

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:02,210

2

00:00:02,210 --> 00:00:05,120

This is the United States  
Holocaust Memorial Museum

3

00:00:05,120 --> 00:00:08,390

interview with Susan  
Warsinger, conducted

4

00:00:08,390 --> 00:00:15,530

by Gail Schwartz on August 12th,  
1996 in Chevy Chase, Maryland.

5

00:00:15,530 --> 00:00:22,450

This is tape Number 1, Side  
A. What is your full name?

6

00:00:22,450 --> 00:00:27,550

My name is Susan Warsinger, but  
my maiden name was Hilsenrath.

7

00:00:27,550 --> 00:00:29,530

I don't use it  
anymore, but I just

8

00:00:29,530 --> 00:00:33,070

want to make sure  
that's this tape.

9

00:00:33,070 --> 00:00:35,120

And where were you born?

10

00:00:35,120 --> 00:00:38,890

I was born in Bad  
Kreuznach, Germany.

11

00:00:38,890 --> 00:00:40,540

When were you born?

12

00:00:40,540 --> 00:00:46,060  
On May the 27th, 1929.

13  
00:00:46,060 --> 00:00:48,430  
Let's talk a little  
bit about your family.

14  
00:00:48,430 --> 00:00:51,650  
Who were the members of  
your immediate family?

15  
00:00:51,650 --> 00:00:55,480  
I had a mom and a  
dad and two brothers.

16  
00:00:55,480 --> 00:00:58,750  
And one brother was one  
year younger than me

17  
00:00:58,750 --> 00:01:01,973  
and the other one is nine  
years younger than me.

18  
00:01:01,973 --> 00:01:02,890  
What were their names?

19  
00:01:02,890 --> 00:01:05,260  
What are their names?

20  
00:01:05,260 --> 00:01:11,200  
My older brother is Joseph  
Hilsenrath and the young one

21  
00:01:11,200 --> 00:01:13,450  
is Ernest Hilsenrath.

22  
00:01:13,450 --> 00:01:16,010  
And your parents' names?

23  
00:01:16,010 --> 00:01:18,850  
My father's name was  
Israel Hilsenrath

24

00:01:18,850 --> 00:01:22,210

and my mother's name  
was Annie Hilsenrath,

25

00:01:22,210 --> 00:01:24,940

but her maiden name was Trimmer.

26

00:01:24,940 --> 00:01:28,300

And were your parents from  
this area, the same city

27

00:01:28,300 --> 00:01:29,680

that you were born in?

28

00:01:29,680 --> 00:01:30,580

No.

29

00:01:30,580 --> 00:01:35,830

My father was born in Poland  
in a city called Kolomyya.

30

00:01:35,830 --> 00:01:38,380

And my mother was  
born in another city,

31

00:01:38,380 --> 00:01:40,850

and I can't quite remember  
the name right now,

32

00:01:40,850 --> 00:01:44,200

but she was also born in Poland.

33

00:01:44,200 --> 00:01:47,230

And what brought  
them to Germany?

34

00:01:47,230 --> 00:01:49,600

My mother came to Germany--

35

00:01:49,600 --> 00:01:51,610

this is the story that I heard--

36

00:01:51,610 --> 00:01:55,540

my mother came to Germany  
because her mother had

37

00:01:55,540 --> 00:02:01,180

a lot of children, and her  
sister, my mother's aunt,

38

00:02:01,180 --> 00:02:05,380

didn't have any girls and  
she wanted to have a girl.

39

00:02:05,380 --> 00:02:12,460

So her aunt asked my grandmother  
if she could live with her.

40

00:02:12,460 --> 00:02:16,090

And my grandmother,  
evidently, thought

41

00:02:16,090 --> 00:02:19,080

that my mother would be  
better off with this aunt

42

00:02:19,080 --> 00:02:22,120

who was affluent and  
didn't have any children,

43

00:02:22,120 --> 00:02:24,760

so that's how she  
came to Germany.

44

00:02:24,760 --> 00:02:28,840

And the city she was  
in was [PLACE NAME]..

45

00:02:28,840 --> 00:02:33,190

Now, my dad, he came  
to Germany because--

46

00:02:33,190 --> 00:02:36,070

I think this is what I heard--

47

00:02:36,070 --> 00:02:38,280

he didn't want to be  
in the Polish army.

48

00:02:38,280 --> 00:02:42,550

So I think he was about 15  
when he left Poland and came

49

00:02:42,550 --> 00:02:44,590

to Bad Kreuznach.

50

00:02:44,590 --> 00:02:47,440

What kind of work  
did your father do?

51

00:02:47,440 --> 00:02:52,880

Well, my father, when  
I was a little girl,

52

00:02:52,880 --> 00:02:55,885

when I was first born, he  
had a store, a linen store.

53

00:02:55,885 --> 00:02:58,800

54

00:02:58,800 --> 00:03:00,830

But I don't remember  
the store at all

55

00:03:00,830 --> 00:03:04,750

because what had happened  
is he, all of a sudden,

56

00:03:04,750 --> 00:03:06,640

didn't have it anymore,  
and at the time

57

00:03:06,640 --> 00:03:11,620

I didn't know why he didn't  
have the store anymore.

58

00:03:11,620 --> 00:03:13,660  
Did your mother work?

59  
00:03:13,660 --> 00:03:14,280  
No.

60  
00:03:14,280 --> 00:03:15,370  
No.

61  
00:03:15,370 --> 00:03:19,060  
At that time, I don't  
think any ladies worked.

62  
00:03:19,060 --> 00:03:22,630  
She stayed home and  
took care of us.

63  
00:03:22,630 --> 00:03:24,430  
What kind of neighborhood  
did you live in?

64  
00:03:24,430 --> 00:03:28,060  
Was it a mixed Jewish,  
non-Jewish neighborhood?

65  
00:03:28,060 --> 00:03:30,180  
You mean in Bad Kreuznach?

66  
00:03:30,180 --> 00:03:32,290  
Well, I remember,  
when I was first born,

67  
00:03:32,290 --> 00:03:37,180  
we lived in a very fancy house  
in a very fancy neighborhood

68  
00:03:37,180 --> 00:03:39,580  
near the courthouse.

69  
00:03:39,580 --> 00:03:43,630  
And then we moved, and I  
don't remember why we moved.

70

00:03:43,630 --> 00:03:47,910

I kept asking my father why  
we moved, and we kept moving.

71

00:03:47,910 --> 00:03:52,130

It seemed to me we moved  
like once every year.

72

00:03:52,130 --> 00:03:55,200

And it seems to me, if  
I remember correctly,

73

00:03:55,200 --> 00:03:57,310

that every time  
we moved, we went

74

00:03:57,310 --> 00:04:01,060

to a place which was a little  
bit smaller than the one

75

00:04:01,060 --> 00:04:04,430

that we lived in before.

76

00:04:04,430 --> 00:04:09,170

And then at the end, the  
last residence where we lived

77

00:04:09,170 --> 00:04:10,980

was in an apartment house.

78

00:04:10,980 --> 00:04:13,880

And I remember the  
name of the street.

79

00:04:13,880 --> 00:04:15,710

It was on Adolf-Hitler-Platz.

80

00:04:15,710 --> 00:04:18,260

81

00:04:18,260 --> 00:04:22,970

It's not called that anymore.

82  
00:04:22,970 --> 00:04:26,160  
Was your family a  
religious family?

83  
00:04:26,160 --> 00:04:28,220  
Yeah, my father  
was very orthodox.

84  
00:04:28,220 --> 00:04:34,460  
And my mother was not, but she  
did everything to please him.

85  
00:04:34,460 --> 00:04:37,520  
She kept a kosher  
house, yes, and kept

86  
00:04:37,520 --> 00:04:39,080  
all of the Jewish holidays.

87  
00:04:39,080 --> 00:04:46,600  
I we went to shul and I  
went to Hebrew school.

88  
00:04:46,600 --> 00:04:51,970  
Did you have a large  
extended family in the city?

89  
00:04:51,970 --> 00:04:54,670  
In the city, in Bad Kreuznach?

90  
00:04:54,670 --> 00:05:00,370  
No, but the family that I knew  
was the aunt of my mother's,

91  
00:05:00,370 --> 00:05:02,290  
who had kept her and who  
lived in [PLACE NAME]

92  
00:05:02,290 --> 00:05:06,200  
and I remember that we went  
to visit them very often.



93

00:05:06,200 --> 00:05:10,390

And there also was my mother's  
grandmother who lived there,

94

00:05:10,390 --> 00:05:14,920

and also one of her  
other daughters,

95

00:05:14,920 --> 00:05:18,340

which also was another  
aunt of my mother's.

96

00:05:18,340 --> 00:05:22,060

And she lived in a city  
called Gelsenkirchen,

97

00:05:22,060 --> 00:05:24,280

and we went to  
visit them once when

98

00:05:24,280 --> 00:05:27,620

they had a lot of children.

99

00:05:27,620 --> 00:05:30,580

Let's now talk about  
your schooling.

100

00:05:30,580 --> 00:05:32,770

How old were you when you  
began to go to school?

101

00:05:32,770 --> 00:05:36,350

102

00:05:36,350 --> 00:05:37,630

I guess I was six.

103

00:05:37,630 --> 00:05:41,210

And I went to the public  
schools in Bad Kreuznach,

104

00:05:41,210 --> 00:05:45,640

and I remember I  
hated going to school.

105  
00:05:45,640 --> 00:05:48,970  
And I just can't remember  
why I hated it so,

106  
00:05:48,970 --> 00:05:53,230  
but my mother had to take  
me to school every day.

107  
00:05:53,230 --> 00:05:56,320  
And I always cried  
about going to school.

108  
00:05:56,320 --> 00:05:59,530  
And I just don't remember  
why I didn't like it,

109  
00:05:59,530 --> 00:06:01,090  
but maybe now I know.

110  
00:06:01,090 --> 00:06:04,240  
Kids used to make  
fun of me, I think.

111  
00:06:04,240 --> 00:06:05,800  
But anyway, all of  
a sudden, I didn't

112  
00:06:05,800 --> 00:06:08,110  
have to go to school anymore,  
and I was very happy.

113  
00:06:08,110 --> 00:06:12,490

114  
00:06:12,490 --> 00:06:15,170  
Now I know I couldn't  
go to school anymore.

115  
00:06:15,170 --> 00:06:17,380  
And then they formed

a Jewish school

116  
00:06:17,380 --> 00:06:19,480  
for all the children  
in Bad Kreuznach,

117  
00:06:19,480 --> 00:06:22,060  
and it was a  
one-room schoolhouse.

118  
00:06:22,060 --> 00:06:23,920  
In the first row,  
there were three kids,

119  
00:06:23,920 --> 00:06:25,270  
and that was the first grade.

120  
00:06:25,270 --> 00:06:27,730  
And I think that was me, and  
then in the second grade,

121  
00:06:27,730 --> 00:06:31,602  
the next row, and up until--

122  
00:06:31,602 --> 00:06:34,510  
let's see, it was up  
until the eighth grade

123  
00:06:34,510 --> 00:06:35,860  
or the ninth grade.

124  
00:06:35,860 --> 00:06:38,590  
Everybody was in  
this one school room.

125  
00:06:38,590 --> 00:06:42,250  
And we had a Jewish  
teacher, and I

126  
00:06:42,250 --> 00:06:43,870  
loved going to school and then.

127

00:06:43,870 --> 00:06:45,460

He was very nice to me.

128

00:06:45,460 --> 00:06:51,520

This teacher lived  
next to our apartment

129

00:06:51,520 --> 00:06:56,440

on Adolf-Hitler-Platz, so  
that made it all very nice.

130

00:06:56,440 --> 00:06:58,210

I just didn't realize--

131

00:06:58,210 --> 00:06:59,260

well, I was too little--

132

00:06:59,260 --> 00:07:01,120

I didn't realize  
what was going on.

133

00:07:01,120 --> 00:07:06,070

And evidently, my  
parents never told me.

134

00:07:06,070 --> 00:07:09,250

I just didn't understand that  
there was so much prejudice

135

00:07:09,250 --> 00:07:12,530

against the Jews at the time.

136

00:07:12,530 --> 00:07:15,410

You had said before that  
it was difficult to go

137

00:07:15,410 --> 00:07:16,580

to that first school.

138

00:07:16,580 --> 00:07:20,878

Were there any specific  
incidents on the street

139

00:07:20,878 --> 00:07:21,920  
or when you were playing?

140

00:07:21,920 --> 00:07:25,370  
Did you play with  
non-Jewish children

141

00:07:25,370 --> 00:07:26,480  
when you were quite young?

142

00:07:26,480 --> 00:07:29,210  
And if so, were there any  
problems that you recall?

143

00:07:29,210 --> 00:07:30,440  
No, I just don't remember.

144

00:07:30,440 --> 00:07:32,480  
But I do remember  
one thing, and I

145

00:07:32,480 --> 00:07:37,400  
think maybe I was going to  
the Jewish school already.

146

00:07:37,400 --> 00:07:44,090  
But I know Hitler-Platz was  
on one side of the museum,

147

00:07:44,090 --> 00:07:47,370  
and there was a big--

148

00:07:47,370 --> 00:07:50,010  
there was a thoroughfare  
that people could walk.

