

1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:03,960

2  
00:00:03,960 --> 00:00:07,590  
This is the United States  
Holocaust Memorial Museum

3  
00:00:07,590 --> 00:00:10,950  
interview with Emma  
Mogilensky, conducted

4  
00:00:10,950 --> 00:00:15,760  
by Margaret Garrett on  
November 15, 1996 in Baltimore,

5  
00:00:15,760 --> 00:00:21,570  
Maryland, tape one,  
side A. Mrs. Mogilensky,

6  
00:00:21,570 --> 00:00:23,670  
what was your name at birth?

7  
00:00:23,670 --> 00:00:26,280  
Emma Hubert.

8  
00:00:26,280 --> 00:00:28,110  
And where were you born?

9  
00:00:28,110 --> 00:00:30,950  
In Cronheim, Bavaria.

10  
00:00:30,950 --> 00:00:34,380  
Cronheim is tiny,  
little village.

11  
00:00:34,380 --> 00:00:38,430  
Its full name was  
Cronheim by Gunzenhausen.

12  
00:00:38,430 --> 00:00:40,030  
Now you will have

difficulty finding

13  
00:00:40,030 --> 00:00:41,820  
Gunzenhausen on the map.

14  
00:00:41,820 --> 00:00:46,890  
So Cronheim, of course, is  
just not visible at all.

15  
00:00:46,890 --> 00:00:49,140  
And what was the  
date of your birth?

16  
00:00:49,140 --> 00:00:52,050  
May 22, 1923.

17  
00:00:52,050 --> 00:00:56,580  
And back to Cronheim, how  
many people lived in Cronheim?

18  
00:00:56,580 --> 00:01:00,120  
I believe that there were 54  
families living in Cronheim

19  
00:01:00,120 --> 00:01:05,910  
at the time, which makes about  
200 inhabitants of the village.

20  
00:01:05,910 --> 00:01:09,240  
Could you talk about  
your early life

21  
00:01:09,240 --> 00:01:10,575  
in the village and your family?

22  
00:01:10,575 --> 00:01:13,590

23  
00:01:13,590 --> 00:01:15,450  
There were four of us--

24  
00:01:15,450 --> 00:01:17,490

my parents, my  
brother, and myself.

25  
00:01:17,490 --> 00:01:20,200

26  
00:01:20,200 --> 00:01:23,930  
We were a very happy family.

27  
00:01:23,930 --> 00:01:25,345  
We were a very loving family.

28  
00:01:25,345 --> 00:01:28,910

29  
00:01:28,910 --> 00:01:34,270  
My father was a traveling  
salesman around the countryside

30  
00:01:34,270 --> 00:01:38,470  
with samples of soap  
powders and things like that

31  
00:01:38,470 --> 00:01:42,010  
and went to different farmers,  
where he got his orders,

32  
00:01:42,010 --> 00:01:46,900  
and came home,  
religiously, every Friday,

33  
00:01:46,900 --> 00:01:49,585  
so that he would be home  
to observe the Sabbath.

34  
00:01:49,585 --> 00:01:52,790

35  
00:01:52,790 --> 00:01:56,390  
We lived in a  
house that had been

36

00:01:56,390 --> 00:02:07,160  
built by my great-grandfather,  
and it was a very solid house.

37  
00:02:07,160 --> 00:02:10,880  
We had 70 fruit  
trees in the back.

38  
00:02:10,880 --> 00:02:14,090  
We had a little fruit  
orchard in the back,

39  
00:02:14,090 --> 00:02:18,065  
and it was all  
comfortable and happy.

40  
00:02:18,065 --> 00:02:22,520

41  
00:02:22,520 --> 00:02:25,220  
You said the house was built  
by your great-grandfather?

42  
00:02:25,220 --> 00:02:25,940  
Yes.

43  
00:02:25,940 --> 00:02:28,250  
And had your family lived  
in that house since then?

44  
00:02:28,250 --> 00:02:31,640  
Yes, yes, yes.

45  
00:02:31,640 --> 00:02:34,940  
At first, when my father got  
married, he and my mother

46  
00:02:34,940 --> 00:02:36,830  
lived in another house.

47  
00:02:36,830 --> 00:02:41,300  
But very soon, they moved  
down to my grandfather's house

48  
00:02:41,300 --> 00:02:43,250  
and that was that.

49  
00:02:43,250 --> 00:02:45,230  
And you went to  
school in Cronheim?

50  
00:02:45,230 --> 00:02:47,000  
Yes.

51  
00:02:47,000 --> 00:02:52,730  
The school had six grades  
and it had six rows of desks.

52  
00:02:52,730 --> 00:02:56,540  
If you sat in the first row of  
desks, you were in first grade.

53  
00:02:56,540 --> 00:02:59,700  
In the second, you were in  
second grade, and so on.

54  
00:02:59,700 --> 00:03:03,800  
And once you had  
completed the sixth grade,

55  
00:03:03,800 --> 00:03:06,680  
if you wanted to continue  
on with your education,

56  
00:03:06,680 --> 00:03:08,240  
you had to go elsewhere.

57  
00:03:08,240 --> 00:03:10,550  
As far as the village  
was concerned,

58  
00:03:10,550 --> 00:03:12,740  
that was the end  
of your education.

59

00:03:12,740 --> 00:03:15,830

And you went there  
through the six grades?

60

00:03:15,830 --> 00:03:19,250

I went there through--

61

00:03:19,250 --> 00:03:21,800

just about, just about.

62

00:03:21,800 --> 00:03:26,900

And what kinds of things did  
you like to do after school

63

00:03:26,900 --> 00:03:31,100

and when you weren't  
in school for fun?

64

00:03:31,100 --> 00:03:33,980

Oh, after school, one of  
the things we loved to do

65

00:03:33,980 --> 00:03:36,800

was go berry picking  
with our mother

66

00:03:36,800 --> 00:03:41,330

in a woods that was  
just behind the village.

67

00:03:41,330 --> 00:03:45,530

And we picked blueberries, and  
raspberries, and strawberries,

68

00:03:45,530 --> 00:03:47,090

and you name it.

69

00:03:47,090 --> 00:03:52,790

And she would preserve them and  
make pies and everything else.

70

00:03:52,790 --> 00:03:59,970

And it was a lovely,

family-oriented life.

71

00:03:59,970 --> 00:04:05,870

We were very much involved with  
the synagogue in our village,

72

00:04:05,870 --> 00:04:12,480

and that led to  
other activities.

73

00:04:12,480 --> 00:04:14,030

We had a Hebrew school.

74

00:04:14,030 --> 00:04:16,820

It was very interesting  
how our school was run.

75

00:04:16,820 --> 00:04:22,730

Because Cronheim was an almost  
totally Catholic village,

76

00:04:22,730 --> 00:04:25,580

the priest would  
come in every day

77

00:04:25,580 --> 00:04:27,770

to the school to  
give the children

78

00:04:27,770 --> 00:04:29,780

their religious instruction.

79

00:04:29,780 --> 00:04:30,995

During the school time?

80

00:04:30,995 --> 00:04:32,330

During school time.

81

00:04:32,330 --> 00:04:36,590

During this hour that he  
was there, we were released.

82

00:04:36,590 --> 00:04:39,350

We went all the way  
across the street,

83

00:04:39,350 --> 00:04:43,610

where our Hebrew teacher lived,  
and we got our Hebrew education

84

00:04:43,610 --> 00:04:44,330

there.

85

00:04:44,330 --> 00:04:46,160

So it worked very well.

86

00:04:46,160 --> 00:04:49,940

So it was you and your brother--

87

00:04:49,940 --> 00:04:53,840

And two other Jewish  
children in the village.

88

00:04:53,840 --> 00:05:00,320

And how did the other  
children treat you

89

00:05:00,320 --> 00:05:03,490

when you were leaving  
to go to your own class?

90

00:05:03,490 --> 00:05:14,740

Well, up until, really, just  
before Kristallnacht, fine.

91

00:05:14,740 --> 00:05:17,590

We were friendly.

92

00:05:17,590 --> 00:05:19,810

They were our best friends.

93

00:05:19,810 --> 00:05:21,370

We played with each other.

94



00:05:21,370 --> 00:05:24,290  
We did all kinds  
of things together.

95  
00:05:24,290 --> 00:05:32,080  
There was no idea of a  
difference between us.

96  
00:05:32,080 --> 00:05:33,685  
So they didn't pick  
on you because you

97  
00:05:33,685 --> 00:05:35,560  
were going to the Hebrew  
teacher and taking--

98  
00:05:35,560 --> 00:05:37,930  
No, not at all, not at all.

99  
00:05:37,930 --> 00:05:41,620  
It was considered  
a natural thing.

100  
00:05:41,620 --> 00:05:44,140  
We were Jewish, therefore  
we got Jewish education.

101  
00:05:44,140 --> 00:05:47,510  
They were Catholic, therefore  
they got Catholic education.

102  
00:05:47,510 --> 00:05:49,330  
In fact, I'll go  
one step further

103  
00:05:49,330 --> 00:05:52,960  
to give you an  
idea of the respect

104  
00:05:52,960 --> 00:05:57,340  
between the different  
faiths in our village.

105

00:05:57,340 --> 00:06:01,330  
My father would go to  
the church every year

106  
00:06:01,330 --> 00:06:04,840  
to string all the Christmas  
lights in the church

107  
00:06:04,840 --> 00:06:07,090  
as decoration.

108  
00:06:07,090 --> 00:06:09,760  
The priest would  
come to synagogue

109  
00:06:09,760 --> 00:06:15,250  
on Yom Kippur for about an  
hour or so to show his respect.

110  
00:06:15,250 --> 00:06:22,210  
So there was no hatred or  
differentiation or anything

111  
00:06:22,210 --> 00:06:29,080  
between us at all, until  
it came to the point

112  
00:06:29,080 --> 00:06:31,870  
where our teacher,  
obviously, had

113  
00:06:31,870 --> 00:06:34,270  
been to some kind  
of a conference

114  
00:06:34,270 --> 00:06:38,860  
and been instructed to make  
life for the Jews miserable.

115  
00:06:38,860 --> 00:06:41,770

116  
00:06:41,770 --> 00:06:47,740

He did this-- he was  
the church organist.

117  
00:06:47,740 --> 00:06:54,140  
And so he had the Catholic  
children first thing

118  
00:06:54,140 --> 00:06:56,270  
in the morning-- they went  
to mass every morning.

119  
00:06:56,270 --> 00:06:59,720  
It was tradition in the village.

120  
00:06:59,720 --> 00:07:04,440  
And after mass, he had  
the kids in church.

