

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:03,390
This is a taping of an interview
for the United States Holocaust

2
00:00:03,390 --> 00:00:05,130
Memorial Museum.

3
00:00:05,130 --> 00:00:07,770
The person being interviewed
is Frank Ephraim.

4
00:00:07,770 --> 00:00:10,710
The interviewee is Nancy Alper.

5
00:00:10,710 --> 00:00:14,160
It's February the 28th, 1997.

6
00:00:14,160 --> 00:00:18,720
And this is the beginning
of tape two side A.

7
00:00:18,720 --> 00:00:23,160
And Frank, we were talking
about your grandfather's death,

8
00:00:23,160 --> 00:00:27,810
his illness, and his death
right before Kristallnacht.

9
00:00:27,810 --> 00:00:30,450
Yes, my grandfather
took severely

10
00:00:30,450 --> 00:00:36,450
ill on about must have
been in October of 1938.

11
00:00:36,450 --> 00:00:40,650
And since no Jewish hospitals
were really no longer around,

12

00:00:40,650 --> 00:00:43,680
he was taken to one of
the existing hospitals,

13
00:00:43,680 --> 00:00:45,480
a Christian hospital.

14
00:00:45,480 --> 00:00:50,460
And I did visit him there
once with my parents.

15
00:00:50,460 --> 00:00:57,460
But he died on November the
8th, 1938, a significant day.

16
00:00:57,460 --> 00:00:59,910
The next night was the
Kristallnacht, the crystal

17
00:00:59,910 --> 00:01:02,430
night, the Night
of Broken Glass.

18
00:01:02,430 --> 00:01:04,860
And he was buried.

19
00:01:04,860 --> 00:01:07,710
And they did hold a
funeral and had all that.

20
00:01:07,710 --> 00:01:10,350
That was still possible to do.

21
00:01:10,350 --> 00:01:14,250
And he was buried at
the Weissensee Cemetery,

22
00:01:14,250 --> 00:01:17,670
which is in a sort of
northern part of Berlin.

23
00:01:17,670 --> 00:01:22,560
The district Weissensee is

sort of characterized it

24
00:01:22,560 --> 00:01:25,200
as a working class district.

25
00:01:25,200 --> 00:01:28,140
It has a huge, and
still existing today,

26
00:01:28,140 --> 00:01:30,600
a huge Jewish cemetery.

27
00:01:30,600 --> 00:01:32,760
And it's tree covered.

28
00:01:32,760 --> 00:01:35,190
It's like a park.

29
00:01:35,190 --> 00:01:39,150
I had a chance to visit it
twice, once in 1992 and once

30
00:01:39,150 --> 00:01:43,760
in 1995.

31
00:01:43,760 --> 00:01:48,530
I did actually discover
the exact grave.

32
00:01:48,530 --> 00:01:55,010
Because when my parents visited
the area in the '60s and I

33
00:01:55,010 --> 00:01:58,100
visiting in the 1992
could not actually

34
00:01:58,100 --> 00:02:01,760
determine the exact
site of the grave.

35
00:02:01,760 --> 00:02:04,310

This last time, in
1996, I was there

36
00:02:04,310 --> 00:02:07,450
with the person that
does the gravestones.

37
00:02:07,450 --> 00:02:08,330
And he had a map.

38
00:02:08,330 --> 00:02:10,850
And the authorities
there had a map.

39
00:02:10,850 --> 00:02:12,320
We found the exact grave.

40
00:02:12,320 --> 00:02:16,550
And there was a small
gravestone with his name on it.

41
00:02:16,550 --> 00:02:19,010
So I took a picture
of that for my father

42
00:02:19,010 --> 00:02:22,320
who was still alive at the time.

43
00:02:22,320 --> 00:02:24,470
So that's where he was buried.

44
00:02:24,470 --> 00:02:26,780
My parents, of course, were
at the funeral services.

45
00:02:26,780 --> 00:02:28,070
I was not.

46
00:02:28,070 --> 00:02:31,620
And that was there,
of course, it

47

00:02:31,620 --> 00:02:35,960
was the mourning period
after that for him.

48
00:02:35,960 --> 00:02:39,410
And of course, that
was sort of aggravated

49
00:02:39,410 --> 00:02:42,860
by the Kristallnacht, the
events of crystal night.

50
00:02:42,860 --> 00:02:46,290
Because my father certainly
at that night was--

51
00:02:46,290 --> 00:02:50,550
wanted to go to the
synagogue for the services,

52
00:02:50,550 --> 00:02:53,720
Armenian service, for his
father and, of course,

53
00:02:53,720 --> 00:02:56,690
found that the synagogue
had been burnt.

54
00:02:56,690 --> 00:02:59,900
And as a result, that
could not be held.

55
00:02:59,900 --> 00:03:03,980
So he was there hardly
knowing that this

56
00:03:03,980 --> 00:03:05,780
had happened during the night.

57
00:03:05,780 --> 00:03:08,780
Because where we
lived, we were somewhat

58

00:03:08,780 --> 00:03:11,460
distanced from the area.

59
00:03:11,460 --> 00:03:13,820
And so we weren't--

60
00:03:13,820 --> 00:03:16,820
he was not really aware that
there was something going

61
00:03:16,820 --> 00:03:25,130
on, which kind of interesting
because it was a Nazi-sponsored

62
00:03:25,130 --> 00:03:28,400
event and--

63
00:03:28,400 --> 00:03:31,250
but was not really
known because--

64
00:03:31,250 --> 00:03:35,090
until the next day when the
radio announced the event,

65
00:03:35,090 --> 00:03:40,140
what happened but, of course,
from the Nazi point of view.

66
00:03:40,140 --> 00:03:42,980
So that was a double
shock for my father

67
00:03:42,980 --> 00:03:47,230
that he had to confront a
burning, a burnt out synagogue

68
00:03:47,230 --> 00:03:52,040
when he wanted to say the
mourning prayer for his father.

69
00:03:52,040 --> 00:03:54,660

70
00:03:54,660 --> 00:03:57,720
Did anything happen
to the family store

71
00:03:57,720 --> 00:04:00,990
during that
Kristallnacht period?

72
00:04:00,990 --> 00:04:03,170
By that time, the store hadn't--

73
00:04:03,170 --> 00:04:04,740
it was no longer in their hands.

74
00:04:04,740 --> 00:04:08,340
I believe they had sold it,
because they were retired.

75
00:04:08,340 --> 00:04:12,520
And so the store was
no longer in existence.

76
00:04:12,520 --> 00:04:14,940
We don't know, I certainly I
don't know what, if anything,

77
00:04:14,940 --> 00:04:17,589
happened to that
store in that area.

78
00:04:17,589 --> 00:04:21,899
However, of course, any Jewish
store that you walked by

79
00:04:21,899 --> 00:04:25,740
had either its glass smashed
or there was graffiti on it.

80
00:04:25,740 --> 00:04:30,150
Or in many cases, they had a
storm trooper type standing

81
00:04:30,150 --> 00:04:31,890
in front of it.

82
00:04:31,890 --> 00:04:34,950
That was throughout Berlin.

83
00:04:34,950 --> 00:04:37,950
There was no-- hardly
a store or business

84
00:04:37,950 --> 00:04:42,030
that was unscathed
at that, on that day.

85
00:04:42,030 --> 00:04:45,200
And of course, that
day was a major signal.

86
00:04:45,200 --> 00:04:49,590
By now, things had come
to a point of violence,

87
00:04:49,590 --> 00:04:53,045
widespread official
violence, whereas before it

88
00:04:53,045 --> 00:04:54,420
was somewhat
hidden, particularly

89
00:04:54,420 --> 00:04:56,070
in a largely like Berlin.

90
00:04:56,070 --> 00:05:00,150
There, it was now
official, visible,

91
00:05:00,150 --> 00:05:04,740
and it certainly now most
people who were antsy

92
00:05:04,740 --> 00:05:07,280

or not certain
about what to do, I

93
00:05:07,280 --> 00:05:09,930
think by then made
up their mind.

94
00:05:09,930 --> 00:05:13,850
And for those who
could, they would leave.

95
00:05:13,850 --> 00:05:15,860
Those were your
child impressions

96
00:05:15,860 --> 00:05:18,440
that as you walked
with your parents,

97
00:05:18,440 --> 00:05:22,150
you saw stores that had
windows had been smashed

98
00:05:22,150 --> 00:05:25,690
and storm troopers
the day after?

99
00:05:25,690 --> 00:05:26,190
Yes.

100
00:05:26,190 --> 00:05:26,750
Yes.

101
00:05:26,750 --> 00:05:27,980
You saw them.

102
00:05:27,980 --> 00:05:30,500
You know, it remind
me almost of the riots

103
00:05:30,500 --> 00:05:34,100
that we had here in Washington
after the death of--

104
00:05:34,100 --> 00:05:36,590
assassination of
Martin Luther King

105
00:05:36,590 --> 00:05:39,740
when stores along
the 14th Street area

106
00:05:39,740 --> 00:05:42,630
were smashed and
burned out and so on.

107
00:05:42,630 --> 00:05:47,030
And the next morning, you had
National Guard troops standing

108
00:05:47,030 --> 00:05:47,780
in front.

109
00:05:47,780 --> 00:05:52,020
You know, it was almost
the picture reflect--

110
00:05:52,020 --> 00:05:55,460
a reflective image of
that, quite different

111
00:05:55,460 --> 00:05:57,500
of course in context.

112
00:05:57,500 --> 00:05:59,770
I mean, this was not
done by the authorities.

113
00:05:59,770 --> 00:06:00,590
There, it was.

114
00:06:00,590 --> 00:06:02,075
So it had a different message.

115
00:06:02,075 --> 00:06:04,900

116
00:06:04,900 --> 00:06:10,090
Around that time, what do you
remember about your parents'

117
00:06:10,090 --> 00:06:14,170
activities in talking
about or actually trying

118
00:06:14,170 --> 00:06:16,360
to get you out of the country?

119
00:06:16,360 --> 00:06:18,830
I assume they already
had things in the works.

120
00:06:18,830 --> 00:06:22,360
So maybe you can describe
how that progressed

121
00:06:22,360 --> 00:06:24,790
from your child's eye.

122
00:06:24,790 --> 00:06:28,120
Well, at that time,
one of the family

123
00:06:28,120 --> 00:06:31,120
members, the people that were--

124
00:06:31,120 --> 00:06:32,620
where he was a
physician, and they

125
00:06:32,620 --> 00:06:37,090
had, if I remember describing,
that they came actually

126
00:06:37,090 --> 00:06:42,052
from the town called Bad
Nauheim and but lived in Berlin.

127

00:06:42,052 --> 00:06:44,260

And they were ready to
emigrate to the United States,

128

00:06:44,260 --> 00:06:47,980

having been given an
affidavit by the American side

129

00:06:47,980 --> 00:06:52,180

of the family who were living
in St. Paul, Minnesota.

130

00:06:52,180 --> 00:06:54,550

And there was some
discussion as to perhaps

131

00:06:54,550 --> 00:06:59,170

they offered to take me with
them to the United States.

132

00:06:59,170 --> 00:07:05,530

They, in turn, had two daughters
who were going along with them.

133

00:07:05,530 --> 00:07:07,690

These two daughters were my--

134

00:07:07,690 --> 00:07:10,150

one was a year younger
than I. And one

135

00:07:10,150 --> 00:07:13,090

was about three or four
years older than I.

136

00:07:13,090 --> 00:07:18,040

So they were ages 7 and 11.

137

00:07:18,040 --> 00:07:21,630

And I was age 8, almost 8.

138

00:07:21,630 --> 00:07:23,470

I was 7 actually.

139
00:07:23,470 --> 00:07:27,040
This was 1930, late 1938.

140
00:07:27,040 --> 00:07:30,560
So there was this thought.

141
00:07:30,560 --> 00:07:36,430
However, I think my parents
did not really want to do that.

142
00:07:36,430 --> 00:07:39,280
Because they already
had, at that time,

143
00:07:39,280 --> 00:07:44,380
made contact with a relative of
my mother's, a distant cousin,

144
00:07:44,380 --> 00:07:47,260
who, at the time, was living
in the Philippine Islands,

145
00:07:47,260 --> 00:07:48,700
in Manila.

146
00:07:48,700 --> 00:07:52,300
And his history very briefly
was, he was born in Germany,

147
00:07:52,300 --> 00:07:54,220
married.

148
00:07:54,220 --> 00:07:56,440
He was in business.

149
00:07:56,440 --> 00:08:02,110
He had to leave Germany very
early on in the '30s, reasons

150
00:08:02,110 --> 00:08:04,690

not really known.

151

00:08:04,690 --> 00:08:10,060

He escaped to Spain
and stayed in Madrid

152

00:08:10,060 --> 00:08:14,950

until the beginning of the
Spanish Civil War in 1936.

153

00:08:14,950 --> 00:08:17,350

And I'm not certain
whether he had to leave,

154

00:08:17,350 --> 00:08:20,710

because he always was a
sort of a sharp businessman,

155

00:08:20,710 --> 00:08:21,700

quite bright.

156

00:08:21,700 --> 00:08:26,560

But one isn't clear as to
how and what he was doing.

157

00:08:26,560 --> 00:08:28,660

But there, too, he
left the Philippines.

158

00:08:28,660 --> 00:08:33,789

And by some strange connection,
if one recalls the history,

159

00:08:33,789 --> 00:08:39,220

the Philippines had been run
by Spain since their discovery

160

00:08:39,220 --> 00:08:40,570

by Magellan.

161

00:08:40,570 --> 00:08:43,900

And there were connections
between the Spanish people,

162
00:08:43,900 --> 00:08:46,990
the Spanish community, Spanish
business with the Philippines,

163
00:08:46,990 --> 00:08:49,910
a lot of Spaniards or
ex-Spaniards living there.

164
00:08:49,910 --> 00:08:54,700
So he managed to get into the
Philippines with his family.

165
00:08:54,700 --> 00:08:57,520
And there, the
Philippines at the time

166
00:08:57,520 --> 00:09:00,910
was an American
Commonwealth and was sort of

167
00:09:00,910 --> 00:09:04,660
under the same restrictions
about immigration entry

168
00:09:04,660 --> 00:09:06,580
quotas as the United States.

169
00:09:06,580 --> 00:09:09,100
But the United States quotas
were essentially closed.

170
00:09:09,100 --> 00:09:10,810
One could not get
into this country,

171
00:09:10,810 --> 00:09:15,790
unless one were a physician or
had a job or some special skill

172
00:09:15,790 --> 00:09:17,660
that was needed.

173
00:09:17,660 --> 00:09:20,230
So the Philippines,
there there were

174
00:09:20,230 --> 00:09:25,840
some minor changes in the
rules or whatever applied,

175
00:09:25,840 --> 00:09:30,850
and the American Consulate
was able to issue entry visas,

176
00:09:30,850 --> 00:09:33,430
once an affidavit
had been put together

177
00:09:33,430 --> 00:09:37,080
by a receiving party, which
was this distant cousin.

178
00:09:37,080 --> 00:09:40,510
And that began to firm
up as we went along

179
00:09:40,510 --> 00:09:43,000
in the latter part of 1938.

180
00:09:43,000 --> 00:09:47,440
So that, yes, we were scheduled
to leave for the Philippine

181
00:09:47,440 --> 00:09:52,250
Islands sometime in
February of 1939.

182
00:09:52,250 --> 00:09:54,080
Now let me understand
the affidavits.

183
00:09:54,080 --> 00:09:57,760
The purpose of the affidavit
was to show the United States

184

00:09:57,760 --> 00:10:02,740

Consulate that you would be sponsored, or taken care of,

185

00:10:02,740 --> 00:10:06,970

or supported in some way for some period of time

186

00:10:06,970 --> 00:10:08,680

if you were allowed to emigrate.

187

00:10:08,680 --> 00:10:09,910

Is that correct?

188

00:10:09,910 --> 00:10:11,230

That's absolutely correct.

189

00:10:11,230 --> 00:10:13,750

Yes, that was a requirement.

190

00:10:13,750 --> 00:10:16,030

In order to get a visa, the entrance visa,

191

00:10:16,030 --> 00:10:19,870

an affidavit had to be put down, laid down, before the American

192

00:10:19,870 --> 00:10:22,210

Consulate or American authority by someone

193

00:10:22,210 --> 00:10:24,310

who was willing to sponsor and support you

194

00:10:24,310 --> 00:10:27,470

and the family for whatever period of time,

195

00:10:27,470 --> 00:10:32,000

so that you'd not be a

burden on the local economy.

196

00:10:32,000 --> 00:10:35,880

What do you remember being part
of while all this was going on?

197

00:10:35,880 --> 00:10:38,230

For example, did you
go with your parents

198

00:10:38,230 --> 00:10:42,570

to the American Consulate
to try to get your visa,

199

00:10:42,570 --> 00:10:44,920

or do you remember
the affidavit coming

200

00:10:44,920 --> 00:10:47,830

in the mail from the cousin?

201

00:10:47,830 --> 00:10:51,430

I don't remember any of
that, the sort of paperwork

202

00:10:51,430 --> 00:10:52,840

and letters.

