

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:06,080

2
00:00:06,080 --> 00:00:09,560
This is United States Holocaust
Memorial Museum interview

3
00:00:09,560 --> 00:00:12,080
with Michael
Silverstein conducted

4
00:00:12,080 --> 00:00:18,140
by Gail Swartz on October
11, 1996 in Herndon Virginia.

5
00:00:18,140 --> 00:00:21,860
It is a continuation of the
interview from October 10,

6
00:00:21,860 --> 00:00:23,760
1996.

7
00:00:23,760 --> 00:00:27,500
This is tape number
four, side A.

8
00:00:27,500 --> 00:00:31,560
And you were talking
about being in Mauthausen?

9
00:00:31,560 --> 00:00:32,450
Yeah.

10
00:00:32,450 --> 00:00:37,530
And you said you did
not do any work there?

11
00:00:37,530 --> 00:00:38,030
No.

12
00:00:38,030 --> 00:00:38,750

What did you do?

13

00:00:38,750 --> 00:00:41,600

14

00:00:41,600 --> 00:00:44,810

Mostly nothing, which was--

15

00:00:44,810 --> 00:00:59,880

we were just sitting
around, being harassed

16

00:00:59,880 --> 00:01:02,790

to go from one place to another,
get out of the barracks,

17

00:01:02,790 --> 00:01:05,700

go back to the barracks,
get out of the barracks,

18

00:01:05,700 --> 00:01:07,740

go back to the barracks.

19

00:01:07,740 --> 00:01:13,470

I don't remember
working on that quarry.

20

00:01:13,470 --> 00:01:15,090

I know thousands did.

21

00:01:15,090 --> 00:01:19,390

22

00:01:19,390 --> 00:01:23,520

And that's what I remember about
Mauthausen until they took us

23

00:01:23,520 --> 00:01:26,760

to that sub-camp.

24

00:01:26,760 --> 00:01:29,610

Did you have appeals

in that Mauthausen?

25

00:01:29,610 --> 00:01:31,350

Yes.

26

00:01:31,350 --> 00:01:33,120

Yes, I did.

27

00:01:33,120 --> 00:01:35,940

Describe what they
were like and if they

28

00:01:35,940 --> 00:01:38,550

were different than
the Auschwitz appells.

29

00:01:38,550 --> 00:01:40,230

Oh, you're talking about--

30

00:01:40,230 --> 00:01:42,870

OK.

31

00:01:42,870 --> 00:01:45,840

They were pretty much the same,
perhaps a little less formal,

32

00:01:45,840 --> 00:01:47,490

but just as brutal.

33

00:01:47,490 --> 00:01:51,750

The appell was not
a pleasant event.

34

00:01:51,750 --> 00:01:54,120

They counted, and
they counted you.

35

00:01:54,120 --> 00:01:58,080

And we had to line up, and
there were always some threats.

36

00:01:58,080 --> 00:02:01,800

And we had appells, yes.

37

00:02:01,800 --> 00:02:05,770

We had appells in Mauthausen,
just like in Auschwitz.

38

00:02:05,770 --> 00:02:12,140

39

00:02:12,140 --> 00:02:13,310

That's what I remember.

40

00:02:13,310 --> 00:02:14,810

And the appell was
in the morning,

41

00:02:14,810 --> 00:02:17,270

but it could have been
1:00 in the evening

42

00:02:17,270 --> 00:02:25,640

simply because in our case, even
the major camp in Mauthausen

43

00:02:25,640 --> 00:02:30,830

was divided into different
sections, and the section

44

00:02:30,830 --> 00:02:33,020

that I was in at the
end of the camp--

45

00:02:33,020 --> 00:02:36,230

46

00:02:36,230 --> 00:02:44,040

the barracks were
small wooden huts,

47

00:02:44,040 --> 00:02:52,290

and they just kept us there
without us doing anything.

48

00:02:52,290 --> 00:02:57,450

They would bring in coffee in
the morning, a big, big barrel

49

00:02:57,450 --> 00:03:00,900

of coffee, that everybody would
get a little bit of coffee.

50

00:03:00,900 --> 00:03:05,040

They'd bring in some
soup and some bread,

51

00:03:05,040 --> 00:03:11,370

and a piece of bread, and
that was the routine every day

52

00:03:11,370 --> 00:03:13,950

until they decided to
take us to another camp.

53

00:03:13,950 --> 00:03:16,677

And I don't know why
they decided to do that.

54

00:03:16,677 --> 00:03:17,760

What were the guards like?

55

00:03:17,760 --> 00:03:21,180

Were they cruel, or
were they just tired?

56

00:03:21,180 --> 00:03:26,430

The guards were the same as--

57

00:03:26,430 --> 00:03:28,920

the SS guards were the same.

58

00:03:28,920 --> 00:03:32,580

I think that some
of the people that

59

00:03:32,580 --> 00:03:37,980

were in charge of the
barracks that were prisoners--

60
00:03:37,980 --> 00:03:40,560
some of them were just as cruel.

61
00:03:40,560 --> 00:03:43,725
I had one that was not a Jew.

62
00:03:43,725 --> 00:03:50,520
He was a prisoner
but wasn't Jewish.

63
00:03:50,520 --> 00:03:52,080
I don't know what
kind of criminal

64
00:03:52,080 --> 00:03:55,110
he was, what kind of
crime he committed,

65
00:03:55,110 --> 00:03:59,000
but he was in charge
of our barracks.

66
00:03:59,000 --> 00:04:00,750
It wouldn't be beyond
him to push us,

67
00:04:00,750 --> 00:04:04,140
to give us a kick, especially
in the evening when

68
00:04:04,140 --> 00:04:08,670
we were lying down and they
would line us up like sardines

69
00:04:08,670 --> 00:04:09,480
to lie down.

70
00:04:09,480 --> 00:04:12,780
And I think the worst
thing was that after we--

71
00:04:12,780 --> 00:04:16,360
after he finished,
we couldn't breathe.

72
00:04:16,360 --> 00:04:18,480
No, don't make any noises.

73
00:04:18,480 --> 00:04:22,740
It had to be real quiet,
and if we were not quiet,

74
00:04:22,740 --> 00:04:25,850
it wouldn't be beyond them to
come over, and give us a kick.

75
00:04:25,850 --> 00:04:30,210
And so I remember
that in Mauthausen.

76
00:04:30,210 --> 00:04:36,020
And just in the morning,
we would get up.

77
00:04:36,020 --> 00:04:40,040
There would be an appell, and
then we would just, again,

78
00:04:40,040 --> 00:04:42,140
be outdoors, hang around.

79
00:04:42,140 --> 00:04:48,570
Did you sleep on planks like
in Auschwitz, a wooden plank?

80
00:04:48,570 --> 00:04:52,450
In Mauthausen, I
slept on the floor.

81
00:04:52,450 --> 00:04:55,120
Was this an earthen
floor or a wooden floor?

82

00:04:55,120 --> 00:04:59,070

83

00:04:59,070 --> 00:05:01,410

I think it was a wooden floor.

84

00:05:01,410 --> 00:05:02,900

I think it was a wooden floor.

85

00:05:02,900 --> 00:05:08,300

86

00:05:08,300 --> 00:05:15,980

And again, it wasn't heated,
but because we were so close,

87

00:05:15,980 --> 00:05:18,340

we kept each other one that way.

88

00:05:18,340 --> 00:05:23,330

So although it
wasn't heated, that

89

00:05:23,330 --> 00:05:25,110

wasn't the biggest problem.

90

00:05:25,110 --> 00:05:29,030

I think that one of the biggest
problems is being dirty,

91

00:05:29,030 --> 00:05:30,230

not being able to wash.

92

00:05:30,230 --> 00:05:33,580

93

00:05:33,580 --> 00:05:38,220

You wore the same thing day
in and day out, night and day.

94

00:05:38,220 --> 00:05:41,430

What did you do about the lice?

95

00:05:41,430 --> 00:05:41,930

Nothing.

96

00:05:41,930 --> 00:05:46,388

97

00:05:46,388 --> 00:05:48,740

You would see them,
and you would try

98

00:05:48,740 --> 00:05:50,640

to get them off or kill them.

99

00:05:50,640 --> 00:05:53,450

There was nothing you
could do unless you--

100

00:05:53,450 --> 00:05:57,260

and what was happening is
that, in Mauthausen, we

101

00:05:57,260 --> 00:06:00,440

had all our heads shaved.

102

00:06:00,440 --> 00:06:08,160

And in Mauthausen for a
while they didn't come in

103

00:06:08,160 --> 00:06:11,730

to shave our heads, so the hair
started to grow a little bit.

104

00:06:11,730 --> 00:06:14,400

It was sort of
standing up, like that.

105

00:06:14,400 --> 00:06:18,250

And that wasn't that good
because lice could be there.

106

00:06:18,250 --> 00:06:22,590

It would have been
better if we were shaved.

107

00:06:22,590 --> 00:06:26,310

So the dirt was--

108

00:06:26,310 --> 00:06:31,987

we were dirty because the same
thing you wore day and night--

109

00:06:31,987 --> 00:06:32,820

you didn't take off.

110

00:06:32,820 --> 00:06:35,050

You didn't change.

111

00:06:35,050 --> 00:06:38,190

How long can you
wear the same clothes

112

00:06:38,190 --> 00:06:41,115

before you begin to smell?

113

00:06:41,115 --> 00:06:45,610

114

00:06:45,610 --> 00:06:49,290

So that was Mauthausen.

115

00:06:49,290 --> 00:06:52,755

That was Mauthausen.

116

00:06:52,755 --> 00:06:55,560

And now you're in the sub-camp?

117

00:06:55,560 --> 00:07:00,210

Yes, and that sub-camp.

118

00:07:00,210 --> 00:07:04,200

I remember being in a big
tent, and there the floor

119
00:07:04,200 --> 00:07:05,370
was dirt floor.

120
00:07:05,370 --> 00:07:09,830

121
00:07:09,830 --> 00:07:12,770
And there was almost
no organization there.

122
00:07:12,770 --> 00:07:16,250
We were just there to
let loose as long as we

123
00:07:16,250 --> 00:07:19,010
stayed within the perimeter.

124
00:07:19,010 --> 00:07:23,360
And I don't even remember
how we got our food,

125
00:07:23,360 --> 00:07:27,960
but we did somehow
to get some soup

126
00:07:27,960 --> 00:07:31,290
and doing absolutely
nothing day in and day out,

127
00:07:31,290 --> 00:07:32,790
hanging out, hanging around.

128
00:07:32,790 --> 00:07:35,660

129
00:07:35,660 --> 00:07:37,810
Was it harder to do
nothing than to work?

130
00:07:37,810 --> 00:07:38,310
Yes.

131
00:07:38,310 --> 00:07:39,390
Why?

132
00:07:39,390 --> 00:07:49,060
Because time would drag,
and you talk to your people.