121  
00:07:04,440 --> 00:07:08,750  
They were literally captives  
until he released them.

122  
00:07:08,750 --> 00:07:15,740  
And he obviously instructed  
them to be mean to us.

123  
00:07:15,740 --> 00:07:19,250  
And so one day when we came  
to school thinking of nothing

124  
00:07:19,250 --> 00:07:22,820  
at all, we found that  
all the other kids

125  
00:07:22,820 --> 00:07:26,810  
had formed two lines in  
front of the school entrance.

126  
00:07:26,810 --> 00:07:33,200  
And as we walked through  
the lines, they beat us up.

127  
00:07:33,200 --> 00:07:35,630

This is all four of  
the Jewish children?

128  
00:07:35,630 --> 00:07:38,450  
Well, I can only speak  
for my brother and myself.

129  
00:07:38,450 --> 00:07:40,340  
I don't know what  
happened to the other two.

130  
00:07:40,340 --> 00:07:42,940

131  
00:07:42,940 --> 00:07:46,630  
And I guess I've  
always had a big mouth,

132  
00:07:46,630 --> 00:07:49,090  
so I went to the  
teacher and I complained

133  
00:07:49,090 --> 00:07:52,060  
that the kids had beaten us up.

134  
00:07:52,060 --> 00:07:57,510  
And he said, well, what did  
you expect, you dirty Jew?

135  
00:07:57,510 --> 00:08:00,370  
And from that, I  
surmised that he

136  
00:08:00,370 --> 00:08:02,800  
had told the kids to do this.

137  
00:08:02,800 --> 00:08:10,970  
So literally overnight, we went  
from best friends to enemies.

138  
00:08:10,970 --> 00:08:14,740  
Had you had a particular  
best friend or best friends?

139  
00:08:14,740 --> 00:08:18,820  
There were two that I was very  
friendly with-- two girls.

140  
00:08:18,820 --> 00:08:23,320  
And we were thoroughly  
comfortable with each other

141  
00:08:23,320 --> 00:08:26,020  
until that day.

142  
00:08:26,020 --> 00:08:28,270  
That ended everything.

143  
00:08:28,270 --> 00:08:31,010  
So you were friends  
no more after that?

144  
00:08:31,010 --> 00:08:31,510  
No.

145  
00:08:31,510 --> 00:08:34,059  
We continued to go to  
school for a little while

146  
00:08:34,059 --> 00:08:37,000  
longer for several  
more days, and we

147  
00:08:37,000 --> 00:08:38,710  
were beaten up  
every time we went

148  
00:08:38,710 --> 00:08:40,900  
into and out of the school.

149  
00:08:40,900 --> 00:08:45,340  
And my parents finally  
said, that's enough.

150  
00:08:45,340 --> 00:08:48,250

And they sent my brother  
to the next village

151  
00:08:48,250 --> 00:08:51,340  
that had a small Jewish school.

152  
00:08:51,340 --> 00:08:55,840  
And they sent me to Nuremberg,  
which is a large town not far

153  
00:08:55,840 --> 00:08:57,740  
from where we lived.

154  
00:08:57,740 --> 00:09:00,850  
And I had to live  
there, and there I

155  
00:09:00,850 --> 00:09:06,880  
went to what you would  
consider high school.

156  
00:09:06,880 --> 00:09:10,720  
And what was that like for  
you living in Nuremberg?

157  
00:09:10,720 --> 00:09:14,470  
What year was that  
you went to Nuremberg?

158  
00:09:14,470 --> 00:09:16,330  
That was 1938.

159  
00:09:16,330 --> 00:09:16,880  
'38.

160  
00:09:16,880 --> 00:09:20,650  
And so what was that like for  
you at the beginning being

161  
00:09:20,650 --> 00:09:26,380  
in Nuremberg, a strange  
city, a young girl?

162

00:09:26,380 --> 00:09:30,200

We lived-- I lived--

163

00:09:30,200 --> 00:09:35,270

and I say we because my cousin  
ended up living there also,

164

00:09:35,270 --> 00:09:38,660

and we were both named Emma.

165

00:09:38,660 --> 00:09:46,120

We lived in a pension  
for Jewish young ladies.

166

00:09:46,120 --> 00:09:50,290

And I stress the word  
ladies because this pension

167

00:09:50,290 --> 00:09:57,700

was run by two elderly spinsters  
who could not accept what was

168

00:09:57,700 --> 00:10:02,020

happening in Germany at all.

169

00:10:02,020 --> 00:10:07,180

They saw to it that every day  
when we came home from school,

170

00:10:07,180 --> 00:10:09,850

we spent a half  
hour walking around

171

00:10:09,850 --> 00:10:13,360

in the living room  
with a book on our head

172

00:10:13,360 --> 00:10:18,160

to teach us proper carriage,  
because a proper young lady has

173

00:10:18,160 --> 00:10:20,500

to walk correct.

174

00:10:20,500 --> 00:10:27,550

And at the dinner table, we were  
seated at the table with a book

175

00:10:27,550 --> 00:10:33,520

under each arm to teach  
us to keep our elbows in.

176

00:10:33,520 --> 00:10:37,870

And if one of those books  
dropped on the floor,

177

00:10:37,870 --> 00:10:39,740

you left the table.

178

00:10:39,740 --> 00:10:44,500

It didn't matter how hungry  
you were, you left the table.

179

00:10:44,500 --> 00:10:53,440

So it was run very strictly  
by these two ladies in a way

180

00:10:53,440 --> 00:10:57,910

that today is almost incredible.

181

00:10:57,910 --> 00:11:03,280

And at the time, how did  
you take that atmosphere?

182

00:11:03,280 --> 00:11:06,200

I had no choice.

183

00:11:06,200 --> 00:11:09,070

I was able to talk to  
my parents on the phone.

184

00:11:09,070 --> 00:11:13,130

I was able to correspond with  
them, but I had no choice.



185

00:11:13,130 --> 00:11:17,080

This is where I was supposed  
to be and that was that.

186

00:11:17,080 --> 00:11:20,980

I mean, we were taught  
this right from the start.

187

00:11:20,980 --> 00:11:24,820

You do what your  
parents tell you to do.

188

00:11:24,820 --> 00:11:27,880

The concept of talking  
back to your parents

189

00:11:27,880 --> 00:11:33,460

or disagreeing with them was  
absolutely foreign to us.

190

00:11:33,460 --> 00:11:35,530

If you had a choice,  
would you have

191

00:11:35,530 --> 00:11:40,880

preferred not to be there  
given the circumstances?

192

00:11:40,880 --> 00:11:45,160

It was an interesting  
experience.

193

00:11:45,160 --> 00:11:52,790

The school was different because  
all the children were Jewish.

194

00:11:52,790 --> 00:11:58,950

So it was funny.

195

00:11:58,950 --> 00:12:03,210

During break, when we  
had breaks in the morning

196

00:12:03,210 --> 00:12:07,130

and in the afternoon,  
we would never

197

00:12:07,130 --> 00:12:16,060

discuss picnics, or  
parties, or going somewhere,

198

00:12:16,060 --> 00:12:18,460

going on vacation or  
anything like that,

199

00:12:18,460 --> 00:12:21,310

nor did we talk about boys,  
and the boys, I don't think,

200

00:12:21,310 --> 00:12:23,230

talked about girls.

201

00:12:23,230 --> 00:12:28,390

We talked about where  
to go, whether to go

202

00:12:28,390 --> 00:12:34,540

to England, or to  
America, or to Australia,

203

00:12:34,540 --> 00:12:37,840

or where should we go.

204

00:12:37,840 --> 00:12:41,740

And none of us had any  
idea what that meant.

205

00:12:41,740 --> 00:12:45,360

What was your understanding of  
what was happening at the time?

206

00:12:45,360 --> 00:12:48,310

207

00:12:48,310 --> 00:12:53,740

I understood that there was this political movement in Germany

208

00:12:53,740 --> 00:12:59,680  
that hated Jews and that they were doing their darndest

209

00:12:59,680 --> 00:13:00,910  
to get rid of us.

210

00:13:00,910 --> 00:13:03,400  
At first, that was the concept, that they

211

00:13:03,400 --> 00:13:09,690  
wanted to get rid of us, to get us to leave Germany.

212

00:13:09,690 --> 00:13:15,030  
Now my father had served in the First World War.

213

00:13:15,030 --> 00:13:19,650  
He had, in fact, earned the Iron Cross.

214

00:13:19,650 --> 00:13:24,030  
And he could not understand that anything

215

00:13:24,030 --> 00:13:26,860  
like that could happen to him and to his family.

216

00:13:26,860 --> 00:13:31,530

217

00:13:31,530 --> 00:13:38,820  
And I also believed that it was something

218

00:13:38,820 --> 00:13:45,690  
that would eventually blow over

and everything would be OK.

219  
00:13:45,690 --> 00:13:50,640  
And my father kept saying, it  
is a madness that will cease.

220  
00:13:50,640 --> 00:13:52,740  
It is a madness that  
has got to stop.

221  
00:13:52,740 --> 00:14:00,150  
It cannot go on like this  
and felt that he could not

222  
00:14:00,150 --> 00:14:02,640  
and should not leave Germany.

223  
00:14:02,640 --> 00:14:04,710  
On the other hand,  
he often said,

224  
00:14:04,710 --> 00:14:11,310  
how am I to support a family  
of four in a country where I

225  
00:14:11,310 --> 00:14:13,620  
cannot speak the language?

226  
00:14:13,620 --> 00:14:18,300  
Was his business  
affected by this?

227  
00:14:18,300 --> 00:14:20,160  
Up to a point, no.

228  
00:14:20,160 --> 00:14:21,945  
And then he was--

229  
00:14:21,945 --> 00:14:24,600

230  
00:14:24,600 --> 00:14:26,130

and then it was.

231

00:14:26,130 --> 00:14:29,220

Although, the farmers-- most  
of the farmers didn't know

232

00:14:29,220 --> 00:14:30,190

he was Jewish.

233

00:14:30,190 --> 00:14:35,060

And he obviously didn't  
advertise that fact.

234

00:14:35,060 --> 00:14:41,160

And the yellow star didn't have  
to be worn until much later.

235

00:14:41,160 --> 00:14:46,460

But I really don't know that.

236

00:14:46,460 --> 00:14:49,550

My parents never talked about  
this kind of thing with us,

237

00:14:49,550 --> 00:14:51,410

so I don't know.

238

00:14:51,410 --> 00:14:55,850

But you did know that  
your father was very

239

00:14:55,850 --> 00:14:57,100

unbelieving, almost, about it.