203

00:10:52,840 --> 00:10:57,310

I do recall, at one
time, that the thing was

204

00:10:57,310 --> 00:11:01,240

set, that the affidavit
had been given,

205

00:11:01,240 --> 00:11:06,070

that a visa had been issued,
and that things were all set

206

00:11:06,070 --> 00:11:08,110

for entering the Philippines.

207

00:11:08,110 --> 00:11:12,730

However, there came then the issue of departing Germany.

208

00:11:12,730 --> 00:11:19,330

The German authorities, at that time, allowed Jews to leave,

209

00:11:19,330 --> 00:11:22,570

provided they left for certain.

210

00:11:22,570 --> 00:11:25,360

And also, they're beginning to have restrictions

211

00:11:25,360 --> 00:11:28,390

on what one could take along.

212

00:11:28,390 --> 00:11:33,460

Up until that time, roughly speaking early 1939,

213

00:11:33,460 --> 00:11:37,170

Jews were allowed to take along what is called a lift.

214

00:11:37,170 --> 00:11:39,460

A lift, this is-- it's an English word.

215

00:11:39,460 --> 00:11:41,780

It's a container, a large container

216

00:11:41,780 --> 00:11:44,230

where you could store furniture and things of that nature,

217

00:11:44,230 --> 00:11:47,590

personal belongings, anything from couches to chairs

218

00:11:47,590 --> 00:11:49,367
and what have you.

219
00:11:49,367 --> 00:11:50,950
They were allowed
to take one of these

220
00:11:50,950 --> 00:11:54,700
along to be loaded aboard
ship in Hamburg or Bremen

221
00:11:54,700 --> 00:11:57,910
and to be shipped to the
United States or wherever.

222
00:11:57,910 --> 00:12:01,840
In our case, going all the way
to the Philippines, a lift,

223
00:12:01,840 --> 00:12:04,990
so to speak, was
not really feasible.

224
00:12:04,990 --> 00:12:09,550
We weren't sure, this
was a tropical area.

225
00:12:09,550 --> 00:12:11,770
We weren't keen on
taking furniture.

226
00:12:11,770 --> 00:12:17,650
So we limited our things to
suitcases, steamer trunks,

227
00:12:17,650 --> 00:12:20,960
hanging steamer trunks,
and things of that kind

228
00:12:20,960 --> 00:12:23,530
and packed two large
cases of things

229

00:12:23,530 --> 00:12:28,180
that were to be shipped to my
aunt who lived, at that time,

230
00:12:28,180 --> 00:12:32,200
in the Illinois, in
Chicago, near Chicago.

231
00:12:32,200 --> 00:12:34,480
And these were like
winter clothes,

232
00:12:34,480 --> 00:12:38,270
which we knew we would not
need in the Philippines.

233
00:12:38,270 --> 00:12:41,830
So that was sort of our general
preparations for departure.

234
00:12:41,830 --> 00:12:44,170
But, of course, to get
authorization to leave,

235
00:12:44,170 --> 00:12:47,860
you had to get cleared
by the German government

236
00:12:47,860 --> 00:12:51,100
and primarily by the Gestapo,
the Geheime Staatspolizei,

237
00:12:51,100 --> 00:12:55,480
secret state police, who came to
our house to actually check out

238
00:12:55,480 --> 00:12:58,870
all the things that we
would be taking along.

239
00:12:58,870 --> 00:13:01,990
So we had to display all
the stuff that we were

240

00:13:01,990 --> 00:13:04,990
going to pack and take with us.

241

00:13:04,990 --> 00:13:07,560
I recall my mother
pulling out a red velvet,

242

00:13:07,560 --> 00:13:09,580
I don't know, a
black velvet cushion

243

00:13:09,580 --> 00:13:12,070
on which were pinned
about seven medals that

244

00:13:12,070 --> 00:13:14,050
belonged to her
father, that he had

245

00:13:14,050 --> 00:13:18,550
won as a officer in
the First World War.

246

00:13:18,550 --> 00:13:22,690
Amongst these was the Iron
Cross, second class I believe,

247

00:13:22,690 --> 00:13:26,200
and which he had earned
or in whatever manner.

248

00:13:26,200 --> 00:13:28,780
And she asked them
whether it was

249

00:13:28,780 --> 00:13:30,850
OK to take these medals along.

250

00:13:30,850 --> 00:13:35,170
Because this was something
that was strictly German.

251

00:13:35,170 --> 00:13:39,130
And they were always
concerned that you would not

252
00:13:39,130 --> 00:13:42,160
depart with anything
that was German

253
00:13:42,160 --> 00:13:46,240
or belonged to the German state
or that related to it as a Jew,

254
00:13:46,240 --> 00:13:48,010
because you were no
longer a real member

255
00:13:48,010 --> 00:13:49,760
of the German society.

256
00:13:49,760 --> 00:13:53,600
So but they said that was
OK, take that with you.

257
00:13:53,600 --> 00:13:57,250
And so she packed it, along
with some other things.

258
00:13:57,250 --> 00:13:59,380
And they checked out everything.

259
00:13:59,380 --> 00:14:00,760
I was there at the time.

260
00:14:00,760 --> 00:14:03,910
And there wasn't
too much commotion.

261
00:14:03,910 --> 00:14:07,780
It was two sort of
bureaucratic type people.

262
00:14:07,780 --> 00:14:10,360
And then they signed some

little slip of paper.

263

00:14:10,360 --> 00:14:14,080

And that cleared us for
packing up and whatever.

264

00:14:14,080 --> 00:14:15,400

And they left.

265

00:14:15,400 --> 00:14:18,190

They spent say two hours,
three hours in the apartment

266

00:14:18,190 --> 00:14:20,270

to check it all out.

267

00:14:20,270 --> 00:14:25,760

And at that point, you know, we
were in the state of departure.

268

00:14:25,760 --> 00:14:29,300

Was this February
of '39 by then?

269

00:14:29,300 --> 00:14:32,150

Yes, that was approximately
at the beginning of February

270

00:14:32,150 --> 00:14:34,730

or end of January 1939.

271

00:14:34,730 --> 00:14:38,970

We are now on the preparation
stage to leave the country.

272

00:14:38,970 --> 00:14:41,420

So we have packed everything.

273

00:14:41,420 --> 00:14:44,660

These trunks, steamer
trunks, were picked up

274

00:14:44,660 --> 00:14:49,050
to be taken to a ship which
would be departing from Genoa,

275

00:14:49,050 --> 00:15:02,920
Italy sometime around February
the 23rd or 24th of 1939.

276

00:15:02,920 --> 00:15:07,090
But this was not the ship,
this wasn't the SS Victoria?

277

00:15:07,090 --> 00:15:09,160
Yes, that was the
SS Victoria that

278

00:15:09,160 --> 00:15:12,850
was going to be taking
us from Genoa, Italy

279

00:15:12,850 --> 00:15:15,460
to Manila, Philippines.

280

00:15:15,460 --> 00:15:19,930
So we had booked passage on
the ship through the company,

281

00:15:19,930 --> 00:15:21,900
shipping company,
steamship company.

282

00:15:21,900 --> 00:15:24,000
It's called Lloyd Triestino.

283

00:15:24,000 --> 00:15:26,470
The Lloyd Triestino
ran a shipping service

284

00:15:26,470 --> 00:15:27,940
to the Far East.

285

00:15:27,940 --> 00:15:32,750
The route would be starting in

Genoa to Naples to Port Said,

286
00:15:32,750 --> 00:15:35,530
at the head of the
Suez Canal, to Aden,

287
00:15:35,530 --> 00:15:37,570
at the other side
of the Suez Canal,

288
00:15:37,570 --> 00:15:44,740
from Aden to what in those days
was called Colombo, Ceylon, now

289
00:15:44,740 --> 00:15:47,800
called Sri Lanka,
from there to Bombay,

290
00:15:47,800 --> 00:15:51,520
from there to Singapore, and
from Singapore to Manila,

291
00:15:51,520 --> 00:15:55,090
and from Manila to Hong Kong,
and from Hong Kong to Shanghai.

292
00:15:55,090 --> 00:15:57,820
Very significant, because
the ships were usually

293
00:15:57,820 --> 00:16:01,030
loaded with people
heading for Shanghai.

294
00:16:01,030 --> 00:16:02,200
So that was the route.

295
00:16:02,200 --> 00:16:04,385
They had four ships
that plied this route.

296
00:16:04,385 --> 00:16:06,010
The Victoria was the

smallest they had.

297

00:16:06,010 --> 00:16:08,050

The largest was
Conte Biancamano.

298

00:16:08,050 --> 00:16:12,310

They had the Conte Verde
and the Conte Rosso.

299

00:16:12,310 --> 00:16:15,620

Now you, to back
up a little bit,

300

00:16:15,620 --> 00:16:17,800

you're luggage was shipped away.

301

00:16:17,800 --> 00:16:20,260

And what confused me
was, my recollection

302

00:16:20,260 --> 00:16:24,880

was you left from Genoa on
the SS Victoria in March.

303

00:16:24,880 --> 00:16:27,760

So is that incorrect?

304

00:16:27,760 --> 00:16:29,770

Well, actually our
arrival in the Philippines

305

00:16:29,770 --> 00:16:32,890

was March the 16th, 1939.

306

00:16:32,890 --> 00:16:34,720

So you have to work
back three weeks, which

307

00:16:34,720 --> 00:16:36,950

was the passage time.

308

00:16:36,950 --> 00:16:40,780
And so we're talking probably
around the 23rd or so,

309
00:16:40,780 --> 00:16:44,350
24th of February, that we
actually left to Genoa.

310
00:16:44,350 --> 00:16:47,400
What we did was when we
actually left Berlin,

311
00:16:47,400 --> 00:16:49,510
we closed the apartment.

312
00:16:49,510 --> 00:16:50,470
It was a rental.

313
00:16:50,470 --> 00:16:52,490
So, you know, we didn't
have to do any selling

314
00:16:52,490 --> 00:16:53,630
anything of that sort.

315
00:16:53,630 --> 00:16:57,070
The rent was paid
up to that time.

316
00:16:57,070 --> 00:17:00,940
We took a taxi with
our hand luggage

317
00:17:00,940 --> 00:17:03,340
to the railroad
station in Berlin.

318
00:17:03,340 --> 00:17:05,730
It was called the
Anhalter Bahnhof.

319
00:17:05,730 --> 00:17:07,480
It's right in the

center of Berlin.

320

00:17:07,480 --> 00:17:11,530

It still exists today
as a freight railyard.

321

00:17:11,530 --> 00:17:14,160

In those days, it was a major
passenger railroad station,

322

00:17:14,160 --> 00:17:16,660

Anhalter Bahnhof.

323

00:17:16,660 --> 00:17:18,730

At the Bahnhof, it was
crowded with people.

324

00:17:18,730 --> 00:17:22,690

It was full of the SS, the
various Nazi organizations

325

00:17:22,690 --> 00:17:24,240

checking everybody out.

326

00:17:24,240 --> 00:17:26,380

It was, of course, quite
obvious all the passengers

327

00:17:26,380 --> 00:17:28,470

on this train
which left at night

328

00:17:28,470 --> 00:17:30,340

were Jews or were leaving.

329

00:17:30,340 --> 00:17:33,400

So as usual, they had to
check everything three times.

330

00:17:33,400 --> 00:17:37,030

We met other people that my
parents knew, a couple, that

331
00:17:37,030 --> 00:17:37,840
were also leaving.

332
00:17:37,840 --> 00:17:40,630
But by coincidence met them,
because we did not realize

333
00:17:40,630 --> 00:17:42,430
they were also
leaving that night.

334
00:17:42,430 --> 00:17:44,290
We got aboard the train.

335
00:17:44,290 --> 00:17:47,770
And the train left
Berlin station.

336
00:17:47,770 --> 00:17:49,900
I think it must have been--

337
00:17:49,900 --> 00:17:53,740
oh, it was I believe
the 20th of February.

338
00:17:53,740 --> 00:17:56,230
Because my birthday's
on the 19th.

339
00:17:56,230 --> 00:17:58,840
And I recall, I'd forgotten
whether I was actually

340
00:17:58,840 --> 00:18:01,180
celebrating the birthday on
the train the next morning

341
00:18:01,180 --> 00:18:02,800
or whether it was
still in Berlin.

342
00:18:02,800 --> 00:18:06,010

Anyway, it was either
the 19th or the 20th.

343
00:18:06,010 --> 00:18:09,670
So the train then went
on to Munich from Berlin.

344
00:18:09,670 --> 00:18:12,662
And there we had
to change, change

345
00:18:12,662 --> 00:18:19,030
trains, and went on from
Munich to the Brenner Pass.

346
00:18:19,030 --> 00:18:22,770
The Brenner Pass, of course,
separates Austria from Italy.

347
00:18:22,770 --> 00:18:25,280
And some of the passage
was through Austria,

348
00:18:25,280 --> 00:18:27,240
very pretty trip.

349
00:18:27,240 --> 00:18:31,730
But in Brenner, what usually
is a simple border crossing,

350
00:18:31,730 --> 00:18:35,840
and you stay on the train
to continue on to Genoa,

351
00:18:35,840 --> 00:18:39,800
turned out to be almost
a day and a half stop.

352
00:18:39,800 --> 00:18:44,090
Because we all had to leave
the train, luggage and all.

353
00:18:44,090 --> 00:18:46,010

The Germans
insistent-- insisting

354
00:18:46,010 --> 00:18:48,710
on searching through
all the luggage, that

355
00:18:48,710 --> 00:18:51,620
is the German border side.

356
00:18:51,620 --> 00:18:55,070
And this was a large hall, which
was on one side with Germans,

357
00:18:55,070 --> 00:18:57,740
but in the rest of it
were Italians already.

358
00:18:57,740 --> 00:19:00,020
These were the
Carabinieri, who wore

359
00:19:00,020 --> 00:19:03,320
sort of dark green uniforms
and dark green capes.

360
00:19:03,320 --> 00:19:06,530
And when you approached them to
ask a questions, they always--

361
00:19:06,530 --> 00:19:09,920
they could not either
understand or did not

362
00:19:09,920 --> 00:19:12,020
feel like answering,
because you were still

363
00:19:12,020 --> 00:19:13,880
under German jurisdiction.

364
00:19:13,880 --> 00:19:16,140
They also searched

everybody physically

365

00:19:16,140 --> 00:19:20,540
to make sure they carried
nothing that was not sealed.

366

00:19:20,540 --> 00:19:24,770
Wedding bands, any gold jewelry
that you were allowed to take,

367

00:19:24,770 --> 00:19:27,110
and there was a limit
on what you could take,

368

00:19:27,110 --> 00:19:29,780
had to be sealed in
boxes or envelopes

369

00:19:29,780 --> 00:19:30,900
before you left Germany.

370

00:19:30,900 --> 00:19:32,900
There was a big red
wax seal on the stuff.

371

00:19:32,900 --> 00:19:37,450
And you could not open that
until you crossed the border.

372

00:19:37,450 --> 00:19:39,190
That was to ensure
that you didn't

373

00:19:39,190 --> 00:19:41,290
take extra things with
you, only the things

374

00:19:41,290 --> 00:19:44,060
that you were supposed to.

375

00:19:44,060 --> 00:19:47,950
So that whole search
procedure delayed us.

376
00:19:47,950 --> 00:19:50,110
And the train left without us.

377
00:19:50,110 --> 00:19:53,620
So we had to wait for the next
train by the time we were done.

378
00:19:53,620 --> 00:19:56,320
We got on board the
next train and did not

379
00:19:56,320 --> 00:19:59,380
arrive in Genoa until like 2:00
in the morning at some point.

380
00:19:59,380 --> 00:20:01,450
It was early in the morning.

381
00:20:01,450 --> 00:20:05,398
And there with a taxi
took us to hotel.

382
00:20:05,398 --> 00:20:06,940
And I remember the
name of the hotel.

383
00:20:06,940 --> 00:20:12,820
It was The Hotel Helvetia,
like name Swiss, name Helvetia.

384
00:20:12,820 --> 00:20:15,240
And we stayed there the night.

385
00:20:15,240 --> 00:20:18,940
And the next day,
there were members

386
00:20:18,940 --> 00:20:23,200
of the Italian Jewish community
who sort of received refugees

387

00:20:23,200 --> 00:20:25,780
from Germany or wherever
coming across the border.

388
00:20:25,780 --> 00:20:28,360
And they sort of knew
where they would be.

389
00:20:28,360 --> 00:20:31,055
And they sort of took us
in hand and sort of we

390
00:20:31,055 --> 00:20:32,680
toured the city with
them a little bit.

391
00:20:32,680 --> 00:20:34,090
They showed us sights.

392
00:20:34,090 --> 00:20:36,490
In fact, they took us up
on one of these electric,

393
00:20:36,490 --> 00:20:38,440
those railways up the
side of a mountain.

394
00:20:38,440 --> 00:20:44,070
I think it was the Rigi, I'm not
sure, but just for sightseeing.

395
00:20:44,070 --> 00:20:47,590
And then a day later,
we, again, in a

396
00:20:47,590 --> 00:20:51,610
cab and went to dockside
to board the ship, the SS

397
00:20:51,610 --> 00:20:53,400
Victoria.

