

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:00,870

2
00:00:00,870 --> 00:00:04,830
This is an interview on behalf
of the United States Holocaust

3
00:00:04,830 --> 00:00:06,810
Memorial Museum.

4
00:00:06,810 --> 00:00:10,710
It's April the 3, 1997.

5
00:00:10,710 --> 00:00:13,240
The interview is
with Frank Ephraim.

6
00:00:13,240 --> 00:00:17,010
I'm the interviewer,
Nancy Alper.

7
00:00:17,010 --> 00:00:22,990
This is side A of the fifth
tape of the interview with Frank

8
00:00:22,990 --> 00:00:23,490
Ephraim.

9
00:00:23,490 --> 00:00:27,950

10
00:00:27,950 --> 00:00:32,759
Frank, we were talking about
your attendance, your family's

11
00:00:32,759 --> 00:00:37,080
attendance, at Yom
Kippur services.

12
00:00:37,080 --> 00:00:40,260
And perhaps you can cue

me into the period of time

13
00:00:40,260 --> 00:00:43,500
that you'd be talking about
when you talk about that,

14
00:00:43,500 --> 00:00:46,020
specifically in the
context of your singing

15
00:00:46,020 --> 00:00:49,360
in the choir with your father.

16
00:00:49,360 --> 00:00:51,410
And so we're talking
now about the year

17
00:00:51,410 --> 00:00:54,860
1943, possibly also 1942.

18
00:00:54,860 --> 00:00:57,710
But basically in 1943,
we were in the middle

19
00:00:57,710 --> 00:01:00,530
of the war, occupied by the
Japanese, as, of course,

20
00:01:00,530 --> 00:01:02,300
I've already mentioned.

21
00:01:02,300 --> 00:01:05,360
Now, the American Jews
and the British Jews

22
00:01:05,360 --> 00:01:06,920
that may have been
in the Philippines

23
00:01:06,920 --> 00:01:11,250
were interned at Santo Tomas
University outside of Manila.

24

00:01:11,250 --> 00:01:13,850
And the remainder of the Jews,
which were the ones of German,

25

00:01:13,850 --> 00:01:17,140
Austrian, and the Czech--
whatever other origin--

26

00:01:17,140 --> 00:01:20,390
of course continued their
services Friday nights.

27

00:01:20,390 --> 00:01:24,910
And of course, we had a very
large Yom Kippur service, where

28

00:01:24,910 --> 00:01:27,350
in those days, everyone fasted.

29

00:01:27,350 --> 00:01:32,120
And Rabbi Schwartz and the
Cantor Cysner were officiating.

30

00:01:32,120 --> 00:01:36,800
And there was some rumor
or some talk about the fact

31

00:01:36,800 --> 00:01:39,590
that some of the
Americans might be

32

00:01:39,590 --> 00:01:41,600
brought in for a
short period of time

33

00:01:41,600 --> 00:01:44,600
to attend Yom Kippur services.

34

00:01:44,600 --> 00:01:47,120
We weren't certain what
was going to happen.

35

00:01:47,120 --> 00:01:47,870
We were all there.

36
00:01:47,870 --> 00:01:49,550
The synagogue was full.

37
00:01:49,550 --> 00:01:51,680
And then suddenly, some signal--

38
00:01:51,680 --> 00:01:55,490
somebody mentioned there was
a bus outside had arrived.

39
00:01:55,490 --> 00:01:59,870
And sure enough, two bus
loads actually of internees,

40
00:01:59,870 --> 00:02:02,300
American Jews,
British or others,

41
00:02:02,300 --> 00:02:03,980
marched into the synagogue.

42
00:02:03,980 --> 00:02:07,700
So we stopped services for,
oh, about half an hour.

43
00:02:07,700 --> 00:02:11,039
And we welcomed them back
and all that sort of thing.

44
00:02:11,039 --> 00:02:12,960
And of course, we
all know each other.

45
00:02:12,960 --> 00:02:15,440
So that was a very
emotional period.

46
00:02:15,440 --> 00:02:17,990
And normally, they didn't--

47

00:02:17,990 --> 00:02:20,735

they were so-- it was a
conservative type of service,

48

00:02:20,735 --> 00:02:23,270

not Orthodox and not Reform.

49

00:02:23,270 --> 00:02:27,030

So normally, you don't
interrupt that kind of thing,

50

00:02:27,030 --> 00:02:28,290

but they did.

51

00:02:28,290 --> 00:02:32,230

And for about half an
hour, they just broke up.

52

00:02:32,230 --> 00:02:39,080

But then the services continued,
and the Americans participated.

53

00:02:39,080 --> 00:02:42,080

Apparently, this whole
thing was organized

54

00:02:42,080 --> 00:02:46,640

by the rabbi, who tried to
get the Japanese to release

55

00:02:46,640 --> 00:02:48,530

these people for the services.

56

00:02:48,530 --> 00:02:50,570

And indeed, they did.

57

00:02:50,570 --> 00:02:54,590

So here they were with us
for about two or three hours,

58

00:02:54,590 --> 00:02:57,500

and then they would

have to go back.

59

00:02:57,500 --> 00:03:01,550

So that was the major
event, of course, for us,

60

00:03:01,550 --> 00:03:04,820

being a very small
community under occupation

61

00:03:04,820 --> 00:03:10,670

and seeing our brethren,
who were American citizens.

62

00:03:10,670 --> 00:03:13,250

I was curious-- and I
don't think we discussed it

63

00:03:13,250 --> 00:03:15,320

in previous tapes--

64

00:03:15,320 --> 00:03:18,950

whether or not you actually
ever went to that camp

65

00:03:18,950 --> 00:03:22,265

at Santo Tomas or St. Thomas.

66

00:03:22,265 --> 00:03:23,500

Yeah, no.

67

00:03:23,500 --> 00:03:26,165

The camp at Santo Tomas
was outside the city.

68

00:03:26,165 --> 00:03:29,630

It was well-guarded, and
it was difficult to get to,

69

00:03:29,630 --> 00:03:30,390

for one thing.

70

00:03:30,390 --> 00:03:33,560

However, there were people
who would, on their bicycles,

71

00:03:33,560 --> 00:03:37,810

take some food with them
and bicycle up to that area.

72

00:03:37,810 --> 00:03:39,588

It was surrounded
by walls and fences.

73

00:03:39,588 --> 00:03:41,630

You couldn't really get
in or anything like that.

74

00:03:41,630 --> 00:03:44,600

But they did manage to
throw stuff over the walls.

75

00:03:44,600 --> 00:03:47,000

So that was kind of
dangerous obviously,

76

00:03:47,000 --> 00:03:48,830

because if they
were caught at it,

77

00:03:48,830 --> 00:03:51,330

it could mean God knows what.

78

00:03:51,330 --> 00:03:54,350

But they did that, usually
at some remote place

79

00:03:54,350 --> 00:03:56,750

around the periphery
of the campus.

80

00:03:56,750 --> 00:03:58,670

This was a university campus.

81

00:03:58,670 --> 00:04:05,300

So it had some wall-like
or barbed wire enclosures.

82
00:04:05,300 --> 00:04:08,580
But you were able
to do that at night.

83
00:04:08,580 --> 00:04:11,090
And of course, there were
curfews in those days.

84
00:04:11,090 --> 00:04:15,020
You weren't allowed to be
out at night beyond 11:00 PM.

85
00:04:15,020 --> 00:04:17,120
So there was all kinds of--

86
00:04:17,120 --> 00:04:20,209
some people, younger people,
who had bicycles and were

87
00:04:20,209 --> 00:04:22,010
able to do that--
did take that risk

88
00:04:22,010 --> 00:04:25,310
and did indeed throw
food over the walls.

89
00:04:25,310 --> 00:04:29,180
I was surprised that you
had mentioned that services

90
00:04:29,180 --> 00:04:31,520
continued throughout the war.

91
00:04:31,520 --> 00:04:36,020
It was my impression from what
I had read that the functioning

92
00:04:36,020 --> 00:04:39,920
of the Jewish community through

Temple [Amiel] changed fairly

93

00:04:39,920 --> 00:04:44,570
drastically over a period
of time after the Japanese

94

00:04:44,570 --> 00:04:47,780
occupation, responding to
the understandable pressures

95

00:04:47,780 --> 00:04:51,030
of what it was like
to be occupied.

96

00:04:51,030 --> 00:04:54,470
What was your experience
and your family's experience

97

00:04:54,470 --> 00:04:57,500
of what the Jewish community
was doing through the Temple

98

00:04:57,500 --> 00:04:59,408
during that period?

99

00:04:59,408 --> 00:05:00,950
Well, they actually
did a great deal.

100

00:05:00,950 --> 00:05:03,540
It was a very close-knit
community, of Course

101

00:05:03,540 --> 00:05:05,270
and I have mentioned
it before, but there

102

00:05:05,270 --> 00:05:09,170
were a number of people in
great need and sick or old

103

00:05:09,170 --> 00:05:10,340
or what have you.

104
00:05:10,340 --> 00:05:12,920
And a community
home was procured.

105
00:05:12,920 --> 00:05:14,750
And many of us went
out there to actually

106
00:05:14,750 --> 00:05:18,620
plant stuff like peanuts and
green vegetables and so forth.

107
00:05:18,620 --> 00:05:20,720
My father, who had
done relatively well

108
00:05:20,720 --> 00:05:24,443
with his particular kind of
business, as did others--

109
00:05:24,443 --> 00:05:26,360
he was elected to become
a member of the board

110
00:05:26,360 --> 00:05:27,920
of the Jewish community.

111
00:05:27,920 --> 00:05:31,060
And on one occasion or
several occasions, actually--

112
00:05:31,060 --> 00:05:35,480
it was already later in the
war, late '43, perhaps--

113
00:05:35,480 --> 00:05:40,520
when they had to get money
to pay for staff people

114
00:05:40,520 --> 00:05:45,680
and just to hand out bucks for
the people living in that home.

115

00:05:45,680 --> 00:05:48,410

What he had to do, since he
had a lot of Chinese business

116

00:05:48,410 --> 00:05:51,550

friends who lived on the other
side of the Pasig River--

117

00:05:51,550 --> 00:05:53,770

that is, the northern part.

118

00:05:53,770 --> 00:05:57,820

And what they did was they
collected real American dollars

119

00:05:57,820 --> 00:06:01,390

and real old pesos, which
of course you couldn't use,

120

00:06:01,390 --> 00:06:03,820

but you could certainly exchange
for the so-called "Mickey

121

00:06:03,820 --> 00:06:05,990

Mouse" Japanese
occupation money--

122

00:06:05,990 --> 00:06:07,490

and, well, had to do that.

