

1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:01,230

2  
00:00:01,230 --> 00:00:03,540  
This is the fourth  
tape of an interview

3  
00:00:03,540 --> 00:00:07,050  
with Frank Ephraim for the  
United States Holocaust

4  
00:00:07,050 --> 00:00:08,760  
Memorial Museum.

5  
00:00:08,760 --> 00:00:11,490  
The interviewer is Nancy Alper.

6  
00:00:11,490 --> 00:00:14,600  
It's March the 20th, 1997.

7  
00:00:14,600 --> 00:00:19,660  
And this is side A  
of the fourth tape.

8  
00:00:19,660 --> 00:00:21,670  
Yes, we were at the  
point where my father

9  
00:00:21,670 --> 00:00:23,620  
was working for this  
office machine company.

10  
00:00:23,620 --> 00:00:26,380  
And they had a store, a retail  
store, a very large one,

11  
00:00:26,380 --> 00:00:28,270  
they sold adding  
machines, typewriters,

12  
00:00:28,270 --> 00:00:32,259

and things of that sort, also  
the very first public address

13  
00:00:32,259 --> 00:00:35,620  
systems with the  
microphones, old microphone

14  
00:00:35,620 --> 00:00:37,147  
types they had in those days.

15  
00:00:37,147 --> 00:00:38,980  
Now his boss, the man  
who managed the store,

16  
00:00:38,980 --> 00:00:40,188  
was a German, as I mentioned.

17  
00:00:40,188 --> 00:00:41,800  
He had come ashore  
to the Philippines

18  
00:00:41,800 --> 00:00:43,510  
after the First World War.

19  
00:00:43,510 --> 00:00:44,600  
He was a radio operator.

20  
00:00:44,600 --> 00:00:45,710  
His name was Zifkind.

21  
00:00:45,710 --> 00:00:47,380  
That was his last name.

22  
00:00:47,380 --> 00:00:49,480  
Was sort of a tall  
man who almost

23  
00:00:49,480 --> 00:00:53,070  
looked like the fellow that  
is president of-- chancellor,

24  
00:00:53,070 --> 00:00:55,420

president of Germany, Kohl.

25

00:00:55,420 --> 00:00:57,760

And he was a  
bachelor at the time,

26

00:00:57,760 --> 00:01:01,000

but he was importing his  
wife from Germany, a woman

27

00:01:01,000 --> 00:01:02,200

that he had known there.

28

00:01:02,200 --> 00:01:05,110

And she was going to come  
join him later, and she did.

29

00:01:05,110 --> 00:01:06,320

They were married.

30

00:01:06,320 --> 00:01:10,960

However, that job  
went very well.

31

00:01:10,960 --> 00:01:17,650

He was in that job up until the  
opening guns of the full war,

32

00:01:17,650 --> 00:01:19,480

December 7.

33

00:01:19,480 --> 00:01:23,240

And it, of course, was  
an American company.

34

00:01:23,240 --> 00:01:27,230

And one thing was unique  
about the office was I recall,

35

00:01:27,230 --> 00:01:28,970

they built--

36

00:01:28,970 --> 00:01:32,560  
Zifkind's office was converted  
into an air conditioned office

37  
00:01:32,560 --> 00:01:35,655  
so far everybody wanted  
to go to meetings there.

38  
00:01:35,655 --> 00:01:36,937  
It was a small office he had.

39  
00:01:36,937 --> 00:01:38,020  
I remember going in there.

40  
00:01:38,020 --> 00:01:39,190  
And they showed me around.

41  
00:01:39,190 --> 00:01:44,680  
And it was air conditioned, one  
of the first times that they

42  
00:01:44,680 --> 00:01:46,780  
installed such a system.

43  
00:01:46,780 --> 00:01:49,630  
In any event, my  
father worked there

44  
00:01:49,630 --> 00:01:53,350  
in sales and corporate  
sales or company sales,

45  
00:01:53,350 --> 00:01:56,860  
not just the walk-in  
retail sales.

46  
00:01:56,860 --> 00:01:59,680  
Since naturally, office machines  
were used by the businesses

47  
00:01:59,680 --> 00:02:02,710  
all over the place, and this  
was in the downtown business

48  
00:02:02,710 --> 00:02:04,330  
section of Manila.

49  
00:02:04,330 --> 00:02:06,660  
It was on a street  
called Dasmariñas.

50  
00:02:06,660 --> 00:02:10,560

51  
00:02:10,560 --> 00:02:12,510  
But of course,  
here came the war.

52  
00:02:12,510 --> 00:02:18,870  
He did manage to get to the  
office after December 7, 1941.

53  
00:02:18,870 --> 00:02:22,860  
But it was not long  
until there was word

54  
00:02:22,860 --> 00:02:25,800  
that the Japanese appeared  
to be on their way

55  
00:02:25,800 --> 00:02:29,580  
to invading the  
Philippines, which they did.

56  
00:02:29,580 --> 00:02:32,900  
They landed, as history has  
shown, at Lingayen Gulf.

57  
00:02:32,900 --> 00:02:34,300  
I'm not certain of the day.

58  
00:02:34,300 --> 00:02:36,090  
It was sometime in December.

59  
00:02:36,090 --> 00:02:40,080

During that period, there was a lot of preparation.

60  
00:02:40,080 --> 00:02:42,240  
The American forces had established

61  
00:02:42,240 --> 00:02:45,090  
antiaircraft installations all over,

62  
00:02:45,090 --> 00:02:47,400  
usually heavy machine guns.

63  
00:02:47,400 --> 00:02:52,860  
There was a lack of good antiaircraft artillery.

64  
00:02:52,860 --> 00:02:55,170  
Everything was blacked out.

65  
00:02:55,170 --> 00:02:58,230  
There were patrols at night.

66  
00:02:58,230 --> 00:03:00,990  
There were all kinds of restrictions, naturally,

67  
00:03:00,990 --> 00:03:03,120  
that had to be followed.

68  
00:03:03,120 --> 00:03:04,710  
It was war.

69  
00:03:04,710 --> 00:03:10,590  
So we still continued to live pretty much as we had before.

70  
00:03:10,590 --> 00:03:13,050  
Food, there was getting to be a little shortage,

71

00:03:13,050 --> 00:03:16,500  
because, obviously, the  
ships were not coming in.

72  
00:03:16,500 --> 00:03:18,330  
There were no  
longer notifications

73  
00:03:18,330 --> 00:03:20,880  
in the shipping pages of  
the name of the ship that

74  
00:03:20,880 --> 00:03:25,270  
was going to be arriving, just  
it always would say a vessel.

75  
00:03:25,270 --> 00:03:27,720  
And it would give the  
approximate date of arrival,

76  
00:03:27,720 --> 00:03:29,290  
again, for security reasons.

77  
00:03:29,290 --> 00:03:30,990  
It was a large shipping port.

78  
00:03:30,990 --> 00:03:35,940  
Well, the Japanese kept  
bombing, periodically,

79  
00:03:35,940 --> 00:03:39,730  
until we had heard of  
the landing at Lingayen.

80  
00:03:39,730 --> 00:03:42,270  
And then fighting  
on the ground began.

81  
00:03:42,270 --> 00:03:46,360  
We were not totally aware of  
what exactly was happening.

82  
00:03:46,360 --> 00:03:48,160

However, we were not in school.

83

00:03:48,160 --> 00:03:49,830

So we were playing  
soccer, or football,

84

00:03:49,830 --> 00:03:54,510

as we called it, on the  
Dewey Boulevard, continuously

85

00:03:54,510 --> 00:03:56,520

almost every day.

86

00:03:56,520 --> 00:04:00,870

And then one day my father came  
out to where we were playing

87

00:04:00,870 --> 00:04:03,570

and some other of the fathers  
or mothers of the kids

88

00:04:03,570 --> 00:04:05,790

that were playing,  
and because we

89

00:04:05,790 --> 00:04:11,100

hadn't noticed that provincial  
buses were coming down

90

00:04:11,100 --> 00:04:14,130

the boulevard.

91

00:04:14,130 --> 00:04:17,160

Manila had been  
declared an open city.

92

00:04:17,160 --> 00:04:20,519

That's to avoid its destruction  
and the killing of people,

93

00:04:20,519 --> 00:04:21,120

civilians.



94

00:04:21,120 --> 00:04:23,190  
That was done by MacArthur.

95

00:04:23,190 --> 00:04:24,840  
Meanwhile, the  
military was beginning

96

00:04:24,840 --> 00:04:28,230  
to pull out of Manila,  
to Bataan, where

97

00:04:28,230 --> 00:04:30,360  
they would attempt to resist.

98

00:04:30,360 --> 00:04:32,790  
But the Japanese were  
making great headway

99

00:04:32,790 --> 00:04:37,200  
in coming, roaring down from  
Lingayen, down the valleys

100

00:04:37,200 --> 00:04:39,480  
or whatever toward Manila.

101

00:04:39,480 --> 00:04:42,050  
And we were beginning to  
get that kind of news.

102

00:04:42,050 --> 00:04:43,800  
We were getting word  
that women should not

103

00:04:43,800 --> 00:04:47,760  
be wearing pants because the  
Japanese would play games.

104

00:04:47,760 --> 00:04:50,100  
They would say, well,  
are you a man or a woman?

105

00:04:50,100 --> 00:04:52,830

And they being sort  
of traditionalists,

106  
00:04:52,830 --> 00:04:54,690  
and that was a word  
that was passed around,

107  
00:04:54,690 --> 00:04:57,750  
among other things.

108  
00:04:57,750 --> 00:05:01,010  
As I said, one day, we  
were playing soccer,

109  
00:05:01,010 --> 00:05:03,120  
and these provincial  
buses-- provincial buses

110  
00:05:03,120 --> 00:05:05,310  
are the kind where  
there's a bus chassis,

111  
00:05:05,310 --> 00:05:08,700  
and then there are benches  
built across, holding people,

112  
00:05:08,700 --> 00:05:10,170  
and a roof.

113  
00:05:10,170 --> 00:05:15,270  
And you could enter the bus  
from the side for each bench.

114  
00:05:15,270 --> 00:05:17,670  
There was no middle passageway  
with a front entrance

115  
00:05:17,670 --> 00:05:18,470  
to the bus.

116  
00:05:18,470 --> 00:05:21,960  
They had different colors on  
them too, sort of fancy colors.

117  
00:05:21,960 --> 00:05:25,320  
And also people could sort  
of lie or squat on top

118  
00:05:25,320 --> 00:05:27,510  
where there was baggage  
on top of the bus.

119  
00:05:27,510 --> 00:05:30,010  
These were the provincial buses,  
take people to the province

120  
00:05:30,010 --> 00:05:31,560  
and back into Manila.

121  
00:05:31,560 --> 00:05:33,480  
We saw those coming down.

122  
00:05:33,480 --> 00:05:35,190  
And we noticed,  
playing out, they

123  
00:05:35,190 --> 00:05:38,520  
seemed to be full of what  
looked like soldiers.

124  
00:05:38,520 --> 00:05:42,120  
But we weren't sure  
who they were, exactly.

125  
00:05:42,120 --> 00:05:43,190  
There was some suspicion.

126  
00:05:43,190 --> 00:05:45,065  
Anyway, our parents  
would come there and say,

127  
00:05:45,065 --> 00:05:47,070  
better come in,  
because the word is

128

00:05:47,070 --> 00:05:51,360  
the Japanese are in some fashion  
appear to be entering Manila.

129  
00:05:51,360 --> 00:05:53,980  
And, yes, of course,  
then we realized later--

130  
00:05:53,980 --> 00:05:58,260  
we saw some passenger cars with  
the Japanese flag and civilians

131  
00:05:58,260 --> 00:06:01,800  
in them-- that these were  
the beginnings of the entry

132  
00:06:01,800 --> 00:06:05,400  
into Manila of the  
Japanese forces.

133  
00:06:05,400 --> 00:06:07,980  
Prior-- I want to just  
backtrack a little bit.

134  
00:06:07,980 --> 00:06:10,140  
As the United States  
Military forces

135  
00:06:10,140 --> 00:06:12,720  
were departing from  
the Philippines,

136  
00:06:12,720 --> 00:06:16,270  
there was, of course, law  
and order had broken down.

137  
00:06:16,270 --> 00:06:19,320  
So what they did was the  
policemen were no longer armed.

138  
00:06:19,320 --> 00:06:21,786  
They were just  
armed with sticks,

139

00:06:21,786 --> 00:06:23,850  
it being declared an open city.

140

00:06:23,850 --> 00:06:26,220  
The American forces  
decided to open up

141

00:06:26,220 --> 00:06:29,850  
their major quartermaster supply  
depots because they couldn't

142

00:06:29,850 --> 00:06:31,507  
haul the stuff back with them.

143

00:06:31,507 --> 00:06:33,090  
So they opened it  
up for the populants

144

00:06:33,090 --> 00:06:34,507  
to go in and take  
what they wished

145

00:06:34,507 --> 00:06:36,990  
and walk off with it,  
which they all did.

146

00:06:36,990 --> 00:06:40,950  
So down the boulevard, marching  
from the port area where

147

00:06:40,950 --> 00:06:44,220  
these warehouses were,  
were Filipinos and others,

148

00:06:44,220 --> 00:06:47,880  
hauling stuff of all  
sorts, from hats to all--

149

00:06:47,880 --> 00:06:50,580  
there was a story of one  
time where one of them--

150

00:06:50,580 --> 00:06:51,750  
this is an anecdote--

151  
00:06:51,750 --> 00:06:53,900  
I believe, it may  
have been true--

152  
00:06:53,900 --> 00:06:56,460  
where they came  
back to their homes

153  
00:06:56,460 --> 00:06:58,710  
after hauling this huge box.

154  
00:06:58,710 --> 00:07:01,580  
And then they opened  
it and discovered there

155  
00:07:01,580 --> 00:07:03,360  
was a coffin with a corpse.

156  
00:07:03,360 --> 00:07:05,730  
It had been a person  
who had passed away

157  
00:07:05,730 --> 00:07:08,850  
that was being about  
readied for shipment

158  
00:07:08,850 --> 00:07:10,590  
back to the United States.

159  
00:07:10,590 --> 00:07:13,380  
And this of course was  
all in that dock area,

160  
00:07:13,380 --> 00:07:14,500  
and so naturally--

161  
00:07:14,500 --> 00:07:18,810  
However, and unfortunately, this  
whole business of hauling stuff

162

00:07:18,810 --> 00:07:24,870

led to widespread looting of  
stores and eventually homes,

163

00:07:24,870 --> 00:07:27,970

so we decided in these  
Santa Monica Courts--

164

00:07:27,970 --> 00:07:30,180

we had us a little  
community meeting--

165

00:07:30,180 --> 00:07:34,200

to establish patrols  
made up of residents.

166

00:07:34,200 --> 00:07:37,410

And my father had  
the duty, I believe

167

00:07:37,410 --> 00:07:40,830

it was like from 11:00  
to 1:00 in the evening,

168

00:07:40,830 --> 00:07:44,200

and he was to relieve  
another person or two others.

169

00:07:44,200 --> 00:07:47,700

And so me being of the  
adventurous kind, my mother

170

00:07:47,700 --> 00:07:49,203

with great anxiety  
asked my father,

171

00:07:49,203 --> 00:07:50,370

gee, I'd like to come along.

172

00:07:50,370 --> 00:07:55,440

You know, just walking around  
the area there was no big deal.

173

00:07:55,440 --> 00:07:58,260

But, so we did  
that, it was dark,

174

00:07:58,260 --> 00:08:02,490

and then suddenly, we  
heard hobnailed boots

175

00:08:02,490 --> 00:08:03,960

on the concrete.

176

00:08:03,960 --> 00:08:06,900

And as we turned  
the corner, there

177

00:08:06,900 --> 00:08:08,957

was, I guess, a  
squad of Japanese.

178

00:08:08,957 --> 00:08:10,540

I mean, obviously,  
were not Americans.

179

00:08:10,540 --> 00:08:13,290

They wore the little  
caps, and long bayonets,

180

00:08:13,290 --> 00:08:15,300

and these hobnailed  
boots, I guess.

181

00:08:15,300 --> 00:08:18,660

And we saw them, they saw us.

182

00:08:18,660 --> 00:08:21,455

So they stopped, and we stopped.

183

00:08:21,455 --> 00:08:24,740

And we saw put one arm up, and  
that's sort of a sign of peace,

184

00:08:24,740 --> 00:08:26,340



like from the old Indian tales.

185  
00:08:26,340 --> 00:08:30,360  
And they spoke no English,  
but they indicated that we

186  
00:08:30,360 --> 00:08:32,880  
should go home, go where--

187  
00:08:32,880 --> 00:08:37,679  
so we went back to our  
apartment, our house.

188  
00:08:37,679 --> 00:08:41,220  
Next morning, we  
noticed that all the,

189  
00:08:41,220 --> 00:08:44,159  
as I recalled before,  
there were passageways

190  
00:08:44,159 --> 00:08:46,710  
between these rowhouses,  
they were all blocked.