398
00:20:53,400 --> 00:20:55,270

And--

399

00:20:55,270 --> 00:20:58,570

Do you remember
how you felt or how

400

00:20:58,570 --> 00:21:02,650

you thought your
parents felt say right

401

00:21:02,650 --> 00:21:05,080

before you crossed into
Italy, for example,

402

00:21:05,080 --> 00:21:10,690

with this long delayed
search, whether it seemed

403

00:21:10,690 --> 00:21:14,620

like an adventure or it seemed
frightening or a bit of both

404

00:21:14,620 --> 00:21:16,820

from a child's perspective?

405

00:21:16,820 --> 00:21:17,320

Yes.

406

00:21:17,320 --> 00:21:18,528

It was certainly frightening.

407

00:21:18,528 --> 00:21:21,007

Because here you were sort
of held up by the Germans,

408

00:21:21,007 --> 00:21:22,840

and you weren't sure
where they'd let you go

409

00:21:22,840 --> 00:21:24,162

and what would happen.

410

00:21:24,162 --> 00:21:25,870
And they always had
always one more thing

411
00:21:25,870 --> 00:21:28,000
to check out, like
a personal search.

412
00:21:28,000 --> 00:21:31,290
And so that was
very nerve-wracking,

413
00:21:31,290 --> 00:21:32,620
beside having to wait.

414
00:21:32,620 --> 00:21:35,700
And there's no food available.

415
00:21:35,700 --> 00:21:39,765
There were all these little
personal needs that were not--

416
00:21:39,765 --> 00:21:42,320
you couldn't take
care of too well.

417
00:21:42,320 --> 00:21:46,540
But eventually, they
let us go to the next--

418
00:21:46,540 --> 00:21:49,257
and then this train
we were on left with--

419
00:21:49,257 --> 00:21:51,340
and we were wondering what
would happen, you know,

420
00:21:51,340 --> 00:21:52,430
is there another train?

421
00:21:52,430 --> 00:21:54,275
And then via had

to check on that.

422

00:21:54,275 --> 00:21:55,650

And yes, there
was another train.

423

00:21:55,650 --> 00:21:58,990

And then the Carabinieri, and we
went over to the Italian side.

424

00:21:58,990 --> 00:22:01,668

And the Carabinieri,
the border guards,

425

00:22:01,668 --> 00:22:02,710

then took care of things.

426

00:22:02,710 --> 00:22:10,210

And they were sort of
nondescript in their manner.

427

00:22:10,210 --> 00:22:11,530

And we boarded the train.

428

00:22:11,530 --> 00:22:15,040

And at that point,
crossing into Italy,

429

00:22:15,040 --> 00:22:18,670

even though Italy was under
Mussolini and the fascists,

430

00:22:18,670 --> 00:22:20,550

was a relief.

431

00:22:20,550 --> 00:22:23,200

Not knowing then, my parents
had worked some sort of a code

432

00:22:23,200 --> 00:22:26,770

before to let people know back
in Germany whether we made it

433

00:22:26,770 --> 00:22:28,210
across safely.

434

00:22:28,210 --> 00:22:31,360
And they wrote back once
we got through to Italy

435

00:22:31,360 --> 00:22:34,690
or telegraphed that this
code, this certain use

436

00:22:34,690 --> 00:22:38,050
of certain words, which said,
yes, we have successfully

437

00:22:38,050 --> 00:22:42,880
crossed the border and
we're wherever, Genoa.

438

00:22:42,880 --> 00:22:47,080
I have a note from the file that
your parents, or your mother,

439

00:22:47,080 --> 00:22:52,720
was able to take hidden
jewelry with them, too.

440

00:22:52,720 --> 00:22:57,220
And I wonder what the
circumstances were for that.

441

00:22:57,220 --> 00:22:58,720
I don't recall that.

442

00:22:58,720 --> 00:23:01,780
She may have hidden a ring
or two or some, whatever,

443

00:23:01,780 --> 00:23:03,520
I am not certain about it.

444

00:23:03,520 --> 00:23:04,825

But I do recall--

445
00:23:04,825 --> 00:23:07,400

446
00:23:07,400 --> 00:23:12,170
Frank, before we go
on to the sea voyage,

447
00:23:12,170 --> 00:23:14,540
why don't you tell
me what, if anything,

448
00:23:14,540 --> 00:23:20,970
you recall about any particular
difficulties your family might

449
00:23:20,970 --> 00:23:24,090
have had leaving Germany
by virtue of your father's

450
00:23:24,090 --> 00:23:27,160
employment or
educational status,

451
00:23:27,160 --> 00:23:29,910
and anything you remember
about saying goodbye

452
00:23:29,910 --> 00:23:33,510
to family members or friends?

453
00:23:33,510 --> 00:23:37,900
As far as his college or
work status is concerned,

454
00:23:37,900 --> 00:23:40,080
I don't think there
was any real problem.

455
00:23:40,080 --> 00:23:43,470
He simply left the
company and they knew why.

456

00:23:43,470 --> 00:23:48,220

It was, I think, it was still
partially a Jewish company.

457

00:23:48,220 --> 00:23:51,270

And it was pretty obvious
why he would have to leave.

458

00:23:51,270 --> 00:23:54,440

And there was no
problem there at all.

459

00:23:54,440 --> 00:23:56,190

As far as saying
goodbye, I was concerned,

460

00:23:56,190 --> 00:23:57,815

obviously, I wasn't
there at the scene.

461

00:23:57,815 --> 00:24:00,610

But my grandmother, I
did say goodbye to her.

462

00:24:00,610 --> 00:24:01,710

You know, she was left.

463

00:24:01,710 --> 00:24:05,190

And my uncle came over,
his younger brother,

464

00:24:05,190 --> 00:24:08,490

but his younger brother
was one of these fellows

465

00:24:08,490 --> 00:24:10,420

that could do anything.

466

00:24:10,420 --> 00:24:13,950

And so they had hoped
to somehow bring them

467

00:24:13,950 --> 00:24:17,950
out as well later, once we
had reached the Philippines

468

00:24:17,950 --> 00:24:20,190
and were able to
perhaps settle and do--

469

00:24:20,190 --> 00:24:22,320
or continue on to
the United States.

470

00:24:22,320 --> 00:24:25,620
That was really the
plan and see what

471

00:24:25,620 --> 00:24:27,900
we could do about getting
them out of there.

472

00:24:27,900 --> 00:24:30,690
My grandmother was
not eager to leave.

473

00:24:30,690 --> 00:24:32,100
She felt she was kind of old.

474

00:24:32,100 --> 00:24:33,930
And she wanted to stay.

475

00:24:33,930 --> 00:24:37,500
And having just buried
her husband not too long

476

00:24:37,500 --> 00:24:40,350
before, it was very difficult--
would have been difficult

477

00:24:40,350 --> 00:24:41,790
for her to leave.

478

00:24:41,790 --> 00:24:45,360

We said goodbye to his two
aunts that who had also

479
00:24:45,360 --> 00:24:46,710
had plans to leave Germany.

480
00:24:46,710 --> 00:24:50,370
They actually ended up in
Chile, in Santiago, Chile.

481
00:24:50,370 --> 00:24:55,800
But other than that,
my mother's side,

482
00:24:55,800 --> 00:25:03,110
the only people left were
an aunt and her husband,

483
00:25:03,110 --> 00:25:08,860
who had moved to Berlin, and
some other distant relatives.

484
00:25:08,860 --> 00:25:11,470
As I mentioned before, her
younger brother and sister

485
00:25:11,470 --> 00:25:14,950
had left for the United
States in the mid '30s.

486
00:25:14,950 --> 00:25:16,570
So I left.

487
00:25:16,570 --> 00:25:19,730
I left my school in the
middle of the semester.

488
00:25:19,730 --> 00:25:23,350
But again, that was
becoming a common thing.

489
00:25:23,350 --> 00:25:25,600
So I was just one of

the other-- another kid

490
00:25:25,600 --> 00:25:27,910
leaving the country.

491
00:25:27,910 --> 00:25:31,610
It was not a unique situation.

492
00:25:31,610 --> 00:25:37,080
So I-- just trying to recall.

493
00:25:37,080 --> 00:25:40,090
Yeah, another kid was about
to leave as well the next day

494
00:25:40,090 --> 00:25:40,700
type of thing.

495
00:25:40,700 --> 00:25:43,810
And well, I've never seen any
of these kids again/ I have no

496
00:25:43,810 --> 00:25:45,640
idea what happened to them.

497
00:25:45,640 --> 00:25:48,040
I'm sure many left or at
least certain some left.

498
00:25:48,040 --> 00:25:52,390
Others, you know, must
have perished I'm sure.

499
00:25:52,390 --> 00:25:56,440
So but it was in a way
partially a relief.

500
00:25:56,440 --> 00:25:59,170
I do remember one incident,
of course, that my father--

501
00:25:59,170 --> 00:26:02,480

I always liked trains and
toys and junk like that.

502
00:26:02,480 --> 00:26:04,810
He took me downtown to
the largest department

503
00:26:04,810 --> 00:26:05,680
store in Berlin.

504
00:26:05,680 --> 00:26:09,840
It's called the KaDeWe, which is
a contraction of the full name

505
00:26:09,840 --> 00:26:11,140
Kaufhaus des Westens.

506
00:26:11,140 --> 00:26:12,520
It's a huge department store.

507
00:26:12,520 --> 00:26:14,590
It still exists today.

508
00:26:14,590 --> 00:26:15,475
And he took me there.

509
00:26:15,475 --> 00:26:17,350
Because I've often gone
there with my mother.

510
00:26:17,350 --> 00:26:19,220
They had a restaurant
in one of the levels.

511
00:26:19,220 --> 00:26:22,090
And we ate there once.

512
00:26:22,090 --> 00:26:24,280
And he took me to
the toy department

513
00:26:24,280 --> 00:26:26,470

and bought me an electric train.

514
00:26:26,470 --> 00:26:31,240
And it was one of these
H O gauge railroads,

515
00:26:31,240 --> 00:26:32,390
which never did work.

516
00:26:32,390 --> 00:26:35,290
Because the Philippines had a
different power [? sharing ?]

517
00:26:35,290 --> 00:26:36,280
system.

518
00:26:36,280 --> 00:26:40,480
But and that in itself will
lead me to another story

519
00:26:40,480 --> 00:26:44,590
much later on about that
particular model railroad.

520
00:26:44,590 --> 00:26:46,600
It was destroyed during
the Second World War

521
00:26:46,600 --> 00:26:48,580
when we lived in the
house in the Philippines

522
00:26:48,580 --> 00:26:51,820
and was among many things
that was destroyed.

523
00:26:51,820 --> 00:26:55,700
But he did take me there
and take this with me.

524
00:26:55,700 --> 00:26:58,570
And I did, I packed
it into a smaller box.

525
00:26:58,570 --> 00:27:03,100
And that's, as I say, we left.

526
00:27:03,100 --> 00:27:05,530
As a child, it
was more adventure

527
00:27:05,530 --> 00:27:08,620
than anything else,
high adventure,

528
00:27:08,620 --> 00:27:14,290
constantly changing railroads,
trains, dining cars, bunks,

529
00:27:14,290 --> 00:27:19,750
chairs, crossing into Italy.

530
00:27:19,750 --> 00:27:22,840
By the railway side, you know,
German plumbing is one thing.

531
00:27:22,840 --> 00:27:24,190
Italian is another.

532
00:27:24,190 --> 00:27:26,630
And what you'd see
there by the wayside,

533
00:27:26,630 --> 00:27:29,620
the Italian type, stoop type,
so-called Turkish toilets,

534
00:27:29,620 --> 00:27:31,120
were quite different
from what I was

535
00:27:31,120 --> 00:27:33,820
used to and different things.

536
00:27:33,820 --> 00:27:35,720

And the food was different.

537

00:27:35,720 --> 00:27:38,650

The train got very crowded
and was dark of night.

538

00:27:38,650 --> 00:27:42,610

And nobody knew exactly
what the next stop would be,

539

00:27:42,610 --> 00:27:46,120

because there were several
stops before you hit Genoa.

540

00:27:46,120 --> 00:27:48,370

So my father and
others would stand

541

00:27:48,370 --> 00:27:50,020

on the steps outside
the train as it

542

00:27:50,020 --> 00:27:53,500

was roaring into the station to
find out whether this was Genoa

543

00:27:53,500 --> 00:27:55,153

or not.

544

00:27:55,153 --> 00:27:57,820

So that we knew when to get out,
because the train was literally

545

00:27:57,820 --> 00:28:00,130

packed with Italians
and people who

546

00:28:00,130 --> 00:28:02,410

were traveling at that time.

547

00:28:02,410 --> 00:28:05,290

Were a lot of the people
also leaving the country?

548
00:28:05,290 --> 00:28:07,200
Were there are a lot
of Jews on the train?

549
00:28:07,200 --> 00:28:11,890
And do you remember the
actual journey, that is,

550
00:28:11,890 --> 00:28:15,520
which towns you went
through to get to Genoa?

551
00:28:15,520 --> 00:28:17,160
Yes, there were lots--

552
00:28:17,160 --> 00:28:19,810
a good number of Jews
heading for Italy.

553
00:28:19,810 --> 00:28:21,400
Because that was
a major departure

554
00:28:21,400 --> 00:28:23,080
point for the Far East.

555
00:28:23,080 --> 00:28:25,660

556
00:28:25,660 --> 00:28:28,210
I remember, the
trains were packed.

557
00:28:28,210 --> 00:28:32,950
And there was-- we did manage
to get in one dining car.

558
00:28:32,950 --> 00:28:38,000
The first night on the train,
we were in sleepers actually.

559

00:28:38,000 --> 00:28:41,080
The towns, of
course, to Munich, we

560
00:28:41,080 --> 00:28:44,380
went through many German
cities and then Munich

561
00:28:44,380 --> 00:28:48,100
south through
Austria, Innsbruck,

562
00:28:48,100 --> 00:28:50,320
and places like that it stopped.

563
00:28:50,320 --> 00:28:52,870
And then Brenner, the Brenner
Pass, and then, of course,

564
00:28:52,870 --> 00:28:55,240
the other trains
into Italy, I think,

565
00:28:55,240 --> 00:28:58,510
if I forgot it was Bolzano
was one of the cities

566
00:28:58,510 --> 00:29:00,210
that we went through.

567
00:29:00,210 --> 00:29:01,000
But it was dark.

568
00:29:01,000 --> 00:29:03,580
By the time we went
into Italy, it was dark.

569
00:29:03,580 --> 00:29:07,880
So I didn't see that
part of Italy very well.

570
00:29:07,880 --> 00:29:09,610
And this was a package deal.

571
00:29:09,610 --> 00:29:14,400
The train trip and the ship
transport were all together,

572
00:29:14,400 --> 00:29:15,970
yes, no?

573
00:29:15,970 --> 00:29:18,900
No, they didn't have
package deals in those days.

574
00:29:18,900 --> 00:29:21,300
You got yourself a
passage on a ship.

575
00:29:21,300 --> 00:29:23,820
And then to get there, you
went, of course, by train,

576
00:29:23,820 --> 00:29:25,230
buying the tickets.

577
00:29:25,230 --> 00:29:28,260
And that, again, required--

578
00:29:28,260 --> 00:29:31,740
you had to, when you were
going out of the country,

579
00:29:31,740 --> 00:29:35,170
you had to show why and that
you had a visa and so forth.

580
00:29:35,170 --> 00:29:37,260
Again, that was highly
controlled by the Nazis

581
00:29:37,260 --> 00:29:39,040
as to who left, who came in.

582
00:29:39,040 --> 00:29:41,130

And so if you had
an authorization,

583
00:29:41,130 --> 00:29:44,760
if you had the visa
for another country,

584
00:29:44,760 --> 00:29:48,300
and the entry visa into Italy,
you had to have that as well.

585
00:29:48,300 --> 00:29:49,800
That, of course, allowed you.

586
00:29:49,800 --> 00:29:51,600
But all this time,
of course, you

587
00:29:51,600 --> 00:29:53,850
carried this German
passport which had--

588
00:29:53,850 --> 00:29:55,320
with a red J in it.

589
00:29:55,320 --> 00:29:59,010
And they immediately knew
who and what you were,

590
00:29:59,010 --> 00:30:00,660
the German authorities.

591
00:30:00,660 --> 00:30:05,590
The Italians were less
sensitive to that sort of thing.

592
00:30:05,590 --> 00:30:08,880
They seemed to, you know, this
was not their primary interest.

593
00:30:08,880 --> 00:30:15,250
And so Italy felt almost like
a free country at that point.

594
00:30:15,250 --> 00:30:17,787
But whole of-- all of it
was a massive adventure.

595
00:30:17,787 --> 00:30:18,870
And I was eight years old.

596
00:30:18,870 --> 00:30:22,020
And all these things
coming one after the other,

597
00:30:22,020 --> 00:30:23,905
happening very fast.

598
00:30:23,905 --> 00:30:27,420
It was very
interesting, I found it.

