

1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:03,770

2  
00:00:03,770 --> 00:00:07,070  
This is a United States  
Holocaust Memorial Museum

3  
00:00:07,070 --> 00:00:10,340  
interview with Emmy  
Mogelinski conducted

4  
00:00:10,340 --> 00:00:14,270  
by Margaret Garrett  
on November 15, 1996

5  
00:00:14,270 --> 00:00:16,100  
in Baltimore, Maryland.

6  
00:00:16,100 --> 00:00:24,230  
Tape two, side A. You were  
saying that the decision was

7  
00:00:24,230 --> 00:00:28,640  
made that the twins could go on  
the boat to England after all.

8  
00:00:28,640 --> 00:00:30,320  
And then what happened?

9  
00:00:30,320 --> 00:00:35,120  
Well, when the boat  
arrived in England--

10  
00:00:35,120 --> 00:00:37,790  
and I will not talk about  
the seasickness on the way.

11  
00:00:37,790 --> 00:00:41,570  
That's another story.

12  
00:00:41,570 --> 00:00:43,455

Maybe it's an important  
part of this story.

13  
00:00:43,455 --> 00:00:45,140  
No.

14  
00:00:45,140 --> 00:00:46,430  
I was deadly ill.

15  
00:00:46,430 --> 00:00:48,620  
Oh, I got so sick.

16  
00:00:48,620 --> 00:00:54,080  
But the boat was a small boat.

17  
00:00:54,080 --> 00:00:55,940  
It was rocking a lot.

18  
00:00:55,940 --> 00:00:59,840  
The Channel is very,  
very rough anyway.

19  
00:00:59,840 --> 00:01:02,180  
Had you been on a  
boat like that before?

20  
00:01:02,180 --> 00:01:03,410  
Never.

21  
00:01:03,410 --> 00:01:04,819  
So it was a brand new--

22  
00:01:04,819 --> 00:01:07,010  
It was a brand new experience.

23  
00:01:07,010 --> 00:01:10,050  
And it was awful.

24  
00:01:10,050 --> 00:01:10,640  
Anyway--

25

00:01:10,640 --> 00:01:13,130  
How long was the boat trip?

26  
00:01:13,130 --> 00:01:17,690  
From Holland to England, only  
a matter of a couple of hours.

27  
00:01:17,690 --> 00:01:19,130  
But terrible hours.

28  
00:01:19,130 --> 00:01:20,130  
Oh yes.

29  
00:01:20,130 --> 00:01:21,680  
Oh yes.

30  
00:01:21,680 --> 00:01:28,520  
Anyway, when we got  
to England to Harwich,

31  
00:01:28,520 --> 00:01:32,930  
we were taken off the boat  
and put on a train which

32  
00:01:32,930 --> 00:01:33,950  
took us to London.

33  
00:01:33,950 --> 00:01:36,810

34  
00:01:36,810 --> 00:01:42,570  
And in London, we were put  
into a very large hall.

35  
00:01:42,570 --> 00:01:45,570

36  
00:01:45,570 --> 00:01:46,935  
And it had a big stage.

37  
00:01:46,935 --> 00:01:49,730

38  
00:01:49,730 --> 00:01:53,420  
And there must have been  
about 100 children at a time

39  
00:01:53,420 --> 00:01:56,510  
put on the stage.

40  
00:01:56,510 --> 00:01:59,735  
And the hall was  
filled with adults.

41  
00:01:59,735 --> 00:02:03,180

42  
00:02:03,180 --> 00:02:07,290  
And they would pick  
out which children they

43  
00:02:07,290 --> 00:02:10,509  
wanted to take home with them.

44  
00:02:10,509 --> 00:02:12,480  
There were some took one.

45  
00:02:12,480 --> 00:02:13,530  
Some took two.

46  
00:02:13,530 --> 00:02:20,450  
Some took three, because  
what had happened in England

47  
00:02:20,450 --> 00:02:25,580  
was that the chief rabbi  
had gone to the king

48  
00:02:25,580 --> 00:02:30,050  
and said there are children  
in Germany and Austria,

49  
00:02:30,050 --> 00:02:34,340  
Jewish children, which can

be saved if you will give

50

00:02:34,340 --> 00:02:39,440  
permission for them to come  
into England without benefit

51

00:02:39,440 --> 00:02:43,430  
of passport, and visas, and all  
of the rest of the trimmings

52

00:02:43,430 --> 00:02:49,340  
that you've got to have  
when you immigrate.

53

00:02:49,340 --> 00:02:51,290  
And the king's first  
question was, well,

54

00:02:51,290 --> 00:02:53,090  
who's going to look  
after these children?

55

00:02:53,090 --> 00:02:55,640

56

00:02:55,640 --> 00:02:59,750  
And the chief rabbi said  
the entire Jewish community

57

00:02:59,750 --> 00:03:04,370  
of England will stand surety  
that none of these children

58

00:03:04,370 --> 00:03:07,610  
will become a public charge.

59

00:03:07,610 --> 00:03:14,020  
And on that promise, the  
king gave his permission.

60

00:03:14,020 --> 00:03:16,540  
The chief rabbi then went  
to the prime minister

61  
00:03:16,540 --> 00:03:18,580  
and said the same thing.

62  
00:03:18,580 --> 00:03:21,670  
And the prime minister  
gave his permission.

63  
00:03:21,670 --> 00:03:28,960  
And that is how there were  
organizations within England,

64  
00:03:28,960 --> 00:03:36,010  
within Great Britain actually,  
which organized which children

65  
00:03:36,010 --> 00:03:37,930  
were to go where.

66  
00:03:37,930 --> 00:03:40,570  
And in fact, their  
organization was such

67  
00:03:40,570 --> 00:03:46,960  
that if you came from  
an observant home,

68  
00:03:46,960 --> 00:03:49,870  
you were put into  
an observant home.

69  
00:03:49,870 --> 00:03:53,740  
And if you had come from a  
house that was less observant,

70  
00:03:53,740 --> 00:03:56,620  
then you came to a family  
that was less observant.

71  
00:03:56,620 --> 00:04:01,220  
So that part was fine.

72

00:04:01,220 --> 00:04:05,170  
And I came to a  
very nice family.

73  
00:04:05,170 --> 00:04:07,720  
How did that work if  
you were on a stage

74  
00:04:07,720 --> 00:04:10,240  
and some adults selected you?

75  
00:04:10,240 --> 00:04:13,510  
The names were read out.

76  
00:04:13,510 --> 00:04:18,880  
And the children had been  
paired beforehand with who

77  
00:04:18,880 --> 00:04:20,450  
was supposed to get them.

78  
00:04:20,450 --> 00:04:20,950  
Oh.

79  
00:04:20,950 --> 00:04:21,370  
I see.

80  
00:04:21,370 --> 00:04:22,320  
It was done alphabetically.

81  
00:04:22,320 --> 00:04:23,770  
Oh, it had already been decided.

82  
00:04:23,770 --> 00:04:27,850  
It had already been decided  
who was to go where with whom.

83  
00:04:27,850 --> 00:04:30,760  
And the names of  
the children were

84  
00:04:30,760 --> 00:04:33,850

read out and the  
names of the adult.

85  
00:04:33,850 --> 00:04:38,222  
And then the adults went to  
claim whichever child they were

86  
00:04:38,222 --> 00:04:39,430  
going to take home with them.

87  
00:04:39,430 --> 00:04:42,580

88  
00:04:42,580 --> 00:04:50,230  
And that's how we  
were taken care of.

89  
00:04:50,230 --> 00:04:53,305  
On my train, there were  
about 500 children.

90  
00:04:53,305 --> 00:04:56,440

91  
00:04:56,440 --> 00:04:58,480  
On other trains,  
there were fewer.

92  
00:04:58,480 --> 00:05:01,740

93  
00:05:01,740 --> 00:05:06,480  
But of course, nobody  
knew for how long

94  
00:05:06,480 --> 00:05:08,025  
we were going to be in England.

95  
00:05:08,025 --> 00:05:10,800

96  
00:05:10,800 --> 00:05:15,030



Although people suspected  
it, nobody really, I think,

97  
00:05:15,030 --> 00:05:19,690  
faced the possibility of a war.

98  
00:05:19,690 --> 00:05:26,720  
And many people thought that  
it would be for a few months,

99  
00:05:26,720 --> 00:05:30,820  
possibly a year, and then  
we would all go back home.

100  
00:05:30,820 --> 00:05:34,930  
Nobody dreamt of the Holocaust.

101  
00:05:34,930 --> 00:05:40,150

102  
00:05:40,150 --> 00:05:47,620  
Of course, the family I  
came to only spoke English.

103  
00:05:47,620 --> 00:05:49,120  
And I only spoke German.

104  
00:05:49,120 --> 00:05:52,100

105  
00:05:52,100 --> 00:05:54,740  
The few words of English  
that I had learned

106  
00:05:54,740 --> 00:05:58,790  
didn't do me any good  
whatsoever at all.

107  
00:05:58,790 --> 00:06:03,350  
And it was a real struggle.

108  
00:06:03,350 --> 00:06:06,510

What were they like,  
your new family?

109  
00:06:06,510 --> 00:06:07,970  
They were very fine people.

110  
00:06:07,970 --> 00:06:12,350  
The first family I came  
to was a husband and wife

111  
00:06:12,350 --> 00:06:16,130  
and two children,  
a girl and a boy.

112  
00:06:16,130 --> 00:06:18,860

113  
00:06:18,860 --> 00:06:20,540  
How old were their children?

114  
00:06:20,540 --> 00:06:24,350  
Their children-- the girl was a  
little bit younger than I was,

115  
00:06:24,350 --> 00:06:26,330  
about a year or so younger.

116  
00:06:26,330 --> 00:06:31,100  
And the boy was  
several years younger.

117  
00:06:31,100 --> 00:06:34,520  
And I was put into  
the girl's bedroom.

118  
00:06:34,520 --> 00:06:38,840  
I had my own bed but  
in the girl's bedroom.

119  
00:06:38,840 --> 00:06:42,380  
And the girl wouldn't  
stop talking.

120  
00:06:42,380 --> 00:06:43,160  
In English.

121  
00:06:43,160 --> 00:06:45,050  
In English.

122  
00:06:45,050 --> 00:06:48,440  
And I had no idea  
what she was saying.

123  
00:06:48,440 --> 00:06:51,920  
All I knew was that  
I was dead tired

124  
00:06:51,920 --> 00:06:53,840  
and I wanted to go to sleep.

