

1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:07,150

2  
00:00:07,150 --> 00:00:09,940  
This is the United States  
Holocaust Memorial Museum

3  
00:00:09,940 --> 00:00:13,270  
interview with Arnold  
Weiss, conducted

4  
00:00:13,270 --> 00:00:20,320  
by Gail Schwartz on August  
15th, 1996 in Washington DC.

5  
00:00:20,320 --> 00:00:25,360  
This is tape number  
1, side A. Could

6  
00:00:25,360 --> 00:00:28,010  
you please give  
us your full name?

7  
00:00:28,010 --> 00:00:28,510  
Yes.

8  
00:00:28,510 --> 00:00:31,420  
Arnold H Weiss.

9  
00:00:31,420 --> 00:00:35,410  
It formerly was Hans  
Arnold Wangesheim.

10  
00:00:35,410 --> 00:00:39,400  
When I left Germany,  
I changed my name

11  
00:00:39,400 --> 00:00:42,070  
once I came to  
the United States.

12



00:00:42,070 --> 00:00:44,090

Where were you born?

13

00:00:44,090 --> 00:00:49,630

I was born in Nuremberg,  
Germany, July 24th 1924.

14

00:00:49,630 --> 00:00:52,930

July 25th, 1924.

15

00:00:52,930 --> 00:00:54,790

Let's talk a little  
bit about your family.

16

00:00:54,790 --> 00:00:57,760

Who were the members of  
your immediate family?

17

00:00:57,760 --> 00:01:03,730

Well, my father and mother  
and two sisters, grandmother,

18

00:01:03,730 --> 00:01:08,980

a variety of  
granduncles and uncles

19

00:01:08,980 --> 00:01:12,160

and aunts on my father's side.

20

00:01:12,160 --> 00:01:14,240

What was your father's name?

21

00:01:14,240 --> 00:01:17,080

My father's name was  
Stefan Wangesheim.

22

00:01:17,080 --> 00:01:19,300

And what kind of work did he do?

23

00:01:19,300 --> 00:01:22,750

He was a newspaper  
writer, mainly sports,



24

00:01:22,750 --> 00:01:25,330

but he did other articles.

25

00:01:25,330 --> 00:01:27,865

Worked for the Nürnberger  
Zeitung and the Acht

26

00:01:27,865 --> 00:01:32,990

Uhr-Abendblatt, as  
best as I can remember.

27

00:01:32,990 --> 00:01:37,000

Had your family been in the  
city for many generations?

28

00:01:37,000 --> 00:01:39,580

Well, they were in  
the general vicinity.

29

00:01:39,580 --> 00:01:44,170

30

00:01:44,170 --> 00:01:48,970

They were in Franconia probably  
for about 300 or 400 years.

31

00:01:48,970 --> 00:01:54,070

But in Nuremberg itself, I  
really don't know that much.

32

00:01:54,070 --> 00:01:57,040

33

00:01:57,040 --> 00:01:59,500

But certainly, both on my  
father's and my mother's

34

00:01:59,500 --> 00:02:05,110

side, as best I've been  
able to trace it down,

35

00:02:05,110 --> 00:02:10,759



to about the 1700s, they've  
been living in that vicinity.

36  
00:02:10,759 --> 00:02:13,070  
And your mother's name?

37  
00:02:13,070 --> 00:02:15,040  
My mother's name was Tekla.

38  
00:02:15,040 --> 00:02:18,940  
Her maiden name was Rosenberg.

39  
00:02:18,940 --> 00:02:21,190  
And your two  
sisters, their names

40  
00:02:21,190 --> 00:02:24,525  
and relationship  
to you and ages.

41  
00:02:24,525 --> 00:02:28,810  
I have a sister, two  
years older than I am.

42  
00:02:28,810 --> 00:02:32,080  
Her name is Beate, or Beatrice.

43  
00:02:32,080 --> 00:02:37,090  
And I have a younger sister,  
four years younger than I am,

44  
00:02:37,090 --> 00:02:42,490  
whose name is Evelyn, or Eva.

45  
00:02:42,490 --> 00:02:49,240  
Was your father very politically  
affiliated with organizations?

46  
00:02:49,240 --> 00:02:50,230  
No, I don't think so.

47  
00:02:50,230 --> 00:02:55,030



As far as I know, not.

48

00:02:55,030 --> 00:03:01,090

I should add that my parents  
were divorced in 1930.

49

00:03:01,090 --> 00:03:04,270

And my memory of my  
father is rather vague.

50

00:03:04,270 --> 00:03:10,450

I think I saw him the  
last time in 1934,

51

00:03:10,450 --> 00:03:17,440

but I don't have any really  
clear recollection of being

52

00:03:17,440 --> 00:03:18,550

particularly close to him.

53

00:03:18,550 --> 00:03:21,730

I just didn't know  
him that well.

54

00:03:21,730 --> 00:03:24,280

Was your family a  
very religious family?

55

00:03:24,280 --> 00:03:27,760

No, I would say not.

56

00:03:27,760 --> 00:03:31,090

They were both in  
the reform movement.

57

00:03:31,090 --> 00:03:34,510

My parents were married in  
the [? hoch ?] synagogue

58

00:03:34,510 --> 00:03:39,790

in the main temple, which was  
a reform temple in Nuremberg.



59

00:03:39,790 --> 00:03:43,330

They were married,  
I believe, in 1920.

60

00:03:43,330 --> 00:03:50,105

And my father had been in World  
War I as a German soldier.

61

00:03:50,105 --> 00:03:52,690

62

00:03:52,690 --> 00:03:54,870

He had been a frontline soldier.

63

00:03:54,870 --> 00:03:57,700

He'd been gassed.

64

00:03:57,700 --> 00:03:59,020

But he had been a sportsman.

65

00:03:59,020 --> 00:04:04,930

I mean, he was an athlete,  
mainly gymnastics.

66

00:04:04,930 --> 00:04:06,700

Did your mother work?

67

00:04:06,700 --> 00:04:07,330

Yes.

68

00:04:07,330 --> 00:04:18,690

My mother was an accountant,  
mainly in retail business.

69

00:04:18,690 --> 00:04:19,680

She kept the books.

70

00:04:19,680 --> 00:04:22,410

She was a bookkeeper, basically.

71



00:04:22,410 --> 00:04:26,470  
But she couldn't keep the two of  
us, I mean the three children,

72  
00:04:26,470 --> 00:04:29,650  
after what was a  
rather messy divorce.

73  
00:04:29,650 --> 00:04:32,930  
And so I was placed in the  
Jewish orphanage in Furth.

74  
00:04:32,930 --> 00:04:37,140

75  
00:04:37,140 --> 00:04:38,640  
Obviously, you were  
very young when

76  
00:04:38,640 --> 00:04:39,848  
you were living in Nuremberg.

77  
00:04:39,848 --> 00:04:42,060  
Were you right in  
the center of town.

78  
00:04:42,060 --> 00:04:43,650  
And as I said, you  
were quite young,

79  
00:04:43,650 --> 00:04:46,120  
of course, so whatever  
you can remember.

80  
00:04:46,120 --> 00:04:46,620  
Yes.

81  
00:04:46,620 --> 00:04:48,920  
We lived in the center of town.

82  
00:04:48,920 --> 00:04:52,950



83

00:04:52,950 --> 00:04:57,390

I remember Gostenhofer  
Hauptstraße,

84

00:04:57,390 --> 00:05:00,070

which was almost in the--

85

00:05:00,070 --> 00:05:04,410

well, not in the old wall  
city, although my parents had

86

00:05:04,410 --> 00:05:07,770

lived there for a while, and I  
sort of vaguely remember there.

87

00:05:07,770 --> 00:05:12,930

But it was just outside of the  
walls of the old wall city.

88

00:05:12,930 --> 00:05:15,270

Did you live in a  
mixed neighborhood

89

00:05:15,270 --> 00:05:17,100

of Jews and non-Jews?

90

00:05:17,100 --> 00:05:20,520

As far as I know, there  
were no other Jews.

91

00:05:20,520 --> 00:05:24,250

We lived in an  
apartment building,

92

00:05:24,250 --> 00:05:28,830

which was a series of apartment  
buildings around a courtyard.

93

00:05:28,830 --> 00:05:35,940

I don't recall any other Jews  
in that apartment building.

94



00:05:35,940 --> 00:05:38,550  
They may have existed,  
but I didn't know them.

95  
00:05:38,550 --> 00:05:41,190  
Were there any unpleasant  
incidents of your family

96  
00:05:41,190 --> 00:05:42,930  
being Jewish that  
you can recall?

97  
00:05:42,930 --> 00:05:43,465  
Oh, yes.

98  
00:05:43,465 --> 00:05:50,520

99  
00:05:50,520 --> 00:06:00,550  
Certainly in school, there were  
all kinds of nasty remarks made

100  
00:06:00,550 --> 00:06:03,690  
occasionally, a beating  
or two, but it's

101  
00:06:03,690 --> 00:06:06,205  
vague in my memory  
at this juncture.

102  
00:06:06,205 --> 00:06:11,220

103  
00:06:11,220 --> 00:06:16,560  
There were a lot of Nazis in  
that neighborhood, generally,

104  
00:06:16,560 --> 00:06:18,550  
but there were also  
quite a few communists.

105  
00:06:18,550 --> 00:06:23,730  
It was a middle class to lower



middle class neighborhoods,

106

00:06:23,730 --> 00:06:29,280

so a working class neighborhood,  
and so there was a mixture.

107

00:06:29,280 --> 00:06:33,150

There was a lot of political  
agitation, generally.

108

00:06:33,150 --> 00:06:37,290

This was as far back as  
[? I know. ?] It was 1930.

109

00:06:37,290 --> 00:06:39,960

I don't have any memory  
really beyond that.

110

00:06:39,960 --> 00:06:47,700

But yeah, occasionally there  
was a set to in the schoolyard.

111

00:06:47,700 --> 00:06:52,313

It was a public school,  
so there were probably

112

00:06:52,313 --> 00:06:53,730

a number of other  
Jewish children,

113

00:06:53,730 --> 00:06:55,500

but I just don't remember them.

114

00:06:55,500 --> 00:06:57,650

Were you involved in  
any of these incidents?

115

00:06:57,650 --> 00:06:58,150

Yeah.

116

00:06:58,150 --> 00:07:01,020

I got knocked  
around a little bit,



117  
00:07:01,020 --> 00:07:03,900  
but I think no more  
than is generally

118  
00:07:03,900 --> 00:07:07,290  
true among kids that age.

119  
00:07:07,290 --> 00:07:11,160  
How much of it was politically  
motivated, I can't tell you.

120  
00:07:11,160 --> 00:07:15,145  
It's just too many years ago  
and my memory is [INAUDIBLE]..

121  
00:07:15,145 --> 00:07:16,770  
Was this something  
that you talked over

122  
00:07:16,770 --> 00:07:20,710  
with your mother and  
father, these experiences?

123  
00:07:20,710 --> 00:07:21,450  
Not really.

124  
00:07:21,450 --> 00:07:24,390  
My mother and my father  
were in the process

125  
00:07:24,390 --> 00:07:25,830  
of getting a  
divorce, so there was

126  
00:07:25,830 --> 00:07:31,350  
relatively little of that  
kind of conversation going on.

127  
00:07:31,350 --> 00:07:34,470  
In later years, when I asked  
my mother about those times,



128

00:07:34,470 --> 00:07:36,420

she had put it out of her mind.