599
00:30:27,420 --> 00:30:30,600
Do you remember any incidents
with the Italian fascists,

600
00:30:30,600 --> 00:30:34,050
with any of the soldiers at
any of the points along the way

601
00:30:34,050 --> 00:30:37,080
on your way to Genoa
or once you got there,

602
00:30:37,080 --> 00:30:41,460
or the immigration, Italian
immigration officials?

603
00:30:41,460 --> 00:30:43,500
None whatsoever.

604
00:30:43,500 --> 00:30:48,060
There was not-- the only
military I did see, two types,

605

00:30:48,060 --> 00:30:51,810
one was the typical Carabinieri
with the green capes

606
00:30:51,810 --> 00:30:54,570
at the border, who were
very quiet types of people

607
00:30:54,570 --> 00:30:57,485
and very sort of official types.

608
00:30:57,485 --> 00:30:59,610
The others were at the
railway stations, where they

609
00:30:59,610 --> 00:31:00,882
have a special Italian police.

610
00:31:00,882 --> 00:31:03,090
They wear sort of almost
like the old-fashioned three

611
00:31:03,090 --> 00:31:05,490
cornered hat type and
with a white leather

612
00:31:05,490 --> 00:31:09,037
band across their chest,
sort of formal uniforms.

613
00:31:09,037 --> 00:31:10,620
And they would patrol
just up and down

614
00:31:10,620 --> 00:31:13,050
in pairs, always
beautifully dressed

615
00:31:13,050 --> 00:31:17,810
but not, I mean, they did
not in any way, you know,

616
00:31:17,810 --> 00:31:19,500

single us out.

617
00:31:19,500 --> 00:31:23,850
It was just their job
to walk up and down.

618
00:31:23,850 --> 00:31:25,860
The authorities on
the train, there

619
00:31:25,860 --> 00:31:27,960
may have been a check or two.

620
00:31:27,960 --> 00:31:33,430
But there was, again, one did
not sense any problem in Italy.

621
00:31:33,430 --> 00:31:34,867
Or there might have been.

622
00:31:34,867 --> 00:31:36,450
There were obviously
Italian fascists.

623
00:31:36,450 --> 00:31:38,370
But one didn't see them.

624
00:31:38,370 --> 00:31:43,350
There was not that
well displayed.

625
00:31:43,350 --> 00:31:45,970
How long did the trip
take across Italy?

626
00:31:45,970 --> 00:31:49,740
And what do you remember
about getting to Genoa?

627
00:31:49,740 --> 00:31:51,240
Well, the first
thing I remember was

628

00:31:51,240 --> 00:31:54,360

that the trip from
the Brenner to Genoa

629

00:31:54,360 --> 00:31:59,370

must have been approximately
six, seven hours, I'm guessing.

630

00:31:59,370 --> 00:32:03,000

As I say, most of it was
late afternoon and night.

631

00:32:03,000 --> 00:32:06,060

We arrived in Genoa
at approximately 2:00,

632

00:32:06,060 --> 00:32:07,690

3:00 in the morning.

633

00:32:07,690 --> 00:32:10,860

We were all kind of tired by
then, had not slept very well.

634

00:32:10,860 --> 00:32:14,320

We did get to this hotel,
which was kind of--

635

00:32:14,320 --> 00:32:15,060

it was locked.

636

00:32:15,060 --> 00:32:16,410

We had to ring the bell.

637

00:32:16,410 --> 00:32:19,260

And a man in sort of slippers
came out, a night clerk.

638

00:32:19,260 --> 00:32:21,010

And we had reservations.

639

00:32:21,010 --> 00:32:22,170

So that was not a problem.

640
00:32:22,170 --> 00:32:25,940
He showed us to the
rooms, registered us.

641
00:32:25,940 --> 00:32:27,330
We showed the passport.

642
00:32:27,330 --> 00:32:29,070
Again, there was no incident.

643
00:32:29,070 --> 00:32:32,190
This was just another
person working there.

644
00:32:32,190 --> 00:32:33,298
And that was it.

645
00:32:33,298 --> 00:32:34,590
Next morning, we had breakfast.

646
00:32:34,590 --> 00:32:38,600
And again, it was
a very subdued.

647
00:32:38,600 --> 00:32:41,140
It was not threatening.

648
00:32:41,140 --> 00:32:44,010
And then as I mentioned
before, members

649
00:32:44,010 --> 00:32:49,460
of the Italian Jewish community
showed up and led us around

650
00:32:49,460 --> 00:32:52,120
and talked to us.

651
00:32:52,120 --> 00:32:54,180
Also, I want to
clarify something

652
00:32:54,180 --> 00:32:56,790
that I think we were
talking about earlier.

653
00:32:56,790 --> 00:33:00,840
You were saying to me that,
contrary to the pre-interview

654
00:33:00,840 --> 00:33:05,520
material, that you don't
recall your parents hiding

655
00:33:05,520 --> 00:33:11,610
any jewelry or other materials
in the process of leaving

656
00:33:11,610 --> 00:33:13,260
the country.

657
00:33:13,260 --> 00:33:17,420
Yes, I don't recall saying that.

658
00:33:17,420 --> 00:33:21,070
It might have been
somewhat confusing.

659
00:33:21,070 --> 00:33:23,650
Because as I
mentioned before, you

660
00:33:23,650 --> 00:33:28,210
were required to place all gold,
wedding rings or other jewelry,

661
00:33:28,210 --> 00:33:31,090
into sealed boxes or
envelopes before you

662
00:33:31,090 --> 00:33:33,790
left Germany and were then
allowed to open it once you

663

00:33:33,790 --> 00:33:36,320
crossed into another country.

664

00:33:36,320 --> 00:33:37,212
My parents did that.

665

00:33:37,212 --> 00:33:38,920
And of course, they
were also-- my mother

666

00:33:38,920 --> 00:33:40,990
certainly was searched,
physically searched,

667

00:33:40,990 --> 00:33:44,290
by the Germans at Brenner.

668

00:33:44,290 --> 00:33:47,080
So it would-- being
her nature, it's

669

00:33:47,080 --> 00:33:49,948
most unlikely that she
would have done that.

670

00:33:49,948 --> 00:33:52,240
There was not a great deal
of jewelry she took with her

671

00:33:52,240 --> 00:33:53,180
anyway.

672

00:33:53,180 --> 00:33:55,963
And so I don't recall--

673

00:33:55,963 --> 00:33:57,880
I don't know whether
there was any implication

674

00:33:57,880 --> 00:33:59,950
that there was a hidden.

675

00:33:59,950 --> 00:34:02,320

Although, I'm sure
people did that,

676

00:34:02,320 --> 00:34:06,040

if they had a lot of jewelry.

677

00:34:06,040 --> 00:34:08,710

Not in this case,
I don't believe.

678

00:34:08,710 --> 00:34:12,790

After breakfast at that hotel,
did you then go directly

679

00:34:12,790 --> 00:34:14,310

to the ship?

680

00:34:14,310 --> 00:34:16,600

No, we stayed a day in Genoa.

681

00:34:16,600 --> 00:34:20,199

Because the departure of the
ship was like a day thereafter.

682

00:34:20,199 --> 00:34:24,880

And as I say, we toured Genoa
and some of the outskirts.

683

00:34:24,880 --> 00:34:27,909

I think it was by
cab or by a car.

684

00:34:27,909 --> 00:34:33,850

And these people showed
us around and very nice.

685

00:34:33,850 --> 00:34:35,870

And then the next day, we--

686

00:34:35,870 --> 00:34:37,592

I don't remember the

evening what we did.

687

00:34:37,592 --> 00:34:38,800

We must have eaten somewhere.

688

00:34:38,800 --> 00:34:44,620

But we then left to go to
the docks, to the ship,

689

00:34:44,620 --> 00:34:48,110

and boarded the ship,
the SS Victoria.

690

00:34:48,110 --> 00:34:49,989

And what do you
remember about getting

691

00:34:49,989 --> 00:34:52,179

on the ship and
your accommodations

692

00:34:52,179 --> 00:34:55,239

and the other
circumstances of the trip?

693

00:34:55,239 --> 00:34:58,510

Yes, in those days, these
ships, as most ships,

694

00:34:58,510 --> 00:35:00,760

had three classes, the first
class, the second class,

695

00:35:00,760 --> 00:35:02,050

and the third class.

696

00:35:02,050 --> 00:35:05,350

And some even had a fourth
class, the so-called steerage.

697

00:35:05,350 --> 00:35:07,660

The largest ship of the
line, the Conte Biancamano,

698
00:35:07,660 --> 00:35:09,610
had that fourth class.

699
00:35:09,610 --> 00:35:12,480
Victoria being the smallest had
three classes, first, second,

700
00:35:12,480 --> 00:35:12,980
and third.

701
00:35:12,980 --> 00:35:15,460
And we were booked
on second class.

702
00:35:15,460 --> 00:35:16,960
And these other
friends of ours whom

703
00:35:16,960 --> 00:35:19,480
we'd met at the railway
station in Berlin,

704
00:35:19,480 --> 00:35:20,920
they were in the third class.

705
00:35:20,920 --> 00:35:24,280
But the differences,
of course, first class

706
00:35:24,280 --> 00:35:27,250
had a very ornate dining
room and the larger cabins.

707
00:35:27,250 --> 00:35:29,490
Second class had regular cabins.

708
00:35:29,490 --> 00:35:32,380
There was a set of
bunks and a regular bed.

709
00:35:32,380 --> 00:35:35,020

And there were--
they were separated.

710
00:35:35,020 --> 00:35:38,720
Because each one had their
areas on deck and swimming,

711
00:35:38,720 --> 00:35:42,100
sort of a box like swimming
pool for the second class.

712
00:35:42,100 --> 00:35:46,690
And the ship also had,
for some strange reason,

713
00:35:46,690 --> 00:35:49,330
deck cargo of
automobiles, something

714
00:35:49,330 --> 00:35:54,670
like 20 cars were strapped
to the ship on the decks.

715
00:35:54,670 --> 00:35:57,170
In fact, in one incident
I recall, I ran--

716
00:35:57,170 --> 00:35:58,360
I was a wild kid.

717
00:35:58,360 --> 00:36:01,420
And I ran into one of those
cars and the bumper edge

718
00:36:01,420 --> 00:36:02,690
went into my knee.

719
00:36:02,690 --> 00:36:04,270
So I had a big gash in my knee.

720
00:36:04,270 --> 00:36:08,630
And the Italian surgeon aboard,
a doctor aboard the ship, he--

721
00:36:08,630 --> 00:36:09,880
my father dragged me in there.

722
00:36:09,880 --> 00:36:11,650
I think it was
bleeding like crazy.

723
00:36:11,650 --> 00:36:14,840
And he took one of these metal
clamps and clamped it closed.

724
00:36:14,840 --> 00:36:17,410
This is rather
than with a suture.

725
00:36:17,410 --> 00:36:20,110
But he felt that it was
the best way to do that.

726
00:36:20,110 --> 00:36:23,200
And sure enough, you know, he
checked me out several times

727
00:36:23,200 --> 00:36:23,770
thereafter.

728
00:36:23,770 --> 00:36:24,490
And it healed up.

729
00:36:24,490 --> 00:36:27,300
And I still have the scar.

730
00:36:27,300 --> 00:36:29,625
So that was a incident
I do remember.

731
00:36:29,625 --> 00:36:31,000
The other one was
I tried to swim

732
00:36:31,000 --> 00:36:33,310

in one of those box
like swimming pools

733
00:36:33,310 --> 00:36:36,280
with sort of a box placed
on the deck with water.

734
00:36:36,280 --> 00:36:37,600
And the ship was rolling.

735
00:36:37,600 --> 00:36:39,610
And that water was
just sloshing around.

736
00:36:39,610 --> 00:36:40,390
And it was a mess.

737
00:36:40,390 --> 00:36:41,540
I almost drowned there.

738
00:36:41,540 --> 00:36:43,350
I think I swallowed some water.

739
00:36:43,350 --> 00:36:46,510
And so but I got out of it OK.

740
00:36:46,510 --> 00:36:49,400
The ship, the crew was Italian.

741
00:36:49,400 --> 00:36:51,770
It was a totally Italian
operation of course.

742
00:36:51,770 --> 00:36:53,530
The dining steward,
my mother thought

743
00:36:53,530 --> 00:36:55,170
it was the handsomest guy.

744
00:36:55,170 --> 00:36:58,030
They showed up in these sort

of black beautiful uniforms

745

00:36:58,030 --> 00:36:58,720
for serving.

746

00:36:58,720 --> 00:37:02,590
And you know, second
class food was very good.

747

00:37:02,590 --> 00:37:05,740
The Italian cuisine
at the time favored

748

00:37:05,740 --> 00:37:11,170
a lot of spaghetti, Italian
meals, and great on desserts.

749

00:37:11,170 --> 00:37:12,770
They were sort of rum soaked.

750

00:37:12,770 --> 00:37:15,250
And the ice cream tasted
full of cinnamon to us.

751

00:37:15,250 --> 00:37:18,150
But, you know, that's
the Italian style.

752

00:37:18,150 --> 00:37:20,080
But it was good.

753

00:37:20,080 --> 00:37:24,340
And so-- but one major
incident, and one

754

00:37:24,340 --> 00:37:27,130
has to recall that the
passengers on that ship

755

00:37:27,130 --> 00:37:33,040
were, roughly speaking,
90% German Austrian Jews.

756

00:37:33,040 --> 00:37:35,830

Now they decided,
as on most ships,

757

00:37:35,830 --> 00:37:39,730

what you're going to have a
ball sometime along the voyage.

758

00:37:39,730 --> 00:37:42,680

And so there was a
big disagreement,

759

00:37:42,680 --> 00:37:44,380

and it's amazing,
among the Jews,

760

00:37:44,380 --> 00:37:47,890

between the Viennese or the
Austrian and the German Jews.

761

00:37:47,890 --> 00:37:52,480

So the Viennese decided to
have their Viennese ball.

762

00:37:52,480 --> 00:37:54,460

And the Germans
and all the others,

763

00:37:54,460 --> 00:37:57,100

other than the Viennese,
decided to have their own.

764

00:37:57,100 --> 00:37:59,290

So they had two
balls instead of one.

765

00:37:59,290 --> 00:38:01,840

And that was kind
of interesting,

766

00:38:01,840 --> 00:38:07,120

as a sociological phenomenon
for that particular time

767
00:38:07,120 --> 00:38:09,820
to have a separate or--

768
00:38:09,820 --> 00:38:14,380
although people could go to
either one, I believe, affair.

769
00:38:14,380 --> 00:38:16,790
The other significant
incident was this.

770
00:38:16,790 --> 00:38:20,440
On board the ship was
a family from India

771
00:38:20,440 --> 00:38:21,880
who were returning from Berlin.

772
00:38:21,880 --> 00:38:23,800
He was of the
Maharajah or whatever,

773
00:38:23,800 --> 00:38:25,913
upper caste class from India.

774
00:38:25,913 --> 00:38:27,580
And he had gone to
Germany for treatment

775
00:38:27,580 --> 00:38:28,708
for a heart condition.

776
00:38:28,708 --> 00:38:30,250
And they were
returning with his wife

777
00:38:30,250 --> 00:38:33,070
and beautiful,
beautiful daughter.

778
00:38:33,070 --> 00:38:36,100

All these single, the
bachelors, really looked at her.

779
00:38:36,100 --> 00:38:37,330
She was always god-like--

780
00:38:37,330 --> 00:38:39,930
goddess-like looking women.

781
00:38:39,930 --> 00:38:41,950
And they were
traveling second class.

782
00:38:41,950 --> 00:38:43,395
And they had their
own table, you

783
00:38:43,395 --> 00:38:45,390
know, [INAUDIBLE] little tables.

784
00:38:45,390 --> 00:38:47,870
And one morning, the wife
of the Indian showed up.

785
00:38:47,870 --> 00:38:49,090
And they always wore saris.

786
00:38:49,090 --> 00:38:50,650
And she showed up in a sari.

787
00:38:50,650 --> 00:38:52,750
It had a green background
and white swastikas

788
00:38:52,750 --> 00:38:54,010
all over the place.

789
00:38:54,010 --> 00:38:56,380
That was the
pattern of the sari.

790
00:38:56,380 --> 00:39:00,658

Now it is an Indian symbol, as we know, it was not invented--

791
00:39:00,658 --> 00:39:05,340

792
00:39:05,340 --> 00:39:08,970
This is a continuation of an interview for the United States

793
00:39:08,970 --> 00:39:13,010
Holocaust Memorial Museum of Frank Ephraim.

794
00:39:13,010 --> 00:39:17,010
The date is February the 28, 1997.

795
00:39:17,010 --> 00:39:21,310
And the interview is being conducted by Nancy Alper.

796
00:39:21,310 --> 00:39:25,830
And Frank and I were discussing his voyage

797
00:39:25,830 --> 00:39:32,330
on the SS Victoria from Genoa all the way to the Philippines

798
00:39:32,330 --> 00:39:36,240
and an incident that happened in the dining room

799
00:39:36,240 --> 00:39:43,170
with an Indian woman's wearing a sari with swastikas on it.