240

00:14:57,100 --> 00:14:57,790

Yes.

241

00:14:57,790 --> 00:15:00,490

Well, we talked about it  
at dinner time, I mean.

242

00:15:00,490 --> 00:15:02,050

So they did talk about it some?

243

00:15:02,050 --> 00:15:03,550

Oh sure, absolutely.

244

00:15:03,550 --> 00:15:05,560

And did your mother  
talk about it also?

245

00:15:05,560 --> 00:15:09,220

Yes, we talked as a family  
around the dinner table.

246

00:15:09,220 --> 00:15:11,840

247

00:15:11,840 --> 00:15:14,410

So at school, the  
girls were talking

248

00:15:14,410 --> 00:15:18,190

about going to a different  
place, a different country.

249

00:15:18,190 --> 00:15:22,330

Once I was in the  
Jewish school, yes.

250

00:15:22,330 --> 00:15:23,830

But then I wasn't  
living at home,

251

00:15:23,830 --> 00:15:26,920

so I didn't hear what my  
father was saying then.

252

00:15:26,920 --> 00:15:29,980

And then came Kristallnacht--

253

00:15:29,980 --> 00:15:38,110

November 9, 1938-- and  
the house where I was--

254

00:15:38,110 --> 00:15:41,320

well, I have to  
backtrack a little bit.

255

00:15:41,320 --> 00:15:45,190

I had a phone call  
from a lady, who

256

00:15:45,190 --> 00:15:48,880

was a friend of my mother's,  
to say that her husband had

257

00:15:48,880 --> 00:15:51,880

a heart attack in Nuremberg  
and had been rushed

258

00:15:51,880 --> 00:15:55,990

to the hospital, and could I  
please come and stay with them

259

00:15:55,990 --> 00:15:59,320

for a while so that I can  
babysit in the evening

260

00:15:59,320 --> 00:16:03,850

while she went to visit her  
husband in the hospital.

261

00:16:03,850 --> 00:16:07,690

Nuremberg was the  
residence and headquarters

262

00:16:07,690 --> 00:16:17,220

of Julius Streicher, the German  
propagandist whose drawings

263

00:16:17,220 --> 00:16:23,090

and caricatures were  
world famous or infamous,

264

00:16:23,090 --> 00:16:28,470

whichever way you  
want to call it.

265  
00:16:28,470 --> 00:16:30,390  
And my mother gave  
me permission,

266  
00:16:30,390 --> 00:16:34,200  
and I moved into their house.

267  
00:16:34,200 --> 00:16:41,040  
And then came Kristallnacht, and  
the Nazis broke into the house

268  
00:16:41,040 --> 00:16:44,670  
and demanded the  
man of the house.

269  
00:16:44,670 --> 00:16:47,230  
Broke into the house-- you mean  
you were all inside and they

270  
00:16:47,230 --> 00:16:47,730  
just--

271  
00:16:47,730 --> 00:16:48,900  
We were asleep at night.

272  
00:16:48,900 --> 00:16:50,358  
And they just pushed  
the door down?

273  
00:16:50,358 --> 00:16:55,510  
They smashed the door in.

274  
00:16:55,510 --> 00:17:00,340  
And they demanded  
the man of the house.

275  
00:17:00,340 --> 00:17:04,960  
And his wife said, he's  
ill, he's in the hospital.

276  
00:17:04,960 --> 00:17:10,180



And they said, you lie,  
he's hiding from us,

277  
00:17:10,180 --> 00:17:13,329  
but we will find him.

278  
00:17:13,329 --> 00:17:17,859  
And with the fixed  
bayonets on their guns,

279  
00:17:17,859 --> 00:17:24,790  
they went through the  
children's bedrooms.

280  
00:17:24,790 --> 00:17:27,369  
And we managed to  
snatch the children out

281  
00:17:27,369 --> 00:17:30,670  
of their beds moments  
before the bayonets went

282  
00:17:30,670 --> 00:17:34,840  
through the bedclothes  
and the mattresses.

283  
00:17:34,840 --> 00:17:37,030  
And even the baby  
in the crib, we

284  
00:17:37,030 --> 00:17:41,560  
managed to get out before  
they put their bayonets

285  
00:17:41,560 --> 00:17:43,930  
through the crib mattress.

286  
00:17:43,930 --> 00:17:47,740  
And of course, he was hiding  
under the mattress in the crib.

287  
00:17:47,740 --> 00:17:49,030  
Where else?

288  
00:17:49,030 --> 00:17:53,590  
So obviously, they  
didn't find him.

289  
00:17:53,590 --> 00:17:57,970  
They had hatchets with which  
they smashed the furniture.

290  
00:17:57,970 --> 00:18:01,840  
And whatever was  
smashable, they smashed.

291  
00:18:01,840 --> 00:18:05,350  
Whatever was-- what  
they couldn't smash,

292  
00:18:05,350 --> 00:18:08,050  
they bent or broke in some way.

293  
00:18:08,050 --> 00:18:14,140  
It was a nightmare that  
just wouldn't stop.

294  
00:18:14,140 --> 00:18:16,660  
And finally they  
said, this is what's

295  
00:18:16,660 --> 00:18:21,910  
happening to all the  
Jew families in Germany.

296  
00:18:21,910 --> 00:18:23,305  
And with that, they left.

297  
00:18:23,305 --> 00:18:27,640

298  
00:18:27,640 --> 00:18:29,690  
And at first, we just--

299  
00:18:29,690 --> 00:18:33,100

the lady and I  
looked at each other,

300  
00:18:33,100 --> 00:18:35,800  
and we realized that  
we were still alive.

301  
00:18:35,800 --> 00:18:37,690  
Until then, we  
weren't at all sure

302  
00:18:37,690 --> 00:18:39,340  
we were going to survive this.

303  
00:18:39,340 --> 00:18:45,070

304  
00:18:45,070 --> 00:18:47,830  
And we tried to comfort  
the children, who,

305  
00:18:47,830 --> 00:18:50,260  
of course, were very upset.

306  
00:18:50,260 --> 00:18:54,340  
And we tried to make it--

307  
00:18:54,340 --> 00:18:57,340  
pat them down for the rest of  
the night in whatever fashion

308  
00:18:57,340 --> 00:18:59,960  
we could.

309  
00:18:59,960 --> 00:19:04,030  
But I kept thinking what  
they had said as they left,

310  
00:19:04,030 --> 00:19:08,760  
and I was wondering what  
had happened to my family.

311

00:19:08,760 --> 00:19:12,570  
But they had pulled the  
telephone wire out of the wall,

312  
00:19:12,570 --> 00:19:17,550  
so I wasn't able to call  
home until the next morning.

313  
00:19:17,550 --> 00:19:23,010  
And I had to find a public  
telephone and I called home.

314  
00:19:23,010 --> 00:19:26,900  
And my brother  
answered the phone.

315  
00:19:26,900 --> 00:19:31,250  
And he said that, yes, they  
had broken into our house

316  
00:19:31,250 --> 00:19:36,470  
also and done all  
sorts of damage,

317  
00:19:36,470 --> 00:19:42,040  
but they also arrested my  
father and apparently had

318  
00:19:42,040 --> 00:19:47,560  
sent him to Gunzenhausen, which  
was the nearest larger place,

319  
00:19:47,560 --> 00:19:49,840  
and held him there  
for several days,

320  
00:19:49,840 --> 00:19:51,490  
and then sent him to Dachau.

321  
00:19:51,490 --> 00:19:54,970

322  
00:19:54,970 --> 00:19:59,550

And my mother came on the phone  
and begged me to come home.

323  
00:19:59,550 --> 00:20:03,390

324  
00:20:03,390 --> 00:20:08,340  
But that wasn't so easy anymore,  
then, either because now

325  
00:20:08,340 --> 00:20:12,210  
Jewish people had to have  
permission to travel,

326  
00:20:12,210 --> 00:20:14,295  
and I had to go  
and get a permit.

327  
00:20:14,295 --> 00:20:18,550

328  
00:20:18,550 --> 00:20:22,030  
And finally, several days  
later, I got my permit

329  
00:20:22,030 --> 00:20:27,400  
and I went to the station  
to catch the train home.

330  
00:20:27,400 --> 00:20:33,490  
And in fact, as I was buying  
the ticket someone said to me,

331  
00:20:33,490 --> 00:20:36,340  
are you well?

332  
00:20:36,340 --> 00:20:40,270  
And I looked and I saw it  
was a non-Jewish gentleman,

333  
00:20:40,270 --> 00:20:47,170  
a friend of my father's, who's  
still there to talk to me.

334  
00:20:47,170 --> 00:20:49,630  
And I very quickly  
in an undertone

335  
00:20:49,630 --> 00:20:53,260  
told him about my  
father's arrest

336  
00:20:53,260 --> 00:20:56,140  
and having been sent to Dachau.

337  
00:20:56,140 --> 00:20:59,590  
And he said, you see  
this door over there?

338  
00:20:59,590 --> 00:21:03,810  
Go through this door and tell  
them and they will release him.

339  
00:21:03,810 --> 00:21:06,730

340  
00:21:06,730 --> 00:21:10,370  
And I thanked him, bought my  
ticket, and went over there.

341  
00:21:10,370 --> 00:21:13,120  
What did he think  
you should tell them?

342  
00:21:13,120 --> 00:21:15,580  
That my father had been  
arrested and that he

343  
00:21:15,580 --> 00:21:18,700  
had served in World War I and  
that had earned the Iron Cross.

344  
00:21:18,700 --> 00:21:21,650

345

00:21:21,650 --> 00:21:25,160  
And I went to the door  
over there, as he put it,

346  
00:21:25,160 --> 00:21:31,170  
and there's a little  
sign on the door.

347  
00:21:31,170 --> 00:21:33,660  
It said SS Headquarters.

348  
00:21:33,660 --> 00:21:37,840

349  
00:21:37,840 --> 00:21:43,090  
And I didn't know  
whether I should go in,

350  
00:21:43,090 --> 00:21:46,870  
and perhaps never  
come out again.

351  
00:21:46,870 --> 00:21:52,670  
And I weighed this in my mind  
against my father's life.

352  
00:21:52,670 --> 00:21:55,970  
And my father's life won, I  
turned the knob and I went in.

353  
00:21:55,970 --> 00:21:59,120

354  
00:21:59,120 --> 00:22:01,490  
And I can see that  
room to this day.

355  
00:22:01,490 --> 00:22:06,620  
On one side, there was a  
row of filing cabinets.

356  
00:22:06,620 --> 00:22:09,710  
And on the other side,

there was a row of chairs.