125  
00:06:53,840 --> 00:06:56,720  
And she wouldn't let me.

126  
00:06:56,720 --> 00:07:03,470  
And finally, I just said,  
please no more talk.

127  
00:07:03,470 --> 00:07:05,180  
And she did stop.

128  
00:07:05,180 --> 00:07:07,520  
She got the idea.

129  
00:07:07,520 --> 00:07:11,270  
And I went to sleep.

130  
00:07:11,270 --> 00:07:14,630  
I stayed with them  
for a little while

131  
00:07:14,630 --> 00:07:19,730  
for only a matter of a couple of  
months or so during which time

132

00:07:19,730 --> 00:07:24,230  
my English improved  
considerably.

133  
00:07:24,230 --> 00:07:28,760  
One of my most  
precious possessions

134  
00:07:28,760 --> 00:07:32,465  
right from the start was  
my free library card.

135  
00:07:32,465 --> 00:07:36,230

136  
00:07:36,230 --> 00:07:39,440  
I was able-- even  
though I was 14,

137  
00:07:39,440 --> 00:07:43,400  
I was able to go to the library  
and take out first grade books.

138  
00:07:43,400 --> 00:07:46,040

139  
00:07:46,040 --> 00:07:50,160  
And when you get a book  
that says "Run, Jane, run.

140  
00:07:50,160 --> 00:07:54,500  
See Jane run" and you have  
a picture of a girl running,

141  
00:07:54,500 --> 00:07:57,740  
you get the idea what  
the word run means.

142  
00:07:57,740 --> 00:08:03,320  
So that is the kind of book  
that I started to take out

143  
00:08:03,320 --> 00:08:06,710

and really try to  
teach myself English.

144  
00:08:06,710 --> 00:08:10,190  
Did you have any formal lessons?

145  
00:08:10,190 --> 00:08:11,840  
In England, no.

146  
00:08:11,840 --> 00:08:12,890  
Not at the time.

147  
00:08:12,890 --> 00:08:17,790

148  
00:08:17,790 --> 00:08:18,775  
I had to go to school.

149  
00:08:18,775 --> 00:08:21,360

150  
00:08:21,360 --> 00:08:23,400  
And needless to say,  
none of my teachers

151  
00:08:23,400 --> 00:08:24,990  
spoke a word of English--

152  
00:08:24,990 --> 00:08:25,920  
of German.

153  
00:08:25,920 --> 00:08:27,660  
And I didn't speak any English.

154  
00:08:27,660 --> 00:08:32,220  
And what year did they  
put you in in school?

155  
00:08:32,220 --> 00:08:36,450  
Into my age related grade.

156

00:08:36,450 --> 00:08:38,220  
Where you could not  
understand anything.

157  
00:08:38,220 --> 00:08:41,350  
Not one word.

158  
00:08:41,350 --> 00:08:44,010  
And I don't think I have to  
tell you how I did in school.

159  
00:08:44,010 --> 00:08:46,782

160  
00:08:46,782 --> 00:08:53,370  
But especially the most  
difficult subject I found

161  
00:08:53,370 --> 00:08:59,070  
was math, because all  
the terms were different.

162  
00:08:59,070 --> 00:09:02,160

163  
00:09:02,160 --> 00:09:05,790  
The word addition is  
totally different to what

164  
00:09:05,790 --> 00:09:06,720  
it is in German.

165  
00:09:06,720 --> 00:09:11,700  
And the word take away or  
whatever you want to call it,

166  
00:09:11,700 --> 00:09:17,490  
subtraction, I mean I didn't  
understand any of those terms.

167  
00:09:17,490 --> 00:09:22,770  
And it was really a  
terrific struggle.

168  
00:09:22,770 --> 00:09:25,080  
Anyway.

169  
00:09:25,080 --> 00:09:29,580  
Did anybody realize what a  
problem you were having and

170  
00:09:29,580 --> 00:09:31,380  
try to help you with it?

171  
00:09:31,380 --> 00:09:33,540  
They realized the  
trouble I was having.

172  
00:09:33,540 --> 00:09:37,380  
Nobody tried to help me.

173  
00:09:37,380 --> 00:09:41,970  
You need also to understand that  
outside of the Jewish community

174  
00:09:41,970 --> 00:09:47,310  
who had some sympathy  
for us, and I

175  
00:09:47,310 --> 00:09:52,230  
suspect that even there,  
there was a resentment of us,

176  
00:09:52,230 --> 00:09:59,160  
the non-Jewish community  
had no conception at all.

177  
00:09:59,160 --> 00:10:02,140  
And the teachers were just  
very impatient with us.

178  
00:10:02,140 --> 00:10:04,650  
They didn't understand  
why we didn't

179

00:10:04,650 --> 00:10:05,827  
get what they were saying.

180  
00:10:05,827 --> 00:10:08,160  
So they just saw you as a  
problem they had to deal with.

181  
00:10:08,160 --> 00:10:08,430  
Right.

182  
00:10:08,430 --> 00:10:09,090  
That's right.

183  
00:10:09,090 --> 00:10:12,520

184  
00:10:12,520 --> 00:10:16,060  
I did my darnedest to  
get my brother over.

185  
00:10:16,060 --> 00:10:19,780  
In fact, I asked the family  
with whom I was staying if they

186  
00:10:19,780 --> 00:10:22,840  
please wouldn't sponsor him.

187  
00:10:22,840 --> 00:10:27,310  
And I believe that they did  
say that they would take

188  
00:10:27,310 --> 00:10:33,610  
another boy in, because a  
couple of months after I was

189  
00:10:33,610 --> 00:10:36,460  
in England, I got a  
letter from my parents

190  
00:10:36,460 --> 00:10:40,250  
to say that my brother would  
be on such and such a transport



191  
00:10:40,250 --> 00:10:40,750  
also.

192  
00:10:40,750 --> 00:10:43,870

193  
00:10:43,870 --> 00:10:45,940  
And I went in London.

194  
00:10:45,940 --> 00:10:51,830  
I went to the big  
hall to meet him.

195  
00:10:51,830 --> 00:10:57,020  
And he had been taken in  
by another family which

196  
00:10:57,020 --> 00:11:00,710  
happened to live a very few  
blocks from where I did.

197  
00:11:00,710 --> 00:11:01,700  
Both in London?

198  
00:11:01,700 --> 00:11:03,050  
Both in London.

199  
00:11:03,050 --> 00:11:05,510  
Both in the same  
suburb of London

200  
00:11:05,510 --> 00:11:09,290  
so that we were able  
to visit each other.

201  
00:11:09,290 --> 00:11:16,220  
And it was fine  
until September 1

202  
00:11:16,220 --> 00:11:21,950  
when the war broke out, when  
Germany began to bomb Poland.

203  
00:11:21,950 --> 00:11:26,405  
And on September 3, England  
declared war on Poland.

204  
00:11:26,405 --> 00:11:30,420

205  
00:11:30,420 --> 00:11:34,800  
And one of the first things  
that the English government did

206  
00:11:34,800 --> 00:11:41,340  
was, wanting to be sure that  
the children would be safe,

207  
00:11:41,340 --> 00:11:44,700  
knowing that there was  
a likelihood of bombing

208  
00:11:44,700 --> 00:11:50,670  
of the big cities, they  
evacuated all the children

209  
00:11:50,670 --> 00:11:51,900  
into the countryside.

210  
00:11:51,900 --> 00:11:54,740

211  
00:11:54,740 --> 00:11:57,230  
My brother was evacuated.

212  
00:11:57,230 --> 00:12:02,480  
I was already past 14 at that  
time and I was not evacuated.

213  
00:12:02,480 --> 00:12:05,480  
I was considered to be too old.

214  
00:12:05,480 --> 00:12:16,870  
But not only did the community

evacuate the children,

215

00:12:16,870 --> 00:12:21,430  
but private families decided  
to evacuate the women as well.

216

00:12:21,430 --> 00:12:25,000  
The men had to continue to  
work, but the women very often

217

00:12:25,000 --> 00:12:32,180  
went with their children so that  
I was left alone in the house.

218

00:12:32,180 --> 00:12:34,010  
The lady where I  
was staying with

219

00:12:34,010 --> 00:12:37,190  
evacuated herself  
with the two children.

220

00:12:37,190 --> 00:12:39,560  
And now I was left  
alone in the house

221

00:12:39,560 --> 00:12:42,660  
with the man of the house.

222

00:12:42,660 --> 00:12:46,040  
Did she think of taking  
you as another lady?

223

00:12:46,040 --> 00:12:47,610  
No, she did not.

224

00:12:47,610 --> 00:12:49,190  
She didn't think  
of me as a lady.

225

00:12:49,190 --> 00:12:51,740  
And she didn't think  
of me as a child.

226

00:12:51,740 --> 00:12:55,460

I'm not quite sure  
what she thought of me.

227

00:12:55,460 --> 00:12:57,290

But maybe she  
thought that I would

228

00:12:57,290 --> 00:12:59,720

be able to look after  
her husband for her.

229

00:12:59,720 --> 00:13:02,840

And how did you feel  
about being left?

230

00:13:02,840 --> 00:13:04,640

Well, apart from  
everything else,

231

00:13:04,640 --> 00:13:06,800

I felt that it was  
improper for me

232

00:13:06,800 --> 00:13:10,810

to be alone in the  
house with a man.

233

00:13:10,810 --> 00:13:15,160

And so I called the committee  
ladies and I said, please,

234

00:13:15,160 --> 00:13:18,760

I need to go to another home.

235

00:13:18,760 --> 00:13:20,050

I cannot stay here.

236

00:13:20,050 --> 00:13:23,410

I cannot be alone in  
the house with a man.

237

00:13:23,410 --> 00:13:25,570

And they agreed.

238

00:13:25,570 --> 00:13:28,920

And they found me another home.

239

00:13:28,920 --> 00:13:31,450

Had the committee ladies  
been keeping in touch

240

00:13:31,450 --> 00:13:33,860

with you to make sure  
everything was going OK?

241

00:13:33,860 --> 00:13:34,360

Yes.

242

00:13:34,360 --> 00:13:39,800

So you knew exactly who to  
contact when you had a problem.

243

00:13:39,800 --> 00:13:40,300

Yes.

244

00:13:40,300 --> 00:13:44,470

They left me their phone number  
and their names and addresses.

245

00:13:44,470 --> 00:13:48,280

And that part was fine.

246

00:13:48,280 --> 00:13:49,660

And they were very concerned.