800
00:39:43,170 --> 00:39:45,390
As I mentioned, these were white swastikas

801
00:39:45,390 --> 00:39:47,820

on a sort of light
green background.

802
00:39:47,820 --> 00:39:49,860
They were at breakfast time.

803
00:39:49,860 --> 00:39:51,660
And all the tables
around them were

804
00:39:51,660 --> 00:39:56,550
occupied by refugees, Jews
from Germany and Austria.

805
00:39:56,550 --> 00:39:59,140
And certainly everybody
glanced over there and didn't

806
00:39:59,140 --> 00:40:00,390
quite know what to make of it.

807
00:40:00,390 --> 00:40:02,130
Because this couple
and their daughter

808
00:40:02,130 --> 00:40:03,540
had been all very friendly.

809
00:40:03,540 --> 00:40:05,970
And they were very
pleasant people

810
00:40:05,970 --> 00:40:10,650
and very civilized people
returning to India, their home.

811
00:40:10,650 --> 00:40:12,877
And we don't know
quite what to do.

812
00:40:12,877 --> 00:40:13,710
I mean, obviously, .

813

00:40:13,710 --> 00:40:16,680

There was a certain offense
and all that on the one hand.

814

00:40:16,680 --> 00:40:18,990

On the other, I
suppose many realized

815

00:40:18,990 --> 00:40:20,880

the symbol was
something that was more

816

00:40:20,880 --> 00:40:23,640

universal than the Nazi symbol.

817

00:40:23,640 --> 00:40:28,040

In any event, by
lunchtime, she had changed.

818

00:40:28,040 --> 00:40:30,330

That was the upshot.

819

00:40:30,330 --> 00:40:33,150

I'm not certain whether
someone had dropped a hint

820

00:40:33,150 --> 00:40:34,860

to the waiter or what happened.

821

00:40:34,860 --> 00:40:39,000

But she had put on another
sari, of which she had many.

822

00:40:39,000 --> 00:40:42,360

And that was the end of that.

823

00:40:42,360 --> 00:40:44,880

I'm not sure, they may have
discussed it with them.

824

00:40:44,880 --> 00:40:47,310

Or they may have-- she may

have talked to others about it

825

00:40:47,310 --> 00:40:50,700

and made some comment
about doing this

826

00:40:50,700 --> 00:40:52,560

inadvertently and so on.

827

00:40:52,560 --> 00:40:55,160

But, you know, there was
no harm done in any of it.

828

00:40:55,160 --> 00:40:57,570

So that was OK.

829

00:40:57,570 --> 00:41:01,440

If one will recall, 1939, one
of the most popular dances

830

00:41:01,440 --> 00:41:03,390

was the Lambeth Walk.

831

00:41:03,390 --> 00:41:06,780

And that was being done
big time aboard the ship.

832

00:41:06,780 --> 00:41:09,300

Because, after all,
this was a luxury liner,

833

00:41:09,300 --> 00:41:11,280

although it had
these three classes.

834

00:41:11,280 --> 00:41:13,350

And people were entertained.

835

00:41:13,350 --> 00:41:14,590

And they were dancing.

836

00:41:14,590 --> 00:41:18,540

And certainly, it was a relief
from the horrors and conditions

837
00:41:18,540 --> 00:41:20,760
that they had experienced
in Germany and Austria

838
00:41:20,760 --> 00:41:23,020
and other parts of Europe.

839
00:41:23,020 --> 00:41:25,710
So the food was
good, at least, might

840
00:41:25,710 --> 00:41:28,230
have been a little
repetitive from time to time.

841
00:41:28,230 --> 00:41:30,510
In any event, our
next stop, and I

842
00:41:30,510 --> 00:41:33,150
may be a little out of context
here with the swastika story,

843
00:41:33,150 --> 00:41:36,720
but the next stop
after Genoa was Naples.

844
00:41:36,720 --> 00:41:38,790
We did not go ashore
because the stop

845
00:41:38,790 --> 00:41:40,050
was about three or four hours.

846
00:41:40,050 --> 00:41:43,710
And really, there was no
point of us going back

847
00:41:43,710 --> 00:41:47,110
in to access Italy

for any reason.

848
00:41:47,110 --> 00:41:48,930
So we stayed--
everyone stayed aboard.

849
00:41:48,930 --> 00:41:52,290
The next stop was at 5
AM, a day or so later,

850
00:41:52,290 --> 00:41:54,415
at Port Said, Egypt.

851
00:41:54,415 --> 00:41:56,040
Of course, everyone
was kind of excited

852
00:41:56,040 --> 00:41:59,370
because this was now the
Middle East and very unique.

853
00:41:59,370 --> 00:42:01,200
And no one had ever been there.

854
00:42:01,200 --> 00:42:06,000
And so we were allowed ashore,
because one must recall,

855
00:42:06,000 --> 00:42:09,240
the British held
Egypt at that time.

856
00:42:09,240 --> 00:42:12,480
The British were, contrary
to a lot of thinking,

857
00:42:12,480 --> 00:42:17,610
were not very pro-Jewish ever
and certainly not at that time.

858
00:42:17,610 --> 00:42:21,870
However, we landed
not at-- the dock side

859

00:42:21,870 --> 00:42:24,240

was out in the breakwater,
as it was called.

860

00:42:24,240 --> 00:42:25,990

And little boats took us in.

861

00:42:25,990 --> 00:42:28,680

And my father wanted
to see Port Said.

862

00:42:28,680 --> 00:42:32,670

And we went at 5 AM
ashore and just toured

863

00:42:32,670 --> 00:42:33,510

around a little bit.

864

00:42:33,510 --> 00:42:39,670

It was a large, smelly
and dirty city, which--

865

00:42:39,670 --> 00:42:43,740

with a lot of British
troops around and Egyptians,

866

00:42:43,740 --> 00:42:45,870

some still in fezzes.

867

00:42:45,870 --> 00:42:47,550

It was very, very interesting.

868

00:42:47,550 --> 00:42:49,470

But we got to get
back to the ship,

869

00:42:49,470 --> 00:42:52,050

so we only had two or
three hours at Port Said.

870

00:42:52,050 --> 00:42:56,430

Then the ship proceeded to
the Suez Canal with a pilot

871
00:42:56,430 --> 00:42:59,670
aboard that was picked up
in the port of Port Said.

872
00:42:59,670 --> 00:43:02,150
And on the way, of
course, the ship

873
00:43:02,150 --> 00:43:06,210
was go slowly because there's
two way traffic in the canal

874
00:43:06,210 --> 00:43:08,280
and no locks on the Suez Canal.

875
00:43:08,280 --> 00:43:12,690
And we would meet other
ships very close by, tankers

876
00:43:12,690 --> 00:43:17,460
and other passenger liners going
the other way and freighters.

877
00:43:17,460 --> 00:43:19,200
And it was very exciting
to see the crews

878
00:43:19,200 --> 00:43:21,780
and the people on
these other ships, oh,

879
00:43:21,780 --> 00:43:23,890
15, 20, 30 feet away.

880
00:43:23,890 --> 00:43:27,180
So everybody's aboard, you know,
on the decks, cheering away.

881
00:43:27,180 --> 00:43:31,048
And on the Egyptian

side, we saw a train.

882
00:43:31,048 --> 00:43:31,840
There's a railroad.

883
00:43:31,840 --> 00:43:34,800
It was all silver,
aluminum, or whatever cars

884
00:43:34,800 --> 00:43:38,250
on the other side, which
is the Sinai Peninsula.

885
00:43:38,250 --> 00:43:39,840
We occasionally saw a camel.

886
00:43:39,840 --> 00:43:41,410
And that was very
exciting for us.

887
00:43:41,410 --> 00:43:44,790
After all, we hadn't seen camels
in that particular environment

888
00:43:44,790 --> 00:43:46,560
before.

889
00:43:46,560 --> 00:43:49,320
We passed through the
portions of Ismailia,

890
00:43:49,320 --> 00:43:53,040
which is on the Suez Canal,
the Great Bitter Lakes,

891
00:43:53,040 --> 00:43:56,670
and then finally came out
at the other end at Suez

892
00:43:56,670 --> 00:43:59,470
and proceeded through Aden.

893

00:43:59,470 --> 00:44:02,880

The ship stopped in
the port of Aden,

894

00:44:02,880 --> 00:44:06,180

again, not along dock side
but out in the breakwater.

895

00:44:06,180 --> 00:44:08,260

And little patrol
boats would come up.

896

00:44:08,260 --> 00:44:11,430

And again, it was a
British possession.

897

00:44:11,430 --> 00:44:16,100

And what I remember
was that they

898

00:44:16,100 --> 00:44:18,740

were lo-- they would have--
they had the people that

899

00:44:18,740 --> 00:44:23,000

live in Aden, the
Adenese or Arabs,

900

00:44:23,000 --> 00:44:26,000

came aboard and hauling these
big trunks of people boarding

901

00:44:26,000 --> 00:44:28,070

the ship at that point.

902

00:44:28,070 --> 00:44:30,260

My parents wanted to
go ashore in Aden.

903

00:44:30,260 --> 00:44:35,180

Because the man that
had arrived in Berlin

904

00:44:35,180 --> 00:44:39,770
that one night on his
motorcycle had died on the way

905
00:44:39,770 --> 00:44:42,810
to the Far East.

906
00:44:42,810 --> 00:44:44,540
And he was buried in Aden.

907
00:44:44,540 --> 00:44:47,090
But they were unable
to leave the ship.

908
00:44:47,090 --> 00:44:49,100
The British did
not allow anybody

909
00:44:49,100 --> 00:44:52,040
with a red J for Jewish
in their German passport

910
00:44:52,040 --> 00:44:53,490
to leave the ship.

911
00:44:53,490 --> 00:44:57,890
That was one of the great
policies of the British.

912
00:44:57,890 --> 00:45:00,310
I should say, because I
think I didn't earlier,

913
00:45:00,310 --> 00:45:03,530
that this is the
second tape, side B,

914
00:45:03,530 --> 00:45:05,225
the second side of the tape.

915
00:45:05,225 --> 00:45:07,750

916
00:45:07,750 --> 00:45:09,910
We're back in Aden.

917
00:45:09,910 --> 00:45:13,180
And we just spent
the night in Aden.

918
00:45:13,180 --> 00:45:16,930
And the ship then
subsequently took off.

919
00:45:16,930 --> 00:45:20,920
And I believe our next stop,
unless I am sadly mistaken,

920
00:45:20,920 --> 00:45:25,240
was the port of Colombo
and at that time Ceylon,

921
00:45:25,240 --> 00:45:29,170
today Sri Lanka, again,
a British possession.

922
00:45:29,170 --> 00:45:32,560
We were, again, docked
not alongside a pier

923
00:45:32,560 --> 00:45:35,320
but out in the so-called
breakwater or harbor

924
00:45:35,320 --> 00:45:37,390
and were taken in by
a small boat, which

925
00:45:37,390 --> 00:45:39,400
was very low to the water.

926
00:45:39,400 --> 00:45:42,910
And there were local people
standing on the sides

927

00:45:42,910 --> 00:45:43,930
of the boat all around.

928
00:45:43,930 --> 00:45:45,400
It was very interesting.

929
00:45:45,400 --> 00:45:47,830
And this other
family whom we had

930
00:45:47,830 --> 00:45:51,140
met on the ship
whose son was my age,

931
00:45:51,140 --> 00:45:52,720
he was a little roly poly guy.

932
00:45:52,720 --> 00:45:55,150
If I recall, we were
both the same age.

933
00:45:55,150 --> 00:45:58,990
He later became Assistant
Mayor of San Francisco.

934
00:45:58,990 --> 00:46:01,270
And they were on their way
onto Shanghai, rather than

935
00:46:01,270 --> 00:46:02,890
to Manila, as we were.

936
00:46:02,890 --> 00:46:05,380
Anyway the two families
went ashore with others.

937
00:46:05,380 --> 00:46:07,548
And we went to
along the bazaars.

938
00:46:07,548 --> 00:46:09,340
And this is the first
time that we actually

939

00:46:09,340 --> 00:46:13,930

saw what I suppose
in most of Asia

940

00:46:13,930 --> 00:46:20,230

is this site of extreme poverty,
you know, with kids carrying

941

00:46:20,230 --> 00:46:23,440

other young kids, mostly
naked, running around

942

00:46:23,440 --> 00:46:28,540

in groups begging and just
hounding the tourists or anyone

943

00:46:28,540 --> 00:46:30,440

else, people who were not--

944

00:46:30,440 --> 00:46:34,030

were white or
Caucasian or tourists

945

00:46:34,030 --> 00:46:39,010

that were visiting and begging
for money or what have you.

946

00:46:39,010 --> 00:46:43,330

And it was-- things were
not very clean in Colombo.

947

00:46:43,330 --> 00:46:47,080

But we did go into one store
and looked at some knickknacks,

948

00:46:47,080 --> 00:46:50,490

carvings, elephants or animals.

949

00:46:50,490 --> 00:46:52,870

And they, the store
owner there kind of liked

950

00:46:52,870 --> 00:46:53,780

this other kid a lot.

951

00:46:53,780 --> 00:46:56,200

So he gave him a present
of a little carving.

952

00:46:56,200 --> 00:46:57,910

But he also gave me one.

953

00:46:57,910 --> 00:47:00,820

And so after awhile, we
went back to the ship.

954

00:47:00,820 --> 00:47:02,710

And again, the ship took off.

955

00:47:02,710 --> 00:47:07,273

They never stayed much longer
than five to 10 hours in port.

956

00:47:07,273 --> 00:47:10,100

[CLEARING THROAT]

957

00:47:10,100 --> 00:47:12,820

The next stop,
again, was at night.

958

00:47:12,820 --> 00:47:14,330

It was in Bombay.

959

00:47:14,330 --> 00:47:16,700

And about that time, we
were close to the equator.

960

00:47:16,700 --> 00:47:18,270

And it was hot.

961

00:47:18,270 --> 00:47:21,260

And in Bombay, again,
the British would not

962

00:47:21,260 --> 00:47:24,230

let us ashore, same
reason, a red J.

963

00:47:24,230 --> 00:47:27,865

They let others who had other
passports from other countries,

964

00:47:27,865 --> 00:47:28,740

they let them ashore.

965

00:47:28,740 --> 00:47:30,590

They did not let us ashore.

966

00:47:30,590 --> 00:47:33,320

In Bombay, lots of
Indians boarded the ship

967

00:47:33,320 --> 00:47:36,320

for the passage to either
Singapore or Manila

968

00:47:36,320 --> 00:47:38,060

or elsewhere.

969

00:47:38,060 --> 00:47:41,330

And this family, the ones
with the swastika story,

970

00:47:41,330 --> 00:47:43,400

left the ship.

971

00:47:43,400 --> 00:47:44,950

They had arrived back home.

972

00:47:44,950 --> 00:47:46,367

So they got off in Bombay.

973

00:47:46,367 --> 00:47:48,700

I'm not sure if they were
from Bombay or somewhere else.

974
00:47:48,700 --> 00:47:51,270
But anyway, that's where
they got off the ship.

975
00:47:51,270 --> 00:47:55,500
And again, we left, not
long after another four,

976
00:47:55,500 --> 00:47:58,140
five hours in Bombay.

977
00:47:58,140 --> 00:48:00,960
And then there was a
passage of about two days

978
00:48:00,960 --> 00:48:02,820
to get to Singapore.

979
00:48:02,820 --> 00:48:04,627
Now my father's always
an old business man.

980
00:48:04,627 --> 00:48:06,210
And he got to know
some of the Indians

981
00:48:06,210 --> 00:48:08,580
that came on board the
ship, because they were also

982
00:48:08,580 --> 00:48:10,763
businessmen in textiles.

983
00:48:10,763 --> 00:48:12,180
And in fact, he
met a fellow there

984
00:48:12,180 --> 00:48:14,660
that we were friends with in
the Philippines thereafter

985
00:48:14,660 --> 00:48:18,120

for many years.

986

00:48:18,120 --> 00:48:22,170

So that, again, was a long,
slow voyage to Singapore.

987

00:48:22,170 --> 00:48:25,950

In Singapore, the British
did let us off the ship.

988

00:48:25,950 --> 00:48:28,600

Strange, the policy's
different according to port.

989

00:48:28,600 --> 00:48:32,340

And there we were met by the
widow and son of the man that

990

00:48:32,340 --> 00:48:34,260

had been buried in Aden.

991

00:48:34,260 --> 00:48:37,470

And I had experienced
a horrendous toothache

992

00:48:37,470 --> 00:48:38,700

a couple of nights before.

993

00:48:38,700 --> 00:48:41,460

And one of the first
things is that she took us

994

00:48:41,460 --> 00:48:45,180

to her dentist in Singapore
without an appointment.

995

00:48:45,180 --> 00:48:48,360

But nonetheless, he
did the job on me.

996

00:48:48,360 --> 00:48:49,460

I guess it was a filling.

997

00:48:49,460 --> 00:48:50,213

And that was that.

998

00:48:50,213 --> 00:48:52,130

And after that, we toured
around a little bit.

999

00:48:52,130 --> 00:48:57,540

And we stayed most of the day in
port and then back on the ship.