123

00:06:07,490 --> 00:06:12,730

So what he did was he took all
those dollar and peso bills

124

00:06:12,730 --> 00:06:15,040

and put a rubber band around
them and on each side,

125

00:06:15,040 --> 00:06:16,970

put some of the
occupation money.

126

00:06:16,970 --> 00:06:20,860

And that was put into
a straw shopping bag.

127

00:06:20,860 --> 00:06:22,690

And he walked with
it over the bridges,

128

00:06:22,690 --> 00:06:24,070

past the Japanese guards.

129

00:06:24,070 --> 00:06:29,080

But the reason for the
Japanese occupation money

130

00:06:29,080 --> 00:06:31,510

notes on either end was
that if he was searched,

131

00:06:31,510 --> 00:06:33,190

or the bag was
searched, they would

132

00:06:33,190 --> 00:06:36,490

think he was carrying a big
pile of occupation money, which

133

00:06:36,490 --> 00:06:39,100

was OK, because we'd
had to haul tons

134

00:06:39,100 --> 00:06:40,945

of that around to buy anything.

135

00:06:40,945 --> 00:06:42,820

So he went over there
and exchanged the money

136

00:06:42,820 --> 00:06:44,200

with his Chinese
business friends

137

00:06:44,200 --> 00:06:46,580
into all so-called
Mickey Mouse money.

138
00:06:46,580 --> 00:06:48,130
Of course, he came
back with two bags

139
00:06:48,130 --> 00:06:50,950
now that he had to
get all this extra--

140
00:06:50,950 --> 00:06:55,360
in 1,000-peso or
10,000-peso notes.

141
00:06:55,360 --> 00:06:59,140
So he came back over the
bridges with that same--

142
00:06:59,140 --> 00:07:02,890
now with two bags
rather than one.

143
00:07:02,890 --> 00:07:05,030
That was one of his chores.

144
00:07:05,030 --> 00:07:06,905
It was a bit risky
to do, but he's

145
00:07:06,905 --> 00:07:09,550
the type of guy that did
not view that as the world's

146
00:07:09,550 --> 00:07:11,660
greatest risk, so he did that.

147
00:07:11,660 --> 00:07:13,630
And then they had
meetings and what--

148
00:07:13,630 --> 00:07:16,900

how to raise money and
so on, because after all,

149
00:07:16,900 --> 00:07:18,970
there was no other
source or resource

150
00:07:18,970 --> 00:07:21,310
available except the
Jewish community itself.

151
00:07:21,310 --> 00:07:25,330
There was no government we could
turn to or no business other

152
00:07:25,330 --> 00:07:28,750
than our own businesses
that we could turn to.

153
00:07:28,750 --> 00:07:30,250
So the Jewish
community had to fend

154
00:07:30,250 --> 00:07:33,470
for itself based on what
they had, and that's it.

155
00:07:33,470 --> 00:07:36,260

156
00:07:36,260 --> 00:07:41,780
The Jewish community acted
in some way as a liaison

157
00:07:41,780 --> 00:07:43,040
to the Japanese.

158
00:07:43,040 --> 00:07:44,680
Is that not correct?

159
00:07:44,680 --> 00:07:49,490
And I'm wondering if you
had any personal experiences

160
00:07:49,490 --> 00:07:53,960
of the community having
to go to the Japanese,

161
00:07:53,960 --> 00:08:00,200
either their surveillance
division or the military

162
00:08:00,200 --> 00:08:03,590
itself, to try to
protect or help members

163
00:08:03,590 --> 00:08:05,670
of the Jewish community?

164
00:08:05,670 --> 00:08:07,730
No, there was really
no formal connection

165
00:08:07,730 --> 00:08:09,730
between the Jewish
community per se.

166
00:08:09,730 --> 00:08:10,790
It was dispersed.

167
00:08:10,790 --> 00:08:14,370
It was an informal organization
more than anything else.

168
00:08:14,370 --> 00:08:18,140
There was no direct
liaison relationship.

169
00:08:18,140 --> 00:08:20,120
The only one was, of
course, the observance

170
00:08:20,120 --> 00:08:23,970
by the Japanese secret police
of the activities in the temple

171
00:08:23,970 --> 00:08:25,700
and, I guess, occasional--

172
00:08:25,700 --> 00:08:29,960
whatever, gatherings or meetings
that the rabbi might have had.

173
00:08:29,960 --> 00:08:31,070
But there was none--

174
00:08:31,070 --> 00:08:32,870
like the board that
my father was on,

175
00:08:32,870 --> 00:08:35,000
there was no contact with
the Japanese authorities

176
00:08:35,000 --> 00:08:36,020
whatsoever.

177
00:08:36,020 --> 00:08:38,600
Since basically the
Philippines were,

178
00:08:38,600 --> 00:08:42,260
although run by the Japanese,
the internal bureaucracy

179
00:08:42,260 --> 00:08:43,190
was Filipino.

180
00:08:43,190 --> 00:08:46,288

181
00:08:46,288 --> 00:08:48,830
And of course, they didn't have
enough people to do all that.

182
00:08:48,830 --> 00:08:51,950
So whatever had to
be done was done

183
00:08:51,950 --> 00:08:54,643
through the Philippine
portion of the government.

184
00:08:54,643 --> 00:08:56,060
Then they in turn,
of course, were

185
00:08:56,060 --> 00:08:58,970
under the gun of the Japanese.

186
00:08:58,970 --> 00:09:01,610
There wasn't a great
deal to liaise about

187
00:09:01,610 --> 00:09:05,660
because most people did
their own thing-- whatever.

188
00:09:05,660 --> 00:09:10,040
And the temple building itself
was just that-- a building.

189
00:09:10,040 --> 00:09:14,720
And the rules and whatever
applied to everyone,

190
00:09:14,720 --> 00:09:16,790
so there was nothing particular.

191
00:09:16,790 --> 00:09:20,030
The only interesting thing
was that those of us who

192
00:09:20,030 --> 00:09:26,090
had German passports and, of
course, were uncertain of who

193
00:09:26,090 --> 00:09:28,250
and what we were
during that time,

194

00:09:28,250 --> 00:09:31,520

the Japanese did stamp the
passports with the term

195

00:09:31,520 --> 00:09:32,720

"stateless."

196

00:09:32,720 --> 00:09:36,110

And in fact, I have
a passport like that,

197

00:09:36,110 --> 00:09:38,180

and I'm holding it
here in my hand.

198

00:09:38,180 --> 00:09:43,370

It is my mother's passport,
because I was on it,

199

00:09:43,370 --> 00:09:45,780

since I was a young fellow.

200

00:09:45,780 --> 00:09:49,280

And there's my mother's picture.

201

00:09:49,280 --> 00:09:51,590

And there's the fact
that there was one child,

202

00:09:51,590 --> 00:09:53,570

and my name is shown here.

203

00:09:53,570 --> 00:09:59,060

But there's also now a stamp
in Japanese on this passport.

204

00:09:59,060 --> 00:10:02,660

And I have a translation
of that stamp by someone.

205

00:10:02,660 --> 00:10:06,350

And it says something like--

206
00:10:06,350 --> 00:10:13,010
it gives the date, which was
the 17th of April, I believe.

207
00:10:13,010 --> 00:10:15,090
It looks like it
might have been 19--

208
00:10:15,090 --> 00:10:18,880

209
00:10:18,880 --> 00:10:23,020
I'm not sure what year
it was, probably 1942.

210
00:10:23,020 --> 00:10:24,730
And it shows that this stamps--

211
00:10:24,730 --> 00:10:28,240
what it says is that this is
a person without a country,

212
00:10:28,240 --> 00:10:30,310
without citizenship.

213
00:10:30,310 --> 00:10:34,830
And also, that was
a Jewish person.

214
00:10:34,830 --> 00:10:38,050
The Japanese katakana
lettered this for Jewish--

215
00:10:38,050 --> 00:10:41,850
[JAPANESE] are on that stamp.

216
00:10:41,850 --> 00:10:44,730
So the Japanese
essentially made us

217
00:10:44,730 --> 00:10:49,240

all stateless, which
obviously left us

218
00:10:49,240 --> 00:10:52,340
without a country and
no category whatsoever.

219
00:10:52,340 --> 00:10:55,570
So essentially they could
do with us what they wished.

220
00:10:55,570 --> 00:10:57,770
But for the time, they
just left us alone.

221
00:10:57,770 --> 00:10:59,838
They did not take
any other action.

222
00:10:59,838 --> 00:11:01,630
As I mentioned before,
they were quite busy

223
00:11:01,630 --> 00:11:03,680
with many, many other things.

224
00:11:03,680 --> 00:11:06,010
And one has to
remember, there was--

225
00:11:06,010 --> 00:11:09,520
the country at that time
had 18 million Filipinos.

226
00:11:09,520 --> 00:11:12,880
And we're talking here
about 10,000 whites

227
00:11:12,880 --> 00:11:14,710
or so that they
had to deal with.

228
00:11:14,710 --> 00:11:20,380

They simply ignored
us or that nothing.

229

00:11:20,380 --> 00:11:25,600
Do you have any recollection of
whatever administrative process

230

00:11:25,600 --> 00:11:28,600
was carried through in
order for the Japanese

231

00:11:28,600 --> 00:11:31,840
to look at passports and
make some decisions as

232

00:11:31,840 --> 00:11:35,200
to how they were going to
handle them administratively?

233

00:11:35,200 --> 00:11:36,820
Well, that was
relatively simple.

234

00:11:36,820 --> 00:11:39,820
Everyone had to register at
some point when they came in--

235

00:11:39,820 --> 00:11:41,055
Filipinos and all alike.

236

00:11:41,055 --> 00:11:42,430
I mean, this was
something that's

237

00:11:42,430 --> 00:11:45,430
very common in most countries
other than the United

238

00:11:45,430 --> 00:11:47,530
States and England, perhaps.

239

00:11:47,530 --> 00:11:49,060
So you had to register.

240
00:11:49,060 --> 00:11:52,360
And there was a Japanese
sitting at a desk or a table.

241
00:11:52,360 --> 00:11:55,980
And he looked at
whatever papers you had.

242
00:11:55,980 --> 00:12:00,640
And I think this was done in
districts or at some point--

243
00:12:00,640 --> 00:12:05,530
and then gave you another piece
of paper, and that was your ID.