247

00:13:49,660 --> 00:13:52,450

They tried very hard  
to make very sure

248

00:13:52,450 --> 00:13:56,140

that we were all taken care of.

249

00:13:56,140 --> 00:14:04,300  
I came to the home of two  
physicians, husband and wife,

250  
00:14:04,300 --> 00:14:08,500  
who had been married  
for less than 10 years.

251  
00:14:08,500 --> 00:14:11,830  
The husband was in  
private practice.

252  
00:14:11,830 --> 00:14:19,450  
And the wife did research work  
at the London Chest Hospital.

253  
00:14:19,450 --> 00:14:22,870  
Both of them were  
very, very fine people.

254  
00:14:22,870 --> 00:14:24,550  
I cannot say enough for them.

255  
00:14:24,550 --> 00:14:28,000

256  
00:14:28,000 --> 00:14:34,788  
And before they knew it, they  
had a teenager in the house.

257  
00:14:34,788 --> 00:14:35,830  
And they had no children.

258  
00:14:35,830 --> 00:14:38,590  
They had no children  
of their own at all.

259  
00:14:38,590 --> 00:14:40,840  
And suddenly they  
got a teenager,

260  
00:14:40,840 --> 00:14:44,110  
and a teenager who had

a lot more problems than

261  
00:14:44,110 --> 00:14:46,180  
is normal for a  
teenager to have.

262  
00:14:46,180 --> 00:14:48,850

263  
00:14:48,850 --> 00:14:56,350  
And they did their utmost  
to make me comfortable

264  
00:14:56,350 --> 00:14:59,260  
and to help me in any  
way that they could.

265  
00:14:59,260 --> 00:15:02,835

266  
00:15:02,835 --> 00:15:05,790  
They tried to send  
me back to school

267  
00:15:05,790 --> 00:15:09,960  
but not to a public school,  
but to a sort of junior college

268  
00:15:09,960 --> 00:15:12,460  
where they thought  
that I might do better.

269  
00:15:12,460 --> 00:15:15,940  
Why they thought  
that, I don't know.

270  
00:15:15,940 --> 00:15:20,790  
But again, all the  
instructions was in English.

271  
00:15:20,790 --> 00:15:23,970  
And although by that time,  
I was doing a bit better

272  
00:15:23,970 --> 00:15:26,670  
with my English, I was  
by no means fluent.

273  
00:15:26,670 --> 00:15:30,680

274  
00:15:30,680 --> 00:15:35,090  
And again, my most  
difficult subject

275  
00:15:35,090 --> 00:15:38,990  
turned out to be mathematics  
because the terms had just

276  
00:15:38,990 --> 00:15:40,180  
totally escaped me.

277  
00:15:40,180 --> 00:15:44,030

278  
00:15:44,030 --> 00:15:47,240  
Where I began to do  
well, funnily enough,

279  
00:15:47,240 --> 00:15:52,550  
was in English literature.

280  
00:15:52,550 --> 00:15:57,110  
When I was a little  
girl in Germany,

281  
00:15:57,110 --> 00:16:00,680  
I would spend all of my  
vacations with my grandmother

282  
00:16:00,680 --> 00:16:04,560  
while my parents  
went on vacation.

283  
00:16:04,560 --> 00:16:10,850



And I was roaming around  
in her attic one day

284  
00:16:10,850 --> 00:16:15,410  
and found a whole set  
of Shakespeare's plays

285  
00:16:15,410 --> 00:16:20,060  
that had been translated  
into German by Schiller,

286  
00:16:20,060 --> 00:16:23,270  
who's a great German poet.

287  
00:16:23,270 --> 00:16:27,710  
And his translation  
was beautiful.

288  
00:16:27,710 --> 00:16:29,630  
And I couldn't put  
the books down.

289  
00:16:29,630 --> 00:16:31,580  
I devoured them.

290  
00:16:31,580 --> 00:16:35,710  
I went from play  
to play to play.

291  
00:16:35,710 --> 00:16:40,960  
And when we began to study  
Shakespeare in English,

292  
00:16:40,960 --> 00:16:43,960  
I recognized the plays.

293  
00:16:43,960 --> 00:16:50,170  
The language was foreign,  
but the plays, the contents,

294  
00:16:50,170 --> 00:16:54,250  
the way the play  
flowed I understood

295  
00:16:54,250 --> 00:16:56,320  
because I remembered it.

296  
00:16:56,320 --> 00:17:07,250  
And I found, funnily enough,  
the Shakespearean English

297  
00:17:07,250 --> 00:17:10,354  
to be more comfortable  
than the spoken English.

298  
00:17:10,354 --> 00:17:12,980

299  
00:17:12,980 --> 00:17:17,210  
And I did well.

300  
00:17:17,210 --> 00:17:21,380  
And my family, the Cohens,  
Doctor and Mrs. Cohen

301  
00:17:21,380 --> 00:17:23,359  
were very pleased  
with my progress.

302  
00:17:23,359 --> 00:17:25,819  
And they thought  
I was doing great.

303  
00:17:25,819 --> 00:17:29,540  
And then I was asked  
to write an essay.

304  
00:17:29,540 --> 00:17:33,950

305  
00:17:33,950 --> 00:17:38,000  
And I was given the  
subject of something

306  
00:17:38,000 --> 00:17:41,055

that occurred in daily life.

307

00:17:41,055 --> 00:17:47,140

And I have to tell you  
that Dr. Cohen the man

308

00:17:47,140 --> 00:17:53,330

was attached to an air  
raid shelter in London

309

00:17:53,330 --> 00:17:56,810

where people could come  
if they needed first aid

310

00:17:56,810 --> 00:17:59,940

help, some kind of first aid.

311

00:17:59,940 --> 00:18:06,140

And he offered that  
first aid for free.

312

00:18:06,140 --> 00:18:12,710

And very often, the people  
needed blood transfusions.

313

00:18:12,710 --> 00:18:16,320

And he would bring  
the people home.

314

00:18:16,320 --> 00:18:23,570

And on many an occasion, he  
would take some blood from me,

315

00:18:23,570 --> 00:18:25,550

especially if they  
were my blood type.

316

00:18:25,550 --> 00:18:30,890

My blood type was C  
so that it was OB--

317

00:18:30,890 --> 00:18:37,080

no, it was O. And it was

suitable for everybody.

318  
00:18:37,080 --> 00:18:39,480  
So that was terrific.

319  
00:18:39,480 --> 00:18:43,910  
So I would very happily  
donate a little bit of blood.

320  
00:18:43,910 --> 00:18:48,410  
And everything was fine.

321  
00:18:48,410 --> 00:18:53,360  
And so in my essay, I  
talked about this fact

322  
00:18:53,360 --> 00:18:57,410  
that I had come to  
live with his family,

323  
00:18:57,410 --> 00:18:59,630  
and that he was  
attached to an air raid

324  
00:18:59,630 --> 00:19:05,040  
shelter, and a first aid  
post, and so on and so forth.

325  
00:19:05,040 --> 00:19:07,950  
And I got an A in my essay.

326  
00:19:07,950 --> 00:19:11,600  
And in fact, the instructor  
read it out loud.

327  
00:19:11,600 --> 00:19:14,420  
And they said, that although  
there were obviously

328  
00:19:14,420 --> 00:19:17,120  
some grammatical  
mistakes, basically,

329

00:19:17,120 --> 00:19:19,620

he thought it was terrific.

330

00:19:19,620 --> 00:19:26,990

So that made me decide  
that I was going to write.

331

00:19:26,990 --> 00:19:37,290

Anyway, my brother  
had been evacuated,

332

00:19:37,290 --> 00:19:42,480

and was living in a family  
with two other boys,

333

00:19:42,480 --> 00:19:44,640

with a family that  
was not Jewish.

334

00:19:44,640 --> 00:19:48,600

And in fact, the village  
that he was evacuated to

335

00:19:48,600 --> 00:19:50,840

didn't have any  
Jewish people at all.

336

00:19:50,840 --> 00:19:54,560

337

00:19:54,560 --> 00:20:01,760

And the lady that he came to  
live with was a very nice lady.

338

00:20:01,760 --> 00:20:07,040

But she came home one day, and  
she said to the three boys,

339

00:20:07,040 --> 00:20:10,670

my country is now at  
war with your country.

340

00:20:10,670 --> 00:20:13,460

341

00:20:13,460 --> 00:20:17,860

And I therefore, do not want  
to hear one more German word

342

00:20:17,860 --> 00:20:19,210

spoken in my house.

343

00:20:19,210 --> 00:20:23,340

344

00:20:23,340 --> 00:20:27,870

They had come over in  
August of that year.

345

00:20:27,870 --> 00:20:30,790

346

00:20:30,790 --> 00:20:32,230

At least I had come in May.

347

00:20:32,230 --> 00:20:35,770

I had already began  
to learn some English.

348

00:20:35,770 --> 00:20:39,250

They were brand new to this.

349

00:20:39,250 --> 00:20:45,120

But her saying this forced them  
to learn English very quickly.

350

00:20:45,120 --> 00:20:49,320

351

00:20:49,320 --> 00:20:54,600

Because the two countries  
were at war with each other,

352

00:20:54,600 --> 00:21:00,930

mail service stopped  
between Germany and England.

353  
00:21:00,930 --> 00:21:03,720  
And now, we couldn't even  
correspond with our parents

354  
00:21:03,720 --> 00:21:04,744  
anymore.

355  
00:21:04,744 --> 00:21:08,540

356  
00:21:08,540 --> 00:21:10,880  
It was very difficult on us.

357  
00:21:10,880 --> 00:21:15,440  
And obviously, it was far  
more difficult on our parents.

358  
00:21:15,440 --> 00:21:18,260  
There was just no way  
that we could communicate.

359  
00:21:18,260 --> 00:21:21,410

360  
00:21:21,410 --> 00:21:23,470  
Finally, the  
International Red Cross

361  
00:21:23,470 --> 00:21:31,030  
stepped in, and devised  
forms whereby one month we

362  
00:21:31,030 --> 00:21:34,030  
could send 25 words to them.

363  
00:21:34,030 --> 00:21:38,110  
And the following month, they  
could send 25 words to us.

364

00:21:38,110 --> 00:21:41,250

365

00:21:41,250 --> 00:21:45,330

When I speak to children's  
groups, which I very often do,

366

00:21:45,330 --> 00:21:49,590

I ask them, what they  
would say to their parents

367

00:21:49,590 --> 00:21:54,680

if they only had 25  
words every other month.