129

00:07:36,420 --> 00:07:41,360

130

00:07:41,360 --> 00:07:43,410

Was your father a very  
strict disciplinarian?

131

00:07:43,410 --> 00:07:45,270

Do you remember any of that?

132

00:07:45,270 --> 00:07:47,070

No, I don't think  
he was particularly

133

00:07:47,070 --> 00:07:48,823

a strict disciplinarian.

134

00:07:48,823 --> 00:07:53,610

135

00:07:53,610 --> 00:07:57,870

He had a circle of friends,  
mainly people that he

136

00:07:57,870 --> 00:07:59,253

had been in the army with.

137

00:07:59,253 --> 00:08:01,860

138

00:08:01,860 --> 00:08:06,390

He must have been in a  
local regiment, or something

139

00:08:06,390 --> 00:08:10,440

of that nature, because he  
had a good many friends who

140



00:08:10,440 --> 00:08:12,930  
he hung out with.

141  
00:08:12,930 --> 00:08:16,635  
So he didn't have all that  
much time for his family,

142  
00:08:16,635 --> 00:08:18,450  
and this is, I'm  
sure, one of the bones

143  
00:08:18,450 --> 00:08:21,835  
of contention between  
my mother and my father.

144  
00:08:21,835 --> 00:08:24,780

145  
00:08:24,780 --> 00:08:30,270  
I know he spent a good deal  
of time being a gymnast.

146  
00:08:30,270 --> 00:08:32,880  
That I remember,  
vividly seeing him

147  
00:08:32,880 --> 00:08:37,770  
on the rings with his white  
trousers on, and so on.

148  
00:08:37,770 --> 00:08:42,190  
I also know that he didn't have  
much wind because of the gas

149  
00:08:42,190 --> 00:08:48,180  
that he had from World War  
I. But he was a good-looking

150  
00:08:48,180 --> 00:08:51,780  
figure at that  
time as a gymnast,

151  
00:08:51,780 --> 00:08:55,740



or at least so it  
seems to a youngster.

152  
00:08:55,740 --> 00:08:57,580  
Was your mother  
interested in sports?

153  
00:08:57,580 --> 00:08:58,080  
Oh, yes.

154  
00:08:58,080 --> 00:09:01,740  
My mother was a first  
rate tennis player.

155  
00:09:01,740 --> 00:09:04,200  
I might add she took me  
on in the courts when

156  
00:09:04,200 --> 00:09:08,060  
she was in her middle, late 60s  
and still beat the devil out

157  
00:09:08,060 --> 00:09:08,560  
of me.

158  
00:09:08,560 --> 00:09:12,427

159  
00:09:12,427 --> 00:09:13,260  
That's how they met.

160  
00:09:13,260 --> 00:09:16,730  
I think their interest in sports  
is what drew them together.

161  
00:09:16,730 --> 00:09:23,670  
And it was a marriage which  
the two families did not like,

162  
00:09:23,670 --> 00:09:25,140  
for reasons I don't know.

163



00:09:25,140 --> 00:09:26,560  
But they were both Jewish.

164  
00:09:26,560 --> 00:09:30,750  
They were both from  
middle class families.

165  
00:09:30,750 --> 00:09:34,530  
But apparently, there had been  
bad blood between the families,

166  
00:09:34,530 --> 00:09:36,427  
dating back to  
some incident that

167  
00:09:36,427 --> 00:09:38,260  
apparently occurred a  
hundred years earlier,

168  
00:09:38,260 --> 00:09:40,110  
but I just don't know.

169  
00:09:40,110 --> 00:09:45,240  
So their marriage was not  
blessed by either side.

170  
00:09:45,240 --> 00:09:48,840  
Was the divorce-- again,  
you were only six years

171  
00:09:48,840 --> 00:09:52,680  
old-- was that a very  
difficult time for you?

172  
00:09:52,680 --> 00:09:55,740  
Yes, what I remember of it.

173  
00:09:55,740 --> 00:10:02,700  
There was, as always in these  
things, a lot of shouting

174  
00:10:02,700 --> 00:10:08,450  
and a lot of yelling and general



unhappiness in the house.

175  
00:10:08,450 --> 00:10:15,300  
But it's too vague recollection,  
and I pushed it out of my mind

176  
00:10:15,300 --> 00:10:16,580  
anyway.

177  
00:10:16,580 --> 00:10:18,330  
What about your  
relationship with your two

178  
00:10:18,330 --> 00:10:20,530  
sisters at that point?

179  
00:10:20,530 --> 00:10:25,770  
Well, I think my oldest  
sister was a pain in the neck

180  
00:10:25,770 --> 00:10:28,560  
from that point and  
hadn't changed much

181  
00:10:28,560 --> 00:10:31,440  
over the years of growing up.

182  
00:10:31,440 --> 00:10:39,680  
I adored my younger sister,  
but she was four years younger.

183  
00:10:39,680 --> 00:10:40,380  
I was six.

184  
00:10:40,380 --> 00:10:44,430  
She was two or three, and she  
was a toy to be played with.

185  
00:10:44,430 --> 00:10:47,250

186  
00:10:47,250 --> 00:10:48,170



Yeah.

187  
00:10:48,170 --> 00:10:51,493  
OK, now it's 1930.

188  
00:10:51,493 --> 00:10:52,910  
Your parents have  
gotten divorced.

189  
00:10:52,910 --> 00:10:56,400  
Did you stay in the same  
apartment with your mother?

190  
00:10:56,400 --> 00:10:57,270  
No.

191  
00:10:57,270 --> 00:10:59,730  
Mother couldn't support  
the three of us,

192  
00:10:59,730 --> 00:11:04,200  
so I was put in the  
Jewish orphanage in Furth.

193  
00:11:04,200 --> 00:11:09,860

194  
00:11:09,860 --> 00:11:12,660  
You've got to remember, the  
'30s was a depression in Germany

195  
00:11:12,660 --> 00:11:13,160  
as well.

196  
00:11:13,160 --> 00:11:16,770  
There wasn't enough money  
around to feed all of us,

197  
00:11:16,770 --> 00:11:23,230  
and so my mother placed me  
in the Jewish orphanage.

198



00:11:23,230 --> 00:11:28,900

The girls needed to  
be more protected,

199

00:11:28,900 --> 00:11:33,590

so I was a candidate who  
was sent to the orphanage.

200

00:11:33,590 --> 00:11:37,310

And when did you go  
to the orphanage?

201

00:11:37,310 --> 00:11:38,960

1930, I believe.

202

00:11:38,960 --> 00:11:41,240

It may have been '31,  
but I think it was 30.

203

00:11:41,240 --> 00:11:43,940

204

00:11:43,940 --> 00:11:45,666

And you were only six?

205

00:11:45,666 --> 00:11:49,390

Six or seven years old, yes.

206

00:11:49,390 --> 00:11:52,360

And why did she choose  
this particular orphanage?

207

00:11:52,360 --> 00:11:55,660

I know that Furth  
is near Nuremberg,

208

00:11:55,660 --> 00:12:01,450

but were there any other  
orphanages nearby, closer by?

209

00:12:01,450 --> 00:12:02,570

I don't believe so.



210

00:12:02,570 --> 00:12:06,960

I think, for whatever reasons--

211

00:12:06,960 --> 00:12:10,490

well, part of it was that my  
grandmother lived in Furth,

212

00:12:10,490 --> 00:12:16,660

and she was only about 10 or 11  
blocks away from the orphanage

213

00:12:16,660 --> 00:12:20,470

and I could run  
over and see her.

214

00:12:20,470 --> 00:12:23,800

So I guess that was the  
reason why Furth was selected.

215

00:12:23,800 --> 00:12:26,290

In any event, the family  
had roots in Furth

216

00:12:26,290 --> 00:12:31,270

more than in Nuremberg, so  
that's how that happened.

217

00:12:31,270 --> 00:12:35,550

Did you take anything special  
with you to the orphanage?

218

00:12:35,550 --> 00:12:36,325

I can't remember.

219

00:12:36,325 --> 00:12:41,540

220

00:12:41,540 --> 00:12:45,670

No, I can't recall anything  
special that I took.

221

00:12:45,670 --> 00:12:48,550



And what was the orphanage like?

222

00:12:48,550 --> 00:12:54,880

Well, the orphanage  
was not an easy place.

223

00:12:54,880 --> 00:12:58,030

There were, when I first  
got there, probably

224

00:12:58,030 --> 00:13:00,890

around 30 children  
in the orphanage.

225

00:13:00,890 --> 00:13:05,820

By the time I left, there  
were double that number.

226

00:13:05,820 --> 00:13:12,985

It was located, again, close  
to the center of Furth.

227

00:13:12,985 --> 00:13:18,310

The building still  
stands, curiously enough.

228

00:13:18,310 --> 00:13:26,020

It was an orthodox  
orphanage, so the kids

229

00:13:26,020 --> 00:13:29,890

were segregated  
by sex, of course.

230

00:13:29,890 --> 00:13:34,780

But it had its own  
synagogue in the orphanage,

231

00:13:34,780 --> 00:13:36,910

where we certainly spent  
a hell of a lot of time.

232

00:13:36,910 --> 00:13:40,580



233

00:13:40,580 --> 00:13:47,950

It was pretty grim, even  
before the Nazis came to power.

234

00:13:47,950 --> 00:13:49,466

Discipline was quite strict.

235

00:13:49,466 --> 00:13:52,570

236

00:13:52,570 --> 00:13:55,630

We had to get up  
early in the morning

237

00:13:55,630 --> 00:13:59,500

and go to morning prayers.

238

00:13:59,500 --> 00:14:05,470

Then we had to walk  
two blocks to school.

239

00:14:05,470 --> 00:14:09,820

There was a Jewish school,  
even then, in Furth.

240

00:14:09,820 --> 00:14:15,010

And came back for  
lunch, and then spend

241

00:14:15,010 --> 00:14:19,100

two hours in religious study.

242

00:14:19,100 --> 00:14:21,460

Well, no, we went back  
to school for two hours

243

00:14:21,460 --> 00:14:27,880

and then two hours for religious  
instruction at the orphanage.

244



00:14:27,880 --> 00:14:35,230  
The school, it's  
called a Realschule.

245  
00:14:35,230 --> 00:14:39,160  
It was a classical  
studies school,

246  
00:14:39,160 --> 00:14:43,825  
and so we had Latin and Greek  
tossed in on top of Hebrew.

247  
00:14:43,825 --> 00:14:47,200

248  
00:14:47,200 --> 00:14:51,580  
But there was very  
little playtime.

249  
00:14:51,580 --> 00:14:54,620  
The food was extraordinarily  
bad, as I remember.

250  
00:14:54,620 --> 00:14:59,800

251  
00:14:59,800 --> 00:15:03,250  
To this day, I haven't liked  
orphanages, particularly.

252  
00:15:03,250 --> 00:15:05,810  
When you would be out on  
the street going to school,

253  
00:15:05,810 --> 00:15:07,050  
what about the townspeople?

254  
00:15:07,050 --> 00:15:09,610  
Were they welcoming to you?

255  
00:15:09,610 --> 00:15:12,310  
I think they just ignored  
us at that juncture, I mean,



256  
00:15:12,310 --> 00:15:14,020  
before the Nazis came to power.

257  
00:15:14,020 --> 00:15:25,480  
It became a real problem  
after 1934 to run a gauntlet.