1000

00:48:57,540 --> 00:49:01,920

And one of the incidents
that my mother relays

1001

00:49:01,920 --> 00:49:04,770

was that, as I mentioned
before, the ship was filled

1002

00:49:04,770 --> 00:49:08,250

with German and Austrian Jews.

1003

00:49:08,250 --> 00:49:12,900

And for some reason, there were
several bachelor Austrians,

1004

00:49:12,900 --> 00:49:15,150

sort of tall, skinny guys.

1005

00:49:15,150 --> 00:49:18,510

And they would congregate
and talk along the rail.

1006

00:49:18,510 --> 00:49:20,790

And as we were
approaching Singapore,

1007

00:49:20,790 --> 00:49:23,640

after having been at sea
now for, oh, probably

1008

00:49:23,640 --> 00:49:29,730

2 and 1/2 weeks or whatever,
about 2 and 1/2 weeks,

1009
00:49:29,730 --> 00:49:31,560
they leaned over
the rail and looked

1010
00:49:31,560 --> 00:49:36,480
at the tropical
jungle-like shoreline.

1011
00:49:36,480 --> 00:49:40,590
And one said to the other,
and I'll translate it.

1012
00:49:40,590 --> 00:49:44,450
I'll first say it in
German or Viennese.

1013
00:49:44,450 --> 00:49:49,680
[SPEAKING GERMAN] Because
of one Gentile, one

1014
00:49:49,680 --> 00:49:51,690
has to travel so far.

1015
00:49:51,690 --> 00:49:55,560
And that was his expression
about the, in his Viennese

1016
00:49:55,560 --> 00:50:00,600
accent, about his comment
about the situation.

1017
00:50:00,600 --> 00:50:03,060
So anyway, we continued
after Singapore

1018
00:50:03,060 --> 00:50:05,400
a four day trip to Manila.

1019
00:50:05,400 --> 00:50:09,150
And of course, now we

were getting close to--

1020
00:50:09,150 --> 00:50:12,920
getting ready to disembark
into the new land

1021
00:50:12,920 --> 00:50:16,470
where we were going to be
staying for a while, all very

1022
00:50:16,470 --> 00:50:19,170
mysterious.

1023
00:50:19,170 --> 00:50:20,660
We approached the Philippines.

1024
00:50:20,660 --> 00:50:22,370
And as you enter
the Philippines,

1025
00:50:22,370 --> 00:50:25,910
you enter into Manila
Bay, the famous Dewey,

1026
00:50:25,910 --> 00:50:29,000
damn the torpedoes, full
speed ahead, Manila Bay.

1027
00:50:29,000 --> 00:50:31,100
Manila Bay is
guarded at its mouth

1028
00:50:31,100 --> 00:50:33,890
by the island of Corregidor,
also, of course, well known

1029
00:50:33,890 --> 00:50:35,840
as result of the
Second World War.

1030
00:50:35,840 --> 00:50:37,120
There are two other islands.

1031

00:50:37,120 --> 00:50:38,570

They were very small.

1032

00:50:38,570 --> 00:50:40,130

We passed the island
of Corregidor,

1033

00:50:40,130 --> 00:50:42,410

not knowing its
name at the time.

1034

00:50:42,410 --> 00:50:45,650

And we entered Manila
Bay, a huge bay.

1035

00:50:45,650 --> 00:50:48,740

And you could see the city in
the distance, some high rises

1036

00:50:48,740 --> 00:50:51,500

and huts and things like that.

1037

00:50:51,500 --> 00:50:53,270

The pilot boat came out.

1038

00:50:53,270 --> 00:50:56,570

And the pilot got
aboard, as is customary.

1039

00:50:56,570 --> 00:51:00,110

And the ship then was
brought into the dock.

1040

00:51:00,110 --> 00:51:03,440

Of course, on the decks
all the time seeing things.

1041

00:51:03,440 --> 00:51:08,120

The dock had not long before
been constructed and completed.

1042

00:51:08,120 --> 00:51:10,880

It was known as the
famous Pier 7, the longest

1043
00:51:10,880 --> 00:51:12,350
pier in the Far East.

1044
00:51:12,350 --> 00:51:15,085
It could hold two passenger
liners on each side.

1045
00:51:15,085 --> 00:51:16,460
And that's where
the ship docked.

1046
00:51:16,460 --> 00:51:19,100

1047
00:51:19,100 --> 00:51:22,730
As we neared the
dock, we all observed

1048
00:51:22,730 --> 00:51:25,430
the people standing dockside
all wearing white suits.

1049
00:51:25,430 --> 00:51:28,002
Everybody wearing white linen
suits, the men did anyway.

1050
00:51:28,002 --> 00:51:29,460
Women wore sort of
colorful things.

1051
00:51:29,460 --> 00:51:31,340
It was a tropical climate.

1052
00:51:31,340 --> 00:51:34,280
We could tell, of course,
the ship was hot as hell.

1053
00:51:34,280 --> 00:51:39,860
And we did finally
spy our distant cousin

1054
00:51:39,860 --> 00:51:43,850
who was there with his wife,
their driver, and a car.

1055
00:51:43,850 --> 00:51:46,400
So we got off the ship finally.

1056
00:51:46,400 --> 00:51:48,330
And they took us to their house.

1057
00:51:48,330 --> 00:51:51,290
And we stayed at their
house for several weeks

1058
00:51:51,290 --> 00:51:55,780
until we were able to find
something for ourselves.

1059
00:51:55,780 --> 00:51:59,290
First impression of
landing in the Philippines,

1060
00:51:59,290 --> 00:52:04,660
of course, one looks around and
sees the sights, the people.

1061
00:52:04,660 --> 00:52:07,900
There were cars, American cars.

1062
00:52:07,900 --> 00:52:10,600
There were American military.

1063
00:52:10,600 --> 00:52:11,945
There were sailors.

1064
00:52:11,945 --> 00:52:15,280
There were American
warships in the harbor.

1065
00:52:15,280 --> 00:52:19,000
There were American liners

of the American President

1066
00:52:19,000 --> 00:52:22,210
Lines docked nearby.

1067
00:52:22,210 --> 00:52:24,760
Many, many ships
berthing along the docks.

1068
00:52:24,760 --> 00:52:29,040
They had a whole bunch of
them, a whole row of docks.

1069
00:52:29,040 --> 00:52:33,460
The port area, very
busy, lots of cargo.

1070
00:52:33,460 --> 00:52:38,340
And they finally-- we loaded
whatever suitcases we had.

1071
00:52:38,340 --> 00:52:42,260
The largest luggage was going to
be unloaded from the hold later

1072
00:52:42,260 --> 00:52:46,270
and then somehow stored
for the time being.

1073
00:52:46,270 --> 00:52:51,530
But there we were, just suddenly
in this tropical country.

1074
00:52:51,530 --> 00:52:55,790
And the people,
Filipinos, the Philippines

1075
00:52:55,790 --> 00:52:58,830
was predominantly Catholic.

1076
00:52:58,830 --> 00:53:02,090
With about, population
2% is Protestant.

1077
00:53:02,090 --> 00:53:05,190
The Jewish community, of what
we knew of it at that time,

1078
00:53:05,190 --> 00:53:07,580
one has to point out
that this ship we were on

1079
00:53:07,580 --> 00:53:10,820
was loaded with Jews, fleeing
refugees, most of whom

1080
00:53:10,820 --> 00:53:14,420
were on their way to Shanghai,
two more stops to go.

1081
00:53:14,420 --> 00:53:17,360
And the people that got
off in the Philippines

1082
00:53:17,360 --> 00:53:19,580
were my parents and myself.

1083
00:53:19,580 --> 00:53:22,850
And I believe there was one
or two others that got off

1084
00:53:22,850 --> 00:53:26,610
the ship in the Philippines.

1085
00:53:26,610 --> 00:53:29,510
So that the numbers of people
landing in the Philippines,

1086
00:53:29,510 --> 00:53:31,640
Jews escaping from
Germany, Austria,

1087
00:53:31,640 --> 00:53:34,750
anywhere else, was
always very small.

1088

00:53:34,750 --> 00:53:37,880

It was an American Commonwealth
run by a American High

1089

00:53:37,880 --> 00:53:41,030

Commissioner, at that
time, Paul McNutt by name,

1090

00:53:41,030 --> 00:53:43,700

later on followed
by Francis B Sayre.

1091

00:53:43,700 --> 00:53:49,350

And it had a government run
by a elected president, Manuel

1092

00:53:49,350 --> 00:53:54,290

Quezon, and the vice
president Sergio Osmena.

1093

00:53:54,290 --> 00:53:56,660

They were promised
independence at some point.

1094

00:53:56,660 --> 00:53:58,570

But I will get to
that a little later.

1095

00:53:58,570 --> 00:54:02,510

Anyway, the first thing you see
or you saw in the Philippines

1096

00:54:02,510 --> 00:54:05,210

were the horse-drawn vehicles.

1097

00:54:05,210 --> 00:54:08,090

There were two kinds,
as I later found out.

1098

00:54:08,090 --> 00:54:11,570

One was for passengers, which
was like a two or three seater.

1099

00:54:11,570 --> 00:54:14,660
And they called the carromatas.

1100

00:54:14,660 --> 00:54:17,100
And then there were those
that carried freight.

1101

00:54:17,100 --> 00:54:19,820
They were a little
larger, [? caritelas, ?]

1102

00:54:19,820 --> 00:54:24,197
all drawn by one scrawny
horse and lots of those.

1103

00:54:24,197 --> 00:54:26,030
And they would keep to
the side of the road.

1104

00:54:26,030 --> 00:54:28,580
Because they were
obviously slower than a car

1105

00:54:28,580 --> 00:54:31,390
would be on a
highway or a roadway.

1106

00:54:31,390 --> 00:54:32,500
But we got to their house.

1107

00:54:32,500 --> 00:54:33,760
It was a nice house.

1108

00:54:33,760 --> 00:54:36,760
They had a governess for
their young daughter,

1109

00:54:36,760 --> 00:54:39,253
who was about four
years old at the time.

1110

00:54:39,253 --> 00:54:40,420

And they had other servants.

1111
00:54:40,420 --> 00:54:42,460
Servants were the thing
in the Philippines.

1112
00:54:42,460 --> 00:54:45,030
They were cheap and plentiful.

1113
00:54:45,030 --> 00:54:47,730
After all, it was a country
that had an economy that--

1114
00:54:47,730 --> 00:54:52,650
where they had more people
than they know what to do with.

1115
00:54:52,650 --> 00:54:57,390
But you could tell that the
country was run by people

1116
00:54:57,390 --> 00:54:59,160
who were not Filipinos.

1117
00:54:59,160 --> 00:55:00,360
They were wealthy families.

1118
00:55:00,360 --> 00:55:03,750
But there were lots-- a
huge Chinese population

1119
00:55:03,750 --> 00:55:07,510
and an American, large
American interests.

1120
00:55:07,510 --> 00:55:09,720
So--

1121
00:55:09,720 --> 00:55:13,710
Now this is around
March the 16th, '39.

1122

00:55:13,710 --> 00:55:18,870
And where was their house in
relation to the city of Manila?

1123
00:55:18,870 --> 00:55:22,230
I assume it was in a suburb.

1124
00:55:22,230 --> 00:55:25,200
Their house was-- actually,
I want to point out.

1125
00:55:25,200 --> 00:55:27,280
We landed on March the 16th.

1126
00:55:27,280 --> 00:55:29,430
It so happens, March
the 16th was the date

1127
00:55:29,430 --> 00:55:35,250
that Magellan also discovered--
landed in the Philippines,

1128
00:55:35,250 --> 00:55:36,760
just by coincidence of course.

1129
00:55:36,760 --> 00:55:39,340
But anyway, that's the date.

1130
00:55:39,340 --> 00:55:45,810
And the house that these people
lived in was not too far away.

1131
00:55:45,810 --> 00:55:53,430
It was in one of the districts
not far from Manila Bay itself.

1132
00:55:53,430 --> 00:55:58,290
Manila Bay in Manila is--

1133
00:55:58,290 --> 00:56:00,150
there is a boulevard,
which runs along

1134

00:56:00,150 --> 00:56:02,700

it called Dewey Boulevard,
of course, at that time

1135

00:56:02,700 --> 00:56:04,530

in honor of the Admiral.

1136

00:56:04,530 --> 00:56:08,910

And it's a palm-lined throughway
with nice benches and palm

1137

00:56:08,910 --> 00:56:14,460

trees and walkways that
must have run, oh, six

1138

00:56:14,460 --> 00:56:20,020

or eight miles along the
coastal portion of Manila Bay.

1139

00:56:20,020 --> 00:56:23,680

And on one end was an
area called the Luneta.

1140

00:56:23,680 --> 00:56:26,770

That's where the Manila
Hotel is located.

1141

00:56:26,770 --> 00:56:31,870

And then there was the other end
that led more toward the south.

1142

00:56:31,870 --> 00:56:36,250

And it is sort of two
major local districts

1143

00:56:36,250 --> 00:56:38,440

border the Dewey Boulevard.

1144

00:56:38,440 --> 00:56:39,940

One is called Ermita.

1145

00:56:39,940 --> 00:56:42,790

And the other is called Malate.

1146
00:56:42,790 --> 00:56:49,600
And their house was
somewhere in the Ermita area

1147
00:56:49,600 --> 00:56:52,900
and amongst other
houses and apartments

1148
00:56:52,900 --> 00:56:56,010
that made up the city.

1149
00:56:56,010 --> 00:56:58,980
And so we could actually
walk from their house

1150
00:56:58,980 --> 00:57:02,340
to this boulevard, which
we did the very next day

1151
00:57:02,340 --> 00:57:05,070
with the governess and
this man's daughter,

1152
00:57:05,070 --> 00:57:08,040
you know, to play in
the boulevard area

1153
00:57:08,040 --> 00:57:09,930
there, doing whatever.

1154
00:57:09,930 --> 00:57:13,780
Was this anywhere
near the Pasig River?

1155
00:57:13,780 --> 00:57:16,410
No, the Pasig River
runs through Manila.

1156
00:57:16,410 --> 00:57:23,310
It is a river that empties
into Manila Bay somewhat--

1157
00:57:23,310 --> 00:57:26,130
if one were to face
Manila Bay from Manila,

1158
00:57:26,130 --> 00:57:29,880
it would be toward the right
or toward the downtown area.

1159
00:57:29,880 --> 00:57:32,010
The Pasig River
essentially separates

1160
00:57:32,010 --> 00:57:34,960
the so-called business
district from the,

1161
00:57:34,960 --> 00:57:39,150
what then was, the residential
district of Manila.

1162
00:57:39,150 --> 00:57:43,700
And amongst the Pasig
River are several main--

1163
00:57:43,700 --> 00:57:48,420
there's the main city
electric power plant.

1164
00:57:48,420 --> 00:57:51,870
There are government buildings.

1165
00:57:51,870 --> 00:57:57,000
There is Intramuros, which
is an ancient walled city.

1166
00:57:57,000 --> 00:58:00,420
There is also docks
there for some

1167
00:58:00,420 --> 00:58:02,510
of the smaller
interisland ships that

1168
00:58:02,510 --> 00:58:05,130
are docked on the Pasig River.

1169
00:58:05,130 --> 00:58:09,420
So this was sort of a bit
south of the Pasig River.

1170
00:58:09,420 --> 00:58:13,290
It was in the area where there
is another large avenue which

1171
00:58:13,290 --> 00:58:16,700
is called-- was called Taft
Avenue, named after guess who.

1172
00:58:16,700 --> 00:58:18,810
And on Taft Avenue,
it was located

1173
00:58:18,810 --> 00:58:23,070
the Jewish, the
synagogue, Temple Emil,

1174
00:58:23,070 --> 00:58:25,410
named after Emil Bacharach.

1175
00:58:25,410 --> 00:58:28,440
He was an American Jew who
operated a transportation

1176
00:58:28,440 --> 00:58:31,590
company in the Philippines,
passenger transportation.

1177
00:58:31,590 --> 00:58:33,270
They had these
little [? gitneys ?]

1178
00:58:33,270 --> 00:58:36,330
or Jeepneys which would take
people, three or four people

1179
00:58:36,330 --> 00:58:38,940
at a time, through the city.

1180
00:58:38,940 --> 00:58:43,325
So that's why he was a major
person in the community.

1181
00:58:43,325 --> 00:58:44,700
And the community,
of course, was

1182
00:58:44,700 --> 00:58:48,540
founded by Americans who had
immigrated, not immigrated, who

1183
00:58:48,540 --> 00:58:53,770
had come to the Philippines
mainly for business reasons.

1184
00:58:53,770 --> 00:58:56,720
So there we were our
first few days in Manila.

1185
00:58:56,720 --> 00:58:59,710

1186
00:58:59,710 --> 00:59:04,465
So we stayed with this
sponsor of ours for about two,

1187
00:59:04,465 --> 00:59:04,965
three weeks.

1188
00:59:04,965 --> 00:59:07,200
Or I don't know, it was
actually just a week.

1189
00:59:07,200 --> 00:59:13,370
And then we moved into a
small apartment in Manila.