191  
00:08:46,710 --> 00:08:49,800  
There was a Japanese  
sentry or two on each end,

192  
00:08:49,800 --> 00:08:53,650  
so that you couldn't get in or  
out, because they had known,

193  
00:08:53,650 --> 00:08:56,200  
perhaps, ahead of  
time that that was

194  
00:08:56,200 --> 00:08:58,390  
a home for many Americans,  
and British, and Dutch,

195  
00:08:58,390 --> 00:09:00,410  
who were, of course, enemies.

196  
00:09:00,410 --> 00:09:02,990  
And there we were as well.

197  
00:09:02,990 --> 00:09:05,800  
So what we did was we took  
out our old German passports

198  
00:09:05,800 --> 00:09:07,510  
with that red J in them.

199  
00:09:07,510 --> 00:09:09,790  
And it was sort of  
dark green passports,

200  
00:09:09,790 --> 00:09:15,440  
and we went up to  
this first sentry

201  
00:09:15,440 --> 00:09:17,960  
and showed him this passport.

202  
00:09:17,960 --> 00:09:20,440  
And, of course, the passport  
had this swastika on it,

203  
00:09:20,440 --> 00:09:22,730  
emblem with a swastika.

204  
00:09:22,730 --> 00:09:24,712  
So he didn't know,  
and he apparently

205  
00:09:24,712 --> 00:09:27,170  
called some other guy over who  
might have been the sergeant

206  
00:09:27,170 --> 00:09:28,610  
or whatever.

207  
00:09:28,610 --> 00:09:29,830  
And he looked at that.

208  
00:09:29,830 --> 00:09:32,540  
And then he said,  
ah, Deutsch-ka.

209  
00:09:32,540 --> 00:09:35,870  
The word Deutsche is  
German, and "Deutsch-ka"

210  
00:09:35,870 --> 00:09:38,480  
was the Japanese  
expression for a German.

211  
00:09:38,480 --> 00:09:40,040  
So they let us out.

212  
00:09:40,040 --> 00:09:41,140  
They let us back in.

213  
00:09:41,140 --> 00:09:43,860  
It was unusual that  
they would do that.

214  
00:09:43,860 --> 00:09:46,310  
So those of us who had  
these crazy passports

215  
00:09:46,310 --> 00:09:49,870  
were able to get in and  
out most of the time.

216  
00:09:49,870 --> 00:09:51,670  
Interesting thing  
about the Japanese.

217  
00:09:51,670 --> 00:09:55,640  
I first saw them,  
extremely ill-clothed.

218  
00:09:55,640 --> 00:09:58,760  
They wore these, I  
guess not puttees,

219

00:09:58,760 --> 00:10:02,720

but it was sort of like  
long strips of cloth

220

00:10:02,720 --> 00:10:05,120

wound around their  
leg up to the knee,

221

00:10:05,120 --> 00:10:06,680

like in the First World War.

222

00:10:06,680 --> 00:10:09,230

And they wore shoes made  
of rubber where the toe was

223

00:10:09,230 --> 00:10:11,210

separate from the rest.

224

00:10:11,210 --> 00:10:14,600

It was a very Japanese  
style of footwear.

225

00:10:14,600 --> 00:10:17,690

And they did not  
each have a rifle,

226

00:10:17,690 --> 00:10:20,930

because when they changed  
guard, the rifle would

227

00:10:20,930 --> 00:10:22,760

stay with the person on duty.

228

00:10:22,760 --> 00:10:26,400

And the others would hand  
over the rifle to them.

229

00:10:26,400 --> 00:10:29,450

The only thing they wore was a  
bayonet and a cartridge case,

230

00:10:29,450 --> 00:10:34,310

two leather cartridge boxes  
on the front of the belt.

231  
00:10:34,310 --> 00:10:35,210  
And that was there.

232  
00:10:35,210 --> 00:10:37,160  
And they also had  
no steel helmets.

233  
00:10:37,160 --> 00:10:40,990  
They wore sort of either caps or  
a sort of a type of pith helmet

234  
00:10:40,990 --> 00:10:42,860  
in the shape of a steel helmet.

235  
00:10:42,860 --> 00:10:47,300  
So they were extremely  
ill-equipped,

236  
00:10:47,300 --> 00:10:49,190  
it looked like any way.

237  
00:10:49,190 --> 00:10:51,110  
But they were a tough group.

238  
00:10:51,110 --> 00:10:52,880  
They were also mean.

239  
00:10:52,880 --> 00:10:56,090  
They were not extremely  
friendly, certainly not.

240  
00:10:56,090 --> 00:10:59,010  
And they were guarding, making  
sure no one got in and out.

241  
00:10:59,010 --> 00:11:01,700  
And a few days later,  
buses arrived and took--

242

00:11:01,700 --> 00:11:04,310  
and the word came down,  
the Japanese officers

243  
00:11:04,310 --> 00:11:09,260  
and interpreters, that all  
nationals of American, British,

244  
00:11:09,260 --> 00:11:12,500  
Dutch would have to  
board the buses to be

245  
00:11:12,500 --> 00:11:17,760  
taken to an internment camp  
at Santo Tomas University.

246  
00:11:17,760 --> 00:11:23,790  
Prior to your sighting of  
the first Japanese soldiers,

247  
00:11:23,790 --> 00:11:26,880  
was the pier area burned?

248  
00:11:26,880 --> 00:11:29,250  
Was that part of  
what you described

249  
00:11:29,250 --> 00:11:33,030  
as this kind of wholesale  
looting and kind of chaos

250  
00:11:33,030 --> 00:11:36,780  
that was going on right  
before the Japanese came in?

251  
00:11:36,780 --> 00:11:37,800  
No.

252  
00:11:37,800 --> 00:11:39,960  
They may have bombed some ships.

253  
00:11:39,960 --> 00:11:42,480  
I don't think the pier was hit.

254  
00:11:42,480 --> 00:11:44,340  
It might have been  
damaged slightly.

255  
00:11:44,340 --> 00:11:46,050  
We're not certain.

256  
00:11:46,050 --> 00:11:47,460  
I couldn't swear to that.

257  
00:11:47,460 --> 00:11:49,710  
The port area was  
bombed and some parts.

258  
00:11:49,710 --> 00:11:52,560  
And, yes, there were  
fires before the entry

259  
00:11:52,560 --> 00:11:55,080  
of the Japanese came in,  
but these were largely

260  
00:11:55,080 --> 00:11:56,400  
self-set fires.

261  
00:11:56,400 --> 00:11:58,500  
All the oil stocks  
were being burned.

262  
00:11:58,500 --> 00:12:01,800  
And the strange thing was,  
I think the rainy season was

263  
00:12:01,800 --> 00:12:05,468  
on upon us, and all that oil  
smoke, black smoke up there,

264  
00:12:05,468 --> 00:12:06,510  
the rain would come down.

265  
00:12:06,510 --> 00:12:08,220

And everybody had to  
run inside the house,

266  
00:12:08,220 --> 00:12:09,803  
because, otherwise,  
your clothes would

267  
00:12:09,803 --> 00:12:12,370  
be completely full of wet soot.

268  
00:12:12,370 --> 00:12:14,008  
And so I recall that.

269  
00:12:14,008 --> 00:12:16,050  
And there were some  
explosions where they blew up

270  
00:12:16,050 --> 00:12:18,480  
certain installations.

271  
00:12:18,480 --> 00:12:23,580  
They blew up outside at  
a place called Parañaque,

272  
00:12:23,580 --> 00:12:26,460  
which was south of Manila.

273  
00:12:26,460 --> 00:12:29,040  
There may have been  
some destruction.

274  
00:12:29,040 --> 00:12:31,680  
But this was strictly  
to avoid stuff falling

275  
00:12:31,680 --> 00:12:34,170  
into the hands of the Japanese.

276  
00:12:34,170 --> 00:12:37,650  
Do you remember your parents  
doing anything in particular

277



00:12:37,650 --> 00:12:41,310  
to prepare for whatever was  
coming, that nobody really

278  
00:12:41,310 --> 00:12:44,610  
knew what was coming, like  
hoarding food or anything

279  
00:12:44,610 --> 00:12:45,640  
like that?

280  
00:12:45,640 --> 00:12:46,140  
Yes.

281  
00:12:46,140 --> 00:12:49,110  
There was a good deal of  
that, because, of course,

282  
00:12:49,110 --> 00:12:51,850  
we knew that tough times  
were upon us and that.

283  
00:12:51,850 --> 00:12:54,480  
So my parents were old  
hands at that game.

284  
00:12:54,480 --> 00:12:57,540  
They were always ready to move,  
having had that experience all

285  
00:12:57,540 --> 00:12:59,470  
their life, much of their life.

286  
00:12:59,470 --> 00:13:02,130  
So cans of sardines  
were being gathered up

287  
00:13:02,130 --> 00:13:08,610  
and cans of corned beef and  
other things, rice, small sacks

288  
00:13:08,610 --> 00:13:10,200  
full of rice, and sugar.

289

00:13:10,200 --> 00:13:12,810

And things of that stuff  
we had sort of storage,

290

00:13:12,810 --> 00:13:14,370

it was in storage.

291

00:13:14,370 --> 00:13:16,620

And people would buy  
things, or whatever

292

00:13:16,620 --> 00:13:17,670

they could get hold of.

293

00:13:17,670 --> 00:13:21,090

They would go to stores  
that had been half-looted.

294

00:13:21,090 --> 00:13:22,920

And the owners had  
come back, and they

295

00:13:22,920 --> 00:13:25,140

were selling out anything  
and everything they had.

296

00:13:25,140 --> 00:13:28,620

So we'd all go to these places  
and buy whatever canned goods,

297

00:13:28,620 --> 00:13:32,575

certainly, that we could obtain,  
because Philippines things will

298

00:13:32,575 --> 00:13:35,550

rot in a hurry, and so  
anything in cans, of course,

299

00:13:35,550 --> 00:13:36,570

would be useful.

300

00:13:36,570 --> 00:13:39,300  
Cigarettes, another thing people  
bought as best they could.

301  
00:13:39,300 --> 00:13:42,960  
They knew that that supply  
would not last long.

302  
00:13:42,960 --> 00:13:44,950  
So all these things were  
beginning to happen.

303  
00:13:44,950 --> 00:13:49,530  
And, of course, then suddenly,  
of course, the money changed.

304  
00:13:49,530 --> 00:13:52,290  
The peso and the dollar,  
anything like that

305  
00:13:52,290 --> 00:13:55,100  
was no longer valid currency,  
at least officially.

306  
00:13:55,100 --> 00:13:58,450  
And Japanese, what we  
called Mickey Mouse money,

307  
00:13:58,450 --> 00:14:01,270  
the Japanese army walked  
in with that money,

308  
00:14:01,270 --> 00:14:02,550  
and used it immediately.

309  
00:14:02,550 --> 00:14:04,600  
And it was required to be used.

310  
00:14:04,600 --> 00:14:08,170  
So now we had new  
printed pesos that

311  
00:14:08,170 --> 00:14:11,220

had the Japanese  
government written on it.

312  
00:14:11,220 --> 00:14:14,400  
And it wasn't long-- that  
devalued very, very quickly--

313  
00:14:14,400 --> 00:14:17,430  
that pretty soon that to  
buy a half a pound of rice,

314  
00:14:17,430 --> 00:14:21,060  
it would cost you a thousand  
pesos, something of that sort.

315  
00:14:21,060 --> 00:14:25,200  
That began fairly soon,  
that was worthless money.

316  
00:14:25,200 --> 00:14:27,450  
Do you remember  
actually seeing people

317  
00:14:27,450 --> 00:14:30,370  
being taken to Santo Tomas?

318  
00:14:30,370 --> 00:14:30,870  
Oh yes.

319  
00:14:30,870 --> 00:14:34,380  
Well, these people that-- when  
my mother and those of us who

320  
00:14:34,380 --> 00:14:37,260  
were not being taken  
there, German-Austrian Jews

321  
00:14:37,260 --> 00:14:41,040  
or statements of what  
we were, we were there.

322  
00:14:41,040 --> 00:14:43,903  
And right by the boulevard

where we had played soccer,

323

00:14:43,903 --> 00:14:45,070  
that's where the buses were.

324

00:14:45,070 --> 00:14:47,528  
And these people-- it took  
about four or five hours to load

325

00:14:47,528 --> 00:14:50,160  
everybody, and buses  
would leave and come back

326

00:14:50,160 --> 00:14:53,400  
after taking the people to  
Santo Tomas, and load more.

327

00:14:53,400 --> 00:14:57,260  
So yes, we were there all  
day, watching and helping

328

00:14:57,260 --> 00:15:00,240  
the people or whatever, and  
also storing things for them

329

00:15:00,240 --> 00:15:02,820  
because after all, they had  
to leave their apartment.

330

00:15:02,820 --> 00:15:04,260  
Now, they did  
exempt people, women

331

00:15:04,260 --> 00:15:06,690  
who were pregnant or  
very small children,

332

00:15:06,690 --> 00:15:08,940  
they didn't immediately  
take those people in,

333

00:15:08,940 --> 00:15:11,670  
but the majority of

people were taken.

334

00:15:11,670 --> 00:15:13,890

It was very sad day.

335

00:15:13,890 --> 00:15:18,190

You have, what, several thousand people in these apartments,

336

00:15:18,190 --> 00:15:22,740

and suddenly, oh, half, or more than half, no longer there.

337

00:15:22,740 --> 00:15:25,560

So it was very strange.

338

00:15:25,560 --> 00:15:30,210

Do you remember seeing the Americans leave?

339

00:15:30,210 --> 00:15:32,670

What did you see, that you actually

340

00:15:32,670 --> 00:15:34,730

saw physically, that the Americans,

341

00:15:34,730 --> 00:15:39,300

either business interests, but primarily soldiers

342

00:15:39,300 --> 00:15:41,970

and armaments were going away?

343

00:15:41,970 --> 00:15:44,790

Well, our couple next door, the Shellacs,

344

00:15:44,790 --> 00:15:48,930

he being the pilot and so on, it was the day before Christmas,

345  
00:15:48,930 --> 00:15:51,060  
1941.

346  
00:15:51,060 --> 00:15:54,030  
And knocked at the door, and  
he says that they're leaving.

347  
00:15:54,030 --> 00:15:58,410  
And they have to go in  
order to go to Bataan.

348  
00:15:58,410 --> 00:15:59,980  
And there was a  
convoy or whatever.

349  
00:15:59,980 --> 00:16:03,390  
And all the airplanes had all  
been lost and what have you.

350  
00:16:03,390 --> 00:16:05,190  
And both were left.

351  
00:16:05,190 --> 00:16:07,770  
And they gave us some  
of their things and food

352  
00:16:07,770 --> 00:16:09,830  
that they wouldn't  
be taking along.

353  
00:16:09,830 --> 00:16:12,660  
And then they left,  
and then said goodbye,

354  
00:16:12,660 --> 00:16:14,270  
and that they hoped to be back.

355  
00:16:14,270 --> 00:16:17,424

356  
00:16:17,424 --> 00:16:20,320  
But--

357  
00:16:20,320 --> 00:16:24,310  
The Filipino government  
disappeared, I assume.

358  
00:16:24,310 --> 00:16:27,880  
And there was this transition  
to the Japanese government.

359  
00:16:27,880 --> 00:16:32,200  
And I was wondering if early on  
during the Japanese occupation,

360  
00:16:32,200 --> 00:16:34,930  
you had to have  
dealings with whatever

361  
00:16:34,930 --> 00:16:38,200  
their governmental  
units were there.

362  
00:16:38,200 --> 00:16:39,190  
Well, actually not.

363  
00:16:39,190 --> 00:16:46,000  
What happened was that the  
Quezon had left with MacArthur,

364  
00:16:46,000 --> 00:16:50,530  
to Corregidor, Bataan and  
Corregidor, as well as Osmeña,

365  
00:16:50,530 --> 00:16:53,000  
the vice president, and much  
of Philippine government.

366  
00:16:53,000 --> 00:16:55,120  
However, they left  
in charge a man

367  
00:16:55,120 --> 00:16:59,680  
by the name of Jose Vargas,  
who was then called chairman



368  
00:16:59,680 --> 00:17:02,140  
of the whatever  
committee that was

369  
00:17:02,140 --> 00:17:04,599  
to be in charge of  
the Philippines,

370  
00:17:04,599 --> 00:17:07,780  
to welcome the entry of the  
Japanese, whose general was

371  
00:17:07,780 --> 00:17:12,099  
Masaharu Homma, into Manila, the  
head of the Japanese Imperial

372  
00:17:12,099 --> 00:17:13,839  
Army.

373  
00:17:13,839 --> 00:17:16,240  
He had two or three other  
people on this committee,

374  
00:17:16,240 --> 00:17:17,829  
but he was the chair.

375  
00:17:17,829 --> 00:17:20,680  
He had a man by  
the name of Aquino,

376  
00:17:20,680 --> 00:17:25,540  
and also I think it was Jose  
Laurel, but there were others.

377  
00:17:25,540 --> 00:17:28,180  
And he was called  
as Chairman Vargas.

378  
00:17:28,180 --> 00:17:30,580  
And he was in charge  
of the government.

379

00:17:30,580 --> 00:17:34,450

And the Japanese accepted  
that, temporarily, certainly,

380

00:17:34,450 --> 00:17:38,870

and considered him to be the  
quote, "head of government."