357

00:22:09,710 --> 00:22:12,740

And in the center,  
there was a big desk,

358

00:22:12,740 --> 00:22:18,770

behind which sat an SS  
man in full SS uniform.

359

00:22:18,770 --> 00:22:20,360

Was that the first  
time you had seen--

360

00:22:20,360 --> 00:22:22,220

No, I'd seen them before.

361

00:22:22,220 --> 00:22:25,100

But I sort of--

362

00:22:25,100 --> 00:22:27,530

I mean when I saw the  
sign SS Headquarters,

363

00:22:27,530 --> 00:22:29,030

I knew what I would find inside.

364

00:22:29,030 --> 00:22:33,730

365

00:22:33,730 --> 00:22:41,480

And he sort of looked me up  
and down and asked for my name,

366

00:22:41,480 --> 00:22:43,490

and I gave it to him.

367

00:22:43,490 --> 00:22:47,660

Address, and I gave it to him.

368

00:22:47,660 --> 00:22:49,610

And I told him why I was there.



369  
00:22:49,610 --> 00:22:52,910

370  
00:22:52,910 --> 00:23:00,530  
And he sort of looked me up  
and down and said, get out.

371  
00:23:00,530 --> 00:23:03,150

372  
00:23:03,150 --> 00:23:06,510  
And I don't think I've  
ever gotten out of any room

373  
00:23:06,510 --> 00:23:08,940  
as fast as I did that one.

374  
00:23:08,940 --> 00:23:14,580  
But once I was outside,  
I was wondering

375  
00:23:14,580 --> 00:23:17,700  
whether I had actually  
helped my father

376  
00:23:17,700 --> 00:23:20,280  
or condemned my whole  
family, because now they

377  
00:23:20,280 --> 00:23:21,840  
had our name and address.

378  
00:23:21,840 --> 00:23:26,000

379  
00:23:26,000 --> 00:23:28,460  
But I had a train to  
catch, and I literally

380  
00:23:28,460 --> 00:23:32,090  
had to force my legs

to go to the platform

381  
00:23:32,090 --> 00:23:33,470  
where the train was coming.

382  
00:23:33,470 --> 00:23:36,560

383  
00:23:36,560 --> 00:23:42,120  
When I got home, I  
found that my mother

384  
00:23:42,120 --> 00:23:44,850  
was having a nervous breakdown.

385  
00:23:44,850 --> 00:23:48,330  
And there was, of course, no  
medical attention for her.

386  
00:23:48,330 --> 00:23:50,490  
There was no doctor  
in the village.

387  
00:23:50,490 --> 00:23:55,030  
The nearest doctor  
lived in Gunzenhausen.

388  
00:23:55,030 --> 00:23:57,190  
And all we had in  
the village was,

389  
00:23:57,190 --> 00:24:00,910  
twice a week, we had  
a visit from a nurse--

390  
00:24:00,910 --> 00:24:04,420  
a visiting nurse-- who  
would come to the village

391  
00:24:04,420 --> 00:24:10,030  
to see if any of the farmers had  
gotten hurt or had an accident

392

00:24:10,030 --> 00:24:14,080

and would help them  
with first aid.

393

00:24:14,080 --> 00:24:17,510

How did you know she was  
having a nervous breakdown?

394

00:24:17,510 --> 00:24:18,550

She wasn't herself.

395

00:24:18,550 --> 00:24:20,870

She kept crying all the time.

396

00:24:20,870 --> 00:24:25,090

It was quite obvious that  
something was seriously

397

00:24:25,090 --> 00:24:25,870

wrong with her.

398

00:24:25,870 --> 00:24:29,000

I didn't put a label  
on it at the time,

399

00:24:29,000 --> 00:24:32,200

but I subsequently  
learned what it was.

400

00:24:32,200 --> 00:24:38,660

401

00:24:38,660 --> 00:24:42,525

I told my brother what I had  
done in Nuremberg at the train

402

00:24:42,525 --> 00:24:43,025

station.

403

00:24:43,025 --> 00:24:46,040

404

00:24:46,040 --> 00:24:50,600

And I wondered whether we  
should tell our mother what

405

00:24:50,600 --> 00:24:56,970

I had done, and finally  
decided that I had to tell her.

406

00:24:56,970 --> 00:25:00,000

And the three of us sat  
down together and I did.

407

00:25:00,000 --> 00:25:05,900

408

00:25:05,900 --> 00:25:10,010

And she couldn't sleep  
by herself in the room,

409

00:25:10,010 --> 00:25:12,920

so I went and I slept  
in my father's bed.

410

00:25:12,920 --> 00:25:16,560

It gave her, I guess, a  
small measure of comfort.

411

00:25:16,560 --> 00:25:20,470

412

00:25:20,470 --> 00:25:24,910

And then a few days later,  
or whatever it was--

413

00:25:24,910 --> 00:25:27,790

I don't remember exactly--

414

00:25:27,790 --> 00:25:31,480

we had a telephone call from  
the burgermeister, the mayor

415

00:25:31,480 --> 00:25:39,550

of Cronheim, asking my mother to  
present herself with the proof

416  
00:25:39,550 --> 00:25:44,050  
that my father had indeed  
served in the German army

417  
00:25:44,050 --> 00:25:49,870  
and had won the Iron Cross.

418  
00:25:49,870 --> 00:25:51,970  
And she was to  
present herself along.

419  
00:25:51,970 --> 00:25:54,790

420  
00:25:54,790 --> 00:25:57,490  
And my brother and I were  
very nervous about letting

421  
00:25:57,490 --> 00:26:03,290  
her go by herself, but they  
had been specific about it.

422  
00:26:03,290 --> 00:26:05,090  
So we let her go by herself.

423  
00:26:05,090 --> 00:26:09,180

424  
00:26:09,180 --> 00:26:15,150  
And she came home, and  
she was feeling better.

425  
00:26:15,150 --> 00:26:18,150  
Hope is a tremendous medication.

426  
00:26:18,150 --> 00:26:21,130

427  
00:26:21,130 --> 00:26:26,380

And then for weeks, we  
didn't hear anything at all.

428  
00:26:26,380 --> 00:26:34,590  
And one night, there was a  
knocking at the front door.

429  
00:26:34,590 --> 00:26:38,970  
And I went to the window to  
look out, but it was dark.

430  
00:26:38,970 --> 00:26:43,610  
And I called out and  
I said, who is there?

431  
00:26:43,610 --> 00:26:44,875  
And the answer was, daddy.

432  
00:26:44,875 --> 00:26:49,680

433  
00:26:49,680 --> 00:26:52,300  
And I'm not sure  
anymore whether it was I

434  
00:26:52,300 --> 00:26:56,230  
or my brother, one of  
us raced downstairs,

435  
00:26:56,230 --> 00:27:00,385  
opened the front door, and  
there, indeed, stood my father.

436  
00:27:00,385 --> 00:27:03,000

437  
00:27:03,000 --> 00:27:06,390  
He had been in  
Dachau for four weeks

438  
00:27:06,390 --> 00:27:09,550  
and I didn't recognize him.

439

00:27:09,550 --> 00:27:13,400

He had changed so in four weeks.

440

00:27:13,400 --> 00:27:14,800

It is indescribable.

441

00:27:14,800 --> 00:27:21,940

442

00:27:21,940 --> 00:27:28,700

It was cold, so there was only  
one place where we could all

443

00:27:28,700 --> 00:27:31,880

be together and warm.

444

00:27:31,880 --> 00:27:35,330

And so we all crawled  
into my mother's bed

445

00:27:35,330 --> 00:27:37,160

and we talked and  
talked and talked.

446

00:27:37,160 --> 00:27:39,740

And I think we talked  
for most of the night.

447

00:27:39,740 --> 00:27:42,400

448

00:27:42,400 --> 00:27:46,210

And my father would  
not talk about himself,

449

00:27:46,210 --> 00:27:49,120

he would only talk about us--

450

00:27:49,120 --> 00:27:52,090

his concern for us and  
especially for my mother.

451

00:27:52,090 --> 00:27:57,230

452

00:27:57,230 --> 00:28:01,310

And I guess, finally,  
we either went to sleep

453

00:28:01,310 --> 00:28:02,360

or got up in the morning.

454

00:28:02,360 --> 00:28:05,440

I don't remember.

455

00:28:05,440 --> 00:28:12,910

But I do remember that it  
had always been his habit

456

00:28:12,910 --> 00:28:19,100

to go into his little study,  
which was off our living room,

457

00:28:19,100 --> 00:28:20,270

to say his morning prayers.

458

00:28:20,270 --> 00:28:24,610

459

00:28:24,610 --> 00:28:30,100

But always, he had gone in  
there, left the door wide open,

460

00:28:30,100 --> 00:28:32,320

so that anybody  
and everybody could

461

00:28:32,320 --> 00:28:34,990

see what he was doing in there.

462

00:28:34,990 --> 00:28:37,480

This is the first time  
that I remember him



463

00:28:37,480 --> 00:28:40,050  
closing and locking the door.

464

00:28:40,050 --> 00:28:43,490

465

00:28:43,490 --> 00:28:50,340  
And he began to pray, first in  
thanksgiving to the Almighty

466

00:28:50,340 --> 00:28:54,990  
for his having been  
released, and then begging

467

00:28:54,990 --> 00:29:00,165  
God to help the other inmates  
of Dachau to be released also.

468

00:29:00,165 --> 00:29:03,590

469

00:29:03,590 --> 00:29:10,370  
And the prayers came from  
so deep inside of him

470

00:29:10,370 --> 00:29:13,700  
that my brother and I couldn't  
stand to listen to him.

471

00:29:13,700 --> 00:29:14,920  
We'd left the house.

472

00:29:14,920 --> 00:29:19,470

473

00:29:19,470 --> 00:29:25,470  
Gradually, his story came  
out that the things that he

474

00:29:25,470 --> 00:29:32,220  
had seen and had seen  
done to other people,

475  
00:29:32,220 --> 00:29:35,070  
whether to himself or  
not, he wouldn't say,

476  
00:29:35,070 --> 00:29:37,920  
but it was rather  
obvious that it had been.

477  
00:29:37,920 --> 00:29:41,730

478  
00:29:41,730 --> 00:29:43,860  
And that he had been starved.

479  
00:29:43,860 --> 00:29:46,940  
I could see that by the way  
his clothes hung on him.

480  
00:29:46,940 --> 00:29:50,110

481  
00:29:50,110 --> 00:29:59,560  
And he said that at night he  
would crawl from tent to tent

482  
00:29:59,560 --> 00:30:03,700  
to tell the inmates  
not to commit suicide,

483  
00:30:03,700 --> 00:30:05,360  
because many of them did so.