244
00:12:05,530 --> 00:12:09,520
And when they saw a
passport like we had,

245
00:12:09,520 --> 00:12:12,160
then they either
deferred things,

246
00:12:12,160 --> 00:12:13,720
and you had to go
to another desk.

247
00:12:13,720 --> 00:12:18,780
And then they maybe on another
day just simply stamped it.

248
00:12:18,780 --> 00:12:21,500
It was not a very
formal procedure.

249
00:12:21,500 --> 00:12:24,010
And they just simply
wanted to know who was who.

250
00:12:24,010 --> 00:12:25,270
That's all.

251

00:12:25,270 --> 00:12:28,300

And of course, they often had
the road checks, roadblocks,

252

00:12:28,300 --> 00:12:30,070

where when you pass
by on the street,

253

00:12:30,070 --> 00:12:31,372

they would ask you for your ID.

254

00:12:31,372 --> 00:12:33,080

And you would show
them whatever you had.

255

00:12:33,080 --> 00:12:37,150

And if you had a stamp on
your passport or wherever,

256

00:12:37,150 --> 00:12:38,740

that was OK.

257

00:12:38,740 --> 00:12:42,190

So it was fairly informal.

258

00:12:42,190 --> 00:12:48,340

There was no fancy
procedure that you went

259

00:12:48,340 --> 00:12:50,530

through at that time, anyway.

260

00:12:50,530 --> 00:12:54,700

Do you have any notion or
recollection as to why--

261

00:12:54,700 --> 00:12:56,920

what would have been the
administrative purpose

262

00:12:56,920 --> 00:13:01,000

of denominating you as
stateless or homeless?

263
00:13:01,000 --> 00:13:03,270
Since my impression
from the things

264
00:13:03,270 --> 00:13:05,590
you've been saying
in the interview are

265
00:13:05,590 --> 00:13:07,480
that the fact that
you were German

266
00:13:07,480 --> 00:13:10,420
was really more significant
to the Japanese than the fact

267
00:13:10,420 --> 00:13:12,605
that you were Jewish.

268
00:13:12,605 --> 00:13:13,980
Yes, that's an
interesting thing.

269
00:13:13,980 --> 00:13:16,780
Now, to the ordinary Japanese
soldier, the German passport

270
00:13:16,780 --> 00:13:18,740
with a swastika in it,
and even with the red,

271
00:13:18,740 --> 00:13:20,170
it mean nothing to them.

272
00:13:20,170 --> 00:13:22,580
That was German rather
than anything else.

273
00:13:22,580 --> 00:13:25,420
However, the authorities

certainly were knowledgeable.

274

00:13:25,420 --> 00:13:27,955

And they could see that
the passport had run out--

275

00:13:27,955 --> 00:13:29,455

that was not an
up-to-date passport.

276

00:13:29,455 --> 00:13:32,880

277

00:13:32,880 --> 00:13:37,810

So they asked what this was,
and they explained, I suppose.

278

00:13:37,810 --> 00:13:41,290

It was on that basis where
they put the stamp in.

279

00:13:41,290 --> 00:13:44,170

I'm not sure whether the
stamping of the passport--

280

00:13:44,170 --> 00:13:46,450

whether it was done for
the Jewish community

281

00:13:46,450 --> 00:13:50,200

as a special procedure
at some point or not.

282

00:13:50,200 --> 00:13:51,970

It may well have been.

283

00:13:51,970 --> 00:13:56,440

However, they
decided that since--

284

00:13:56,440 --> 00:13:59,440

in fact, we refused to
be considered German.

285
00:13:59,440 --> 00:14:02,170
That was another key factor.

286
00:14:02,170 --> 00:14:04,058
So at some point,
they simply decided

287
00:14:04,058 --> 00:14:06,100
that's the stamp they were
going to put in there,

288
00:14:06,100 --> 00:14:07,730
and that was it.

289
00:14:07,730 --> 00:14:12,760
There was no other
requirements as far as I know.

290
00:14:12,760 --> 00:14:14,770
That was it.

291
00:14:14,770 --> 00:14:18,370
I think other countries
simply got a stamp as well.

292
00:14:18,370 --> 00:14:21,670
They simply held onto their
passports or whatever papers

293
00:14:21,670 --> 00:14:22,582
they had.

294
00:14:22,582 --> 00:14:24,790
And the Filipinos, of course,
didn't have a passport,

295
00:14:24,790 --> 00:14:27,740
so they got ID cards.

296
00:14:27,740 --> 00:14:30,730
I wanted to ask you a

bit during this period--

297

00:14:30,730 --> 00:14:35,060
and I think we're still talking
about 1943, more or less--

298

00:14:35,060 --> 00:14:40,010
what the organized
Jewish youth group

299

00:14:40,010 --> 00:14:44,870
and/or so-called Sunday school
classes, Hebrew classes, bar

300

00:14:44,870 --> 00:14:51,170
mitzvah classes, were
like during that period?

301

00:14:51,170 --> 00:14:54,290
Well, they were fairly routine.

302

00:14:54,290 --> 00:14:58,670
I mean, certainly
in 1942 and '42,

303

00:14:58,670 --> 00:15:03,290
and even in the very
first part of 1944,

304

00:15:03,290 --> 00:15:05,780
people simply went to
the synagogue on Fridays

305

00:15:05,780 --> 00:15:08,000
and Saturdays and for holidays.

306

00:15:08,000 --> 00:15:10,880
And there were occasionally
some get-togethers

307

00:15:10,880 --> 00:15:17,460
by the youth group, youth, maybe
for Purim or things like that.

308
00:15:17,460 --> 00:15:24,020
There was no really organized
Jewish youth organization.

309
00:15:24,020 --> 00:15:26,480
Everybody was pretty
busy, either just trying

310
00:15:26,480 --> 00:15:31,120
to scrape together food
and a living, so that--

311
00:15:31,120 --> 00:15:32,863
or doing their victory garden.

312
00:15:32,863 --> 00:15:34,280
It wasn't called
"victory garden,"

313
00:15:34,280 --> 00:15:35,840
but doing the gardening.

314
00:15:35,840 --> 00:15:38,770
We had a big food garden
there at our house,

315
00:15:38,770 --> 00:15:41,420
too, raising chickens
and ducks and things.

316
00:15:41,420 --> 00:15:43,490
So you were pretty
busy doing that--

317
00:15:43,490 --> 00:15:45,710
gathering firewood.

318
00:15:45,710 --> 00:15:46,760
These were tough times.

319
00:15:46,760 --> 00:15:48,800

You didn't have time to--

320
00:15:48,800 --> 00:15:53,360
leisure time to have dances
or do things like that.

321
00:15:53,360 --> 00:15:55,590
That just was not available.

322
00:15:55,590 --> 00:15:58,040
So you were busy.

323
00:15:58,040 --> 00:16:00,200
And the other thing
were restrictions.

324
00:16:00,200 --> 00:16:02,240
You couldn't just
take off anywhere.

325
00:16:02,240 --> 00:16:05,570
There were, as I mentioned
before, there was curfews.

326
00:16:05,570 --> 00:16:08,090
And transportation was scarce.

327
00:16:08,090 --> 00:16:11,420
And we had just that
bicycles to get around with.

328
00:16:11,420 --> 00:16:14,720
So the only recreation
was for us maybe

329
00:16:14,720 --> 00:16:17,990
to play soccer or
football or other games

330
00:16:17,990 --> 00:16:21,650
with other kids someplace,
on the empty lots

331

00:16:21,650 --> 00:16:23,960
or in park-type settings.

332

00:16:23,960 --> 00:16:26,400
But that was about it.

333

00:16:26,400 --> 00:16:28,270
Now, the house that
you're referring

334

00:16:28,270 --> 00:16:30,340
to where you had the
garden was the house

335

00:16:30,340 --> 00:16:32,960
that you went to following
the period of time

336

00:16:32,960 --> 00:16:35,140
that you had been in the
apartment complex, where

337

00:16:35,140 --> 00:16:40,240
so many Westerners
or non-Asians were.

338

00:16:40,240 --> 00:16:44,740
And this was, as I
recall, the house

339

00:16:44,740 --> 00:16:46,750
that you lived in that
was across the street

340

00:16:46,750 --> 00:16:49,990
from the so-called "pink house?"

341

00:16:49,990 --> 00:16:50,890
Yes, that's correct.

342

00:16:50,890 --> 00:16:54,310
It was a court which lead off

from the main street, Dakota

343
00:16:54,310 --> 00:16:55,030
Street.

344
00:16:55,030 --> 00:16:56,950
And it was six identical houses.

345
00:16:56,950 --> 00:17:00,040
They were large houses,
and they had big porches

346
00:17:00,040 --> 00:17:03,490
running the length of the house,
both upstairs and downstairs.

347
00:17:03,490 --> 00:17:05,589
And, yes, it was around
that-- in that house

348
00:17:05,589 --> 00:17:06,670
that I had the garden.

349
00:17:06,670 --> 00:17:07,420
We grew corn.

350
00:17:07,420 --> 00:17:09,250
We grew Lima beans.

351
00:17:09,250 --> 00:17:12,220
We grew all kinds of the
Phillipine potatoes--

352
00:17:12,220 --> 00:17:14,230
not sweet potatoes
like yams, but there's

353
00:17:14,230 --> 00:17:16,690
another kind of sweet
potato called kamote,

354
00:17:16,690 --> 00:17:22,128

which is a sweet potato, but not like the yams-- yellow inside.

355

00:17:22,128 --> 00:17:24,670

And then we have some ducks and chickens and stuff like that.

356

00:17:24,670 --> 00:17:28,840

And we had people that made or sewed to help us out.

357

00:17:28,840 --> 00:17:33,430

And that was the house that we're referring to now.

358

00:17:33,430 --> 00:17:36,250

The pink houses weren't pink to begin with.

359

00:17:36,250 --> 00:17:41,170

There was a development, a series of pink bungalow-type

360

00:17:41,170 --> 00:17:42,040

houses--

361

00:17:42,040 --> 00:17:43,908

stucco-washed, were made of stucco.

362

00:17:43,908 --> 00:17:45,700

And they were used-- they were residential,

363

00:17:45,700 --> 00:17:48,370

until one time, the Japanese just came in and took over,

364

00:17:48,370 --> 00:17:51,070

and everyone had to leave, except for one

365

00:17:51,070 --> 00:17:53,680

of the houses, which was
turned into a restaurant.

366
00:17:53,680 --> 00:17:55,880
And the owner's son actually
went to school with me.