381

00:17:38,870 --> 00:17:41,380

There was no Japanese  
civilian head of government,

382

00:17:41,380 --> 00:17:43,420

only the military.

383

00:17:43,420 --> 00:17:46,810

There were some civilians that  
were attached to the military

384

00:17:46,810 --> 00:17:50,440

and took care of whatever  
things, but all the services,

385

00:17:50,440 --> 00:17:55,330

utilities, and whatever  
management, police even,

386

00:17:55,330 --> 00:17:58,420

was under this Chairman Vargas.

387

00:17:58,420 --> 00:18:01,780

So you dealt with  
those that you had

388

00:18:01,780 --> 00:18:03,730

dealt with before, essentially.

389

00:18:03,730 --> 00:18:06,690

There was no change  
of that nature.

390

00:18:06,690 --> 00:18:10,840

The Japanese, as I say, were strictly military occupation.

391  
00:18:10,840 --> 00:18:12,640  
And they ruled the roost.

392  
00:18:12,640 --> 00:18:15,490  
I mean, they had people that would tell him what to do

393  
00:18:15,490 --> 00:18:19,540  
or what limitations were and what restrictions there were.

394  
00:18:19,540 --> 00:18:22,540  
But if one would recall, the idea of the Japanese

395  
00:18:22,540 --> 00:18:26,470  
was to form a greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere, which

396  
00:18:26,470 --> 00:18:28,540  
meant that their aim was to incorporate

397  
00:18:28,540 --> 00:18:30,670  
the Philippines and the Filipinos

398  
00:18:30,670 --> 00:18:36,920  
as part of their economic world, social and culturally as well.

399  
00:18:36,920 --> 00:18:38,740  
So it's that direction that they were

400  
00:18:38,740 --> 00:18:42,550  
looking at, rather than subjugation, necessarily.

401  
00:18:42,550 --> 00:18:47,500

Oh, they used subjugation  
and atrocities and everything

402  
00:18:47,500 --> 00:18:49,820  
else as means to get there.

403  
00:18:49,820 --> 00:18:52,540  
Nonetheless, the  
overall aim was that.

404  
00:18:52,540 --> 00:18:55,230  
It was anti-white,  
anti-foreigners, anti-American,

405  
00:18:55,230 --> 00:18:57,790  
anti-British,  
anti-European, et cetera.

406  
00:18:57,790 --> 00:19:01,580  
But they were trying to  
befriend the Philippines.

407  
00:19:01,580 --> 00:19:04,840  
So that was the thing  
they-- and in fact, they

408  
00:19:04,840 --> 00:19:07,450  
wanted the schools to open  
up that they were only

409  
00:19:07,450 --> 00:19:10,900  
taught in Tagalog and not in  
English, to give the Filipinos

410  
00:19:10,900 --> 00:19:13,300  
an identity of their  
own, rather than having

411  
00:19:13,300 --> 00:19:15,530  
to rely upon another language.

412  
00:19:15,530 --> 00:19:18,190  
So but the Filipinos

were the kind

413  
00:19:18,190 --> 00:19:22,390  
of people that were very  
fairly thoroughly Americanized

414  
00:19:22,390 --> 00:19:25,150  
and would always say,  
even throughout the war,

415  
00:19:25,150 --> 00:19:29,110  
talking about the future,  
when ours come back,

416  
00:19:29,110 --> 00:19:30,730  
meaning the Americans.

417  
00:19:30,730 --> 00:19:33,910  
So they never made  
too many friends.

418  
00:19:33,910 --> 00:19:34,990  
And a few.

419  
00:19:34,990 --> 00:19:38,530  
They did manage to, of  
course, get a few adherents,

420  
00:19:38,530 --> 00:19:40,500  
but the minority.

421  
00:19:40,500 --> 00:19:44,860  
What do you remember about  
the radio stations changing,

422  
00:19:44,860 --> 00:19:48,820  
the newspapers, and  
people gathering

423  
00:19:48,820 --> 00:19:52,300  
in or around your apartment  
or within the Jewish community

424

00:19:52,300 --> 00:19:54,970  
to talk about what was going on?

425

00:19:54,970 --> 00:19:56,280  
Yes, there was a lot of that.

426

00:19:56,280 --> 00:19:58,780  
Of course, we kept  
visiting one another.

427

00:19:58,780 --> 00:20:01,330  
The temple remained open.

428

00:20:01,330 --> 00:20:03,370  
We continued to have services.

429

00:20:03,370 --> 00:20:07,540  
Our American  
co-religionists, many or most

430

00:20:07,540 --> 00:20:09,480  
were in Santo Tomas.

431

00:20:09,480 --> 00:20:12,220  
A few had remained out for  
various health reasons,

432

00:20:12,220 --> 00:20:14,960  
or some of the women or  
children were still there.

433

00:20:14,960 --> 00:20:17,290  
But, of course, the main  
people were no longer there.

434

00:20:17,290 --> 00:20:19,840  
They were in Santo  
Tomas, as were

435

00:20:19,840 --> 00:20:23,010  
others who were not Americans,  
who were of Polish background,

436  
00:20:23,010 --> 00:20:25,450  
and later on, they were  
taken in, and Romanian,

437  
00:20:25,450 --> 00:20:26,920  
and they were later on.

438  
00:20:26,920 --> 00:20:30,350  
As these countries, they  
became known as enemies

439  
00:20:30,350 --> 00:20:32,390  
to the Japanese, they  
were interned as well.

440  
00:20:32,390 --> 00:20:35,290  
I remember several people  
that had that citizenship

441  
00:20:35,290 --> 00:20:36,350  
and were there.

442  
00:20:36,350 --> 00:20:39,280  
However, the  
community, as usual,

443  
00:20:39,280 --> 00:20:44,200  
stuck together early  
on, anticipating

444  
00:20:44,200 --> 00:20:47,920  
one incident that occurred  
when the Japanese first

445  
00:20:47,920 --> 00:20:49,890  
visited the temple.

446  
00:20:49,890 --> 00:20:52,780  
It was a detachment  
of the Kempeitai,

447

00:20:52,780 --> 00:20:57,580  
which is Japanese intelligence  
service, military intelligence.

448  
00:20:57,580 --> 00:20:58,780  
And they visited.

449  
00:20:58,780 --> 00:21:00,530  
And the story was told to me--

450  
00:21:00,530 --> 00:21:01,840  
I was not there--

451  
00:21:01,840 --> 00:21:04,270  
was that they came  
in, apparently,

452  
00:21:04,270 --> 00:21:09,760  
with this photograph of a rabbi,  
an old man with a big beard.

453  
00:21:09,760 --> 00:21:12,610  
And they apparently must  
have picked that up somewhere

454  
00:21:12,610 --> 00:21:14,263  
as part of their  
intelligence work,

455  
00:21:14,263 --> 00:21:15,805  
and they were looking  
for this rabbi,

456  
00:21:15,805 --> 00:21:17,470  
a person who looked like that.

457  
00:21:17,470 --> 00:21:21,130  
And here appeared this  
36-year-old young fellow,

458  
00:21:21,130 --> 00:21:25,380  
always sporting a yellow  
tie, that was his thing,



459  
00:21:25,380 --> 00:21:27,400  
always wore a yellow--  
it was white suit, that's

460  
00:21:27,400 --> 00:21:28,817  
what you wore on  
the Philippines--

461  
00:21:28,817 --> 00:21:30,040  
and this yellow tie.

462  
00:21:30,040 --> 00:21:32,040  
And he said, I'm the rabbi.

463  
00:21:32,040 --> 00:21:34,000  
And in fact, he  
related the anecdote.

464  
00:21:34,000 --> 00:21:36,500  
He was there, and he always  
talked about it a lot.

465  
00:21:36,500 --> 00:21:38,608  
And they looked at the  
picture and looked at him.

466  
00:21:38,608 --> 00:21:40,900  
They weren't certain if this  
guy was telling the truth.

467  
00:21:40,900 --> 00:21:43,817  
But he eventually convinced them  
that, yes, he was the rabbi,

468  
00:21:43,817 --> 00:21:45,150  
and he was the religious leader.

469  
00:21:45,150 --> 00:21:46,600  
And they said, well OK.

470  
00:21:46,600 --> 00:21:49,920

And they said, well they would be covering the services here.

471  
00:21:49,920 --> 00:21:52,490  
They would have people that would attend.

472  
00:21:52,490 --> 00:21:54,520  
That was their procedure, and that's

473  
00:21:54,520 --> 00:21:56,680  
what they were going to do, and did.

474  
00:21:56,680 --> 00:21:59,560  
Every Friday night, these two guys, Japanese

475  
00:21:59,560 --> 00:22:01,210  
in civilian clothes, would be sitting

476  
00:22:01,210 --> 00:22:04,270  
in the synagogue in the back, with the books open,

477  
00:22:04,270 --> 00:22:06,970  
reading, presumably-- we don't know for sure whether they

478  
00:22:06,970 --> 00:22:09,070  
read Hebrew or not, might have.

479  
00:22:09,070 --> 00:22:13,120  
And they were there, never created

480  
00:22:13,120 --> 00:22:16,870  
any kind of fuss or anything, simply sat there, and observed,

481  
00:22:16,870 --> 00:22:17,920

and listened.

482

00:22:17,920 --> 00:22:21,400

So the notion was that if there  
were a gathering of people

483

00:22:21,400 --> 00:22:25,150

who were suspect  
in any way, however

484

00:22:25,150 --> 00:22:28,600

tenuously, they were going  
to be there to make sure

485

00:22:28,600 --> 00:22:32,410

that nothing arguably  
subversive was going on.

486

00:22:32,410 --> 00:22:33,010

Precisely.

487

00:22:33,010 --> 00:22:35,890

This was certainly one of  
their-- after all, again,

488

00:22:35,890 --> 00:22:39,320

we go back to the fact we  
were a white community.

489

00:22:39,320 --> 00:22:41,800

This was not within the range  
of the Greater East Asia

490

00:22:41,800 --> 00:22:43,090

Co-Prosperity Sphere.

491

00:22:43,090 --> 00:22:47,560

We were not necessarily  
enemies, but we

492

00:22:47,560 --> 00:22:48,700

were certainly not friends.

493

00:22:48,700 --> 00:22:51,610

And they, of course,  
knew these Kempeitai,

494

00:22:51,610 --> 00:22:53,740

or the Japanese  
higher up hierarchy,

495

00:22:53,740 --> 00:22:57,610

they knew fairly well  
the fact that the German

496

00:22:57,610 --> 00:23:01,360

Jews or Austrian Jews were here  
because they were kicked out,

497

00:23:01,360 --> 00:23:04,930

or left Nazi  
Germany, their ally.

498

00:23:04,930 --> 00:23:11,350

So that, of course, made  
us suspect, definitely.

499

00:23:11,350 --> 00:23:13,150

Things got a lot worse later on.

500

00:23:13,150 --> 00:23:14,440

This was the beginnings.

501

00:23:14,440 --> 00:23:16,150

And, remember, the  
beginnings were

502

00:23:16,150 --> 00:23:19,810

they were trying, at least  
partially, to befriend

503

00:23:19,810 --> 00:23:23,350

rather than confront.

504

00:23:23,350 --> 00:23:28,090

So people in intelligence  
in the Japanese army,

505  
00:23:28,090 --> 00:23:31,360  
or people who were  
officers higher up,

506  
00:23:31,360 --> 00:23:36,220  
did have an awareness of the  
difference between Germans

507  
00:23:36,220 --> 00:23:40,860  
as a category and German  
Jews as another category?

508  
00:23:40,860 --> 00:23:44,580  
They must have, because  
of their activities.

509  
00:23:44,580 --> 00:23:48,060  
There was a good-sized  
German non-Jewish community

510  
00:23:48,060 --> 00:23:48,900  
in the Philippines.

511  
00:23:48,900 --> 00:23:52,020  
And as I mentioned, my father's  
old boss was one of them.

512  
00:23:52,020 --> 00:23:53,790  
There were many of  
them were old-timers,

513  
00:23:53,790 --> 00:23:56,730  
who when they heard what was  
happening in Nazi Germany,

514  
00:23:56,730 --> 00:24:00,610  
were quite shocked, this,  
and what's going on.

515  
00:24:00,610 --> 00:24:02,400

And they were very  
friendly to the German

516  
00:24:02,400 --> 00:24:04,770  
Jews and Austrian Jews,  
speaking the language.

517  
00:24:04,770 --> 00:24:06,850  
There was no  
animosity whatsoever.

518  
00:24:06,850 --> 00:24:10,560  
In fact, we knew  
one another, not

519  
00:24:10,560 --> 00:24:13,485  
socially necessarily, but  
certainly on a business level.

520  
00:24:13,485 --> 00:24:14,610  
And they had a German club.

521  
00:24:14,610 --> 00:24:16,770  
We did not, of  
course, go to that.

522  
00:24:16,770 --> 00:24:18,450  
There was a German  
consul and all that.

523  
00:24:18,450 --> 00:24:20,830  
We did not have much to do  
with these people either.

524  
00:24:20,830 --> 00:24:24,570  
But there were amongst  
them a small number

525  
00:24:24,570 --> 00:24:28,850  
who were fairly good Nazis,  
and who, essentially,

526  
00:24:28,850 --> 00:24:31,230

went along with  
the Hitler movement

527  
00:24:31,230 --> 00:24:33,900  
and also their theories.

528  
00:24:33,900 --> 00:24:39,180  
And they, I believe, at one time  
or another would make contact

529  
00:24:39,180 --> 00:24:43,200  
with the Japanese, being great  
allies, and inform them of,

530  
00:24:43,200 --> 00:24:46,260  
hey, you guys aren't really--

531  
00:24:46,260 --> 00:24:48,420  
hey, look at all  
these Jews here.

532  
00:24:48,420 --> 00:24:50,840  
Japanese never took an  
action against Jews.

533  
00:24:50,840 --> 00:24:53,640  
There was in the newspapers,  
at about a year or two

534  
00:24:53,640 --> 00:24:56,850  
into the war, there were  
occasional articles,

535  
00:24:56,850 --> 00:25:00,270  
written either by  
Germans or by somebody,

536  
00:25:00,270 --> 00:25:04,260  
that suggested that perhaps  
the Jews should wear also

537  
00:25:04,260 --> 00:25:07,140  
a different color armband,

because anyone that

538

00:25:07,140 --> 00:25:11,280  
was, for example, interned and  
was let out for temporarily,

539

00:25:11,280 --> 00:25:14,100  
would wear an armband  
of a certain color.

540

00:25:14,100 --> 00:25:16,440  
Red was Americans, and  
they had a sort of symbol

541

00:25:16,440 --> 00:25:21,120  
on it, the chi, which is sort  
of the symbol for American.

542

00:25:21,120 --> 00:25:24,690  
They had to wear that while they  
were walking around streets.

543

00:25:24,690 --> 00:25:27,090  
Some wore yellow,  
some wore a pink,

544

00:25:27,090 --> 00:25:29,430  
some wore a--  
different nationalities

545

00:25:29,430 --> 00:25:31,270  
would wear a different color.

546

00:25:31,270 --> 00:25:33,607  
And what was for the Jews,  
they were suggesting,

547

00:25:33,607 --> 00:25:35,440  
maybe it was the Jews,  
they were suggesting,

548

00:25:35,440 --> 00:25:36,315  
yeah, the yellow one.



549  
00:25:36,315 --> 00:25:37,670  
I'm not certain.

550  
00:25:37,670 --> 00:25:39,660  
It, of course,  
never came to pass.

551  
00:25:39,660 --> 00:25:44,010  
By that time, the  
war was into 1944,

552  
00:25:44,010 --> 00:25:46,860  
and the Japanese were quite  
busy with other things,

553  
00:25:46,860 --> 00:25:50,140  
that they could not be bothered  
with a small group of people.

554  
00:25:50,140 --> 00:25:54,120  
However, the Japanese were, of  
course, extremely suspicious

555  
00:25:54,120 --> 00:25:55,560  
of any whites.

556  
00:25:55,560 --> 00:25:59,310  
And we, as I will perhaps go  
on a little bit more later,

557  
00:25:59,310 --> 00:26:03,660  
they arrested a number  
of the Jewish community

558  
00:26:03,660 --> 00:26:05,790  
from time to time,  
on the suspicion

559  
00:26:05,790 --> 00:26:09,480  
of having shortwave radio,  
which was one thing you were not

560

00:26:09,480 --> 00:26:10,260  
allowed to have.

561

00:26:10,260 --> 00:26:13,390  
You had to turn in  
your shortwave radio.

562

00:26:13,390 --> 00:26:16,920  
If it had the  
shortwave system in it,

563

00:26:16,920 --> 00:26:20,347  
that had to be dismantled,  
taken out, or actually

564

00:26:20,347 --> 00:26:21,180  
had to be turned in.

565

00:26:21,180 --> 00:26:23,310  
You were not allowed  
to listen to anything

566

00:26:23,310 --> 00:26:27,630  
but the local radio, to  
avoid any kind of knowledge

567

00:26:27,630 --> 00:26:30,220  
about what was going on outside.