258  
00:15:25,480 --> 00:15:28,200  
And we were easily  
identified because the boys

259  
00:15:28,200 --> 00:15:37,600  
had long sideburns and wore  
yarmulkes, and this, of course,

260  
00:15:37,600 --> 00:15:43,900  
made us easy targets for the  
kids in that neighborhood.

261  
00:15:43,900 --> 00:15:46,420  
Were you ever hurt,  
physically hurt?

262  
00:15:46,420 --> 00:15:50,650  
Oh, yeah, I had the  
stuffings beat out of me

263  
00:15:50,650 --> 00:15:58,300  
a couple of times, hung  
me up once or twice,

264  
00:15:58,300 --> 00:16:06,977  
but there were no permanent  
damage that was done.

265  
00:16:06,977 --> 00:16:08,560  
What about relations  
with your mother?

266  
00:16:08,560 --> 00:16:10,800  
Were you able to  
communicate with her?



267  
00:16:10,800 --> 00:16:11,880  
Oh, yes.

268  
00:16:11,880 --> 00:16:14,160  
First of all, I  
saw my grandmother

269  
00:16:14,160 --> 00:16:17,580  
as frequently as possible.

270  
00:16:17,580 --> 00:16:20,070  
She was, as I said,  
not too distant.

271  
00:16:20,070 --> 00:16:24,450

272  
00:16:24,450 --> 00:16:32,880  
Then I would see my mother once  
a month maybe for an afternoon.

273  
00:16:32,880 --> 00:16:36,580

274  
00:16:36,580 --> 00:16:38,510  
But not much more frequent.

275  
00:16:38,510 --> 00:16:41,490  
She was in Nuremberg, and  
that meant a street car ride

276  
00:16:41,490 --> 00:16:48,030  
and then walking some  
distance and so on,

277  
00:16:48,030 --> 00:16:50,580  
nor did I see my sisters  
very much after that.

278  
00:16:50,580 --> 00:16:54,280  
I mean, just the



transportation more

279

00:16:54,280 --> 00:16:58,320

was more of a problem  
than anything else.

280

00:16:58,320 --> 00:16:59,970

Did you have a feeling  
of abandonment,

281

00:16:59,970 --> 00:17:02,040

being put in the orphanage?

282

00:17:02,040 --> 00:17:02,820

Yes.

283

00:17:02,820 --> 00:17:04,380

I would say that's  
a fair comment.

284

00:17:04,380 --> 00:17:09,619

285

00:17:09,619 --> 00:17:13,079

Yes, I had a feeling of  
abandonment, or self-pity,

286

00:17:13,079 --> 00:17:15,329

but on the other  
hand, the orphanage

287

00:17:15,329 --> 00:17:16,839

was not such a bad place.

288

00:17:16,839 --> 00:17:19,200

I mean, you never had  
to worry about having

289

00:17:19,200 --> 00:17:22,200

companions to play with.

290

00:17:22,200 --> 00:17:26,790



Community living, once  
you got used to it,

291  
00:17:26,790 --> 00:17:28,200  
had all kinds of pluses.

292  
00:17:28,200 --> 00:17:33,870  
I mean, you had somebody  
else on whom you could lean.

293  
00:17:33,870 --> 00:17:37,080  
You had role models there,  
some good, some bad.

294  
00:17:37,080 --> 00:17:43,290  
But at any rate, it was not  
a place where you got lonely

295  
00:17:43,290 --> 00:17:45,720  
and it wasn't a place  
where you really

296  
00:17:45,720 --> 00:17:48,810  
could have self-retrospection.

297  
00:17:48,810 --> 00:17:52,980

298  
00:17:52,980 --> 00:17:55,740  
Not that there was any  
programmatic thing,

299  
00:17:55,740 --> 00:18:03,170  
but children around you all  
the time of varying ages

300  
00:18:03,170 --> 00:18:06,480  
taught me community  
living, and very handy

301  
00:18:06,480 --> 00:18:08,520  
at a later stage in life.



302

00:18:08,520 --> 00:18:10,750

Now these are all  
German-Jewish children?

303

00:18:10,750 --> 00:18:13,776

These were all  
German-Jewish children, yes.

304

00:18:13,776 --> 00:18:17,550

Did you have any contact  
with your father still?

305

00:18:17,550 --> 00:18:18,930

Only once.

306

00:18:18,930 --> 00:18:21,660

I don't remember  
exactly the time.

307

00:18:21,660 --> 00:18:28,941

I think it may have  
been around 1934 or '35.

308

00:18:28,941 --> 00:18:31,830

He came to the orphanage,  
took me out of the orphanage,

309

00:18:31,830 --> 00:18:35,910

and took me for a  
walk along the canal.

310

00:18:35,910 --> 00:18:39,030

Nuremberg goes near the  
divide of Nuremberg and Furth.

311

00:18:39,030 --> 00:18:45,705

And told me then that he  
would try to leave Germany.

312

00:18:45,705 --> 00:18:50,850

313



00:18:50,850 --> 00:18:58,800  
I remember him placing his hands  
on my head and saying a prayer,

314  
00:18:58,800 --> 00:19:00,570  
and that's the last  
I ever saw of him.

315  
00:19:00,570 --> 00:19:03,630

316  
00:19:03,630 --> 00:19:07,230  
As I understand it,  
that was just before he

317  
00:19:07,230 --> 00:19:11,430  
was he was arrested  
and sent to Dachau,

318  
00:19:11,430 --> 00:19:17,690  
but I had no further  
contact with him after that.

319  
00:19:17,690 --> 00:19:20,960  
Let's now talk about when the  
Nazis came into power in 1933.

320  
00:19:20,960 --> 00:19:22,190  
What was that like for you?

321  
00:19:22,190 --> 00:19:27,430

322  
00:19:27,430 --> 00:19:32,160  
Living in a cloistered  
atmosphere of an orphanage,

323  
00:19:32,160 --> 00:19:33,035  
there were no radios.

324  
00:19:33,035 --> 00:19:37,820  
There were no newspapers  
that we had access to.



325  
00:19:37,820 --> 00:19:42,890  
It didn't change dramatically.

326  
00:19:42,890 --> 00:19:47,630  
It was just that we were  
counseled to be more careful.

327  
00:19:47,630 --> 00:19:51,230

328  
00:19:51,230 --> 00:19:55,250  
Within a short period of time,  
relatively short period time,

329  
00:19:55,250 --> 00:19:57,770  
we had an increase  
in our numbers

330  
00:19:57,770 --> 00:20:01,700  
of kids who were being  
placed in the orphanage,

331  
00:20:01,700 --> 00:20:07,370  
mainly because their fathers  
or mothers were either arrested

332  
00:20:07,370 --> 00:20:11,390  
or were in jeopardy.

333  
00:20:11,390 --> 00:20:14,390  
So that was the  
most dramatic sign

334  
00:20:14,390 --> 00:20:17,270  
of what we saw, the  
increase of numbers.

335  
00:20:17,270 --> 00:20:21,050  
And then more dramatically,  
shortly thereafter,

336



00:20:21,050 --> 00:20:25,580  
was the influx of Jewish  
kids into the Jewish school,

337  
00:20:25,580 --> 00:20:28,580  
because they were  
being tossed out

338  
00:20:28,580 --> 00:20:31,490  
of the public schools  
or private schools

339  
00:20:31,490 --> 00:20:33,780  
where they may have been.

340  
00:20:33,780 --> 00:20:38,180  
And so we had a  
dramatic increase

341  
00:20:38,180 --> 00:20:43,460  
of students in the school.

342  
00:20:43,460 --> 00:20:45,730  
Actually, the school was  
known as the Waisenschule.

343  
00:20:45,730 --> 00:20:52,640  
It was really a school initially  
created for the orphanage kids,

344  
00:20:52,640 --> 00:20:57,950  
but it had already passed  
beyond that many years earlier.

345  
00:20:57,950 --> 00:21:01,800  
Now it really became a  
fairly sizable school.

346  
00:21:01,800 --> 00:21:05,075  
What was the name  
of the orphanage?

347  
00:21:05,075 --> 00:21:08,160



Das jÃ¼dische Waisenhaus,  
the Jewish orphanage.

348  
00:21:08,160 --> 00:21:13,320

349  
00:21:13,320 --> 00:21:16,550  
Did you talk about, with your  
friends, this man named Hitler?

350  
00:21:16,550 --> 00:21:18,275  
Was it something that  
you would discuss?

351  
00:21:18,275 --> 00:21:23,270

352  
00:21:23,270 --> 00:21:25,850  
I don't remember any specific  
discussions that we had.

353  
00:21:25,850 --> 00:21:28,160  
It was ubiquitous.

354  
00:21:28,160 --> 00:21:29,055  
There were marches.

355  
00:21:29,055 --> 00:21:33,000

356  
00:21:33,000 --> 00:21:36,560  
The photographs  
and the Nazi flags,

357  
00:21:36,560 --> 00:21:38,990  
and so on, were all around you.

358  
00:21:38,990 --> 00:21:41,690  
I mean, there was no  
way of escaping it.

359  
00:21:41,690 --> 00:21:45,250



It just became more  
and more and more.

360  
00:21:45,250 --> 00:21:50,000  
And obviously, with each new  
kid coming into the orphanage,

361  
00:21:50,000 --> 00:21:55,020  
telling his or her story, we  
became much more keenly aware

362  
00:21:55,020 --> 00:21:55,520  
of it.

363  
00:21:55,520 --> 00:21:58,170

364  
00:21:58,170 --> 00:22:03,140  
The real problems on the  
outside of running the gauntlet

365  
00:22:03,140 --> 00:22:06,950  
to go to school, or if I went  
to my grandmother's house,

366  
00:22:06,950 --> 00:22:09,840  
started during that period.

367  
00:22:09,840 --> 00:22:11,300  
And we were fair game.

368  
00:22:11,300 --> 00:22:15,770  
I mean, we were,  
particularly, Der StÃ¼rmer,

369  
00:22:15,770 --> 00:22:22,130  
which was the antisemitic  
party publication,

370  
00:22:22,130 --> 00:22:23,510  
which was from Nuremberg.

371



00:22:23,510 --> 00:22:26,640  
And Streicher actually lived  
down the street from us.

372  
00:22:26,640 --> 00:22:29,630  
I mean, he was in  
fairly close vicinity.

373  
00:22:29,630 --> 00:22:31,700  
And he and my  
father, I think, had

374  
00:22:31,700 --> 00:22:35,130  
been in the same military  
unit in World War

375  
00:22:35,130 --> 00:22:36,770  
I. They didn't like  
each other, which

376  
00:22:36,770 --> 00:22:40,158  
I think was part of the  
problems that my father had,

377  
00:22:40,158 --> 00:22:41,825  
because he was not a  
political reporter.

378  
00:22:41,825 --> 00:22:44,960

379  
00:22:44,960 --> 00:22:48,400  
Certainly, there was no  
affection lost between them.

380  
00:22:48,400 --> 00:22:51,440

381  
00:22:51,440 --> 00:23:00,822  
I can't recall any  
really dramatic episode

382  
00:23:00,822 --> 00:23:02,690



that I can tell  
you that I became

383  
00:23:02,690 --> 00:23:04,130  
keenly aware of the Nazis.

384  
00:23:04,130 --> 00:23:07,940  
I think every once in a while,  
on the way home or on my way

385  
00:23:07,940 --> 00:23:12,545  
to my grandmother's, a  
gang would set up on me

386  
00:23:12,545 --> 00:23:15,860  
and beat the tar out of me.