484  
00:30:05,360 --> 00:30:07,980

485  
00:30:07,980 --> 00:30:10,320  
And he would read  
a song to them,

486  
00:30:10,320 --> 00:30:15,830  
or anything to try and

convince them not to do this,

487

00:30:15,830 --> 00:30:19,470

because he said they were  
doing the Nazi's work for him.

488

00:30:19,470 --> 00:30:25,740

489

00:30:25,740 --> 00:30:28,508

Whether he ever--  
he knew full well

490

00:30:28,508 --> 00:30:30,300

what would happen to  
him if he were caught.

491

00:30:30,300 --> 00:30:32,920

492

00:30:32,920 --> 00:30:36,160

Whether he left any of his  
food with them, I don't know.

493

00:30:36,160 --> 00:30:39,088

494

00:30:39,088 --> 00:30:40,552

But that was my father.

495

00:30:40,552 --> 00:30:46,910

496

00:30:46,910 --> 00:30:49,072

Well, let's stop here  
and turn around the tape.

497

00:30:49,072 --> 00:30:49,572

OK.

498

00:30:49,572 --> 00:30:59,200

499

00:30:59,200 --> 00:31:06,010

Tape one, side B,  
Emma Mogilensky.

500

00:31:06,010 --> 00:31:13,920

After your father came  
home, what happened next?

501

00:31:13,920 --> 00:31:17,280

My father had been  
home only a few days,

502

00:31:17,280 --> 00:31:20,370

and he had come home  
with terrible frostbite

503

00:31:20,370 --> 00:31:23,360

on his hands.

504

00:31:23,360 --> 00:31:26,460

Apparently they had been given--

505

00:31:26,460 --> 00:31:30,230

well, obviously, they had  
been given only cotton pajamas

506

00:31:30,230 --> 00:31:32,400

to wear in Dachau.

507

00:31:32,400 --> 00:31:38,340

And Dachau is just outside of  
Munich at the foot of the Alps.

508

00:31:38,340 --> 00:31:42,810

And we are talking about  
December, it was bitter cold.

509

00:31:42,810 --> 00:31:46,970

And they had to stand  
in formation for hours,

510

00:31:46,970 --> 00:31:49,065  
and he got frostbite  
on his hands.

511  
00:31:49,065 --> 00:31:51,750

512  
00:31:51,750 --> 00:31:55,360  
I have my suspicions how else  
he got frostbite on his hands,

513  
00:31:55,360 --> 00:31:58,050  
but I have no proof of that.

514  
00:31:58,050 --> 00:32:00,310  
Anyway--

515  
00:32:00,310 --> 00:32:04,140  
What are your suspicions  
that you don't have proof of?

516  
00:32:04,140 --> 00:32:08,340  
That he had been punished  
for some minor infraction

517  
00:32:08,340 --> 00:32:12,990  
and hung on one of  
these contraptions

518  
00:32:12,990 --> 00:32:16,500  
that they had there by his  
hands and that his hands had

519  
00:32:16,500 --> 00:32:19,770  
been exposed to the weather,  
and that that's why.

520  
00:32:19,770 --> 00:32:22,080  
But as I said, I have  
no proof of that.

521  
00:32:22,080 --> 00:32:24,860

522

00:32:24,860 --> 00:32:29,570

He had been home  
only a few days,

523

00:32:29,570 --> 00:32:36,630

and we were nursing his hands,  
when a young policeman came

524

00:32:36,630 --> 00:32:38,910

to the door.

525

00:32:38,910 --> 00:32:45,540

Now this young man was  
a boy from the village,

526

00:32:45,540 --> 00:32:50,790

and the only pocket money he had  
ever earned was from my mother

527

00:32:50,790 --> 00:32:53,520

because she had him  
weed her flower garden.

528

00:32:53,520 --> 00:32:56,370

529

00:32:56,370 --> 00:33:01,410

And he came and he told us  
that the deed to our house

530

00:33:01,410 --> 00:33:08,180

was no good, and would we kindly  
find accommodations elsewhere.

531

00:33:08,180 --> 00:33:11,160

532

00:33:11,160 --> 00:33:13,200

Well, I told you,  
my great-grandfather

533

00:33:13,200 --> 00:33:16,220  
had built the house.

534  
00:33:16,220 --> 00:33:21,070  
And all of a sudden,  
the deed was no good?

535  
00:33:21,070 --> 00:33:24,250  
Obviously, what the  
village was trying to do

536  
00:33:24,250 --> 00:33:27,490  
was make itself judenrein,  
which means clean of Jews.

537  
00:33:27,490 --> 00:33:31,600

538  
00:33:31,600 --> 00:33:35,800  
And we had some difficulty  
finding where to go.

539  
00:33:35,800 --> 00:33:38,335  
Most of our relatives  
had left Germany.

540  
00:33:38,335 --> 00:33:42,060

541  
00:33:42,060 --> 00:33:47,880  
And then finally, we found  
a cousin in Augsburg,

542  
00:33:47,880 --> 00:33:55,000  
who still had a  
house, and they were

543  
00:33:55,000 --> 00:33:56,620  
willing to give us one room.

544  
00:33:56,620 --> 00:33:59,900

545

00:33:59,900 --> 00:34:03,140

And so we sold  
whatever furnishings we

546

00:34:03,140 --> 00:34:08,420

could and gave away the rest.

547

00:34:08,420 --> 00:34:16,730

And by the end of  
1938, starting 1939,

548

00:34:16,730 --> 00:34:19,325

we moved to Augsburg  
to this one room.

549

00:34:19,325 --> 00:34:21,840

550

00:34:21,840 --> 00:34:26,659

In that one room, there  
was one single bed.

551

00:34:26,659 --> 00:34:29,300

My parents slept at  
the head of that bed,

552

00:34:29,300 --> 00:34:31,670

and my brother and  
I slept at the foot.

553

00:34:31,670 --> 00:34:34,530

554

00:34:34,530 --> 00:34:37,560

And I don't know whether it  
was in my innocence or what,

555

00:34:37,560 --> 00:34:41,969

but it never occurred to me  
what it meant for my parents

556

00:34:41,969 --> 00:34:43,980



never to have a  
moment's privacy.

557  
00:34:43,980 --> 00:34:51,020

558  
00:34:51,020 --> 00:34:59,440  
And we lived in Augsburg  
in this one room.

559  
00:34:59,440 --> 00:35:05,080  
How did you feel your  
cousins were treating you?

560  
00:35:05,080 --> 00:35:10,860  
They were very sympathetic and  
they were very sorry for us.

561  
00:35:10,860 --> 00:35:15,730  
But they, in their way, needed  
to get on with their own lives.

562  
00:35:15,730 --> 00:35:19,810

563  
00:35:19,810 --> 00:35:21,820  
Did you eat together?

564  
00:35:21,820 --> 00:35:23,080  
At first, yes.

565  
00:35:23,080 --> 00:35:31,930  
And then we got a little  
kitchen and my mother

566  
00:35:31,930 --> 00:35:34,480  
and I did the cooking there  
and the cleaning there.

567  
00:35:34,480 --> 00:35:40,870  
And that's where we lived--  
that plus that one bedroom.

568

00:35:40,870 --> 00:35:43,330

I mean, you got a little  
kitchen in another house?

569

00:35:43,330 --> 00:35:47,440

Yes, and we had to walk  
from one house to the other.

570

00:35:47,440 --> 00:35:51,760

Was the kitchen just  
for your family?

571

00:35:51,760 --> 00:35:52,420

Yes.

572

00:35:52,420 --> 00:35:56,240

But you and your mother did  
work for the family in exchange

573

00:35:56,240 --> 00:35:56,740

for--

574

00:35:56,740 --> 00:35:58,930

No, no.

575

00:35:58,930 --> 00:36:02,300

What arrangements were  
between our two families,

576

00:36:02,300 --> 00:36:03,160

I do not know.

577

00:36:03,160 --> 00:36:08,460

578

00:36:08,460 --> 00:36:10,970

And then one day, my  
parents got a letter.

579

00:36:10,970 --> 00:36:14,310

580

00:36:14,310 --> 00:36:18,540

I am not sure where from.

581

00:36:18,540 --> 00:36:22,380

But the letter said that there  
was a children's transport

582

00:36:22,380 --> 00:36:28,460

leaving from Munich and  
that one of their children

583

00:36:28,460 --> 00:36:32,360

could be put on that train  
to take them out of Germany.

584

00:36:32,360 --> 00:36:35,470

585

00:36:35,470 --> 00:36:38,410

The train, we were told,  
would go to England.

586

00:36:38,410 --> 00:36:44,030

587

00:36:44,030 --> 00:36:52,970

And we had 48 hours to  
decide, and my parents

588

00:36:52,970 --> 00:36:53,945

had two children.

589

00:36:53,945 --> 00:36:56,600

590

00:36:56,600 --> 00:37:01,220

How do you decide  
which child to save

591

00:37:01,220 --> 00:37:04,720

and which child to continue  
to put into danger?

592  
00:37:04,720 --> 00:37:09,710

593  
00:37:09,710 --> 00:37:14,300  
Because I was  
already going on 14

594  
00:37:14,300 --> 00:37:18,710  
and the cutoff date was 15  
for children's transport,

595  
00:37:18,710 --> 00:37:23,530  
my parents decided that I  
should be the one to go.

596  
00:37:23,530 --> 00:37:25,690  
Because it might be  
your last chance?

597  
00:37:25,690 --> 00:37:27,820  
Because it might  
be my last chance.

598  
00:37:27,820 --> 00:37:31,270  
They didn't know whether there  
were other trains or what,

599  
00:37:31,270 --> 00:37:37,750  
but I had the very strict orders  
and directions from my parents

600  
00:37:37,750 --> 00:37:39,910  
that I was to do  
everything possible

601  
00:37:39,910 --> 00:37:43,600  
once I got to England to try  
and get my brother out also.

602  
00:37:43,600 --> 00:37:49,530

603

00:37:49,530 --> 00:37:55,640

And we were allowed to take  
one suitcase and a little paper

604

00:37:55,640 --> 00:38:04,840

bag, in which I had two  
sandwiches and an apple

605

00:38:04,840 --> 00:38:09,050

for the journey, for the trip.

606

00:38:09,050 --> 00:38:10,740

Did you know how long  
the trip would be?

607

00:38:10,740 --> 00:38:11,240

No.