568

00:26:30,220 --> 00:26:32,160  
So we were largely isolated.

569

00:26:32,160 --> 00:26:34,770  
We knew sort of  
what was happening.

570

00:26:34,770 --> 00:26:37,050  
The newspapers did  
report certain things,

571

00:26:37,050 --> 00:26:39,960  
but, obviously, they reported

it from a standpoint that was

572

00:26:39,960 --> 00:26:43,020  
totally untrue in most cases.

573

00:26:43,020 --> 00:26:46,200  
I recall the invasion  
of Europe, Normandy,

574

00:26:46,200 --> 00:26:48,750  
was talked about, a  
small item in, what,

575

00:26:48,750 --> 00:26:51,090  
the eighth page of  
the local newspapers,

576

00:26:51,090 --> 00:26:54,430  
saying there was an  
attempted landing in France,

577

00:26:54,430 --> 00:26:58,080  
which was repulsed with heavy  
casualties on the Allied side.

578

00:26:58,080 --> 00:27:01,980  
OK, that was their D-day  
Normandy description.

579

00:27:01,980 --> 00:27:05,640  
And that went on for  
months, till one time it

580

00:27:05,640 --> 00:27:08,370  
mentioned about there was  
fighting in and around Paris.

581

00:27:08,370 --> 00:27:10,680  
So by that time, you sort  
of knew that things were--

582

00:27:10,680 --> 00:27:12,390  
However, we did have shortwave.

583  
00:27:12,390 --> 00:27:14,790  
We did have that.

584  
00:27:14,790 --> 00:27:18,210  
From the Santa Monica  
Courts, we moved to--

585  
00:27:18,210 --> 00:27:20,680  
we had to get out of  
the Santa Monica Courts.

586  
00:27:20,680 --> 00:27:22,440  
The Japanese took  
over that whole system

587  
00:27:22,440 --> 00:27:24,300  
because it was kind of  
a neat place for them

588  
00:27:24,300 --> 00:27:27,210  
to quarter their  
officers, junior officers.

589  
00:27:27,210 --> 00:27:28,960  
So everybody had to  
move out of there.

590  
00:27:28,960 --> 00:27:30,410  
So we moved into a house on--

591  
00:27:30,410 --> 00:27:31,710  
I forgot the street's name.

592  
00:27:31,710 --> 00:27:33,400  
Could've been the [INAUDIBLE].

593  
00:27:33,400 --> 00:27:35,100  
These were favorite streets.

594  
00:27:35,100 --> 00:27:36,300  
It was a bungalow.

595

00:27:36,300 --> 00:27:37,770

We shared it with  
this family that

596

00:27:37,770 --> 00:27:40,650

lived across the street from us,  
across from us at the Santa de

597

00:27:40,650 --> 00:27:42,000

[PLACE NAME].

598

00:27:42,000 --> 00:27:44,380

And we also brought in  
another man, a bachelor.

599

00:27:44,380 --> 00:27:49,010

His name was Pollock, and he  
was an intellectual type of guy

600

00:27:49,010 --> 00:27:50,580

who was an accountant.

601

00:27:50,580 --> 00:27:55,800

And we lived in that house,  
two families and a bachelor,

602

00:27:55,800 --> 00:28:00,480

for quite some time,  
until one point--

603

00:28:00,480 --> 00:28:05,520

my father, as I mentioned, had  
worked for this American office

604

00:28:05,520 --> 00:28:06,750

machine company.

605

00:28:06,750 --> 00:28:10,020

Naturally, that  
went out of business

606

00:28:10,020 --> 00:28:12,280  
or just was closed  
because of the fact

607  
00:28:12,280 --> 00:28:14,120  
it was Americans, taken over.

608  
00:28:14,120 --> 00:28:18,030  
Zifkind, the boss, went  
into some other business.

609  
00:28:18,030 --> 00:28:20,070  
After all, he was a  
well-known businessman.

610  
00:28:20,070 --> 00:28:21,180  
And so did my father.

611  
00:28:21,180 --> 00:28:23,390  
What they all did  
at the time was--

612  
00:28:23,390 --> 00:28:26,910  
and my father being a trades  
type person who knew import,

613  
00:28:26,910 --> 00:28:28,620  
export, that kind of thing--

614  
00:28:28,620 --> 00:28:33,210  
went into what was crudely known  
as the buy and sell business.

615  
00:28:33,210 --> 00:28:36,540  
And his specialty was hardware,  
nuts and bolts and things

616  
00:28:36,540 --> 00:28:40,080  
like that, which he would  
buy and sell in large lots

617  
00:28:40,080 --> 00:28:41,950  
to industrial concerns.

618  
00:28:41,950 --> 00:28:43,560  
And the way it worked  
was, these were

619  
00:28:43,560 --> 00:28:47,280  
all leftover things from the  
American era before the war.

620  
00:28:47,280 --> 00:28:52,380  
And he had a little office on  
the street, also Dasmariñas,

621  
00:28:52,380 --> 00:28:53,395  
downtown.

622  
00:28:53,395 --> 00:28:55,020  
And he shared it with  
this other fellow

623  
00:28:55,020 --> 00:28:57,540  
who was into bottles,  
glass bottles.

624  
00:28:57,540 --> 00:29:00,980  
They would sell big  
lots of glass bottles,

625  
00:29:00,980 --> 00:29:03,820  
to put in all kind,  
pills, whatever.

626  
00:29:03,820 --> 00:29:05,713  
And again, these things  
were no longer made.

627  
00:29:05,713 --> 00:29:07,380  
This was just the  
leftovers, things that

628  
00:29:07,380 --> 00:29:09,390  
were left from before the war.

629

00:29:09,390 --> 00:29:11,708

And they would keep selling  
it to the next person,

630

00:29:11,708 --> 00:29:14,250

and the next person would keep  
selling it to the next person,

631

00:29:14,250 --> 00:29:16,542

and then it would sell the  
round, the round, the round.

632

00:29:16,542 --> 00:29:20,430

Sometimes, over a year, it would  
never move from the warehouse.

633

00:29:20,430 --> 00:29:23,010

It was sold on paper  
and bought on paper.

634

00:29:23,010 --> 00:29:28,193

And almost like this kind of  
large scale buys and selling,

635

00:29:28,193 --> 00:29:29,610

till eventually  
it might have been

636

00:29:29,610 --> 00:29:33,420

sold to a Chinese or somebody,  
and who might eventually have

637

00:29:33,420 --> 00:29:36,360

sold it to the Japanese, maybe.

638

00:29:36,360 --> 00:29:39,000

But everyone made their  
profit on the selling,

639

00:29:39,000 --> 00:29:43,020

because the value  
would keep going up.



640

00:29:43,020 --> 00:29:46,140

What was the purpose of  
that, to indirectly get it

641

00:29:46,140 --> 00:29:47,310

to the Japanese?

642

00:29:47,310 --> 00:29:49,990

643

00:29:49,990 --> 00:29:51,420

Well, the purpose,  
basically, was

644

00:29:51,420 --> 00:29:54,450

to make a profit on  
every time you bought.

645

00:29:54,450 --> 00:29:57,140

You bought it for price  
A, thousand, whatever,

646

00:29:57,140 --> 00:29:59,970

and you sold it for  
\$1,500, and then

647

00:29:59,970 --> 00:30:02,390

you might see that same  
thing come around again.

648

00:30:02,390 --> 00:30:05,820

By now it was \$3,000, then  
you sold it for \$3,500.

649

00:30:05,820 --> 00:30:07,388

And round and round, it went.

650

00:30:07,388 --> 00:30:08,430

There was always a buyer.

651

00:30:08,430 --> 00:30:11,940

Because, eventually, see, the

Japanese were, of course, very

652

00:30:11,940 --> 00:30:14,490  
interested in buying or  
acquiring all this stuff,

653

00:30:14,490 --> 00:30:17,670  
as were the Chinese, anybody who  
had something that they wanted

654

00:30:17,670 --> 00:30:22,500  
to bottle or to build, of nuts  
and bolts and what have you,

655

00:30:22,500 --> 00:30:23,910  
they would be looking for this.

656

00:30:23,910 --> 00:30:25,810  
But it would be hard to find.

657

00:30:25,810 --> 00:30:27,690  
And the price would  
be extremely high.

658

00:30:27,690 --> 00:30:31,020  
It was high because it went  
around the ring so many times.

659

00:30:31,020 --> 00:30:33,510  
However, people were able  
to make a small profit off

660

00:30:33,510 --> 00:30:36,150  
of it, or a large profit,  
depending, and thus

661

00:30:36,150 --> 00:30:38,940  
able to make a living,  
which he did for two years

662

00:30:38,940 --> 00:30:39,990  
in the hardware field.

663

00:30:39,990 --> 00:30:45,720

And other people did in the  
pharmaceutical field, books,

664

00:30:45,720 --> 00:30:51,510

any kind of goods, textiles,  
construction equipment,

665

00:30:51,510 --> 00:30:55,470

machinery, whatever,  
because that's how

666

00:30:55,470 --> 00:30:57,610

they managed to make a living.

667

00:30:57,610 --> 00:31:00,010

So the Japanese,  
through other people,

668

00:31:00,010 --> 00:31:03,060

or with their own people,  
were not actually doing

669

00:31:03,060 --> 00:31:06,070

any manufacturing then.

670

00:31:06,070 --> 00:31:08,190

And is that because  
most of the things that

671

00:31:08,190 --> 00:31:10,950

were in the Philippines were  
being imported from the United

672

00:31:10,950 --> 00:31:16,470

States, and there was very  
little industrial work going on

673

00:31:16,470 --> 00:31:17,970

to begin with?

674

00:31:17,970 --> 00:31:19,470

That is largely correct.

675

00:31:19,470 --> 00:31:21,235

Most things were imported.

676

00:31:21,235 --> 00:31:23,610

There were some things that  
were made in the Philippines,

677

00:31:23,610 --> 00:31:24,780

but there was limited.

678

00:31:24,780 --> 00:31:28,310

The Philippines was largely  
known for a producer of rice

679

00:31:28,310 --> 00:31:32,430

from its rice fields, abacÃ¡,  
which is hemp, Manila rope,

680

00:31:32,430 --> 00:31:37,830

and paper goods, and also  
for this sort of copra,

681

00:31:37,830 --> 00:31:39,720

which is coconut meat.

682

00:31:39,720 --> 00:31:42,690

That's coconut meat taken out  
of a coconut and then dried.

683

00:31:42,690 --> 00:31:44,910

That was made into special oils.

684

00:31:44,910 --> 00:31:47,010

A lot of basis for  
our foods these days,

685

00:31:47,010 --> 00:31:51,630

and that time or other,  
whatever materials

686

00:31:51,630 --> 00:31:56,605  
was copra, which was shipped out  
in large batches in the ships.

687  
00:31:56,605 --> 00:31:58,980  
So these were these large  
industries that were available,

688  
00:31:58,980 --> 00:32:02,190  
and gold was, of course,  
another commodity that

689  
00:32:02,190 --> 00:32:03,910  
was mined in the Philippines.

690  
00:32:03,910 --> 00:32:07,360  
Manufacturing was  
limited to woven things--

691  
00:32:07,360 --> 00:32:10,210  
hats and baskets,  
and things like that.

692  
00:32:10,210 --> 00:32:14,650  
And, of course, there was a  
substantial other agricultural

693  
00:32:14,650 --> 00:32:22,270  
business, water buffalo, and  
they had fish, a fish industry.

694  
00:32:22,270 --> 00:32:24,640  
But this was basically  
for home consumption.

695  
00:32:24,640 --> 00:32:27,460  
And, of course, the  
Japanese dug into all that.

696  
00:32:27,460 --> 00:32:30,610  
They came with nothing,  
brought in nothing,

697

00:32:30,610 --> 00:32:35,800  
and equipped themselves in the  
Philippines in a big, big way.

698  
00:32:35,800 --> 00:32:39,910  
Leather boots for the  
troops, the Filipinos

699  
00:32:39,910 --> 00:32:42,820  
became adept at making  
these leather covers,

700  
00:32:42,820 --> 00:32:45,830  
handle covers for these  
Japanese samurai swords.

701  
00:32:45,830 --> 00:32:48,280  
And the thing to do  
for a Japanese officer

702  
00:32:48,280 --> 00:32:51,820  
was to have a special leather  
cover for the big, long handle

703  
00:32:51,820 --> 00:32:55,390  
of his samurai sword, big item.

704  
00:32:55,390 --> 00:32:58,390  
Things of that  
nature, the Japanese

705  
00:32:58,390 --> 00:32:59,830  
took everything  
there was to take.

706  
00:32:59,830 --> 00:33:01,955  
Of course, all vehicles  
were immediately impounded.

707  
00:33:01,955 --> 00:33:03,900  
There was no gasoline.

708  
00:33:03,900 --> 00:33:06,490

Bicycles, of course,  
then became the vogue.

709  
00:33:06,490 --> 00:33:09,080  
Bicycles were stolen  
at a horrendous rate.

710  
00:33:09,080 --> 00:33:11,080  
I had a little bicycle,  
my father had a bicycle.

711  
00:33:11,080 --> 00:33:12,930  
My mother never learned to ride.

712  
00:33:12,930 --> 00:33:15,700  
But we rode all over the  
place on our bicycles.

713  
00:33:15,700 --> 00:33:18,490  
And that was the  
mode of transport.

714  
00:33:18,490 --> 00:33:22,540  
Our doctor had a bicycle, which  
was run by a little alcohol

715  
00:33:22,540 --> 00:33:25,330  
engine, a little thing attached  
to the rear of a wheel.

716  
00:33:25,330 --> 00:33:27,940  
And he would put around  
the area with this bicycle.

717  
00:33:27,940 --> 00:33:29,860  
In those days, of course,  
doctors would still

718  
00:33:29,860 --> 00:33:33,730  
visit patients at home.

719  
00:33:33,730 --> 00:33:37,335  
One incident, for example,

during the-- well,

720  
00:33:37,335 --> 00:33:37,960  
let me go back.

721  
00:33:37,960 --> 00:33:40,060  
From this little  
house, bungalow that we

722  
00:33:40,060 --> 00:33:42,580  
shared with this other  
family and the bachelor,

723  
00:33:42,580 --> 00:33:45,250  
we then moved to a  
much larger house.

724  
00:33:45,250 --> 00:33:48,220  
It was in a court, and  
it was on Dakota Street.

725  
00:33:48,220 --> 00:33:50,770  
And you entered the--

726  
00:33:50,770 --> 00:33:52,750  
there were six houses  
which were identical.

727  
00:33:52,750 --> 00:33:53,980  
They were very large.

728  
00:33:53,980 --> 00:33:57,370  
They had long porches,  
both on the main

729  
00:33:57,370 --> 00:34:00,148  
and on the upper level, and  
then had bedrooms, a kitchen,

730  
00:34:00,148 --> 00:34:00,940  
and all that stuff.

731



00:34:00,940 --> 00:34:01,870  
It was a big house.

732  
00:34:01,870 --> 00:34:04,380

733  
00:34:04,380 --> 00:34:09,929  
We moved there, it must  
have been 1942 or 1943.

734  
00:34:09,929 --> 00:34:13,020  
I guess it was '42.

735  
00:34:13,020 --> 00:34:16,630  
And was this little court on  
which these six houses stood.

736  
00:34:16,630 --> 00:34:18,429  
The first two were  
right on Dakota Street.

737  
00:34:18,429 --> 00:34:21,520  
The other four were in  
back, and you entered them

738  
00:34:21,520 --> 00:34:26,670  
through this small court, which  
was made of concrete driveway.

739  
00:34:26,670 --> 00:34:28,300  
And in the back  
of that court were

740  
00:34:28,300 --> 00:34:32,230  
six garages, where people  
actually used to have cars.

741  
00:34:32,230 --> 00:34:36,699  
And across from us  
was a house like ours.

742  
00:34:36,699 --> 00:34:38,520  
And it was occupied

by an American,

743

00:34:38,520 --> 00:34:40,389  
whose name was Wilson.

744

00:34:40,389 --> 00:34:44,560  
And he was interned,  
so he decided--

745

00:34:44,560 --> 00:34:46,297  
and he owned one of the garages.

746

00:34:46,297 --> 00:34:48,130  
And we had a garage,  
but, of course, no car.

747

00:34:48,130 --> 00:34:51,730  
There was nothing in the  
garage except just junk.

748

00:34:51,730 --> 00:34:54,670  
And he decided if we  
would take his furniture

749

00:34:54,670 --> 00:34:57,490  
and move it into our garage,  
plus a few other things,

750

00:34:57,490 --> 00:35:00,610  
plus also look after  
his senior house boy--

751

00:35:00,610 --> 00:35:03,850  
this was a man who was just  
not a house boy, he could cook.

752

00:35:03,850 --> 00:35:06,400  
He was his cook and  
everything, the family.

753

00:35:06,400 --> 00:35:08,020  
Well, he was interned.

754

00:35:08,020 --> 00:35:10,450

He was taken by the  
Japanese and interned.

755

00:35:10,450 --> 00:35:12,970

And we held all his furniture.

756

00:35:12,970 --> 00:35:17,690

And soon other people moved  
into the house across the way,

757

00:35:17,690 --> 00:35:20,400

because it was a rental.

