

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:01,970

2
00:00:01,970 --> 00:00:05,090
This is the United States
Holocaust Memorial Museum

3
00:00:05,090 --> 00:00:07,640
interview with Emmy
Mogolenski conducted

4
00:00:07,640 --> 00:00:11,450
by Margaret Garrett
on November 15, 1996

5
00:00:11,450 --> 00:00:13,430
in Baltimore, Maryland.

6
00:00:13,430 --> 00:00:19,160
Take three, side A.
So you were asked

7
00:00:19,160 --> 00:00:21,890
if you'd like to see what
the inside of the synagogue

8
00:00:21,890 --> 00:00:23,090
used to look like.

9
00:00:23,090 --> 00:00:25,820
And we said, but how?

10
00:00:25,820 --> 00:00:28,340
It has been burned down.

11
00:00:28,340 --> 00:00:33,140
And he said, I
know a lady in town

12
00:00:33,140 --> 00:00:39,710
who has a shop who has pictures

of what it looked like.

13

00:00:39,710 --> 00:00:42,580

14

00:00:42,580 --> 00:00:45,580

And my son, and my daughter,
and I with one voice

15

00:00:45,580 --> 00:00:48,940

said, please, take us there.

16

00:00:48,940 --> 00:00:53,620

And when we got to the shop,
sure enough hanging on the wall

17

00:00:53,620 --> 00:00:57,580

were seven pictures of the
synagogue, one from the outside

18

00:00:57,580 --> 00:00:58,810

and six from the inside.

19

00:00:58,810 --> 00:01:01,420

20

00:01:01,420 --> 00:01:03,790

And we stood there and marveled.

21

00:01:03,790 --> 00:01:06,550

My children couldn't
get over it.

22

00:01:06,550 --> 00:01:12,010

And I said, can I get
copies of these photographs?

23

00:01:12,010 --> 00:01:13,100

Sure, she says.

24

00:01:13,100 --> 00:01:16,280

I have the negatives.

25
00:01:16,280 --> 00:01:20,050
So we ordered them on the spot.

26
00:01:20,050 --> 00:01:25,270
And very soon
after we came back,

27
00:01:25,270 --> 00:01:26,950
the photographs were there.

28
00:01:26,950 --> 00:01:32,870

29
00:01:32,870 --> 00:01:37,100
It was an incredible experience.

30
00:01:37,100 --> 00:01:38,570
He then took us for coffee.

31
00:01:38,570 --> 00:01:43,070
And he was extremely,
extremely nice.

32
00:01:43,070 --> 00:01:48,830
And I wanted to do
something in return.

33
00:01:48,830 --> 00:01:52,530
He certainly wouldn't
accept any money.

34
00:01:52,530 --> 00:01:56,540
So when we went
back to Munich, we

35
00:01:56,540 --> 00:02:00,290
asked if there was such a
thing as a Jewish bookstore

36
00:02:00,290 --> 00:02:02,270
still in Munich.

37
00:02:02,270 --> 00:02:06,770
And we were told that,
yes, there is one.

38
00:02:06,770 --> 00:02:07,730
And we went there.

39
00:02:07,730 --> 00:02:09,650
From the outside,
there is no way

40
00:02:09,650 --> 00:02:15,230
that you can tell it
is a Jewish anything.

41
00:02:15,230 --> 00:02:17,660
But it was obvious
from the subject

42
00:02:17,660 --> 00:02:21,920
of the books in the window
that it was a Jewish bookstore.

43
00:02:21,920 --> 00:02:29,540
And we went in and I selected
the books of Psalms for his son

44
00:02:29,540 --> 00:02:31,160
in German.

45
00:02:31,160 --> 00:02:32,500
And I sent it to him.

46
00:02:32,500 --> 00:02:35,070

47
00:02:35,070 --> 00:02:41,220
And then we went to
Thalmassing to visit the grave

48
00:02:41,220 --> 00:02:44,790

of my other grandparents.

49

00:02:44,790 --> 00:02:46,350

But we had very little time.

50

00:02:46,350 --> 00:02:49,650

By the time we got there,
it was already getting dark.

51

00:02:49,650 --> 00:02:55,230

And we just paid a really
quick visit and left.

52

00:02:55,230 --> 00:02:59,830

The next day-- we were
staying in Munich as I said.

53

00:02:59,830 --> 00:03:02,460

The next day we went
to visit Dachau.

54

00:03:02,460 --> 00:03:05,840

55

00:03:05,840 --> 00:03:07,700

Now the concentration
camp in Dachau

56

00:03:07,700 --> 00:03:10,100

has been sanitized
to such an extent

57

00:03:10,100 --> 00:03:12,830

that you can no longer
really recognize it

58

00:03:12,830 --> 00:03:16,460

for what it ever was.

59

00:03:16,460 --> 00:03:18,800

All the huts where the
prisoners used to live

60

00:03:18,800 --> 00:03:20,660
have been torn down.

61

00:03:20,660 --> 00:03:25,340
One has been rebuilt as an
example but it's brand new.