608

00:38:11,240 --> 00:38:14,810

609

00:38:14,810 --> 00:38:18,215

And my parents took  
me to the station.

610

00:38:18,215 --> 00:38:21,810

611

00:38:21,810 --> 00:38:26,130

And they blessed me and  
they put me on the train.

612

00:38:26,130 --> 00:38:32,400

And I still didn't  
realize what that

613

00:38:32,400 --> 00:38:36,750

could have meant until I  
was actually on the train,

614

00:38:36,750 --> 00:38:40,560

looked out the window, and

saw my parents standing

615  
00:38:40,560 --> 00:38:44,070  
there absolutely frozen.

616  
00:38:44,070 --> 00:38:46,050  
You said that your  
parents blessed you.

617  
00:38:46,050 --> 00:38:49,440  
Did they say  
anything else to you?

618  
00:38:49,440 --> 00:38:53,730  
Oh, 1,000 times that they  
loved me and they knew

619  
00:38:53,730 --> 00:38:56,460  
that everything would  
be fine, and that we

620  
00:38:56,460 --> 00:38:59,640  
would be together soon,  
and all the usual things

621  
00:38:59,640 --> 00:39:05,060  
that you say that may  
or may never come true.

622  
00:39:05,060 --> 00:39:10,760

623  
00:39:10,760 --> 00:39:17,210  
It was only when I was on the  
train looking out the window

624  
00:39:17,210 --> 00:39:22,100  
that it hit me very forcefully  
that I might never see them

625  
00:39:22,100 --> 00:39:22,600  
again.

626

00:39:22,600 --> 00:39:26,030

627

00:39:26,030 --> 00:39:28,990

But it was too late to do  
anything about it then.

628

00:39:28,990 --> 00:39:34,750

The doors to the  
compartments were closed

629

00:39:34,750 --> 00:39:37,240

and the train began to move.

630

00:39:37,240 --> 00:39:39,870

Where did you-- you knew that  
you were going to England,

631

00:39:39,870 --> 00:39:43,540

but did you have any  
idea at all about what

632

00:39:43,540 --> 00:39:45,130

was going to happen in England?

633

00:39:45,130 --> 00:39:46,480

I knew nothing.

634

00:39:46,480 --> 00:39:50,770

I didn't even know where  
England was, except on a map.

635

00:39:50,770 --> 00:39:55,930

So nobody told you any more than  
that you were going to England?

636

00:39:55,930 --> 00:39:58,510

That's correct.

637

00:39:58,510 --> 00:40:04,280

In order to sort of  
prepare us, if you will,

638  
00:40:04,280 --> 00:40:10,660  
for the eventuality of going  
to an English speaking country,

639  
00:40:10,660 --> 00:40:15,130  
we started to get some  
English lessons from--

640  
00:40:15,130 --> 00:40:20,380  
private lessons from a lady,  
A Jewish lady in Germany

641  
00:40:20,380 --> 00:40:20,965  
in Augsburg.

642  
00:40:20,965 --> 00:40:24,010

643  
00:40:24,010 --> 00:40:27,670  
But it didn't help in the least.

644  
00:40:27,670 --> 00:40:28,660  
Anyway--

645  
00:40:28,660 --> 00:40:31,790  
But there had been this  
thought, even before

646  
00:40:31,790 --> 00:40:33,763  
the children's  
transport, that maybe you

647  
00:40:33,763 --> 00:40:35,680  
would be going to an  
English speaking country?

648  
00:40:35,680 --> 00:40:36,180  
Right.

649  
00:40:36,180 --> 00:40:40,300  
The possibilities



were America, where

650

00:40:40,300 --> 00:40:47,380

some of my aunts and uncles had gone, or Australia, or England.

651

00:40:47,380 --> 00:40:48,400

I mean, we didn't know.

652

00:40:48,400 --> 00:40:51,940

But we figured that we may very well end up

653

00:40:51,940 --> 00:40:53,600

in some English speaking country.

654

00:40:53,600 --> 00:40:58,130

655

00:40:58,130 --> 00:41:01,220

And it's a funny thing, I didn't even

656

00:41:01,220 --> 00:41:05,940

realize that my parents were not taking those lessons--

657

00:41:05,940 --> 00:41:11,570

only my brother and I.

658

00:41:11,570 --> 00:41:13,790

But your parents had arranged that--

659

00:41:13,790 --> 00:41:15,080

the lessons for you?

660

00:41:15,080 --> 00:41:17,000

Yes, yes.

661

00:41:17,000 --> 00:41:19,640

And you have no idea  
where the letter came

662  
00:41:19,640 --> 00:41:21,500  
from about the  
children's transport

663  
00:41:21,500 --> 00:41:23,540  
or whether your parents  
had done anything

664  
00:41:23,540 --> 00:41:25,950  
to get a letter like that?

665  
00:41:25,950 --> 00:41:27,290  
I do not know.

666  
00:41:27,290 --> 00:41:32,420  
I know that there was  
an organization which

667  
00:41:32,420 --> 00:41:37,520  
was almost worldwide, but which  
had its roots in what was then

668  
00:41:37,520 --> 00:41:42,770  
Palestine, and that  
money had been collected

669  
00:41:42,770 --> 00:41:45,080  
from all over the world.

670  
00:41:45,080 --> 00:41:49,790  
Because every time  
that a train was

671  
00:41:49,790 --> 00:41:53,420  
placed at the disposal of the--

672  
00:41:53,420 --> 00:41:56,450  
I don't know-- Jewish community  
of Germany, or whatever it was,

673

00:41:56,450 --> 00:42:00,380

some charitable  
organization, a Nazi official

674

00:42:00,380 --> 00:42:06,590

had to be bribed to  
put that train there

675

00:42:06,590 --> 00:42:10,940

and to supply the train with  
an engineer and a stoker.

676

00:42:10,940 --> 00:42:16,790

677

00:42:16,790 --> 00:42:19,700

And I just--

678

00:42:19,700 --> 00:42:21,650

I don't know how  
it all happened.

679

00:42:21,650 --> 00:42:24,700

I really don't know.

680

00:42:24,700 --> 00:42:32,970

Anyway, as the train  
was beginning to move,

681

00:42:32,970 --> 00:42:39,750

the door to the compartment, in  
which I was, was pulled open.

682

00:42:39,750 --> 00:42:42,960

A little wicker  
basket was pushed in.

683

00:42:42,960 --> 00:42:47,160

The door closed and the  
train began to gather speed.

684

00:42:47,160 --> 00:42:50,710

Now this was a compartment  
for six or eight people?

685  
00:42:50,710 --> 00:42:52,410  
No, it's more than that.

686  
00:42:52,410 --> 00:42:58,380  
It was more like the  
kind of open carriage

687  
00:42:58,380 --> 00:43:00,380  
that you see today  
in the trains.

688  
00:43:00,380 --> 00:43:09,370

689  
00:43:09,370 --> 00:43:11,590  
And we were all  
looking at that basket.

690  
00:43:11,590 --> 00:43:14,760

691  
00:43:14,760 --> 00:43:20,970  
And I saw that all the  
children were looking at me.

692  
00:43:20,970 --> 00:43:24,360  
And it hit me that I was the  
oldest in the compartment,

693  
00:43:24,360 --> 00:43:28,650  
and they expected me  
to go and open the lid

694  
00:43:28,650 --> 00:43:30,150  
and see what was in there.

695  
00:43:30,150 --> 00:43:33,700

696

00:43:33,700 --> 00:43:37,150  
I have to tell you  
that all my life

697  
00:43:37,150 --> 00:43:40,990  
I have been petrified of snakes.

698  
00:43:40,990 --> 00:43:45,010  
And I was convinced that  
basket was full of snakes.

699  
00:43:45,010 --> 00:43:46,900  
And that as soon as  
I would open the lid,

700  
00:43:46,900 --> 00:43:48,250  
they would all crawl out.

701  
00:43:48,250 --> 00:43:51,760

702  
00:43:51,760 --> 00:43:59,080  
And it took me a while to  
make my way to that basket,

703  
00:43:59,080 --> 00:44:02,350  
but I did open the lid.

704  
00:44:02,350 --> 00:44:06,025  
And in the basket, sound  
asleep, were two infants.

705  
00:44:06,025 --> 00:44:11,730

706  
00:44:11,730 --> 00:44:13,170  
And we just looked at them.

707  
00:44:13,170 --> 00:44:17,730  
And I asked the other  
children to come and take

708

00:44:17,730 --> 00:44:20,025  
a look at these babies.

709  
00:44:20,025 --> 00:44:24,430

710  
00:44:24,430 --> 00:44:30,100  
And they-- by coming and looking  
at the babies, it, I guess,

711  
00:44:30,100 --> 00:44:34,270  
broke the ice, because nobody  
had been talking to anybody.

712  
00:44:34,270 --> 00:44:35,600  
None of us knew each other.

713  
00:44:35,600 --> 00:44:36,790  
We were all strangers.

714  
00:44:36,790 --> 00:44:38,770  
And what was the age range?

715  
00:44:38,770 --> 00:44:42,190  
The age range was anything--

716  
00:44:42,190 --> 00:44:48,800  
all the way up from the  
infants, to toddlers, to me.

717  
00:44:48,800 --> 00:44:50,410  
So there were  
toddlers on the train?

718  
00:44:50,410 --> 00:44:51,550  
There were toddlers.

719  
00:44:51,550 --> 00:44:54,670  
I think that-- well,  
toddlers, I don't know.

720  
00:44:54,670 --> 00:44:56,510

They must have been  
two or three years old.

721  
00:44:56,510 --> 00:44:57,310  
I don't know what  
you'd call them.

722  
00:44:57,310 --> 00:44:58,977  
But no adults to help  
with the toddlers?

723  
00:44:58,977 --> 00:45:05,790  
No adults, not a single  
adult. And we began to discuss

724  
00:45:05,790 --> 00:45:09,660  
how to take care of the babies--

725  
00:45:09,660 --> 00:45:12,960  
how we would feed them,  
how we would diaper them.

726  
00:45:12,960 --> 00:45:15,480  
Now this was you and the  
other girls, or the boys also?

727  
00:45:15,480 --> 00:45:16,650  
The boys also.

728  
00:45:16,650 --> 00:45:18,510  
We were all talking together.

729  
00:45:18,510 --> 00:45:22,500  
We sort of were in a group,  
and this was a group problem.

730  
00:45:22,500 --> 00:45:27,190  
And we tried to  
solve it as a group.