758

00:35:20,400 --> 00:35:25,425

And these six houses we stayed  
in until the liberation,

759

00:35:25,425 --> 00:35:28,530

in 1945.

760

00:35:28,530 --> 00:35:30,600

However, lots of things  
occurred while we

761

00:35:30,600 --> 00:35:31,815

were living in that house.

762

00:35:31,815 --> 00:35:45,860

763

00:35:45,860 --> 00:35:49,600

This is the second side,  
side B, of the fourth tape

764

00:35:49,600 --> 00:35:52,810

of an interview for the United  
States Holocaust Memorial

765

00:35:52,810 --> 00:35:55,720

Museum, of Frank Ephraim.

766

00:35:55,720 --> 00:35:58,390

The interviewer is Nancy Alper.

767

00:35:58,390 --> 00:36:04,380

It's March 20, 1997.

768

00:36:04,380 --> 00:36:07,540

Frank, we're talking  
about the period

769

00:36:07,540 --> 00:36:12,770

during the early part of  
the Japanese occupation

770

00:36:12,770 --> 00:36:18,250

of the Philippines in general,  
and Manila, particularly.

771

00:36:18,250 --> 00:36:21,770

Yes, there's one  
sort of short story,

772

00:36:21,770 --> 00:36:23,710

this is about about lizards.

773

00:36:23,710 --> 00:36:26,960

Remember, we talked about  
geckos, some kind of a lizard

774

00:36:26,960 --> 00:36:27,860

before.

775

00:36:27,860 --> 00:36:29,740

This is a different one.

776

00:36:29,740 --> 00:36:32,230

People who had just  
arrived in Manila

777

00:36:32,230 --> 00:36:34,780

and were visiting other  
people, and of course some

778  
00:36:34,780 --> 00:36:39,590  
of them were visiting  
with us in our house,

779  
00:36:39,590 --> 00:36:42,080  
would sit down in what  
was a living room,

780  
00:36:42,080 --> 00:36:44,230  
and these rattan  
chairs that just about

781  
00:36:44,230 --> 00:36:48,970  
everyone had, or a couch,  
with very colorful pillows.

782  
00:36:48,970 --> 00:36:52,220  
And sometimes people would  
sort of look up at the ceiling.

783  
00:36:52,220 --> 00:36:54,340  
And, suddenly, they would  
really jump, practically

784  
00:36:54,340 --> 00:36:57,460  
off the chair, because what they  
saw was little tiny lizards.

785  
00:36:57,460 --> 00:36:59,560  
They were about  
like 3 inches long,

786  
00:36:59,560 --> 00:37:02,612  
with tails and everything,  
chasing one another.

787  
00:37:02,612 --> 00:37:04,570  
There might have been  
two, three, or four, even

788  
00:37:04,570 --> 00:37:07,120  
half a dozen, in raised

parts of the ceiling, usually

789

00:37:07,120 --> 00:37:08,660  
toward the edge.

790

00:37:08,660 --> 00:37:12,082  
And they said, my god,  
look up there, lizards.

791

00:37:12,082 --> 00:37:12,900  
Said, oh, no, no.

792

00:37:12,900 --> 00:37:14,400  
You don't have to  
worry about those.

793

00:37:14,400 --> 00:37:17,050  
One has to actually--  
we would joke, we'd say,

794

00:37:17,050 --> 00:37:22,030  
you actually have to buy these  
little lizards because they're

795

00:37:22,030 --> 00:37:25,060  
there for the sole purpose of  
catching mosquitoes, that's

796

00:37:25,060 --> 00:37:26,080  
what they eat.

797

00:37:26,080 --> 00:37:30,430  
And so everybody has lizards in  
their house for that purpose.

798

00:37:30,430 --> 00:37:33,820  
And they would sort of  
just shake their heads,

799

00:37:33,820 --> 00:37:34,813  
being very surprised.

800

00:37:34,813 --> 00:37:36,730

After all, this was  
rather different from what

801

00:37:36,730 --> 00:37:39,880

they were used to back in,  
say, Germany or Austria.

802

00:37:39,880 --> 00:37:42,130

And then we'd also  
tell them that you

803

00:37:42,130 --> 00:37:44,490

have to be kind of careful  
when you're at a dinner

804

00:37:44,490 --> 00:37:46,240

or something, and  
there's a plate of soup,

805

00:37:46,240 --> 00:37:49,240

and suddenly these  
lizards shed, and the tail

806

00:37:49,240 --> 00:37:50,750

will drop into your soup.

807

00:37:50,750 --> 00:37:52,950

And it's something  
to be aware of

808

00:37:52,950 --> 00:37:55,150

and this and all,  
that not be surprised,

809

00:37:55,150 --> 00:37:57,190

because it does happen.

810

00:37:57,190 --> 00:37:59,920

Well, that took a lot of  
people by surprise, of course.

811

00:37:59,920 --> 00:38:02,020

But like anything  
else, people do

812  
00:38:02,020 --> 00:38:05,220  
adjust to that, which brings  
us also to other animals, which

813  
00:38:05,220 --> 00:38:07,840  
I'd sort of forgotten to mention  
about, one's first impression

814  
00:38:07,840 --> 00:38:09,005  
in the Philippines.

815  
00:38:09,005 --> 00:38:10,630  
And that you'll be  
sitting in the room,

816  
00:38:10,630 --> 00:38:13,360  
and they usually  
had wooden floors,

817  
00:38:13,360 --> 00:38:14,980  
and the homes had  
a lot of windows

818  
00:38:14,980 --> 00:38:16,930  
for air to come in and so on.

819  
00:38:16,930 --> 00:38:18,880  
But, suddenly, here  
was this spider.

820  
00:38:18,880 --> 00:38:21,760  
And mind you, the spiders  
are not little fellows.

821  
00:38:21,760 --> 00:38:23,660  
They're about the  
size of your hand.

822  
00:38:23,660 --> 00:38:27,760  
It comes crawling across the



floor at a high rate of speed.

823

00:38:27,760 --> 00:38:31,060

People would jump out of their chairs, to run like crazy.

824

00:38:31,060 --> 00:38:33,550

But then, of course, we were told later not to worry.

825

00:38:33,550 --> 00:38:36,010

Those are very natural creatures.

826

00:38:36,010 --> 00:38:38,800

These spiders, too, eat insects.

827

00:38:38,800 --> 00:38:42,090

And they're harmless, they're not poisonous, not tarantulas.

828

00:38:42,090 --> 00:38:43,840

They're just very friendly little fellows,

829

00:38:43,840 --> 00:38:48,410

and they're as scared of you as you are of them.

830

00:38:48,410 --> 00:38:50,290

The other thing is and everything

831

00:38:50,290 --> 00:38:52,960

seems to be the sort of large size in the tropics,

832

00:38:52,960 --> 00:38:55,360

like a cockroach that we see.

833

00:38:55,360 --> 00:38:57,490

Well, cockroaches in the Philippines

834

00:38:57,490 --> 00:39:01,210

run up to about 2 inches long  
in some cases, in most cases.

835

00:39:01,210 --> 00:39:04,110

And there are obviously  
large hordes there because

836

00:39:04,110 --> 00:39:06,440

of in the case of  
rotting garbage.

837

00:39:06,440 --> 00:39:08,050

And then there are  
flying cockroaches.

838

00:39:08,050 --> 00:39:11,530

We once sat at the  
table, and the screen

839

00:39:11,530 --> 00:39:15,580

was either broken or open,  
and suddenly this thing

840

00:39:15,580 --> 00:39:16,840

comes flying in.

841

00:39:16,840 --> 00:39:20,380

It's a flying cockroach, wings  
and all, makes a loud noise

842

00:39:20,380 --> 00:39:23,300

and crashes into the  
wall and stuff like that.

843

00:39:23,300 --> 00:39:25,780

But these are the  
sort of animal kingdom

844

00:39:25,780 --> 00:39:29,240

that you come across  
in the tropics.

845  
00:39:29,240 --> 00:39:32,860

846  
00:39:32,860 --> 00:39:35,420  
In addition to  
these wild animals,

847  
00:39:35,420 --> 00:39:40,610  
what was happening on the street  
after the Japanese occupied

848  
00:39:40,610 --> 00:39:46,100  
Manila, in the sense  
of theft or chaos

849  
00:39:46,100 --> 00:39:50,910  
of any kinds that affected  
your family's life?

850  
00:39:50,910 --> 00:39:55,760  
Well, the Japanese were,  
again, a very different kind

851  
00:39:55,760 --> 00:39:57,510  
of people.

852  
00:39:57,510 --> 00:39:59,570  
And here, of course,  
we were mostly

853  
00:39:59,570 --> 00:40:03,530  
dealing with military  
and Japanese residents

854  
00:40:03,530 --> 00:40:05,600  
of the Philippines  
who were working often

855  
00:40:05,600 --> 00:40:07,490  
with the military.

856

00:40:07,490 --> 00:40:12,650  
And in some cases, some  
of our Jewish friends

857  
00:40:12,650 --> 00:40:18,530  
had been in business and  
knew Japanese businessmen,

858  
00:40:18,530 --> 00:40:19,980  
personally.

859  
00:40:19,980 --> 00:40:23,390  
And so at times, this was  
a fairly friendly exchange.

860  
00:40:23,390 --> 00:40:28,700  
However, the Japanese army was  
a rather ruthless organization.

861  
00:40:28,700 --> 00:40:32,120  
And the greatest  
problem on the streets

862  
00:40:32,120 --> 00:40:36,070  
was not so much theft, but fear.

863  
00:40:36,070 --> 00:40:39,170  
They would suddenly  
stop people, or round up

864  
00:40:39,170 --> 00:40:43,910  
people to help carry sandbags,  
or to help in some construction

865  
00:40:43,910 --> 00:40:49,640  
project, or to search you,  
or to request your ID.

866  
00:40:49,640 --> 00:40:51,410  
And they would  
have no compunction

867  
00:40:51,410 --> 00:40:52,520

about beating people.

868

00:40:52,520 --> 00:40:55,130

This is one of their big things,  
was the beating up people.

869

00:40:55,130 --> 00:40:57,350

Slapping them was a big thing.

870

00:40:57,350 --> 00:40:59,840

Also, if there was  
a guard somewhere,

871

00:40:59,840 --> 00:41:02,750

wherever-- and they had  
lots of Japanese soldiers

872

00:41:02,750 --> 00:41:05,340

on guard, always  
with fixed bayonets.

873

00:41:05,340 --> 00:41:08,180

That was a characteristic,  
the bayonet.

874

00:41:08,180 --> 00:41:11,600

And if you had to bow  
as you passed the guard,

875

00:41:11,600 --> 00:41:15,080

regardless of who you were  
or what you were doing.

876

00:41:15,080 --> 00:41:18,410

You stopped by and  
gave a short bow.

877

00:41:18,410 --> 00:41:22,280

This is the equivalent of  
saying hello or shaking

878

00:41:22,280 --> 00:41:24,320

hands in Japan.

879  
00:41:24,320 --> 00:41:25,815  
And they expected  
that of everyone.

880  
00:41:25,815 --> 00:41:27,232  
Now, if you didn't  
do that, they'd

881  
00:41:27,232 --> 00:41:28,840  
call you back and  
make you do that,

882  
00:41:28,840 --> 00:41:31,380  
or so they'd even slap  
you if you did not.

883  
00:41:31,380 --> 00:41:33,420  
So there was this  
kind of atmosphere.

884  
00:41:33,420 --> 00:41:35,950  
It was a sort of  
very unique thing.

885  
00:41:35,950 --> 00:41:39,470  
Now, Filipinos are a  
basically friendly people.

886  
00:41:39,470 --> 00:41:42,230  
And they found it rather  
embarrassing, certainly,

887  
00:41:42,230 --> 00:41:46,070  
to be slapped or being scolded  
for not saluting or greeting

888  
00:41:46,070 --> 00:41:48,980  
a Japanese sentry, whom they  
thought, well, what the heck,

889  
00:41:48,980 --> 00:41:51,080  
he's just a sentry.

890  
00:41:51,080 --> 00:41:52,790  
But that was one of  
the characteristics

891  
00:41:52,790 --> 00:41:54,530  
of the open streets.

892  
00:41:54,530 --> 00:41:57,020  
And then, of course,  
anything could be confiscated

893  
00:41:57,020 --> 00:41:58,760  
--and I'll come to  
that a little later--

894  
00:41:58,760 --> 00:42:00,890  
but any form of  
transport, later on,

895  
00:42:00,890 --> 00:42:02,690  
including bicycles  
and push carts,

896  
00:42:02,690 --> 00:42:06,590  
were confiscated by the  
Japanese army for their own use.

897  
00:42:06,590 --> 00:42:09,950  
But initially, of course,  
all cars were confiscated.

898  
00:42:09,950 --> 00:42:14,000  
The only thing that was running  
was Japanese military traffic,

899  
00:42:14,000 --> 00:42:16,220  
transit buses, and so on.

900  
00:42:16,220 --> 00:42:18,950  
And then, eventually, or  
at some point fairly early

901

00:42:18,950 --> 00:42:22,730

on in the occupation, they  
converted gasoline engines

902

00:42:22,730 --> 00:42:25,190

to gas engines.

903

00:42:25,190 --> 00:42:28,520

And the gas would be  
obtained by grinding up

904

00:42:28,520 --> 00:42:32,960

charcoal in sort of boilers that  
were attached to the vehicle,

905

00:42:32,960 --> 00:42:36,770

and then be lit like a furnace.

906

00:42:36,770 --> 00:42:40,700

And the gas from that concoction  
would be fed into the engine.

907

00:42:40,700 --> 00:42:44,150

And that would be a propellant,  
that would be a fuel.

908

00:42:44,150 --> 00:42:51,650

So they had this smoking gas,  
charcoal burner type vehicles,

909

00:42:51,650 --> 00:42:56,130

mainly buses or larger cars,  
roaring around the city.

910

00:42:56,130 --> 00:43:00,050

It was a lot of smoke  
coming out from everywhere.

911

00:43:00,050 --> 00:43:02,900

Given what you've just described  
about what was going on,

912



00:43:02,900 --> 00:43:05,450  
on the streets,  
I'm wondering how

913  
00:43:05,450 --> 00:43:09,800  
it affected your family's  
decision, your parents'

914  
00:43:09,800 --> 00:43:12,470  
decision, about how they  
wanted you to behave,

915  
00:43:12,470 --> 00:43:15,560  
since you describe yourself  
as a young person who

916  
00:43:15,560 --> 00:43:19,520  
was kind of out doing your own  
thing and having a good time

917  
00:43:19,520 --> 00:43:21,380  
and being adventurous.

918  
00:43:21,380 --> 00:43:25,310  
I'm wondering if  
they imposed on you

919  
00:43:25,310 --> 00:43:28,160  
a different way of behaving.

920  
00:43:28,160 --> 00:43:33,050  
Well, they certainly reacted to  
the things that were happening.

921  
00:43:33,050 --> 00:43:37,010  
And, of course, as anyone  
would, they were more careful.

922  
00:43:37,010 --> 00:43:40,898  
And what you tried to avoid  
was having to walk by a sentry.

923  
00:43:40,898 --> 00:43:42,440

So all those streets  
where there were

924  
00:43:42,440 --> 00:43:46,220  
sentries for buildings or  
installations or what have you,

925  
00:43:46,220 --> 00:43:48,080  
you try to avoid  
that, if possible,

926  
00:43:48,080 --> 00:43:50,600  
or be as far away  
from it as you can.

927  
00:43:50,600 --> 00:43:52,773  
In those occasions, where  
indeed you had to do that,

928  
00:43:52,773 --> 00:43:54,440  
well, you just gave  
the guy a quick bow,

929  
00:43:54,440 --> 00:43:55,900  
and that was the end of it.

930  
00:43:55,900 --> 00:43:58,280  
Most of the time, he  
gave a little bow back,

931  
00:43:58,280 --> 00:44:00,410  
and that was it.

932  
00:44:00,410 --> 00:44:03,230  
Now, the only danger  
was, as I mentioned,

933  
00:44:03,230 --> 00:44:04,940  
we lived in this  
house, which was

934  
00:44:04,940 --> 00:44:09,580  
one of six large houses

in a court type layout

935

00:44:09,580 --> 00:44:13,250  
off Dakota Street in  
the District of Malate.

936

00:44:13,250 --> 00:44:19,100  
It was 1942 or so by  
then, '43 perhaps.

937

00:44:19,100 --> 00:44:21,620  
Japanese patrols would  
come around, again,

938

00:44:21,620 --> 00:44:23,990  
seven or eight men  
with a sergeant who

939

00:44:23,990 --> 00:44:27,140  
had a-- or an officer  
who had a samurai sword,

940

00:44:27,140 --> 00:44:29,002  
and the soldiers all  
had fixed bayonets.

941

00:44:29,002 --> 00:44:30,710  
And they would enter  
the houses, and they

942

00:44:30,710 --> 00:44:32,320  
would go in and want to search.