367
00:17:55,880 --> 00:17:58,297
And once I went in there, and
there was all these chickens

368
00:17:58,297 --> 00:17:59,620
hanging up from the roast--

369
00:17:59,620 --> 00:18:01,960
sort of a roasting
type of setup.

370
00:18:01,960 --> 00:18:03,940
But the rest of the
houses were converted.

371
00:18:03,940 --> 00:18:07,360

372
00:18:07,360 --> 00:18:09,130
And these stucco
houses, they-- as I say,

373
00:18:09,130 --> 00:18:11,675
the Japanese cleared
out everyone.

374
00:18:11,675 --> 00:18:14,050
And what they did with that--
they turned the whole thing

375
00:18:14,050 --> 00:18:18,940
over into a Red Light area
for Japanese navy personnel.

376
00:18:18,940 --> 00:18:21,760
But it was only for what was

called-- like petty officer

377

00:18:21,760 --> 00:18:24,940
ranks, not the very low ratings,
but the so-called higher

378

00:18:24,940 --> 00:18:27,530
sergeant or whatever
equivalent level.

379

00:18:27,530 --> 00:18:33,240
And that was going on
there for a year or more.

380

00:18:33,240 --> 00:18:37,840
And it was staffed by both
Japanese and Filipino women.

381

00:18:37,840 --> 00:18:41,770
The Japanese were geishas,
and they wore their kimonos.

382

00:18:41,770 --> 00:18:43,960
And they had this
little pillow-like thing

383

00:18:43,960 --> 00:18:47,020
in the back of their kimono.

384

00:18:47,020 --> 00:18:48,490
And some of the
guys used to say,

385

00:18:48,490 --> 00:18:51,460
I says, well, now we know what
the pillows are for that they

386

00:18:51,460 --> 00:18:53,200
wear their kimonos, you see?

387

00:18:53,200 --> 00:18:56,230
But the interesting
part was there

388
00:18:56,230 --> 00:18:59,140
was a lot of Filipino
girls as well.

389
00:18:59,140 --> 00:19:02,530
And they, of course, made
money in the process.

390
00:19:02,530 --> 00:19:04,720
And what they would do
then is send people out

391
00:19:04,720 --> 00:19:07,080
to buy goodies that were
still available because things

392
00:19:07,080 --> 00:19:08,080
were getting very short.

393
00:19:08,080 --> 00:19:11,140
For example, they wanted to
get some cheese, like a Gouda

394
00:19:11,140 --> 00:19:14,570
cheese, or something like
that, which is essentially not

395
00:19:14,570 --> 00:19:15,070
available.

396
00:19:15,070 --> 00:19:16,570
That was all gone.

397
00:19:16,570 --> 00:19:18,730
Cigarettes were
really going fast--

398
00:19:18,730 --> 00:19:20,590
American cigarettes.

399
00:19:20,590 --> 00:19:24,760

And some of us would go
out and have a little cigar

400
00:19:24,760 --> 00:19:25,690
box in our hand.

401
00:19:25,690 --> 00:19:29,830
And when the Japanese
sailors or whatever they were

402
00:19:29,830 --> 00:19:31,780
came by or came
out, we would try

403
00:19:31,780 --> 00:19:34,360
to buy cigarettes from them,
because Japanese cigarettes

404
00:19:34,360 --> 00:19:37,400
were very mild in contrast
to the cigarettes that were

405
00:19:37,400 --> 00:19:38,650
being made in the Philippines.

406
00:19:38,650 --> 00:19:41,200
And they were very
harsh and dark tobacco.

407
00:19:41,200 --> 00:19:43,900
So we-- some of us were able
to buy some and then sell back

408
00:19:43,900 --> 00:19:47,140
to our fathers and
other people like that.

409
00:19:47,140 --> 00:19:49,037
But that was just a minor thing.

410
00:19:49,037 --> 00:19:50,620
But, yes, there was
a lot of that kind

411
00:19:50,620 --> 00:19:52,120
of traffic on that
street-- a little bit

412
00:19:52,120 --> 00:19:53,380
further from where we lived.

413
00:19:53,380 --> 00:19:56,650
I would say about half
a block away, but still.

414
00:19:56,650 --> 00:19:59,260
However, it was
during that time when

415
00:19:59,260 --> 00:20:01,360
I went to school at
the De La Salle College

416
00:20:01,360 --> 00:20:04,720
on Taft Avenue, which
was like eight blocks

417
00:20:04,720 --> 00:20:07,100
further inland from our street.

418
00:20:07,100 --> 00:20:09,880
Our street paralleled the
Dewey Boulevard, which

419
00:20:09,880 --> 00:20:12,940
was right along the Bay Area.

420
00:20:12,940 --> 00:20:14,830
And I would be in class.

421
00:20:14,830 --> 00:20:17,560
And one of my classmates
was Benigno Aquino.

422
00:20:17,560 --> 00:20:19,360

He was a Junior.

423
00:20:19,360 --> 00:20:22,360
And he was the son of
the then puppet speaker

424
00:20:22,360 --> 00:20:24,400
of the house or the parliament.

425
00:20:24,400 --> 00:20:27,790
And of course, Benigno
Aquino was also

426
00:20:27,790 --> 00:20:29,230
then later known as "Ninoy."

427
00:20:29,230 --> 00:20:30,790
And he was the fellow
that was killed

428
00:20:30,790 --> 00:20:33,373
by the Philippine government on
his return to the Philippines.

429
00:20:33,373 --> 00:20:35,380
I forgot now what year it was.

430
00:20:35,380 --> 00:20:37,480
But he and I were
in the same class.

431
00:20:37,480 --> 00:20:39,160
And we would walk
back from school

432
00:20:39,160 --> 00:20:42,340
together because he
lived several blocks

433
00:20:42,340 --> 00:20:43,820
away from where I did.

434

00:20:43,820 --> 00:20:46,510
And we would cut back
through a barrio, which

435
00:20:46,510 --> 00:20:51,910
was a native Philippine
village, at the outskirts,

436
00:20:51,910 --> 00:20:54,280
just beyond those pink houses.

437
00:20:54,280 --> 00:20:57,640
And there were these
what we call "nipa huts."

438
00:20:57,640 --> 00:21:01,060
"Nipa" is the term that's
used for the palm thatched

439
00:21:01,060 --> 00:21:04,260
roof of these houses,
which were open.

440
00:21:04,260 --> 00:21:07,090
They were built on
stilts, lots of windows,

441
00:21:07,090 --> 00:21:09,040
and lots of pigs, children,
everything running

442
00:21:09,040 --> 00:21:09,760
around the area.

443
00:21:09,760 --> 00:21:11,590
But that was a shortcut for us.

444
00:21:11,590 --> 00:21:12,730
And we'd cut through there.

445
00:21:12,730 --> 00:21:16,450
And of course, in doing so, we
walked by that whole section--

446
00:21:16,450 --> 00:21:18,220
all these pink stucco houses.

447
00:21:18,220 --> 00:21:22,090
It was in daylight, so there
wasn't that much activity.

448
00:21:22,090 --> 00:21:24,310
Then I peeled off
to where we lived.

449
00:21:24,310 --> 00:21:26,800
And then he went on
to where he lived.

450
00:21:26,800 --> 00:21:28,570
And we would do that
just about every day.

451
00:21:28,570 --> 00:21:29,945
And we'd would
talk about things.

452
00:21:29,945 --> 00:21:32,260
And he, of course, like most--

453
00:21:32,260 --> 00:21:34,720
all Filipinos-- was
very pro-American.

454
00:21:34,720 --> 00:21:37,585
And we'd talk
about things that--

455
00:21:37,585 --> 00:21:41,020
what we would be doing
when the war was over.

456
00:21:41,020 --> 00:21:43,870
And so anyway, that was
one interesting episode.

457

00:21:43,870 --> 00:21:46,825

And that's why I got to know
this fellow, Benigno Aquino.

458

00:21:46,825 --> 00:21:49,640

459

00:21:49,640 --> 00:21:51,580

Why don't you tell
me a little bit

460

00:21:51,580 --> 00:21:55,750

about that school in contrast
to the Jesuit school?

461

00:21:55,750 --> 00:21:58,360

You went a period of time
between the Jesuit school

462

00:21:58,360 --> 00:22:01,960

and the De La Salle school when
you weren't in school, right?

463

00:22:01,960 --> 00:22:06,400

Well, De La Salle was
the Jesuit school.

464

00:22:06,400 --> 00:22:08,710

De La Salle was an
order of Jesuits.

465

00:22:08,710 --> 00:22:12,140

And there was a
period prior to that,

466

00:22:12,140 --> 00:22:14,990

after the entrance of
the Japanese into Manila,

467

00:22:14,990 --> 00:22:17,690

when there was no school.

468

00:22:17,690 --> 00:22:20,000
But then soon, schools
began to open again.

469
00:22:20,000 --> 00:22:23,900
Things got back to
quote, "normal," unquote.

470
00:22:23,900 --> 00:22:26,540
And that was, of course, one
school that was reopened.

471
00:22:26,540 --> 00:22:28,380
And I went to that school both--

472
00:22:28,380 --> 00:22:31,790
it was for convenience,
and it was reasonable.

473
00:22:31,790 --> 00:22:35,090
And I had been to that
school before the war.

474
00:22:35,090 --> 00:22:37,280
So we went to that school.

475
00:22:37,280 --> 00:22:40,030
And I may have
mentioned this was--

476
00:22:40,030 --> 00:22:42,920
there were brothers
of all nationalities.

477
00:22:42,920 --> 00:22:47,240
And there was several brothers
who were Americans and British.

478
00:22:47,240 --> 00:22:48,740
They weren't allowed to teach.

479
00:22:48,740 --> 00:22:53,190
They were taken to an

internment area out of the city.

480

00:22:53,190 --> 00:22:57,080

So the German and the Polish and
whatever other nationalities,

481

00:22:57,080 --> 00:22:59,930

all Caucasians,
were left to teach,

482

00:22:59,930 --> 00:23:03,500

plus Filipino lay
persons who also taught.

483

00:23:03,500 --> 00:23:06,530

And as I mentioned before,
one of the brothers

484

00:23:06,530 --> 00:23:07,640

had to learn Japanese.

485

00:23:07,640 --> 00:23:11,030

And he also taught the language,
while the Filipino teachers

486

00:23:11,030 --> 00:23:14,660

taught Tagalog, which
was-- both where required.

487

00:23:14,660 --> 00:23:15,677

So that was the school.

488

00:23:15,677 --> 00:23:17,510

And the other fellow
that was in that school

489

00:23:17,510 --> 00:23:19,940

was Jose P. Laurel, Junior.