387  
00:23:15,860 --> 00:23:21,230  
You became fairly keenly  
aware of it at that juncture.

388  
00:23:21,230 --> 00:23:24,500  
Did you try to fight back?

389  
00:23:24,500 --> 00:23:27,830  
I ran most the time.

390  
00:23:27,830 --> 00:23:30,710  
First of all, I was a  
shrimp as a little kid.

391  
00:23:30,710 --> 00:23:33,680

392  
00:23:33,680 --> 00:23:38,990  
I don't think I ever reached  
more than 5'4" or 5'5".

393  
00:23:38,990 --> 00:23:41,240  
The Aryan race seemed  
to be a little bit more

394



00:23:41,240 --> 00:23:44,750  
well set up for the kids  
in our neighborhood.

395  
00:23:44,750 --> 00:23:48,350  
But every once in a  
while, if you're cornered,

396  
00:23:48,350 --> 00:23:49,835  
you'll fight back.

397  
00:23:49,835 --> 00:23:53,960  
Got a few bloody noses and  
I got a big scar on my thumb

398  
00:23:53,960 --> 00:23:57,150  
where they hung me on  
a goalpost one time.

399  
00:23:57,150 --> 00:23:59,110  
But other than that, it wasn't--

400  
00:23:59,110 --> 00:24:02,960

401  
00:24:02,960 --> 00:24:05,020  
I got as many beatings  
inside the orphanage

402  
00:24:05,020 --> 00:24:07,040  
as I did outside  
the orphanage, so it

403  
00:24:07,040 --> 00:24:09,780  
wasn't anything that unusual.

404  
00:24:09,780 --> 00:24:12,117  
Why did you get the beatings  
inside the orphanage?

405  
00:24:12,117 --> 00:24:14,720



406

00:24:14,720 --> 00:24:22,390

You have 40, 50 kids who  
live in very close proximity

407

00:24:22,390 --> 00:24:24,350

to each other.

408

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

There must have  
been a dozen of us

409

00:24:26,080 --> 00:24:30,340

in one room sleeping in beds.

410

00:24:30,340 --> 00:24:34,180

The teachers were not at  
all above using the strap

411

00:24:34,180 --> 00:24:34,810

on your behind.

412

00:24:34,810 --> 00:24:39,580

413

00:24:39,580 --> 00:24:42,250

If you didn't get the  
sentence in Hebrew correctly,

414

00:24:42,250 --> 00:24:45,820

you were liable to  
get your hand smacked.

415

00:24:45,820 --> 00:24:49,098

416

00:24:49,098 --> 00:24:50,640

I don't want to make  
it sound that it

417

00:24:50,640 --> 00:24:52,750

was a history of  
beatings all around,



418  
00:24:52,750 --> 00:24:55,480  
but there were  
enough to remember.

419  
00:24:55,480 --> 00:24:58,480  
What was it like for you  
to see the German uniforms?

420  
00:24:58,480 --> 00:25:03,100  
Was that overwhelming,  
frightening?

421  
00:25:03,100 --> 00:25:06,460  
Yes, I think was  
threatening, certainly.

422  
00:25:06,460 --> 00:25:08,440  
We knew enough about  
the brown shirts,

423  
00:25:08,440 --> 00:25:14,070  
and you see them strutting  
around the neighborhood.

424  
00:25:14,070 --> 00:25:23,890  
The Hitler Youth was much  
more of a threat to us

425  
00:25:23,890 --> 00:25:26,180  
than the adults.

426  
00:25:26,180 --> 00:25:31,315  
I was nine, 10  
years old, maybe 11.

427  
00:25:31,315 --> 00:25:33,970

428  
00:25:33,970 --> 00:25:36,010  
We better made for  
the Hitler Youth



429

00:25:36,010 --> 00:25:41,050

than we were for  
the older folks.

430

00:25:41,050 --> 00:25:44,570

I do remember--

431

00:25:44,570 --> 00:25:47,820

I cannot put a time on it--

432

00:25:47,820 --> 00:25:51,480

a march by the Jews through  
the streets of Furth

433

00:25:51,480 --> 00:26:01,420

to bury the rabbi in  
defiance of the decree.

434

00:26:01,420 --> 00:26:03,130

I don't remember much about it.

435

00:26:03,130 --> 00:26:05,500

The reason that I  
remember it well

436

00:26:05,500 --> 00:26:08,500

is because we kids  
in the orphanage

437

00:26:08,500 --> 00:26:13,360

were rounded out for saying  
the mourners' kaddish, which

438

00:26:13,360 --> 00:26:16,000

is a difficult prayer and  
it was drilled into us.

439

00:26:16,000 --> 00:26:21,100

So for a couple of marks, we  
were rented out to the funerals

440

00:26:21,100 --> 00:26:26,860



to say the mourners' kaddish,  
which didn't particularly

441  
00:26:26,860 --> 00:26:30,760  
please any of us who  
performed it right.

442  
00:26:30,760 --> 00:26:36,100  
I remember seeing this parade  
coming through the streets

443  
00:26:36,100 --> 00:26:40,300  
towards the Jewish cemetery.

444  
00:26:40,300 --> 00:26:46,120  
I guess I and another kid were  
waiting to perform our duties,

445  
00:26:46,120 --> 00:26:49,440  
to say the mourners' kaddish.

446  
00:26:49,440 --> 00:26:51,100  
Can't put a time on it.

447  
00:26:51,100 --> 00:26:54,370  
I don't remember  
now when that was,

448  
00:26:54,370 --> 00:26:59,260  
but that still is in  
my mind, my memory.

449  
00:26:59,260 --> 00:27:02,140  
And what about the  
restrictive laws that

450  
00:27:02,140 --> 00:27:04,810  
were being enacted all along?

451  
00:27:04,810 --> 00:27:12,700  
Well, I'm not sure that I  
remember the restrictive laws



452

00:27:12,700 --> 00:27:15,310  
particularly at that time.

453

00:27:15,310 --> 00:27:26,680  
I think the effect on  
us individually was nil.

454

00:27:26,680 --> 00:27:28,030  
The food was getting worse.

455

00:27:28,030 --> 00:27:35,110  
I remember that, as the support  
for the orphanage fell away.

456

00:27:35,110 --> 00:27:37,330  
The Jews and the  
Jewish community

457

00:27:37,330 --> 00:27:40,690  
didn't have the resources  
to continue to support us.

458

00:27:40,690 --> 00:27:43,870  
There was a flood of  
emigration, and so on.

459

00:27:43,870 --> 00:27:46,430

460

00:27:46,430 --> 00:27:49,330  
And you must remember, I left  
Germany before Kristallnacht,

461

00:27:49,330 --> 00:27:55,420  
so I don't have that  
memory pattern at all.

462

00:27:55,420 --> 00:27:57,410  
Did you have a bar mitzvah?

463

00:27:57,410 --> 00:28:03,190  
Yes, I had a bar mitzvah



at the orphanage.

464

00:28:03,190 --> 00:28:06,820

That's the one and only  
suit that I ever had.

465

00:28:06,820 --> 00:28:12,100

Short pants, though,  
and a blue jacket.

466

00:28:12,100 --> 00:28:15,160

467

00:28:15,160 --> 00:28:25,120

I did the prayers, read the  
Torah, a portion of the Torah.

468

00:28:25,120 --> 00:28:30,340

469

00:28:30,340 --> 00:28:32,170

That day I remember  
reasonably well.

470

00:28:32,170 --> 00:28:33,940

My mother was there  
and my two sisters

471

00:28:33,940 --> 00:28:36,970

were there, and my grandmother  
and my great uncle.

472

00:28:36,970 --> 00:28:39,830

473

00:28:39,830 --> 00:28:43,900

Was there any kind  
of celebration?

474

00:28:43,900 --> 00:28:47,260

No, I don't think--

475



00:28:47,260 --> 00:28:49,450  
We're talking about  
July 1937 now.

476  
00:28:49,450 --> 00:28:52,330  
July 1937.

477  
00:28:52,330 --> 00:28:55,120  
Oh, I don't remember  
any celebration.

478  
00:28:55,120 --> 00:29:01,660

479  
00:29:01,660 --> 00:29:03,480  
The bar mitzvahs  
in Germany were not

480  
00:29:03,480 --> 00:29:05,680  
celebrated in the same way  
they're celebrated here

481  
00:29:05,680 --> 00:29:07,870  
in the United States.

482  
00:29:07,870 --> 00:29:11,120  
I think I may have gotten  
something from my mother.

483  
00:29:11,120 --> 00:29:18,520  
I know I got a prayer book  
from the orphanage itself.

484  
00:29:18,520 --> 00:29:21,670  
I mean, it wasn't important  
because at that point in time,

485  
00:29:21,670 --> 00:29:28,045  
I counted towards the minyan  
and I could wear the tallit.

486  
00:29:28,045 --> 00:29:33,670  
And since we spent many



hours in the synagogue,

487

00:29:33,670 --> 00:29:35,500

it had more meaning  
in that sense

488

00:29:35,500 --> 00:29:38,720

than it did in any other way.

489

00:29:38,720 --> 00:29:42,940

So then you stayed in the  
orphanage for how long?

490

00:29:42,940 --> 00:29:52,240

From 1931 or '30, I forgot now  
which, to 1938, February 1938.

491

00:29:52,240 --> 00:29:55,330

And what happened at that point?

492

00:29:55,330 --> 00:29:57,930

Well, I went out  
in what is called

493

00:29:57,930 --> 00:30:08,920

a Kindertransport, a children's  
transport, of which there

494

00:30:08,920 --> 00:30:09,520

were a number.

495

00:30:09,520 --> 00:30:15,970

At that time people,  
single children

496

00:30:15,970 --> 00:30:20,330

were easier transported  
than breaking up families.

497

00:30:20,330 --> 00:30:26,740

So I was one of the orphan  
kids where, in that sense,



498

00:30:26,740 --> 00:30:30,800  
easier to deal with.

499

00:30:30,800 --> 00:30:31,930  
But the story goes--

500

00:30:31,930 --> 00:30:34,270  
I have never been  
able to verify--

501

00:30:34,270 --> 00:30:38,200  
that part of my passage  
was paid by the Quakers

502

00:30:38,200 --> 00:30:39,730  
to the United States.

503

00:30:39,730 --> 00:30:42,210  
I didn't know that at the time.

504

00:30:42,210 --> 00:30:44,830  
Found out about it  
when I arrived here.

505

00:30:44,830 --> 00:30:49,760  
But why the Quakers  
paid, I'm not so sure.

506

00:30:49,760 --> 00:31:00,670

507

00:31:00,670 --> 00:31:02,860  
This is tape 1, side  
B, and you were talking

508

00:31:02,860 --> 00:31:04,613  
about the Kindertransport.

509

00:31:04,613 --> 00:31:08,150

510



00:31:08,150 --> 00:31:14,760

There may have been some Quaker  
relation in a generation past

511

00:31:14,760 --> 00:31:17,710

that I'm not sure  
of, but I gathered,

512

00:31:17,710 --> 00:31:20,860

when I got to the States,  
that the transport had,

513

00:31:20,860 --> 00:31:23,620

in part, been paid  
by the Quakers.

514

00:31:23,620 --> 00:31:25,370

It cost a good deal  
of problems for me,

515

00:31:25,370 --> 00:31:27,910

but I'll get to  
that in a minute.