133
00:07:49,060 --> 00:07:50,230
You talk to your friends.

134
00:07:50,230 --> 00:07:52,540
You made friends.

135
00:07:52,540 --> 00:07:55,540
You made-- really,
we made friends.

136
00:07:55,540 --> 00:07:57,490
I made friends, and we talked.

137
00:07:57,490 --> 00:07:59,710
We talked about
where we came from,

138
00:07:59,710 --> 00:08:05,810
and sometimes just
the fact that you

139
00:08:05,810 --> 00:08:10,450
were able to talk
about other times that

140
00:08:10,450 --> 00:08:14,140
were better than the ones
that you were experiencing--

141
00:08:14,140 --> 00:08:16,800
it was good.

142
00:08:16,800 --> 00:08:27,400
So I made friends, but we didn't

keep in touch with any of them.

143

00:08:27,400 --> 00:08:29,040

I didn't.

144

00:08:29,040 --> 00:08:32,880

Did you ever know when

it was February 10

145

00:08:32,880 --> 00:08:36,240

and that that was your birthday?

146

00:08:36,240 --> 00:08:38,620

I don't think so.

147

00:08:38,620 --> 00:08:40,250

I don't think so.

148

00:08:40,250 --> 00:08:41,500

No, I don't remember.

149

00:08:41,500 --> 00:08:44,550

Oh, today's February 10.

150

00:08:44,550 --> 00:08:45,680

It was meaningless.

151

00:08:45,680 --> 00:08:48,960

One day ran into another

day, and you really

152

00:08:48,960 --> 00:08:50,270

didn't know what was--

153

00:08:50,270 --> 00:08:53,820

now, what we did know is

that there were people that

154

00:08:53,820 --> 00:08:57,990

knew about when Jewish

holidays were there,

155

00:08:57,990 --> 00:09:02,610
and there were some people that
knew when certain holidays came

156

00:09:02,610 --> 00:09:05,850
about, not that we could do
anything about it, not that we

157

00:09:05,850 --> 00:09:09,630
could practice the
holidays, whether it was me

158

00:09:09,630 --> 00:09:11,910
or somebody else, the
way they wanted it.

159

00:09:11,910 --> 00:09:15,500
But they did know that certain
holidays were coming up,

160

00:09:15,500 --> 00:09:18,570
but obviously you
couldn't practice Pasach

161

00:09:18,570 --> 00:09:24,360
the way you'd practice or any
other holiday, even Yom Kippur.

162

00:09:24,360 --> 00:09:25,620
You were hungry all the time.

163

00:09:25,620 --> 00:09:29,550

164

00:09:29,550 --> 00:09:35,590
Not eating on Yom Kippur was
just another day in Auschwitz,

165

00:09:35,590 --> 00:09:38,400
so even if you didn't
eat, it wasn't that much

166

00:09:38,400 --> 00:09:42,750
because you didn't need that
much when you could eat.

167
00:09:42,750 --> 00:09:44,730
But people did know
about Jewish holidays.

168
00:09:44,730 --> 00:09:50,190
No, I did not remember
when February 10 came about

169
00:09:50,190 --> 00:09:51,090
in Mauthausen.

170
00:09:51,090 --> 00:09:54,030
I don't remember anything
that it was anything special.

171
00:09:54,030 --> 00:09:54,780
I didn't remember.

172
00:09:54,780 --> 00:09:59,010

173
00:09:59,010 --> 00:10:04,770
You said that people did know
when the Jewish holidays were.

174
00:10:04,770 --> 00:10:06,900
Did anybody do
anything in any way

175
00:10:06,900 --> 00:10:10,170
different that you
noticed on those holidays?

176
00:10:10,170 --> 00:10:13,530
I did not notice,
but people can do

177
00:10:13,530 --> 00:10:17,610
a lot of things for

themselves, and that in itself

178
00:10:17,610 --> 00:10:22,712
can be a very
comforting experience.

179
00:10:22,712 --> 00:10:23,920
There's nothing you could do.

180
00:10:23,920 --> 00:10:27,400

181
00:10:27,400 --> 00:10:30,790
And so now you're, as you said,
in the sub-camp and still not

182
00:10:30,790 --> 00:10:32,290
working.

183
00:10:32,290 --> 00:10:35,050
Where are you with a lot of
young boys your age, teenagers?

184
00:10:35,050 --> 00:10:36,400
Yes.

185
00:10:36,400 --> 00:10:40,990
Yes, there were quite a few
young boys, teenagers, yes,

186
00:10:40,990 --> 00:10:42,730
maybe 17, 18 by the time.

187
00:10:42,730 --> 00:10:49,750
There were quite a few and some
older ones, too, older people.

188
00:10:49,750 --> 00:10:57,010
And we would talk to
each other, very often

189
00:10:57,010 --> 00:11:04,550

trying to cheer each
other on a little bit,

190
00:11:04,550 --> 00:11:10,000
always with the hope that
this nightmare has to end,

191
00:11:10,000 --> 00:11:12,950
that there was
something within us--

192
00:11:12,950 --> 00:11:16,060
I don't know what it was--

193
00:11:16,060 --> 00:11:20,290
that we were waiting for the
day when that is going to end.

194
00:11:20,290 --> 00:11:23,330

195
00:11:23,330 --> 00:11:26,510
I don't know what kept us
going because certainly

196
00:11:26,510 --> 00:11:29,740
the circumstances
and the situation

197
00:11:29,740 --> 00:11:32,080
was enough not to want to go on.

198
00:11:32,080 --> 00:11:34,930

199
00:11:34,930 --> 00:11:36,850
Did you think about
what you would be

200
00:11:36,850 --> 00:11:38,170
doing after the war was over?

201

00:11:38,170 --> 00:11:41,170
Did the boys sit around and
talk about what they would like

202
00:11:41,170 --> 00:11:44,570
to do once the war was over?

203
00:11:44,570 --> 00:11:48,120
If we talk about anything
once the war was over

204
00:11:48,120 --> 00:11:51,610
it's to see who we can
find from our families.

205
00:11:51,610 --> 00:11:55,300
I really think that that
was almost a consuming

206
00:11:55,300 --> 00:11:56,200
thing for us.

207
00:11:56,200 --> 00:11:59,630

208
00:11:59,630 --> 00:12:03,920
Many families were
very close, and you

209
00:12:03,920 --> 00:12:06,110
tried to find another who--

210
00:12:06,110 --> 00:12:09,830
there was very little
talk about what

211
00:12:09,830 --> 00:12:11,900
we would want to
do in the future

212
00:12:11,900 --> 00:12:14,660
and whether it's
careers or anything.

213

00:12:14,660 --> 00:12:19,901

That was not-- it wasn't even
our mind-- not in my mind.

214

00:12:19,901 --> 00:12:22,850

It didn't even come up.

215

00:12:22,850 --> 00:12:26,480

I was thinking about my family.

216

00:12:26,480 --> 00:12:30,500

I was thinking about my
sisters, to know where they are,

217

00:12:30,500 --> 00:12:37,060

and I had good feelings that
they would survive because they

218

00:12:37,060 --> 00:12:40,340

were strong, healthy women.

219

00:12:40,340 --> 00:12:45,590

And I sort of had a lot
of feelings and faith

220

00:12:45,590 --> 00:12:49,110

that they would, and they did.

221

00:12:49,110 --> 00:12:52,850

And so you stayed in
the sub-camp until when?

222

00:12:52,850 --> 00:12:54,710

Until I was liberated.

223

00:12:54,710 --> 00:12:57,060

Let's talk about that time.

224

00:12:57,060 --> 00:13:00,740

Yeah, so I was liberated.

225

00:13:00,740 --> 00:13:02,572

How did you know
you were liberated?

226

00:13:02,572 --> 00:13:06,430

227

00:13:06,430 --> 00:13:13,120

We didn't see any soldiers,
SS, around the camp,

228

00:13:13,120 --> 00:13:16,110

and people would
go a little closer.

229

00:13:16,110 --> 00:13:17,680

And that was an eerie feeling.

230

00:13:17,680 --> 00:13:20,080

There was nothing,
nobody around.

231

00:13:20,080 --> 00:13:23,380

And by the way, a couple
of days before, we

232

00:13:23,380 --> 00:13:27,100

could hear artillery firing.

233

00:13:27,100 --> 00:13:30,160

We could hear that
things were going on.

234

00:13:30,160 --> 00:13:36,710

We didn't know whose artillery
it was, but we could hear that.

235

00:13:36,710 --> 00:13:40,180

And the way we knew
was simply by seeing

236

00:13:40,180 --> 00:13:41,680

that there are no guards.

237

00:13:41,680 --> 00:13:46,660

And we went to the front of
the gate, and we walked out.

238

00:13:46,660 --> 00:13:49,540

And that's how we knew that
the war was coming to an end.

239

00:13:49,540 --> 00:13:52,390

And as soon as we walked
out, we got to the main road,

240

00:13:52,390 --> 00:13:54,340

and we could see
the American army.

241

00:13:54,340 --> 00:13:56,860

You could see tanks and trucks.

242

00:13:56,860 --> 00:13:59,890

That was a wonderful,
joyous day.

243

00:13:59,890 --> 00:14:02,380

So did you feel liberated?

244

00:14:02,380 --> 00:14:05,380

245

00:14:05,380 --> 00:14:17,320

I felt liberated, but
pretty soon reality set in.

246

00:14:17,320 --> 00:14:20,030

247

00:14:20,030 --> 00:14:25,600

And it was sad because
now I'm liberated.

248

00:14:25,600 --> 00:14:27,460
Now what?

249
00:14:27,460 --> 00:14:29,830
Where do I go?

250
00:14:29,830 --> 00:14:34,060
I remember we were
all on a main road

251
00:14:34,060 --> 00:14:36,432
getting out of that
sub-camp, and we

252
00:14:36,432 --> 00:14:38,390
didn't know-- should we
go to the right should?

253
00:14:38,390 --> 00:14:39,980
Should we-- we didn't
know where to go.

254
00:14:39,980 --> 00:14:41,022
Where do we go from here?

255
00:14:41,022 --> 00:14:43,755

256
00:14:43,755 --> 00:14:46,005
And there was somebody--
there was always somebody who

257
00:14:46,005 --> 00:14:47,297
said, why don't we go that way?

258
00:14:47,297 --> 00:14:49,330
So we went that way.

259
00:14:49,330 --> 00:14:50,990
What did I know at that time?

260
00:14:50,990 --> 00:14:53,990

261
00:14:53,990 --> 00:15:04,680
And there was a place that
was set up for all of us,

262
00:15:04,680 --> 00:15:11,910
like an assembly point, for
all the prisoners to go to

263
00:15:11,910 --> 00:15:17,340
so that they would
take our names,

264
00:15:17,340 --> 00:15:21,960
and there were other assembly
points set up in other parts.