490

00:23:19,940 --> 00:23:23,450

His father was the puppet
president of the Philippines.

491

00:23:23,450 --> 00:23:28,100

And later, his brother
after-- this is now the 1980s,

492

00:23:28,100 --> 00:23:29,410

became a politician.

493

00:23:29,410 --> 00:23:33,110

I forgot-- Salvador Laurel.

494

00:23:33,110 --> 00:23:40,400

And he was ran or was together
with Corazon Aquino, the widow

495

00:23:40,400 --> 00:23:42,980

of Benigno Aquino,
who then later became

496

00:23:42,980 --> 00:23:44,840

president of the Philippines.

497

00:23:44,840 --> 00:23:47,300

But these people attended
schools like that.

498

00:23:47,300 --> 00:23:49,140

There were several
Jesuit schools.

499

00:23:49,140 --> 00:23:51,410

That was simply
just one of them.

500

00:23:51,410 --> 00:23:54,560

Anyway, there was
another incident

501

00:23:54,560 --> 00:23:59,060

I want to mention that goes
back to that particular time.

502

00:23:59,060 --> 00:24:02,393

And that's the Japanese
bicycle incident.

503
00:24:02,393 --> 00:24:03,560
That was an interesting one.

504
00:24:03,560 --> 00:24:05,990
The Japanese army was
extremely poorly equipped.

505
00:24:05,990 --> 00:24:08,270
They came in with just
really very little.

506
00:24:08,270 --> 00:24:10,040
They helped themselves
to everything

507
00:24:10,040 --> 00:24:12,930
that the American
army left over.

508
00:24:12,930 --> 00:24:15,495
Their trucks, for example,
were painted sort of a brown.

509
00:24:15,495 --> 00:24:17,120
That was their standard
military color.

510
00:24:17,120 --> 00:24:20,700
And they were Ford trucks,
that is, if they had any.

511
00:24:20,700 --> 00:24:22,950
They were very simple trucks,
but that's all they had.

512
00:24:22,950 --> 00:24:25,880
They used every piece of
transportation they could find.

513
00:24:25,880 --> 00:24:31,430

Every automobile, truck
was taken for their use.

514
00:24:31,430 --> 00:24:33,795
But one time, we
were playing out--

515
00:24:33,795 --> 00:24:38,420
we used to play a lot
out near Dewey Boulevard.

516
00:24:38,420 --> 00:24:41,480
And the Japanese also had
large battalions or battalions

517
00:24:41,480 --> 00:24:42,840
that used nothing but bicycles.

518
00:24:42,840 --> 00:24:45,170
And these were very
cheap Japanese bicycles.

519
00:24:45,170 --> 00:24:49,550
Japanese material was very
poor quality at the time.

520
00:24:49,550 --> 00:24:52,040
And these bicycle battalions
would then come roaring

521
00:24:52,040 --> 00:24:53,180
down the boulevard.

522
00:24:53,180 --> 00:24:55,220
And they went where--

523
00:24:55,220 --> 00:24:57,590
I don't know, came from
one place, went to another.

524
00:24:57,590 --> 00:24:59,985
But we'd get a phone call
from our friends that

525

00:24:59,985 --> 00:25:02,360

lived further up and said,
there's a battalion coming by.

526

00:25:02,360 --> 00:25:04,460

There's about 500
guys on a bicycle.

527

00:25:04,460 --> 00:25:07,130

And we'd go out there before
they arrived, of course.

528

00:25:07,130 --> 00:25:09,280

And we had these little
pieces of glass or metal--

529

00:25:09,280 --> 00:25:10,360

not that much.

530

00:25:10,360 --> 00:25:12,800

And we would just run
across the boulevard

531

00:25:12,800 --> 00:25:14,835

and spread that stuff around.

532

00:25:14,835 --> 00:25:17,210

And naturally, they came up
the wrong side of the street,

533

00:25:17,210 --> 00:25:21,410

because in Japan, you drove
like the British on the left,

534

00:25:21,410 --> 00:25:23,580

rather than in this
country or whatever.

535

00:25:23,580 --> 00:25:27,530

And so we knew how they
were coming down the street.

536

00:25:27,530 --> 00:25:29,400

And we just spread
that stuff around,

537

00:25:29,400 --> 00:25:31,220

and then we continued to play.

538

00:25:31,220 --> 00:25:33,890

And sure enough,
there would be several

539

00:25:33,890 --> 00:25:36,680

that would get flat tires
as they came roaring by.

540

00:25:36,680 --> 00:25:39,710

And then a guy with a flat
tire would jump off his bike,

541

00:25:39,710 --> 00:25:41,060

hop on the bike of someone--

542

00:25:41,060 --> 00:25:43,370

of another bicyclist.

543

00:25:43,370 --> 00:25:45,380

And his bicycle, which
was now disabled,

544

00:25:45,380 --> 00:25:48,770

was then towed by
a third bicyclist.

545

00:25:48,770 --> 00:25:52,760

So we reduced their vehicular
capability by some, but not

546

00:25:52,760 --> 00:25:54,540

by very much, I'm sure.

547

00:25:54,540 --> 00:25:56,120

But anyway, it

was just something

548

00:25:56,120 --> 00:25:59,660

to do and to show
whatever resistance,

549

00:25:59,660 --> 00:26:01,590

passive or otherwise.

550

00:26:01,590 --> 00:26:03,680

So that was the
Japanese bicycle story.

551

00:26:03,680 --> 00:26:07,130

And that was done several times.

552

00:26:07,130 --> 00:26:09,860

Were you surprised when
the Japanese actually

553

00:26:09,860 --> 00:26:11,510

occupied Manila--

554

00:26:11,510 --> 00:26:13,280

how ill-equipped they were?

555

00:26:13,280 --> 00:26:17,450

In other words, had whatever
information or news reports

556

00:26:17,450 --> 00:26:19,370

that you were getting--

557

00:26:19,370 --> 00:26:22,400

did this or anything
else shock you,

558

00:26:22,400 --> 00:26:25,400

what you had heard compared
with the reality of what

559

00:26:25,400 --> 00:26:27,590

they were really like?

560

00:26:27,590 --> 00:26:30,260

Not particularly shocked us.

561

00:26:30,260 --> 00:26:34,220

Bit of a surprise when we noted
that the first night, when they

562

00:26:34,220 --> 00:26:36,860

guarded that compound
where we lived,

563

00:26:36,860 --> 00:26:40,100

those apartments, that they
did not have their own rifle

564

00:26:40,100 --> 00:26:42,770

and that the rifle changed
hands when they changed guard.

565

00:26:42,770 --> 00:26:45,290

And the rifle stayed with the
people doing the guarding,

566

00:26:45,290 --> 00:26:47,780

and the others who marched
off without a rifle.

567

00:26:47,780 --> 00:26:51,080

So that was a bit surprising.

568

00:26:51,080 --> 00:26:56,180

Their very manner of equipment,
their poor clothing and so on--

569

00:26:56,180 --> 00:26:57,980

yes, a bit of a surprise.

570

00:26:57,980 --> 00:27:01,640

However, we also had heard
they were well-experienced,

571

00:27:01,640 --> 00:27:05,220

having been in China and then
Malaysia and other places.

572

00:27:05,220 --> 00:27:09,080

So from that standpoint, as
far as capability is concerned,

573

00:27:09,080 --> 00:27:12,810

they seemed to have
a kind of reputation.

574

00:27:12,810 --> 00:27:16,770

But materially, yeah, it
was a bit of a surprise

575

00:27:16,770 --> 00:27:20,370

that they did not have the
equipment or the quality

576

00:27:20,370 --> 00:27:22,720

of equipment that you'd expect.

577

00:27:22,720 --> 00:27:24,690

The Americans had the
quality of equipment,

578

00:27:24,690 --> 00:27:26,880

but unfortunately they
needed the manpower.

579

00:27:26,880 --> 00:27:30,660

Even though they had sufficient
training or leadership,

580

00:27:30,660 --> 00:27:34,440

probably, to resist
properly, and of course,

581

00:27:34,440 --> 00:27:38,490

very little, if any experience
in combat, quite contrary

582
00:27:38,490 --> 00:27:40,740
to the Japanese.

583
00:27:40,740 --> 00:27:44,370
Were you ever involved in
any personal experiences

584
00:27:44,370 --> 00:27:48,570
that illustrate the lack of
organization on their part?

585
00:27:48,570 --> 00:27:53,010
Or as a rule, did the
Japanese, in your experience,

586
00:27:53,010 --> 00:27:58,050
seem fairly disciplined in
their treatment of the locals?

587
00:27:58,050 --> 00:28:00,810
Yes, Japanese-- they
appeared disciplined,

588
00:28:00,810 --> 00:28:02,760
but that's sort of
Japanese nature.

589
00:28:02,760 --> 00:28:05,930
Everything is by the book.

590
00:28:05,930 --> 00:28:09,330
And being military
on top of that,

591
00:28:09,330 --> 00:28:12,480
everything went according
to a very specific plan.

592
00:28:12,480 --> 00:28:14,580
They were very thorough.

593
00:28:14,580 --> 00:28:18,570

They put up a table, for example, to do some processing.

594
00:28:18,570 --> 00:28:21,750
And the first thing to do was wipe it off, clean it off.

595
00:28:21,750 --> 00:28:23,370
And then they sat down.

596
00:28:23,370 --> 00:28:25,410
And it's all very stiff-like.

597
00:28:25,410 --> 00:28:28,440
In many ways, they were a robot-like people.

598
00:28:28,440 --> 00:28:31,550

599
00:28:31,550 --> 00:28:34,530
The language sounded robotic to us as well.

600
00:28:34,530 --> 00:28:41,410
It had this guttural, staccato, very paced type of sound,

601
00:28:41,410 --> 00:28:43,620
which, of course, we couldn't understand, since we

602
00:28:43,620 --> 00:28:45,510
didn't know any Japanese.

603
00:28:45,510 --> 00:28:50,265
And their relationship with one another was very formal.

604
00:28:50,265 --> 00:28:55,870
They were always doing these short military bows and so on.

605

00:28:55,870 --> 00:28:57,330

And they also wanted order.

606

00:28:57,330 --> 00:29:00,300

And they were much like the
Germans in that respect.

607

00:29:00,300 --> 00:29:02,550

People were lining
up, and the Filipinos

608

00:29:02,550 --> 00:29:04,620

tend to be rather
lackadaisical in that.

609

00:29:04,620 --> 00:29:06,930

They'll crowd around
and this sort of thing,

610

00:29:06,930 --> 00:29:08,350

and they're casual.