516

00:31:27,910 --> 00:31:33,588

517

00:31:33,588 --> 00:31:35,880

Who told you you would be  
going on the Kindertransport?

518

00:31:35,880 --> 00:31:37,630

How did you find out?

519

00:31:37,630 --> 00:31:40,840

Well, my mother,  
apparently, was mainly

520

00:31:40,840 --> 00:31:43,330

instrumental in arranging it.

521

00:31:43,330 --> 00:31:49,670

She had to sign



the documentation

522

00:31:49,670 --> 00:31:53,770

waiving the rights to me--

523

00:31:53,770 --> 00:31:56,540

that can be the way to put it--

524

00:31:56,540 --> 00:32:01,000

and authorizing that I

be placed on the list.

525

00:32:01,000 --> 00:32:04,630

Some of the children transports  
went straight to Palestine

526

00:32:04,630 --> 00:32:07,180

and I think some of  
them went into Russia.

527

00:32:07,180 --> 00:32:11,560

528

00:32:11,560 --> 00:32:13,300

But a good many  
came to the States,

529

00:32:13,300 --> 00:32:15,070

and there was just  
the luck of the draw.

530

00:32:15,070 --> 00:32:17,630

531

00:32:17,630 --> 00:32:20,150

So was it the whole orphanage  
that emptied out at all?

532

00:32:20,150 --> 00:32:23,140

No, no, no, no, no.

533

00:32:23,140 --> 00:32:26,510



I think in this particular  
children's transport,

534  
00:32:26,510 --> 00:32:30,040  
I was the only one  
from the orphanage.

535  
00:32:30,040 --> 00:32:35,110  
They were put together  
from a variety of places.

536  
00:32:35,110 --> 00:32:39,580  
The kids did not  
know each other.

537  
00:32:39,580 --> 00:32:40,840  
But I was the only one.

538  
00:32:40,840 --> 00:32:43,670

539  
00:32:43,670 --> 00:32:50,530  
There's a tablet on the  
orphanage today, when I went.

540  
00:32:50,530 --> 00:32:54,790  
When I went in Nuremberg  
during the war,

541  
00:32:54,790 --> 00:32:58,060  
literally as we  
took the cities, we

542  
00:32:58,060 --> 00:33:02,300  
found out that the  
director of the orphanage,

543  
00:33:02,300 --> 00:33:08,080  
a man by the name of  
Holliman, Dr. Holliman,

544  
00:33:08,080 --> 00:33:11,860  
stayed on to protect



his children,

545

00:33:11,860 --> 00:33:13,120  
the orphanage children.

546

00:33:13,120 --> 00:33:20,080  
And then he and the  
20-some remaining children

547

00:33:20,080 --> 00:33:21,740  
were transported to Auschwitz.

548

00:33:21,740 --> 00:33:24,960

549

00:33:24,960 --> 00:33:30,700  
I met with his son, who  
had left Furth, also

550

00:33:30,700 --> 00:33:31,950  
on a [INAUDIBLE] for children.

551

00:33:31,950 --> 00:33:34,410  
He went to Palestine.

552

00:33:34,410 --> 00:33:39,870  
But we commemorated his death  
and the remaining orphaned

553

00:33:39,870 --> 00:33:45,870  
children with a  
plaque, which is right

554

00:33:45,870 --> 00:33:50,850  
outside of the synagogue, which  
is the only synagogue still

555

00:33:50,850 --> 00:33:53,130  
left in Furth.

556

00:33:53,130 --> 00:33:56,775  
What was that like for you



at 13 and 1/2 to be alone

557

00:33:56,775 --> 00:33:58,290

and to leave this orphanage?

558

00:33:58,290 --> 00:34:02,070

559

00:34:02,070 --> 00:34:03,760

Were you eager to leave?

560

00:34:03,760 --> 00:34:07,260

Yes, I would say so.

561

00:34:07,260 --> 00:34:11,159

I was not a happy camper there.

562

00:34:11,159 --> 00:34:23,429

A, I didn't cherish the thought  
of this constant beating that

563

00:34:23,429 --> 00:34:24,179

went on.

564

00:34:24,179 --> 00:34:27,659

I mean, not physical,  
but a lot of mental--

565

00:34:27,659 --> 00:34:32,520

I was not the greatest  
Hebrew student

566

00:34:32,520 --> 00:34:36,810

that ever existed and  
didn't like it particularly.

567

00:34:36,810 --> 00:34:39,570

And the food was lousy.

568

00:34:39,570 --> 00:34:42,300

I mean, leaving, it  
was no great pain.



569

00:34:42,300 --> 00:34:44,940

And since I didn't have  
any real attachment

570

00:34:44,940 --> 00:34:47,550

to my mother and my  
sisters, because I

571

00:34:47,550 --> 00:34:52,350

had lived six years away from  
them, leaving was an adventure.

572

00:34:52,350 --> 00:34:54,000

It was great.

573

00:34:54,000 --> 00:34:57,610

The real problem was to get  
the documentation to leave.

574

00:34:57,610 --> 00:34:59,970

That was much more of  
a problem, because you

575

00:34:59,970 --> 00:35:02,670

had to go down and  
get certifications

576

00:35:02,670 --> 00:35:05,160

that you were not a member  
of the Hitler Youth.

577

00:35:05,160 --> 00:35:07,740

So you had to go to  
Hitler Youth headquarters

578

00:35:07,740 --> 00:35:13,050

to get the certification.

579

00:35:13,050 --> 00:35:17,820

I remember timing my trip  
there with great care



580

00:35:17,820 --> 00:35:22,350

so that I would escape getting  
the hell beaten out of me.

581

00:35:22,350 --> 00:35:25,440

I picked the lunch hour when  
there would be nobody around

582

00:35:25,440 --> 00:35:27,900

and got in and out  
in a hell of a hurry.

583

00:35:27,900 --> 00:35:30,870

I got the stamp saying that I  
wasn't a member of the Hitler

584

00:35:30,870 --> 00:35:33,750

Youth, but they still  
caught up with me

585

00:35:33,750 --> 00:35:36,240

and gave me a good hiding.

586

00:35:36,240 --> 00:35:39,900

587

00:35:39,900 --> 00:35:44,550

To do that was a discouragement  
to go on a Kindertransport,

588

00:35:44,550 --> 00:35:49,390

but to get out of there,  
absolutely I was delighted.

589

00:35:49,390 --> 00:35:50,890

I couldn't have  
cared where it went,

590

00:35:50,890 --> 00:35:57,930

but to leave the  
orphanage was welcome.

591



00:35:57,930 --> 00:36:00,300

What was the rationale  
for asking a Jewish child

592

00:36:00,300 --> 00:36:03,600

to prove that he's not a  
member of the Hitler Youth?

593

00:36:03,600 --> 00:36:12,420

Well, the authority for  
Germans to travel abroad

594

00:36:12,420 --> 00:36:14,220

was becoming more  
and more limited.

595

00:36:14,220 --> 00:36:16,440

I can only reconstruct now.

596

00:36:16,440 --> 00:36:17,560

I didn't know it then.

597

00:36:17,560 --> 00:36:22,050

But basically, if you're a  
member of the Hitler Youth,

598

00:36:22,050 --> 00:36:24,930

to travel abroad  
might have been a sign

599

00:36:24,930 --> 00:36:27,660

that you are trying to escape  
the draft, or whatever it was.

600

00:36:27,660 --> 00:36:30,540

And therefore, if you're not  
a member of the Hitler Youth,

601

00:36:30,540 --> 00:36:31,800

they didn't care so much.

602

00:36:31,800 --> 00:36:34,510

But if so, if you were a



member the Hitler Youth,

603

00:36:34,510 --> 00:36:37,470

then you get a certification  
from the troupe,

604

00:36:37,470 --> 00:36:42,690

or whatever it was, that you  
were worthwhile to obtain

605

00:36:42,690 --> 00:36:44,643

the authorization.

606

00:36:44,643 --> 00:36:46,560

But in either end, you  
had some authorization.

607

00:36:46,560 --> 00:36:49,350

You had either the authorization  
from the Hitler Youth to go

608

00:36:49,350 --> 00:36:51,990

or the stamp that  
says that you are not

609

00:36:51,990 --> 00:36:55,690

a member of Hitler Youth.

610

00:36:55,690 --> 00:36:57,330

So you went from Furth to where?

611

00:36:57,330 --> 00:37:01,320

612

00:37:01,320 --> 00:37:02,760

My recollection is to Hamburg.

613

00:37:02,760 --> 00:37:06,540

614

00:37:06,540 --> 00:37:14,040

We traveled on a US ship, as I



remember, to the United States.

615

00:37:14,040 --> 00:37:16,730

Did any adult leader  
come to your orphanage

616

00:37:16,730 --> 00:37:19,020

and take you to Hamburg?

617

00:37:19,020 --> 00:37:20,380

No.

618

00:37:20,380 --> 00:37:22,395

As I remember it, we  
were just put on a train.

619

00:37:22,395 --> 00:37:25,600

620

00:37:25,600 --> 00:37:29,080

When you say we,  
who do you mean?

621

00:37:29,080 --> 00:37:33,660

I think there was a girl, as I  
remember sort of vaguely, who

622

00:37:33,660 --> 00:37:39,390

came from Furth, but she was  
not in the orphanage, who

623

00:37:39,390 --> 00:37:44,280

was put on the same train,  
and we shared a third class

624

00:37:44,280 --> 00:37:45,420

compartment to Hamburg.

625

00:37:45,420 --> 00:37:50,070

626

00:37:50,070 --> 00:37:51,480



There we were collected.

627

00:37:51,480 --> 00:37:54,050

628

00:37:54,050 --> 00:38:02,633

I spent a day or so in some safe  
house of some kind or another.

629

00:38:02,633 --> 00:38:04,050

I don't remember  
that too clearly,

630

00:38:04,050 --> 00:38:06,220

but then we went  
on board a ship.

631

00:38:06,220 --> 00:38:10,560

632

00:38:10,560 --> 00:38:16,620

She mentioned in the school,  
one of my classmates,

633

00:38:16,620 --> 00:38:21,750

incidentally, that was a year  
ahead of me, his brother--

634

00:38:21,750 --> 00:38:23,780

I think he was in my class--

635

00:38:23,780 --> 00:38:25,576

was Henry Kissinger.

636

00:38:25,576 --> 00:38:29,220

637

00:38:29,220 --> 00:38:33,630

I think he spent two  
years in the same class.

638

00:38:33,630 --> 00:38:36,840



The classes were  
combined in many cases,

639  
00:38:36,840 --> 00:38:41,160  
insufficient teachers and  
all that sort of thing.

640  
00:38:41,160 --> 00:38:43,290  
I reminded Henry of  
this not too long ago

641  
00:38:43,290 --> 00:38:47,040  
when we were having  
dinner and he

642  
00:38:47,040 --> 00:38:48,970  
professed no knowledge of me.

643  
00:38:48,970 --> 00:38:50,855  
[CHUCKLES] We knew  
each other in the Army,

644  
00:38:50,855 --> 00:38:52,980  
and we've certainly known  
each other professionally

645  
00:38:52,980 --> 00:38:55,110  
since then, but he  
had no recollection

646  
00:38:55,110 --> 00:38:56,970  
of this particular episode.

647  
00:38:56,970 --> 00:38:59,250  
Were you friends with  
him in the orphanage?

648  
00:38:59,250 --> 00:39:00,500  
He was not in the orphanage.

649  
00:39:00,500 --> 00:39:05,920  
He went to the Jewish  
school, the orphan school.