731  
00:45:27,190 --> 00:45:28,800  
In fact, one of  
the things we did

732  
00:45:28,800 --> 00:45:33,840  
was collect handkerchiefs  
from the boys

733  
00:45:33,840 --> 00:45:35,940  
because they had  
bigger handkerchiefs

734  
00:45:35,940 --> 00:45:38,130  
than the girls had.

735  
00:45:38,130 --> 00:45:40,185  
And we thought that  
we might have to use

736  
00:45:40,185 --> 00:45:41,430  
the handkerchiefs as diapers.

737  
00:45:41,430 --> 00:45:46,450

738  
00:45:46,450 --> 00:45:51,380  
And we closed the  
lid to the basket

739  
00:45:51,380 --> 00:45:53,275  
and we tried to  
settle down to sleep.

740  
00:45:53,275 --> 00:45:57,330

741  
00:45:57,330 --> 00:46:03,600  
I led the children in the  
Shema, in the prayer of faith

742  
00:46:03,600 --> 00:46:08,910  
that you say last thing  
before you go to sleep.

743  
00:46:08,910 --> 00:46:12,017



Had you previously said  
that every night before you

744  
00:46:12,017 --> 00:46:12,600  
went to sleep?

745  
00:46:12,600 --> 00:46:19,380  
Oh yes, oh yes,  
and every morning.

746  
00:46:19,380 --> 00:46:26,790  
And it wasn't too long before  
the babies began to cry

747  
00:46:26,790 --> 00:46:28,800  
and woke us up.

748  
00:46:28,800 --> 00:46:31,020  
They were hungry, and  
they needed to be fed,

749  
00:46:31,020 --> 00:46:32,310  
and they needed to be changed.

750  
00:46:32,310 --> 00:46:38,620

751  
00:46:38,620 --> 00:46:47,410  
And I opened the basket  
and I picked up one,

752  
00:46:47,410 --> 00:46:50,470  
and somebody else  
picked up another.

753  
00:46:50,470 --> 00:46:53,770  
I think it was a boy,  
I don't remember.

754  
00:46:53,770 --> 00:46:56,920  
And we saw in the  
basket two bottles

755

00:46:56,920 --> 00:46:59,455  
of milk and two clean diapers.

756

00:46:59,455 --> 00:47:02,370

757

00:47:02,370 --> 00:47:07,320  
And we started, almost  
jokingly, asking

758

00:47:07,320 --> 00:47:10,770  
who knew how to feed a baby  
and who knew how to diaper one.

759

00:47:10,770 --> 00:47:13,510

760

00:47:13,510 --> 00:47:16,870  
And I fed one.

761

00:47:16,870 --> 00:47:21,920  
And another-- I guess it was  
the boy who picked them up.

762

00:47:21,920 --> 00:47:23,110  
I don't remember.

763

00:47:23,110 --> 00:47:24,460  
Had you fed a baby before?

764

00:47:24,460 --> 00:47:26,140  
No.

765

00:47:26,140 --> 00:47:27,970  
I don't remember  
feeding my brother,

766

00:47:27,970 --> 00:47:29,710  
and I certainly  
hadn't fed one since.

767

00:47:29,710 --> 00:47:31,900  
And there were no  
volunteers from children

768  
00:47:31,900 --> 00:47:34,300  
who had babies at home  
that they had helped with?

769  
00:47:34,300 --> 00:47:43,760  
No, they just assumed that  
I would take care of things.

770  
00:47:43,760 --> 00:47:52,030  
And I guess instinct sort  
of took over and I fed one.

771  
00:47:52,030 --> 00:47:56,080

772  
00:47:56,080 --> 00:47:58,270  
And then we diapered them.

773  
00:47:58,270 --> 00:48:00,400  
And that's when we  
saw that they were two

774  
00:48:00,400 --> 00:48:04,840  
little girls, obviously twins.

775  
00:48:04,840 --> 00:48:10,120  
But there was no identification  
of any kind in the basket.

776  
00:48:10,120 --> 00:48:13,990  
We had no idea who  
these babies were.

777  
00:48:13,990 --> 00:48:15,570  
How old do you think they were?

778  
00:48:15,570 --> 00:48:19,930  
They must have been  
about three months old.

779  
00:48:19,930 --> 00:48:25,090  
And I have often  
since thought what

780  
00:48:25,090 --> 00:48:30,760  
it must have cost that mother  
to put that basket on the train.

781  
00:48:30,760 --> 00:48:34,090  
She probably walked up and  
down that platform for heaven

782  
00:48:34,090 --> 00:48:39,880  
knows how long trying to  
decide in the last minute

783  
00:48:39,880 --> 00:48:42,700  
whether she should put that  
basket on the train or not.

784  
00:48:42,700 --> 00:48:45,810

785  
00:48:45,810 --> 00:48:50,860  
And of course, the  
basket endangered us

786  
00:48:50,860 --> 00:48:54,890  
because the babies were not  
supposed to be on the manifest.

787  
00:48:54,890 --> 00:48:56,140  
They were not on the manifest.

788  
00:48:56,140 --> 00:48:58,340  
We knew that.

789  
00:48:58,340 --> 00:48:59,570  
So you think the--

790  
00:48:59,570 --> 00:49:00,070

We think--

791  
00:49:00,070 --> 00:49:02,890  
--the parents just  
shoved them on illegally,

792  
00:49:02,890 --> 00:49:05,830  
or without going  
through any procedure.

793  
00:49:05,830 --> 00:49:10,720  
I think so, but we have no way  
of knowing that, of course.

794  
00:49:10,720 --> 00:49:20,470  
But we guessed that they were  
there without permission.

795  
00:49:20,470 --> 00:49:21,970  
Smuggled on.

796  
00:49:21,970 --> 00:49:25,840  
Right, a last moment decision.

797  
00:49:25,840 --> 00:49:32,770  
And we were wondering what  
would happen to the babies

798  
00:49:32,770 --> 00:49:36,170  
and what would happen  
to us at the border.

799  
00:49:36,170 --> 00:49:39,740  
Would the train be allowed  
to cross the border,

800  
00:49:39,740 --> 00:49:42,435  
or would it be turned around  
and sent back to Germany?

801  
00:49:42,435 --> 00:49:48,520

802

00:49:48,520 --> 00:49:54,400

But we also realized  
that in that feeding,

803

00:49:54,400 --> 00:49:57,580

they had each drunk more  
than half a bottle of milk.

804

00:49:57,580 --> 00:50:00,540

805

00:50:00,540 --> 00:50:03,900

And we knew that there would  
be more feedings before we

806

00:50:03,900 --> 00:50:07,365

would get at least to Holland.

807

00:50:07,365 --> 00:50:10,120

808

00:50:10,120 --> 00:50:14,310

And so we filled the  
bottles with water.

809

00:50:14,310 --> 00:50:17,060

810

00:50:17,060 --> 00:50:19,430

And so now we had a  
mixture of milk and water.

811

00:50:19,430 --> 00:50:22,590

812

00:50:22,590 --> 00:50:28,020

But because ours was a  
children's train and there was

813

00:50:28,020 --> 00:50:33,430

a lot of troop movement going  
on in preparation for the war--

814  
00:50:33,430 --> 00:50:38,330  
there was no doubt that  
Germany was preparing for war--

815  
00:50:38,330 --> 00:50:42,580  
our train was forever  
shunted aside.

816  
00:50:42,580 --> 00:50:46,120  
And it took much  
longer for our train

817  
00:50:46,120 --> 00:50:54,890  
to get to the Dutch border  
than it was supposed to take,

818  
00:50:54,890 --> 00:51:02,700  
by which time, the babies  
were only getting water

819  
00:51:02,700 --> 00:51:05,430  
and we had long  
since eaten whatever

820  
00:51:05,430 --> 00:51:07,860  
food we had brought with us.

821  
00:51:07,860 --> 00:51:09,960  
And we were all starving,  
we were all hungry.

822  
00:51:09,960 --> 00:51:13,700

823  
00:51:13,700 --> 00:51:18,500  
And finally, we saw a sign  
that said 3 kilometers

824  
00:51:18,500 --> 00:51:19,760  
to the Dutch border.

825

00:51:19,760 --> 00:51:23,130

826

00:51:23,130 --> 00:51:28,120

And we put the babies  
back in the basket

827

00:51:28,120 --> 00:51:31,240

and we closed the lid.

828

00:51:31,240 --> 00:51:34,900

But there was very little room  
in that basket for two babies.

829

00:51:34,900 --> 00:51:38,890

And they were bloated,  
and they were starving,

830

00:51:38,890 --> 00:51:41,720

and they cried a great deal.

831

00:51:41,720 --> 00:51:44,740

But for the time being,  
they were sort of napping,

832

00:51:44,740 --> 00:51:46,710

so we left them alone.

833

00:51:46,710 --> 00:51:50,330

834

00:51:50,330 --> 00:51:55,700

And the train  
stopped and in came

835

00:51:55,700 --> 00:52:01,300

a German soldier with his  
bayonet fitted on his rifle.

836

00:52:01,300 --> 00:52:04,240

837



00:52:04,240 --> 00:52:08,530  
And he had a list of names.

838  
00:52:08,530 --> 00:52:11,650  
And he went through  
that list of names

839  
00:52:11,650 --> 00:52:16,540  
and counted us and counted  
the names on that list,

840  
00:52:16,540 --> 00:52:19,150  
and then counted the  
number of suitcases

841  
00:52:19,150 --> 00:52:22,540  
that were in the compartment.

842  
00:52:22,540 --> 00:52:24,655  
But of course, there  
was that extra basket.

843  
00:52:24,655 --> 00:52:27,800

844  
00:52:27,800 --> 00:52:31,670  
And he asked, whose  
is that basket?

845  
00:52:31,670 --> 00:52:35,090

846  
00:52:35,090 --> 00:52:36,440  
And I said, it's mine.

847  
00:52:36,440 --> 00:52:39,110

848  
00:52:39,110 --> 00:52:41,510  
And he began to yell  
at me and he said,

849

00:52:41,510 --> 00:52:44,720  
you know you're only supposed  
to have one suitcase.

850  
00:52:44,720 --> 00:52:48,830  
And as he was yelling,  
it woke up the babies.

851  
00:52:48,830 --> 00:52:50,950  
And they started to  
cry, both of them.

852  
00:52:50,950 --> 00:52:55,870

853  
00:52:55,870 --> 00:52:58,240  
And he took his bayonet.

854  
00:52:58,240 --> 00:53:03,970  
And with his bayonet, he  
opened the clasp to the basket.

855  
00:53:03,970 --> 00:53:08,410  
We had no idea what he was  
going to do with that bayonet.

856  
00:53:08,410 --> 00:53:12,460  
And he lifted up the lid and he  
saw the two infants in there.