265
00:15:21,960 --> 00:15:24,600
They would take their
names, and those lists

266
00:15:24,600 --> 00:15:31,530
would be exchanged to
see that somebody was--

267
00:15:31,530 --> 00:15:37,270
I remember that I was
with a couple of guys,

268
00:15:37,270 --> 00:15:42,400
and we didn't want
to go to that camp.

269
00:15:42,400 --> 00:15:47,390
For some reason we felt
we were in enough camps.

270
00:15:47,390 --> 00:15:51,040
And I remember being in the
field with two other guys,

271
00:15:51,040 --> 00:15:55,580

and we found some
shack on a farm.

272
00:15:55,580 --> 00:15:58,360
And we decided to go
there, not to be--

273
00:15:58,360 --> 00:16:00,920
not knowing what we
were going to do.

274
00:16:00,920 --> 00:16:05,560
I'm describing a situation
within a few days,

275
00:16:05,560 --> 00:16:07,840
a week or two after
we were liberated,

276
00:16:07,840 --> 00:16:09,130
so we didn't know where to go.

277
00:16:09,130 --> 00:16:12,940

278
00:16:12,940 --> 00:16:16,450
What was the first thing
you ate after liberation?

279
00:16:16,450 --> 00:16:25,410
I ate a lot of food, like
everybody else, ate too much,

280
00:16:25,410 --> 00:16:27,470
and some of us got sick.

281
00:16:27,470 --> 00:16:30,730
But it was OK.

282
00:16:30,730 --> 00:16:34,340
What was your physical state
at the time of liberation?

283

00:16:34,340 --> 00:16:36,660

How would you describe that?

284

00:16:36,660 --> 00:16:39,550

Weak, but not sick.

285

00:16:39,550 --> 00:16:42,460

I was not sick.

286

00:16:42,460 --> 00:16:47,620

My sisters were, separate
story, but I was not.

287

00:16:47,620 --> 00:16:48,690

I was lucky.

288

00:16:48,690 --> 00:16:53,050

Weak-- you can recover from
weakness, but I was not sick.

289

00:16:53,050 --> 00:16:55,120

I did not have any ailments.

290

00:16:55,120 --> 00:16:57,400

Like some people had
typhoid and so on.

291

00:16:57,400 --> 00:16:58,120

I did not.

292

00:16:58,120 --> 00:17:01,620

293

00:17:01,620 --> 00:17:06,720

But when I and
the other two guys

294

00:17:06,720 --> 00:17:13,859

were in that area in the
field, unbeknown to me,

295

00:17:13,859 --> 00:17:21,810
my sisters were not too
far in a women's camp,

296
00:17:21,810 --> 00:17:23,400
and they started looking for me.

297
00:17:23,400 --> 00:17:25,980

298
00:17:25,980 --> 00:17:32,880
And they came to that assembly
point, and they were asking,

299
00:17:32,880 --> 00:17:39,390
do you know somebody, Michael
Silverstein, boy, 15 years old,

300
00:17:39,390 --> 00:17:40,330
blah, blah, blah?

301
00:17:40,330 --> 00:17:45,120
There were hundreds of us, but
you did the best you could.

302
00:17:45,120 --> 00:17:46,230
And she went.

303
00:17:46,230 --> 00:17:49,140
They went through all the
people in that assembly point,

304
00:17:49,140 --> 00:17:52,800
looking if they could recognize.

305
00:17:52,800 --> 00:17:58,560
And finally, somebody said to my
sisters, you may not find here,

306
00:17:58,560 --> 00:18:03,000
but we know that there
are a bunch of guys, three

307

00:18:03,000 --> 00:18:04,840

or four guys, that
didn't want to come here

308

00:18:04,840 --> 00:18:09,690

that are over there.

309

00:18:09,690 --> 00:18:14,480

And my sisters came
there, and there I was.

310

00:18:14,480 --> 00:18:21,540

And it was a wonderful,
emotional reunion,

311

00:18:21,540 --> 00:18:27,330

and I remember we hugged.

312

00:18:27,330 --> 00:18:31,310

And as they hugged me,
I said, I have lice.

313

00:18:31,310 --> 00:18:34,140

I was still afraid.

314

00:18:34,140 --> 00:18:38,490

And so they said, don't
worry about it, don't care.

315

00:18:38,490 --> 00:18:41,472

And there was a--

316

00:18:41,472 --> 00:18:44,280

the women also had an
assembly point just for women,

317

00:18:44,280 --> 00:18:50,730

obviously, so my two
sisters took me into a truck

318

00:18:50,730 --> 00:18:53,170

and took me to the women's camp.

319
00:18:53,170 --> 00:18:56,820
Here I am, a boy.

320
00:18:56,820 --> 00:18:58,273
So that was a no-no.

321
00:18:58,273 --> 00:18:59,190
You couldn't be there.

322
00:18:59,190 --> 00:19:01,500
But they finally
persuaded everybody

323
00:19:01,500 --> 00:19:06,990
that I was just a
child, and I really was.

324
00:19:06,990 --> 00:19:14,310
Even though I was 15, I was
undernourished, underdeveloped,

325
00:19:14,310 --> 00:19:17,790
physically
underdeveloped, so they

326
00:19:17,790 --> 00:19:21,360
allowed me to stay in that
camp with my two sisters.

327
00:19:21,360 --> 00:19:27,090
And I really recovered
physically in that camp,

328
00:19:27,090 --> 00:19:31,440
but it's them that found me in
the way that I just described.

329
00:19:31,440 --> 00:19:33,090
It was a--

330
00:19:33,090 --> 00:19:35,040

Did you recognize them
when you saw them?

331
00:19:35,040 --> 00:19:36,840
Yes, yes.

332
00:19:36,840 --> 00:19:38,280
Did they look very different?

333
00:19:38,280 --> 00:19:41,550
Yes, thinner,
obviously, and they

334
00:19:41,550 --> 00:19:44,250
looked different but not
to a degree that I wouldn't

335
00:19:44,250 --> 00:19:48,630
recognize them because we had
only been apart for one year

336
00:19:48,630 --> 00:19:50,920
because in the ghetto
we were together.

337
00:19:50,920 --> 00:19:54,450
So in Auschwitz they separated
us, and really a year later--

338
00:19:54,450 --> 00:19:56,760
even less than a year
maybe, 10 months--

339
00:19:56,760 --> 00:19:57,960
we got together again.

340
00:19:57,960 --> 00:20:01,050
So yeah, we recognized
each other right away.

341
00:20:01,050 --> 00:20:02,640
Were you still in
your prison uniform?

342
00:20:02,640 --> 00:20:05,490
Yes.

343
00:20:05,490 --> 00:20:06,750
I said so quickly yes.

344
00:20:06,750 --> 00:20:07,560
I don't remember.

345
00:20:07,560 --> 00:20:09,600
Maybe not, maybe not by then.

346
00:20:09,600 --> 00:20:12,930
I got some other
schmutz by then.

347
00:20:12,930 --> 00:20:15,930
I don't know what they were.

348
00:20:15,930 --> 00:20:17,700
Anything else that
you remember when

349
00:20:17,700 --> 00:20:20,220
you met them that you
said, besides the fact

350
00:20:20,220 --> 00:20:21,315
that you have life?

351
00:20:21,315 --> 00:20:23,010
No, that's what I--

352
00:20:23,010 --> 00:20:27,740
well, we were very-- because
we were hugging each other,

353
00:20:27,740 --> 00:20:32,160
and I didn't want for
them to go [INAUDIBLE]..

354

00:20:32,160 --> 00:20:34,920

What's it like to hug
somebody after a year?

355

00:20:34,920 --> 00:20:36,570

You haven't hugged
anybody for a year.

356

00:20:36,570 --> 00:20:37,362

Yeah, that's right.

357

00:20:37,362 --> 00:20:38,280

It felt good.

358

00:20:38,280 --> 00:20:43,940

But hugging is one thing.

359

00:20:43,940 --> 00:20:48,140

Hugging with a person that
means it is a completely

360

00:20:48,140 --> 00:20:54,250

different thing, and when
we hugged with my sister,

361

00:20:54,250 --> 00:20:59,420

there was a feeling of joy,
and happiness, and of love.

362

00:20:59,420 --> 00:21:01,280

And that felt good.

363

00:21:01,280 --> 00:21:03,320

That felt great.

364

00:21:03,320 --> 00:21:07,610

There was some sense
of security again.

365

00:21:07,610 --> 00:21:11,720

When you were in
Auschwitz and Mauthausen,

366
00:21:11,720 --> 00:21:15,740
did you miss not being
hugged, being held?

367
00:21:15,740 --> 00:21:18,400

368
00:21:18,400 --> 00:21:19,490
I didn't think about that.

369
00:21:19,490 --> 00:21:22,260

370
00:21:22,260 --> 00:21:23,840
I really didn't
think about that.

371
00:21:23,840 --> 00:21:34,150

372
00:21:34,150 --> 00:21:36,910
So you are recuperating
with your sisters.

373
00:21:36,910 --> 00:21:37,950
That's wonderful.

374
00:21:37,950 --> 00:21:41,890
Yeah, and it was in Austria.

375
00:21:41,890 --> 00:21:44,440
We were a camp that was
beautifully situated

376
00:21:44,440 --> 00:21:45,755
in the mountains.

377
00:21:45,755 --> 00:21:49,780
That was now after the
war, and they assigned--

378

00:21:49,780 --> 00:21:53,760

I don't know who's

"they," maybe the army.

379

00:21:53,760 --> 00:21:54,970

There were authorities.

380

00:21:54,970 --> 00:21:59,680

There was UNRRA, and they
made that the women's camp.

381

00:21:59,680 --> 00:22:02,230

382

00:22:02,230 --> 00:22:08,260

And I was there for
a while with them,

383

00:22:08,260 --> 00:22:13,420

and the next question
was, now what?

384

00:22:13,420 --> 00:22:14,560

Where do we go from here?

385

00:22:14,560 --> 00:22:17,180

386

00:22:17,180 --> 00:22:24,730

I didn't know then, and I
left it all to my sisters.

387

00:22:24,730 --> 00:22:27,700

They were older.

388

00:22:27,700 --> 00:22:37,700

And in Austria,
there where there

389

00:22:37,700 --> 00:22:43,730

was a unit of
Israeli soldiers that

390
00:22:43,730 --> 00:22:47,150
were a part of the British army.

391
00:22:47,150 --> 00:22:55,020

392
00:22:55,020 --> 00:22:58,020
They got a lot of the Jews
together, men and women,

393
00:22:58,020 --> 00:23:01,320
my sisters and other--

394
00:23:01,320 --> 00:23:07,290
they put us on trucks, and
they got us into Italy.

395
00:23:07,290 --> 00:23:08,850
We traveled a long time.

396
00:23:08,850 --> 00:23:11,780
It wasn't all very
legal, but it happened.