650

00:39:05,920 --> 00:39:08,910

No, he was never  
in the orphanage.

651

00:39:08,910 --> 00:39:11,510

So now you're on the boat  
coming to the United States.

652

00:39:11,510 --> 00:39:13,960

How many children were you with?

653

00:39:13,960 --> 00:39:17,840

654

00:39:17,840 --> 00:39:18,650

I can't remember.

655

00:39:18,650 --> 00:39:22,790

It must've been around 20, but I  
don't have any real collection.

656

00:39:22,790 --> 00:39:27,290

I mean, I remember sharing  
the cabin with three or four,

657

00:39:27,290 --> 00:39:29,420

maybe more, kids.

658

00:39:29,420 --> 00:39:32,840

659

00:39:32,840 --> 00:39:35,510

But I don't have any  
clear collection.

660

00:39:35,510 --> 00:39:43,670

I remember a couple of the  
people who were on this group

661

00:39:43,670 --> 00:39:49,280

because our lives



intertwined in a later stage.

662

00:39:49,280 --> 00:39:55,400

One was Ilse Judas, who  
later became rather--

663

00:39:55,400 --> 00:39:58,510

664

00:39:58,510 --> 00:40:00,740

I think she was head of  
surgery at Mount Sinai

665

00:40:00,740 --> 00:40:03,980

Hospital in Chicago.

666

00:40:03,980 --> 00:40:06,330

But she also went to the  
University of Wisconsin,

667

00:40:06,330 --> 00:40:11,660

and we met, as I  
say, in a later time.

668

00:40:11,660 --> 00:40:15,510

Another kid, whose name I  
can't remember now, who else

669

00:40:15,510 --> 00:40:17,840

was sent to  
Wisconsin, and that's

670

00:40:17,840 --> 00:40:20,510

why I have a slight  
recollection.

671

00:40:20,510 --> 00:40:23,630

But other than that, I  
have really no memory

672

00:40:23,630 --> 00:40:24,955

of who the others were.



673

00:40:24,955 --> 00:40:27,230

Who were the other  
passengers on this boat

674

00:40:27,230 --> 00:40:28,940

at this time leaving Germany?

675

00:40:28,940 --> 00:40:34,670

676

00:40:34,670 --> 00:40:38,140

We were down in third class  
in steerage, whatever it was.

677

00:40:38,140 --> 00:40:41,960

I don't know who all was there.

678

00:40:41,960 --> 00:40:43,790

Some were just  
regular travelers.

679

00:40:43,790 --> 00:40:45,560

I mean, this was a US ship.

680

00:40:45,560 --> 00:40:49,340

681

00:40:49,340 --> 00:40:52,520

There were obviously  
a sizable number

682

00:40:52,520 --> 00:40:55,220

of refugees, people  
who had the wherewithal

683

00:40:55,220 --> 00:40:58,510

to pay their passage, had  
gotten permission to leave,

684

00:40:58,510 --> 00:41:01,190

or permits to leave.



685

00:41:01,190 --> 00:41:01,850

How many?

686

00:41:01,850 --> 00:41:03,350

I don't know.

687

00:41:03,350 --> 00:41:06,750

I didn't meet very  
many of those people.

688

00:41:06,750 --> 00:41:08,270

And who were your leaders?

689

00:41:08,270 --> 00:41:09,680

Were they Quakers?

690

00:41:09,680 --> 00:41:10,180

No.

691

00:41:10,180 --> 00:41:13,160

No, they were Jewish.

692

00:41:13,160 --> 00:41:15,170

When you say  
leaders, I don't know

693

00:41:15,170 --> 00:41:18,680

whether there was really any  
supervisory people on board.

694

00:41:18,680 --> 00:41:22,160

If there was, I don't have  
any recollection of them.

695

00:41:22,160 --> 00:41:25,360

And now you land in New York.

696

00:41:25,360 --> 00:41:34,940

I'm in New York  
February of 1938.

697



00:41:34,940 --> 00:41:38,450

Whether it was the YMHA,  
or whatever it was--

698

00:41:38,450 --> 00:41:41,020

that's what they called it.

699

00:41:41,020 --> 00:41:42,770

At least the male  
kids went there.

700

00:41:42,770 --> 00:41:46,310

701

00:41:46,310 --> 00:41:50,030

Then they tried to figure  
out what to do with us.

702

00:41:50,030 --> 00:41:52,490

This is when I ran into a  
problem with the Quaker side,

703

00:41:52,490 --> 00:41:56,330

because the Jewish Social  
Service decided that I was not

704

00:41:56,330 --> 00:42:03,440

sufficiently Jewish to  
warrant being considered

705

00:42:03,440 --> 00:42:06,770

for a Jewish home, and  
the Quakers certainly

706

00:42:06,770 --> 00:42:10,010

had no knowledge of me  
or any interest in me.

707

00:42:10,010 --> 00:42:13,580

And New York was beginning  
to fill up with refugees,

708

00:42:13,580 --> 00:42:18,470



and the American-Jewish  
community

709  
00:42:18,470 --> 00:42:22,160  
wasn't all that  
receptive, either,

710  
00:42:22,160 --> 00:42:25,290  
to have this dumped  
in their lap.

711  
00:42:25,290 --> 00:42:30,380

712  
00:42:30,380 --> 00:42:33,500  
I had the additional  
stigma of being an orphan,

713  
00:42:33,500 --> 00:42:35,630  
I mean of having come  
out of an orphanage.

714  
00:42:35,630 --> 00:42:38,990  
I wasn't that attractive  
of a candidate

715  
00:42:38,990 --> 00:42:40,580  
to place into somebody's home.

716  
00:42:40,580 --> 00:42:45,820

717  
00:42:45,820 --> 00:42:48,140  
After a while,  
through consideration,

718  
00:42:48,140 --> 00:42:51,260  
they sent me out  
to Chicago, where

719  
00:42:51,260 --> 00:42:55,670  
there was less pressure  
of refugees coming in.



720  
00:42:55,670 --> 00:42:56,480  
I got to Chicago.

721  
00:42:56,480 --> 00:42:59,300

722  
00:42:59,300 --> 00:43:02,840  
Somebody, some woman,  
put me on the train.

723  
00:43:02,840 --> 00:43:06,820  
My English was not good at all.

724  
00:43:06,820 --> 00:43:10,980  
I spoke a few  
words, but not much.

725  
00:43:10,980 --> 00:43:12,830  
They did give me \$5.

726  
00:43:12,830 --> 00:43:16,750  
There I was in my short  
pants in February of 1938,

727  
00:43:16,750 --> 00:43:19,490  
traveling to Chicago.

728  
00:43:19,490 --> 00:43:22,960  
Then the train arrived something  
like 3:00 AM in the morning,

729  
00:43:22,960 --> 00:43:28,800  
and there was nobody  
there, of course.

730  
00:43:28,800 --> 00:43:35,660  
But I heard some  
announcer, train announcer,

731  
00:43:35,660 --> 00:43:38,810  
announcing a train to Milwaukee.



732  
00:43:38,810 --> 00:43:42,320  
I had heard, or I had learned  
in school, that people

733  
00:43:42,320 --> 00:43:43,670  
spoke German in Milwaukee.

734  
00:43:43,670 --> 00:43:47,540  
So I got on the train,  
locked myself in the toilet,

735  
00:43:47,540 --> 00:43:52,460  
and rode to Milwaukee.

736  
00:43:52,460 --> 00:43:54,620  
This is all at the  
age of 13 and 1/2?

737  
00:43:54,620 --> 00:43:56,650  
An age of 13 and 1/2.

738  
00:43:56,650 --> 00:43:58,050  
But I was streetwise.

739  
00:43:58,050 --> 00:44:02,870  
I mean, living in an orphanage,  
you live by your wits.

740  
00:44:02,870 --> 00:44:05,570  
So these things  
didn't surprise me

741  
00:44:05,570 --> 00:44:08,780  
or threw me in any  
kind of a panic.

742  
00:44:08,780 --> 00:44:11,390  
It was sort of normal,  
to be expected,

743  
00:44:11,390 --> 00:44:13,385



that things wouldn't work out.

744

00:44:13,385 --> 00:44:20,580

So I got off the train, found  
a lot of people sleeping

745

00:44:20,580 --> 00:44:22,670

in the railway station.

746

00:44:22,670 --> 00:44:24,020

It was warm there.

747

00:44:24,020 --> 00:44:34,100

So I bedded down with the other  
bums, people who had no work.

748

00:44:34,100 --> 00:44:36,140

Besides, it a soup  
kitchen there as well.

749

00:44:36,140 --> 00:44:38,930

750

00:44:38,930 --> 00:44:42,410

It didn't last very long.

751

00:44:42,410 --> 00:44:46,430

The cops picked me up,  
and much to my amazement,

752

00:44:46,430 --> 00:44:49,280

they did speak German.

753

00:44:49,280 --> 00:44:53,540

So back I went to the  
orphanage, this time

754

00:44:53,540 --> 00:44:56,220

the Jewish orphanage  
in Milwaukee,

755

00:44:56,220 --> 00:44:58,900



which I don't like orphanages,  
so I kept running away,

756  
00:44:58,900 --> 00:45:00,420  
I kept getting brought back.

757  
00:45:00,420 --> 00:45:01,310  
[INAUDIBLE]

758  
00:45:01,310 --> 00:45:04,320

759  
00:45:04,320 --> 00:45:11,330  
Eventually, a place was  
found for me with a family.

760  
00:45:11,330 --> 00:45:14,380  
At first, the family in  
Milwaukee, who mainly didn't

761  
00:45:14,380 --> 00:45:15,630  
have enough to eat themselves.

762  
00:45:15,630 --> 00:45:18,500  
They had 10 bucks per  
week that they got.

763  
00:45:18,500 --> 00:45:21,030  
That family didn't  
feed me very much.

764  
00:45:21,030 --> 00:45:26,050  
But I picked up a newspaper  
route and shined shoes,

765  
00:45:26,050 --> 00:45:31,040  
and pretty soon I was  
sort of semi-independent.

766  
00:45:31,040 --> 00:45:33,970  
It certainly helped my English.

767



00:45:33,970 --> 00:45:37,327

Within six months I  
was pretty fluent.

768

00:45:37,327 --> 00:45:39,160

There was no one to  
speak German to, anyway,

769

00:45:39,160 --> 00:45:40,610

except for my newspaper route.

770

00:45:40,610 --> 00:45:43,180

771

00:45:43,180 --> 00:45:48,510

Finally, after I ran  
away a few more times,

772

00:45:48,510 --> 00:45:51,280

the Jewish Social Service  
placed me with a family

773

00:45:51,280 --> 00:45:55,585

in Janesville, Wisconsin,  
who wanted a girl,

774

00:45:55,585 --> 00:45:58,360

but got me instead.

775

00:45:58,360 --> 00:46:00,700

They were absolutely marvelous  
and wonderful people,

776

00:46:00,700 --> 00:46:05,050

and I have been very  
close to them ever since.

777

00:46:05,050 --> 00:46:07,370

And then you went to  
school in Wisconsin?

778

00:46:07,370 --> 00:46:08,430

I went to school.



779  
00:46:08,430 --> 00:46:11,170  
I never missed a grade.