149

00:07:50,010 --> 00:07:52,140  
Cars couldn't go  
through there, and there

150

00:07:52,140 --> 00:07:54,650  
was a caretaker's house.

151  
00:07:54,650 --> 00:07:57,660  
And people always  
walked through this area

152  
00:07:57,660 --> 00:07:59,400  
to get onto the  
main street, where

153  
00:07:59,400 --> 00:08:03,060  
all the grocery stores were  
and the shopping center was.

154  
00:08:03,060 --> 00:08:05,430  
And my mother used  
to send me for bread,

155  
00:08:05,430 --> 00:08:08,850  
and she used to tell  
me to go to the store.

156  
00:08:08,850 --> 00:08:13,810  
And I used to cross that  
area where the museum was.

157  
00:08:13,810 --> 00:08:16,320  
And after a while,  
the keeper told me

158  
00:08:16,320 --> 00:08:18,750  
I couldn't walk  
through there anymore.

159  
00:08:18,750 --> 00:08:20,670  
And I couldn't figure  
out why I couldn't

160  
00:08:20,670 --> 00:08:22,040  
walk through there anymore.

161  
00:08:22,040 --> 00:08:24,720  
And I asked my mother, I saw  
these other people walking.

162  
00:08:24,720 --> 00:08:27,300  
Why couldn't I  
walk through there?

163  
00:08:27,300 --> 00:08:31,440  
And what happened was one  
day I walked through anyway

164  
00:08:31,440 --> 00:08:35,370  
and his children  
threw rocks at me.

165  
00:08:35,370 --> 00:08:38,159  
And so I ran back to my  
mother and I told her

166  
00:08:38,159 --> 00:08:41,010  
what had happened, and she  
told me to walk around it.

167  
00:08:41,010 --> 00:08:43,590  
Of course, it took  
another extra 15 minutes

168  
00:08:43,590 --> 00:08:47,250  
to walk all the way around  
to get to the store.

169  
00:08:47,250 --> 00:08:51,420  
So that's what I remember  
when I was a little kid.

170  
00:08:51,420 --> 00:08:54,220  
But otherwise, in  
the Jewish school,

171  
00:08:54,220 --> 00:08:57,400  
I was very happy  
with the children.

172  
00:08:57,400 --> 00:09:00,580  
But I don't remember playing

with any children that

173

00:09:00,580 --> 00:09:01,325

were not Jewish.

174

00:09:01,325 --> 00:09:04,710

175

00:09:04,710 --> 00:09:09,000

Was your family a  
very close family?

176

00:09:09,000 --> 00:09:11,550

Did you have a close  
relationship with your parents

177

00:09:11,550 --> 00:09:13,480

or were they very  
strict disciplinarians?

178

00:09:13,480 --> 00:09:14,980

How would you  
describe your parents?

179

00:09:14,980 --> 00:09:18,420

No, we had a wonderful  
relationship.

180

00:09:18,420 --> 00:09:20,130

I loved my mother and father.

181

00:09:20,130 --> 00:09:23,250

They were very good to us,  
and my father especially.

182

00:09:23,250 --> 00:09:26,520

I think he loved me more  
than he loved my brothers.

183

00:09:26,520 --> 00:09:30,510

[CHUCKLES] And I was very close  
to him, and also to my mother.



184

00:09:30,510 --> 00:09:33,060

185

00:09:33,060 --> 00:09:37,650

We had the baby, which is  
Ernest, the one that I told you

186

00:09:37,650 --> 00:09:39,090

about before.

187

00:09:39,090 --> 00:09:42,840

We had him after we had  
moved from one of the houses

188

00:09:42,840 --> 00:09:44,070

into a smaller house.

189

00:09:44,070 --> 00:09:46,770

And at the time, I  
couldn't figure out

190

00:09:46,770 --> 00:09:51,040

why my mother didn't go to  
the hospital to have the baby.

191

00:09:51,040 --> 00:09:52,580

She had gone to the hospital.

192

00:09:52,580 --> 00:09:54,540

There was a special  
home for ladies.

193

00:09:54,540 --> 00:09:58,710

When they had a baby, they  
could go to this special place,

194

00:09:58,710 --> 00:10:01,200

and they had doctors  
and nurses there

195

00:10:01,200 --> 00:10:03,070

that helped ladies

have their babies.

196  
00:10:03,070 --> 00:10:06,960  
But when my younger brother  
was born, she couldn't go,

197  
00:10:06,960 --> 00:10:09,180  
and I couldn't figure  
out why she didn't go.

198  
00:10:09,180 --> 00:10:13,920  
And I remember she had him in  
the house in our apartment,

199  
00:10:13,920 --> 00:10:16,288  
and it was terrible.

200  
00:10:16,288 --> 00:10:16,830  
I don't know.

201  
00:10:16,830 --> 00:10:21,810  
She had some lady, maybe it  
was a midwife, to help her.

202  
00:10:21,810 --> 00:10:22,800  
We were there.

203  
00:10:22,800 --> 00:10:26,280  
We were in another room, but  
we heard all of the screaming,

204  
00:10:26,280 --> 00:10:30,690  
because she didn't  
get any anesthetics,

205  
00:10:30,690 --> 00:10:33,240  
or she, evidently,  
didn't know how

206  
00:10:33,240 --> 00:10:34,980  
to have a natural childbirth.

207

00:10:34,980 --> 00:10:40,380

So it was very difficult for  
my mother to have the baby.

208

00:10:40,380 --> 00:10:42,840

What did your father  
tell you the reason

209

00:10:42,840 --> 00:10:45,840

was that your mother had  
to have the baby at home?

210

00:10:45,840 --> 00:10:48,210

That's just it.

211

00:10:48,210 --> 00:10:52,650

My father is dead now,  
but I can't ask him

212

00:10:52,650 --> 00:10:53,820

why he didn't tell me.

213

00:10:53,820 --> 00:10:55,740

He just never told me.

214

00:10:55,740 --> 00:10:59,970

He never explained to me  
what was going on in Germany,

215

00:10:59,970 --> 00:11:04,687

and I really didn't know until,  
I guess, it was Kristallnacht.

216

00:11:04,687 --> 00:11:08,060

217

00:11:08,060 --> 00:11:12,920

Before that time,  
do you remember

218

00:11:12,920 --> 00:11:14,280

being generally frightened?

219

00:11:14,280 --> 00:11:16,010

Obviously, you  
were a small child.

220

00:11:16,010 --> 00:11:19,730

221

00:11:19,730 --> 00:11:23,210

Or was that intermittent and it  
was generally a happy childhood

222

00:11:23,210 --> 00:11:24,562

up till that point?

223

00:11:24,562 --> 00:11:27,950

Oh, yeah, it was a happy  
child up till that point.

224

00:11:27,950 --> 00:11:29,330

Yeah.

225

00:11:29,330 --> 00:11:31,500

What other interests  
did you have?

226

00:11:31,500 --> 00:11:34,190

Did you have any hobbies?

227

00:11:34,190 --> 00:11:34,820

I don't know.

228

00:11:34,820 --> 00:11:36,641

I was little.

229

00:11:36,641 --> 00:11:39,430

I guess I just liked  
all of the things

230

00:11:39,430 --> 00:11:41,270

six-year-old children like.

231

00:11:41,270 --> 00:11:43,380  
I just don't know.

232  
00:11:43,380 --> 00:11:46,850  
I hadn't developed  
into a person, really,

233  
00:11:46,850 --> 00:11:47,840  
so I don't know.

234  
00:11:47,840 --> 00:11:54,410

235  
00:11:54,410 --> 00:11:58,704  
Do you remember liking  
sports, anything like that?

236  
00:11:58,704 --> 00:11:59,920  
No.

237  
00:11:59,920 --> 00:12:00,420  
No.

238  
00:12:00,420 --> 00:12:03,090  
I liked to play with dolls.

239  
00:12:03,090 --> 00:12:07,530  
I remember I had a porcelain  
doll, this beautiful porcelain

240  
00:12:07,530 --> 00:12:10,650  
doll my mother  
had bought for me.

241  
00:12:10,650 --> 00:12:13,960  
And my brother, the one  
that's a year younger than me,

242  
00:12:13,960 --> 00:12:15,370  
and I were playing  
with the doll.

243

00:12:15,370 --> 00:12:17,700

We were playing trains,  
and he wanted the doll

244

00:12:17,700 --> 00:12:19,770

to sit on the train.

245

00:12:19,770 --> 00:12:23,850

And he pushed the doll  
and the doll fell down,

246

00:12:23,850 --> 00:12:28,200

and the porcelain broke  
into a million pieces

247

00:12:28,200 --> 00:12:31,470

and I was very upset.

248

00:12:31,470 --> 00:12:33,990

I don't know why I  
couldn't have another doll.

249

00:12:33,990 --> 00:12:38,250

I just don't remember that part.

250

00:12:38,250 --> 00:12:40,110

What language did  
you speak at home?

251

00:12:40,110 --> 00:12:40,920

German.

252

00:12:40,920 --> 00:12:41,550

German.

253

00:12:41,550 --> 00:12:43,650

Oh, yeah, German.

254

00:12:43,650 --> 00:12:46,750

Any other languages, or was  
that all that was spoken?

255

00:12:46,750 --> 00:12:48,000  
No, we didn't.

256  
00:12:48,000 --> 00:12:52,710  
At that time nobody spoke any  
Yiddish because, evidently,

257  
00:12:52,710 --> 00:12:55,020  
it wasn't in style  
to speak Yiddish.

258  
00:12:55,020 --> 00:12:57,640  
So we only spoke German.

259  
00:12:57,640 --> 00:13:00,240

260  
00:13:00,240 --> 00:13:03,153  
Did you have any favorite  
songs when you were a child?

261  
00:13:03,153 --> 00:13:04,320  
Do you remember any of them?

262  
00:13:04,320 --> 00:13:11,510

263  
00:13:11,510 --> 00:13:15,620  
[NON-ENGLISH] That was one.

264  
00:13:15,620 --> 00:13:17,760  
And then my mother  
used to sing to me.

265  
00:13:17,760 --> 00:13:19,640  
I guess she used  
to like love songs.

266  
00:13:19,640 --> 00:13:30,220  
She used to sing [NON-ENGLISH] I  
think it was a Marlene Dietrich

267

00:13:30,220 --> 00:13:30,880  
song.

268  
00:13:30,880 --> 00:13:33,080  
She used to sing that me.

269  
00:13:33,080 --> 00:13:34,370  
Do you want to sing it now?

270  
00:13:34,370 --> 00:13:34,870  
No.

271  
00:13:34,870 --> 00:13:36,000  
[CHUCKLES]

272  
00:13:36,000 --> 00:13:38,505  
No.

273  
00:13:38,505 --> 00:13:39,400  
OK.

274  
00:13:39,400 --> 00:13:43,750  
So you said you moved into  
smaller and smaller living

275  
00:13:43,750 --> 00:13:44,920  
arrangements.

276  
00:13:44,920 --> 00:13:51,190  
And then when did things start  
to really change radically?

277  
00:13:51,190 --> 00:13:53,720  
And again, we know  
you were quite young,

278  
00:13:53,720 --> 00:13:59,170  
but your first recollection  
of a major change.

279  
00:13:59,170 --> 00:14:02,200  
Well, the major



change that I know

280

00:14:02,200 --> 00:14:06,670

was I didn't get to go to  
school with the other children.

281

00:14:06,670 --> 00:14:11,170

And then we moved  
in with a rabbi.

282

00:14:11,170 --> 00:14:13,960

There wasn't any place  
for us to live anymore,

283

00:14:13,960 --> 00:14:16,150

and as I told you, on  
this Adolf-Hitler-Platz

284

00:14:16,150 --> 00:14:22,660

was a three-floor building.

285

00:14:22,660 --> 00:14:26,500

We lived on the first floor,  
and on the side of our apartment

286

00:14:26,500 --> 00:14:28,120

lived the teacher.

287

00:14:28,120 --> 00:14:30,130

And then on top of  
us lived the rabbi,

288

00:14:30,130 --> 00:14:33,070

and the rabbi had made  
these arrangements that we

289

00:14:33,070 --> 00:14:35,650

could live underneath him.

290

00:14:35,650 --> 00:14:39,310

And then on the third floor  
lived a non-Jewish family.

291

00:14:39,310 --> 00:14:42,190

And then on top of  
that was an attic.

292

00:14:42,190 --> 00:14:45,730

293

00:14:45,730 --> 00:14:48,550

I guess the first  
time I really thought

294

00:14:48,550 --> 00:14:53,380

things were really terrible  
is during Kristallnacht.

295

00:14:53,380 --> 00:14:56,800

Up to that point, did you  
know who Adolf Hitler was?

296

00:14:56,800 --> 00:14:59,470

Yes, I knew he was a leader  
and I knew all the songs

297

00:14:59,470 --> 00:15:01,210

and I knew all the  
youth movements.

298

00:15:01,210 --> 00:15:04,090

299

00:15:04,090 --> 00:15:06,820

And I know we didn't  
sing these songs.

300

00:15:06,820 --> 00:15:09,430

And I guess at the  
time, you were little

301

00:15:09,430 --> 00:15:12,260

and all the youth movement  
was this great thing,

302

00:15:12,260 --> 00:15:14,200  
and everybody was  
having a lot of fun

303  
00:15:14,200 --> 00:15:18,505  
and everybody was  
singing all these songs.