368

00:21:54,680 --> 00:21:56,390

And what they  
thought their parents

369

00:21:56,390 --> 00:22:03,350

would say to them in 25  
words every other month.

370

00:22:03,350 --> 00:22:06,150

And the children sit  
there absolutely floored.

371

00:22:06,150 --> 00:22:07,490

They can't imagine that.

372

00:22:07,490 --> 00:22:10,430

373

00:22:10,430 --> 00:22:13,010

And they really can't  
imagine coming to a country

374

00:22:13,010 --> 00:22:18,350

where they can't understand  
a word of what was spoken,

375

00:22:18,350 --> 00:22:22,780

and where nobody



could understand the.

376

00:22:22,780 --> 00:22:25,150

Today, children talk  
to their friends

377

00:22:25,150 --> 00:22:28,660

in school, come home,  
and hit the phone, right,

378

00:22:28,660 --> 00:22:31,390

and talk to this one, that  
one, and the other one.

379

00:22:31,390 --> 00:22:35,140

And the thought of not having  
any friends, being cut off

380

00:22:35,140 --> 00:22:39,220

from all of that, and not  
understanding the language

381

00:22:39,220 --> 00:22:42,130

on top of it, is something that  
they can't even comprehend.

382

00:22:42,130 --> 00:22:46,820

383

00:22:46,820 --> 00:22:57,760

Anyway, my brother and  
I, will try and work out

384

00:22:57,760 --> 00:23:01,840

ways whereby we could  
squeeze the most information

385

00:23:01,840 --> 00:23:03,670

into those 25 words.

386

00:23:03,670 --> 00:23:07,990

387

00:23:07,990 --> 00:23:11,220

And I think that my parents  
did exactly the same thing.

388

00:23:11,220 --> 00:23:14,480

389

00:23:14,480 --> 00:23:18,520

And finally, one of  
our messages came back.

390

00:23:18,520 --> 00:23:23,350

By that time, that  
was '43 already.

391

00:23:23,350 --> 00:23:27,010

And it had to stamp across it,  
which said, addressee unknown.

392

00:23:27,010 --> 00:23:29,780

393

00:23:29,780 --> 00:23:34,890

That was the code  
word, if you will,

394

00:23:34,890 --> 00:23:47,820

for they have been transported,  
sent east to a camp.

395

00:23:47,820 --> 00:23:50,400

And did you know that  
that's what it meant?

396

00:23:50,400 --> 00:23:52,560

Yes, we knew that.

397

00:23:52,560 --> 00:23:55,830

398

00:23:55,830 --> 00:23:58,140

We were still hoping

that they would

399  
00:23:58,140 --> 00:24:01,110  
be able to live  
through whatever they

400  
00:24:01,110 --> 00:24:02,520  
would have to face in the camp.

401  
00:24:02,520 --> 00:24:05,820

402  
00:24:05,820 --> 00:24:07,000  
But we didn't know.

403  
00:24:07,000 --> 00:24:09,180  
We had no idea.

404  
00:24:09,180 --> 00:24:15,600  
Of course, in the meantime,  
London had been bombed.

405  
00:24:15,600 --> 00:24:22,080  
I had at first, joined  
a group that was

406  
00:24:22,080 --> 00:24:24,510  
doing fire watching in London.

407  
00:24:24,510 --> 00:24:29,100  
I worked in what is called  
the city, or the inner city

408  
00:24:29,100 --> 00:24:30,690  
of London.

409  
00:24:30,690 --> 00:24:36,030  
I worked for a company  
of accountants.

410  
00:24:36,030 --> 00:24:37,930  
How old were you?

411  
00:24:37,930 --> 00:24:42,510  
By that time, I was  
16, and I could work.

412  
00:24:42,510 --> 00:24:45,490  
Or 16 and a half,  
whatever it was.

413  
00:24:45,490 --> 00:24:47,730  
And so I worked there.

414  
00:24:47,730 --> 00:24:51,840  
And at night, once  
a week, I did fire

415  
00:24:51,840 --> 00:24:57,350  
watching just outside  
of St. Paul's Cathedral.

416  
00:24:57,350 --> 00:25:02,830  
And when the big  
bombs came, there

417  
00:25:02,830 --> 00:25:05,810  
was nothing we could  
do against them.

418  
00:25:05,810 --> 00:25:11,440  
But when the fire cluster bombs  
started to rain down on London,

419  
00:25:11,440 --> 00:25:14,380  
there was much that we could do.

420  
00:25:14,380 --> 00:25:18,550  
Those were incendiary bombs,  
which when they hit the ground,

421  
00:25:18,550 --> 00:25:21,880  
split into many  
different pieces,

422

00:25:21,880 --> 00:25:25,150  
and each piece started a fire.

423

00:25:25,150 --> 00:25:27,100  
And we had buckets  
of sand and would

424

00:25:27,100 --> 00:25:29,680  
run from one to the  
other, put sand on it,

425

00:25:29,680 --> 00:25:32,500  
and put the fires  
out before they

426

00:25:32,500 --> 00:25:33,960  
could get hold of anything.

427

00:25:33,960 --> 00:25:37,420

428

00:25:37,420 --> 00:25:39,310  
And it was very interesting.

429

00:25:39,310 --> 00:25:47,480  
The inner city of London was  
almost totally destroyed,

430

00:25:47,480 --> 00:25:51,380  
everything except  
St. Paul's Cathedral.

431

00:25:51,380 --> 00:25:53,930  
That remained standing.

432

00:25:53,930 --> 00:25:59,040  
It was hit by one bomb, but that  
bomb turned out to be a dud.

433

00:25:59,040 --> 00:26:04,220  
So there was very, very little  
damage done to the cathedral.

434

00:26:04,220 --> 00:26:07,760

What about the area where you  
were living with the Cohens?

435

00:26:07,760 --> 00:26:13,880

We had an air raid shelter  
built into the house,

436

00:26:13,880 --> 00:26:16,370

into the basement.

437

00:26:16,370 --> 00:26:22,850

And Mrs. Cohen and I would  
go down there every evening.

438

00:26:22,850 --> 00:26:28,810

We would have our supper while  
listening to the 6:00 news.

439

00:26:28,810 --> 00:26:32,290

Then we would change our  
clothes into another set

440

00:26:32,290 --> 00:26:34,300

of day clothes.

441

00:26:34,300 --> 00:26:39,220

Because if there would  
be damage to the shelter,

442

00:26:39,220 --> 00:26:41,530

and we would have to  
leave the shelter,

443

00:26:41,530 --> 00:26:46,750

we didn't want to have to run  
outside in our night clothes.

444

00:26:46,750 --> 00:26:51,880

So we would put on a second  
set of clothes every evening,

445

00:26:51,880 --> 00:26:55,210  
and we would sleep in a blouse  
or a sweater and a skirt,

446

00:26:55,210 --> 00:26:56,890  
or whatever.

447

00:26:56,890 --> 00:27:01,120  
And our shoes would  
be right at our bunks,

448

00:27:01,120 --> 00:27:06,970  
so that we would be able to jump  
into them quickly and get out.

449

00:27:06,970 --> 00:27:11,830  
Dr. Cohen, the man,  
was attached now

450

00:27:11,830 --> 00:27:15,070  
to the air raid shelter  
seriously, which

451

00:27:15,070 --> 00:27:19,150  
meant that he had to spend every  
night in that air raid shelter.

452

00:27:19,150 --> 00:27:22,510  
The air raid shelter was one  
of the underground stations,

453

00:27:22,510 --> 00:27:27,010  
subway stations, in London  
where hundreds of people

454

00:27:27,010 --> 00:27:28,010  
came to take shelter.

455

00:27:28,010 --> 00:27:30,690

456

00:27:30,690 --> 00:27:34,510

And he had to do all  
sorts of things there.

457  
00:27:34,510 --> 00:27:38,010  
He delivered babies,  
and he helped people

458  
00:27:38,010 --> 00:27:39,885  
to die, And  
everything in between.

459  
00:27:39,885 --> 00:27:42,550

460  
00:27:42,550 --> 00:27:46,110  
And he spent every night  
there, except one night a month

461  
00:27:46,110 --> 00:27:49,110  
where he was able to come home.

462  
00:27:49,110 --> 00:27:51,810  
And I don't have to tell you  
that it was very hard on him,

463  
00:27:51,810 --> 00:27:55,800  
and very hard on Mrs. Cohen.

464  
00:27:55,800 --> 00:27:58,730  
But that was how we had to live.

465  
00:27:58,730 --> 00:28:01,510

466  
00:28:01,510 --> 00:28:02,010  
When

467  
00:28:02,010 --> 00:28:08,700  
I reached 17 and 1/2, I  
joined the British army.

468  
00:28:08,700 --> 00:28:10,050



We're going to have to stop.

469  
00:28:10,050 --> 00:28:10,550  
OK.

470  
00:28:10,550 --> 00:28:12,100  
So this might be a good place.

471  
00:28:12,100 --> 00:28:12,600  
Fine.

472  
00:28:12,600 --> 00:28:13,600  
That's a good place to--

473  
00:28:13,600 --> 00:28:22,730

474  
00:28:22,730 --> 00:28:26,210  
This is the United States  
Holocaust Memorial Museum

475  
00:28:26,210 --> 00:28:29,060  
interview with Emmy  
Mogelinski, conducted

476  
00:28:29,060 --> 00:28:33,170  
by Margaret Garrett  
on November 15, 1996

477  
00:28:33,170 --> 00:28:36,420  
in Baltimore, Maryland,  
take two, side.

478  
00:28:36,420 --> 00:28:41,750  
B. Mrs. Mogelinski, you  
were saying that you then

479  
00:28:41,750 --> 00:28:43,760  
went into the British army.

480  
00:28:43,760 --> 00:28:44,480  
Correct.

481  
00:28:44,480 --> 00:28:46,510  
Could you talk about that?

482  
00:28:46,510 --> 00:28:49,330  
Yeah.

483  
00:28:49,330 --> 00:28:51,170  
We were given a choice.

484  
00:28:51,170 --> 00:28:58,930  
We, being those people who  
had been born in an enemy

485  
00:28:58,930 --> 00:29:05,740  
alien country, and  
had moved to England.

486  
00:29:05,740 --> 00:29:14,660  
We could either join the army,  
or work in a munition factory.

487  
00:29:14,660 --> 00:29:17,890  
And usually, that  
meant night work.