397
00:23:11,780 --> 00:23:17,210

398
00:23:17,210 --> 00:23:19,170
They knew what they
were doing at that time

399
00:23:19,170 --> 00:23:24,080
because we did not know
exactly, but the intent

400
00:23:24,080 --> 00:23:26,330
for those Israeli
soldiers with the trucks,

401
00:23:26,330 --> 00:23:28,490
to put us on the trucks

and to go to Italy

402

00:23:28,490 --> 00:23:31,070

is to get us to Israel.

403

00:23:31,070 --> 00:23:33,020

At that time it was Palestine.

404

00:23:33,020 --> 00:23:33,950

That was the purpose.

405

00:23:33,950 --> 00:23:37,190

406

00:23:37,190 --> 00:23:41,570

And we traveled all the
way down to southern Italy.

407

00:23:41,570 --> 00:23:45,020

Did you want to go
to Palestine then?

408

00:23:45,020 --> 00:23:48,140

At that time, yes.

409

00:23:48,140 --> 00:23:51,750

We all were going
to go to Palestine.

410

00:23:51,750 --> 00:23:55,040

We got to southern Italy.

411

00:23:55,040 --> 00:23:58,430

That was a camp.

412

00:23:58,430 --> 00:24:03,770

I believe it was under
the direction of UNRRA.

413

00:24:03,770 --> 00:24:08,790

However, all the
people there were

414
00:24:08,790 --> 00:24:14,070
Jews that were destined to
go-- a targeted plan to go

415
00:24:14,070 --> 00:24:17,020
to Israel, to
Palestine at that time,

416
00:24:17,020 --> 00:24:19,675
even though it was illegal then.

417
00:24:19,675 --> 00:24:22,050
What were some of the names
of these places that you had?

418
00:24:22,050 --> 00:24:24,420
In Austria you said--

419
00:24:24,420 --> 00:24:25,530
--in Austria--

420
00:24:25,530 --> 00:24:26,140
What was that?

421
00:24:26,140 --> 00:24:28,410
--we were not too
far from Salzburg.

422
00:24:28,410 --> 00:24:30,550
I don't know the name
of that particular camp.

423
00:24:30,550 --> 00:24:34,260

424
00:24:34,260 --> 00:24:36,150
My sisters would remember that.

425
00:24:36,150 --> 00:24:38,530
They would know, but I don't.

426

00:24:38,530 --> 00:24:41,550

Then in Italy do you remember
the names of the towns?

427

00:24:41,550 --> 00:24:50,160

Yeah, first of all,
we went to a big city

428

00:24:50,160 --> 00:24:54,420

that was called Bari, which
was a nice, big city, which

429

00:24:54,420 --> 00:24:55,080

was south.

430

00:24:55,080 --> 00:25:00,270

Then we were in a camp that was
run by UNRRA that was almost

431

00:25:00,270 --> 00:25:05,270

on the very southern tip
of Italy, on the heel,

432

00:25:05,270 --> 00:25:07,920

and I believe that
the name of the place

433

00:25:07,920 --> 00:25:09,870

was school Santa Maria di Bani.

434

00:25:09,870 --> 00:25:12,825

435

00:25:12,825 --> 00:25:16,040

It sticks in my mind.

436

00:25:16,040 --> 00:25:23,100

And we had some friends.

437

00:25:23,100 --> 00:25:27,300

My sisters, especially,
met some friends

438
00:25:27,300 --> 00:25:29,190
in Bari, which was a big city.

439
00:25:29,190 --> 00:25:30,120
It is a big city.

440
00:25:30,120 --> 00:25:35,100

441
00:25:35,100 --> 00:25:38,325
And we stayed a
few days in Bari.

442
00:25:38,325 --> 00:25:43,230

443
00:25:43,230 --> 00:25:54,460
We stayed a few days in
Bari, and previous to today,

444
00:25:54,460 --> 00:26:01,110
I mentioned to you about my
brother being in the Soviet

445
00:26:01,110 --> 00:26:03,450
Union, in Siberia,
and then he joined

446
00:26:03,450 --> 00:26:08,670
the army, a Polish division that
was a part of the British army.

447
00:26:08,670 --> 00:26:12,210

448
00:26:12,210 --> 00:26:17,280
And we tried to find each
other, and with other people

449
00:26:17,280 --> 00:26:20,460
that my sisters knew--

450
00:26:20,460 --> 00:26:25,380
Silverstein, Silverstein, and
somebody says, I know a soldier

451
00:26:25,380 --> 00:26:28,280
by name of Silverstein.

452
00:26:28,280 --> 00:26:32,630
I say, no, no way.

453
00:26:32,630 --> 00:26:34,740
So the fellow says, yes, I do.

454
00:26:34,740 --> 00:26:37,520
His name is Silverstein.

455
00:26:37,520 --> 00:26:40,010
And he says, and where
do you come from?

456
00:26:40,010 --> 00:26:42,540
So we tell him we
come from GrudziÄ...z.

457
00:26:42,540 --> 00:26:46,160
Nobody can pronounce that,
so they said, he does, too.

458
00:26:46,160 --> 00:26:49,120

459
00:26:49,120 --> 00:26:53,050
So we added two
and two together.

460
00:26:53,050 --> 00:26:55,360
We send a telegram.

461
00:26:55,360 --> 00:26:59,170
The telegram was sent because
that was also a soldier that

462
00:26:59,170 --> 00:27:00,100
was telling us that.

463
00:27:00,100 --> 00:27:02,670

464
00:27:02,670 --> 00:27:05,850
We send the telegram to
his unit, whatever he was,

465
00:27:05,850 --> 00:27:12,410
that we are here,
and he got leave.

466
00:27:12,410 --> 00:27:16,580
And by the way, before that,
he was in the front lines.

467
00:27:16,580 --> 00:27:18,470
He was fighting
in Monte Cassino.

468
00:27:18,470 --> 00:27:21,095
I don't know whether he was
wounded in Monte Cassino.

469
00:27:21,095 --> 00:27:27,200

470
00:27:27,200 --> 00:27:29,910
And he came to Bari
to meet us, and that

471
00:27:29,910 --> 00:27:38,100
was another emotional reunion,
unbelievable, unbelievable.

472
00:27:38,100 --> 00:27:41,610
I remember the first thing he--

473
00:27:41,610 --> 00:27:46,440

after we met and the
initial reunion, of course,

474
00:27:46,440 --> 00:27:51,990
he wanted to know about
our mother and our father.

475
00:27:51,990 --> 00:27:55,110
We didn't know much about
him, but we pretty much

476
00:27:55,110 --> 00:27:57,660
knew that they were dead.

477
00:27:57,660 --> 00:28:00,990

478
00:28:00,990 --> 00:28:05,760
We felt that way, and
the realization set in,

479
00:28:05,760 --> 00:28:08,160
and that they were.

480
00:28:08,160 --> 00:28:16,130
And so it was another emotional
reunion of our family.

481
00:28:16,130 --> 00:28:17,400
That was in Italy.

482
00:28:17,400 --> 00:28:21,070

483
00:28:21,070 --> 00:28:24,690
Now, I mentioned before
that we had a lot of family

484
00:28:24,690 --> 00:28:26,610
in the United States.

485
00:28:26,610 --> 00:28:29,172

We still do.

486
00:28:29,172 --> 00:28:30,880
I wanted to ask
you this question.

487
00:28:30,880 --> 00:28:33,540
When you and your sisters got
together for the first time,

488
00:28:33,540 --> 00:28:38,610
did you ever talk about
going back to your home,

489
00:28:38,610 --> 00:28:40,600
back home to see
what was happening?

490
00:28:40,600 --> 00:28:45,450
Did you have a sense
of wanting to go back?

491
00:28:45,450 --> 00:28:46,205
No.

492
00:28:46,205 --> 00:28:46,860
Why not?

493
00:28:46,860 --> 00:28:49,920

494
00:28:49,920 --> 00:29:01,080
Because we knew what
Poland was like,

495
00:29:01,080 --> 00:29:14,530
and we felt that we wanted
to start our lives not there.

496
00:29:14,530 --> 00:29:19,390
Palestine would have been
the place to go at that time,

497

00:29:19,390 --> 00:29:22,270

but I'll tell you in a
minute why we ended up--

498

00:29:22,270 --> 00:29:23,980

why we ended up in
the United States.

499

00:29:23,980 --> 00:29:26,640

500

00:29:26,640 --> 00:29:32,410

But Poland-- I never
had the desired

501

00:29:32,410 --> 00:29:33,580

at that time to go back.

502

00:29:33,580 --> 00:29:36,820

Neither did my sisters, and
that's why we didn't pursue it.

503

00:29:36,820 --> 00:29:39,473

504

00:29:39,473 --> 00:29:41,890

What about your brother when
you met up with him in Italy?

505

00:29:41,890 --> 00:29:45,920

506

00:29:45,920 --> 00:29:48,890

He didn't have too much of a
desire to go back to Poland,

507

00:29:48,890 --> 00:29:53,540

even though he was a part
of the Polish division.

508

00:29:53,540 --> 00:29:58,180

You didn't feel-- did you feel

that Poland was your home?

509

00:29:58,180 --> 00:30:03,340

I didn't feel that way,
even though it was.

510

00:30:03,340 --> 00:30:06,190

That's what I was
born, but I didn't

511

00:30:06,190 --> 00:30:13,210

have the feelings to go back
like other people have feelings

512

00:30:13,210 --> 00:30:16,170

to go back home.

513

00:30:16,170 --> 00:30:22,860

It was difficult for me to
think of Poland at that time,

514

00:30:22,860 --> 00:30:31,640

of Auschwitz, and of all the
other places as being home.

515

00:30:31,640 --> 00:30:36,620

We never missed
it, not going back.

516

00:30:36,620 --> 00:30:42,170

It was not-- it meant nothing,
and we didn't go back.

517

00:30:42,170 --> 00:30:44,165

I know many other people
did, but they did,

518

00:30:44,165 --> 00:30:45,290

and they left pretty quick.

519

00:30:45,290 --> 00:30:46,220

I know that.

520

00:30:46,220 --> 00:30:48,050

I have many friends
that went back there,

521

00:30:48,050 --> 00:30:51,063

and after they went back there
they got out very quickly.

522

00:30:51,063 --> 00:30:52,480

It was not a
pleasant place to be.

523

00:30:52,480 --> 00:31:07,700

524

00:31:07,700 --> 00:31:10,580

This is tape four,
side B. So now you're

525

00:31:10,580 --> 00:31:12,982

with your two sisters
and your brother,

526

00:31:12,982 --> 00:31:15,440

and you started to say that
you had relatives in the United

527

00:31:15,440 --> 00:31:16,010

States?

528

00:31:16,010 --> 00:31:17,750

Yes.

529

00:31:17,750 --> 00:31:20,870

We have aunts and uncles
from both my mother's side

530

00:31:20,870 --> 00:31:24,080

and my father's side
that we didn't know.