304  
00:15:18,505 --> 00:15:21,970  
I knew that I wasn't part of it.

305  
00:15:21,970 --> 00:15:24,430  
How did you know you  
weren't part of it?

306  
00:15:24,430 --> 00:15:27,850  
Well, I don't know.

307  
00:15:27,850 --> 00:15:29,590  
My mother told me  
I wasn't supposed

308  
00:15:29,590 --> 00:15:32,250  
to raise my hand and  
sieg heil, the way

309  
00:15:32,250 --> 00:15:37,610  
you did for Adolf Hitler  
when he was making speeches.

310  
00:15:37,610 --> 00:15:40,870  
Or when you talked  
to a person, you

311  
00:15:40,870 --> 00:15:44,653  
didn't say sieg heil the way  
you did it to other people.

312  
00:15:44,653 --> 00:15:48,400

313  
00:15:48,400 --> 00:15:50,800  
But I knew that all

these other people were

314  
00:15:50,800 --> 00:15:53,200  
having a wonderful  
time, and I knew

315  
00:15:53,200 --> 00:15:55,060  
that I wasn't part of this.

316  
00:15:55,060 --> 00:15:58,540  
All these children were all  
part of this big movement

317  
00:15:58,540 --> 00:16:02,350  
that Hitler was making  
and I wasn't part of it,

318  
00:16:02,350 --> 00:16:05,200  
and that's just about all  
that I knew at that time.

319  
00:16:05,200 --> 00:16:08,500  
I mean, I know a lot more now  
because I work at the Holocaust

320  
00:16:08,500 --> 00:16:12,250  
Museum and I understand it  
all, but at the time I didn't.

321  
00:16:12,250 --> 00:16:14,920  
I just didn't.

322  
00:16:14,920 --> 00:16:17,830  
Did you feel badly that you  
couldn't be a part of this?

323  
00:16:17,830 --> 00:16:18,830  
Yeah, I think so.

324  
00:16:18,830 --> 00:16:20,260  
Sometimes I did.

325

00:16:20,260 --> 00:16:21,100  
Yeah.

326  
00:16:21,100 --> 00:16:23,270  
I did.

327  
00:16:23,270 --> 00:16:28,510  
And seeing adults in  
uniforms, was that frightening

328  
00:16:28,510 --> 00:16:32,140  
or something very marvelous?

329  
00:16:32,140 --> 00:16:33,720  
I don't think it  
was frightening.

330  
00:16:33,720 --> 00:16:35,240  
It certainly wasn't marvelous.

331  
00:16:35,240 --> 00:16:39,080  
But I think after Kristallnacht,  
it was frightening.

332  
00:16:39,080 --> 00:16:41,130  
Yes.

333  
00:16:41,130 --> 00:16:46,340  
OK, well, now we're up to  
Kristallnacht, November, 1938.

334  
00:16:46,340 --> 00:16:49,860  
What are your first  
memories of that time?

335  
00:16:49,860 --> 00:16:57,170  
My brother and I shared  
a room in the apartment.

336  
00:16:57,170 --> 00:17:01,310  
We were waking up  
to this big noise,

337

00:17:01,310 --> 00:17:05,869  
and a brick was being thrown  
through our bedroom window.

338

00:17:05,869 --> 00:17:09,710  
And we ran into my  
parents' room, where they

339

00:17:09,710 --> 00:17:11,780  
were sleeping with the baby.

340

00:17:11,780 --> 00:17:15,829  
And we said, the brick  
is coming in our window.

341

00:17:15,829 --> 00:17:18,950  
And they took us  
into their arms,

342

00:17:18,950 --> 00:17:22,760  
and not only were the bricks  
coming into our window,

343

00:17:22,760 --> 00:17:27,319  
but the bricks were coming  
all over the apartment.

344

00:17:27,319 --> 00:17:30,470  
At the front door, we  
had this glass door.

345

00:17:30,470 --> 00:17:34,820  
And people were throwing rocks  
and bricks into the glass door,

346

00:17:34,820 --> 00:17:38,058  
and we just couldn't figure  
out why they were doing it.

347

00:17:38,058 --> 00:17:38,600  
I don't know.

348

00:17:38,600 --> 00:17:41,150

My parents didn't tell us  
why they were doing it,

349

00:17:41,150 --> 00:17:44,420

but they were holding us.

350

00:17:44,420 --> 00:17:50,030

So after a while, my  
mother took the baby.

351

00:17:50,030 --> 00:17:53,930

And my father gave me all the  
money that he had in the world,

352

00:17:53,930 --> 00:17:57,830

and he gave it to me and  
I put it in my underwear.

353

00:17:57,830 --> 00:18:00,710

And we ran up to the attic.

354

00:18:00,710 --> 00:18:06,260

You remember I told you before  
that on top of the third floor

355

00:18:06,260 --> 00:18:07,970

there was an attic.

356

00:18:07,970 --> 00:18:12,110

And we ran up to  
the attic to hide,

357

00:18:12,110 --> 00:18:16,580

because my father said it's  
not safe to be down there.

358

00:18:16,580 --> 00:18:19,820

And the rabbi's  
family came, too,

359

00:18:19,820 --> 00:18:21,770

the ones that lived upstairs.

360  
00:18:21,770 --> 00:18:25,160  
But the soldiers--  
and I don't know

361  
00:18:25,160 --> 00:18:26,810  
which ones they  
were, whether they

362  
00:18:26,810 --> 00:18:30,530  
were the Gestapo or  
the SA or the SS.

363  
00:18:30,530 --> 00:18:32,360  
At that time I didn't know.

364  
00:18:32,360 --> 00:18:38,390  
They got him before he had a  
chance to run upstairs to hide.

365  
00:18:38,390 --> 00:18:43,100  
And I remember, we were looking  
out the window up in the attic.

366  
00:18:43,100 --> 00:18:45,350  
There was this tiny, little  
window, and we looked down

367  
00:18:45,350 --> 00:18:46,392  
and they had grabbed him.

368  
00:18:46,392 --> 00:18:49,040  
Some were holding him  
by his arms and pulled--

369  
00:18:49,040 --> 00:18:50,250  
he had a beard.

370  
00:18:50,250 --> 00:18:54,900  
He was a young rabbi because  
his children were my age.

371



00:18:54,900 --> 00:18:57,650  
And they grabbed him and  
they pulled him by the beard.

372  
00:18:57,650 --> 00:18:59,360  
And they took a  
scissor or a knife--

373  
00:18:59,360 --> 00:19:00,870  
I don't remember  
quite what it was--

374  
00:19:00,870 --> 00:19:02,840  
and they cut off his beard.

375  
00:19:02,840 --> 00:19:07,380  
And to me, the beard was  
very symbolic at the time,

376  
00:19:07,380 --> 00:19:09,020  
and I just thought  
it was horrible.

377  
00:19:09,020 --> 00:19:12,080  
And they took him off to jail.

378  
00:19:12,080 --> 00:19:19,080  
And somehow, they  
took my father, too,

379  
00:19:19,080 --> 00:19:22,620  
but then they sent him  
back because he was Polish.

380  
00:19:22,620 --> 00:19:25,320  
That's what my mother told  
me, because he was Polish.

381  
00:19:25,320 --> 00:19:26,820  
And they said they  
couldn't keep him

382  
00:19:26,820 --> 00:19:28,650

in jail because he was Polish.

383

00:19:28,650 --> 00:19:34,350

But the rabbi, they  
kept him in the jail.

384

00:19:34,350 --> 00:19:37,370

Anyway, we stayed up in  
that attic for three days,

385

00:19:37,370 --> 00:19:41,010

and we were playing with  
the rabbi's children.

386

00:19:41,010 --> 00:19:46,750

There was a big pile  
of apples that somebody

387

00:19:46,750 --> 00:19:48,070

had stored up there.

388

00:19:48,070 --> 00:19:49,590

I don't remember who it was.

389

00:19:49,590 --> 00:19:53,650

And so we polished and  
shined apples and ate them.

390

00:19:53,650 --> 00:19:58,300

So it wasn't such  
a difficult time

391

00:19:58,300 --> 00:20:00,820

because we had other  
children to play with,

392

00:20:00,820 --> 00:20:07,410

but my father and my mother  
must have felt horror.

393

00:20:07,410 --> 00:20:10,860

But they just tried to hide  
it from me all the time.

394  
00:20:10,860 --> 00:20:15,120  
I just don't remember them  
telling me how horrible it was.

395  
00:20:15,120 --> 00:20:19,200  
All I knew is I was playing  
with the rabbi's children.

396  
00:20:19,200 --> 00:20:21,640  
Pretty soon we would be  
able to go back downstairs.

397  
00:20:21,640 --> 00:20:25,590

398  
00:20:25,590 --> 00:20:27,060  
We stayed up there  
for three days.

399  
00:20:27,060 --> 00:20:30,810  
And the people who lived  
on the third floor,

400  
00:20:30,810 --> 00:20:33,750  
I think they gave us food,  
but I don't quite remember

401  
00:20:33,750 --> 00:20:36,240  
what they gave us to eat.

402  
00:20:36,240 --> 00:20:41,190  
Then after about three  
days, we went back down.

403  
00:20:41,190 --> 00:20:46,590  
And then we found out that  
they didn't only do it to us,

404  
00:20:46,590 --> 00:20:50,760  
but a lot of people in the  
town, a lot of the Jews.

405

00:20:50,760 --> 00:20:52,890

It happened to the  
Jews all over the town.

406

00:20:52,890 --> 00:20:56,160

407

00:20:56,160 --> 00:20:58,620

I guess I didn't  
even realize that it

408

00:20:58,620 --> 00:21:00,080

was going all over Germany.

409

00:21:00,080 --> 00:21:03,880

410

00:21:03,880 --> 00:21:05,230

I didn't know it had a name.

411

00:21:05,230 --> 00:21:06,910

It was Kristallnacht.

412

00:21:06,910 --> 00:21:09,350

I just knew what happened to me.

413

00:21:09,350 --> 00:21:10,570

And I don't know.

414

00:21:10,570 --> 00:21:13,600

It wasn't until I came  
to the United States

415

00:21:13,600 --> 00:21:17,845

that I found out that this  
was going all over Germany.

416

00:21:17,845 --> 00:21:21,720

417

00:21:21,720 --> 00:21:23,640

And when you were up  
in the attic, what

418  
00:21:23,640 --> 00:21:25,560  
kind of sleeping  
arrangements did

419  
00:21:25,560 --> 00:21:27,870  
you have for all these people?

420  
00:21:27,870 --> 00:21:31,260  
We all slept on the floor.

421  
00:21:31,260 --> 00:21:37,200  
Well, at the time, it was  
like having a sleepover party.

422  
00:21:37,200 --> 00:21:41,790  
Our grandchildren  
sometimes come and they all

423  
00:21:41,790 --> 00:21:43,830  
sleep in our recreation  
room together

424  
00:21:43,830 --> 00:21:44,955  
and they have a great time.

425  
00:21:44,955 --> 00:21:47,550

426  
00:21:47,550 --> 00:21:50,550  
At the time, I was so dumb.

427  
00:21:50,550 --> 00:21:53,340  
I was a child and I just  
made the best of it,

428  
00:21:53,340 --> 00:21:56,640  
and my parents were  
hiding the worst of it

429

00:21:56,640 --> 00:22:01,290  
from me, so I don't have  
really terrible memories.

430  
00:22:01,290 --> 00:22:04,860  
I know is that I had to take  
good care of my father's money.

431  
00:22:04,860 --> 00:22:07,140  
I remember that I had  
to go to the bathroom

432  
00:22:07,140 --> 00:22:13,490  
and I urinated on his  
money, but it all dried up.

433  
00:22:13,490 --> 00:22:16,290  
What were the  
sanitary facilities?

434  
00:22:16,290 --> 00:22:17,000  
I don't remember.

435  
00:22:17,000 --> 00:22:20,940  
I don't think there  
was a bathroom.

436  
00:22:20,940 --> 00:22:26,940  
I remember we didn't even have  
a bathroom in our apartment.

437  
00:22:26,940 --> 00:22:30,330  
We had to walk up a  
half a flight of stairs

438  
00:22:30,330 --> 00:22:33,180  
in order to go to the bathroom.

439  
00:22:33,180 --> 00:22:36,370  
And I don't remember  
where we went.

440  
00:22:36,370 --> 00:22:37,980

I don't.

441

00:22:37,980 --> 00:22:40,490

I don't remember.

442

00:22:40,490 --> 00:22:43,760

Besides apples, what  
else did you eat?

443

00:22:43,760 --> 00:22:46,370

Well, as I told you, I  
think, and I don't remember,

444

00:22:46,370 --> 00:22:49,280

but I think the people who  
were on the third floor,

445

00:22:49,280 --> 00:22:52,250

they gave us food to eat in.

446

00:22:52,250 --> 00:22:54,058

I don't remember  
what they gave us.

447

00:22:54,058 --> 00:22:58,450

448

00:22:58,450 --> 00:23:00,910

Were you able to continue  
looking out of the window

449

00:23:00,910 --> 00:23:02,860

or did you have to stay away?