611

00:29:08,350 --> 00:29:10,980

The Japanese were not casual.

612

00:29:10,980 --> 00:29:13,840

The line had to be
straight and so on,

613

00:29:13,840 --> 00:29:16,212

so for the buses and
whatever line there was.

614

00:29:16,212 --> 00:29:17,295

There were a lot of lines.

615

00:29:17,295 --> 00:29:19,350

There were people
lining up for food

616

00:29:19,350 --> 00:29:21,780

or whatever-- had to

be checked or whatever.

617
00:29:21,780 --> 00:29:24,510
And the Japanese had--
everything had to be just so.

618
00:29:24,510 --> 00:29:28,080
They were very
strict about that.

619
00:29:28,080 --> 00:29:31,300
It was unreal, certainly.

620
00:29:31,300 --> 00:29:37,660
And the communication between
the Japanese and the others

621
00:29:37,660 --> 00:29:40,740
was difficult. And they
didn't have any capability

622
00:29:40,740 --> 00:29:41,650
of speaking English.

623
00:29:41,650 --> 00:29:44,450
A few of the officers
did, but not very many.

624
00:29:44,450 --> 00:29:47,380
The ordinary person there
was probably a farm boy.

625
00:29:47,380 --> 00:29:51,670
And they had no knowledge
of English or anything.

626
00:29:51,670 --> 00:29:56,710
So that, of course, made
it difficult to communicate

627
00:29:56,710 --> 00:30:00,250
and often many times resulted
in the Japanese slapping

628
00:30:00,250 --> 00:30:03,370
people or hitting people or with
their rifle butts or whatever.

629
00:30:03,370 --> 00:30:05,170
That was quite common.

630
00:30:05,170 --> 00:30:06,640
That's how they operated.

631
00:30:06,640 --> 00:30:09,280
They had that kind
of a mentality.

632
00:30:09,280 --> 00:30:13,880

633
00:30:13,880 --> 00:30:17,870
I was going to ask you earlier
when you talked about the guard

634
00:30:17,870 --> 00:30:20,580
what your jobs were
around the house

635
00:30:20,580 --> 00:30:21,890
as a member of the family.

636
00:30:21,890 --> 00:30:24,230
You were obviously
going to school

637
00:30:24,230 --> 00:30:28,130
and running around on the
streets to some degree.

638
00:30:28,130 --> 00:30:30,800
I was wondering what
your duties were.

639
00:30:30,800 --> 00:30:34,190

And then the second
piece of that might be,

640
00:30:34,190 --> 00:30:35,840
when you said
"standing in line,"

641
00:30:35,840 --> 00:30:41,000
it reminded me of what I assume
was an increasing food shortage

642
00:30:41,000 --> 00:30:44,540
and what people had
to do to get food

643
00:30:44,540 --> 00:30:47,510
in your personal experience.

644
00:30:47,510 --> 00:30:50,870
Well, as I mentioned, we lived
now in this larger house.

645
00:30:50,870 --> 00:30:54,580
And we had some help plus the
so-called houseboy or cook

646
00:30:54,580 --> 00:30:56,330
that we had inherited
from the person that

647
00:30:56,330 --> 00:30:58,205
had lived across the
street-- was an American

648
00:30:58,205 --> 00:31:00,410
and was interned.

649
00:31:00,410 --> 00:31:02,090
My routine was this.

650
00:31:02,090 --> 00:31:05,240
Well, first of all,
the gas for cooking

651
00:31:05,240 --> 00:31:06,560
was beginning to run out.

652
00:31:06,560 --> 00:31:09,510
And maybe you'd get a couple
hours' worth of gas a day--

653
00:31:09,510 --> 00:31:10,250
maybe.

654
00:31:10,250 --> 00:31:11,090
There was a lot of--

655
00:31:11,090 --> 00:31:12,410
enough electricity.

656
00:31:12,410 --> 00:31:14,360
So that one big
thing was people got

657
00:31:14,360 --> 00:31:16,160
their refrigerators shifted--

658
00:31:16,160 --> 00:31:18,480
changed from gas to electricity.

659
00:31:18,480 --> 00:31:21,950
And this fellow who did that--
he must have earned a bundle.

660
00:31:21,950 --> 00:31:23,270
He came over one day.

661
00:31:23,270 --> 00:31:27,260
And what he did was he
took the burner, the flame,

662
00:31:27,260 --> 00:31:29,660
portion out of the
gas refrigerator,

663
00:31:29,660 --> 00:31:31,790
and the flame was
running into a tube that

664
00:31:31,790 --> 00:31:33,950
was a sort of heating
part of the machinery.

665
00:31:33,950 --> 00:31:37,550
He took that out, and then
put in a rod, a ceramic rod,

666
00:31:37,550 --> 00:31:39,080
wrapped with nichrome wire--

667
00:31:39,080 --> 00:31:40,860
the kind you use in a hot plate.

668
00:31:40,860 --> 00:31:43,310
And on each end, he put
a piece of asbestos.

669
00:31:43,310 --> 00:31:46,070
And then that was hooked
up to an electric cord.

670
00:31:46,070 --> 00:31:47,510
And he shoved that
into that tube

671
00:31:47,510 --> 00:31:48,980
underneath the refrigerator.

672
00:31:48,980 --> 00:31:52,280
And that then became the source
of heat once you plugged it in.

673
00:31:52,280 --> 00:31:54,590
And that converted the
refrigerator from gas

674
00:31:54,590 --> 00:31:55,660

to electricity.

675

00:31:55,660 --> 00:31:56,870

It was unique.

676

00:31:56,870 --> 00:31:58,430

And this guy showed
up on a bicycle.

677

00:31:58,430 --> 00:32:00,740

But in those days, there
were bicycles and bicycles.

678

00:32:00,740 --> 00:32:02,803

He came in with a
Cadillac of a bicycle

679

00:32:02,803 --> 00:32:04,220

because he could
afford it by now.

680

00:32:04,220 --> 00:32:05,680

He was a Filipino fellow.

681

00:32:05,680 --> 00:32:10,550

And he did that conversion in
a matter of 25 minutes or less.

682

00:32:10,550 --> 00:32:12,470

And he charged a pile
for it, of course,

683

00:32:12,470 --> 00:32:14,630

but then he was in great
demand because everybody

684

00:32:14,630 --> 00:32:17,097

wanted their refrigerator
to keep working, obviously.

685

00:32:17,097 --> 00:32:18,930

So that was one of the
things that occurred.

686
00:32:18,930 --> 00:32:22,010
Now we also began to cook
with what is in today's age

687
00:32:22,010 --> 00:32:23,290
called a hibachi stove.

688
00:32:23,290 --> 00:32:26,570
They were little charcoal--
pottery charcoal stoves.

689
00:32:26,570 --> 00:32:28,580
Now charcoal was
getting expensive.

690
00:32:28,580 --> 00:32:31,610
But my job every day was to
take a little stool, which

691
00:32:31,610 --> 00:32:34,900
was made out of 2 by 4s with
two legs and a piece of 2

692
00:32:34,900 --> 00:32:37,790
by 4 across the top,
on which was connected

693
00:32:37,790 --> 00:32:41,030
a wrought-iron scraper.

694
00:32:41,030 --> 00:32:43,010
And I would take two
coconuts that we'd

695
00:32:43,010 --> 00:32:47,750
buy, crack them in half,
empty the fluid that

696
00:32:47,750 --> 00:32:48,650
was in the coconut.

697

00:32:48,650 --> 00:32:52,580
That eventually became vinegar
because it would ferment.

698
00:32:52,580 --> 00:32:54,290
And then the white
meat I would then

699
00:32:54,290 --> 00:32:57,347
scrape off with these
scrapers into a bowl.

700
00:32:57,347 --> 00:32:59,180
And then you'd have the
shredded stuff there

701
00:32:59,180 --> 00:33:00,950
and this bowl under you.

702
00:33:00,950 --> 00:33:03,200
And then you would add
just a little bit of water

703
00:33:03,200 --> 00:33:06,830
and give all that a good
squeeze into another container.

704
00:33:06,830 --> 00:33:08,330
And that was like cream.

705
00:33:08,330 --> 00:33:10,490
And then you add more
water, like two cups,

706
00:33:10,490 --> 00:33:13,280
and then you'd squeeze that and
put it into a larger container.

707
00:33:13,280 --> 00:33:15,260
And that was just
a regular milk.

708
00:33:15,260 --> 00:33:17,550

And pretty soon, you got
down to almost skim milk.

709
00:33:17,550 --> 00:33:19,790
So we were getting
milk out of coconuts

710
00:33:19,790 --> 00:33:23,445
for cooking and for putting into
coffee and things like that.

711
00:33:23,445 --> 00:33:25,570
So that was my-- and then
the shells of the coconut

712
00:33:25,570 --> 00:33:26,930
were used to burn.

713
00:33:26,930 --> 00:33:29,000
You could actually
use them as fuel.

714
00:33:29,000 --> 00:33:31,030
They'd burn like would
or anything like that--

715
00:33:31,030 --> 00:33:33,090
fairly intense
heat out of those.

716
00:33:33,090 --> 00:33:36,800
So that was my daily chore--
to work over two coconuts

717
00:33:36,800 --> 00:33:39,290
and get the milk and that stuff.

718
00:33:39,290 --> 00:33:41,850
And the shredded
coconut dried-out meat

719
00:33:41,850 --> 00:33:43,610
was also put into a pile.

720
00:33:43,610 --> 00:33:45,470
You could later on
mix that with sugar

721
00:33:45,470 --> 00:33:47,810
and make some kind of
candy out of it, which

722
00:33:47,810 --> 00:33:50,880
was not the greatest,
but that's what we used.

723
00:33:50,880 --> 00:33:55,160
So we were beginning to use
all kinds of substitutes

724
00:33:55,160 --> 00:33:58,290
and things of that nature.

725
00:33:58,290 --> 00:34:00,140
And of course,
services were beginning

726
00:34:00,140 --> 00:34:01,700
to deteriorate rapidly.

727
00:34:01,700 --> 00:34:03,920
We had shortages
of, as I said, gas.

728
00:34:03,920 --> 00:34:07,650
Even the electricity would
go out from time to time.

729
00:34:07,650 --> 00:34:09,730
So that was the thing.

730
00:34:09,730 --> 00:34:11,600
Now, we're still in 1943.

731
00:34:11,600 --> 00:34:14,540

And before I go into the
more serious starvation

732
00:34:14,540 --> 00:34:17,179
period in the
Philippines, I still

733
00:34:17,179 --> 00:34:18,929
want to mention two things.