531

00:31:24,080 --> 00:31:28,540

They got here before World War
II, before the war started,

532
00:31:28,540 --> 00:31:30,270
and they established
themselves here.

533
00:31:30,270 --> 00:31:33,270

534
00:31:33,270 --> 00:31:39,240
However, at that time, although
we knew about our family here,

535
00:31:39,240 --> 00:31:44,640
my brother, being
in the army, was

536
00:31:44,640 --> 00:31:50,760
able to get me into a school
that was run by the army

537
00:31:50,760 --> 00:31:51,915
by him being a soldier.

538
00:31:51,915 --> 00:31:56,050

539
00:31:56,050 --> 00:31:57,300
This is in southern Italy?

540
00:31:57,300 --> 00:31:58,110
That is in Italy.

541
00:31:58,110 --> 00:32:13,950

542
00:32:13,950 --> 00:32:17,480
I don't remember whether the
school was started in Italy

543
00:32:17,480 --> 00:32:21,270

or was being organized and eventually went to England.

544

00:32:21,270 --> 00:32:24,810
That's how I got to England.

545

00:32:24,810 --> 00:32:34,120
And all the soldiers that were in that division,

546

00:32:34,120 --> 00:32:38,350
of that Polish division, had the opportunity

547

00:32:38,350 --> 00:32:42,640
to go to England if they chose to because they were fighting

548

00:32:42,640 --> 00:32:46,270
for the British, though that was, I suppose,

549

00:32:46,270 --> 00:32:49,115
one of the rewards, that if you wanted to go to England

550

00:32:49,115 --> 00:32:49,615
you could.

551

00:32:49,615 --> 00:32:54,470

552

00:32:54,470 --> 00:32:58,505
I went to England with that school.

553

00:32:58,505 --> 00:33:02,160

554

00:33:02,160 --> 00:33:03,690
How long were you in southern Italy?

555

00:33:03,690 --> 00:33:07,560

556

00:33:07,560 --> 00:33:14,280

Few months, but I don't
mean like nine or 10.

557

00:33:14,280 --> 00:33:18,425

It was less, maybe six months.

558

00:33:18,425 --> 00:33:20,550

It's very difficult for me
to remember now exactly.

559

00:33:20,550 --> 00:33:22,762

And you were living with
your family, your sisters

560

00:33:22,762 --> 00:33:24,220

and your brother,
during that time?

561

00:33:24,220 --> 00:33:26,530

Not my brother because
my brother was a soldier.

562

00:33:26,530 --> 00:33:29,310

He had to report to his duties.

563

00:33:29,310 --> 00:33:33,130

But my sisters and I
were in that DP camp.

564

00:33:33,130 --> 00:33:34,680

That was the UNRRA camp.

565

00:33:34,680 --> 00:33:38,720

566

00:33:38,720 --> 00:33:41,380

But when my brother
was able to arrange

567
00:33:41,380 --> 00:33:42,510
for me to go to school--

568
00:33:42,510 --> 00:33:48,410

569
00:33:48,410 --> 00:33:55,790
and all the dependents at that
time of the soldiers, like me--

570
00:33:55,790 --> 00:33:57,840
yeah, the school was
started in Italy.

571
00:33:57,840 --> 00:33:59,900
Now I remember it.

572
00:33:59,900 --> 00:34:00,590
I remember it.

573
00:34:00,590 --> 00:34:03,440

574
00:34:03,440 --> 00:34:08,630
I went there for a couple of
months, and then, as a school,

575
00:34:08,630 --> 00:34:09,305
all of us--

576
00:34:09,305 --> 00:34:13,010

577
00:34:13,010 --> 00:34:19,730
I became a dependent
of his, so legally I

578
00:34:19,730 --> 00:34:23,780
had the right to go to
England if he wanted me to.

579

00:34:23,780 --> 00:34:26,750

Was this a residential school,
or you stayed with your sisters

580

00:34:26,750 --> 00:34:28,000

and then just went to classes?

581

00:34:28,000 --> 00:34:29,360

No, not with my sisters.

582

00:34:29,360 --> 00:34:32,900

My sisters were
still in the DP camp,

583

00:34:32,900 --> 00:34:37,398

and I, being the age that I
was-- it was a small school.

584

00:34:37,398 --> 00:34:38,690

So it was a residential school?

585

00:34:38,690 --> 00:34:41,179

A residential school, yes.

586

00:34:41,179 --> 00:34:44,290

What were the conditions like
in the DP camp before you left?

587

00:34:44,290 --> 00:34:46,100

Where did you and
your sisters live?

588

00:34:46,100 --> 00:34:49,400

Can you describe a little bit
about life in the DP camp?

589

00:34:49,400 --> 00:34:57,970

Well, that was a camp that
used all the buildings that

590

00:34:57,970 --> 00:35:10,560

were Italian-built. They were

older buildings, not barracks,

591

00:35:10,560 --> 00:35:15,390

but there was a whole area
that maybe the UNRRA took over

592

00:35:15,390 --> 00:35:18,090

of buildings where
they housed us.

593

00:35:18,090 --> 00:35:24,930

It was primitive living, but
then we didn't need that much.

594

00:35:24,930 --> 00:35:29,140

Our expectations were low.

595

00:35:29,140 --> 00:35:34,060

Our expectations
were not living in--

596

00:35:34,060 --> 00:35:37,100

not the kind of expectations
that we have today.

597

00:35:37,100 --> 00:35:41,320

So then we were there for
a while, my sisters and I,

598

00:35:41,320 --> 00:35:43,930

and then later on I
joined that school.

599

00:35:43,930 --> 00:35:47,850

Did it seem very luxurious after
your experiences in the camps?

600

00:35:47,850 --> 00:35:48,350

Yes.

601

00:35:48,350 --> 00:35:55,330

We had food, and it was good,
not luxurious, but it was fine.

602
00:35:55,330 --> 00:35:58,840
I don't remember anybody
complaining about facilities.

603
00:35:58,840 --> 00:36:01,930
I just don't remember that
somebody saying the bed

604
00:36:01,930 --> 00:36:03,570
wasn't good or this wasn't good.

605
00:36:03,570 --> 00:36:05,530
It didn't happen.

606
00:36:05,530 --> 00:36:08,830
What was it like to be
living in better surroundings

607
00:36:08,830 --> 00:36:11,140
after being through what
you had been through.

608
00:36:11,140 --> 00:36:12,010
It was great.

609
00:36:12,010 --> 00:36:20,390
I think there was a New sense of
hope and a real sense of hope.

610
00:36:20,390 --> 00:36:23,890
We knew things are better
and are going to get better.

611
00:36:23,890 --> 00:36:25,480
We knew that.

612
00:36:25,480 --> 00:36:27,700
We were free.

613
00:36:27,700 --> 00:36:31,180
There were opportunities

to go to Palestine.

614

00:36:31,180 --> 00:36:36,220

Suddenly I had an opportunity to
go to England, where I did go.

615

00:36:36,220 --> 00:36:39,010

One of my sisters
went to England.

616

00:36:39,010 --> 00:36:42,940

Another sister studied nursing
and then came to America

617

00:36:42,940 --> 00:36:44,740

in 1948.

618

00:36:44,740 --> 00:36:47,800

I didn't come to
America until 1952,

619

00:36:47,800 --> 00:36:53,560

so other things were
happening for us.

620

00:36:53,560 --> 00:36:55,630

When you got together,
when you met up

621

00:36:55,630 --> 00:37:00,970

with your sisters and your
brother, did you, at that age,

622

00:37:00,970 --> 00:37:04,690

have a need to talk
through with them what you

623

00:37:04,690 --> 00:37:06,940

had experienced away from them?

624

00:37:06,940 --> 00:37:10,400

625

00:37:10,400 --> 00:37:12,860

I didn't, no.

626

00:37:12,860 --> 00:37:14,250

I did not.

627

00:37:14,250 --> 00:37:19,400

I did not talk
about my experiences

628

00:37:19,400 --> 00:37:22,640

to anyone for many,
many, many years,

629

00:37:22,640 --> 00:37:28,610

not even with my
brother or sisters.

630

00:37:28,610 --> 00:37:34,980

Maybe it was-- they had
terrible experiences, too,

631

00:37:34,980 --> 00:37:42,810

and maybe there was no need to
burden each other because we

632

00:37:42,810 --> 00:37:44,093

all--

633

00:37:44,093 --> 00:37:44,760

I wasn't unique.

634

00:37:44,760 --> 00:37:48,110

635

00:37:48,110 --> 00:37:51,230

There were many
like me, and they

636

00:37:51,230 --> 00:37:54,110

had their terrible
experiences, too.

637

00:37:54,110 --> 00:38:04,430
So no, we did not, and maybe I
would talk easier to my friend

638

00:38:04,430 --> 00:38:06,840
at that time.

639

00:38:06,840 --> 00:38:08,640
But I didn't.

640

00:38:08,640 --> 00:38:09,300
We just didn't.

641

00:38:09,300 --> 00:38:17,100

642

00:38:17,100 --> 00:38:24,120
So I go to England.

643

00:38:24,120 --> 00:38:27,740
What was it like to say
goodbye to your sisters?

644

00:38:27,740 --> 00:38:33,300
It wasn't that difficult
because we all knew that--

645

00:38:33,300 --> 00:38:35,130
one of them was, at
that time, planning

646

00:38:35,130 --> 00:38:38,970
to go to England,
too, so we knew

647

00:38:38,970 --> 00:38:40,225
it was a temporary goodbye.

648

00:38:40,225 --> 00:38:43,270

649

00:38:43,270 --> 00:38:47,320

It wasn't like, will
I ever see you again?

650

00:38:47,320 --> 00:38:49,480

That wasn't the case anymore.

651

00:38:49,480 --> 00:38:54,330

And we all knew that we
have to rearrange and repair

652

00:38:54,330 --> 00:38:57,540

our lives somehow,
and we also knew

653

00:38:57,540 --> 00:39:00,690

that, them being young
ladies and me being 15,

654

00:39:00,690 --> 00:39:06,052

there was a different
tracks that had to happen.

655

00:39:06,052 --> 00:39:07,260

They were a little bit older.

656

00:39:07,260 --> 00:39:12,390

Maybe they had to pursue
another way of education.

657

00:39:12,390 --> 00:39:13,620

They had to get education.

658

00:39:13,620 --> 00:39:15,990

I had to get educated.

659

00:39:15,990 --> 00:39:19,020

Education became one of the
foremost considerations.

660

00:39:19,020 --> 00:39:21,270

Don't forget, I got out at--

661
00:39:21,270 --> 00:39:22,570
I was 15.

662
00:39:22,570 --> 00:39:26,160
I had the education
of a 10-year-old.

663
00:39:26,160 --> 00:39:29,730
Suddenly I had a lot
of catching up to do.