943

00:44:32,320 --> 00:44:33,850  
And their main  
thing was to search

944

00:44:33,850 --> 00:44:37,420  
for shortwave radios or  
anything that would in any way

945

00:44:37,420 --> 00:44:40,180  
have a negative effect

on what it is that they

946

00:44:40,180 --> 00:44:41,890  
were interested in doing.

947

00:44:41,890 --> 00:44:44,350  
So the other thing, of  
course, was my father

948

00:44:44,350 --> 00:44:48,400  
being of an age where they  
could use him for whatever,

949

00:44:48,400 --> 00:44:49,730  
would always attempt--

950

00:44:49,730 --> 00:44:52,558  
if it was a weekend, and  
if he was in the house,

951

00:44:52,558 --> 00:44:54,350  
he would go into his  
favorite hiding place.

952

00:44:54,350 --> 00:44:55,750  
There was a place  
under the stairs,

953

00:44:55,750 --> 00:44:57,220  
sort of around the  
corner, where it

954

00:44:57,220 --> 00:45:00,550  
would be very difficult to  
find anyone inside the house.

955

00:45:00,550 --> 00:45:04,660  
But they would always want  
to look at the cupboards

956

00:45:04,660 --> 00:45:07,120  
and at closets.

957

00:45:07,120 --> 00:45:09,640

And most particular, we had  
this huge steamer trunk.

958

00:45:09,640 --> 00:45:12,100

It's the kind of trunk,  
which is large enough

959

00:45:12,100 --> 00:45:15,460

in which you can hang dresses  
and clothes without folding

960

00:45:15,460 --> 00:45:16,150

them.

961

00:45:16,150 --> 00:45:22,000

And it was above 6 feet long,  
about, oh, 5 feet, 6 feet high.

962

00:45:22,000 --> 00:45:24,730

And it opened from the top  
as well as from the side.

963

00:45:24,730 --> 00:45:27,070

You could actually live  
in there if you wanted to,

964

00:45:27,070 --> 00:45:27,910

it was that big.

965

00:45:27,910 --> 00:45:29,410

That was a steamer  
trunk that we had

966

00:45:29,410 --> 00:45:31,350

brought with us from Germany.

967

00:45:31,350 --> 00:45:33,460

It was the largest  
piece of luggage we had.

968

00:45:33,460 --> 00:45:36,340

And that they would want us to  
open every time because they

969  
00:45:36,340 --> 00:45:39,610  
felt if anything was hidden,  
it might be in there.

970  
00:45:39,610 --> 00:45:42,310  
But we did have a shortwave  
radio that we used,

971  
00:45:42,310 --> 00:45:45,490  
and it was hidden, again,  
where my father used to hide,

972  
00:45:45,490 --> 00:45:50,080  
or way in the back, in  
the middle of the house,

973  
00:45:50,080 --> 00:45:53,675  
behind a small staircase  
or under a small staircase.

974  
00:45:53,675 --> 00:45:55,300  
And, occasionally,  
we would pull it out

975  
00:45:55,300 --> 00:45:57,940  
in the middle of the night  
because you could then pick up

976  
00:45:57,940 --> 00:46:00,210  
a broadcast from San Francisco.

977  
00:46:00,210 --> 00:46:02,950  
A man by the name of William  
Winter would broadcast.

978  
00:46:02,950 --> 00:46:06,790  
And then, strangely enough,  
we ran into him sort of,

979  
00:46:06,790 --> 00:46:08,810

after the war, coming  
to this country.

980  
00:46:08,810 --> 00:46:11,770  
He was broadcasting  
news and news analysis

981  
00:46:11,770 --> 00:46:13,900  
in San Francisco on television.

982  
00:46:13,900 --> 00:46:16,760  
So we met up with the man.

983  
00:46:16,760 --> 00:46:20,350  
We didn't meet him  
personally, but saw him

984  
00:46:20,350 --> 00:46:23,200  
after having heard him  
all this long distance

985  
00:46:23,200 --> 00:46:25,600  
during the war of '42, '43.

986  
00:46:25,600 --> 00:46:27,940  
But we were very extremely  
careful with the unit,

987  
00:46:27,940 --> 00:46:31,360  
and as were most people, because  
if you were caught with that,

988  
00:46:31,360 --> 00:46:33,610  
that was not a very  
pleasant thing.

989  
00:46:33,610 --> 00:46:35,290  
Because people were  
picked up for that

990  
00:46:35,290 --> 00:46:38,370  
and brought into a place  
called Fort Santiago.

991

00:46:38,370 --> 00:46:42,510

It was an old Spanish fortress,  
which was used as a prison.

992

00:46:42,510 --> 00:46:46,090

It had a dungeon, dungeon cells.

993

00:46:46,090 --> 00:46:48,990

And there were people  
from the Jewish community,

994

00:46:48,990 --> 00:46:52,120

a man who once lived with us as  
a border by the name of Schott,

995

00:46:52,120 --> 00:46:54,490

S-C-H-O-T-T, I believe.

996

00:46:54,490 --> 00:46:56,890

And he had come from  
Germany, was a bachelor.

997

00:46:56,890 --> 00:47:00,250

And somehow he had gotten  
caught up in some of that,

998

00:47:00,250 --> 00:47:03,700

or had gotten caught up in  
transmitting messages or doing

999

00:47:03,700 --> 00:47:06,640

something for the  
so-called underground.

1000

00:47:06,640 --> 00:47:11,980

They arrested him, was  
taken to Fort Santiago,

1001

00:47:11,980 --> 00:47:14,140

developed apparently  
an infection,



1002  
00:47:14,140 --> 00:47:17,970  
and perished, died from  
that in this fortress,

1003  
00:47:17,970 --> 00:47:21,190  
on the Kempeitai,  
Japanese secret police.

1004  
00:47:21,190 --> 00:47:24,280  
And there was another couple,  
name was Julius Berger.

1005  
00:47:24,280 --> 00:47:26,750  
And they too in some fashion--

1006  
00:47:26,750 --> 00:47:29,290  
they had two sons, and  
somehow also were involved

1007  
00:47:29,290 --> 00:47:33,280  
in such clandestine activities.

1008  
00:47:33,280 --> 00:47:35,660  
Also taken in.

1009  
00:47:35,660 --> 00:47:40,340  
They, I believe, survived,  
released eventually.

1010  
00:47:40,340 --> 00:47:43,070  
But, again, other  
people, of course,

1011  
00:47:43,070 --> 00:47:45,220  
did not make it out  
of Fort Santiago.

1012  
00:47:45,220 --> 00:47:49,270  
This was known as their  
secret police headquarters,

1013  
00:47:49,270 --> 00:47:52,300

and with the dungeons,  
and many people

1014  
00:47:52,300 --> 00:47:55,330  
there, of course, perished under  
their treatment, interrogation,

1015  
00:47:55,330 --> 00:47:56,990  
and what have you.

1016  
00:47:56,990 --> 00:47:59,230  
So this was always  
these little signals.

1017  
00:47:59,230 --> 00:48:03,730  
The Jewish community, naturally,  
had suffered as a result

1018  
00:48:03,730 --> 00:48:07,160  
because these people were  
associated with the community.

1019  
00:48:07,160 --> 00:48:09,390  
And--

1020  
00:48:09,390 --> 00:48:11,890  
When you say suffer,  
what do you mean?

1021  
00:48:11,890 --> 00:48:14,880  
And I also wanted to ask  
you why your father was

1022  
00:48:14,880 --> 00:48:20,688  
willing to take the risk of  
keeping a shortwave radio.

1023  
00:48:20,688 --> 00:48:22,230  
Well, it was just  
one of those things

1024  
00:48:22,230 --> 00:48:24,660  
that you wanted

to stay in touch,

1025

00:48:24,660 --> 00:48:26,165

you wanted to know  
what's happening,

1026

00:48:26,165 --> 00:48:28,040

because the news you  
heard on the local radio

1027

00:48:28,040 --> 00:48:31,320

or read in the paper were  
all propaganda, falsehoods,

1028

00:48:31,320 --> 00:48:34,860

and things of that nature.

1029

00:48:34,860 --> 00:48:39,060

So this was just the way  
he-- and he liked radio.

1030

00:48:39,060 --> 00:48:41,670

This was one of his  
things in early life.

1031

00:48:41,670 --> 00:48:44,930

And he felt a hidden,  
a little tiny radio,

1032

00:48:44,930 --> 00:48:48,910

as small as what was available,  
would not be discovered.

1033

00:48:48,910 --> 00:48:51,120

So he took that risk.

1034

00:48:51,120 --> 00:48:52,200

But many people did.

1035

00:48:52,200 --> 00:48:54,420

It was not unusual.

1036

00:48:54,420 --> 00:48:56,490  
Because they did  
search, but it's

1037  
00:48:56,490 --> 00:48:59,860  
difficult to search and  
find, I mean, particularly

1038  
00:48:59,860 --> 00:49:01,930  
if things are well hidden.

1039  
00:49:01,930 --> 00:49:05,140  
And they get tired,  
too, of searching.

1040  
00:49:05,140 --> 00:49:07,300  
I mean, you have a  
patrol doing that all day

1041  
00:49:07,300 --> 00:49:12,900  
long, going into houses, after a  
while, they just as soon leave.

1042  
00:49:12,900 --> 00:49:14,200  
That's it.

1043  
00:49:14,200 --> 00:49:18,780  
So we banked on that, and  
that turned out to be OK.

1044  
00:49:18,780 --> 00:49:22,050  
And you mentioned the suffering  
of the Jewish community because

1045  
00:49:22,050 --> 00:49:23,850  
of the actions of a few.

1046  
00:49:23,850 --> 00:49:26,380  
Could you elaborate on that?

1047  
00:49:26,380 --> 00:49:31,590  
Well, what began to happen  
was that the people who

1048  
00:49:31,590 --> 00:49:35,280  
would be observing  
the services, they

1049  
00:49:35,280 --> 00:49:37,830  
would begin, I  
believe, at some point

1050  
00:49:37,830 --> 00:49:40,920  
putting on some  
restrictions on the rabbi

1051  
00:49:40,920 --> 00:49:45,150  
and the community as to,  
first of all, their travel.

1052  
00:49:45,150 --> 00:49:47,550  
We were not allowed  
to leave the city.

1053  
00:49:47,550 --> 00:49:48,730  
That was one thing.

1054  
00:49:48,730 --> 00:49:53,010  
The other was that  
we began, of course,

1055  
00:49:53,010 --> 00:49:56,400  
to have people in the  
community that needed help,

1056  
00:49:56,400 --> 00:50:01,320  
single people, sick people, old  
people, people who were ill.

1057  
00:50:01,320 --> 00:50:05,370  
So, eventually, we  
managed to gather

1058  
00:50:05,370 --> 00:50:07,350  
some of the elders of  
the community, which

1059  
00:50:07,350 --> 00:50:10,050  
included my father,  
put them on the board.

1060  
00:50:10,050 --> 00:50:11,610  
They created a board.

1061  
00:50:11,610 --> 00:50:13,750  
Remember, now,  
the Americans, who

1062  
00:50:13,750 --> 00:50:16,950  
were running things  
earlier before the war,

1063  
00:50:16,950 --> 00:50:18,090  
were no longer around.

1064  
00:50:18,090 --> 00:50:20,430  
They were interned or had left.

1065  
00:50:20,430 --> 00:50:25,050  
So there was very little  
resources, combined resources

1066  
00:50:25,050 --> 00:50:26,410  
in the community.

1067  
00:50:26,410 --> 00:50:29,490  
So they had to figure  
out a way to take care

1068  
00:50:29,490 --> 00:50:31,510  
of the people who needed help.

1069  
00:50:31,510 --> 00:50:35,010  
And so they rented a huge  
home somewhere not too far

1070  
00:50:35,010 --> 00:50:37,650  
from Manila, where all

these people went to,

1071  
00:50:37,650 --> 00:50:39,690  
were taken care of, lived.

1072  
00:50:39,690 --> 00:50:42,210  
And us young guys, we  
were taken out there

1073  
00:50:42,210 --> 00:50:43,890  
for agricultural purposes.

1074  
00:50:43,890 --> 00:50:45,860  
We had to plant gardens.

1075  
00:50:45,860 --> 00:50:48,217  
And we planted peanuts,  
and we planted vegetables.

1076  
00:50:48,217 --> 00:50:50,550  
And so we were under supervision  
of a guy who was really

1077  
00:50:50,550 --> 00:50:52,820  
a butcher back in the old days.

1078  
00:50:52,820 --> 00:50:55,000  
But he knew how to do  
planting and things.

1079  
00:50:55,000 --> 00:50:57,720  
So we did that many  
times so that they

1080  
00:50:57,720 --> 00:51:02,130  
could grow their own food,  
to some extent, of course.

1081  
00:51:02,130 --> 00:51:04,110  
But there was no  
assistance of whatever

1082

00:51:04,110 --> 00:51:06,690  
from any governmental authority.

1083  
00:51:06,690 --> 00:51:08,760  
There was so-called  
rationing, which

1084  
00:51:08,760 --> 00:51:11,640  
meant that you couldn't  
really buy anything.

1085  
00:51:11,640 --> 00:51:13,410  
Things like butter were gone.

1086  
00:51:13,410 --> 00:51:16,800  
Margarine was beginning to  
be made out of coconut oil,

1087  
00:51:16,800 --> 00:51:20,580  
but that too began  
to be very expensive.

1088  
00:51:20,580 --> 00:51:22,800  
The community, of course,  
got no aid whatsoever

1089  
00:51:22,800 --> 00:51:24,600  
from any authority.

1090  
00:51:24,600 --> 00:51:28,170  
So being white, being  
Jewish, and having,

1091  
00:51:28,170 --> 00:51:30,870  
perhaps because of  
some of the incidents

1092  
00:51:30,870 --> 00:51:34,620  
that may have occurred with some  
other members of the community

1093  
00:51:34,620 --> 00:51:39,840  
that were caught supporting



or helping the Allied cause.

1094

00:51:39,840 --> 00:51:43,890

As you may recall, there were many good friends of ours--

1095

00:51:43,890 --> 00:51:46,530

Jews and others-- who had been taken to the internment camp

1096

00:51:46,530 --> 00:51:47,970

at Santo Tomas.

1097

00:51:47,970 --> 00:51:50,760

There too, they were not fed.

1098

00:51:50,760 --> 00:51:54,360

They were beginning to be very, very starved.

1099

00:51:54,360 --> 00:51:56,550

And there were members of the Jewish community who

1100

00:51:56,550 --> 00:52:00,100

would take bicycles, load it up with stuff in the back as much

1101

00:52:00,100 --> 00:52:03,990

as they could, and pedal out to Santo Tomas,

1102

00:52:03,990 --> 00:52:06,060

and drop stuff over the wall.

1103

00:52:06,060 --> 00:52:08,080

And that was kind of risky.

1104

00:52:08,080 --> 00:52:10,980

And there were some that were caught at that.

1105

00:52:10,980 --> 00:52:15,390  
And that was also, again,  
one basis for taking them

1106  
00:52:15,390 --> 00:52:17,250  
into Fort Santiago.

1107  
00:52:17,250 --> 00:52:19,260  
And then the other  
incidents, although not

1108  
00:52:19,260 --> 00:52:21,000  
directly related to  
Jewish community,

1109  
00:52:21,000 --> 00:52:25,050  
American prisoners were often  
brought into the city to work.

1110  
00:52:25,050 --> 00:52:28,920  
And not just Jews,  
but all the Filipinos,

1111  
00:52:28,920 --> 00:52:31,200  
they all tried to help them--

1112  
00:52:31,200 --> 00:52:35,160  
throw food at them, or  
whatever, because they obviously

1113  
00:52:35,160 --> 00:52:39,030  
knew they were not being fed  
or treated well in the camps,

1114  
00:52:39,030 --> 00:52:41,160  
in their prison camps.

1115  
00:52:41,160 --> 00:52:45,702  
So the Japanese soon began to  
be very suspicious of all--

1116  
00:52:45,702 --> 00:52:47,910  
certainly, of all the whites

and the Jewish community

1117  
00:52:47,910 --> 00:52:50,530  
amongst them.

1118  
00:52:50,530 --> 00:52:56,430  
So in that sense, we began to  
feel the brunt of their hate

1119  
00:52:56,430 --> 00:53:03,520  
and their action and  
their restrictions.

1120  
00:53:03,520 --> 00:53:06,450  
And being a community  
of a fairly small size,

1121  
00:53:06,450 --> 00:53:09,090  
we were 800,000,  
900,000 at the most,

1122  
00:53:09,090 --> 00:53:12,300  
and trying to keep the  
community together.

1123  
00:53:12,300 --> 00:53:14,610  
We had services regularly.

1124  
00:53:14,610 --> 00:53:18,650  
And we had all the things  
that attended to services.

1125  
00:53:18,650 --> 00:53:21,330  
But we were beginning  
to have people

1126  
00:53:21,330 --> 00:53:24,600  
who had difficulties in  
coping, and certainly

1127  
00:53:24,600 --> 00:53:27,510  
in feeding themselves.

1128

00:53:27,510 --> 00:53:31,770

There was really no jobs  
except for a few people who

1129

00:53:31,770 --> 00:53:35,130

had retail stores, or people  
who did other businesses,

1130

00:53:35,130 --> 00:53:38,080

or people who performed  
certain services.