734
00:34:18,929 --> 00:34:21,620
One is our trip to Baguio.

735
00:34:21,620 --> 00:34:26,540
And Baguio is a little
town, sort of a resort town,

736
00:34:26,540 --> 00:34:29,210
up in the mountains
of Northern Luzon.

737
00:34:29,210 --> 00:34:32,900
And in fact, they grew potatoes
and strawberries there,

738
00:34:32,900 --> 00:34:35,239
which is quite unusual
for the Philippines.

739
00:34:35,239 --> 00:34:37,550
And to get there,
normally by car,

740
00:34:37,550 --> 00:34:41,780
you would have to traverse a
road called the Zigzag Road.

741
00:34:41,780 --> 00:34:43,429
It was a road through
the mountains,

742
00:34:43,429 --> 00:34:46,400
including ravines and so on.

743
00:34:46,400 --> 00:34:50,360
But to get even to that point,
you had to take a train.

744
00:34:50,360 --> 00:34:52,260
So one fine day, my
father said, we're

745
00:34:52,260 --> 00:34:53,420
all going to go to Baguio.

746
00:34:53,420 --> 00:34:55,710
We need a break for
four or five days.

747
00:34:55,710 --> 00:34:58,182
And never been there,
and we're allowed.

748
00:34:58,182 --> 00:34:59,015
I've got permission.

749
00:34:59,015 --> 00:35:01,310
And we were off.

750
00:35:01,310 --> 00:35:03,710
We went to the, quote,
"railway station,"

751
00:35:03,710 --> 00:35:05,330
and boarded this train.

752
00:35:05,330 --> 00:35:08,617
Now, we didn't have reserved
seats or anything like that.

753
00:35:08,617 --> 00:35:10,700
And the first thing you
saw was about two or three

754
00:35:10,700 --> 00:35:13,490

of the benches on
the train, where

755
00:35:13,490 --> 00:35:17,030
the Japanese secret police, the
Kempeitai, had reserved space.

756
00:35:17,030 --> 00:35:19,640
And they sat there because
they used that train a lot.

757
00:35:19,640 --> 00:35:21,770
And the rest was full
of Japanese troops

758
00:35:21,770 --> 00:35:23,120
who were being transported.

759
00:35:23,120 --> 00:35:25,490
And they had all our
knapsacks and rifles.

760
00:35:25,490 --> 00:35:27,380
And they wouldn't move
to give us a seat.

761
00:35:27,380 --> 00:35:29,990
And they were slouched about.

762
00:35:29,990 --> 00:35:34,850
But eventually, we got to
sit down, and we kept going.

763
00:35:34,850 --> 00:35:39,650
And we ended up in a town
called Dagupan, which is north--

764
00:35:39,650 --> 00:35:41,230
the northern part of Luzon.

765
00:35:41,230 --> 00:35:43,850
There the train-- we had to
get off, because from there,

766
00:35:43,850 --> 00:35:46,700
we had to get a bus that would
take us up the mountains,

767
00:35:46,700 --> 00:35:50,022
up this Zigzag Road, to Baguio.

768
00:35:50,022 --> 00:35:51,230
All right, we got through it.

769
00:35:51,230 --> 00:35:53,750
There were buses, but
they were mostly full.

770
00:35:53,750 --> 00:35:55,640
We had to bribe the drivers.

771
00:35:55,640 --> 00:35:57,680
And as usual in the
Philippines, there

772
00:35:57,680 --> 00:36:01,040
was luggage and bags
on top of the buses

773
00:36:01,040 --> 00:36:03,800
as well as people on top
of the buses and chickens

774
00:36:03,800 --> 00:36:05,940
and the usual kinds of things.

775
00:36:05,940 --> 00:36:08,450
So we finally got onto the bus.

776
00:36:08,450 --> 00:36:10,610
And the bus started taking off.

777
00:36:10,610 --> 00:36:13,290
And it got to the first
bridge over a ravine,

778
00:36:13,290 --> 00:36:14,720
where there was a Japanese post.

779
00:36:14,720 --> 00:36:17,000
And they stopped
us, and they made

780
00:36:17,000 --> 00:36:20,270
everyone get off the bus,
because apparently, they

781
00:36:20,270 --> 00:36:21,950
were concerned that
the bridge wouldn't

782
00:36:21,950 --> 00:36:23,730
hold with that heavy load.

783
00:36:23,730 --> 00:36:26,990
So we walked across the bridge,
and the bus then followed us.

784
00:36:26,990 --> 00:36:30,940
And this procedure went on
for eight or nine times.

785
00:36:30,940 --> 00:36:32,450
They got a lot of bridges.

786
00:36:32,450 --> 00:36:36,080
Until we got to one post and
bridge, and the driver says,

787
00:36:36,080 --> 00:36:38,370
we want everyone to get out,
because he was concerned.

788
00:36:38,370 --> 00:36:41,187
But the Japanese sentry just
got on the running board

789

00:36:41,187 --> 00:36:42,270
and said, just keep going.

790
00:36:42,270 --> 00:36:44,350
You know, he made--
yeah, go ahead.

791
00:36:44,350 --> 00:36:46,580
But he was coming with us.

792
00:36:46,580 --> 00:36:49,610
So the bus driver went
across this bridge, sweating,

793
00:36:49,610 --> 00:36:51,320
but made it across.

794
00:36:51,320 --> 00:36:54,290
We finally arrived in Baguio,
and we know some people

795
00:36:54,290 --> 00:36:54,800
up there.

796
00:36:54,800 --> 00:36:56,380
And they met us.

797
00:36:56,380 --> 00:36:59,720
And Baguio is very hilly, so
there was no transportation.

798
00:36:59,720 --> 00:37:02,510
But everybody had built
a little pushcart.

799
00:37:02,510 --> 00:37:04,070
And what they would
do is they would

800
00:37:04,070 --> 00:37:06,290
push the pushcart up the hill.

801

00:37:06,290 --> 00:37:09,050
And then we'd all get
on, and it would roll--

802
00:37:09,050 --> 00:37:10,790
continue rolling down the hill.

803
00:37:10,790 --> 00:37:12,230
They would go over
this procedure

804
00:37:12,230 --> 00:37:13,690
all the way to the hotel.

805
00:37:13,690 --> 00:37:17,360
It was a mess, but
we finally made it.

806
00:37:17,360 --> 00:37:19,580
And that was the way they
transported one another.

807
00:37:19,580 --> 00:37:20,530
And it was quite--

808
00:37:20,530 --> 00:37:22,527
it was cooler up there
and very pleasant.

809
00:37:22,527 --> 00:37:24,860
And I wanted to mention one
interesting incident-- well,

810
00:37:24,860 --> 00:37:26,360
one of the things you
had to do immediately--

811
00:37:26,360 --> 00:37:28,670
you had to get yourself
a badge, which had-- it

812
00:37:28,670 --> 00:37:30,860
was like a white

sheet piece of paper,

813
00:37:30,860 --> 00:37:33,510
and there was a red
dot in the middle.

814
00:37:33,510 --> 00:37:34,620
It was the Japanese flag.

815
00:37:34,620 --> 00:37:37,050
And you had to put
your name on that.

816
00:37:37,050 --> 00:37:40,160
And then you had to wear that
because the Japanese government

817
00:37:40,160 --> 00:37:41,940
in Baguio required that.

818
00:37:41,940 --> 00:37:44,190
So, yes, sure enough, so
you translated your name

819
00:37:44,190 --> 00:37:47,460
in this katakana script into--

820
00:37:47,460 --> 00:37:48,600
what it must sound like.

821
00:37:48,600 --> 00:37:50,760
My first name--
it came [JAPANESE]

822
00:37:50,760 --> 00:37:51,720
or something like that.

823
00:37:51,720 --> 00:37:53,700
We won't even talk
about the last name.

824
00:37:53,700 --> 00:37:55,020

It didn't matter.

825

00:37:55,020 --> 00:37:59,300

The most interesting
site in Baguio was that--

826

00:37:59,300 --> 00:38:02,490

you may have all
heard of headhunters.

827

00:38:02,490 --> 00:38:05,520

Well that is headhunter country.

828

00:38:05,520 --> 00:38:07,710

And these people
are called Igorots.

829

00:38:07,710 --> 00:38:10,770

Igorots-- that's the
name of this tribe.

830

00:38:10,770 --> 00:38:13,110

And they wear loincloth--

831

00:38:13,110 --> 00:38:17,130

sort of large, bulky sack
in the front and a g-string

832

00:38:17,130 --> 00:38:18,330

down the rear.

833

00:38:18,330 --> 00:38:20,910

So they were quite
exposed from the rear.

834

00:38:20,910 --> 00:38:23,070

And they all had
long hair mostly.

835

00:38:23,070 --> 00:38:25,310

And the women would
carry their babies

836
00:38:25,310 --> 00:38:28,770
in a sort of a container, like
the papoose type of thing,

837
00:38:28,770 --> 00:38:32,400
with a band across their
head, holding that thing up

838
00:38:32,400 --> 00:38:33,360
that was on their back.

839
00:38:33,360 --> 00:38:35,550
It was like a
backpack, but held up

840
00:38:35,550 --> 00:38:37,980
with a band across their head.

841
00:38:37,980 --> 00:38:41,035
Well, these Igorots
would come to town.

842
00:38:41,035 --> 00:38:42,660
And they, of course,
normally would not

843
00:38:42,660 --> 00:38:44,030
wear anything on top--

844
00:38:44,030 --> 00:38:45,020
that is, men.

845
00:38:45,020 --> 00:38:48,150
They would just wear
this heavy loincloth sack

846
00:38:48,150 --> 00:38:50,220
affair in the front.

847
00:38:50,220 --> 00:38:53,010
But when they came to
town, they would all

848
00:38:53,010 --> 00:38:58,410
be wearing the coat of
a formal business suit--

849
00:38:58,410 --> 00:38:59,790
just a coat.

850
00:38:59,790 --> 00:39:02,670
And they would walk around
with this striped or whatever

851
00:39:02,670 --> 00:39:03,170
pattern--

852
00:39:03,170 --> 00:39:04,616
[AUDIO OUT]

853
00:39:04,616 --> 00:39:08,480

854
00:39:08,480 --> 00:39:10,250
This interview is
being conducted

855
00:39:10,250 --> 00:39:13,070
on behalf of the United
States Holocaust Memorial

856
00:39:13,070 --> 00:39:17,660
Museum on April the 3, 1997.