62

00:03:25,340 --> 00:03:29,610
And it's just not
the same at all.

63

00:03:29,610 --> 00:03:32,460

64

00:03:32,460 --> 00:03:37,650
Apparently, an
extermination oven

65

00:03:37,650 --> 00:03:41,610
had been built there
fairly late in the day

66

00:03:41,610 --> 00:03:46,170
and had been removed as soon
as the war was over so that

67

00:03:46,170 --> 00:03:48,390
wasn't there anymore either.

68

00:03:48,390 --> 00:03:53,040
There is a long building
which is a museum now

69

00:03:53,040 --> 00:03:56,790
which really sort of
tells the story of what

70

00:03:56,790 --> 00:04:02,910
Dachau had been but only in
a peripheral sort of way.

71

00:04:02,910 --> 00:04:07,680

I must say that they obviously
take hundreds and hundreds

72
00:04:07,680 --> 00:04:11,160
of schoolchildren there,
because when we got there,

73
00:04:11,160 --> 00:04:13,320
there were I don't know
how many school buses

74
00:04:13,320 --> 00:04:15,690
all over the parking lot.

75
00:04:15,690 --> 00:04:18,480
And inside there were
obviously lots and lots

76
00:04:18,480 --> 00:04:21,570
of schoolchildren.

77
00:04:21,570 --> 00:04:26,780
But the teachers give them tasks
to find this and find that.

78
00:04:26,780 --> 00:04:29,730
And so they call to
each other, oh, I

79
00:04:29,730 --> 00:04:31,770
found this and look over here.

80
00:04:31,770 --> 00:04:33,270
Here is that.

81
00:04:33,270 --> 00:04:36,060
And so that the atmosphere
is totally lost.

82
00:04:36,060 --> 00:04:38,760

83

00:04:38,760 --> 00:04:44,910

At the end of the museum,
there are large books

84

00:04:44,910 --> 00:04:46,890

where you can write
your impression

85

00:04:46,890 --> 00:04:51,990

and what you thought
of what you had seen.

86

00:04:51,990 --> 00:04:55,170

And I opened one of
the books at random.

87

00:04:55,170 --> 00:04:59,550

And there indeed was in
a childish handwriting

88

00:04:59,550 --> 00:05:06,740

it said that they are
sorry for what happened

89

00:05:06,740 --> 00:05:10,550

and they will try hard to
learn never to let something

90

00:05:10,550 --> 00:05:13,580

like that happen again.

91

00:05:13,580 --> 00:05:18,230

I turned the page
and on the next page

92

00:05:18,230 --> 00:05:24,020

was the insignia of the
skinheads and a message

93

00:05:24,020 --> 00:05:27,410

which said, Hitler
only started the job.

94

00:05:27,410 --> 00:05:30,960
It's up to us to finish it.

95
00:05:30,960 --> 00:05:32,712
And I turned to my
kids and I said,

96
00:05:32,712 --> 00:05:33,920
we've got to get out of here.

97
00:05:33,920 --> 00:05:36,850

98
00:05:36,850 --> 00:05:38,330
We went back to the hotel.

99
00:05:38,330 --> 00:05:39,290
We stayed overnight.

100
00:05:39,290 --> 00:05:42,130
And the next morning we left
and we went to Switzerland

101
00:05:42,130 --> 00:05:44,556
and spent the rest of
the week in Switzerland.

102
00:05:44,556 --> 00:05:49,120

103
00:05:49,120 --> 00:05:53,500
Did I put closure to
it, my life in Germany?

104
00:05:53,500 --> 00:05:54,220
I don't know.

105
00:05:54,220 --> 00:05:57,360

106
00:05:57,360 --> 00:06:01,020
The messages we got

all over Germany

107

00:06:01,020 --> 00:06:06,270

were all double messages,
one positive, one negative.

108

00:06:06,270 --> 00:06:09,010

109

00:06:09,010 --> 00:06:12,970

The mayor in [NON-ENGLISH] could
not have been a more decent

110

00:06:12,970 --> 00:06:13,470

person.

111

00:06:13,470 --> 00:06:20,120

112

00:06:20,120 --> 00:06:23,390

Other people were not so kind.

113

00:06:23,390 --> 00:06:26,270

114

00:06:26,270 --> 00:06:33,690

All I can say is I am
glad we left when we did.

115

00:06:33,690 --> 00:06:39,330

I think that my children got a
great deal out of that visit,

116

00:06:39,330 --> 00:06:42,580

in a way, perhaps
even more than I did.

117

00:06:42,580 --> 00:06:45,120

And so for their
sake, I'm glad I went.

118

00:06:45,120 --> 00:06:47,770

119
00:06:47,770 --> 00:06:52,120
But I wouldn't tell you that
it has made things any easier

120
00:06:52,120 --> 00:06:53,410
for me because it hasn't.

121
00:06:53,410 --> 00:07:01,950

122
00:07:01,950 --> 00:07:04,170
Is there anything else
that you want to ask me?