1190
00:59:13,370 --> 00:59:19,210

And my father began to look,
see what he could do for a job.

1191
00:59:19,210 --> 00:59:21,920
And he found one
not long thereafter

1192
00:59:21,920 --> 00:59:24,950
with an American
Jewish businessman

1193
00:59:24,950 --> 00:59:28,700
who was also in sort of
office equipment business,

1194
00:59:28,700 --> 00:59:32,477
which my father sort of knew
about and knew relatively well.

1195
00:59:32,477 --> 00:59:33,060
And he worked.

1196
00:59:33,060 --> 00:59:35,690
That's where he began.

1197
00:59:35,690 --> 00:59:41,570
And I was, at that time
being eight years old,

1198
00:59:41,570 --> 00:59:43,610
I went to school.

1199
00:59:43,610 --> 00:59:48,440
It was a private
elementary school

1200
00:59:48,440 --> 00:59:51,500
run by a woman, an American.

1201
00:59:51,500 --> 00:59:55,970
And she had, oh,
five or six classes.

1202
00:59:55,970 --> 00:59:58,370
And so that's where I went.

1203
00:59:58,370 --> 01:00:01,280
I spoke hardly any English.

1204
01:00:01,280 --> 01:00:04,950
And that was the first thing
I had to sort of adjust to.

1205
01:00:04,950 --> 01:00:08,300
I'd had two years of
school in Germany.

1206
01:00:08,300 --> 01:00:11,690
And I forgot, they probably
put me back a year, you know,

1207
01:00:11,690 --> 01:00:15,280
because I just couldn't
speak the language.

1208
01:00:15,280 --> 01:00:25,980
So that's where I went to school
for about a year, about a year.

1209
01:00:25,980 --> 01:00:33,000
And I left that school
and went to another school

1210
01:00:33,000 --> 01:00:35,880
thereafter for about
a year and a half.

1211
01:00:35,880 --> 01:00:38,810
That was called the
De La Salle College.

1212
01:00:38,810 --> 01:00:44,200
And the De La Salle College
was a large institution

1213

01:00:44,200 --> 01:00:46,160
run by Jesuits.

1214
01:00:46,160 --> 01:00:49,170
There were a number of us
Jewish kids who went there.

1215
01:00:49,170 --> 01:00:53,110
And there we ran into
the religious problem.

1216
01:00:53,110 --> 01:00:55,830
Recognizing it was a
fully Catholic country,

1217
01:00:55,830 --> 01:00:59,850
the Jesuits, of course, demanded
everyone take religion, which

1218
01:00:59,850 --> 01:01:01,860
is part of the curriculum.

1219
01:01:01,860 --> 01:01:05,100
Although it varied among
who the teacher was.

1220
01:01:05,100 --> 01:01:09,180
Some excused those that
were Jewish from taking part

1221
01:01:09,180 --> 01:01:10,260
in the Catholic--

1222
01:01:10,260 --> 01:01:11,910
Catholicism, the catechism.

1223
01:01:11,910 --> 01:01:15,520
Others were very insistent
that you participate.

1224
01:01:15,520 --> 01:01:19,230
And so that raised
some problems.

1225
01:01:19,230 --> 01:01:21,540
But they were
excellent teachers.

1226
01:01:21,540 --> 01:01:24,600
Most of them stemmed from,
well, most of them were German

1227
01:01:24,600 --> 01:01:29,480
or Hungarian, American, English,
a variety of nationalities.

1228
01:01:29,480 --> 01:01:33,200
And there were also teachers,
Filipino teachers or laymen

1229
01:01:33,200 --> 01:01:34,942
teachers, in the lower grades.

1230
01:01:34,942 --> 01:01:36,400
And I had one of
those for a while.

1231
01:01:36,400 --> 01:01:37,760
It was very good.

1232
01:01:37,760 --> 01:01:40,910
And when the spelling
bees came, why you would--

1233
01:01:40,910 --> 01:01:44,980
the things you could win
was candy or a rosary.

1234
01:01:44,980 --> 01:01:47,590
So you came home with rosaries
occasionally after having

1235
01:01:47,590 --> 01:01:50,000
one of those spelling bees.

1236

01:01:50,000 --> 01:01:53,900
But that was the nature
of parochial school.

1237
01:01:53,900 --> 01:01:55,917
And it was fairly inexpensive.

1238
01:01:55,917 --> 01:01:58,000
That was probably one of
the reasons I went there.

1239
01:01:58,000 --> 01:02:01,480

1240
01:02:01,480 --> 01:02:04,750
And at that time, I
began to meet people.

1241
01:02:04,750 --> 01:02:09,320
Because all the Jews were
part of one community.

1242
01:02:09,320 --> 01:02:11,660
And Temple Emil was the center.

1243
01:02:11,660 --> 01:02:16,340
And the rabbi was Rabbi
Joseph Schwartz, who himself

1244
01:02:16,340 --> 01:02:19,480
was a refugee, had
landed in the Philippines

1245
01:02:19,480 --> 01:02:24,830
in 1937 I believe with his wife.

1246
01:02:24,830 --> 01:02:28,790
He was a man of about 30 or
so at the time, a young rabbi.

1247
01:02:28,790 --> 01:02:30,440
And there was no cantor.

1248

01:02:30,440 --> 01:02:36,470

So one of the older
timers, an American

1249

01:02:36,470 --> 01:02:40,330

who was able to do the cantorial
work, would be doing that.

1250

01:02:40,330 --> 01:02:43,460

Two of them, they take turns.

1251

01:02:43,460 --> 01:02:48,750

We didn't get a cantor
until we finally one arrived

1252

01:02:48,750 --> 01:02:50,660

in a sort of strange way.

1253

01:02:50,660 --> 01:02:53,420

He and his mother were Polish.

1254

01:02:53,420 --> 01:02:56,050

And they were trapped
in that famous situation

1255

01:02:56,050 --> 01:02:57,920

at the Polish Corridor.

1256

01:02:57,920 --> 01:02:59,660

The Germans wouldn't
let them back in.

1257

01:02:59,660 --> 01:03:02,120

The Poles wouldn't
want them back.

1258

01:03:02,120 --> 01:03:05,690

So finally, they were able
to get to the Philippines

1259

01:03:05,690 --> 01:03:08,360

by some circuitous route.

1260
01:03:08,360 --> 01:03:10,460
And the rabbi made
it a point to go out

1261
01:03:10,460 --> 01:03:13,460
with a pilot to welcome
the passenger liners that

1262
01:03:13,460 --> 01:03:14,810
would be coming in.

1263
01:03:14,810 --> 01:03:17,900
He climbed the Jacob's
ladder and talked

1264
01:03:17,900 --> 01:03:20,510
to the people, because
there was a lot of need

1265
01:03:20,510 --> 01:03:24,650
for a rabbi for whatever
reason on board these ships.

1266
01:03:24,650 --> 01:03:26,240
People had died on the passage.

1267
01:03:26,240 --> 01:03:28,270
There were cases of welfare.

1268
01:03:28,270 --> 01:03:30,690
There were all
kinds of problems.

1269
01:03:30,690 --> 01:03:32,930
So he would go board
and talk to the people,

1270
01:03:32,930 --> 01:03:34,220
as many as he could.

1271
01:03:34,220 --> 01:03:36,500

And on this one occasion
when he boarded,

1272
01:03:36,500 --> 01:03:38,490
he discovered they had a cantor.

1273
01:03:38,490 --> 01:03:42,250
So they immediately,
you know, set to work.

1274
01:03:42,250 --> 01:03:45,140
In the course of a day, got
the cantor and his wife--

1275
01:03:45,140 --> 01:03:48,710
I'm sorry, not his wife, his
mother, who only spoke Yiddish,

1276
01:03:48,710 --> 01:03:53,010
off the ship, and he became
the cantor of the Temple

1277
01:03:53,010 --> 01:03:55,520
Emil of the Jewish Community.

1278
01:03:55,520 --> 01:03:56,906
So we finally had a cantor.

1279
01:03:56,906 --> 01:04:01,270

1280
01:04:01,270 --> 01:04:05,250
The routine of welcoming
the ships was common.

1281
01:04:05,250 --> 01:04:07,800
We knew when the ships were
coming in, which ships.

1282
01:04:07,800 --> 01:04:09,760
All the Italian
ships, of course,

1283

01:04:09,760 --> 01:04:12,540
on the Lloyd Triestino
and not only that,

1284

01:04:12,540 --> 01:04:15,630
there were two German ships,
the Scharnhorst, the Gneisenau,

1285

01:04:15,630 --> 01:04:17,760
not the warships but
the passenger liners

1286

01:04:17,760 --> 01:04:20,820
who also plied that trade
occasionally and had

1287

01:04:20,820 --> 01:04:23,460
Jews on them, taking
them to Shanghai.

1288

01:04:23,460 --> 01:04:26,972
And sure enough, on one of them,
we would always meet people,

1289

01:04:26,972 --> 01:04:28,680
or my parents would
meet people that they

1290

01:04:28,680 --> 01:04:30,397
knew from the old country.

1291

01:04:30,397 --> 01:04:31,980
And sometimes we
were able to get them

1292

01:04:31,980 --> 01:04:33,910
off the ship for the day
so that, you know, we

1293

01:04:33,910 --> 01:04:35,160
could spend the day with them.

1294

01:04:35,160 --> 01:04:37,650
And then they would
go on to Shanghai.

1295
01:04:37,650 --> 01:04:40,440
We met most of them again
after the war in San Francisco

1296
01:04:40,440 --> 01:04:41,940
or somewhere else.

1297
01:04:41,940 --> 01:04:44,670
But that was one of the things.

1298
01:04:44,670 --> 01:04:47,250
I remember one
particular instance

1299
01:04:47,250 --> 01:04:52,240
where the Conte Biancamano, the
largest of the ships, docked.

1300
01:04:52,240 --> 01:05:00,210
And there was a big welcoming
group of local Jews.

1301
01:05:00,210 --> 01:05:05,190
And off the ship came
one Herbert Zipper.

1302
01:05:05,190 --> 01:05:08,670
He became quite well-known
later amongst many circles.

1303
01:05:08,670 --> 01:05:10,350
But I'll explain.

1304
01:05:10,350 --> 01:05:12,060
He was a conductor.

1305
01:05:12,060 --> 01:05:14,340
And he was born
in Vienna, grew up

1306
01:05:14,340 --> 01:05:17,280
in a sort of almost
non-Jewish environment,

1307
01:05:17,280 --> 01:05:20,160
but was arrested,
taken to Dachau,

1308
01:05:20,160 --> 01:05:23,470
subsequently to Buchenwald,
and subsequently

1309
01:05:23,470 --> 01:05:26,410
was able to get out of
there because he, too,

1310
01:05:26,410 --> 01:05:30,160
received a visa, an
affidavit, from a woman whom

1311
01:05:30,160 --> 01:05:32,470
he knew well back in
Vienna who has since

1312
01:05:32,470 --> 01:05:33,923
come to the Philippines.

1313
01:05:33,923 --> 01:05:35,590
And she was the
director of the corps de

1314
01:05:35,590 --> 01:05:37,840
ballet in the Philippines.

1315
01:05:37,840 --> 01:05:39,980
And she got him in.

1316
01:05:39,980 --> 01:05:44,330
And he came off the ship and
kissed her hand, very Viennese

1317

01:05:44,330 --> 01:05:45,210
style.

1318
01:05:45,210 --> 01:05:47,690
And then subsequently became
the conductor of the Manila

1319
01:05:47,690 --> 01:05:49,220
Symphony Orchestra.

1320
01:05:49,220 --> 01:05:53,600
And she was the conductor--
head of the corps de ballet.

1321
01:05:53,600 --> 01:05:56,690
And they did operas
and everything.

1322
01:05:56,690 --> 01:06:00,470
I got to know him just vaguely,
because my mother was a singer

1323
01:06:00,470 --> 01:06:03,648
and sang in the orchestra choir.

1324
01:06:03,648 --> 01:06:05,690
And so occasionally, she'd
take me to rehearsals.

1325
01:06:05,690 --> 01:06:08,300
And I would listen
to him conduct.

1326
01:06:08,300 --> 01:06:09,800
It's interesting
in this connection.

1327
01:06:09,800 --> 01:06:15,530
Because in 1996, Herbert
Zipper, than 92 years old living

1328
01:06:15,530 --> 01:06:18,920
in Los Angeles, was honored

by the United States Holocaust

1329
01:06:18,920 --> 01:06:20,090
Memorial Museum.

1330
01:06:20,090 --> 01:06:24,770
And an event or a movie, a
film of his life, was played

1331
01:06:24,770 --> 01:06:26,630
and also a book
written about him

1332
01:06:26,630 --> 01:06:30,170
called The Dachau
Story was shown.

1333
01:06:30,170 --> 01:06:33,680
And I met him again, at
that time being a volunteer.

1334
01:06:33,680 --> 01:06:35,180
And there he was.

1335
01:06:35,180 --> 01:06:37,707
And he didn't remember
my mother by name.

1336
01:06:37,707 --> 01:06:39,290
But he says, you
know, if I'd see her,

1337
01:06:39,290 --> 01:06:41,570
I would probably
know who she was.

1338
01:06:41,570 --> 01:06:44,240
But anyway, that's a going
back-- or going forward

1339
01:06:44,240 --> 01:06:46,110
quite a bit, number of years.

1340

01:06:46,110 --> 01:06:50,130

So many people were able
to leave Europe, of course,

1341

01:06:50,130 --> 01:06:51,680

with these ships,
get to Shanghai,

1342

01:06:51,680 --> 01:06:54,360

that community grew to 25,000.

1343

01:06:54,360 --> 01:06:58,280

Manila community grew to
approximately 900 refugees.

1344

01:06:58,280 --> 01:07:05,930

And you add to that about 200
or 300 American and also Jews

1345

01:07:05,930 --> 01:07:09,230

who were Sephardic, who'd
lived in the Philippines

1346

01:07:09,230 --> 01:07:13,550

a long time from the
Spanish era and who

1347

01:07:13,550 --> 01:07:15,980

lived there as merchants.

1348

01:07:15,980 --> 01:07:18,200

So that was the Manila
Jewish community.

1349

01:07:18,200 --> 01:07:20,600

And our routine of going
to meet the ships of course

1350

01:07:20,600 --> 01:07:23,930

continued until the war
broke out, the Pearl Harbor,

1351

01:07:23,930 --> 01:07:26,740
December 7th, 1941.

1352
01:07:26,740 --> 01:07:30,400
But going back now to
my childhood and, again,

1353
01:07:30,400 --> 01:07:34,790
it was at ages 8, 9,
10, roughly speaking,

1354
01:07:34,790 --> 01:07:37,880
I met a lot, of
course, Jewish kids who

1355
01:07:37,880 --> 01:07:39,470
were at the Hebrew school.

1356
01:07:39,470 --> 01:07:41,840
We had a Hebrew school going.

1357
01:07:41,840 --> 01:07:42,950
We went every Sunday.

1358
01:07:42,950 --> 01:07:46,460
I was a very
reluctant participant.

1359
01:07:46,460 --> 01:07:49,610
Although I did get to be bar
mitzvah during the Second World

1360
01:07:49,610 --> 01:07:50,450
War.

1361
01:07:50,450 --> 01:07:52,610
The Japanese
occupied Philippines.

1362
01:07:52,610 --> 01:07:57,540
But this is, again, going back
to before the war, before 1941.

1363

01:07:57,540 --> 01:08:00,410

It was an active Jewish life.

1364

01:08:00,410 --> 01:08:01,340

There were dances.

1365

01:08:01,340 --> 01:08:03,710

There were youth get togethers.

1366

01:08:03,710 --> 01:08:06,140

There was, of course, as I mentioned, the classes that

1367

01:08:06,140 --> 01:08:11,120

were taught by the rabbi, by the cantor and other scholars,

1368

01:08:11,120 --> 01:08:14,210

Jewish scholars in the community.

1369

01:08:14,210 --> 01:08:15,980

We went to various schools.

1370

01:08:15,980 --> 01:08:17,569

There was no Jewish school.

1371

01:08:17,569 --> 01:08:20,450

As I mentioned, I went to this parochial school.

1372

01:08:20,450 --> 01:08:23,779

Some of the women went to women's parochial school,

1373

01:08:23,779 --> 01:08:26,010

schools like the Santa Scholastica

1374

01:08:26,010 --> 01:08:30,109

which was one of those.

1375

01:08:30,109 --> 01:08:32,720

There was one school which
was very inexpensive but very

1376

01:08:32,720 --> 01:08:33,990

difficult to get into.

1377

01:08:33,990 --> 01:08:38,600

Again, they favored Americans
or favored British students.

1378

01:08:38,600 --> 01:08:41,149

There was one school called
The American School that

1379

01:08:41,149 --> 01:08:44,779

was very expensive and was
mainly geared toward Americans

1380

01:08:44,779 --> 01:08:47,029

who were living in
the Philippines.

1381

01:08:47,029 --> 01:08:50,430

And most of them
were fairly wealthy.

1382

01:08:50,430 --> 01:08:51,680

Because they were in business.

1383

01:08:51,680 --> 01:08:55,430

That was their main
reason for being there.