450

00:23:02,860 --> 00:23:03,760

We stayed away.

451

00:23:03,760 --> 00:23:05,710

My parents wouldn't let  
us go near the window

452

00:23:05,710 --> 00:23:08,010

because they didn't  
want the Germans to know

453  
00:23:08,010 --> 00:23:10,960  
that we were up there.

454  
00:23:10,960 --> 00:23:14,680  
But evidently, after three days,  
we went back to the apartment.

455  
00:23:14,680 --> 00:23:19,620  
And we had to board  
up the windows,

456  
00:23:19,620 --> 00:23:26,480  
pick up the rocks  
and the bricks,

457  
00:23:26,480 --> 00:23:30,840  
and clean up as  
best as we could.

458  
00:23:30,840 --> 00:23:31,850  
Of course I remember--

459  
00:23:31,850 --> 00:23:37,230  
I know now that my father, all  
the things that were broken,

460  
00:23:37,230 --> 00:23:39,450  
he had to go and  
pay for it himself.

461  
00:23:39,450 --> 00:23:41,600  
But at the time,  
he didn't tell me.

462  
00:23:41,600 --> 00:23:45,660  
He just told me that there  
was a mishap that happened

463  
00:23:45,660 --> 00:23:47,290  
and we had to take care of it.



464  
00:23:47,290 --> 00:23:49,920

465  
00:23:49,920 --> 00:23:52,850  
You were nine years  
old at the time.

466  
00:23:52,850 --> 00:23:55,140  
At the time, I was eight.

467  
00:23:55,140 --> 00:23:55,640  
Eight?

468  
00:23:55,640 --> 00:23:58,030  
Yeah.

469  
00:23:58,030 --> 00:24:00,990  
And what were your  
feelings when you

470  
00:24:00,990 --> 00:24:05,380  
came downstairs and saw the  
destruction in your apartment?

471  
00:24:05,380 --> 00:24:10,110  
Well, I was horrified why  
people would do such a thing.

472  
00:24:10,110 --> 00:24:13,630  
And I tried to find out from my  
parents why they were doing it.

473  
00:24:13,630 --> 00:24:15,570  
And I guess at that  
time, my father

474  
00:24:15,570 --> 00:24:18,990  
said that the Germans  
didn't like the Jews,

475  
00:24:18,990 --> 00:24:22,950

and I couldn't figure out why.

476

00:24:22,950 --> 00:24:28,130

I just couldn't figure out how  
anybody could be like that.

477

00:24:28,130 --> 00:24:30,080

When you had first  
gone up into the attic,

478

00:24:30,080 --> 00:24:32,780

did you take anything  
special that you

479

00:24:32,780 --> 00:24:36,410

liked as a child, any  
toy or anything special?

480

00:24:36,410 --> 00:24:38,870

No, I don't think we had time.

481

00:24:38,870 --> 00:24:40,460

We didn't have time.

482

00:24:40,460 --> 00:24:44,060

We ran as fast as we could.

483

00:24:44,060 --> 00:24:47,520

We didn't even take  
extra clothing.

484

00:24:47,520 --> 00:24:48,710

We didn't take anything.

485

00:24:48,710 --> 00:24:51,700

486

00:24:51,700 --> 00:24:54,700

Just the money, I guess.

487

00:24:54,700 --> 00:24:58,200

Didn't do him much

good after a while.

488

00:24:58,200 --> 00:25:02,810

How was it possible to keep the  
little children quiet up there?

489

00:25:02,810 --> 00:25:06,040

It's really because my  
brother was the baby,

490

00:25:06,040 --> 00:25:08,290

and I guess my  
mother nursed him.

491

00:25:08,290 --> 00:25:12,450

Every time he cried,  
she nursed him.

492

00:25:12,450 --> 00:25:16,620

And with us, my brother  
and me, we were already

493

00:25:16,620 --> 00:25:19,260

seven and eight years  
old, and they told us

494

00:25:19,260 --> 00:25:23,190

we had to be quiet, so we were.

495

00:25:23,190 --> 00:25:25,920

And at night, I  
guess we didn't have

496

00:25:25,920 --> 00:25:29,525

to be that quiet because  
everybody else was sleeping.

497

00:25:29,525 --> 00:25:32,570

498

00:25:32,570 --> 00:25:37,400

So now you're back downstairs  
and cleaning up your apartment.

499

00:25:37,400 --> 00:25:39,920

I just don't remember  
much in between.

500

00:25:39,920 --> 00:25:43,830

I don't even remember  
if I went to school.

501

00:25:43,830 --> 00:25:46,950

I don't know after Kristallnacht  
whether they closed.

502

00:25:46,950 --> 00:25:49,520

I think they closed  
the Jewish school down

503

00:25:49,520 --> 00:25:52,370

because they took  
the teacher away.

504

00:25:52,370 --> 00:25:54,800

But I'm not quite  
positive about that.

505

00:25:54,800 --> 00:25:57,435

506

00:25:57,435 --> 00:25:59,060

What was the name of  
the Jewish school?

507

00:25:59,060 --> 00:26:02,200

Did it have a specific name?

508

00:26:02,200 --> 00:26:04,150

No, it didn't.

509

00:26:04,150 --> 00:26:07,030

It was just a one room.

510

00:26:07,030 --> 00:26:08,980

It wasn't even a  
building of its own.

511  
00:26:08,980 --> 00:26:13,340  
It was just one room somewhere.

512  
00:26:13,340 --> 00:26:15,890  
I don't even remember  
how we got to it.

513  
00:26:15,890 --> 00:26:19,130  
But I remember the teacher  
was very good to us.

514  
00:26:19,130 --> 00:26:21,050  
He was very understanding.

515  
00:26:21,050 --> 00:26:23,600  
And evidently, I had  
learned how to read

516  
00:26:23,600 --> 00:26:28,100  
and I knew my geography,  
and evidently, he

517  
00:26:28,100 --> 00:26:30,920  
must have done a good job.

518  
00:26:30,920 --> 00:26:33,350  
What was the name of the  
rabbi in your building?

519  
00:26:33,350 --> 00:26:34,660  
Rabbi Jacobs.

520  
00:26:34,660 --> 00:26:35,840  
Fred Jacobs.

521  
00:26:35,840 --> 00:26:37,250  
And he was saved.

522  
00:26:37,250 --> 00:26:40,280

Eventually he came to  
the United States, too,

523  
00:26:40,280 --> 00:26:46,610  
and I'm still  
friends with his son.

524  
00:26:46,610 --> 00:26:50,090  
And one of his sons just  
died, but we're still friends

525  
00:26:50,090 --> 00:26:53,990  
with his children and his wife.

526  
00:26:53,990 --> 00:26:59,420  
There's some closeness  
that never went away.

527  
00:26:59,420 --> 00:27:01,472  
What was the name  
of the teacher?

528  
00:27:01,472 --> 00:27:02,930  
I don't remember.

529  
00:27:02,930 --> 00:27:04,010  
I wish I could.

530  
00:27:04,010 --> 00:27:05,380  
I wish I could.

531  
00:27:05,380 --> 00:27:09,760  
I remember he had  
poco-- how do say that?

532  
00:27:09,760 --> 00:27:12,440

533  
00:27:12,440 --> 00:27:13,640  
I can't remember.

534  
00:27:13,640 --> 00:27:15,590

What is it when you have--

535

00:27:15,590 --> 00:27:16,130

A hump?

536

00:27:16,130 --> 00:27:17,270

A hump on his back.

537

00:27:17,270 --> 00:27:18,328

I remember that.

538

00:27:18,328 --> 00:27:22,000

539

00:27:22,000 --> 00:27:22,580

OK.

540

00:27:22,580 --> 00:27:25,610

Now as we said, you're back down  
in the apartment cleaning up.

541

00:27:25,610 --> 00:27:26,930

Yes.

542

00:27:26,930 --> 00:27:29,000

And I just don't  
remember what happened

543

00:27:29,000 --> 00:27:31,370

in between the time we left.

544

00:27:31,370 --> 00:27:34,760

Anyway, my father  
wanted to get out.

545

00:27:34,760 --> 00:27:37,610

And he knew that he needed  
to get out of Germany,

546

00:27:37,610 --> 00:27:40,670

but he didn't have  
enough affidavits

547  
00:27:40,670 --> 00:27:42,500  
to come to the United States.

548  
00:27:42,500 --> 00:27:46,280  
He wanted to come to  
the United States.

549  
00:27:46,280 --> 00:27:51,020  
And we had some relatives here,  
but evidently, in the United

550  
00:27:51,020 --> 00:27:54,320  
States, the relatives had to  
have a certain amount of money

551  
00:27:54,320 --> 00:27:58,310  
in order to send  
affidavits for five people.

552  
00:27:58,310 --> 00:28:04,190  
And the relatives here  
didn't have enough money

553  
00:28:04,190 --> 00:28:06,630  
to send him the affidavits.

554  
00:28:06,630 --> 00:28:10,880  
So my father wanted to make  
sure that my brother and I were

555  
00:28:10,880 --> 00:28:11,550  
safe.

556  
00:28:11,550 --> 00:28:16,340  
So he had heard about this lady,  
who was a French lady and who

557  
00:28:16,340 --> 00:28:20,330  
pretended that children  
were her children

558



00:28:20,330 --> 00:28:23,450  
and she took them across  
the border on a train.

559  
00:28:23,450 --> 00:28:29,380  
So a lot of the money  
that I had in my underwear

560  
00:28:29,380 --> 00:28:36,070  
went to this lady who said  
that she would take us

561  
00:28:36,070 --> 00:28:38,650  
across the border and  
deliver us in Paris,

562  
00:28:38,650 --> 00:28:43,000  
and my father had to have  
somebody to deliver us to.

563  
00:28:43,000 --> 00:28:49,720  
So this was a very far-removed  
cousin, relative, or something,

564  
00:28:49,720 --> 00:28:51,820  
and he lived in  
a hotel in Paris.

565  
00:28:51,820 --> 00:28:56,290  
And he said he would  
keep us for a while

566  
00:28:56,290 --> 00:28:57,955  
until my father could get out.

567  
00:28:57,955 --> 00:29:01,780

568  
00:29:01,780 --> 00:29:04,960  
So what happened was--

569  
00:29:04,960 --> 00:29:07,760  
I don't see how my mother

and father could do it.

570

00:29:07,760 --> 00:29:09,500

I couldn't do it.

571

00:29:09,500 --> 00:29:16,330

But my mother and my father,  
they packed a suitcase

572

00:29:16,330 --> 00:29:21,925

for both of us, and this  
lady came to the house

573

00:29:21,925 --> 00:29:24,670

and we said goodbye  
to our parents.

574

00:29:24,670 --> 00:29:27,460

575

00:29:27,460 --> 00:29:29,140

I didn't know at that time.

576

00:29:29,140 --> 00:29:31,210

I didn't know what a  
mother must feel like.

577

00:29:31,210 --> 00:29:35,110

578

00:29:35,110 --> 00:29:37,990

I don't remember  
what she said to me,

579

00:29:37,990 --> 00:29:40,480

but it must have been  
a horror for her.

580

00:29:40,480 --> 00:29:47,960

Anyway, we got on the train and  
she took us near the border.

581

00:29:47,960 --> 00:29:50,960

She told us that  
when the Germans came

582

00:29:50,960 --> 00:29:56,480

to check the passports, to  
pretend that we were sleeping,

583

00:29:56,480 --> 00:29:58,760

because we were taking the  
train across the border

584

00:29:58,760 --> 00:30:01,400

during the night and she  
would take care of everything.

585

00:30:01,400 --> 00:30:05,840

She said she would tell them  
that we were her children.

586

00:30:05,840 --> 00:30:12,650

And we remember the Gestapo  
came into the train,

587

00:30:12,650 --> 00:30:17,210

and I kind of squished,  
looked through my eyes.

588

00:30:17,210 --> 00:30:19,040

She was speaking in  
French, and at the time

589

00:30:19,040 --> 00:30:20,630

I didn't know how  
to speak French.

590

00:30:20,630 --> 00:30:22,550

And she that she was  
French and she had just

591

00:30:22,550 --> 00:30:26,270

visited somebody in  
Germany and she was taking

592

00:30:26,270 --> 00:30:28,730

her children back to Paris.

593

00:30:28,730 --> 00:30:33,260

So we pretended we were  
sleeping and the soldiers

594

00:30:33,260 --> 00:30:36,470

didn't say anything to  
us, and so we were safe

595

00:30:36,470 --> 00:30:39,620

and we went to Paris.

596

00:30:39,620 --> 00:30:51,220

597

00:30:51,220 --> 00:30:55,660

This is tape 1,  
side B, and you were

598

00:30:55,660 --> 00:30:58,360

talking about how  
you left Germany

599

00:30:58,360 --> 00:31:02,920

to go to Paris with this woman  
and you were on the train.

600

00:31:02,920 --> 00:31:09,100

When we arrived in  
Paris, he was really

601

00:31:09,100 --> 00:31:11,590

the age an uncle would be.

602

00:31:11,590 --> 00:31:17,260

And when we arrived in Paris, he  
was there at the train station.