123
00:07:04,170 --> 00:07:05,770
Is there anything else that--

124
00:07:05,770 --> 00:07:07,330
I don't have any more questions.

125
00:07:07,330 --> 00:07:11,100
Is there anything else
that you would like to say?

126
00:07:11,100 --> 00:07:13,050
Well, the only
thing that I can say

127
00:07:13,050 --> 00:07:18,630
is that only very recently
I had a letter from England.

128
00:07:18,630 --> 00:07:23,640
Oh, I of course visited my
foster parents in England

129
00:07:23,640 --> 00:07:25,620
every year for years.

130
00:07:25,620 --> 00:07:26,740

These are the Cohens?

131
00:07:26,740 --> 00:07:27,240
Yes.

132
00:07:27,240 --> 00:07:30,480
Every summer I went
back for at least a week

133
00:07:30,480 --> 00:07:33,150
and visited with them as soon
as my children were old enough

134
00:07:33,150 --> 00:07:36,330
so that I could leave them.

135
00:07:36,330 --> 00:07:42,120
And both of them lived
a long and full life.

136
00:07:42,120 --> 00:07:46,710
My foster father
died when he was 96.

137
00:07:46,710 --> 00:07:50,940
My foster mother died
when she was 103.

138
00:07:50,940 --> 00:07:54,720
And I am convinced
that their longevity

139
00:07:54,720 --> 00:07:57,330
is due to the kindness
which they showed me.

140
00:07:57,330 --> 00:07:59,980

141
00:07:59,980 --> 00:08:04,060
Recently, as I said, I
got a letter from England

142

00:08:04,060 --> 00:08:08,350

to say that they are
trying to clean out

143

00:08:08,350 --> 00:08:17,010

the archives at the
World Jewish Relief

144

00:08:17,010 --> 00:08:22,350

Fund in Dryden House in London.

145

00:08:22,350 --> 00:08:27,180

And they found a lot of ID
cards of children who came over

146

00:08:27,180 --> 00:08:30,600

on the children's transports.

147

00:08:30,600 --> 00:08:36,970

And there ended up about
10,000 of us in England.

148

00:08:36,970 --> 00:08:42,220

And they have found mine and
would I like to have it back.

149

00:08:42,220 --> 00:08:45,490

And if so, would I please
communicate with them.

150

00:08:45,490 --> 00:08:46,780

So I wrote to them.

151

00:08:46,780 --> 00:08:50,670

And sure enough, I got it back.

152

00:08:50,670 --> 00:08:54,300

And it's very interesting.

153

00:08:54,300 --> 00:09:00,000

It gives my name as Emma Sarah.

154

00:09:00,000 --> 00:09:06,330

Oh, and I also have to say
that, in Germany, we had

155

00:09:06,330 --> 00:09:10,080

to take on Jewish middle names.

156

00:09:10,080 --> 00:09:15,900

My name at birth was only
Emma Hupert or Hubert.

157

00:09:15,900 --> 00:09:23,310

And the Nazis insisted
that the women all

158

00:09:23,310 --> 00:09:27,000

take on the middle name
of Sarah and the men

159

00:09:27,000 --> 00:09:30,210

take on the middle
name of Israel.

160

00:09:30,210 --> 00:09:33,960

And all documents had
to be signed that way.

161

00:09:33,960 --> 00:09:38,720

And all mail had to
be directed that way.

162

00:09:38,720 --> 00:09:43,560

And when I came to England,
I was asked what my name was.

163

00:09:43,560 --> 00:09:48,990

And I thought very quickly
and I said it is Emma Sarah.

164

00:09:48,990 --> 00:09:52,980

I kept the middle
name, because I did not

165

00:09:52,980 --> 00:09:58,540

want to forget ever what
had happened in Germany.

166

00:09:58,540 --> 00:10:00,840

And so I kept it.

167

00:10:00,840 --> 00:10:05,260

And it lists my name
and that of my parents,

168

00:10:05,260 --> 00:10:10,510

and when I arrived in England,
and all that good stuff,

169

00:10:10,510 --> 00:10:11,340

and my picture.

170

00:10:11,340 --> 00:10:14,950

171

00:10:14,950 --> 00:10:16,300

And I have tried--

172

00:10:16,300 --> 00:10:19,870

173

00:10:19,870 --> 00:10:25,000

I do a great deal of
speaking on the Holocaust.

174

00:10:25,000 --> 00:10:30,310

And I have tried to do this
in memory of my parents

175

00:10:30,310 --> 00:10:36,720

and of my foster parents,
because it is a story that I do

176

00:10:36,720 --> 00:10:38,640

not want to be forgotten ever.

177

00:10:38,640 --> 00:10:42,150

178

00:10:42,150 --> 00:10:45,310

Thank you very much for
giving your testimony.

179

00:10:45,310 --> 00:10:45,810

Thank you.

180

00:10:45,810 --> 00:10:47,220

We will not forget.

181

00:10:47,220 --> 00:10:47,910

Good.

182

00:10:47,910 --> 00:10:49,760

Thank you.

183

00:10:49,760 --> 00:10:52,000