488  
00:29:17,890 --> 00:29:25,060  
Or join the Land Army, and  
work on the land, which

489  
00:29:25,060 --> 00:29:30,190  
meant being billeted to a  
farmer's house, where very

490  
00:29:30,190 --> 00:29:33,700  
often, there was not a wife.

491  
00:29:33,700 --> 00:29:37,930  
And for me, the obvious  
choice was the army.

492  
00:29:37,930 --> 00:29:39,400

So I joined the army.

493

00:29:39,400 --> 00:29:42,160

And why was that the  
obvious choice for you?

494

00:29:42,160 --> 00:29:46,390

Because I did not  
wish to be in a house

495

00:29:46,390 --> 00:29:50,710

where there was no other woman.

496

00:29:50,710 --> 00:29:55,370

And I did not like the  
idea of working nights.

497

00:29:55,370 --> 00:29:57,110

So I joined the army.

498

00:29:57,110 --> 00:30:00,200

499

00:30:00,200 --> 00:30:04,340

And in the army, the  
only choice we had

500

00:30:04,340 --> 00:30:07,550

was to become either  
a cook or an orderly.

501

00:30:07,550 --> 00:30:10,850

An orderly meant cleaning up.

502

00:30:10,850 --> 00:30:12,830

And I said, I know how to clean.

503

00:30:12,830 --> 00:30:15,320

Teach me how to cook.

504

00:30:15,320 --> 00:30:18,900

And so I became a cook.

505  
00:30:18,900 --> 00:30:24,630  
And I began to cook with a  
group of others, of course,

506  
00:30:24,630 --> 00:30:27,780  
for 2000 men.

507  
00:30:27,780 --> 00:30:34,650  
And I still remember some  
of the recipes, not many.

508  
00:30:34,650 --> 00:30:35,940  
Like what?

509  
00:30:35,940 --> 00:30:37,410  
Like how to make pie crust.

510  
00:30:37,410 --> 00:30:41,960

511  
00:30:41,960 --> 00:30:49,520  
We took 500 pounds of flour,  
250 pounds of shortening,

512  
00:30:49,520 --> 00:30:56,640  
two and 1/2 pounds of baking  
powder, and a pound of salt.

513  
00:30:56,640 --> 00:30:59,760  
And we had to wrap the  
shortening into the flour

514  
00:30:59,760 --> 00:31:00,430  
by hand.

515  
00:31:00,430 --> 00:31:05,070  
We had special sinks that  
were kept only for pastry.

516  
00:31:05,070 --> 00:31:09,750  
And we had to do it all by hand.

517

00:31:09,750 --> 00:31:21,690

Anyway, in the army, I also met  
a fair amount of anti-Semitism,

518

00:31:21,690 --> 00:31:28,200

especially in that big training  
camp by our commanding officer,

519

00:31:28,200 --> 00:31:30,150

who told us--

520

00:31:30,150 --> 00:31:34,740

us, meaning again, those  
who were born elsewhere,

521

00:31:34,740 --> 00:31:40,050

that he would be perfectly  
happy to take us up on a plane

522

00:31:40,050 --> 00:31:45,530

and drop us over Germany  
without benefit of a parachute,

523

00:31:45,530 --> 00:31:46,640

et cetera.

524

00:31:46,640 --> 00:31:54,040

So life in the  
army even was not--

525

00:31:54,040 --> 00:31:59,530

we were not spared  
anti-Semitism in England,

526

00:31:59,530 --> 00:32:01,390

and particularly  
not in the army.

527

00:32:01,390 --> 00:32:05,160

528

00:32:05,160 --> 00:32:10,770  
For his benefit, I must say that  
he was a professional soldier.

529  
00:32:10,770 --> 00:32:13,830  
And I don't think that he  
cared to have women in the army

530  
00:32:13,830 --> 00:32:15,300  
all together.

531  
00:32:15,300 --> 00:32:17,640  
So having foreign  
women in the army yet

532  
00:32:17,640 --> 00:32:21,300  
was just too much for him.

533  
00:32:21,300 --> 00:32:28,500  
Anyway, it was in the army  
that I earned my high school

534  
00:32:28,500 --> 00:32:31,910  
equivalency diploma.

535  
00:32:31,910 --> 00:32:35,260  
When other girls went  
out dancing at night,

536  
00:32:35,260 --> 00:32:37,940  
I went to school.

537  
00:32:37,940 --> 00:32:42,330  
And I got my high school  
education that way.

538  
00:32:42,330 --> 00:32:47,810  
And after the war, because  
I had served four and 1/2

539  
00:32:47,810 --> 00:32:53,090  
years in the army, very much  
like the GI Bill of Rights

540  
00:32:53,090 --> 00:32:56,090  
here, I got my college  
education for free.

541  
00:32:56,090 --> 00:32:57,770  
That's how I got my education.

542  
00:32:57,770 --> 00:32:59,780  
Otherwise, I would  
never have gotten

543  
00:32:59,780 --> 00:33:06,090  
either a high school education  
or a college education.

544  
00:33:06,090 --> 00:33:12,570  
While I was in the army, I  
met a gentleman, an American,

545  
00:33:12,570 --> 00:33:15,735  
who was in the American  
army stationed in England.

546  
00:33:15,735 --> 00:33:18,310

547  
00:33:18,310 --> 00:33:26,497  
And we began to correspond,  
and to go out whenever

548  
00:33:26,497 --> 00:33:27,705  
we were able to get together.

549  
00:33:27,705 --> 00:33:30,430

550  
00:33:30,430 --> 00:33:32,740  
But then he was sent  
to Europe, and he

551  
00:33:32,740 --> 00:33:39,460

went through all the fighting  
in Europe, Belgium, and France.

552  
00:33:39,460 --> 00:33:43,090  
And he was discharged  
back to the United States

553  
00:33:43,090 --> 00:33:46,750  
from Europe after  
the war was over.

554  
00:33:46,750 --> 00:33:51,140  
I was of course, still  
in the British army.

555  
00:33:51,140 --> 00:33:56,260  
And after I was discharged,  
I went to college.

556  
00:33:56,260 --> 00:33:59,030

557  
00:33:59,030 --> 00:33:59,530  
In England?

558  
00:33:59,530 --> 00:34:00,730  
In England.

559  
00:34:00,730 --> 00:34:04,330  
And then I had to do a  
year's teaching in England.

560  
00:34:04,330 --> 00:34:10,389  
And it was only after that,  
that I came to the United States

561  
00:34:10,389 --> 00:34:14,620  
to visit my brother, who  
had come here before me,

562  
00:34:14,620 --> 00:34:19,330  
and an old grandmother I still  
had here, plus some aunts



563  
00:34:19,330 --> 00:34:22,270  
and uncles.

564  
00:34:22,270 --> 00:34:30,400  
And while I was here in New  
York City, quite by accident,

565  
00:34:30,400 --> 00:34:34,540  
I met that same gentleman again.

566  
00:34:34,540 --> 00:34:36,790  
And we began to look  
at each other and say,

567  
00:34:36,790 --> 00:34:40,420  
maybe somebody is trying  
to tell us something here.

568  
00:34:40,420 --> 00:34:42,310  
Anyway, I had to  
go back to England

569  
00:34:42,310 --> 00:34:44,020  
to do a year's  
teaching, and then I

570  
00:34:44,020 --> 00:34:47,650  
came back here and married.

571  
00:34:47,650 --> 00:34:49,060  
And his name was?

572  
00:34:49,060 --> 00:34:52,570  
His name was David Mogelinski.

573  
00:34:52,570 --> 00:34:58,540  
And we had three  
very nice children.

574  
00:34:58,540 --> 00:35:01,206  
And I now have

seven grandchildren.

575

00:35:01,206 --> 00:35:06,070

576

00:35:06,070 --> 00:35:11,770

After the war, well,  
again, during the war,

577

00:35:11,770 --> 00:35:17,140

while I was in the army,  
it was impossible to keep

578

00:35:17,140 --> 00:35:20,940

the Jewish dietary laws.

579

00:35:20,940 --> 00:35:24,420

England was very  
severely rationed as far

580

00:35:24,420 --> 00:35:26,730

as food was concerned.

581

00:35:26,730 --> 00:35:32,220

Everybody had food  
rationing, food coupons.

582

00:35:32,220 --> 00:35:39,540

And what was even worse,  
and I'm talking now really,

583

00:35:39,540 --> 00:35:44,160

before I joined the Army  
when we were still children,

584

00:35:44,160 --> 00:35:46,860

there was also  
clothes rationing.

585

00:35:46,860 --> 00:35:49,170

We got clothing coupons.

586

00:35:49,170 --> 00:35:53,340  
And we could only buy so  
many coupons worth of clothes

587  
00:35:53,340 --> 00:35:55,930  
during each month.

588  
00:35:55,930 --> 00:36:00,030  
Now, the children from  
the children's transports

589  
00:36:00,030 --> 00:36:06,840  
indeed got food  
coupons, rationed books.

590  
00:36:06,840 --> 00:36:09,340  
And that part was fine.

591  
00:36:09,340 --> 00:36:13,740  
But we didn't get  
any clothing coupons.

592  
00:36:13,740 --> 00:36:16,740  
And children have  
a very nasty habit.

593  
00:36:16,740 --> 00:36:19,710  
They continue to grow.

594  
00:36:19,710 --> 00:36:24,390  
And before very long, the boys  
had grown out of their pants,

595  
00:36:24,390 --> 00:36:29,070  
and the girls had grown out of  
their skirts and their blouses.

596  
00:36:29,070 --> 00:36:35,690  
And we had no coupons  
to buy clothes with.

597  
00:36:35,690 --> 00:36:39,650  
Worse than anything

else, was the fact

598

00:36:39,650 --> 00:36:43,190  
that our feet continued to grow.

599

00:36:43,190 --> 00:36:47,930  
And every six months or  
so, we needed new shoes.

600

00:36:47,930 --> 00:36:50,540  
And we found it  
extremely embarrassing

601

00:36:50,540 --> 00:36:56,030  
to go to the ladies  
we were living with,

602

00:36:56,030 --> 00:37:00,860  
and ask them please to deprive  
themselves of their clothing

603

00:37:00,860 --> 00:37:04,490  
coupons so that we could get  
shoes or whatever we needed.

604

00:37:04,490 --> 00:37:09,850

605

00:37:09,850 --> 00:37:13,150  
They did not realize that  
your feet were growing

606

00:37:13,150 --> 00:37:14,410  
and your shoes were too small?

