's bothered  
me, I should come back

575  
00:25:30,910 --> 00:25:34,240  
and they paid me \$80  
a week instead of \$55.

576  
00:25:34,240 --> 00:25:36,220  
But it was only a  
temporary thing.

577  
00:25:36,220 --> 00:25:38,680  
Because they were still  
looking for somebody cheaper.



578  
00:25:38,680 --> 00:25:42,460  
And one day they said,  
goodbye Mr. Jacob.

579  
00:25:42,460 --> 00:25:44,530  
That's it.

580  
00:25:44,530 --> 00:25:48,130  
So I went into  
business for myself.

581  
00:25:48,130 --> 00:25:50,376  
And do you have any children?

582  
00:25:50,376 --> 00:25:55,000  
Well, I have two  
children, two sons.

583  
00:25:55,000 --> 00:25:55,945  
One name is Peter.

584  
00:25:55,945 --> 00:25:57,270  
The other one is Philip.

585  
00:25:57,270 --> 00:26:02,050

586  
00:26:02,050 --> 00:26:04,720  
Can we talk just before  
we close a little bit

587  
00:26:04,720 --> 00:26:11,171  
about some of your thoughts  
about what you went through?

588  
00:26:11,171 --> 00:26:14,710  
Did it change your feelings  
about being Jewish,

589  
00:26:14,710 --> 00:26:17,780  
going through what you did

because you were Jewish?

590

00:26:17,780 --> 00:26:21,280

Not at all, not at all,

I'm not a religious person.

591

00:26:21,280 --> 00:26:25,030

I'm not really much into going

to the temple and praying.

592

00:26:25,030 --> 00:26:29,120

But I have 100,000%

Jewish feeling.

593

00:26:29,120 --> 00:26:31,260

There's something, I

mean, I see many people,

594

00:26:31,260 --> 00:26:34,270

they converted to Judaism,

they can never, never

595

00:26:34,270 --> 00:26:36,460

feel what a real Jew feels.

596

00:26:36,460 --> 00:26:39,700

It's something that's un...

597

00:26:39,700 --> 00:26:42,430

Do you get reparations?

598

00:26:42,430 --> 00:26:43,450

Yes, I do.

599

00:26:43,450 --> 00:26:46,840

And how do you feel about

getting reparations?

600

00:26:46,840 --> 00:26:49,510

It's an income.

601

00:26:49,510 --> 00:26:50,010

It helps.

602  
00:26:50,010 --> 00:26:54,920

603  
00:26:54,920 --> 00:26:57,890  
Did you talk about your  
experiences over the years?

604  
00:26:57,890 --> 00:27:03,050  
No, I didn't, very  
little, very seldom.

605  
00:27:03,050 --> 00:27:05,600  
Because when I  
came here, I never

606  
00:27:05,600 --> 00:27:07,850  
felt it's important  
to talk about.

607  
00:27:07,850 --> 00:27:10,220  
Because I feel people  
don't want to know

608  
00:27:10,220 --> 00:27:11,818  
what has happened in the past.

609  
00:27:11,818 --> 00:27:12,860  
They were not interested.

610  
00:27:12,860 --> 00:27:14,990  
Nobody asked any questions.

611  
00:27:14,990 --> 00:27:17,010  
And I always felt,  
it's the past,

612  
00:27:17,010 --> 00:27:20,150  
I have to live for tomorrow,  
for the day tomorrow

613

00:27:20,150 --> 00:27:22,820  
to look for my future.

614  
00:27:22,820 --> 00:27:25,820  
'Till recently when I  
found out that it's now

615  
00:27:25,820 --> 00:27:29,540  
very up-to-date and  
very fashionable

616  
00:27:29,540 --> 00:27:31,050  
to talk about Holocaust.

617  
00:27:31,050 --> 00:27:34,303  
And the last 10 years, it  
came out, a lot of literature

618  
00:27:34,303 --> 00:27:35,345  
came out, a lot of books.