664
00:39:29,730 --> 00:39:31,620
Did you FEEL yes, you were 15.

665
00:39:31,620 --> 00:39:33,120
Did you feel 15?

666
00:39:33,120 --> 00:39:35,370
Did you feel much
older because of what

667
00:39:35,370 --> 00:39:38,520
you had seen and gone through?

668
00:39:38,520 --> 00:39:43,440
I felt-- I don't know whether
the word older would apply,

669
00:39:43,440 --> 00:39:46,355
but I felt much more hardened.

670
00:39:46,355 --> 00:39:53,430

671
00:39:53,430 --> 00:39:55,200
I was a hardened human being.

672
00:39:55,200 --> 00:39:59,380

673

00:39:59,380 --> 00:40:02,320

I think that's the best
way to describe it.

674

00:40:02,320 --> 00:40:07,640

Maybe that indicated that
maybe I was older than my age,

675

00:40:07,640 --> 00:40:10,630

and yet physically I
wasn't quite up to par yet.

676

00:40:10,630 --> 00:40:14,310

677

00:40:14,310 --> 00:40:16,440

So there was a
conflict like that.

678

00:40:16,440 --> 00:40:19,650

One way I was older, and
another way I was a kid.

679

00:40:19,650 --> 00:40:24,040

680

00:40:24,040 --> 00:40:27,125

So that's the way I was.

681

00:40:27,125 --> 00:40:29,500

When you say you were hardened,
what do you mean by that?

682

00:40:29,500 --> 00:40:32,900

683

00:40:32,900 --> 00:40:34,505

Maybe I wasn't as--

684

00:40:34,505 --> 00:40:40,630

685

00:40:40,630 --> 00:40:42,080
how can I describe that?

686
00:40:42,080 --> 00:40:46,070

687
00:40:46,070 --> 00:40:51,410
Maybe I wasn't very afraid
of things, and off life,

688
00:40:51,410 --> 00:40:53,015
and what I was going to face.

689
00:40:53,015 --> 00:40:57,010

690
00:40:57,010 --> 00:40:59,870
After I got out at 15
after the war ended,

691
00:40:59,870 --> 00:41:03,310
I don't remember being
afraid of the future,

692
00:41:03,310 --> 00:41:04,420
even though I was 15.

693
00:41:04,420 --> 00:41:07,320

694
00:41:07,320 --> 00:41:09,840
I think that's the best
way I can describe it.

695
00:41:09,840 --> 00:41:13,050
I was looking
towards the future,

696
00:41:13,050 --> 00:41:17,160
and I did not plan
at 15 what I was

697

00:41:17,160 --> 00:41:20,160
going to be at 22
because I did not know.

698
00:41:20,160 --> 00:41:21,600
Things just happened.

699
00:41:21,600 --> 00:41:26,320

700
00:41:26,320 --> 00:41:28,175
And things went along.

701
00:41:28,175 --> 00:41:32,070

702
00:41:32,070 --> 00:41:35,610
I coped with it, and it was
not difficult at that time

703
00:41:35,610 --> 00:41:40,170
to cope because we were coping
with fairly easy things.

704
00:41:40,170 --> 00:41:42,710
It was been very
different to what

705
00:41:42,710 --> 00:41:44,090
we had to cope with before.

706
00:41:44,090 --> 00:41:49,000

707
00:41:49,000 --> 00:41:56,010
When I got to England, I was in
that school, which was really

708
00:41:56,010 --> 00:42:02,370
run by the Polish division, very
short time because I found out

709

00:42:02,370 --> 00:42:05,380
and it was generally
known that there

710
00:42:05,380 --> 00:42:10,450
were many Jewish
institutions in London.

711
00:42:10,450 --> 00:42:11,980
Was the school in London?

712
00:42:11,980 --> 00:42:19,530
No, it was outside, and I
don't remember the name.

713
00:42:19,530 --> 00:42:21,990
It was in some small village.

714
00:42:21,990 --> 00:42:23,073
I don't remember the name.

715
00:42:23,073 --> 00:42:26,180

716
00:42:26,180 --> 00:42:30,640
There were Jewish
institutions that were

717
00:42:30,640 --> 00:42:32,560
ready to help refugees like me.

718
00:42:32,560 --> 00:42:36,300

719
00:42:36,300 --> 00:42:37,870
Is this still 1945?

720
00:42:37,870 --> 00:42:39,000
Where and--

721
00:42:39,000 --> 00:42:42,495
This is still 1945.

722
00:42:42,495 --> 00:42:44,380
Is it fall or do you
have any sense of--

723
00:42:44,380 --> 00:42:44,880
Yes.

724
00:42:44,880 --> 00:42:47,994

725
00:42:47,994 --> 00:42:51,950
It's late '45 or beginning '46.

726
00:42:51,950 --> 00:42:54,400
That's the time frame.

727
00:42:54,400 --> 00:42:59,170
And I was told--

728
00:42:59,170 --> 00:43:05,070
I don't know how-- to go to
a certain place in London

729
00:43:05,070 --> 00:43:09,210
and to tell the authorities
who I am, what I am,

730
00:43:09,210 --> 00:43:10,090
and I did that.

731
00:43:10,090 --> 00:43:14,340

732
00:43:14,340 --> 00:43:20,220
And I was placed in a
hostel that took care

733
00:43:20,220 --> 00:43:22,020
of many, many kids like me.

734

00:43:22,020 --> 00:43:24,570

It's there that I made
an awful lot of friends

735

00:43:24,570 --> 00:43:26,030

with whom I'm still
in touch today.

736

00:43:26,030 --> 00:43:31,210

737

00:43:31,210 --> 00:43:36,350

And I remember that
the main objective

738

00:43:36,350 --> 00:43:38,990

of the Jewish
institutions authorities

739

00:43:38,990 --> 00:43:41,558

is, now that we have them
here, all those kids, what

740

00:43:41,558 --> 00:43:42,350

do we do with them?

741

00:43:42,350 --> 00:43:44,950

742

00:43:44,950 --> 00:43:49,170

So they had to sort
us out, who was

743

00:43:49,170 --> 00:43:55,190

a good candidate for
education, who is a candidate

744

00:43:55,190 --> 00:43:57,890

to learn a trade.

745

00:43:57,890 --> 00:44:04,050

And there were tests
given, IQ kind of tests,

746
00:44:04,050 --> 00:44:05,070
and we all took them.

747
00:44:05,070 --> 00:44:14,400
And I member that I was
sent to an ORT school

748
00:44:14,400 --> 00:44:20,250
to learn how to
be an electrician,

749
00:44:20,250 --> 00:44:24,055
and I went to ORT school for a
couple of years or maybe less.

750
00:44:24,055 --> 00:44:28,180

751
00:44:28,180 --> 00:44:31,950
And as I learned how
to be an electrician,

752
00:44:31,950 --> 00:44:36,290
I got very interested in
being an electrical engineer.

753
00:44:36,290 --> 00:44:39,780

754
00:44:39,780 --> 00:44:54,660
And after I left the ORT school,
I got a job as an electrician,

755
00:44:54,660 --> 00:44:58,570
and at night I went to school.

756
00:44:58,570 --> 00:45:01,650
I went to school for
four or five years,

757
00:45:01,650 --> 00:45:06,980

and I got a certificate
in electrical engineering.

758
00:45:06,980 --> 00:45:08,940
It was an equivalent
to a degree.

759
00:45:08,940 --> 00:45:11,690

760
00:45:11,690 --> 00:45:13,170
And I got that.

761
00:45:13,170 --> 00:45:15,400
I studied very hard.

762
00:45:15,400 --> 00:45:16,980
What about your English?

763
00:45:16,980 --> 00:45:19,620
That's a good point.

764
00:45:19,620 --> 00:45:23,380
When I got to England,
me and all the other--

765
00:45:23,380 --> 00:45:26,700
we did not know English.

766
00:45:26,700 --> 00:45:32,210
I must tell you that I
don't remember ever studying

767
00:45:32,210 --> 00:45:37,650
as hard in my life
for anything than what

768
00:45:37,650 --> 00:45:39,600
I did to study English.

769
00:45:39,600 --> 00:45:42,240
We all did, day and night.

770
00:45:42,240 --> 00:45:44,160
We couldn't get enough of it.

771
00:45:44,160 --> 00:45:46,200
We read books, dictionaries.

772
00:45:46,200 --> 00:45:49,750
We learned dictionaries by
heart, words, word after word

773
00:45:49,750 --> 00:45:52,860
after word, and
after we learned all

774
00:45:52,860 --> 00:45:55,970
that we could speak English.

775
00:45:55,970 --> 00:46:01,380
I remember we used to go to
the movies to learn English,

776
00:46:01,380 --> 00:46:07,620
to listen to English, and
after two or three years

777
00:46:07,620 --> 00:46:09,660
we learned English.

778
00:46:09,660 --> 00:46:12,510
It was an immersion kind of--

779
00:46:12,510 --> 00:46:13,980
we learned English.

780
00:46:13,980 --> 00:46:15,630
That was our first priority.

781
00:46:15,630 --> 00:46:17,940
Before you can do
anything else, you

782

00:46:17,940 --> 00:46:22,260

must be able to speak the
language, so we did that.

783

00:46:22,260 --> 00:46:25,980

I did that very hard while
I was going to ORT school.

784

00:46:25,980 --> 00:46:29,080

Did you feel very
Jewish at that point?

785

00:46:29,080 --> 00:46:32,610

Yeah, I was beginning to.

786

00:46:32,610 --> 00:46:36,180

Even though I was very Jewish--

787

00:46:36,180 --> 00:46:37,210

I felt very Jewish.

788

00:46:37,210 --> 00:46:40,290

I felt very proud
of being Jewish

789

00:46:40,290 --> 00:46:48,990

but not in the sense of going
to a shul and pray if you can--

790

00:46:48,990 --> 00:46:51,540

I've always felt
very proud of being

791

00:46:51,540 --> 00:46:57,240

Jewish and extremely
proud of Israel,

792

00:46:57,240 --> 00:47:01,410

and I still am until today.

793

00:47:01,410 --> 00:47:04,380

But today we belong to a

synagogue, and we go to a shul,

794

00:47:04,380 --> 00:47:05,520
and we do all the things.

795

00:47:05,520 --> 00:47:10,380
At that time, when I was
16, 17, 18, I didn't.

796

00:47:10,380 --> 00:47:14,070
I only went to a shul
once a year at that time.

797

00:47:14,070 --> 00:47:15,680
That was on Yom
Kippur to say Yizkor.

798

00:47:15,680 --> 00:47:18,400

799

00:47:18,400 --> 00:47:21,370
How did you know
when to say Yizkor?

800

00:47:21,370 --> 00:47:21,880
Well--

801

00:47:21,880 --> 00:47:23,540
You mean at the
official Yizkor time?