603

00:31:17,260 --> 00:31:22,480

And he took us to

his hotel, I think

604

00:31:22,480 --> 00:31:25,677  
it was near the Place Vendome.

605

00:31:25,677 --> 00:31:27,760  
Before we go on, let's  
talk just a little bit more

606

00:31:27,760 --> 00:31:29,380  
about the train ride.

607

00:31:29,380 --> 00:31:30,460  
How long did it take you?

608

00:31:30,460 --> 00:31:33,680

609

00:31:33,680 --> 00:31:35,500  
I know it was during the night.

610

00:31:35,500 --> 00:31:37,940  
Or you mean as far as  
hours are concerned?

611

00:31:37,940 --> 00:31:39,500  
I really don't know.

612

00:31:39,500 --> 00:31:40,730  
I don't know.

613

00:31:40,730 --> 00:31:43,250  
What were your thoughts  
when the Germans came by

614

00:31:43,250 --> 00:31:46,510  
and this woman was  
talking to them?

615

00:31:46,510 --> 00:31:48,320  
I was very scared.

616

00:31:48,320 --> 00:31:51,360

But I knew I had to play  
the role of being her child,

617

00:31:51,360 --> 00:31:54,890

so I was so involved  
in pretending

618

00:31:54,890 --> 00:32:00,270

to be her child that I didn't  
have time to be scared.

619

00:32:00,270 --> 00:32:03,560

I knew that my  
life depended on it

620

00:32:03,560 --> 00:32:09,800

to act the part of being  
her sleeping child.

621

00:32:09,800 --> 00:32:11,710

But I was very scared.

622

00:32:11,710 --> 00:32:13,460

What did you talk about  
with your brother?

623

00:32:13,460 --> 00:32:18,090

624

00:32:18,090 --> 00:32:19,680

I wish I could remember.

625

00:32:19,680 --> 00:32:22,740

I wish he would do  
this interview, too,

626

00:32:22,740 --> 00:32:25,000

because he has a  
very good memory.

627

00:32:25,000 --> 00:32:28,650

He's a year younger than  
me, so he has a good memory.

628  
00:32:28,650 --> 00:32:33,780  
And I want to restate  
something that I said before.

629  
00:32:33,780 --> 00:32:36,470  
I was nine years old  
during Kristallnacht.

630  
00:32:36,470 --> 00:32:40,230

631  
00:32:40,230 --> 00:32:43,110  
I was 9 and 1/2,  
and we must have

632  
00:32:43,110 --> 00:32:47,280  
left to go to France  
maybe a half a year later.

633  
00:32:47,280 --> 00:32:52,530  
So I was still nine when  
we left to go to France.

634  
00:32:52,530 --> 00:32:55,470  
At this time, did you take  
anything special with you,

635  
00:32:55,470 --> 00:32:57,310  
because you knew you  
were leaving your home?

636  
00:32:57,310 --> 00:32:57,810  
Yeah.

637  
00:32:57,810 --> 00:33:00,890

638  
00:33:00,890 --> 00:33:02,990  
We had a trunk.

639

00:33:02,990 --> 00:33:04,910

My mother packed a  
trunk, and I don't

640

00:33:04,910 --> 00:33:11,440

know how we got this trunk, and  
she packed all of my clothes.

641

00:33:11,440 --> 00:33:12,860

No, we didn't take the trunks.

642

00:33:12,860 --> 00:33:15,980

Somehow she must have  
mailed it, because when

643

00:33:15,980 --> 00:33:24,570

the trunk arrived in Paris,  
there was candy on the top.

644

00:33:24,570 --> 00:33:26,880

And this uncle--  
we'll just call him

645

00:33:26,880 --> 00:33:29,080

uncle, because he  
wasn't my uncle,

646

00:33:29,080 --> 00:33:30,900

but we'll just call him uncle.

647

00:33:30,900 --> 00:33:35,400

And we started to unpack and  
we saw this candy on the top,

648

00:33:35,400 --> 00:33:37,860

so we wanted to eat it.

649

00:33:37,860 --> 00:33:41,880

And he said, no, don't need it  
because it might be poisoned.

650

00:33:41,880 --> 00:33:45,150



So I thought that he  
was being very silly not

651  
00:33:45,150 --> 00:33:46,480  
to let us eat the candy.

652  
00:33:46,480 --> 00:33:48,540  
And so we pretended we  
weren't going to eat it,

653  
00:33:48,540 --> 00:33:52,230  
but one day when he wasn't  
there, we ate the candy

654  
00:33:52,230 --> 00:33:54,210  
and we didn't get poisoned.

655  
00:33:54,210 --> 00:33:57,840  
So my mother must have put  
the candy in on the top.

656  
00:33:57,840 --> 00:34:00,435  
But it was in the trunk and  
it had all of our clothes.

657  
00:34:00,435 --> 00:34:06,020

658  
00:34:06,020 --> 00:34:09,370  
Did you have any special  
animals or any dolls or anything

659  
00:34:09,370 --> 00:34:11,380  
that you wanted  
to bring with you?

660  
00:34:11,380 --> 00:34:14,230  
I don't remember any of that.

661  
00:34:14,230 --> 00:34:16,270  
There were so many  
horrible things going on,

662

00:34:16,270 --> 00:34:19,344

I really didn't  
think about toys.

663

00:34:19,344 --> 00:34:24,050

664

00:34:24,050 --> 00:34:26,030

It was not important  
at the time.

665

00:34:26,030 --> 00:34:33,290

The thing that was important was  
my separation from my parents

666

00:34:33,290 --> 00:34:36,900

and not knowing when I was  
going to see them again.

667

00:34:36,900 --> 00:34:45,020

So dolls and toys didn't have  
much meaning at the time.

668

00:34:45,020 --> 00:34:45,639

Let's see.

669

00:34:45,639 --> 00:34:49,239

So then this uncle  
in Paris, I guess

670

00:34:49,239 --> 00:34:52,480

he was waiting for something to  
happen, for my father to come

671

00:34:52,480 --> 00:34:53,920

or something to happen.

672

00:34:53,920 --> 00:34:56,800

673

00:34:56,800 --> 00:34:59,560

Later on, I found

some letters that he

674

00:34:59,560 --> 00:35:01,840

had written to my parents,  
and that he wasn't

675

00:35:01,840 --> 00:35:03,580

too happy to have us there.

676

00:35:03,580 --> 00:35:04,750

They were all in German.

677

00:35:04,750 --> 00:35:06,760

I guess my father--

678

00:35:06,760 --> 00:35:09,625

because he wasn't ready to  
take care of two children.

679

00:35:09,625 --> 00:35:12,190

680

00:35:12,190 --> 00:35:16,160

And then at that time, I  
guess my brother was so upset

681

00:35:16,160 --> 00:35:18,940

and he used to  
urinate in his bed.

682

00:35:18,940 --> 00:35:23,530

So that wasn't anything  
to make him happy, either.

683

00:35:23,530 --> 00:35:25,840

And I remember I found  
these letters later on when

684

00:35:25,840 --> 00:35:27,940

I came to the United States.

685

00:35:27,940 --> 00:35:30,670

I found these letters in  
my father's drawer, letters

686  
00:35:30,670 --> 00:35:34,990  
that he had written to my  
father, saying, please, get

687  
00:35:34,990 --> 00:35:36,430  
these children already.

688  
00:35:36,430 --> 00:35:38,190  
I can't take care  
of them anymore.

689  
00:35:38,190 --> 00:35:42,940  
But of course at that time  
we didn't know all of this.

690  
00:35:42,940 --> 00:35:44,110  
He was single?

691  
00:35:44,110 --> 00:35:45,040  
Yes, he was single.

692  
00:35:45,040 --> 00:35:47,800

693  
00:35:47,800 --> 00:35:49,790  
I don't remember  
much of the details.

694  
00:35:49,790 --> 00:35:54,520  
But what happened, evidently,  
he found a place for us

695  
00:35:54,520 --> 00:36:02,575  
to stay in a suburb of Paris.

696  
00:36:02,575 --> 00:36:06,620

697  
00:36:06,620 --> 00:36:08,330

He sent us there.

698  
00:36:08,330 --> 00:36:12,250  
And I don't remember who  
paid those two ladies--

699  
00:36:12,250 --> 00:36:13,040  
let's see.

700  
00:36:13,040 --> 00:36:14,420  
Yes.

701  
00:36:14,420 --> 00:36:17,000  
We were in two  
children's homes, one

702  
00:36:17,000 --> 00:36:19,970  
with Madame Salitsky  
and the other one

703  
00:36:19,970 --> 00:36:24,110  
with two girls that ran  
a house, and their job

704  
00:36:24,110 --> 00:36:28,370  
was to keep children that were  
lost or hold children that

705  
00:36:28,370 --> 00:36:31,550  
didn't have a home.

706  
00:36:31,550 --> 00:36:33,380  
Were these Jewish children--

707  
00:36:33,380 --> 00:36:35,390  
excuse me, Jewish women?

708  
00:36:35,390 --> 00:36:38,730  
No, I don't think so.

709  
00:36:38,730 --> 00:36:40,090  
I don't think so.

710  
00:36:40,090 --> 00:36:42,620  
No, they were French.

711  
00:36:42,620 --> 00:36:44,510  
One of them was Madame Salitsky.

712  
00:36:44,510 --> 00:36:48,800  
Evidently, her husband must have  
come from Poland a long time

713  
00:36:48,800 --> 00:36:51,050  
ago, but they were  
really French.

714  
00:36:51,050 --> 00:36:53,075  
And she had a child.

715  
00:36:53,075 --> 00:36:55,640

716  
00:36:55,640 --> 00:37:01,940  
She must have had about  
15 or 20 children in her.

717  
00:37:01,940 --> 00:37:06,080  
But we didn't get  
to eat in her house.

718  
00:37:06,080 --> 00:37:11,460  
What we did is she  
had one room where

719  
00:37:11,460 --> 00:37:14,110  
she had these straw mattresses.

720  
00:37:14,110 --> 00:37:20,240  
They were made out  
of straw and burlap.

721  
00:37:20,240 --> 00:37:23,285  
Each one of us had our

own burlap mattress.

722

00:37:23,285 --> 00:37:25,830

723

00:37:25,830 --> 00:37:27,750

The girls all slept in  
one room and the boys

724

00:37:27,750 --> 00:37:29,480

slept in another room.

725

00:37:29,480 --> 00:37:31,770

And we weren't allowed  
to go into her bedroom

726

00:37:31,770 --> 00:37:33,790

because she didn't  
want us to dirty it up,

727

00:37:33,790 --> 00:37:36,930

so she had a chamber pot in  
the middle between the boys'

728

00:37:36,930 --> 00:37:38,910

room and the girls' room.

729

00:37:38,910 --> 00:37:41,760

And so at night, if we  
had to go to the bathroom,

730

00:37:41,760 --> 00:37:46,230

we had to go on  
this chamber pot.

731

00:37:46,230 --> 00:37:48,570

And then when it came  
to having breakfast,

732

00:37:48,570 --> 00:37:50,220

we weren't allowed  
to eat in the house.

733

00:37:50,220 --> 00:37:56,790

She had like a wooden house  
on the outside in her yard,

734

00:37:56,790 --> 00:38:01,290

and in there, she had a long  
table and benches on each side.

735

00:38:01,290 --> 00:38:03,790

And we sat there and  
she brought the food,

736

00:38:03,790 --> 00:38:09,110

so she gave us the food and  
we all ate together there.

737

00:38:09,110 --> 00:38:11,100

Who were the other children?

738

00:38:11,100 --> 00:38:13,010

I'm trying to remember.

739

00:38:13,010 --> 00:38:14,710

They were from all over.

740

00:38:14,710 --> 00:38:17,970

Some were Germans and a  
lot of them were French.

741

00:38:17,970 --> 00:38:23,270

And I don't remember  
why they were there,

742

00:38:23,270 --> 00:38:24,680

but I remember one boy.

743

00:38:24,680 --> 00:38:26,663

He gave me my first kiss.

744

00:38:26,663 --> 00:38:30,710

[CHUCKLES] I was 10 years old.



745

00:38:30,710 --> 00:38:32,960

He said people  
kiss on the mouth.

746

00:38:32,960 --> 00:38:34,430

And I said, oh, no.

747

00:38:34,430 --> 00:38:36,050

They kiss each  
other on the cheek.

748

00:38:36,050 --> 00:38:37,370

And he said, I'll show you.

749

00:38:37,370 --> 00:38:40,910

750

00:38:40,910 --> 00:38:42,665

And he was French.

751

00:38:42,665 --> 00:38:45,590

752

00:38:45,590 --> 00:38:47,390

I don't remember  
where all the children

753

00:38:47,390 --> 00:38:50,590

came, from but not all  
of them were Jewish.

754

00:38:50,590 --> 00:38:52,580

I don't know who the  
other children were,

755

00:38:52,580 --> 00:38:56,470

but the house was  
called Madame Salitsky.

756

00:38:56,470 --> 00:38:58,390

She was not nice  
to the children.

757

00:38:58,390 --> 00:39:02,000

She was always nice  
to her own child,

758

00:39:02,000 --> 00:39:06,250

and her own child got  
better food to eat.

759

00:39:06,250 --> 00:39:08,770

Her own child  
slept in the house.