607

00:37:14,410 --> 00:37:16,180  
Of course people realized that.

608

00:37:16,180 --> 00:37:19,540  
But I don't think the  
government bureaucracy did.

609

00:37:19,540 --> 00:37:23,240  
It didn't occur to them that  
we needed those things too.

610  
00:37:23,240 --> 00:37:26,500  
But the ladies you were  
living with didn't--

611  
00:37:26,500 --> 00:37:28,390  
Of course they realized it.

612  
00:37:28,390 --> 00:37:31,990  
But they needed clothing  
coupons for themselves

613  
00:37:31,990 --> 00:37:33,830  
and their families.

614  
00:37:33,830 --> 00:37:37,510  
And we found it  
extremely embarrassing

615  
00:37:37,510 --> 00:37:41,890  
to keep asking them for yet  
another pair of shoes, and yet

616  
00:37:41,890 --> 00:37:44,180  
another blouse, you know.

617  
00:37:44,180 --> 00:37:46,930  
It is very embarrassing  
to have to ask for things,

618  
00:37:46,930 --> 00:37:48,100  
to have to beg for things.

619  
00:37:48,100 --> 00:37:51,090

620  
00:37:51,090 --> 00:37:55,560  
Anyway, during the war  
while I was in the army,

621

00:37:55,560 --> 00:37:59,880

I could not keep  
the dietary laws.

622

00:37:59,880 --> 00:38:03,510

But I had promised  
myself that the day

623

00:38:03,510 --> 00:38:07,650

that I come out of the  
army, that I would again

624

00:38:07,650 --> 00:38:12,900

observe the laws, and I  
did, and I do to this day.

625

00:38:12,900 --> 00:38:15,750

And I'm very proud  
to say that all

626

00:38:15,750 --> 00:38:19,830

of my children and  
my grandchildren

627

00:38:19,830 --> 00:38:21,450

are quite observant.

628

00:38:21,450 --> 00:38:30,060

629

00:38:30,060 --> 00:38:31,530

We were very happily married.

630

00:38:31,530 --> 00:38:34,750

631

00:38:34,750 --> 00:38:41,440

And we, my husband and I  
visited Israel several times.

632

00:38:41,440 --> 00:38:45,040

633  
00:38:45,040 --> 00:38:52,460  
But he became very ill,  
and he passed away.

634  
00:38:52,460 --> 00:38:55,490

635  
00:38:55,490 --> 00:38:59,170  
And that's when I moved  
from Albany to Baltimore.

636  
00:38:59,170 --> 00:39:00,700  
And when was that?

637  
00:39:00,700 --> 00:39:02,950  
That was about ten years ago.

638  
00:39:02,950 --> 00:39:05,910  
So that I could be  
close to my children.

639  
00:39:05,910 --> 00:39:10,240

640  
00:39:10,240 --> 00:39:14,330  
I have a son and a  
daughter here in Baltimore,

641  
00:39:14,330 --> 00:39:20,167  
and a son in Silver Spring,  
so this is very convenient.

642  
00:39:20,167 --> 00:39:22,850

643  
00:39:22,850 --> 00:39:26,240  
For the longest  
time, my children

644  
00:39:26,240 --> 00:39:31,580  
had begged me to go back

to Germany to put closure

645  
00:39:31,580 --> 00:39:35,150  
to that part of my life.

646  
00:39:35,150 --> 00:39:40,910  
I have kept saying that I  
have lived three lives, one

647  
00:39:40,910 --> 00:39:44,600  
in Germany, one in England,  
and one in America,

648  
00:39:44,600 --> 00:39:49,370  
and they have nothing to do  
with each other except me.

649  
00:39:49,370 --> 00:39:51,500  
And so my children  
felt that it was

650  
00:39:51,500 --> 00:39:57,380  
time to go back to Germany  
and that part of my--

651  
00:39:57,380 --> 00:39:58,445  
put that part to rest.

652  
00:39:58,445 --> 00:40:01,640

653  
00:40:01,640 --> 00:40:04,290  
And for the longest  
time, I said,

654  
00:40:04,290 --> 00:40:06,400  
I don't want to go  
back to Germany.

655  
00:40:06,400 --> 00:40:07,430  
There is nothing.

656



00:40:07,430 --> 00:40:11,330  
There is nobody that I need  
to see anymore in Germany.

657  
00:40:11,330 --> 00:40:15,470  
I have never been interested  
in things, only in people.

658  
00:40:15,470 --> 00:40:19,121  
And there was nobody there  
that I wanted to see anymore.

659  
00:40:19,121 --> 00:40:21,830

660  
00:40:21,830 --> 00:40:24,860  
But they kept at it.

661  
00:40:24,860 --> 00:40:28,070  
Until finally, I  
said, all right.

662  
00:40:28,070 --> 00:40:32,850  
If you come with me, then  
I will go back to Germany.

663  
00:40:32,850 --> 00:40:34,700  
And we will go  
back for one week.

664  
00:40:34,700 --> 00:40:37,770

665  
00:40:37,770 --> 00:40:42,930  
And my married son left his  
wife and three children,

666  
00:40:42,930 --> 00:40:46,440  
and my married daughter left her  
husband and her four children,

667  
00:40:46,440 --> 00:40:50,550  
and the youngest

one wasn't even two.

668  
00:40:50,550 --> 00:40:54,660  
And the three of us went  
together to Germany.

669  
00:40:54,660 --> 00:41:00,900  
We went to Munich, which  
is the capital of Bavaria.

670  
00:41:00,900 --> 00:41:02,010  
We flew to Munich.

671  
00:41:02,010 --> 00:41:06,240  
And in Munich, we  
rented a car so we

672  
00:41:06,240 --> 00:41:10,620  
could drive to  
the various places

673  
00:41:10,620 --> 00:41:14,860  
that I wanted to  
visit in Germany.

674  
00:41:14,860 --> 00:41:16,930  
My son did the driving.

675  
00:41:16,930 --> 00:41:21,160  
My daughter did the navigating,  
and I did the translating.

676  
00:41:21,160 --> 00:41:22,530  
So we were a good team.

677  
00:41:22,530 --> 00:41:26,240

678  
00:41:26,240 --> 00:41:30,680  
First, we visited the  
village where I was born.

679

00:41:30,680 --> 00:41:31,640  
We visited Cronheim.

680  
00:41:31,640 --> 00:41:34,160

681  
00:41:34,160 --> 00:41:37,500  
And almost nothing has  
changed in Cronheim.

682  
00:41:37,500 --> 00:41:41,440

683  
00:41:41,440 --> 00:41:46,290  
I didn't have much difficulty  
in finding our house.

684  
00:41:46,290 --> 00:41:50,160  
And of course, other people  
are living in there now.

685  
00:41:50,160 --> 00:41:52,980  
In fact, from what  
I understand, they

686  
00:41:52,980 --> 00:41:56,310  
moved in almost  
immediately after we left.

687  
00:41:56,310 --> 00:42:00,750

688  
00:42:00,750 --> 00:42:03,360  
The same people were  
there when you went back

689  
00:42:03,360 --> 00:42:06,420  
as had moved in after you left?

690  
00:42:06,420 --> 00:42:07,620  
Their son.

691

00:42:07,620 --> 00:42:11,310  
The older couple had  
died, and their son

692  
00:42:11,310 --> 00:42:12,960  
was there with his wife.

693  
00:42:12,960 --> 00:42:14,310  
Did you meet him?

694  
00:42:14,310 --> 00:42:17,940  
No, it so happened  
that he had been ill,

695  
00:42:17,940 --> 00:42:20,010  
and he was in the hospital.

696  
00:42:20,010 --> 00:42:21,480  
I met his wife.

697  
00:42:21,480 --> 00:42:24,150  
How did she treat you?

698  
00:42:24,150 --> 00:42:31,780  
She was very perturbed  
at these three people who

699  
00:42:31,780 --> 00:42:35,370  
were taking photographs  
of her house,

700  
00:42:35,370 --> 00:42:39,640  
and couldn't quite  
understand who we were.

701  
00:42:39,640 --> 00:42:42,000  
And I identified myself to her.

702  
00:42:42,000 --> 00:42:44,880  
I told her exactly who I was.

703  
00:42:44,880 --> 00:42:49,290

And she relaxed a little,  
but only a little.

704  
00:42:49,290 --> 00:42:53,610  
She was very wary  
of me for reasons

705  
00:42:53,610 --> 00:42:55,290  
that I can now understand.

706  
00:42:55,290 --> 00:42:57,180  
I don't think I did at the time.

707  
00:42:57,180 --> 00:43:02,640  
She was afraid that I was  
there to claim the house back.

708  
00:43:02,640 --> 00:43:13,170  
And we talked, but she  
did not invite me in.

709  
00:43:13,170 --> 00:43:15,180  
And my daughter  
said to me, mother,

710  
00:43:15,180 --> 00:43:16,920  
why don't you go into the house?

711  
00:43:16,920 --> 00:43:19,810

712  
00:43:19,810 --> 00:43:20,860  
And I said, no.

713  
00:43:20,860 --> 00:43:23,110  
I don't want to.

714  
00:43:23,110 --> 00:43:25,120  
I rather would  
remember it the way

715  
00:43:25,120 --> 00:43:29,630

it was when I lived  
there with my parents.

716  
00:43:29,630 --> 00:43:33,010  
I do not want to see what  
they have done to it now.

717  
00:43:33,010 --> 00:43:35,620  
So I never went inside.

718  
00:43:35,620 --> 00:43:36,700  
We stayed outside.

719  
00:43:36,700 --> 00:43:37,930  
We walked around the house.

720  
00:43:37,930 --> 00:43:40,060  
We went to the orchard.

721  
00:43:40,060 --> 00:43:42,880  
And the fruit trees  
indeed, are still there,

722  
00:43:42,880 --> 00:43:44,560  
most of them very neglected.

723  
00:43:44,560 --> 00:43:47,770  
They haven't been  
pruned in forever.

724  
00:43:47,770 --> 00:43:51,500  
Whether they give any fruit  
at all, I have no idea.

725  
00:43:51,500 --> 00:43:53,280  
But the trees are still there.

726  
00:43:53,280 --> 00:43:58,070

727  
00:43:58,070 --> 00:44:05,000  
We visited the little

synagogue in Cronheim.

728

00:44:05,000 --> 00:44:11,210

Which when we left, it had been  
turned into a chicken coop.