802

00:47:23,540 --> 00:47:25,260
Yeah, at the
official Yizkor time.

803

00:47:25,260 --> 00:47:26,480
I knew of synagogues.

804

00:47:26,480 --> 00:47:28,530
We lived in England
by that time.

805

00:47:28,530 --> 00:47:31,300
It was all a well-known
fact, and we would know when

806
00:47:31,300 --> 00:47:33,540
the Yizkor, and we
would go and come--

807
00:47:33,540 --> 00:47:34,520
and it wasn't just me.

808
00:47:34,520 --> 00:47:37,060
That was the normal--

809
00:47:37,060 --> 00:47:38,610
a lot of the kids--

810
00:47:38,610 --> 00:47:40,030
the guys that were--

811
00:47:40,030 --> 00:47:43,720
guys and girls by that time.

812
00:47:43,720 --> 00:47:47,920
As your condition improved
in life, and your strength,

813
00:47:47,920 --> 00:47:52,540
and so forth, did you
ever have inner feelings

814
00:47:52,540 --> 00:47:55,420
of taking revenge on--

815
00:47:55,420 --> 00:47:57,220
or did you have those
feelings when you

816
00:47:57,220 --> 00:47:59,740
were liberated in Mauthausen?

817
00:47:59,740 --> 00:48:00,280

Yes.

818

00:48:00,280 --> 00:48:04,050

And how did you deal with that?

819

00:48:04,050 --> 00:48:08,320

Yes, I had the feelings
of revenge, sure.

820

00:48:08,320 --> 00:48:11,830

I thought it was a natural
kind of feeling to have.

821

00:48:11,830 --> 00:48:23,490

I didn't do anything about it,
but there was real hate in me

822

00:48:23,490 --> 00:48:27,720

for the Nazis, for
what they did to us.

823

00:48:27,720 --> 00:48:31,560

So yeah, you wanted to take
some revenge, but I didn't.

824

00:48:31,560 --> 00:48:33,660

I didn't do anything about it.

825

00:48:33,660 --> 00:48:37,870

What would-- you can't go
start killing people now,

826

00:48:37,870 --> 00:48:40,200

so I didn't.

827

00:48:40,200 --> 00:48:40,935

I was 15.

828

00:48:40,935 --> 00:48:43,770

829

00:48:43,770 --> 00:48:45,690

Perhaps there was
some people that

830
00:48:45,690 --> 00:48:47,940
were older that might have
wanted to do something

831
00:48:47,940 --> 00:48:50,010
about it, but I did not.

832
00:48:50,010 --> 00:48:56,070
We were-- right after the war,
our priority, my priority,

833
00:48:56,070 --> 00:49:01,170
and a lot of people in London
that I got into, the group

834
00:49:01,170 --> 00:49:07,940
of friends, the group of people
that I got linked up with,

835
00:49:07,940 --> 00:49:09,740
boys and girls--

836
00:49:09,740 --> 00:49:13,610
our priority was
getting an education

837
00:49:13,610 --> 00:49:16,700
because we all
felt that in order

838
00:49:16,700 --> 00:49:22,130
to be able to make a living
you have to get an education.

839
00:49:22,130 --> 00:49:25,700
Now, some went into business.

840
00:49:25,700 --> 00:49:28,010
Some did very well in business.

841

00:49:28,010 --> 00:49:31,700

Some of us went to schools.

842

00:49:31,700 --> 00:49:33,800

We all went to
schools, but some of us

843

00:49:33,800 --> 00:49:35,930

went further on to schools.

844

00:49:35,930 --> 00:49:37,490

Some did not.

845

00:49:37,490 --> 00:49:40,100

I went a little
further on in school

846

00:49:40,100 --> 00:49:42,030

because that's what
I wanted to do.

847

00:49:42,030 --> 00:49:45,737

That's what I liked,
and it paid off for me.

848

00:49:45,737 --> 00:49:47,570

What was it like to
hear the German language

849

00:49:47,570 --> 00:49:53,120

after liberation or to
see a German person?

850

00:49:53,120 --> 00:49:56,630

I didn't hear that
much after liberation.

851

00:49:56,630 --> 00:49:59,810

I heard it right
after liberation,

852

00:49:59,810 --> 00:50:02,000

and it was just the
form of communicating.

853
00:50:02,000 --> 00:50:06,020

854
00:50:06,020 --> 00:50:09,670
At the time of liberation, did
you see anybody taking revenge?

855
00:50:09,670 --> 00:50:11,460
Yes.

856
00:50:11,460 --> 00:50:12,300
Describe that.

857
00:50:12,300 --> 00:50:20,510
Yes, I've seen just one incident
of going to some people,

858
00:50:20,510 --> 00:50:22,490
and they found
out that the man--

859
00:50:22,490 --> 00:50:24,320
there was a couple
of men that were SS,

860
00:50:24,320 --> 00:50:26,510
and I think there
was some physical--

861
00:50:26,510 --> 00:50:31,380
nobody was killed, but
maybe they roughed up.

862
00:50:31,380 --> 00:50:32,030
They beat up.

863
00:50:32,030 --> 00:50:36,820

864

00:50:36,820 --> 00:50:40,110
You didn't see anybody turning
on the guards in Mauthausen?

865
00:50:40,110 --> 00:50:43,300
No, no, I did not.

866
00:50:43,300 --> 00:50:47,210
Maybe there were incidences, but
I personally did not see that.

867
00:50:47,210 --> 00:50:51,220
And I don't know whether,
if I had the opportunity,

868
00:50:51,220 --> 00:50:55,638
that I wouldn't have turned
on the guards especially.

869
00:50:55,638 --> 00:50:58,713

870
00:50:58,713 --> 00:50:59,880
Well, now you're in England.

871
00:50:59,880 --> 00:51:02,840
You've gotten your certificate
in electrical engineering.

872
00:51:02,840 --> 00:51:09,270
Yes, and in England a lot
of good things happened.

873
00:51:09,270 --> 00:51:12,720
By the way, I like
England, even today.

874
00:51:12,720 --> 00:51:16,170
My wife and I have gone
there for a vacation.

875
00:51:16,170 --> 00:51:19,560
My brother lived there,

and my wife likes it, too.

876

00:51:19,560 --> 00:51:22,620

Did your sisters come over
soon after you went to England?

877

00:51:22,620 --> 00:51:24,240

One of my sisters
came to England.

878

00:51:24,240 --> 00:51:26,340

The other one came
directly to America.

879

00:51:26,340 --> 00:51:30,000

That's a separate story.

880

00:51:30,000 --> 00:51:35,730

My brother was in England,
too, so there were three of us

881

00:51:35,730 --> 00:51:42,150

in England, my brother,
my youngest sister, and I.

882

00:51:42,150 --> 00:51:47,490

In England, I made
many friends, not only

883

00:51:47,490 --> 00:51:50,880

English friends but some
survivors that were young,

884

00:51:50,880 --> 00:51:53,190

as I mentioned that we made
of friends, with whom I

885

00:51:53,190 --> 00:51:55,330

keep in touch, even today.

886

00:51:55,330 --> 00:51:57,060

Many of them still
live in England,

887
00:51:57,060 --> 00:52:01,200
so we are in touch as best
we can because we are all

888
00:52:01,200 --> 00:52:02,900
getting older.

889
00:52:02,900 --> 00:52:06,600
Things are changing
and happening.

890
00:52:06,600 --> 00:52:09,455
We now talk about our
children and grandchildren.

891
00:52:09,455 --> 00:52:13,080

892
00:52:13,080 --> 00:52:14,700
But England was great for me.

893
00:52:14,700 --> 00:52:17,960

894
00:52:17,960 --> 00:52:20,872
I got an education.

895
00:52:20,872 --> 00:52:21,830
I learned the language.

896
00:52:21,830 --> 00:52:24,590

897
00:52:24,590 --> 00:52:31,340
I became more
civilized than I used

898
00:52:31,340 --> 00:52:36,266
to be right after liberation.

899

00:52:36,266 --> 00:52:39,590
What do you mean by that?

900
00:52:39,590 --> 00:52:47,870
I was able to be pretty rough
after liberation, not very--

901
00:52:47,870 --> 00:52:56,070
sometimes not easy to
be with and pick a fight

902
00:52:56,070 --> 00:53:02,820
if necessary I would let
anybody get away with--

903
00:53:02,820 --> 00:53:07,110
nothing big, but we
were angry, not just me.

904
00:53:07,110 --> 00:53:09,030
I was an angry young kid.

905
00:53:09,030 --> 00:53:12,840
I didn't know what to
do with myself, how

906
00:53:12,840 --> 00:53:15,720
to release all that.

907
00:53:15,720 --> 00:53:19,200
But in England it
all changed for me,

908
00:53:19,200 --> 00:53:22,860
and perhaps
civilized isn't not--

909
00:53:22,860 --> 00:53:26,670
yeah, it's a good word, but
perhaps I became more mellow

910
00:53:26,670 --> 00:53:28,230
as time went on.

911
00:53:28,230 --> 00:53:33,014
Did you get into fights
after liberation?

912
00:53:33,014 --> 00:53:35,580
One, nothing big.

913
00:53:35,580 --> 00:53:37,050
Tell us about it.

914
00:53:37,050 --> 00:53:40,860
Well, I think somebody
said something,

915
00:53:40,860 --> 00:53:44,220
and we got into a
shoving and pushing.

916
00:53:44,220 --> 00:53:46,105
And that was it, nothing big.

917
00:53:46,105 --> 00:53:49,433

918
00:53:49,433 --> 00:53:50,850
But there were
other of my friends

919
00:53:50,850 --> 00:53:58,920
that got into more fights than
I did, but it was a phase.

920
00:53:58,920 --> 00:54:01,150
It was a phase.

921
00:54:01,150 --> 00:54:07,800
And then as we--

922
00:54:07,800 --> 00:54:11,880
were very busy trying to
get schooling, education,

923
00:54:11,880 --> 00:54:14,250
and trying to really
re-establish our lives

924
00:54:14,250 --> 00:54:20,420
as normal as we could.

925
00:54:20,420 --> 00:54:26,330
And physically I began to grow,
suddenly, from a little boy.

926
00:54:26,330 --> 00:54:27,110
I got to England.

927
00:54:27,110 --> 00:54:27,740
I was 16.

928
00:54:27,740 --> 00:54:30,770
By the time I was 18,
I was almost as tall

929
00:54:30,770 --> 00:54:35,660
as I am now, so tremendous
changes happened within me

930
00:54:35,660 --> 00:54:41,090
physically and mentally.

931
00:54:41,090 --> 00:54:43,040
And they were all good things.

932
00:54:43,040 --> 00:54:45,230
I liked what was happening.

933
00:54:45,230 --> 00:54:49,160
I liked my life there, and
I liked going to school.

934
00:54:49,160 --> 00:54:51,840
And I liked working, and I
liked meeting all the people.