1131

00:53:38,080 --> 00:53:41,400

So that was always  
great difficulties

1132

00:53:41,400 --> 00:53:42,810

for a certain number of people.

1133

00:53:42,810 --> 00:53:46,260

So the rest of the community  
had to pull together

1134

00:53:46,260 --> 00:53:48,990

to help them out.

1135

00:53:48,990 --> 00:53:52,770

What was happening to the  
temple community at that time?

1136

00:53:52,770 --> 00:53:55,440

You're saying  
services continued.

1137

00:53:55,440 --> 00:53:58,800

And did your family  
go to the services?

1138

00:53:58,800 --> 00:54:01,200

Oh, yes, we regularly  
went every Friday night,

1139

00:54:01,200 --> 00:54:04,140  
certainly to the services and  
the high holidays, because that

1140  
00:54:04,140 --> 00:54:07,920  
was a sort of a center  
of life, both the meeting

1141  
00:54:07,920 --> 00:54:12,690  
of the community and for the  
services, the rabbi's sermons,

1142  
00:54:12,690 --> 00:54:14,340  
and the cantor.

1143  
00:54:14,340 --> 00:54:18,230  
It was a small community,  
so everyone knew pretty much

1144  
00:54:18,230 --> 00:54:19,370  
one another.

1145  
00:54:19,370 --> 00:54:22,060  
And we kept up with what  
was happening to everyone,

1146  
00:54:22,060 --> 00:54:25,400  
and what happened in  
various areas of town,

1147  
00:54:25,400 --> 00:54:27,750  
and what people were doing.

1148  
00:54:27,750 --> 00:54:30,770  
So that was, of course,  
a very important thing

1149  
00:54:30,770 --> 00:54:32,510  
to do was to attend services.

1150  
00:54:32,510 --> 00:54:36,970  
We did that every week,  
plus the holidays.

1151  
00:54:36,970 --> 00:54:41,240  
And the beginning in  
1943, February 1943, I

1152  
00:54:41,240 --> 00:54:44,780  
began to take studies  
with the Cantor Cysner

1153  
00:54:44,780 --> 00:54:49,070  
for my bar mitzvah, which was  
to be held a year from there.

1154  
00:54:49,070 --> 00:54:51,590  
I was actually, I started  
these on my birthday

1155  
00:54:51,590 --> 00:54:53,400  
February 19, 1943.

1156  
00:54:53,400 --> 00:54:57,790  
The bar mitzvah was scheduled  
for February the 26th, 1944.

1157  
00:54:57,790 --> 00:55:02,120  
And so that was my beginning  
for studies of the bar

1158  
00:55:02,120 --> 00:55:05,480  
mitzvah at that time.

1159  
00:55:05,480 --> 00:55:09,290  
We were living then in this  
house on Dakota Street.

1160  
00:55:09,290 --> 00:55:12,860  
And there were other  
events that occurred.

1161  
00:55:12,860 --> 00:55:15,770  
There was one year,  
I think it was 1943,

1162  
00:55:15,770 --> 00:55:17,390  
was a humongous flood.

1163  
00:55:17,390 --> 00:55:19,060  
The whole city was flooded.

1164  
00:55:19,060 --> 00:55:21,680  
Apparently, during the typhoons,  
which occur there often

1165  
00:55:21,680 --> 00:55:29,430  
that period and certain parts  
of the year, one of the dams

1166  
00:55:29,430 --> 00:55:29,970  
broke.

1167  
00:55:29,970 --> 00:55:36,560  
Or I believe one of the  
causes was that they had not,

1168  
00:55:36,560 --> 00:55:41,110  
what is it, plowed up the  
riverbed, kept it deep enough,

1169  
00:55:41,110 --> 00:55:41,830  
or whatever.

1170  
00:55:41,830 --> 00:55:44,670  
Then the dikes broke or  
whatever happened, and suddenly

1171  
00:55:44,670 --> 00:55:47,940  
the whole city, Ermita,  
Malate, they all flooded.

1172  
00:55:47,940 --> 00:55:49,723  
And you woke up  
the next morning,

1173  
00:55:49,723 --> 00:55:51,390  
and you saw these

little boats that they

1174  
00:55:51,390 --> 00:55:55,130  
use in the Philippines,  
floating down the street.

1175  
00:55:55,130 --> 00:55:56,515  
People were in them.

1176  
00:55:56,515 --> 00:55:58,140  
These little boats  
were called bangkas.

1177  
00:55:58,140 --> 00:55:59,390  
And they're little outriggers.

1178  
00:55:59,390 --> 00:56:01,860  
They'd sometimes have either  
one outrigger on one side,

1179  
00:56:01,860 --> 00:56:04,050  
or two outriggers on each side.

1180  
00:56:04,050 --> 00:56:08,450  
They're made out of logs, are  
wood shaped, cigar shaped.

1181  
00:56:08,450 --> 00:56:10,200  
And they're used for  
fishing and whatever.

1182  
00:56:10,200 --> 00:56:13,865  
But those were being used  
to transport people around.

1183  
00:56:13,865 --> 00:56:15,240  
And it so happened  
on that night,

1184  
00:56:15,240 --> 00:56:17,820  
it was a very traumatic  
experience, really,



1185

00:56:17,820 --> 00:56:20,850

there was a couple with their  
son, who was a year younger

1186

00:56:20,850 --> 00:56:22,950

than I, living next door.

1187

00:56:22,950 --> 00:56:24,330

He was German.

1188

00:56:24,330 --> 00:56:25,470

She was English.

1189

00:56:25,470 --> 00:56:28,270

They had fled from Hong Kong,  
where he was in business.

1190

00:56:28,270 --> 00:56:29,340

They were not Jewish.

1191

00:56:29,340 --> 00:56:32,310

And they'd moved into the house  
next door, same house we had,

1192

00:56:32,310 --> 00:56:32,820

next door.

1193

00:56:32,820 --> 00:56:34,740

And he was an avid chess player.

1194

00:56:34,740 --> 00:56:37,620

And they taught me  
how to play chess,

1195

00:56:37,620 --> 00:56:40,770

which was great, because  
in the war, not much to do.

1196

00:56:40,770 --> 00:56:47,900

But his wife, apparently, was  
ill, I believe, with cancer.

1197

00:56:47,900 --> 00:56:50,970

And then the night of  
the flood, she died.

1198

00:56:50,970 --> 00:56:54,390

And so this was a  
tremendous problem

1199

00:56:54,390 --> 00:56:56,790

because a physician had to come.

1200

00:56:56,790 --> 00:57:01,860

And he made it, swam  
part of the way,

1201

00:57:01,860 --> 00:57:04,980

and then walked  
through the water.

1202

00:57:04,980 --> 00:57:06,930

And then, of course,  
all the other things

1203

00:57:06,930 --> 00:57:08,610

that had to be taken care of.

1204

00:57:08,610 --> 00:57:10,110

One of those  
horse-drawn vehicles,

1205

00:57:10,110 --> 00:57:13,140

which are pretty high, came.

1206

00:57:13,140 --> 00:57:17,140

And the boy stayed with us  
for the next day or two.

1207

00:57:17,140 --> 00:57:21,030

But it was kind of a very--

1208

00:57:21,030 --> 00:57:25,110

I remember it, clearly

today, what happened.

1209  
00:57:25,110 --> 00:57:28,080  
And so that was one  
of the occurrences,

1210  
00:57:28,080 --> 00:57:30,730  
that particular year,  
the year of the flood.

1211  
00:57:30,730 --> 00:57:35,240  
And it took several days  
for the water to decline.

1212  
00:57:35,240 --> 00:57:38,520  
And, finally, they had  
all kinds of problems,

1213  
00:57:38,520 --> 00:57:40,350  
naturally, after that.

1214  
00:57:40,350 --> 00:57:43,620  
And also two ships that had been  
sunk in the middle of the bay

1215  
00:57:43,620 --> 00:57:46,010  
were washed ashore, large ships.

1216  
00:57:46,010 --> 00:57:48,030  
And they were on this boulevard.

1217  
00:57:48,030 --> 00:57:50,700  
One was smack into  
the retaining wall,

1218  
00:57:50,700 --> 00:57:54,300  
and one was behind it, sort  
of holding it in there.

1219  
00:57:54,300 --> 00:57:56,640  
They had been, as I  
say, they had dredged up

1220

00:57:56,640 --> 00:57:59,160  
with such tremendous waves.

1221

00:57:59,160 --> 00:58:01,170  
So that was also an  
interesting sight

1222

00:58:01,170 --> 00:58:04,770  
to see and see what  
they did with it.

1223

00:58:04,770 --> 00:58:09,420  
Did you or your family have  
any kind of personal contacts

1224

00:58:09,420 --> 00:58:15,280  
or personal information about  
the underground or the--

1225

00:58:15,280 --> 00:58:16,980  
that's not the right word.

1226

00:58:16,980 --> 00:58:20,430  
The group of the  
clandestine resistance

1227

00:58:20,430 --> 00:58:23,370  
that was going on at the time  
that, as I understand it,

1228

00:58:23,370 --> 00:58:26,410  
some Jews participated in?

1229

00:58:26,410 --> 00:58:30,660  
Well, the participation  
was different.

1230

00:58:30,660 --> 00:58:33,240  
Every Filipino, practically,  
was a member of the guerrillas

1231

00:58:33,240 --> 00:58:34,080

after the war.

1232

00:58:34,080 --> 00:58:38,190

This guerrilla was the  
term for these units.

1233

00:58:38,190 --> 00:58:41,580

They were in existence, several  
formal or guerrilla units.

1234

00:58:41,580 --> 00:58:44,357

One was Marking's guerrillas,  
fairly well-known.

1235

00:58:44,357 --> 00:58:45,690

And there were some other units.

1236

00:58:45,690 --> 00:58:47,250

And from time to  
time, the Japanese

1237

00:58:47,250 --> 00:58:51,270

would indeed apprehend  
or somehow capture

1238

00:58:51,270 --> 00:58:54,090

Americans, soldiers,  
officers who

1239

00:58:54,090 --> 00:58:56,130

had stayed behind  
up in the mountains

1240

00:58:56,130 --> 00:58:59,520

that were with these units.

1241

00:58:59,520 --> 00:59:06,420

In Manila, being, of course, a  
city, many people, I suppose,

1242

00:59:06,420 --> 00:59:08,970

performed intelligence  
duties in the sense

1243  
00:59:08,970 --> 00:59:12,510  
that they could relay  
information through channels

1244  
00:59:12,510 --> 00:59:16,290  
back to the United States or to  
the United States Armed Forces.

1245  
00:59:16,290 --> 00:59:18,780  
One instance which actually  
occurred much later in the war,

1246  
00:59:18,780 --> 00:59:25,650  
during already the return  
of the United States, was--

1247  
00:59:25,650 --> 00:59:31,260  
my closest involvement in  
that sort of thing was ships

1248  
00:59:31,260 --> 00:59:32,250  
were bombed--

1249  
00:59:32,250 --> 00:59:33,840  
Japanese warships were bombed.

1250  
00:59:33,840 --> 00:59:37,380  
And we were a living,  
again, on Dakota Street.

1251  
00:59:37,380 --> 00:59:40,110  
And across the street from us, a  
little down the street from us,

1252  
00:59:40,110 --> 00:59:47,280  
was a huge development of stucco  
homes, which were painted pink.

1253  
00:59:47,280 --> 00:59:50,340  
And the Japanese had taken  
over that whole section,

1254

00:59:50,340 --> 00:59:53,160

must have been about 50  
houses, and converted it

1255

00:59:53,160 --> 00:59:57,240

into a red light district for  
the Japanese Navy, enlisted

1256

00:59:57,240 --> 01:00:00,460

and chief petty officer rank.

1257

01:00:00,460 --> 01:00:04,440

So that was a lot of activity  
going on there at night.

1258

01:00:04,440 --> 01:00:07,110

Well, that one night,  
American planes

1259

01:00:07,110 --> 01:00:10,010

came and bombed the Japanese  
ships in the harbor.

1260

01:00:10,010 --> 01:00:13,980

And the next thing you  
know, friends of mine,

1261

01:00:13,980 --> 01:00:18,510

after that bombing, it was dark,  
and we went down the street,

1262

01:00:18,510 --> 01:00:20,730

and there was some wooded areas.

1263

01:00:20,730 --> 01:00:23,520

And we saw where the  
Japanese were being--

1264

01:00:23,520 --> 01:00:27,840

where sailors were being taken,  
apparently, ashore and taken

1265

01:00:27,840 --> 01:00:31,980  
to these red light  
district homes.

1266  
01:00:31,980 --> 01:00:34,320  
Apparently, everything  
was converted

1267  
01:00:34,320 --> 01:00:36,870  
into a sort of field  
hospital overnight,

1268  
01:00:36,870 --> 01:00:39,240  
using the girls as help.

1269  
01:00:39,240 --> 01:00:42,720  
And the Japanese, as  
I say, were dragging,

1270  
01:00:42,720 --> 01:00:46,620  
hauling what looked like  
sailors half-drowned sailors.

1271  
01:00:46,620 --> 01:00:50,940  
And what we did was we looked  
around to see the caps that

1272  
01:00:50,940 --> 01:00:56,100  
the sailors wore, because the  
Japanese Navy, they have hats,

1273  
01:00:56,100 --> 01:00:59,970  
also of the old-fashioned type,  
on the rim of which is the name

1274  
01:00:59,970 --> 01:01:05,705  
of the ship in Katakana,  
the Japanese simpler--

1275  
01:01:05,705 --> 01:01:10,080  
it's a script which consists  
of 76 characters, which

1276



01:01:10,080 --> 01:01:11,490  
we learned to read.

1277  
01:01:11,490 --> 01:01:14,170  
And so we could tell  
which ship they were from.

1278  
01:01:14,170 --> 01:01:17,640  
And so we memorized some  
of the names we saw.

1279  
01:01:17,640 --> 01:01:20,430  
And then we knew people who  
presumably had connections

1280  
01:01:20,430 --> 01:01:22,170  
with the so-called underground.

1281  
01:01:22,170 --> 01:01:26,860  
And we told them the next day  
or so, we saw cap with that name

1282  
01:01:26,860 --> 01:01:27,360  
on it.

1283  
01:01:27,360 --> 01:01:28,443  
And they said, oh, thanks.

1284  
01:01:28,443 --> 01:01:29,910  
That's great information.

1285  
01:01:29,910 --> 01:01:31,540  
Or course, when  
we passed that on,

1286  
01:01:31,540 --> 01:01:34,770  
all the way up through the  
various channels by radio,

1287  
01:01:34,770 --> 01:01:36,840  
they will know which  
ship was sunk or hit,

1288

01:01:36,840 --> 01:01:38,460

because, obviously,  
those sailors came

1289

01:01:38,460 --> 01:01:40,170

from the ships that were hit.

1290

01:01:40,170 --> 01:01:43,890

So that was the sort  
of, that kind of thing,

1291

01:01:43,890 --> 01:01:46,590

really not very  
highly exciting, more

1292

01:01:46,590 --> 01:01:48,180

interesting than anything else.

1293

01:01:48,180 --> 01:01:50,880

But there were other people  
who were more active.

1294

01:01:50,880 --> 01:01:54,390

There were people who did more  
work in, again, intelligence

1295

01:01:54,390 --> 01:01:55,830

gathering.

1296

01:01:55,830 --> 01:01:59,430

I don't know to what degree.

1297

01:01:59,430 --> 01:02:02,310

In many ways, the guerrilla  
movement was way overrated.

1298

01:02:02,310 --> 01:02:06,360

They did maybe 1/10 or less  
of what they claimed they did,

1299

01:02:06,360 --> 01:02:09,450

since the resistance of Japanese

was extremely tough and highly

1300  
01:02:09,450 --> 01:02:10,060  
dangerous.

1301  
01:02:10,060 --> 01:02:11,520  
Besides, you were on an island.

1302  
01:02:11,520 --> 01:02:13,380  
There was no ways to escape.

1303  
01:02:13,380 --> 01:02:16,080  
About the only thing that  
occurred that we did know about

1304  
01:02:16,080 --> 01:02:18,420  
was that occasionally  
an American submarine

1305  
01:02:18,420 --> 01:02:21,390  
would come close to the  
island, or one of the islands,

1306  
01:02:21,390 --> 01:02:24,720  
and drop off people, or  
to pick up people, or also

1307  
01:02:24,720 --> 01:02:27,960  
drop off some materials  
and some magazines.

1308  
01:02:27,960 --> 01:02:30,420  
Because I did see  
a Life magazine

1309  
01:02:30,420 --> 01:02:34,380  
dated 1943, which could only  
have come in through such

1310  
01:02:34,380 --> 01:02:37,123  
a clandestine source.

1311

01:02:37,123 --> 01:02:38,790  
Obviously, there's  
no other way it could

1312  
01:02:38,790 --> 01:02:40,480  
have come into the country.

1313  
01:02:40,480 --> 01:02:44,670  
So, yes, there was this  
sort of intelligence type

1314  
01:02:44,670 --> 01:02:45,900  
of resistance.