857  
00:53:12,460 --> 00:53:17,950

858  
00:53:17,950 --> 00:53:22,480  
He didn't say a word,  
and he turned around

859  
00:53:22,480 --> 00:53:26,480  
and he walked out of the train.

860  
00:53:26,480 --> 00:53:28,970  
But as he was turning  
around, I noticed

861  
00:53:28,970 --> 00:53:32,500  
that he was wearing a very  
shiny, brand new wedding ring.

862  
00:53:32,500 --> 00:53:35,820

863  
00:53:35,820 --> 00:53:40,910  
But we didn't know  
whether he would

864  
00:53:40,910 --> 00:53:45,830  
report finding the  
babies, or whether he

865  
00:53:45,830 --> 00:53:47,195  
would let the train go past.

866  
00:53:47,195 --> 00:53:50,620

867  
00:53:50,620 --> 00:53:53,560  
The train began to move.

868  
00:53:53,560 --> 00:53:57,610  
And there was a coupling  
and uncoupling of the engine

869  
00:53:57,610 --> 00:54:02,290  
and a new engine was put on,  
and we continued on our way

870  
00:54:02,290 --> 00:54:03,110  
to Holland.

871  
00:54:03,110 --> 00:54:07,540  
Obviously, he did not  
report what he had found.

872  
00:54:07,540 --> 00:54:12,400

873  
00:54:12,400 --> 00:54:15,970  
We crossed the Dutch border.

874  
00:54:15,970 --> 00:54:21,370  
And the first station after  
the Dutch border, the train

875  
00:54:21,370 --> 00:54:27,340  
stopped and the doors  
opened and in poured

876  
00:54:27,340 --> 00:54:34,450  
a whole lot of Dutch farm women  
with baskets on their arms

877  
00:54:34,450 --> 00:54:36,835  
distributing bread  
and butter and milk.

878  
00:54:36,835 --> 00:54:41,100

879  
00:54:41,100 --> 00:54:47,980  
And we were fed, and  
it was like a blessing.

880  
00:54:47,980 --> 00:54:51,120

881  
00:54:51,120 --> 00:54:55,140  
And they held the babies,  
and they cooed and cuddled

882  
00:54:55,140 --> 00:54:59,340  
with them and they fed them too.

883  
00:54:59,340 --> 00:55:04,900  
And we had, in a  
corner sitting, a boy

884  
00:55:04,900 --> 00:55:07,990

who hadn't moved  
since we left Munich.

885  
00:55:07,990 --> 00:55:11,840

886  
00:55:11,840 --> 00:55:13,250  
He was frozen.

887  
00:55:13,250 --> 00:55:16,340  
He was in shock.

888  
00:55:16,340 --> 00:55:20,180  
And no matter what  
any of us did,

889  
00:55:20,180 --> 00:55:21,725  
we couldn't get him to move.

890  
00:55:21,725 --> 00:55:25,190

891  
00:55:25,190 --> 00:55:26,960  
He wouldn't go to the bathroom.

892  
00:55:26,960 --> 00:55:29,540  
There was a toilet on the train.

893  
00:55:29,540 --> 00:55:31,190  
He wouldn't go.

894  
00:55:31,190 --> 00:55:32,240  
He wouldn't eat.

895  
00:55:32,240 --> 00:55:33,020  
He wouldn't drink.

896  
00:55:33,020 --> 00:55:34,950  
He wouldn't do anything.

897  
00:55:34,950 --> 00:55:38,080

He wouldn't talk.

898

00:55:38,080 --> 00:55:42,440

And one of the Dutch women  
just sat down next to him,

899

00:55:42,440 --> 00:55:47,690

picked him up, put him in her  
lap, and began to talk to him

900

00:55:47,690 --> 00:55:52,460

and put her arms around him,  
and just talked and talked

901

00:55:52,460 --> 00:55:55,490

and talked to him.

902

00:55:55,490 --> 00:55:59,690

And she took his hand and  
she took him to the bathroom,

903

00:55:59,690 --> 00:56:00,560

and he went.

904

00:56:00,560 --> 00:56:03,540

905

00:56:03,540 --> 00:56:08,370

I could never understand how  
she knew what to do for him,

906

00:56:08,370 --> 00:56:10,290

or what she said to him.

907

00:56:10,290 --> 00:56:12,360

I will never know.

908

00:56:12,360 --> 00:56:17,460

But it was also interesting  
that those farm women only

909

00:56:17,460 --> 00:56:24,240

spoke Dutch and we  
only spoke German,

910  
00:56:24,240 --> 00:56:29,790  
but there was no communications  
barrier between us at all.

911  
00:56:29,790 --> 00:56:34,770  
Actions told us what was  
the right thing to do.

912  
00:56:34,770 --> 00:56:39,180  
They fed us, obviously,  
we said thank you.

913  
00:56:39,180 --> 00:56:43,680  
They hugged us, we  
hugged them back.

914  
00:56:43,680 --> 00:56:44,505  
It was natural.

915  
00:56:44,505 --> 00:56:48,340

916  
00:56:48,340 --> 00:56:50,710  
Finally, all the  
Dutch women left,

917  
00:56:50,710 --> 00:56:57,580  
except the one who was with  
the baby, with the little boy.

918  
00:56:57,580 --> 00:57:01,830  
She sat and she continued to  
talk to him and to comfort him.

919  
00:57:01,830 --> 00:57:06,060  
And she fed him and she gave  
him milk to drink, and he ate

920  
00:57:06,060 --> 00:57:06,630  
and he drank.

921  
00:57:06,630 --> 00:57:12,160

922  
00:57:12,160 --> 00:57:17,320  
And she stayed on  
the train with us.

923  
00:57:17,320 --> 00:57:21,510  
And I was wondering how  
she was going to get back

924  
00:57:21,510 --> 00:57:28,070  
home or back to her family.

925  
00:57:28,070 --> 00:57:31,280  
And thinking of her  
family, I started

926  
00:57:31,280 --> 00:57:33,290  
to think of my own family.

927  
00:57:33,290 --> 00:57:35,300  
And that was really  
the first time

928  
00:57:35,300 --> 00:57:39,260  
that I allowed myself to  
think of my own family.

929  
00:57:39,260 --> 00:57:40,970  
It's also the first  
time you didn't

930  
00:57:40,970 --> 00:57:43,250  
have so much responsibility.

931  
00:57:43,250 --> 00:57:44,720  
Right.

932  
00:57:44,720 --> 00:57:47,690  
And it was really



like a weight had

933

00:57:47,690 --> 00:57:50,930

been lifted off my shoulders.

934

00:57:50,930 --> 00:57:52,190

And I began to cry.

935

00:57:52,190 --> 00:57:55,710

936

00:57:55,710 --> 00:57:57,690

But they were tears--

937

00:57:57,690 --> 00:57:59,100

they were cleansing tears.

938

00:57:59,100 --> 00:58:06,230

They were somehow  
tears of feeling

939

00:58:06,230 --> 00:58:08,590

that maybe things would be OK.

940

00:58:08,590 --> 00:58:11,970

941

00:58:11,970 --> 00:58:17,150

When we got to Hoek  
van Holland, the boat

942

00:58:17,150 --> 00:58:18,890

was still there waiting for us.

943

00:58:18,890 --> 00:58:22,820

Another transport  
had come from Berlin

944

00:58:22,820 --> 00:58:25,760

from the northern  
part of Germany.

945

00:58:25,760 --> 00:58:27,650

And the children had  
been waiting for us.

946

00:58:27,650 --> 00:58:31,070

The boat had been waiting  
for us, apparently,

947

00:58:31,070 --> 00:58:35,120

for a couple of days because  
our transport had taken so long.

948

00:58:35,120 --> 00:58:39,120

How long had your  
transport taken?

949

00:58:39,120 --> 00:58:41,640

I no longer am quite  
sure, but I know

950

00:58:41,640 --> 00:58:45,530

that it was at least two days  
longer than it was supposed to.

951

00:58:45,530 --> 00:58:48,170

952

00:58:48,170 --> 00:58:49,550

So three days?

953

00:58:49,550 --> 00:58:50,840

Probably three days.

954

00:58:50,840 --> 00:58:54,237

I'm not quite sure anymore.

955

00:58:54,237 --> 00:59:02,030

956

00:59:02,030 --> 00:59:04,910

And at Hoek van  
Holland, there were

957

00:59:04,910 --> 00:59:10,280

lots of Jewish ladies  
there who were looking

958

00:59:10,280 --> 00:59:13,910

after us, who were  
making sure that we

959

00:59:13,910 --> 00:59:18,620

were all there, that everything  
was OK, that we were all fine.

960

00:59:18,620 --> 00:59:20,220

And everything was fine.

961

00:59:20,220 --> 00:59:24,815

They told us all to go on the  
boat, except the two babies.

962

00:59:24,815 --> 00:59:27,330

963

00:59:27,330 --> 00:59:30,930

The two babies turned  
out to be a problem.

964

00:59:30,930 --> 00:59:36,750

They hadn't been expected,  
and they weren't sure

965

00:59:36,750 --> 00:59:39,960

whether there would be  
a family in England who

966

00:59:39,960 --> 00:59:41,430

would be willing to take them.

967

00:59:41,430 --> 00:59:44,940

968

00:59:44,940 --> 00:59:47,550

And they were talking  
about putting the babies

969  
00:59:47,550 --> 00:59:51,950  
into an orphanage temporarily.

970  
00:59:51,950 --> 00:59:53,900  
And I wouldn't hear of it.

971  
00:59:53,900 --> 00:59:57,200  
I absolutely would  
not hear of it.

972  
00:59:57,200 --> 01:00:01,010  
There were almost 500  
children on the train.

973  
01:00:01,010 --> 01:00:04,280  
And I said, if  
people in England are

974  
01:00:04,280 --> 01:00:11,030  
willing to take in 500 children,  
they will take in two more.

975  
01:00:11,030 --> 01:00:16,250  
And they wired to  
England and everything

976  
01:00:16,250 --> 01:00:17,990  
was straightened out.

977  
01:00:17,990 --> 01:00:19,520  
Everything was fine.

978  
01:00:19,520 --> 01:00:24,260  
The babies were allowed to be  
put on the train-- on the boat.

979  
01:00:24,260 --> 01:00:27,890  
And I would not take  
my eyes off that basket

980

01:00:27,890 --> 01:00:31,610

all the way to England.

981

01:00:31,610 --> 01:00:35,240

Let's stop here and

turn over the tape.

982

01:00:35,240 --> 01:00:36,000