935
00:54:51,840 --> 00:54:56,710

936
00:54:56,710 --> 00:55:03,780
However, with all
that, in my heart,

937
00:55:03,780 --> 00:55:07,700
I knew that I wasn't going to
settle in England because I

938
00:55:07,700 --> 00:55:11,330
corresponded with my family,
with my aunts and uncles

939
00:55:11,330 --> 00:55:15,380
in the United States, and the
correspondence was always,

940
00:55:15,380 --> 00:55:16,490
when are you coming?

941
00:55:16,490 --> 00:55:17,700
We are waiting for you.

942
00:55:17,700 --> 00:55:19,000
We want to be here.

943
00:55:19,000 --> 00:55:21,000
And don't worry.

944
00:55:21,000 --> 00:55:22,040
Everything will be OK.

945
00:55:22,040 --> 00:55:29,010
And that went on and on and
on, so it was almost natural

946
00:55:29,010 --> 00:55:30,200
that I would come here.

947

00:55:30,200 --> 00:55:34,510

948

00:55:34,510 --> 00:55:42,850

And in 1952 I came to this
country, summer of 1952.

949

00:55:42,850 --> 00:55:44,330

By yourself?

950

00:55:44,330 --> 00:55:48,940

By myself with a lot of
other people on the boat,

951

00:55:48,940 --> 00:55:51,670

and my family was waiting
for me in New York,

952

00:55:51,670 --> 00:55:53,950

and hugging, and all that.

953

00:55:53,950 --> 00:55:56,000

And I was very welcome.

954

00:55:56,000 --> 00:55:58,210

So you had to say goodbye
again to your sister

955

00:55:58,210 --> 00:55:59,140

and your brother?

956

00:55:59,140 --> 00:56:00,460

Yes.

957

00:56:00,460 --> 00:56:01,660

Was that difficult?

958

00:56:01,660 --> 00:56:06,310

Yes, but my brother stayed
in England all his life,

959

00:56:06,310 --> 00:56:07,960
and we visited him many times.

960
00:56:07,960 --> 00:56:12,410
And he visited us many times.

961
00:56:12,410 --> 00:56:20,440
And my younger sister came to
America about the same time

962
00:56:20,440 --> 00:56:25,590
I did, and my older sister was
in America before we arrived.

963
00:56:25,590 --> 00:56:27,510
So we were all here.

964
00:56:27,510 --> 00:56:31,220

965
00:56:31,220 --> 00:56:32,270
Did you come on a boat?

966
00:56:32,270 --> 00:56:32,770
Yes.

967
00:56:32,770 --> 00:56:35,050
What boat?

968
00:56:35,050 --> 00:56:36,670
The name of the boat
I don't remember.

969
00:56:36,670 --> 00:56:40,810
It wasn't the Queen Mary
or the Queen Elizabeth,

970
00:56:40,810 --> 00:56:42,100
but it was a nice boat.

971
00:56:42,100 --> 00:56:46,690

972
00:56:46,690 --> 00:56:49,020
It wasn't a boat that
the refugees came in

973
00:56:49,020 --> 00:56:50,140
with the waves.

974
00:56:50,140 --> 00:56:52,150
It was a nice boat.

975
00:56:52,150 --> 00:56:54,600
I had pay my fare,
that kind of thing.

976
00:56:54,600 --> 00:56:57,520
I wait third-class fare, came
the cheapest possible way

977
00:56:57,520 --> 00:56:58,862
I could.

978
00:56:58,862 --> 00:57:00,820
What was your first sight
of the United States?

979
00:57:00,820 --> 00:57:03,780

980
00:57:03,780 --> 00:57:10,300
The lady, and it was
a beautiful sight.

981
00:57:10,300 --> 00:57:15,160
The New York Harbor with
the lady or the Liberty.

982
00:57:15,160 --> 00:57:17,560
You intellectually
know all about it.

983
00:57:17,560 --> 00:57:20,020

You knew it, but it
was a beautiful sight.

984
00:57:20,020 --> 00:57:23,200
I remember coming in, and the
boat was coming in very slowly.

985
00:57:23,200 --> 00:57:26,040
I was looking out, and
I saw the highways.

986
00:57:26,040 --> 00:57:31,120
And I saw so many cars, and
I said, my God, so many cars.

987
00:57:31,120 --> 00:57:33,910
It was so impressive.

988
00:57:33,910 --> 00:57:37,990
And when I arrived
here, of course,

989
00:57:37,990 --> 00:57:41,722
I went to stay with my family.

990
00:57:41,722 --> 00:57:44,100
To put your feet down on
American soil-- what was that

991
00:57:44,100 --> 00:57:44,600
like?

992
00:57:44,600 --> 00:57:46,630
Oh, it felt great.

993
00:57:46,630 --> 00:57:52,180
It really felt like I'm a
free man starting my life,

994
00:57:52,180 --> 00:57:54,340
not that I-- don't forget,
I came from England,

995

00:57:54,340 --> 00:57:56,380

so I didn't come from an--

996

00:57:56,380 --> 00:58:00,070

I came from a pretty
good environment here.

997

00:58:00,070 --> 00:58:04,750

And as a matter of fact,
in my initial stay,

998

00:58:04,750 --> 00:58:12,070

just for a few days, I went
to stay with one of my aunts

999

00:58:12,070 --> 00:58:19,260

and uncle that lived in
Fremont Avenue in the Bronx.

1000

00:58:19,260 --> 00:58:24,710

And I went there, and I must
tell you, after a while,

1001

00:58:24,710 --> 00:58:29,200

I felt that I was ready
to go back to England.

1002

00:58:29,200 --> 00:58:31,390

Why?

1003

00:58:31,390 --> 00:58:42,920

There were poor people,
ultra-religious, orthodox,

1004

00:58:42,920 --> 00:58:44,780

orthodox.

1005

00:58:44,780 --> 00:58:50,150

They davened all the time,
and I just didn't fit in.

1006

00:58:50,150 --> 00:58:54,020

1007
00:58:54,020 --> 00:58:55,620
And I said, I can't stay here.

1008
00:58:55,620 --> 00:58:58,370

1009
00:58:58,370 --> 00:58:59,930
It was nothing wrong with them.

1010
00:58:59,930 --> 00:59:03,050
It was something wrong
with me, but certainly we

1011
00:59:03,050 --> 00:59:05,180
weren't compatible.

1012
00:59:05,180 --> 00:59:13,620
And then I stayed with
my sister for a while,

1013
00:59:13,620 --> 00:59:19,020
with my older sister who was
married and had a small baby.

1014
00:59:19,020 --> 00:59:21,090
I stayed with her for a while.

1015
00:59:21,090 --> 00:59:21,930
Where was this?

1016
00:59:21,930 --> 00:59:24,300
That was in Bayside, Queens.

1017
00:59:24,300 --> 00:59:26,480
They lived comfortably,
nice house.

1018
00:59:26,480 --> 00:59:30,652

1019

00:59:30,652 --> 00:59:32,610

Where you going to school,
or were you working?

1020

00:59:32,610 --> 00:59:35,030

No, I was starting
to look for a job.

1021

00:59:35,030 --> 00:59:36,770

My family says, settle
down for a while.

1022

00:59:36,770 --> 00:59:37,550

Look around.

1023

00:59:37,550 --> 00:59:38,630

Don't rush.

1024

00:59:38,630 --> 00:59:39,980

Get acclimated.

1025

00:59:39,980 --> 00:59:41,390

You're 22 years. now.

1026

00:59:41,390 --> 00:59:42,410

I'm 22 years old.

1027

00:59:42,410 --> 00:59:43,360

That's right.

1028

00:59:43,360 --> 00:59:51,800

I started looking for a job, and
although I had qualifications,

1029

00:59:51,800 --> 00:59:58,160

in 1952, if you
looked for a job that

1030

00:59:58,160 --> 01:00:01,070

had anything to do
with the government,

1031

01:00:01,070 --> 01:00:03,080

as an engineer, that
had any government--

1032

01:00:03,080 --> 01:00:06,250

you had to be a citizen.

1033

01:00:06,250 --> 01:00:11,740

They were very strict about
it, so a lot of opportunities

1034

01:00:11,740 --> 01:00:12,970

were closed to me.

1035

01:00:12,970 --> 01:00:17,030

1036

01:00:17,030 --> 01:00:21,970

I had a friend at that time
that also was in London

1037

01:00:21,970 --> 01:00:27,910

and came here a few
months ahead of me,

1038

01:00:27,910 --> 01:00:32,830

and he lived at that time
in Washington Heights

1039

01:00:32,830 --> 01:00:35,760

in Manhattan.

1040

01:00:35,760 --> 01:00:39,820

And we got very friendly, and
I got an apartment, a room,

1041

01:00:39,820 --> 01:00:43,720

also in Washington,
and I was still

1042

01:00:43,720 --> 01:00:45,160

looking for something to do.

1043
01:00:45,160 --> 01:00:49,420

1044
01:00:49,420 --> 01:00:55,120
And at that time, the way
I came to this country

1045
01:00:55,120 --> 01:01:02,230
is under permanent visa, and
I knew then that up to 26,

1046
01:01:02,230 --> 01:01:05,870
even though I wasn't a citizen,
I was eligible for the draft.

1047
01:01:05,870 --> 01:01:12,090

1048
01:01:12,090 --> 01:01:13,360
This is during the Korean War.

1049
01:01:13,360 --> 01:01:15,890
That's during the
Korean War, yes.

1050
01:01:15,890 --> 01:01:17,310
That's during the Korean War.

1051
01:01:17,310 --> 01:01:24,810
And I remember in Washington
Heights one day getting mail--

1052
01:01:24,810 --> 01:01:28,820
I was there about seven months--

1053
01:01:28,820 --> 01:01:35,870
and there were greetings
from the US government

1054
01:01:35,870 --> 01:01:40,760
that I should report to

such and such a place.

1055

01:01:40,760 --> 01:01:42,590

And I was drafted into the army.

1056

01:01:42,590 --> 01:01:45,300

1057

01:01:45,300 --> 01:01:52,020

It was 1953 because I came
here in summer of 1952,

1058

01:01:52,020 --> 01:01:55,860

and I was drafted
in March of 1953.

1059

01:01:55,860 --> 01:02:01,770

I was then 23 years
old, and I never

1060

01:02:01,770 --> 01:02:06,880

tried to do anything
not to go in.

1061

01:02:06,880 --> 01:02:09,430

I was drafted, and
that was fine with me.

1062

01:02:09,430 --> 01:02:10,930

As a matter of
fact, I felt maybe

1063

01:02:10,930 --> 01:02:13,660

it would be a good
adjustment period for me.

1064

01:02:13,660 --> 01:02:16,600

I knew at that time
that, being in the army,

1065

01:02:16,600 --> 01:02:19,140

I would become a citizen.

1066

01:02:19,140 --> 01:02:21,000