1315  
01:02:45,900 --> 01:02:48,540  
The guerrilla forces  
were more active later on

1316  
01:02:48,540 --> 01:02:53,760  
when they actually confront the  
Japanese during the liberation.

1317  
01:02:53,760 --> 01:02:55,650  
They were also,  
of course, active

1318  
01:02:55,650 --> 01:02:58,260  
in some of the southern  
islands, Mindanao,

1319  
01:02:58,260 --> 01:03:02,730  
and in the mountains of  
Luzon, where they probably

1320  
01:03:02,730 --> 01:03:06,780  
may have ambushed Japanese,  
who were looking for them,

1321  
01:03:06,780 --> 01:03:09,630  
and things of that nature.

1322  
01:03:09,630 --> 01:03:14,820  
Full-scale war battles were not

fought on the guerrilla level.

1323

01:03:14,820 --> 01:03:17,100

It was primarily  
intelligence work

1324

01:03:17,100 --> 01:03:21,930

that was conducted, and  
successfully-- locations

1325

01:03:21,930 --> 01:03:22,740

and so on.

1326

01:03:22,740 --> 01:03:25,590

But you heard about people  
in the Jewish community,

1327

01:03:25,590 --> 01:03:29,160

through the Jewish grapevine,  
who were doing this?

1328

01:03:29,160 --> 01:03:29,760

Yes.

1329

01:03:29,760 --> 01:03:35,160

Yes, there were a handful who  
did some of these things, who

1330

01:03:35,160 --> 01:03:36,780

passed information on.

1331

01:03:36,780 --> 01:03:39,150

Mainly, that was it.

1332

01:03:39,150 --> 01:03:41,970

Spying is what  
you'd call it today.

1333

01:03:41,970 --> 01:03:45,420

They would pass on information  
about the troop dispositions,

1334

01:03:45,420 --> 01:03:49,170  
locations of troops,  
the Japanese troops,

1335  
01:03:49,170 --> 01:03:51,390  
size of the force,  
the so-called order

1336  
01:03:51,390 --> 01:03:57,030  
of battle type of information  
that was being gathered always.

1337  
01:03:57,030 --> 01:03:59,370  
Were there any members  
of the Jewish community

1338  
01:03:59,370 --> 01:04:01,980  
that you know of who  
went out of their way

1339  
01:04:01,980 --> 01:04:05,340  
to make friends  
with the Japanese?

1340  
01:04:05,340 --> 01:04:08,420  
None that I knew of.

1341  
01:04:08,420 --> 01:04:12,210  
There might have been some that  
eventually had some business

1342  
01:04:12,210 --> 01:04:15,720  
relations with other  
Japanese, stemming perhaps

1343  
01:04:15,720 --> 01:04:18,480  
from their earlier relationship.

1344  
01:04:18,480 --> 01:04:21,450  
But there were none that you  
would call collaborators.

1345  
01:04:21,450 --> 01:04:22,920

No.

1346  
01:04:22,920 --> 01:04:24,820  
In fact, there were  
very few collaborators

1347  
01:04:24,820 --> 01:04:26,650  
in the Philippines, period.

1348  
01:04:26,650 --> 01:04:30,650  
Those few Filipinos, they  
were relatively rare,

1349  
01:04:30,650 --> 01:04:32,200  
that were real collaborators.

1350  
01:04:32,200 --> 01:04:34,670  
The only ones, of  
course, were Germans--

1351  
01:04:34,670 --> 01:04:38,230  
a few of the Germans, not  
all of them, certainly not--

1352  
01:04:38,230 --> 01:04:41,020  
who could be considered  
collaborators.

1353  
01:04:41,020 --> 01:04:43,940  
They did not find too many  
friends in the Philippines,

1354  
01:04:43,940 --> 01:04:46,060  
the Japanese, no.

1355  
01:04:46,060 --> 01:04:50,200  
And is it correct that  
during 1942 and '43,

1356  
01:04:50,200 --> 01:04:53,650  
you were not going  
to school at all?

1357

01:04:53,650 --> 01:04:55,470

No, I did go to school.

1358

01:04:55,470 --> 01:04:57,490

When the Japanese  
entered Manila,

1359

01:04:57,490 --> 01:05:01,300

which was on New  
Year's Day, 1942,

1360

01:05:01,300 --> 01:05:04,840

that was the night of the  
hobnailed boots and the day

1361

01:05:04,840 --> 01:05:08,560

after the buses that we  
saw on the boulevard.

1362

01:05:08,560 --> 01:05:14,530

About a year went by,  
say, from that period,

1363

01:05:14,530 --> 01:05:17,680

before I went back to school  
and went back to the La Salle

1364

01:05:17,680 --> 01:05:22,930

College, where I spent the  
next two years during the war.

1365

01:05:22,930 --> 01:05:27,360

And what they did in La  
Salle college was this,

1366

01:05:27,360 --> 01:05:31,800

they interned all brothers  
who were of American, British,

1367

01:05:31,800 --> 01:05:36,420

or Allied background,  
or birth, and put them



1368

01:05:36,420 --> 01:05:41,550

in a place outside of the  
city, where they were interned.

1369

01:05:41,550 --> 01:05:45,930

The brothers who were of  
German, Hungarian, or whatever,

1370

01:05:45,930 --> 01:05:49,680

more Axis backgrounds,  
they allowed

1371

01:05:49,680 --> 01:05:52,710

them to continue teaching.

1372

01:05:52,710 --> 01:05:56,730

But it was a weird thing because  
all these brothers were pretty

1373

01:05:56,730 --> 01:05:59,190

much brothers, and they were--

1374

01:05:59,190 --> 01:06:01,090

but that's how they  
had to operate.

1375

01:06:01,090 --> 01:06:03,480

They too were under strictures.

1376

01:06:03,480 --> 01:06:04,980

And they continued  
their teaching

1377

01:06:04,980 --> 01:06:08,537

as they had before, taught  
religion, taught mathematics,

1378

01:06:08,537 --> 01:06:09,995

and they taught  
all the things they

1379

01:06:09,995 --> 01:06:14,490

were allowed to, except the  
Japanese rule was that everyone

1380  
01:06:14,490 --> 01:06:18,630  
had to learn Tagalog, the  
native language, and Japanese.

1381  
01:06:18,630 --> 01:06:21,120  
So they had classes in  
Tagalog and Japanese.

1382  
01:06:21,120 --> 01:06:23,850  
And quite obviously, a Filipino,  
one of the Filipino teachers

1383  
01:06:23,850 --> 01:06:24,975  
taught Tagalog.

1384  
01:06:24,975 --> 01:06:27,570  
Now, Japanese was  
a different story.

1385  
01:06:27,570 --> 01:06:30,930  
We had a brother who was a  
big tall bald-headed man.

1386  
01:06:30,930 --> 01:06:33,010  
I think he was of German origin.

1387  
01:06:33,010 --> 01:06:34,730  
And he was always  
called Brother Buko.

1388  
01:06:34,730 --> 01:06:37,950  
And the word buko  
has an origin, it

1389  
01:06:37,950 --> 01:06:41,560  
is the Filipino name  
of a raw coconut

1390  
01:06:41,560 --> 01:06:42,870  
that is green on the outside.

1391

01:06:42,870 --> 01:06:46,150

They figure a bald man, that's sort of what they call him.

1392

01:06:46,150 --> 01:06:49,230

They have another name for baldness, which is also

1393

01:06:49,230 --> 01:06:52,050

a funny name, but this was Brother-- he was always

1394

01:06:52,050 --> 01:06:55,320

commonly called Brother Buko, but his real name I forgot now,

1395

01:06:55,320 --> 01:06:56,640

Brother something else.

1396

01:06:56,640 --> 01:07:01,230

But he decided, and Jesuits, of course, that's their field--

1397

01:07:01,230 --> 01:07:04,470

studies and education-- he sat himself down, apparently,

1398

01:07:04,470 --> 01:07:05,910

and began to learn Japanese.

1399

01:07:05,910 --> 01:07:10,020

And from what he learned, he taught and did it very well.

1400

01:07:10,020 --> 01:07:13,970

So we were there taking Japanese from Brother Buko.

1401

01:07:13,970 --> 01:07:17,340

And it was highly interesting.

1402

01:07:17,340 --> 01:07:20,190  
And so that's how  
we learned Japanese.

1403  
01:07:20,190 --> 01:07:21,780  
Studies were  
conducted in English,

1404  
01:07:21,780 --> 01:07:26,250  
plus history was not allowed.

1405  
01:07:26,250 --> 01:07:29,760  
Instead, we had to  
learn current events.

1406  
01:07:29,760 --> 01:07:31,950  
Oh, geography was  
not allowed as well.

1407  
01:07:31,950 --> 01:07:33,960  
We had to learn current  
events, Japanese-style.

1408  
01:07:33,960 --> 01:07:36,880  
And they provided the curriculum  
for that current events,

1409  
01:07:36,880 --> 01:07:40,080  
learning all about Japanese  
politicians, Japanese politics,

1410  
01:07:40,080 --> 01:07:41,850  
structure of Japanese--

1411  
01:07:41,850 --> 01:07:46,170  
political structure, and all  
their various current affairs

1412  
01:07:46,170 --> 01:07:49,290  
that were going on, the  
Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity

1413  
01:07:49,290 --> 01:07:51,060

Sphere idea.

1414  
01:07:51,060 --> 01:07:53,940  
And also we had to learn  
a course in health.

1415  
01:07:53,940 --> 01:07:56,970  
And the big Japanese  
thing was calisthenics.

1416  
01:07:56,970 --> 01:07:59,220  
Everybody had to  
go out at lunchtime

1417  
01:07:59,220 --> 01:08:01,740  
and do exercises,  
Japanese-style,

1418  
01:08:01,740 --> 01:08:04,570  
all these sit-ups,  
push-ups, whatever they did.

1419  
01:08:04,570 --> 01:08:06,060  
And there was a  
radio program that

1420  
01:08:06,060 --> 01:08:09,040  
was designed specifically  
for that purpose, broadcast

1421  
01:08:09,040 --> 01:08:09,780  
every day.

1422  
01:08:09,780 --> 01:08:12,030  
It was called Rajio Taiso.

1423  
01:08:12,030 --> 01:08:16,649  
Rajio Taiso, it was a  
radio program or station

1424  
01:08:16,649 --> 01:08:19,319  
that offered the  
Japanese-style programs

1425  
01:08:19,319 --> 01:08:23,090  
and the calisthenics  
classes once, twice,

1426  
01:08:23,090 --> 01:08:24,210  
or three times a day.

1427  
01:08:24,210 --> 01:08:26,790  
And you could see people  
on top of office buildings

1428  
01:08:26,790 --> 01:08:30,689  
and during lunchtime, they're  
doing this exercises and stuff.

1429  
01:08:30,689 --> 01:08:32,729  
So they instituted  
this sort of thing.

1430  
01:08:32,729 --> 01:08:34,439  
The Japanese themselves did it.

1431  
01:08:34,439 --> 01:08:37,109  
They too had their  
troops out there,

1432  
01:08:37,109 --> 01:08:39,520  
and they were doing  
the same business.

1433  
01:08:39,520 --> 01:08:42,630  
Yeah, so this was  
part of their culture

1434  
01:08:42,630 --> 01:08:46,529  
that they wanted to  
convey and convert us to.

1435  
01:08:46,529 --> 01:08:50,130  
Did they come around and  
visit the La Salle University

1436

01:08:50,130 --> 01:08:52,020

the same way that  
they were visiting

1437

01:08:52,020 --> 01:08:54,270

the synagogue or any  
other place to keep

1438

01:08:54,270 --> 01:08:57,029

track of what was going on?

1439

01:08:57,029 --> 01:08:57,529

Oh, yes.

1440

01:08:57,529 --> 01:09:01,260

Yes, they had people in  
civilian clothes or military

1441

01:09:01,260 --> 01:09:03,330

that would come around,  
mostly civilian clothes,

1442

01:09:03,330 --> 01:09:04,930

check the place out.

1443

01:09:04,930 --> 01:09:07,620

It was not too obvious, because  
they didn't come every day.

1444

01:09:07,620 --> 01:09:09,970

But, yes, indeed, I  
believe at one point

1445

01:09:09,970 --> 01:09:12,867

they even had an office in that  
building for whatever purpose.

1446

01:09:12,867 --> 01:09:14,700

But, yes, they would  
check the brothers out,

1447

01:09:14,700 --> 01:09:17,430

they would check the school out, oh, yeah.

1448  
01:09:17,430 --> 01:09:19,979  
That was part of the action.

1449  
01:09:19,979 --> 01:09:24,399  
And how often were you going to study for your bar mitzvah?

1450  
01:09:24,399 --> 01:09:25,890  
I believe I was going once a week.

1451  
01:09:25,890 --> 01:09:28,220  
I would go to the Cantor Cysner's house.

1452  
01:09:28,220 --> 01:09:29,550  
He lived with his mother.

1453  
01:09:29,550 --> 01:09:31,140  
And I would study.

1454  
01:09:31,140 --> 01:09:35,370  
And the idea for me would be to read the Torah section

1455  
01:09:35,370 --> 01:09:38,220  
for the day, for the week, I'm sorry,

1456  
01:09:38,220 --> 01:09:41,819  
and the Haftorah, which is the longer prayer thereafter.

1457  
01:09:41,819 --> 01:09:44,130  
And, of course, this all had to be learned in the style

1458  
01:09:44,130 --> 01:09:47,859  
and in the song, processed the way it is meant to be.



1459  
01:09:47,859 --> 01:09:49,850  
And so I began to study that.

1460  
01:09:49,850 --> 01:09:54,229  
And was scheduled to  
be studied for a year

1461  
01:09:54,229 --> 01:09:57,980  
till I was ready for  
the bar mitzvah in 1944.

1462  
01:09:57,980 --> 01:09:59,150  
So that's what happened.

1463  
01:09:59,150 --> 01:10:02,420  
The cantor also at one  
point taught piano.

1464  
01:10:02,420 --> 01:10:04,070  
And so I took that.

1465  
01:10:04,070 --> 01:10:07,230  
But since we didn't have a piano  
at home, I couldn't practice.

1466  
01:10:07,230 --> 01:10:10,220  
So it didn't last very long.

1467  
01:10:10,220 --> 01:10:13,370  
Were you still, or were  
the children, the youths

1468  
01:10:13,370 --> 01:10:16,790  
within the Jewish community,  
still going to synagogue,

1469  
01:10:16,790 --> 01:10:21,770  
on Sundays to Sunday School, and  
participating in whatever youth

1470  
01:10:21,770 --> 01:10:24,230

group activities,  
during those years,

1471  
01:10:24,230 --> 01:10:27,710  
'42, '43, beginning of '44?

1472  
01:10:27,710 --> 01:10:28,370  
Absolutely.

1473  
01:10:28,370 --> 01:10:30,710  
Because, certainly,  
at that time,

1474  
01:10:30,710 --> 01:10:33,920  
the synagogue and the activities  
of synagogue, Jewish community,

1475  
01:10:33,920 --> 01:10:37,700  
became a very central thing  
for the Jewish people.

1476  
01:10:37,700 --> 01:10:44,120  
And that's-- we did this  
rigorously and regularly,

1477  
01:10:44,120 --> 01:10:47,300  
because, certainly, that was  
one way to keep contact with one

1478  
01:10:47,300 --> 01:10:48,218  
another.

1479  
01:10:48,218 --> 01:10:49,760  
Also, we, of course,  
knew one another

1480  
01:10:49,760 --> 01:10:52,430  
from school anyway, or  
from certain schools,

1481  
01:10:52,430 --> 01:10:53,990  
and from where we lived.

1482

01:10:53,990 --> 01:10:59,660

But, yes, that was a center of activity for whatever purpose.

1483

01:10:59,660 --> 01:11:03,440

And so we kept contact through the Jewish community,

1484

01:11:03,440 --> 01:11:07,520

through the building, that hall that was next to the synagogue.

1485

01:11:07,520 --> 01:11:11,750

And so that was quite important to us

1486

01:11:11,750 --> 01:11:14,750

since we had no contact with the outside.

1487

01:11:14,750 --> 01:11:20,270

We kept up with whatever we did with one another that way.

1488

01:11:20,270 --> 01:11:21,950

All the Jews did, yes.

1489

01:11:21,950 --> 01:11:24,705

The interesting thing was on the high holidays, one

1490

01:11:24,705 --> 01:11:26,330

of the biggest events, I happen to have

1491

01:11:26,330 --> 01:11:29,400

been on the synagogue choir.

1492

01:11:29,400 --> 01:11:31,850

I had a voice till I was 13 or 14.

1493

01:11:31,850 --> 01:11:33,670

After that, that  
was the end of it.

1494

01:11:33,670 --> 01:11:35,620

But at that time, I had  
a pretty good voice,

1495

01:11:35,620 --> 01:11:39,410

and I was often used to sing  
the blessing over the candles

1496

01:11:39,410 --> 01:11:40,312

or stuff like that.

1497

01:11:40,312 --> 01:11:42,020

But I was actually a  
member of the choir.

1498

01:11:42,020 --> 01:11:43,730

My father was as well.

1499

01:11:43,730 --> 01:11:48,340

And we would practice,  
and then we would--