780  
00:46:11,170 --> 00:46:15,598  
Went from seventh  
grade in Germany,

781  
00:46:15,598 --> 00:46:17,890  
it would be the equivalent  
of seventh grade in Germany,

782  
00:46:17,890 --> 00:46:21,770  
to the seventh grade  
here in Milwaukee,

783  
00:46:21,770 --> 00:46:27,722  
and then to ninth  
grade in Janesville.

784  
00:46:27,722 --> 00:46:31,460

785  
00:46:31,460 --> 00:46:34,150  
Were you accepted by  
the American children?

786  
00:46:34,150 --> 00:46:35,590  
Oh, yeah.

787  
00:46:35,590 --> 00:46:37,330  
By the time I  
reached Janesville,

788  
00:46:37,330 --> 00:46:39,850  
you couldn't tell very much.

789  
00:46:39,850 --> 00:46:41,650  
There was some  
accent still left,

790  
00:46:41,650 --> 00:46:45,550



but it wasn't a heck of a lot.

791

00:46:45,550 --> 00:46:48,250

No, there was certainly  
no problems at all

792

00:46:48,250 --> 00:46:49,990

that I can remember.

793

00:46:49,990 --> 00:46:53,980

I fitted in quite  
neatly in Janesville.

794

00:46:53,980 --> 00:46:55,630

The school was an  
excellent school.

795

00:46:55,630 --> 00:46:58,330

It was the only high school in  
the city, which, at that time,

796

00:46:58,330 --> 00:47:01,840

probably must have at around  
12,000 to 15,000 people.

797

00:47:01,840 --> 00:47:05,660

So it was a fairly sizable town.

798

00:47:05,660 --> 00:47:11,440

It had a lot of German names,  
and so on, and Irish kids.

799

00:47:11,440 --> 00:47:13,810

The battles were more  
between the Irish Catholics

800

00:47:13,810 --> 00:47:15,493

and the German Catholics.

801

00:47:15,493 --> 00:47:17,410

The Protestants sort of  
stood off on their own



802

00:47:17,410 --> 00:47:18,640  
and didn't care.

803

00:47:18,640 --> 00:47:24,670  
But the few Jewish children  
in school in Janesville--

804

00:47:24,670 --> 00:47:27,820  
there were only maybe  
five or six of us--

805

00:47:27,820 --> 00:47:30,290  
had no particular problems.

806

00:47:30,290 --> 00:47:32,980  
And then did you graduate  
from this high school?

807

00:47:32,980 --> 00:47:33,670  
Yes.

808

00:47:33,670 --> 00:47:46,170  
I graduated from high  
school in 1942, '42.

809

00:47:46,170 --> 00:47:51,870  
My foster brother, Bob,  
we were in the same class,

810

00:47:51,870 --> 00:47:55,330  
had all the same classes  
together, and so on.

811

00:47:55,330 --> 00:47:57,840  
That was very helpful.

812

00:47:57,840 --> 00:47:59,970  
Bobby and I became  
exceedingly, and still are,

813

00:47:59,970 --> 00:48:00,960  
exceedingly close.



814  
00:48:00,960 --> 00:48:05,500

815  
00:48:05,500 --> 00:48:09,270  
that was probably the  
best time of my life.

816  
00:48:09,270 --> 00:48:13,560  
It was living a normal  
family existence, which

817  
00:48:13,560 --> 00:48:15,405  
I hadn't experienced before.

818  
00:48:15,405 --> 00:48:17,980

819  
00:48:17,980 --> 00:48:22,850  
They were very  
gentle, loving people.

820  
00:48:22,850 --> 00:48:27,590  
The town was awfully good.

821  
00:48:27,590 --> 00:48:31,190  
It was reasonably close to  
Chicago and reasonably close

822  
00:48:31,190 --> 00:48:33,630  
to Madison and Milwaukee.

823  
00:48:33,630 --> 00:48:37,820  
And so it was my first  
introduction to real culture.

824  
00:48:37,820 --> 00:48:45,470  
I mean, my foster mother was  
a trained singer and so there

825  
00:48:45,470 --> 00:48:48,120  
was a lot of opera music.



826  
00:48:48,120 --> 00:48:49,250  
It was very nice.

827  
00:48:49,250 --> 00:48:53,680  
What kind of contact did  
you have with your mother?

828  
00:48:53,680 --> 00:48:58,780  
Well, I got to  
Janesville in 1939.

829  
00:48:58,780 --> 00:49:03,920  
It must have been around  
August or September of '39.

830  
00:49:03,920 --> 00:49:06,320  
My mother came to England.

831  
00:49:06,320 --> 00:49:10,700  
She managed to extricate  
herself and my oldest sister out

832  
00:49:10,700 --> 00:49:13,430  
of Germany in August of 1939.

833  
00:49:13,430 --> 00:49:16,440  
It was just before  
war broke out.

834  
00:49:16,440 --> 00:49:22,490  
So she was in England  
just about the same time

835  
00:49:22,490 --> 00:49:25,700  
as I came to Janesville.

836  
00:49:25,700 --> 00:49:31,520  
So my foster mother insisted  
that I write regularly

837  
00:49:31,520 --> 00:49:32,240



to my mother.

838

00:49:32,240 --> 00:49:35,020

I don't think I would  
have done it without her.

839

00:49:35,020 --> 00:49:37,190

So I said I wasn't  
particularly close to my mother

840

00:49:37,190 --> 00:49:46,490

at that juncture, but I did  
write to her quite regularly.

841

00:49:46,490 --> 00:49:54,950

And of course, she shared the  
letter with my older sister.

842

00:49:54,950 --> 00:50:01,760

My younger sister remained  
in Germany, and much

843

00:50:01,760 --> 00:50:07,340

to the distress of all of  
us, she couldn't get out.

844

00:50:07,340 --> 00:50:16,370

But we finally managed, through  
a variety of contacts in 1940,

845

00:50:16,370 --> 00:50:24,410

to get her out via  
occupied France

846

00:50:24,410 --> 00:50:30,040

and free France, into Spain,  
and then into Portugal,

847

00:50:30,040 --> 00:50:35,070

and a very difficult  
journey to the United States

848

00:50:35,070 --> 00:50:42,260



on a Portuguese steamer, I  
mean, a merchant steamer.

849  
00:50:42,260 --> 00:50:46,350  
But she came to Wisconsin  
and came to Milwaukee.

850  
00:50:46,350 --> 00:50:49,790  
The people who had known me when  
I left Milwaukee took her in

851  
00:50:49,790 --> 00:50:53,000  
and she was raised by them.

852  
00:50:53,000 --> 00:50:56,540  
She has no memory of German,  
very little memory of Germany.

853  
00:50:56,540 --> 00:50:58,190  
She repelled it.

854  
00:50:58,190 --> 00:51:01,620

855  
00:51:01,620 --> 00:51:04,100  
But my mother and  
my older sister

856  
00:51:04,100 --> 00:51:06,620  
stayed in England  
during the war.

857  
00:51:06,620 --> 00:51:09,168

858  
00:51:09,168 --> 00:51:11,210  
All right, now you've  
graduated from high school,

859  
00:51:11,210 --> 00:51:12,530  
and then what did you do?

860



00:51:12,530 --> 00:51:15,770

Well, I started at the  
University of Wisconsin.

861

00:51:15,770 --> 00:51:19,520

Well, first I went to  
Elgin Watchmakers College.

862

00:51:19,520 --> 00:51:23,570

My foster father was a jeweler.

863

00:51:23,570 --> 00:51:27,080

He ran a store, and he felt  
that all of his children

864

00:51:27,080 --> 00:51:30,100

should learn a trade  
by their hands.

865

00:51:30,100 --> 00:51:34,340

So my brother Bob and I went  
to Elgin Watchmakers College

866

00:51:34,340 --> 00:51:38,900

and I'm a certified  
watchmaker, which, I might add,

867

00:51:38,900 --> 00:51:42,710

came in handy at  
one point in time.

868

00:51:42,710 --> 00:51:44,930

And then I restarted at  
the University of Wisconsin

869

00:51:44,930 --> 00:51:55,700

and it became very clear  
that the pool of eligible

870

00:51:55,700 --> 00:51:58,970

18-year-olds was  
rapidly being exhausted

871



00:51:58,970 --> 00:52:03,350  
and the draft was  
hanging over my head,

872  
00:52:03,350 --> 00:52:07,960  
so I enlisted in the  
Army later that year.

873  
00:52:07,960 --> 00:52:12,035  
What was it like for you when  
the United States went to war?

874  
00:52:12,035 --> 00:52:12,910  
It was very exciting.

875  
00:52:12,910 --> 00:52:21,200

876  
00:52:21,200 --> 00:52:22,970  
I didn't care about  
Japan, but certainly

877  
00:52:22,970 --> 00:52:27,950  
going to war against Germany, I  
was very much in favor of that.

878  
00:52:27,950 --> 00:52:33,380

879  
00:52:33,380 --> 00:52:42,210  
There were some elements  
of the Bund in Wisconsin,

880  
00:52:42,210 --> 00:52:47,390  
but none in Janesville  
that I can remember.

881  
00:52:47,390 --> 00:52:50,280

882  
00:52:50,280 --> 00:52:54,530  
But I certainly had hoped  
that the United States would



883  
00:52:54,530 --> 00:52:56,030  
go to war against Germany.

884  
00:52:56,030 --> 00:53:02,100  
I mean, I was afraid.

885  
00:53:02,100 --> 00:53:06,770  
I was afraid that the  
Nazi reach would be

886  
00:53:06,770 --> 00:53:10,310  
extending to the United States.

887  
00:53:10,310 --> 00:53:14,240  
For sheer personal  
safety, you had hoped

888  
00:53:14,240 --> 00:53:20,200  
that this would be contained.

889  
00:53:20,200 --> 00:53:22,720  
So then you went  
into the service?

890  
00:53:22,720 --> 00:53:24,145  
Yes, I went into the service.

891  
00:53:24,145 --> 00:53:27,250

892  
00:53:27,250 --> 00:53:31,810  
And when I first  
started out in the--

893  
00:53:31,810 --> 00:53:34,480

894  
00:53:34,480 --> 00:53:38,530  
I enlisted in order to  
get into the Air Force,



895

00:53:38,530 --> 00:53:42,190

the Air Corps it was,  
US Army Air Corps.

896

00:53:42,190 --> 00:53:49,960

And this is where the fact that  
my foster father had insisted

897

00:53:49,960 --> 00:53:51,820

on the watch making  
came in very handy,

898

00:53:51,820 --> 00:54:01,480

because that qualified me  
for entrance into the Air

899

00:54:01,480 --> 00:54:04,070

Corps as an  
instrument technician,

900

00:54:04,070 --> 00:54:11,380

and later on as a  
gunner on the old B-17s.

901

00:54:11,380 --> 00:54:16,540

But I had to go through  
delightful training

902

00:54:16,540 --> 00:54:23,590

in St. Petersburg, Florida,  
and then instrument training

903

00:54:23,590 --> 00:54:26,120

in Chicago.

904

00:54:26,120 --> 00:54:27,780

I had a very good  
time in the Army.

905

00:54:27,780 --> 00:54:29,290

I enjoyed it immensely.

906



00:54:29,290 --> 00:54:32,680

That's where living  
in an orphanage

907

00:54:32,680 --> 00:54:34,340

prepares you for that.

908

00:54:34,340 --> 00:54:36,910

I had no problems in the Army.

909

00:54:36,910 --> 00:54:38,350

I was a very good soldier.

910

00:54:38,350 --> 00:54:47,830

I enjoyed it immensely and had  
no difficulty in obeying orders

911

00:54:47,830 --> 00:54:50,980

and keeping my head down.