760

00:39:08,770 --> 00:39:12,400

And her own child was  
allowed to use the bathroom,

761

00:39:12,400 --> 00:39:15,460

and we weren't, and  
I remember that.

762

00:39:15,460 --> 00:39:19,330

And then somehow or other,  
after Madame Salitsky--

763

00:39:19,330 --> 00:39:22,360

and I don't remember  
going to school there.

764

00:39:22,360 --> 00:39:24,480

How long did you  
stay at her house?

765

00:39:24,480 --> 00:39:26,180

That's just it,  
I don't remember.

766

00:39:26,180 --> 00:39:27,640

It couldn't have been too long.

767

00:39:27,640 --> 00:39:30,730

And then we moved  
to another place,

768  
00:39:30,730 --> 00:39:34,720  
and that was run by  
two ladies, and there I

769  
00:39:34,720 --> 00:39:37,070  
think we went to school.

770  
00:39:37,070 --> 00:39:39,430  
How long did you stay with  
the relative in Paris?

771  
00:39:39,430 --> 00:39:42,520

772  
00:39:42,520 --> 00:39:44,330  
I really don't know.

773  
00:39:44,330 --> 00:39:45,250  
I don't know.

774  
00:39:45,250 --> 00:39:47,380  
It couldn't have been too long.

775  
00:39:47,380 --> 00:39:47,960  
I don't know.

776  
00:39:47,960 --> 00:39:51,800  
But if we figure out-- let me  
just tell you, after we moved--

777  
00:39:51,800 --> 00:39:54,245  
the Germans invaded Paris when?

778  
00:39:54,245 --> 00:39:54,830  
When was that?

779  
00:39:54,830 --> 00:39:56,360  
May 1940.

780  
00:39:56,360 --> 00:39:58,160

1940.

781

00:39:58,160 --> 00:40:01,230

So if I left in 1939.

782

00:40:01,230 --> 00:40:07,700

So this whole period of being in  
Paris and in these three homes

783

00:40:07,700 --> 00:40:12,800

and with my uncle took  
a year, because we

784

00:40:12,800 --> 00:40:17,905

were at this other home  
with these two ladies.

785

00:40:17,905 --> 00:40:21,040

786

00:40:21,040 --> 00:40:23,380

I remember sleeping--  
we had a bedroom.

787

00:40:23,380 --> 00:40:26,970

I had slept with a lot of  
girls, but I had a bed.

788

00:40:26,970 --> 00:40:31,270

I remember there was a  
window outside of our room

789

00:40:31,270 --> 00:40:35,680

and we saw the  
Germans bombing Paris,

790

00:40:35,680 --> 00:40:38,530

and we saw the  
bombs coming down.

791

00:40:38,530 --> 00:40:41,590

And nobody ever ran  
into the basement.

792  
00:40:41,590 --> 00:40:42,850  
It was just part of life.

793  
00:40:42,850 --> 00:40:45,688  
Every night when we  
went to bed, you woke up

794  
00:40:45,688 --> 00:40:47,230  
and you looked out  
the window, and it

795  
00:40:47,230 --> 00:40:50,000  
looked like fireworks  
looking out of the window

796  
00:40:50,000 --> 00:40:53,770  
when the Germans  
were bombing Paris.

797  
00:40:53,770 --> 00:41:00,560  
And after a while, the  
Germans did come into Paris.

798  
00:41:00,560 --> 00:41:04,330  
And when that  
happened, all chaos

799  
00:41:04,330 --> 00:41:06,760  
broke loose, because  
everybody in the surrounding

800  
00:41:06,760 --> 00:41:10,120  
areas and a lot of the  
Parisians, they were afraid

801  
00:41:10,120 --> 00:41:15,430  
and they wanted to go to  
the southern part of France.

802  
00:41:15,430 --> 00:41:19,360  
Did you have any communication  
with your parents

803  
00:41:19,360 --> 00:41:21,410  
up to this point?

804  
00:41:21,410 --> 00:41:21,910  
Yeah.

805  
00:41:21,910 --> 00:41:24,980  
We wrote letters back and forth.

806  
00:41:24,980 --> 00:41:31,000  
But after the Germans  
came into Paris,

807  
00:41:31,000 --> 00:41:33,520  
there was no more communication.

808  
00:41:33,520 --> 00:41:36,130  
I still have the letters.

809  
00:41:36,130 --> 00:41:40,250  
I kept a diary, and I have  
that, and it's in German

810  
00:41:40,250 --> 00:41:45,460  
and it's very difficult. It's  
a long diary, but I have it,

811  
00:41:45,460 --> 00:41:49,480  
and one of these days I thought  
maybe I would translate it.

812  
00:41:49,480 --> 00:41:52,310  
And then you ask me  
about certain feelings.

813  
00:41:52,310 --> 00:41:56,110  
Well, they're in the diary and  
they're not in my head anymore,

814  
00:41:56,110 --> 00:42:00,790  
so I need to translate it.

815

00:42:00,790 --> 00:42:06,040  
When you and the other children  
were watching the bombing,

816

00:42:06,040 --> 00:42:09,790  
do you remember how you  
communicated with each other,

817

00:42:09,790 --> 00:42:12,340  
some of the things you said?

818

00:42:12,340 --> 00:42:15,790  
Well, we all hoped that it  
wouldn't fall on top of us.

819

00:42:15,790 --> 00:42:17,820  
That's what I remember.

820

00:42:17,820 --> 00:42:21,990  
I don't remember  
whether we actually--

821

00:42:21,990 --> 00:42:24,960  
we knew that it was  
the Germans, and we

822

00:42:24,960 --> 00:42:28,380  
hoped, like everybody else,  
that it would soon stop

823

00:42:28,380 --> 00:42:31,570  
and that the war would be over.

824

00:42:31,570 --> 00:42:33,270  
But it wasn't.

825

00:42:33,270 --> 00:42:36,540  
And so what happened  
was when they

826

00:42:36,540 --> 00:42:40,680

did come, when we found out that  
they were coming into Paris,

827  
00:42:40,680 --> 00:42:46,140  
everybody just took what they  
could have in a little suitcase

828  
00:42:46,140 --> 00:42:47,250  
and they ran.

829  
00:42:47,250 --> 00:42:51,960  
And some nuns, I don't  
know, got a hold of us,

830  
00:42:51,960 --> 00:42:53,430  
and we went to Versailles.

831  
00:42:53,430 --> 00:42:57,270  
And how we got to  
Versailles, I don't remember.

832  
00:42:57,270 --> 00:42:58,900  
Maybe we went on the train.

833  
00:42:58,900 --> 00:43:00,780  
I don't remember.

834  
00:43:00,780 --> 00:43:03,690  
And then all these people  
were running out of Paris

835  
00:43:03,690 --> 00:43:07,280  
because they didn't want  
the Bosch to get them.

836  
00:43:07,280 --> 00:43:09,330  
So they were there  
in Versailles,

837  
00:43:09,330 --> 00:43:12,750  
and what were they going to  
do with all these people?



838

00:43:12,750 --> 00:43:14,820

How dependent was  
your brother on you?

839

00:43:14,820 --> 00:43:20,010

840

00:43:20,010 --> 00:43:23,100

Well, you mean  
because I was older?

841

00:43:23,100 --> 00:43:26,130

I knew that I was older and  
that I had to take care of him,

842

00:43:26,130 --> 00:43:31,845

but he was a big boy,  
and we were very close.

843

00:43:31,845 --> 00:43:36,240

844

00:43:36,240 --> 00:43:40,200

I don't think he  
was dependent on me.

845

00:43:40,200 --> 00:43:44,660

No, we were dependent  
on each other.

846

00:43:44,660 --> 00:43:46,810

Did you talk about  
your parents a lot

847

00:43:46,810 --> 00:43:48,520

together when you  
were with him alone?

848

00:43:48,520 --> 00:43:49,060

Oh, yes.

849

00:43:49,060 --> 00:43:50,620

We talked about  
them all the time.

850  
00:43:50,620 --> 00:43:54,070

851  
00:43:54,070 --> 00:43:56,560  
We wondered what was  
happening to them

852  
00:43:56,560 --> 00:43:59,110  
and when we would get  
back together with them.

853  
00:43:59,110 --> 00:44:02,740  
We always knew we were  
going to see them again.

854  
00:44:02,740 --> 00:44:05,440  
It never occurred to  
us that we weren't

855  
00:44:05,440 --> 00:44:07,000  
going to see them anymore.

856  
00:44:07,000 --> 00:44:10,870  
We knew that everything  
was going to be all right

857  
00:44:10,870 --> 00:44:13,510  
and that we were going  
to be together again.

858  
00:44:13,510 --> 00:44:16,300

859  
00:44:16,300 --> 00:44:20,350  
In the meantime, in the letters,  
my mother had stopped writing,

860  
00:44:20,350 --> 00:44:22,240  
and my father did  
all the writing

861  
00:44:22,240 --> 00:44:23,900  
and we thought that  
was very strange.

862  
00:44:23,900 --> 00:44:28,810

863  
00:44:28,810 --> 00:44:36,160  
She had written a few words on  
the bottom of the letter saying

864  
00:44:36,160 --> 00:44:37,720  
that she wanted to see us.

865  
00:44:37,720 --> 00:44:42,410

866  
00:44:42,410 --> 00:44:44,540  
We couldn't figure out  
what was happening.

867  
00:44:44,540 --> 00:44:48,860  
Well, later on we found out  
she had a nervous breakdown,

868  
00:44:48,860 --> 00:44:51,065  
and she never got better.

869  
00:44:51,065 --> 00:44:51,565  
Never.

870  
00:44:51,565 --> 00:44:55,150

871  
00:44:55,150 --> 00:45:04,905  
Anyway, so here we  
are in Versailles.

872  
00:45:04,905 --> 00:45:07,280  
And so they didn't know what  
to do with all these people.

873  
00:45:07,280 --> 00:45:08,480  
They were just all over.

874  
00:45:08,480 --> 00:45:12,110

875  
00:45:12,110 --> 00:45:14,090  
You were still part of  
the group of children

876  
00:45:14,090 --> 00:45:16,240  
from that second house?

877  
00:45:16,240 --> 00:45:19,130  
Everybody was all  
mixed up from that ...

878  
00:45:19,130 --> 00:45:22,010  
I don't remember whether some  
of those children were with us

879  
00:45:22,010 --> 00:45:27,620  
or not, but there were adults  
and all kinds of people.

880  
00:45:27,620 --> 00:45:31,790  
They just left their  
apartments and left them open.

881  
00:45:31,790 --> 00:45:34,070  
I said, how could you  
leave your apartment open?

882  
00:45:34,070 --> 00:45:38,350  
And they just said, we  
wanted to save our lives.

883  
00:45:38,350 --> 00:45:40,910  
Anyway, by that time I could  
speak French pretty well.

884

00:45:40,910 --> 00:45:46,240

885

00:45:46,240 --> 00:45:47,920

So they had to put  
us up someplace,

886

00:45:47,920 --> 00:45:49,780

and the only big place  
where there was room

887

00:45:49,780 --> 00:45:53,440

was in the palace, and the  
biggest room in the palace

888

00:45:53,440 --> 00:45:54,520

was the Hall of Mirrors.

889

00:45:54,520 --> 00:45:57,520

890

00:45:57,520 --> 00:46:02,980

What they did is they took all  
of the crystal chandeliers--

891

00:46:02,980 --> 00:46:04,780

I'm not quite sure  
if the Germans did it

892

00:46:04,780 --> 00:46:06,590

or if the French did  
it ahead of time.

893

00:46:06,590 --> 00:46:08,470

They took all the  
crystal chandeliers

894

00:46:08,470 --> 00:46:11,320

and hid them someplace,  
so the crystal chandeliers

895

00:46:11,320 --> 00:46:13,560

weren't there.

896  
00:46:13,560 --> 00:46:15,930  
It's much more  
affluent-looking now

897  
00:46:15,930 --> 00:46:18,380  
because I've gone  
back to look at it

898  
00:46:18,380 --> 00:46:20,310  
and the chandeliers are back up.

899  
00:46:20,310 --> 00:46:21,960  
But they were not there.

900  
00:46:21,960 --> 00:46:26,220  
But anyway, in rows, all  
along that Hall of Mirrors,

901  
00:46:26,220 --> 00:46:29,820  
were all these people  
who had no place to go.

902  
00:46:29,820 --> 00:46:32,430  
Again, they had  
these mattresses that

903  
00:46:32,430 --> 00:46:37,550  
were made out of burlap  
sacks filled with straw.

904  
00:46:37,550 --> 00:46:39,810  
I remember we were  
all sleeping there.

905  
00:46:39,810 --> 00:46:42,980

906  
00:46:42,980 --> 00:46:44,330  
Let's see.

907  
00:46:44,330 --> 00:46:47,210

Then some other nuns got us.

908

00:46:47,210 --> 00:46:51,260

I don't know how they got us,  
but they took the children.

909

00:46:51,260 --> 00:46:59,360

And they knew about this place  
in Brout-Vernet in France.

910

00:46:59,360 --> 00:47:01,050

Near Vichy, sorry.

911

00:47:01,050 --> 00:47:02,400

It's all in France.