619  
00:27:35,345 --> 00:27:40,990

620  
00:27:40,990 --> 00:27:42,820  
Again, what do  
you think kept you

621  
00:27:42,820 --> 00:27:45,760  
going through such  
terrible, terrible times?

622  
00:27:45,760 --> 00:27:50,490  
Self-preservation, what else?

623  
00:27:50,490 --> 00:27:53,700  
I was young,  
hopeful, optimistic.

624  
00:27:53,700 --> 00:27:57,490

625

00:27:57,490 --> 00:28:03,130  
I'm still optimistic today,  
but I'm not young anymore.

626  
00:28:03,130 --> 00:28:07,930  
Is there any message  
you would want to leave

627  
00:28:07,930 --> 00:28:09,040  
for your granddaughter?

628  
00:28:09,040 --> 00:28:12,580  
Any thoughts before we end?

629  
00:28:12,580 --> 00:28:14,080  
Anything that you  
would want to say?

630  
00:28:14,080 --> 00:28:20,760

631  
00:28:20,760 --> 00:28:23,440  
I hope she grows up to  
be a good Jewish woman.

632  
00:28:23,440 --> 00:28:26,970

633  
00:28:26,970 --> 00:28:29,907  
Even though I find it very  
difficult. Because her mother

634  
00:28:29,907 --> 00:28:30,490  
is not Jewish.

635  
00:28:30,490 --> 00:28:31,200  
She converted.

636  
00:28:31,200 --> 00:28:34,620  
But her conversion  
didn't mean a thing.

637

00:28:34,620 --> 00:28:37,690  
I'm going to send for the rabbi  
who converted her because he

638  
00:28:37,690 --> 00:28:40,110  
really didn't do anything.

639  
00:28:40,110 --> 00:28:40,840  
They went there.

640  
00:28:40,840 --> 00:28:43,900  
He gave her, read this  
book and read this book.

641  
00:28:43,900 --> 00:28:46,050  
And once, twice  
he talked to her.

642  
00:28:46,050 --> 00:28:49,185  
And then he made a little speech  
at the conversion ceremony.

643  
00:28:49,185 --> 00:28:50,250  
And that was it.

644  
00:28:50,250 --> 00:28:53,280

645  
00:28:53,280 --> 00:28:55,700  
Some rabbis do a very good job.

646  
00:28:55,700 --> 00:28:59,580  
We used to be affiliated with  
another temple in New York.

647  
00:28:59,580 --> 00:29:03,180  
And this rabbi really is--  
when he converts people,

648  
00:29:03,180 --> 00:29:05,370  
he does a good, good job.

649

00:29:05,370 --> 00:29:08,070  
He asked the people, come  
every Friday night and Shabbos

650  
00:29:08,070 --> 00:29:09,300  
synagogue.

651  
00:29:09,300 --> 00:29:14,220  
And he makes them aware of  
what's going on in Jewish life.

652  
00:29:14,220 --> 00:29:16,770  
Anything else you'd like  
to say before we close

653  
00:29:16,770 --> 00:29:18,210  
about your experience that--

654  
00:29:18,210 --> 00:29:28,670

655  
00:29:28,670 --> 00:29:29,650  
No, not really.

656  
00:29:29,650 --> 00:29:34,160

657  
00:29:34,160 --> 00:29:36,890  
Well, thank you very much  
for doing the interview.

658  
00:29:36,890 --> 00:29:37,580  
You're welcome.

659  
00:29:37,580 --> 00:29:38,780  
We do appreciate it.

660  
00:29:38,780 --> 00:29:43,660

661  
00:29:43,660 --> 00:29:47,670  
This concludes the

interview of Ludwig Jacob.

662

00:29:47,670 --> 00:29:53,550

It took place on May 23,  
1996 in New York City.

663

00:29:53,550 --> 00:29:55,740

And it was conducted  
by Gail Schwartz

664

00:29:55,740 --> 00:29:59,960

on behalf of the United States  
Holocaust Memorial Museum.

665

00:29:59,960 --> 00:30:02,000