729

00:44:11,210 --> 00:44:16,040

And when we went back to visit  
it, it had been divided up,

730

00:44:16,040 --> 00:44:18,980

and they had made  
apartments out of it.

731

00:44:18,980 --> 00:44:22,333

But it was still very evident  
that this was the synagogue

732

00:44:22,333 --> 00:44:23,375

where we used to worship.

733

00:44:23,375 --> 00:44:27,500

734

00:44:27,500 --> 00:44:32,120

And I saw the school  
that I attended.

735

00:44:32,120 --> 00:44:33,980

And I saw the  
little castle right

736

00:44:33,980 --> 00:44:38,000

in the middle of the village.

737

00:44:38,000 --> 00:44:45,890

And from there, we  
drove to Bechhofen,

738

00:44:45,890 --> 00:44:48,200

where my grandparents  
are buried,

739

00:44:48,200 --> 00:44:49,775  
my father's parents are buried.

740

00:44:49,775 --> 00:44:57,550

741

00:44:57,550 --> 00:45:06,700  
I had written to the  
mayor of Bechhofen

742

00:45:06,700 --> 00:45:10,930  
to say that we would like  
to come and visit his town,

743

00:45:10,930 --> 00:45:15,190  
and particularly, we would like  
to visit the Jewish cemetery

744

00:45:15,190 --> 00:45:19,420  
if it is still standing,  
and my grandparents

745

00:45:19,420 --> 00:45:23,350  
graves, if he knows  
where they are located.

746

00:45:23,350 --> 00:45:25,660  
And I had a very nice  
letter back from him

747

00:45:25,660 --> 00:45:29,560  
to say, by all means,  
come and visit.

748

00:45:29,560 --> 00:45:32,590  
The cemetery has  
not been touched,

749

00:45:32,590 --> 00:45:37,420  
has not been desecrated  
in any way whatsoever.

750



00:45:37,420 --> 00:45:42,340  
But I do not know where your  
grandparents graves are.

751  
00:45:42,340 --> 00:45:44,430  
I will try and see  
if I can find them.

752  
00:45:44,430 --> 00:45:47,780

753  
00:45:47,780 --> 00:45:50,690  
And on the strength  
of that, we had

754  
00:45:50,690 --> 00:45:56,340  
agreed to meet by his office,  
and we would take care of it.

755  
00:45:56,340 --> 00:46:02,700  
And fine, we came to Bechhofen  
and we went to his office.

756  
00:46:02,700 --> 00:46:06,420  
And he said, a very  
funny thing happened.

757  
00:46:06,420 --> 00:46:09,900  
I had other visitors  
here only a week

758  
00:46:09,900 --> 00:46:15,570  
ago who wanted to  
go to the cemetery.

759  
00:46:15,570 --> 00:46:21,690  
And when we got there, when  
we got to the new section,

760  
00:46:21,690 --> 00:46:27,060  
I turned around and there were  
your grandparents gravestones.

761

00:46:27,060 --> 00:46:30,520  
So now, I know exactly  
where they are.

762  
00:46:30,520 --> 00:46:33,000  
And he took us there.

763  
00:46:33,000 --> 00:46:39,000  
Now, to give you an idea of that  
cemetery, I have to tell you,

764  
00:46:39,000 --> 00:46:44,610  
that it was consecrated  
as a Jewish cemetery

765  
00:46:44,610 --> 00:46:48,660  
in the early 1400s  
before Columbus ever

766  
00:46:48,660 --> 00:46:50,700  
discovered America.

767  
00:46:50,700 --> 00:46:55,500  
So you can imagine how old the  
Jewish community in Germany

768  
00:46:55,500 --> 00:46:57,180  
really is, or was.

769  
00:46:57,180 --> 00:47:01,600

770  
00:47:01,600 --> 00:47:03,460  
We went to that cemetery.

771  
00:47:03,460 --> 00:47:10,750  
And on the gate, there is  
a sign that, this cemetery

772  
00:47:10,750 --> 00:47:13,960  
is under the protection  
of the government

773

00:47:13,960 --> 00:47:16,540  
of the city of Bechhofen.

774

00:47:16,540 --> 00:47:19,690  
And anyone who does  
any kind of damage

775

00:47:19,690 --> 00:47:24,890  
here will be prosecuted to  
the full extent of the law.

776

00:47:24,890 --> 00:47:27,640  
I could not believe that sign.

777

00:47:27,640 --> 00:47:33,100  
But I must say, that the  
mayor was extremely kind to us

778

00:47:33,100 --> 00:47:35,500  
all the time.

779

00:47:35,500 --> 00:47:36,680  
He was very helpful.

780

00:47:36,680 --> 00:47:39,070  
He was very nice.

781

00:47:39,070 --> 00:47:44,680  
His son, who was about 12 or 13,  
happened to have the afternoon

782

00:47:44,680 --> 00:47:46,490  
off from school.

783

00:47:46,490 --> 00:47:50,470  
So while we piled into  
his car, and he drove us

784

00:47:50,470 --> 00:47:55,690  
to the cemetery, his son was  
right behind us on his bicycle.

785

00:47:55,690 --> 00:48:02,180

And we went, and he took us  
to my grandparents graves.

786

00:48:02,180 --> 00:48:05,530

Are they the pictures  
that you showed me?

787

00:48:05,530 --> 00:48:06,190

No.

788

00:48:06,190 --> 00:48:06,690

That's not.

789

00:48:06,690 --> 00:48:07,607

That's something else.

790

00:48:07,607 --> 00:48:08,880

Can you stop it for a moment.

791

00:48:08,880 --> 00:48:12,380

792

00:48:12,380 --> 00:48:14,030

OK.

793

00:48:14,030 --> 00:48:18,170

Now, the gravestones  
in the older section,

794

00:48:18,170 --> 00:48:22,610

in the first section, have  
all sunk into the ground.

795

00:48:22,610 --> 00:48:26,480

And there is nothing  
showing of them at all.

796

00:48:26,480 --> 00:48:28,580

As you walk through  
the cemetery,

797

00:48:28,580 --> 00:48:32,870

gradually, you see the  
tips of some gravestones,

798

00:48:32,870 --> 00:48:36,110

and then more and more  
and more of the stones

799

00:48:36,110 --> 00:48:40,710

can be seen because of  
the age of the place.

800

00:48:40,710 --> 00:48:44,460

And when we got to the new  
section of the cemetery,

801

00:48:44,460 --> 00:48:46,400

which is where my  
grandparents are buried,

802

00:48:46,400 --> 00:48:49,550

which gives you  
an idea about new,

803

00:48:49,550 --> 00:48:54,740

we had no difficulty  
at all in finding them.

804

00:48:54,740 --> 00:49:01,160

And where as some are most of  
the stones were sand stones,

805

00:49:01,160 --> 00:49:04,730

and the engraving had been  
done into the sand stones,

806

00:49:04,730 --> 00:49:07,220

they had been  
obliterated, or almost

807

00:49:07,220 --> 00:49:10,670

obliterated by the weather.

808

00:49:10,670 --> 00:49:14,690

My grandparents stones  
had the inscription

809

00:49:14,690 --> 00:49:27,260

in hard black granite.

810

00:49:27,260 --> 00:49:33,200

And that had been set  
into the grand stone,

811

00:49:33,200 --> 00:49:40,940

into the sandstone, so that  
the inscription was very clear.

812

00:49:40,940 --> 00:49:45,380

All we had to do is take a  
tissue, wipe the lichen off

813

00:49:45,380 --> 00:49:49,460

that had grown on it, and  
it was as if the inscription

814

00:49:49,460 --> 00:49:52,160

had been made yesterday.

815

00:49:52,160 --> 00:49:58,070

Now, on the one side of  
the stone, the German side,

816

00:49:58,070 --> 00:50:05,280

it gives the name, and the birth  
date, and the date of death,

817

00:50:05,280 --> 00:50:07,160

and the place where  
they had died.

818

00:50:07,160 --> 00:50:08,360

Are you going to read that?

819

00:50:08,360 --> 00:50:10,160

Or could you?

820  
00:50:10,160 --> 00:50:11,890  
Not the German part.

821  
00:50:11,890 --> 00:50:13,760  
No, but the names.

822  
00:50:13,760 --> 00:50:17,840  
The names, well, one  
was Malka Hubert,

823  
00:50:17,840 --> 00:50:24,110  
which was my grandmother, and  
Ruben Hubert, my grandfather.

824  
00:50:24,110 --> 00:50:26,820  
On the other side, on the  
back side, if you will,

825  
00:50:26,820 --> 00:50:32,090  
of the stone, there was  
the Hebrew inscription.

826  
00:50:32,090 --> 00:50:36,830  
And it took us no time at all to  
read it, and it is magnificent.

827  
00:50:36,830 --> 00:50:40,190  
May I read you what  
it said on the stone?

828  
00:50:40,190 --> 00:50:44,120  
On my grandfather's  
stone it says,

829  
00:50:44,120 --> 00:50:48,560  
"Ruben Hubert, one who  
toiled in community

830  
00:50:48,560 --> 00:50:51,680  
needs with total dedication.

831  
00:50:51,680 --> 00:50:55,190  
He passed away on the  
Sabbath, the Holy Sabbath,

832  
00:50:55,190 --> 00:50:57,950  
on the 22 of ER.

833  
00:50:57,950 --> 00:51:01,550  
And he was buried on  
Monday the 24th of ER."

834  
00:51:01,550 --> 00:51:06,620  
ER is the Hebrew month, 56, 85.

835  
00:51:06,620 --> 00:51:10,460  
"All his words were true  
and straightforward.

836  
00:51:10,460 --> 00:51:15,170  
His desire to study  
Torah was without limit.

837  
00:51:15,170 --> 00:51:18,320  
He raised his children  
with straightforwardness

838  
00:51:18,320 --> 00:51:22,010  
and with kindness, and  
with fear of heaven.

839  
00:51:22,010 --> 00:51:24,800  
Quietly, he accepted  
his sufferings

840  
00:51:24,800 --> 00:51:27,650  
with the love of God."

841  
00:51:27,650 --> 00:51:30,230  
That was my grandfather's stone.

842  
00:51:30,230 --> 00:51:35,090  
And my grandmother's said,



"Malka Hubert, who passed away

843

00:51:35,090 --> 00:51:39,920  
with a good reputation, also  
on the Holy Sabbath, which

844

00:51:39,920 --> 00:51:44,270  
was the first day  
of Sukkot, 56, 83.