1384

01:08:55,430 --> 01:08:58,310

The Filipinos
would always wonder

1385

01:08:58,310 --> 01:09:01,950

how come these white people,
these Jews from Germany,

1386

01:09:01,950 --> 01:09:03,380
Austria were so poor.

1387
01:09:03,380 --> 01:09:07,100
Because, to them, anyone
who was white was rich.

1388
01:09:07,100 --> 01:09:11,040
Again, this is a cultural
thing and that occurred.

1389
01:09:11,040 --> 01:09:12,979
So they were always
asking, how come

1390
01:09:12,979 --> 01:09:16,340
we could not afford
cars and more servants

1391
01:09:16,340 --> 01:09:18,750
and what have you?

1392
01:09:18,750 --> 01:09:22,010
Frank, in these years
before the war broke out,

1393
01:09:22,010 --> 01:09:27,140
before Pearl Harbor and
the Japanese occupation,

1394
01:09:27,140 --> 01:09:29,189
what was your daily life like?

1395
01:09:29,189 --> 01:09:31,399
You mentioned that you
found an apartment.

1396
01:09:31,399 --> 01:09:34,819
And your father got
the job that he did.

1397
01:09:34,819 --> 01:09:39,560
And I'm-- and you talked about

poverty within the Jewish

1398
01:09:39,560 --> 01:09:41,750
community.

1399
01:09:41,750 --> 01:09:47,330
Well, it was generally
relatively routine.

1400
01:09:47,330 --> 01:09:50,120
Much of it had to
do with getting

1401
01:09:50,120 --> 01:09:54,290
acclimated in the Philippines,
the food, what you were

1402
01:09:54,290 --> 01:09:59,680
able to obtain, native food.

1403
01:09:59,680 --> 01:10:02,690
Like and there was a lot, of
course, of imports as well.

1404
01:10:02,690 --> 01:10:04,700
Apples and oranges
were all imported.

1405
01:10:04,700 --> 01:10:07,040
For example, butter
was imported.

1406
01:10:07,040 --> 01:10:08,960
Meats were imported.

1407
01:10:08,960 --> 01:10:14,040
Because the native cattle was
mostly water buffalo and so on,

1408
01:10:14,040 --> 01:10:15,440
which we later on did eat.

1409

01:10:15,440 --> 01:10:18,850
But so it was just
getting acclimated.

1410
01:10:18,850 --> 01:10:23,090
And that-- I remember
one major occasion,

1411
01:10:23,090 --> 01:10:28,910
there was before the war a man,
both Jewish, husband and wife,

1412
01:10:28,910 --> 01:10:30,980
who had come to the
Philippines long ago.

1413
01:10:30,980 --> 01:10:33,380
They were, again, these
also called old timers.

1414
01:10:33,380 --> 01:10:38,150
They ran an enormous resort
hotel restaurant complex,

1415
01:10:38,150 --> 01:10:41,900
which people would stay over
and which was quite expensive.

1416
01:10:41,900 --> 01:10:43,820
Their son was bar mitzvah.

1417
01:10:43,820 --> 01:10:48,590
And they had a bar mitzvah
event with the outdoors one

1418
01:10:48,590 --> 01:10:52,420
night, an enormous
affair, 500, 600 people.

1419
01:10:52,420 --> 01:10:53,510
And we were invited.

1420
01:10:53,510 --> 01:10:56,130

He invited the whole
Jewish community.

1421
01:10:56,130 --> 01:11:00,620
So that was an interesting event
that we all participated in.

1422
01:11:00,620 --> 01:11:03,670
As youth, we also, in
this part of the group,

1423
01:11:03,670 --> 01:11:06,740
we took tours out of town.

1424
01:11:06,740 --> 01:11:13,760
We went down, oh, 20, 30 miles
away to a place called Tagaytay

1425
01:11:13,760 --> 01:11:16,520
for the day for a picnic.

1426
01:11:16,520 --> 01:11:18,050
We went swimming.

1427
01:11:18,050 --> 01:11:21,500
We had to be careful because
jellyfish are in the area.

1428
01:11:21,500 --> 01:11:24,290
But we did all these things.

1429
01:11:24,290 --> 01:11:26,990
We did fairly normal
things for a change.

1430
01:11:26,990 --> 01:11:28,160
As I say, we went to school.

1431
01:11:28,160 --> 01:11:30,020
We had breakfast,
lunch, and dinner.

1432

01:11:30,020 --> 01:11:33,840
And we socialized.

1433
01:11:33,840 --> 01:11:36,070
We had people to the house.

1434
01:11:36,070 --> 01:11:38,590
It was always interesting
to entertain or to meet

1435
01:11:38,590 --> 01:11:41,570
with people that had just
arrived, because you tell them

1436
01:11:41,570 --> 01:11:43,060
the strange stories.

1437
01:11:43,060 --> 01:11:45,280
For example, one night
we had people over.

1438
01:11:45,280 --> 01:11:48,780
And I don't know, we had
another person there who was--

1439
01:11:48,780 --> 01:11:51,010
even had been there much longer.

1440
01:11:51,010 --> 01:11:54,790
And one of the things you
see when you sit in a room

1441
01:11:54,790 --> 01:11:59,050
is you see little tiny lizards
crawling around the ceiling.

1442
01:11:59,050 --> 01:12:01,730
And that's sort of part
of the scene, I mean.

1443
01:12:01,730 --> 01:12:03,520
And when people see
them the first time,

1444
01:12:03,520 --> 01:12:05,290
they get very upset.

1445
01:12:05,290 --> 01:12:07,197
And you say, no, no,
no, you have to--

1446
01:12:07,197 --> 01:12:09,280
the natives or the locals
who've been there awhile

1447
01:12:09,280 --> 01:12:11,590
will tell you, no,
you have to buy these.

1448
01:12:11,590 --> 01:12:13,090
Because they eat mosquitoes.

1449
01:12:13,090 --> 01:12:15,080
And that's why, you
know, they're very handy.

1450
01:12:15,080 --> 01:12:17,080
But don't worry, occasionally
one of their tails

1451
01:12:17,080 --> 01:12:18,640
drops down into your soup.

1452
01:12:18,640 --> 01:12:20,180
But not to worry about that.

1453
01:12:20,180 --> 01:12:22,413
They, you know, you
can fish it out.

1454
01:12:22,413 --> 01:12:23,830
Then there's the
other story which

1455
01:12:23,830 --> 01:12:26,860

is, when people
first arrive there,

1456
01:12:26,860 --> 01:12:28,870
they may go to a
small place to eat.

1457
01:12:28,870 --> 01:12:30,520
And they're served
a bowl of rice

1458
01:12:30,520 --> 01:12:32,908
and the rice is
crawling with ants.

1459
01:12:32,908 --> 01:12:34,450
And so they immediately
put it aside.

1460
01:12:34,450 --> 01:12:35,420
They won't touch it.

1461
01:12:35,420 --> 01:12:37,420
Well, they come back a
month later again to eat,

1462
01:12:37,420 --> 01:12:39,880
and there's the same bowl
again with all the ants.

1463
01:12:39,880 --> 01:12:41,740
So they begin to
fish out the ants.

1464
01:12:41,740 --> 01:12:43,910
And then after that,
they eat the rice.

1465
01:12:43,910 --> 01:12:46,120
About three months
later, they come back.

1466
01:12:46,120 --> 01:12:48,880

And, of course, you know
what the end of story is.

1467
01:12:48,880 --> 01:12:51,430
That bowl of rice is again
served with the ants.

1468
01:12:51,430 --> 01:12:54,073
This time, they take the fork
and eat it, rice and ants

1469
01:12:54,073 --> 01:12:55,060
and all.

1470
01:12:55,060 --> 01:12:58,030
This is what is called
acclimatization and getting

1471
01:12:58,030 --> 01:12:59,570
used to the country.

1472
01:12:59,570 --> 01:13:01,630
There are all kinds of
stories of that nature.

1473
01:13:01,630 --> 01:13:05,832
People who are used to walking
fast in Europe, they acclimate.

1474
01:13:05,832 --> 01:13:07,540
They began to do that
in the Philippines.

1475
01:13:07,540 --> 01:13:10,570
Oh, no problem, we're going
to just zip along here.

1476
01:13:10,570 --> 01:13:13,840
Well, four, five months later,
they began to slow down.

1477
01:13:13,840 --> 01:13:15,860
The heat is oppressive.

1478
01:13:15,860 --> 01:13:17,307
No home was air conditioned.

1479
01:13:17,307 --> 01:13:18,640
The movies were air conditioned.

1480
01:13:18,640 --> 01:13:20,140
So to cool off,
occasionally, that's

1481
01:13:20,140 --> 01:13:21,940
when we'd go to the movies.

1482
01:13:21,940 --> 01:13:23,590
But the homes were not.

1483
01:13:23,590 --> 01:13:29,380
They were screened hopefully
to keep the mosquitoes out.

1484
01:13:29,380 --> 01:13:33,970
We also slept under mosquito
nets most of the time.

1485
01:13:33,970 --> 01:13:37,960
But you did not have
air conditioning.

1486
01:13:37,960 --> 01:13:42,760
So the heat was in the
90s all year round.

1487
01:13:42,760 --> 01:13:44,020
There were only two seasons.

1488
01:13:44,020 --> 01:13:45,070
One's the rainy season.

1489
01:13:45,070 --> 01:13:48,210
One's the dry season, both hot.

1490

01:13:48,210 --> 01:13:51,990

So these are things you
had to get acclimated to.

1491

01:13:51,990 --> 01:13:53,640

What was hardest
for your parents

1492

01:13:53,640 --> 01:13:55,710

to adjust to, I'm wondering?

1493

01:13:55,710 --> 01:13:59,670

And I'm also wondering
if the Jewish life

1494

01:13:59,670 --> 01:14:04,650

you had there was different than
what you think your Jewish life

1495

01:14:04,650 --> 01:14:06,855

would have been like if
you had stayed in Berlin?

1496

01:14:06,855 --> 01:14:09,540

1497

01:14:09,540 --> 01:14:12,890

To me, I probably wasn't--

1498

01:14:12,890 --> 01:14:15,030

well, first of all in
Berlin, during my experience

1499

01:14:15,030 --> 01:14:17,970

there, it was a repression.

1500

01:14:17,970 --> 01:14:20,880

When I was born, essentially,
as far back as I remember

1501

01:14:20,880 --> 01:14:25,950

to the time I left, so there was

no open Jewish life in Germany.

1502

01:14:25,950 --> 01:14:28,200

But in the
Philippines, there was.

1503

01:14:28,200 --> 01:14:30,630

And the community did
make a great effort

1504

01:14:30,630 --> 01:14:33,420

to keep its young, the
younger people and teens

1505

01:14:33,420 --> 01:14:36,660

and so on, involved
in Jewish life.

1506

01:14:36,660 --> 01:14:40,430

The holidays, everybody went
to the synagogue Friday nights.

1507

01:14:40,430 --> 01:14:43,130

We, of course, had the
Yom Kippur, Rosh Hashanah,

1508

01:14:43,130 --> 01:14:44,640

all the holidays.

1509

01:14:44,640 --> 01:14:48,390

The cantor was marvelous who
had come just before the war.

1510

01:14:48,390 --> 01:14:49,710

He organized.

1511

01:14:49,710 --> 01:14:53,700

He was really an expert in
organizing young people's

1512

01:14:53,700 --> 01:14:56,310

affairs.

1513

01:14:56,310 --> 01:14:59,460

And he was an expert at
piano singing and all that.

1514

01:14:59,460 --> 01:15:00,900

He taught piano.

1515

01:15:00,900 --> 01:15:02,790

So this-- and then
there were other people

1516

01:15:02,790 --> 01:15:05,100

who also were talented.

1517

01:15:05,100 --> 01:15:08,340

After all, you brought into
the Philippines only a few

1518

01:15:08,340 --> 01:15:14,200

but well disciplined and well
educated and talented people.

1519

01:15:14,200 --> 01:15:17,940

So they were able to offer
things of that nature

1520

01:15:17,940 --> 01:15:20,240

and as best they could.

1521

01:15:20,240 --> 01:15:23,430

Most of them had difficulty
finding work, sustaining work.

1522

01:15:23,430 --> 01:15:28,100

Their standard of living was
not high for many reasons,

1523

01:15:28,100 --> 01:15:31,080

language reasons, skills.

1524

01:15:31,080 --> 01:15:33,450

We had people there who

were lawyers in Germany.

1525

01:15:33,450 --> 01:15:35,720

Well, they couldn't practice law in the Philippines.

1526

01:15:35,720 --> 01:15:37,530

It was impossible.

1527

01:15:37,530 --> 01:15:39,780

Those people who had studied technical,

1528

01:15:39,780 --> 01:15:42,360

had technical backgrounds, were of course in demand.

1529

01:15:42,360 --> 01:15:44,670

Because like a refrigeration engineer,

1530

01:15:44,670 --> 01:15:46,530

we had one person there.

1531

01:15:46,530 --> 01:15:48,120

And he immediately got a job.

1532

01:15:48,120 --> 01:15:54,240

A chemist immediately was hired to develop research chemistry.

1533

01:15:54,240 --> 01:15:56,270

The others were in the merchant class.

1534

01:15:56,270 --> 01:15:58,170

They, too, eventually found things

1535

01:15:58,170 --> 01:16:02,280

to do, either to open their own business, to work for others.

1536

01:16:02,280 --> 01:16:08,550

Many of the women worked in sales fields or whatever.

1537

01:16:08,550 --> 01:16:10,920

Some-- we had physicians.

1538

01:16:10,920 --> 01:16:13,565

And those that were allowed to practice, and most of them

1539

01:16:13,565 --> 01:16:16,350

were allowed to practice, could practice, opened practices

1540

01:16:16,350 --> 01:16:18,440

and did very well.

1541

01:16:18,440 --> 01:16:21,910

There was always a shortage of good physicians.

1542

01:16:21,910 --> 01:16:25,750

So the community, depending on their own skills

1543

01:16:25,750 --> 01:16:29,230

and their own knowledge, did relatively well.

1544

01:16:29,230 --> 01:16:32,970

We had, of course, welfare problems, too.

1545

01:16:32,970 --> 01:16:34,560

But the community banded together

1546

01:16:34,560 --> 01:16:37,800

to take care of the cases.

1547

01:16:37,800 --> 01:16:43,350

Eventually as I will
describe also more later,

1548

01:16:43,350 --> 01:16:48,780
one of the events in 1940 was
the construction of a community

1549

01:16:48,780 --> 01:16:53,920
home outside of Manila, which
included several, about 10, 15,

1550

01:16:53,920 --> 01:16:56,160
20, acres, where
they would house

1551

01:16:56,160 --> 01:17:00,090
single people and young
families, young couples,

1552

01:17:00,090 --> 01:17:04,320
to work on the farm, work in
agricultural environments,

1553

01:17:04,320 --> 01:17:07,710
and sustain themselves
in that manner.

1554

01:17:07,710 --> 01:17:12,150
This home was built and the land
was given by the Philippines.

1555

01:17:12,150 --> 01:17:14,250
And President Quezon
and the president

1556

01:17:14,250 --> 01:17:16,680
of the Jewish community, an
American by the name of Alex

1557

01:17:16,680 --> 01:17:20,190
Frieder, who owned
a tobacco business,

1558

01:17:20,190 --> 01:17:22,640
were the people who
opened the home.

1559
01:17:22,640 --> 01:17:26,630
And I was there with my
mother as well as many others.

1560
01:17:26,630 --> 01:17:28,440
And so, you know,
these ceremonies

1561
01:17:28,440 --> 01:17:32,230
of the opening of the Marikina
Hall, as it was known.

1562
01:17:32,230 --> 01:17:34,230
And at that time, there
were articles published

1563
01:17:34,230 --> 01:17:39,660
in the Manila newspapers talking
about the policies of President

1564
01:17:39,660 --> 01:17:43,770
Quezon, about his opening
of the Philippines

1565
01:17:43,770 --> 01:17:48,450
as best as he could, being under
the gun of the United States,

1566
01:17:48,450 --> 01:17:50,010
to welcome Jews.

1567
01:17:50,010 --> 01:17:52,350
There were plans to
bring 10,000 Jews in,

1568
01:17:52,350 --> 01:17:55,830
to settle them in Mindanao
in the southern highlands.

1569

01:17:55,830 --> 01:17:59,260
These plans were sort of
blessed by the State Department.

1570
01:17:59,260 --> 01:18:02,400
And one can go into great
detail on that project.

1571
01:18:02,400 --> 01:18:06,060
But unfortunately--
but at times,

1572
01:18:06,060 --> 01:18:08,810
things got to a certain
point, it was too late.

1573
01:18:08,810 --> 01:18:10,440
We were dealing 1940 now.

1574
01:18:10,440 --> 01:18:15,180
And of course, by 1941, all
of that was out the window.

1575
01:18:15,180 --> 01:18:18,390
So but this home was
opened and was served

1576
01:18:18,390 --> 01:18:21,270
to keep these people employed.

1577
01:18:21,270 --> 01:18:25,470
They also served
also as a weekend--