912

00:47:02,400 --> 00:47:07,740

Near Vichy, where they were  
taking Jewish refugee children,

913

00:47:07,740 --> 00:47:10,500

and they took us down there.

914

00:47:10,500 --> 00:47:12,660

Just back to Versailles  
for a moment.

915

00:47:12,660 --> 00:47:15,390

How long did you stay there?

916

00:47:15,390 --> 00:47:18,150

Just maybe a week or two.

917

00:47:18,150 --> 00:47:19,800

Oh, yes, there was one incident.

918

00:47:19,800 --> 00:47:23,400

The Germans came  
into Versailles.

919

00:47:23,400 --> 00:47:24,930

That I remember distinctly.

920  
00:47:24,930 --> 00:47:26,610  
They were making  
those goose steps

921  
00:47:26,610 --> 00:47:29,970  
and they were walking, just  
like you see in the Holocaust

922  
00:47:29,970 --> 00:47:33,270  
Museum, with their marching.

923  
00:47:33,270 --> 00:47:37,290  
And they needed to talk  
to somebody and nobody

924  
00:47:37,290 --> 00:47:41,100  
knew how to speak French.

925  
00:47:41,100 --> 00:47:43,080  
They did not speak French.

926  
00:47:43,080 --> 00:47:46,380  
And nobody there that was around  
me knew how to speak German.

927  
00:47:46,380 --> 00:47:49,380  
They all knew that I  
knew how to speak German.

928  
00:47:49,380 --> 00:47:52,860  
So they said, here  
is this little kid.

929  
00:47:52,860 --> 00:47:56,360  
They brought up  
this German soldier.

930  
00:47:56,360 --> 00:48:00,000  
He was a captain in the army,  
and he was very big and tall

931



00:48:00,000 --> 00:48:02,730  
and I had to look way up to him.

932  
00:48:02,730 --> 00:48:06,340  
And they said, well, this girl  
can speak French and German.

933  
00:48:06,340 --> 00:48:10,798  
Why don't you tell her in German  
and she'll translate it for us?

934  
00:48:10,798 --> 00:48:11,340  
I don't know.

935  
00:48:11,340 --> 00:48:15,180  
He asked for some directions,  
where the mayor was, something.

936  
00:48:15,180 --> 00:48:16,510  
Something.

937  
00:48:16,510 --> 00:48:20,380  
And I told him, and I  
translated everything,

938  
00:48:20,380 --> 00:48:22,200  
and I was very scared.

939  
00:48:22,200 --> 00:48:26,820  
Then he asked me, well, little  
girl how come you speak German

940  
00:48:26,820 --> 00:48:27,990  
so well?

941  
00:48:27,990 --> 00:48:32,010  
So I told him I learned  
it in French schools

942  
00:48:32,010 --> 00:48:35,966  
and the French  
schools are very good.

943

00:48:35,966 --> 00:48:36,878

[CHUCKLES]

944

00:48:36,878 --> 00:48:39,160

945

00:48:39,160 --> 00:48:41,730

Did you have any  
identification papers with you?

946

00:48:41,730 --> 00:48:42,420

Yes, I do.

947

00:48:42,420 --> 00:48:44,490

I did.

948

00:48:44,490 --> 00:48:46,510

I don't have a  
birth certificate.

949

00:48:46,510 --> 00:48:50,640

I still don't have a birth  
certificate to this day.

950

00:48:50,640 --> 00:48:54,700

But it's some kind of identity  
card, and I still have it.

951

00:48:54,700 --> 00:48:56,990

This is a card that you  
brought with you from Germany?

952

00:48:56,990 --> 00:48:58,300

Yeah.

953

00:48:58,300 --> 00:48:58,990

Yeah.

954

00:48:58,990 --> 00:49:02,920

On it, it has my date of birth  
and the names of my parents

955

00:49:02,920 --> 00:49:09,960

and a picture of me and  
what religion I was.

956

00:49:09,960 --> 00:49:13,510

But this does German officer  
didn't ask me for that.

957

00:49:13,510 --> 00:49:14,010

He didn't.

958

00:49:14,010 --> 00:49:18,130

959

00:49:18,130 --> 00:49:19,600

How would you describe yourself?

960

00:49:19,600 --> 00:49:24,040

Were you a very outgoing child,  
a strong-minded child, quiet?

961

00:49:24,040 --> 00:49:26,350

How would you  
characterize yourself?

962

00:49:26,350 --> 00:49:30,010

I was very quiet and  
I was a good girl.

963

00:49:30,010 --> 00:49:31,510

I was always a good girl.

964

00:49:31,510 --> 00:49:35,680

All the teachers liked me  
because I was always good

965

00:49:35,680 --> 00:49:38,740

and I always listened  
to everything.

966

00:49:38,740 --> 00:49:42,190

I was never doing anything

that I wasn't supposed to,

967

00:49:42,190 --> 00:49:44,680

except eat that candy.

968

00:49:44,680 --> 00:49:49,510

But otherwise, I just remember  
being a very good child.

969

00:49:49,510 --> 00:49:50,560

I remember that.

970

00:49:50,560 --> 00:49:52,570

My brother was  
the bad one, but I

971

00:49:52,570 --> 00:49:56,380

was the good child, who  
listened to all the adults,

972

00:49:56,380 --> 00:50:02,140

and I had all of the  
symptoms of a firstborn.

973

00:50:02,140 --> 00:50:06,520

They get along with adults and  
they behave and they're smart.

974

00:50:06,520 --> 00:50:09,990

All these characteristics I had.

975

00:50:09,990 --> 00:50:13,630

But to be athletic or outgoing  
or anything like that,

976

00:50:13,630 --> 00:50:14,980

I don't remember.

977

00:50:14,980 --> 00:50:16,470

No.

978

00:50:16,470 --> 00:50:20,060

I just remember being good  
and doing what I was told.

979  
00:50:20,060 --> 00:50:21,040  
I always did that.

980  
00:50:21,040 --> 00:50:24,140

981  
00:50:24,140 --> 00:50:29,960  
Could you tell us again  
who organized this group

982  
00:50:29,960 --> 00:50:31,010  
in Versailles?

983  
00:50:31,010 --> 00:50:33,950  
Who were the people responsible?

984  
00:50:33,950 --> 00:50:35,840  
You mean the children's home?

985  
00:50:35,840 --> 00:50:38,360  
Oh, no, Versailles.

986  
00:50:38,360 --> 00:50:39,240  
I don't know.

987  
00:50:39,240 --> 00:50:41,930  
I don't think anybody  
was responsible.

988  
00:50:41,930 --> 00:50:44,780  
Everybody was just running.

989  
00:50:44,780 --> 00:50:48,730  
You mean to sleep in the palace?

990  
00:50:48,730 --> 00:50:50,380  
I don't know.

991

00:50:50,380 --> 00:50:52,870

I'm sorry, I just can't--

992

00:50:52,870 --> 00:50:55,840

And you said you stayed  
about a week in Versailles?

993

00:50:55,840 --> 00:50:58,240

So what did you  
do during the day?

994

00:50:58,240 --> 00:50:59,140

Oh, I don't remember.

995

00:50:59,140 --> 00:51:01,970

Just we were scared.

996

00:51:01,970 --> 00:51:07,190

I guess was everybody, to worry  
about what was going to happen.

997

00:51:07,190 --> 00:51:08,270

Maybe it wasn't a week.

998

00:51:08,270 --> 00:51:10,240

Maybe it was four.

999

00:51:10,240 --> 00:51:11,600

I don't remember.

1000

00:51:11,600 --> 00:51:14,590

Sorry, I just don't  
remember how long.

1001

00:51:14,590 --> 00:51:17,630

And what we did during the day?

1002

00:51:17,630 --> 00:51:20,810

I guess talk about what  
was going to happen to us

1003

00:51:20,810 --> 00:51:23,150

and what we were  
going to do next.

1004  
00:51:23,150 --> 00:51:25,890  
Did other adults  
take care of you?

1005  
00:51:25,890 --> 00:51:28,010  
The nuns did, yeah.

1006  
00:51:28,010 --> 00:51:31,450

1007  
00:51:31,450 --> 00:51:35,530  
I don't remember any  
particular person.

1008  
00:51:35,530 --> 00:51:36,470  
No.

1009  
00:51:36,470 --> 00:51:39,470  
Did you play any games  
or do any activities

1010  
00:51:39,470 --> 00:51:40,390  
while you were there?

1011  
00:51:40,390 --> 00:51:42,310  
I don't remember any of that.

1012  
00:51:42,310 --> 00:51:42,810  
No.

1013  
00:51:42,810 --> 00:51:46,460

1014  
00:51:46,460 --> 00:51:47,555  
I don't remember.

1015  
00:51:47,555 --> 00:51:52,480

1016

00:51:52,480 --> 00:51:54,940

All right, now you're  
leaving Versailles,

1017

00:51:54,940 --> 00:51:56,720

and you said you  
had the opportunity

1018

00:51:56,720 --> 00:52:00,230

to go into the southern  
part of France.

1019

00:52:00,230 --> 00:52:04,250

This is a little town  
called Brout-Vernet,

1020

00:52:04,250 --> 00:52:09,950

and it was the Chateau des  
Morelles, which, at one time,

1021

00:52:09,950 --> 00:52:13,270

it had been sort of a castle.

1022

00:52:13,270 --> 00:52:16,580

And they had turned it  
into a children's home,

1023

00:52:16,580 --> 00:52:19,040

Jewish children's home,  
because all of the kids

1024

00:52:19,040 --> 00:52:21,635

there were Jewish.

1025

00:52:21,635 --> 00:52:25,940

And evidently, they had come  
from all parts of France

1026

00:52:25,940 --> 00:52:29,960

and all parts of Germany,  
wherever they were lost.

1027



00:52:29,960 --> 00:52:32,060

And all these kids  
didn't have any parents.

1028

00:52:32,060 --> 00:52:35,390

Their parents were either in  
Germany or they were in France

1029

00:52:35,390 --> 00:52:39,160

and they were killed  
or they were lost.

1030

00:52:39,160 --> 00:52:42,260

And there, we had  
teachers in the school

1031

00:52:42,260 --> 00:52:43,940

who taught us Hebrew.

1032

00:52:43,940 --> 00:52:46,955

1033

00:52:46,955 --> 00:52:48,980

Oh, now I remember.

1034

00:52:48,980 --> 00:52:50,240

We did go to school.

1035

00:52:50,240 --> 00:52:52,420

What happened was  
a little town--

1036

00:52:52,420 --> 00:52:55,595

it was called Brout-Vernet,  
and they did have a school.

1037

00:52:55,595 --> 00:52:58,180

1038

00:52:58,180 --> 00:53:01,430

It was a village, and they  
had a little village school.

1039

00:53:01,430 --> 00:53:04,010

But the village people,  
I found out later on,

1040

00:53:04,010 --> 00:53:08,970

didn't want us to associate  
with the village kids.

1041

00:53:08,970 --> 00:53:15,010

And this was in  
France near Vichy.

1042

00:53:15,010 --> 00:53:18,020

It was the puppet government  
of Pétain that was there.

1043

00:53:18,020 --> 00:53:20,880

1044

00:53:20,880 --> 00:53:22,490

I found out later  
on that they didn't

1045

00:53:22,490 --> 00:53:23,865

want us to go to  
school with them

1046

00:53:23,865 --> 00:53:26,090

because we weren't  
good enough for them.

1047

00:53:26,090 --> 00:53:30,020

But later on, I also found  
out that the lady who

1048

00:53:30,020 --> 00:53:36,060

rented the room for us to go to  
school in in this little town,

1049

00:53:36,060 --> 00:53:39,300

she had children.

1050

00:53:39,300 --> 00:53:43,170  
She told me later, as I  
visited when I was older,

1051  
00:53:43,170 --> 00:53:45,720  
she told us she wished  
that we had gone

1052  
00:53:45,720 --> 00:53:48,810  
to school with her children  
because she thought that all

1053  
00:53:48,810 --> 00:53:51,630  
of us were much more  
cosmopolitan and much more

1054  
00:53:51,630 --> 00:53:54,510  
intelligent than all  
these kids in the village

1055  
00:53:54,510 --> 00:53:58,300  
and they would have gotten  
a lot of things from us.

1056  
00:53:58,300 --> 00:54:02,970  
But anyway, what happened  
was they hired a teacher--

1057  
00:54:02,970 --> 00:54:06,360  
and he wasn't Jewish-- they  
hired a teacher, and all of us,

1058  
00:54:06,360 --> 00:54:10,260  
again, were in the same room.

1059  
00:54:10,260 --> 00:54:12,990  
But at this time, there  
were more kids in the room

1060  
00:54:12,990 --> 00:54:17,010  
because everybody from the  
whole Chateau des Morelles

1061

00:54:17,010 --> 00:54:21,830  
were going to that  
public school.

1062  
00:54:21,830 --> 00:54:26,060  
There were Jewish laws passed  
in France at this time.

1063  
00:54:26,060 --> 00:54:26,930  
You were a child.

1064  
00:54:26,930 --> 00:54:30,680  
Were you aware of  
any of these laws?

1065  
00:54:30,680 --> 00:54:31,820  
No.

1066  
00:54:31,820 --> 00:54:32,660  
No.