912

00:54:50,980 --> 00:54:53,770

Were you an American  
citizen at that time?

913

00:54:53,770 --> 00:55:00,070

Well, the Army had an  
interesting way of doing this.

914

00:55:00,070 --> 00:55:05,290

They swore me in as a US citizen  
when I was in basic training,

915

00:55:05,290 --> 00:55:07,780

but they attached  
the citizenship paper

916

00:55:07,780 --> 00:55:11,770

to my Army record,  
which you could only

917

00:55:11,770 --> 00:55:18,710

get if you had an  
honorable discharge.



918  
00:55:18,710 --> 00:55:22,930  
So the answer is yes, I became  
a US citizen at the time,

919  
00:55:22,930 --> 00:55:26,440  
basically within three  
months after I enlisted,

920  
00:55:26,440 --> 00:55:30,270  
but the citizenship papers  
I received, actually,

921  
00:55:30,270 --> 00:55:33,840  
when I was commissioned  
in the Army during the war

922  
00:55:33,840 --> 00:55:34,810  
at a much later stage.

923  
00:55:34,810 --> 00:55:38,050

924  
00:55:38,050 --> 00:55:40,070  
That's how it was done.

925  
00:55:40,070 --> 00:55:44,440  
So then you completed your  
training to be the gunner?

926  
00:55:44,440 --> 00:55:48,280  
Well, I completed the  
training as a gunner.

927  
00:55:48,280 --> 00:55:50,666  
This must have been around '43.

928  
00:55:50,666 --> 00:55:54,130

929  
00:55:54,130 --> 00:56:00,040  
They put a squadron together



in Wendover Field, Utah.

930

00:56:00,040 --> 00:56:04,390

By this time I reached the grade  
rank, I think, of PFC, or maybe

931

00:56:04,390 --> 00:56:05,680

corporal.

932

00:56:05,680 --> 00:56:10,240

And the fact that I spoke  
fluent German and so on

933

00:56:10,240 --> 00:56:13,120

didn't impress  
anybody very much.

934

00:56:13,120 --> 00:56:22,810

I was in a plane crash at  
Wendover Field, which put me

935

00:56:22,810 --> 00:56:25,000

on the disabled list for a bit.

936

00:56:25,000 --> 00:56:27,970

Legs were broken, and so on.

937

00:56:27,970 --> 00:56:34,840

So I was sent down  
to aviation school

938

00:56:34,840 --> 00:56:38,030

in Big Springs,  
Texas in west Texas.

939

00:56:38,030 --> 00:56:41,470

And this was a bombardier  
navigator training base,

940

00:56:41,470 --> 00:56:46,480

and I accrued AT-11s and  
AT-7s, mainly as an instrument



941  
00:56:46,480 --> 00:56:48,580  
technician, and so on.

942  
00:56:48,580 --> 00:56:51,370  
And that, again,  
was lovely duty.

943  
00:56:51,370 --> 00:56:53,590  
The area wasn't lovely,  
but they were nice people.

944  
00:56:53,590 --> 00:56:56,380

945  
00:56:56,380 --> 00:56:58,570  
Whenever I needed  
money, I'd go into town

946  
00:56:58,570 --> 00:57:01,270  
and go to the nearest  
jewelry store,

947  
00:57:01,270 --> 00:57:05,050  
showed them my certificate,  
cleaned three or four watches,

948  
00:57:05,050 --> 00:57:09,950  
collected my 20 bucks, then  
went out and had a good time.

949  
00:57:09,950 --> 00:57:13,300  
It all came in very handy.

950  
00:57:13,300 --> 00:57:15,360  
And I flew home a lot.

951  
00:57:15,360 --> 00:57:18,220  
The training  
flights, many of them

952  
00:57:18,220 --> 00:57:20,720  
went to Madison, to Truax Field.



953

00:57:20,720 --> 00:57:24,970  
So I'd get home, and then my  
foster mother would bake a cake

954

00:57:24,970 --> 00:57:27,110  
and I'd bring it  
back to the plane

955

00:57:27,110 --> 00:57:32,320  
to the people who were  
flying these things.

956

00:57:32,320 --> 00:57:36,520  
The training officers loved to  
go to Madison because they knew

957

00:57:36,520 --> 00:57:38,770  
if I went with them,  
they would get a cake out

958

00:57:38,770 --> 00:57:40,160  
of it or something.

959

00:57:40,160 --> 00:57:42,550  
So that was very nice.

960

00:57:42,550 --> 00:57:45,970  
I came back from one of  
these flights one day,

961

00:57:45,970 --> 00:57:49,840  
in early '44 I guess it was.

962

00:57:49,840 --> 00:57:54,250  
My bags were packed and I  
found myself on a flight

963

00:57:54,250 --> 00:57:56,590  
to Washington.

964

00:57:56,590 --> 00:58:00,910



My card had fallen through  
somewhere along the line.

965  
00:58:00,910 --> 00:58:04,030

966  
00:58:04,030 --> 00:58:07,940  
I was transferred  
into intelligence.

967  
00:58:07,940 --> 00:58:11,290  
I had some more assess  
training here in Washington.

968  
00:58:11,290 --> 00:58:12,760  
So the Army came to you?

969  
00:58:12,760 --> 00:58:13,780  
They contacted you.

970  
00:58:13,780 --> 00:58:15,370  
It's nothing that  
you applied for.

971  
00:58:15,370 --> 00:58:16,410  
Had you applied for it?

972  
00:58:16,410 --> 00:58:17,310  
Not at all.

973  
00:58:17,310 --> 00:58:24,750  
I was very happy where I was,  
out of harm's way and eating

974  
00:58:24,750 --> 00:58:27,600  
quite well, and as I  
say, getting home a lot.

975  
00:58:27,600 --> 00:58:31,500  
No, you didn't have much choice.

976  
00:58:31,500 --> 00:58:34,260



At that point in time, they  
were looking for linguists.

977  
00:58:34,260 --> 00:58:40,030  
They were looking for  
anybody who they could train,

978  
00:58:40,030 --> 00:58:44,770  
who didn't have any real  
wards in one form or another,

979  
00:58:44,770 --> 00:58:49,740  
and I filled that prescription.

980  
00:58:49,740 --> 00:58:57,450  
So anyway, I came here and  
volunteered for the OSS, which

981  
00:58:57,450 --> 00:58:59,400  
I didn't even know what it was.

982  
00:58:59,400 --> 00:59:01,290  
I had not the strangest notion.

983  
00:59:01,290 --> 00:59:04,470  
And then I went through  
about six or seven months

984  
00:59:04,470 --> 00:59:07,500  
of fairly intense training.

985  
00:59:07,500 --> 00:59:11,250  
First year Congressional-- what  
is now Congressional Country

986  
00:59:11,250 --> 00:59:11,750  
Club.

987  
00:59:11,750 --> 00:59:13,920  
It had been Congressional  
Country Club.

988



00:59:13,920 --> 00:59:17,730  
But it was an OSS training area.

989  
00:59:17,730 --> 00:59:25,760  
And then to Camp  
Ritchie, Fort Ritchie,

990  
00:59:25,760 --> 00:59:31,230  
now for training and  
counterintelligence.

991  
00:59:31,230 --> 00:59:33,060  
Then did the University  
of Pennsylvania

992  
00:59:33,060 --> 00:59:38,493  
for order of battle training,  
and finally overseas.

993  
00:59:38,493 --> 00:59:42,930

994  
00:59:42,930 --> 00:59:46,200  
By that time, I had obtained  
the lofty rank of sergeant.

995  
00:59:46,200 --> 00:59:52,680  
But as intelligence  
people, we sort of

996  
00:59:52,680 --> 00:59:56,770  
wore any rank to appear  
to be appropriate,

997  
00:59:56,770 --> 01:00:00,120  
and that didn't matter.

998  
01:00:00,120 --> 01:00:04,560  
I wound up in Paris,  
which was very nice.

999  
01:00:04,560 --> 01:00:09,990  
We had a very nice house



on Avenue Victor-Hugo.

1000

01:00:09,990 --> 01:00:12,940

1001

01:00:12,940 --> 01:00:15,840

Again, a pleasant  
experience until the Bulge

1002

01:00:15,840 --> 01:00:22,350

hit, and then all of us got  
tossed out and into the combat

1003

01:00:22,350 --> 01:00:24,240

zone.

1004

01:00:24,240 --> 01:00:28,500

This was around December of '44.

1005

01:00:28,500 --> 01:00:31,550

What was it like for you  
to come back to Europe?

1006

01:00:31,550 --> 01:00:36,390

Oh, I had no particular  
feelings about it.

1007

01:00:36,390 --> 01:00:38,860

I preferred going to Europe  
than going to the Pacific.

1008

01:00:38,860 --> 01:00:48,710

1009

01:00:48,710 --> 01:00:54,200

I had put my European background  
so far back in my mind

1010

01:00:54,200 --> 01:00:57,450

that I didn't look at it  
really as anything more than

1011



01:00:57,450 --> 01:01:02,180  
as you go where  
you're told to go.

1012  
01:01:02,180 --> 01:01:05,180  
The nice part was that  
we were flown over.

1013  
01:01:05,180 --> 01:01:12,930  
We didn't have to go by cattle  
boat, so that was fine with me.

1014  
01:01:12,930 --> 01:01:16,940  
And winding up in  
Paris was a real plus,

1015  
01:01:16,940 --> 01:01:20,930  
and I was looking  
forward to an easy time

1016  
01:01:20,930 --> 01:01:23,450  
for the rest of the war.

1017  
01:01:23,450 --> 01:01:26,860  
Did you consider yourself  
a German-Jew at that time?

1018  
01:01:26,860 --> 01:01:28,220  
Not particularly.

1019  
01:01:28,220 --> 01:01:32,850  
I considered myself a kid  
from Janesville, Wisconsin.

1020  
01:01:32,850 --> 01:01:35,540  
I had to absorb that.

1021  
01:01:35,540 --> 01:01:37,980  
Of course I knew  
who I was and so on,

1022  
01:01:37,980 --> 01:01:42,720  
and there were occasions as



we became more cleanly aware,

1023

01:01:42,720 --> 01:01:51,440  
my concern over my grandmother  
and other relatives, whom

1024

01:01:51,440 --> 01:01:54,290  
I didn't remember that well.

1025

01:01:54,290 --> 01:01:59,690  
Before I left the States, I  
went to see my aunt, Dr. Julia

1026

01:01:59,690 --> 01:02:05,150  
Meyer, who had been the active  
politician in the family

1027

01:02:05,150 --> 01:02:10,840  
and who had been in the  
Reichstag-- actually,

1028

01:02:10,840 --> 01:02:15,200  
she was at that time at  
the New School for Social

1029

01:02:15,200 --> 01:02:16,520  
Research in New York.

1030

01:02:16,520 --> 01:02:20,000  
And she had given me  
certain information

1031

01:02:20,000 --> 01:02:24,290  
that, once I got there,  
I should keep in mind.

1032

01:02:24,290 --> 01:02:27,080  
So yes, I was aware  
of it, but I don't

1033

01:02:27,080 --> 01:02:32,295  
think it was  
overwhelmingly in my mind.



1034

01:02:32,295 --> 01:02:32,795

All right.

1035

01:02:32,795 --> 01:02:35,500

Now how long did  
you stay in Paris?

1036

01:02:35,500 --> 01:02:36,000