845

00:51:44,270 --> 00:51:47,300  
And she was buried on  
the third day of Sukkot,

846

00:51:47,300 --> 00:51:50,150  
which is a Jewish  
holiday, which was

847

00:51:50,150 --> 00:51:53,660  
the first day of Chol Hamoed.

848

00:51:53,660 --> 00:51:58,760  
She did not waver from the  
good deeds of the almighty

849

00:51:58,760 --> 00:52:01,410  
all the days of her life.

850

00:52:01,410 --> 00:52:04,740  
She was diligent in  
raising her children.

851

00:52:04,740 --> 00:52:08,300  
She was committed to  
the service of charity

852

00:52:08,300 --> 00:52:10,590  
all the days of her life.

853

00:52:10,590 --> 00:52:14,120  
Her husband trusted  
in her all her days,

854

00:52:14,120 --> 00:52:17,000  
and her children respected her.

855

00:52:17,000 --> 00:52:21,710  
She saved the poor and indigent  
until her soul passed on."

856

00:52:21,710 --> 00:52:24,900

857

00:52:24,900 --> 00:52:28,620  
When my daughter  
read that, she said,

858

00:52:28,620 --> 00:52:32,490  
mother, I have to tell  
you, because I never

859

00:52:32,490 --> 00:52:36,990  
knew my grandparents, I always  
thought that my Jewishness

860

00:52:36,990 --> 00:52:39,870  
began with you.

861

00:52:39,870 --> 00:52:42,960  
Now that I have read  
these inscriptions

862

00:52:42,960 --> 00:52:46,530  
on your grandparents  
graves, I feel

863

00:52:46,530 --> 00:52:49,920  
connected onto the Jewish  
people all the way back

864

00:52:49,920 --> 00:52:50,670  
to Mount Sinai.

865

00:52:50,670 --> 00:52:54,460

866  
00:52:54,460 --> 00:52:57,370  
It was an experience  
that I would not

867  
00:52:57,370 --> 00:52:59,170  
have missed for the world.

868  
00:52:59,170 --> 00:53:02,170  
I did not remember  
the inscriptions.

869  
00:53:02,170 --> 00:53:05,710  
I didn't remember  
much of anything.

870  
00:53:05,710 --> 00:53:10,970  
I do remember this, that  
when I was a little girl,

871  
00:53:10,970 --> 00:53:15,130  
and my parents needed to  
go and visit the cemetery,

872  
00:53:15,130 --> 00:53:20,350  
they would say to me, if you're  
a good girl at the cemetery,

873  
00:53:20,350 --> 00:53:25,330  
we will take you to the  
synagogue in Bechhofen.

874  
00:53:25,330 --> 00:53:27,770  
And I love that synagogue.

875  
00:53:27,770 --> 00:53:30,970  
It was gorgeous.

876  
00:53:30,970 --> 00:53:37,510  
And obviously, I was always a  
very good girl at the cemetery,

877

00:53:37,510 --> 00:53:42,760  
and then I was rewarded with  
a visit to the synagogue.

878  
00:53:42,760 --> 00:53:44,740  
And what was the synagogue like?

879  
00:53:44,740 --> 00:53:54,070  
Well, I asked the mayor what  
had happened to the synagogue.

880  
00:53:54,070 --> 00:53:56,170  
And he said that  
it had been burned

881  
00:53:56,170 --> 00:53:58,240  
to the ground on Kristallnacht.

882  
00:53:58,240 --> 00:54:01,380

883  
00:54:01,380 --> 00:54:06,330  
It was a wooden synagogue,  
and it was incredible.

884  
00:54:06,330 --> 00:54:11,580  
From the outside, it  
looked exactly like a barn.

885  
00:54:11,580 --> 00:54:14,670  
And it looked that  
way because it

886  
00:54:14,670 --> 00:54:18,510  
was a collapsible, a  
foldable synagogue,

887  
00:54:18,510 --> 00:54:21,360  
one that could be moved  
from place to place

888  
00:54:21,360 --> 00:54:25,260  
without any

difficulty whatsoever.

889

00:54:25,260 --> 00:54:27,960

In fact, originally,  
apparently, it

890

00:54:27,960 --> 00:54:33,270

had belonged to a  
group of students

891

00:54:33,270 --> 00:54:41,430

and their rabbi who would travel  
all across Germany, and live,

892

00:54:41,430 --> 00:54:45,360

if you will, on the charity  
of the communities where

893

00:54:45,360 --> 00:54:48,270

they happened to come.

894

00:54:48,270 --> 00:54:51,310

And whenever they traveled  
from place to place,

895

00:54:51,310 --> 00:54:55,290

they would simply take  
the synagogue apart.

896

00:54:55,290 --> 00:54:58,500

And a couple of students  
would carry this burden,

897

00:54:58,500 --> 00:55:00,720

another couple would carry that.

898

00:55:00,720 --> 00:55:04,800

And then when they decided to  
stop someplace for the night,

899

00:55:04,800 --> 00:55:07,620

they were able to put  
it up very quickly.

900

00:55:07,620 --> 00:55:10,860

And because it looked like  
a barn from the outside,

901

00:55:10,860 --> 00:55:13,200

nobody ever thought  
twice to look at it

902

00:55:13,200 --> 00:55:14,940

and wonder what it was.

903

00:55:14,940 --> 00:55:16,882

It was obviously a  
barn that somebody

904

00:55:16,882 --> 00:55:18,090

put in the middle of a field.

905

00:55:18,090 --> 00:55:21,690

906

00:55:21,690 --> 00:55:29,010

When they came to Bechhofen,  
one of the students

907

00:55:29,010 --> 00:55:35,670

became ill with the plague, and  
very quickly, the others also.

908

00:55:35,670 --> 00:55:42,540

And all the students died in  
Bechhofen from the plague.

909

00:55:42,540 --> 00:55:45,390

And so the synagogue  
was left in Bechhofen.

910

00:55:45,390 --> 00:55:48,060

And what year was that about?

911

00:55:48,060 --> 00:55:55,620

Oh, that was must have been in  
the late 1700s, early 1800s.

912  
00:55:55,620 --> 00:56:01,740  
And the community began to  
use it as their synagogue.

913  
00:56:01,740 --> 00:56:06,030

914  
00:56:06,030 --> 00:56:09,090  
Indeed, from the outside,  
it looked like a barn.

915  
00:56:09,090 --> 00:56:14,330  
On the inside, it  
was magnificent.

916  
00:56:14,330 --> 00:56:18,380  
The walls were painted white.

917  
00:56:18,380 --> 00:56:26,240  
There were pictures by hand of  
all kinds of birds and things

918  
00:56:26,240 --> 00:56:33,950  
that had been painted there  
by hand in multi colors.

919  
00:56:33,950 --> 00:56:39,530  
And there were quotations all  
over the walls from the Torah

920  
00:56:39,530 --> 00:56:42,770  
and from the Talmud,  
and the Hebrew letters

921  
00:56:42,770 --> 00:56:45,140  
were all in gold.

922  
00:56:45,140 --> 00:56:51,200  
And the curtain in front of  
the Holy Ark was scarlet.

923  
00:56:51,200 --> 00:56:55,310  
And the cover on the  
bema was scarlet.

924  
00:56:55,310 --> 00:57:00,740  
And there were scarlet  
velvet ropes around the bema.

925  
00:57:00,740 --> 00:57:04,490  
And all the seats  
were scarlet velvet.

926  
00:57:04,490 --> 00:57:06,230  
It was magnificent.

927  
00:57:06,230 --> 00:57:14,200

928  
00:57:14,200 --> 00:57:17,980  
And the mayor said,  
would you like

929  
00:57:17,980 --> 00:57:22,480  
to see the place where it stood?

930  
00:57:22,480 --> 00:57:26,420  
And I said, I would very  
much like to see it.

931  
00:57:26,420 --> 00:57:27,630  
And he took us there.

932  
00:57:27,630 --> 00:57:30,400

933  
00:57:30,400 --> 00:57:35,440  
And what the little  
town has done

934  
00:57:35,440 --> 00:57:40,960  
is, they have planted a hedge



around the perimeter, where

935

00:57:40,960 --> 00:57:44,980

the synagogue had  
actually stood.

936

00:57:44,980 --> 00:57:49,390

And in the center,  
they put a monument

937

00:57:49,390 --> 00:57:53,980

to those Jewish  
citizens of Bechhofen

938

00:57:53,980 --> 00:57:57,760

who had perished  
during the Holocaust.

939

00:57:57,760 --> 00:58:00,690

940

00:58:00,690 --> 00:58:01,980

And I couldn't help it.

941

00:58:01,980 --> 00:58:06,000

I said, but why,  
why did you do this?

942

00:58:06,000 --> 00:58:12,180

There isn't a Jew for  
miles around who sees this?

943

00:58:12,180 --> 00:58:15,120

And the memorial is  
in fact, in Germany,

944

00:58:15,120 --> 00:58:21,150

has an inscription in  
German, and in Hebrew.

945

00:58:21,150 --> 00:58:27,075

And he said, we did it  
for us, to remind us.

946  
00:58:27,075 --> 00:58:30,320

947  
00:58:30,320 --> 00:58:35,780  
The German government had  
given the town of Bechhofen

948  
00:58:35,780 --> 00:58:38,900  
a certain amount  
of money to rehab

949  
00:58:38,900 --> 00:58:44,780  
some of the old historic  
buildings in the town.

950  
00:58:44,780 --> 00:58:50,030  
And the town fathers decided  
not to use all of that money

951  
00:58:50,030 --> 00:58:54,380  
on rehabbing the old buildings,  
but use a portion of it

952  
00:58:54,380 --> 00:58:58,490  
to build this memorial.

953  
00:58:58,490 --> 00:59:02,030  
And we walked around this,  
and we read the inscriptions

954  
00:59:02,030 --> 00:59:07,010  
on the memorial, and  
we just blew our minds.

955  
00:59:07,010 --> 00:59:12,680  
And then to top it off,  
the man said, would you

956  
00:59:12,680 --> 00:59:14,570  
like to see what  
the synagogue used

957

00:59:14,570 --> 00:59:15,975

to look like on the inside?

958

00:59:15,975 --> 00:59:18,660

959

00:59:18,660 --> 00:59:20,170

We're going to run out of tape.

960

00:59:20,170 --> 00:59:20,670

All right.

961

00:59:20,670 --> 00:59:22,460

I have to stop.

962

00:59:22,460 --> 00:59:23,359