1067  
00:54:32,660 --> 00:54:38,060  
This is like in 1940,  
between '40 and '41.

1068  
00:54:38,060 --> 00:54:42,690  
No, I didn't know any  
laws at the time, no.

1069  
00:54:42,690 --> 00:54:45,550

1070  
00:54:45,550 --> 00:54:48,130  
How many children  
were at this Chateau?

1071  
00:54:48,130 --> 00:54:49,240  
Oh, a lot.

1072  
00:54:49,240 --> 00:54:51,130  
Let's see.

1073

00:54:51,130 --> 00:54:53,540  
They had them divided.

1074  
00:54:53,540 --> 00:54:54,850  
Let me see.

1075  
00:54:54,850 --> 00:54:59,550  
I'm going to give you  
a very rough figure.

1076  
00:54:59,550 --> 00:55:03,390  
Maybe 100, maybe  
a little bit more.

1077  
00:55:03,390 --> 00:55:06,565  
Between 100 and 150 children.

1078  
00:55:06,565 --> 00:55:09,840

1079  
00:55:09,840 --> 00:55:12,390  
They took very good care of us.

1080  
00:55:12,390 --> 00:55:15,260  
The teachers and the  
people the counselors,

1081  
00:55:15,260 --> 00:55:20,610  
they were all Jewish people,  
and there was a rabbi there.

1082  
00:55:20,610 --> 00:55:23,200  
The rabbi's daughter was there.

1083  
00:55:23,200 --> 00:55:24,370  
No, the rabbi wasn't there.

1084  
00:55:24,370 --> 00:55:27,080  
Her father was in  
jail or something,

1085  
00:55:27,080 --> 00:55:31,440

and I could never figure  
out why he was in jail.

1086  
00:55:31,440 --> 00:55:36,125  
Were the teachers and the  
leaders of French-Jews?

1087  
00:55:36,125 --> 00:55:39,320  
A couple of them were  
French-Jews and a lot of them

1088  
00:55:39,320 --> 00:55:41,980  
were German-Jews.

1089  
00:55:41,980 --> 00:55:44,680  
What were some of their names?

1090  
00:55:44,680 --> 00:55:46,420  
Miriam.

1091  
00:55:46,420 --> 00:55:49,965  
She was the rabbi's daughter.

1092  
00:55:49,965 --> 00:55:53,026  
Do you know their last names?

1093  
00:55:53,026 --> 00:55:54,490  
I don't remember.

1094  
00:55:54,490 --> 00:55:57,540

1095  
00:55:57,540 --> 00:55:59,700  
Were you still hearing  
from your parents?

1096  
00:55:59,700 --> 00:56:00,660  
No.

1097  
00:56:00,660 --> 00:56:01,870  
Not at that time.

1098

00:56:01,870 --> 00:56:05,200

They didn't know where we were.

1099

00:56:05,200 --> 00:56:09,320

After the Germans came, they  
didn't know where we were.

1100

00:56:09,320 --> 00:56:12,720

After we left Paris, they  
didn't know where we were.

1101

00:56:12,720 --> 00:56:15,600

1102

00:56:15,600 --> 00:56:19,020

What did you and your brother  
do to keep your spirits up

1103

00:56:19,020 --> 00:56:21,260

once you were out of  
contact with your parents?

1104

00:56:21,260 --> 00:56:23,250

Well, I wrote in my diary.

1105

00:56:23,250 --> 00:56:24,840

I wrote to them all the time.

1106

00:56:24,840 --> 00:56:29,310

I kept on writing letters and  
he kept on writing letters.

1107

00:56:29,310 --> 00:56:33,720

Somehow or other, they  
got these letters,

1108

00:56:33,720 --> 00:56:35,310

because my father had kept them.

1109

00:56:35,310 --> 00:56:38,374

1110  
00:56:38,374 --> 00:56:39,130  
Let's see.

1111  
00:56:39,130 --> 00:56:44,180  
We had the other children,  
so it was a good camaraderie.

1112  
00:56:44,180 --> 00:56:46,860  
And in the town  
of Bad Kreuznach,

1113  
00:56:46,860 --> 00:56:51,090  
we had a second  
cousin, and their name

1114  
00:56:51,090 --> 00:56:54,690  
was Sabina and Friedel Foyer.

1115  
00:56:54,690 --> 00:56:57,120  
And they ended up in this  
Chateau des Morelles.

1116  
00:56:57,120 --> 00:57:00,490

1117  
00:57:00,490 --> 00:57:03,780  
And in fact, I still see  
them because they live here

1118  
00:57:03,780 --> 00:57:05,000  
in Washington DC.

1119  
00:57:05,000 --> 00:57:11,660

1120  
00:57:11,660 --> 00:57:16,480  
They are third cousins,  
second cousins.

1121  
00:57:16,480 --> 00:57:20,200  
And so we had them,  
and so we had family,



1122  
00:57:20,200 --> 00:57:24,520  
and all the other  
kids were our family.

1123  
00:57:24,520 --> 00:57:28,750  
What was the age range of the  
children who were in the home?

1124  
00:57:28,750 --> 00:57:31,450  
They had little ones.

1125  
00:57:31,450 --> 00:57:34,600  
They had like four-year-olds,  
but the four-year-olds

1126  
00:57:34,600 --> 00:57:37,010  
were someplace else in  
a different building

1127  
00:57:37,010 --> 00:57:38,620  
because we didn't see them.

1128  
00:57:38,620 --> 00:57:47,020  
But there were maybe  
from six to 14, 15, 16,

1129  
00:57:47,020 --> 00:57:48,340  
something like that.

1130  
00:57:48,340 --> 00:57:49,460  
Yeah.

1131  
00:57:49,460 --> 00:57:52,780  
And the sleeping  
arrangements at this place?

1132  
00:57:52,780 --> 00:57:55,840  
They had these  
dormitories, and the girls

1133  
00:57:55,840 --> 00:58:00,790

who were a certain age were on  
one floor in one big dormitory

1134  
00:58:00,790 --> 00:58:02,920  
and then the girls  
of a different age

1135  
00:58:02,920 --> 00:58:06,353  
were in another dormitory.

1136  
00:58:06,353 --> 00:58:08,020  
We were on the second  
floor and the boys

1137  
00:58:08,020 --> 00:58:09,700  
were on the third floor.

1138  
00:58:09,700 --> 00:58:20,390  
And we had an attic, and in the  
attic they were these cabinets,

1139  
00:58:20,390 --> 00:58:22,460  
and everybody had their  
little cabinet where

1140  
00:58:22,460 --> 00:58:24,140  
they kept all their belongings.

1141  
00:58:24,140 --> 00:58:26,880  
It was like a locker like  
you have in school here.

1142  
00:58:26,880 --> 00:58:28,940  
Everybody had a  
locker and that's

1143  
00:58:28,940 --> 00:58:33,260  
where you kept  
everything that you own.

1144  
00:58:33,260 --> 00:58:34,865  
Did you still have  
all your clothes

1145  
00:58:34,865 --> 00:58:36,925  
and all the belongings  
that were in that trunk?

1146  
00:58:36,925 --> 00:58:38,300  
Did you still have  
them with you?

1147  
00:58:38,300 --> 00:58:39,920  
No, I don't think so.

1148  
00:58:39,920 --> 00:58:43,290  
I had some, but I didn't  
have that trunk anymore.

1149  
00:58:43,290 --> 00:58:45,320  
I don't know what  
happened to the trunk.

1150  
00:58:45,320 --> 00:58:49,930  
Probably was left in one  
of the places around Paris.

1151  
00:58:49,930 --> 00:58:53,570  
But what I remember  
a lot as we always

1152  
00:58:53,570 --> 00:58:56,450  
celebrated somebody's birthday.

1153  
00:58:56,450 --> 00:58:59,470  
We always found out  
when was their birthday.

1154  
00:58:59,470 --> 00:59:04,480  
And what we used to do  
is we used to get dessert

1155  
00:59:04,480 --> 00:59:09,220  
in the evening, and what we did  
is maybe a little piece of cake

1156

00:59:09,220 --> 00:59:10,870

or a little cookie,  
or something.

1157

00:59:10,870 --> 00:59:13,810

And we saved it, and we  
saved it up in those lockers

1158

00:59:13,810 --> 00:59:16,690

that I was telling you about.

1159

00:59:16,690 --> 00:59:20,320

And let's say it was my  
cousin's, my third cousin's

1160

00:59:20,320 --> 00:59:23,110

birthday, I saved  
mine and her sister

1161

00:59:23,110 --> 00:59:28,030

saved hers and my brother  
saved his for about a week.

1162

00:59:28,030 --> 00:59:32,770

And then we hid it  
in those lockers.

1163

00:59:32,770 --> 00:59:34,630

And then on the morning  
of their birthday,

1164

00:59:34,630 --> 00:59:37,870

we used to borrow a  
tray from the cafeteria

1165

00:59:37,870 --> 00:59:41,440

and we put all of the  
cakes on the tray.

1166

00:59:41,440 --> 00:59:44,320

And then we went out and  
picked flowers and put flowers

1167

00:59:44,320 --> 00:59:45,370  
around it.

1168

00:59:45,370 --> 00:59:47,800  
And then when the person  
woke up in the morning,

1169

00:59:47,800 --> 00:59:51,980  
we brought the tray in and we  
sang Happy Birthday to them.

1170

00:59:51,980 --> 00:59:55,990  
I remember very well.

1171

00:59:55,990 --> 00:59:59,850  
How much freedom did you have  
to move outside the home, not

1172

00:59:59,850 --> 01:00:02,230  
the children's home?

1173

01:00:02,230 --> 01:00:07,100  
Oh, we just went  
to school and then

1174

01:00:07,100 --> 01:00:10,160  
we came back and were  
in the children's home.

1175

01:00:10,160 --> 01:00:11,630  
But it had large grounds.

1176

01:00:11,630 --> 01:00:15,180  
That had been an elegant  
place at one time,

1177

01:00:15,180 --> 01:00:24,660  
and large, large grounds, and we  
played outside on the grounds.

1178

01:00:24,660 --> 01:00:26,580  
And then there

were a lot of rooms

1179

01:00:26,580 --> 01:00:28,500

where they had different  
activities down

1180

01:00:28,500 --> 01:00:29,620

on the first floor.

1181

01:00:29,620 --> 01:00:34,650

So we never mingled with  
the people in the town.

1182

01:00:34,650 --> 01:00:37,800

Evidently, they didn't want us  
to mingle with their children

1183

01:00:37,800 --> 01:00:40,830

and contaminate them  
because we were Jewish.

1184

01:00:40,830 --> 01:00:43,680

So we didn't do any of that.

1185

01:00:43,680 --> 01:00:47,480

1186

01:00:47,480 --> 01:00:50,260

What else did you all do  
to keep your spirits up?

1187

01:00:50,260 --> 01:00:53,090

1188

01:00:53,090 --> 01:00:54,770

Well, we sang songs.

1189

01:00:54,770 --> 01:00:55,940

We learned a lot of songs.

1190

01:00:55,940 --> 01:00:58,040

I still have the book of songs.

1191  
01:00:58,040 --> 01:01:03,710  
And we taught each  
other things that we

1192  
01:01:03,710 --> 01:01:07,250  
knew that came from our  
hearts, and we taught it

1193  
01:01:07,250 --> 01:01:08,460  
to everybody else.

1194  
01:01:08,460 --> 01:01:11,330  
And then we kept a  
book and we logged it

1195  
01:01:11,330 --> 01:01:14,180  
all into this little  
book, and I still

1196  
01:01:14,180 --> 01:01:16,340  
have the names of  
many of the songs

1197  
01:01:16,340 --> 01:01:19,550  
that the other kids taught me.

1198  
01:01:19,550 --> 01:01:22,760  
Let's see, what else did we do?

1199  
01:01:22,760 --> 01:01:25,370  
We ate, and it seems to me  
we had enough food to eat.

1200  
01:01:25,370 --> 01:01:27,950  
It was not bad.

1201  
01:01:27,950 --> 01:01:29,690  
I never saw any white bread.

1202  
01:01:29,690 --> 01:01:31,850  
I just thought white

bread was the greatest

1203  
01:01:31,850 --> 01:01:34,140  
thing in the world,  
but we never had that.

1204  
01:01:34,140 --> 01:01:35,460  
But we had tomatoes.

1205  
01:01:35,460 --> 01:01:38,840  
And artichokes, evidently, must  
have been growing in the fields

1206  
01:01:38,840 --> 01:01:44,200  
because I remember eating  
artichokes almost every night

1207  
01:01:44,200 --> 01:01:44,870  
for dinner.

1208  
01:01:44,870 --> 01:01:47,600

1209  
01:01:47,600 --> 01:01:49,050  
But we were fed well.

1210  
01:01:49,050 --> 01:01:54,740  
We had enough food and we  
didn't have to worry about that.

1211  
01:01:54,740 --> 01:01:58,510  
It was just the  
emotional problems

1212  
01:01:58,510 --> 01:02:01,900  
of not being with our parents,  
that was the only thing that

1213  
01:02:01,900 --> 01:02:03,280  
was lacking at the time.

1214  
01:02:03,280 --> 01:02:10,580



But we had so much friends, so  
many friends that helped us.

1215

01:02:10,580 --> 01:02:12,345