857
00:39:17,660 --> 00:39:20,260
The interview is
with Frank Ephraim.

858
00:39:20,260 --> 00:39:23,150
I'm Nancy Alper,
the interviewer.

859
00:39:23,150 --> 00:39:27,170
And this is the

second side, side B,

860
00:39:27,170 --> 00:39:31,370
of the fifth tape
of the interview

861
00:39:31,370 --> 00:39:35,350
Yes, as we were with
the Igorot story,

862
00:39:35,350 --> 00:39:37,600
this was quite unusual to see.

863
00:39:37,600 --> 00:39:39,430
The Igorots, by
the way, are also

864
00:39:39,430 --> 00:39:41,830
one of the world's
finest carvers.

865
00:39:41,830 --> 00:39:47,330
Their wooden carvings
of the carabao,

866
00:39:47,330 --> 00:39:50,570
which is the Philippine
water buffalo,

867
00:39:50,570 --> 00:39:52,420
very long knives and forks.

868
00:39:52,420 --> 00:39:57,140
Bookends are really nice pieces,
and they do a wonderful job.

869
00:39:57,140 --> 00:39:59,700
I'm not sure how many heads
they actually hunt for,

870
00:39:59,700 --> 00:40:01,160
but there was rumors.

871

00:40:01,160 --> 00:40:04,250

And these people indeed
looked like they were

872

00:40:04,250 --> 00:40:06,300

what they were described to be.

873

00:40:06,300 --> 00:40:07,430

But they were friendly.

874

00:40:07,430 --> 00:40:10,250

And when they were
in town with those--

875

00:40:10,250 --> 00:40:14,360

their formal wear
for town visits,

876

00:40:14,360 --> 00:40:17,870

they walked around,
just as anyone else did.

877

00:40:17,870 --> 00:40:22,280

But the Japanese, of course,
in Baguio and also, of course,

878

00:40:22,280 --> 00:40:24,020

on the way up by train--

879

00:40:24,020 --> 00:40:25,670

you were always concerned.

880

00:40:25,670 --> 00:40:28,870

With the Japanese, you never
knew what would happen.

881

00:40:28,870 --> 00:40:30,410

They're not predictable.

882

00:40:30,410 --> 00:40:34,220

They could be very friendly
to children and smile

883
00:40:34,220 --> 00:40:37,490
and do-- give out little
goodies or whatever.

884
00:40:37,490 --> 00:40:39,770
But they may start
drinking, and then they

885
00:40:39,770 --> 00:40:43,520
got to be like rogues.

886
00:40:43,520 --> 00:40:46,130
It was not a
predictable behavior.

887
00:40:46,130 --> 00:40:53,270
You always got
that Oriental rage

888
00:40:53,270 --> 00:40:59,210
or whatever style of life or
character sitting in front

889
00:40:59,210 --> 00:41:00,140
of you.

890
00:41:00,140 --> 00:41:02,210
And I do want to mention
the reason we knew

891
00:41:02,210 --> 00:41:04,850
they were Japanese secret
police or the Kempeitai

892
00:41:04,850 --> 00:41:07,190
military police was, indeed,
there was a sign that says,

893
00:41:07,190 --> 00:41:09,335
"These two benches are
reserved for the Kempeitai."

894

00:41:09,335 --> 00:41:10,460

And that was the end of it.

895

00:41:10,460 --> 00:41:12,127

And there were three
guys sitting there,

896

00:41:12,127 --> 00:41:15,180

and they were just
sitting there, staring.

897

00:41:15,180 --> 00:41:18,170

The Japanese traditionally,
at least at that time,

898

00:41:18,170 --> 00:41:21,320

don't go into long conversations
on a train with one another,

899

00:41:21,320 --> 00:41:23,600

as you would find
in the United States

900

00:41:23,600 --> 00:41:25,670

or in many Western countries.

901

00:41:25,670 --> 00:41:27,380

There would be silence.

902

00:41:27,380 --> 00:41:30,120

And I did talk to
one Japanese man.

903

00:41:30,120 --> 00:41:33,890

He was an officer, traveling
in civilian clothes.

904

00:41:33,890 --> 00:41:36,470

And he was getting off at
some point before we did.

905

00:41:36,470 --> 00:41:37,970

And I chatted with
him a little bit.

906
00:41:37,970 --> 00:41:40,160
He spoke English.

907
00:41:40,160 --> 00:41:42,740
This was a Japanese business
man in the Philippines

908
00:41:42,740 --> 00:41:45,290
who was now working with
the Japanese government,

909
00:41:45,290 --> 00:41:48,122
and there was lots of those.

910
00:41:48,122 --> 00:41:49,580
They, of course,
were more familiar

911
00:41:49,580 --> 00:41:53,820
with the culture, both the
Western and Philippine culture.

912
00:41:53,820 --> 00:41:56,990
So they were quite different
from the ordinary soldier

913
00:41:56,990 --> 00:42:01,190
that you would run into
in the Japanese Army.

914
00:42:01,190 --> 00:42:04,010
You just pretty soon
accepted that that

915
00:42:04,010 --> 00:42:08,420
was the way they
were, and that's it.

916
00:42:08,420 --> 00:42:10,640
But our sojourn in

Baguio was fairly short.

917
00:42:10,640 --> 00:42:13,670
We stayed there for a few
days, and then came back.

918
00:42:13,670 --> 00:42:17,450
By that time, we had heard
that the Philippine guerrillas

919
00:42:17,450 --> 00:42:18,170
were active.

920
00:42:18,170 --> 00:42:19,910
And they were often
active in that area.

921
00:42:19,910 --> 00:42:21,815
That was a wonderful
area to hide out in.

922
00:42:21,815 --> 00:42:24,830
In fact, there were still some
Americans left in that area.

923
00:42:24,830 --> 00:42:27,290
It was the so-called
"Mountain Province,"

924
00:42:27,290 --> 00:42:31,280
partially jungle, hard to
reach, inaccessible areas,

925
00:42:31,280 --> 00:42:34,040
where they may have
had people hiding out.

926
00:42:34,040 --> 00:42:36,560
And we had heard that
these guerrillas had

927
00:42:36,560 --> 00:42:40,730
mined or blown up a bridge or

two on that very famous Zigzag

928
00:42:40,730 --> 00:42:41,510
Road.

929
00:42:41,510 --> 00:42:43,790
So instead of going
back down the road,

930
00:42:43,790 --> 00:42:45,850
we went another route.

931
00:42:45,850 --> 00:42:49,160
I didn't even know it existed,
which was not the Zigzag Road--

932
00:42:49,160 --> 00:42:50,780
very few bridges, if any.

933
00:42:50,780 --> 00:42:53,630
And got back to where the
train was, and then took

934
00:42:53,630 --> 00:42:55,410
the train back to Manila--

935
00:42:55,410 --> 00:42:59,870
a relatively uneventful trip,
as far as I can remember.

936
00:42:59,870 --> 00:43:03,500
But it was an interesting--
something different--

937
00:43:03,500 --> 00:43:05,820
we hadn't had any kind
of vacation in so long,

938
00:43:05,820 --> 00:43:10,980
and so this was a really
interesting experience.

939

00:43:10,980 --> 00:43:15,940
You had said something I think
about Jewish families running

940
00:43:15,940 --> 00:43:17,765
an inn there.

941
00:43:17,765 --> 00:43:20,880
And maybe you could elaborate
a little bit on that.

942
00:43:20,880 --> 00:43:21,380
Oh, sure.

943
00:43:21,380 --> 00:43:25,400
Yeah, these families-- there
was a family, name of Kowalski.

944
00:43:25,400 --> 00:43:27,170
And they actually
lived in Baguio.

945
00:43:27,170 --> 00:43:30,290
And they ran a sort of-- that's
where we stayed, with them.

946
00:43:30,290 --> 00:43:31,700
And they ran--

947
00:43:31,700 --> 00:43:33,710
I guess you could call
it an inn, because it

948
00:43:33,710 --> 00:43:37,130
was sort of a resort anyway,
and they had that inn.

949
00:43:37,130 --> 00:43:39,155
And I went roller
skating up nearby.

950
00:43:39,155 --> 00:43:40,780
There was a little

roller-skating rink,

951

00:43:40,780 --> 00:43:42,980

so I did that.

952

00:43:42,980 --> 00:43:46,250

And he had built one of those
vehicles, a very nice one,

953

00:43:46,250 --> 00:43:46,820

actually.

954

00:43:46,820 --> 00:43:48,440

And, well, we would push it.

955

00:43:48,440 --> 00:43:51,487

And then on the downhill, we'd
all hop aboard and roll down

956

00:43:51,487 --> 00:43:52,070

on that thing.

957

00:43:52,070 --> 00:43:54,480

It had a brake and
a steering wheel.

958

00:43:54,480 --> 00:43:58,400

And so they were
one of perhaps--

959

00:43:58,400 --> 00:44:02,500

oh, there may have been all
of two dozen Jews living

960

00:44:02,500 --> 00:44:05,870

in Baguio, if that many.

961

00:44:05,870 --> 00:44:08,750

And the Kowalskis had this
little inn-like affair.

962

00:44:08,750 --> 00:44:11,990

And there were some
others who lived up there.

963
00:44:11,990 --> 00:44:16,110
I think they may have had a
store or something like that.

964
00:44:16,110 --> 00:44:17,540
But again, it was war.

965
00:44:17,540 --> 00:44:21,050
And the people were
all scrounging,

966
00:44:21,050 --> 00:44:23,350
so they were doing
whatever they could.

967
00:44:23,350 --> 00:44:25,070
But it was nice to
see people up there,

968
00:44:25,070 --> 00:44:26,570
and it was nice to be there.

969
00:44:26,570 --> 00:44:28,130
So we went back down.

970
00:44:28,130 --> 00:44:31,910
And I do want to mention
one thing in 1943.

971
00:44:31,910 --> 00:44:34,550
We're dealing with that
year, just to finish it off.

972
00:44:34,550 --> 00:44:37,850
The Japanese, in order to--

973
00:44:37,850 --> 00:44:41,090
obviously, for
propaganda purposes

974

00:44:41,090 --> 00:44:43,850

produced a movie, a
full-length movie.

975

00:44:43,850 --> 00:44:45,543

It was called Dawn of Freedom.

976

00:44:45,543 --> 00:44:49,760

And it was designed to
ingratiate themselves

977

00:44:49,760 --> 00:44:52,190

with the Philippines,
for the Filipinos,

978

00:44:52,190 --> 00:44:53,990

because the basic
theme of the story

979

00:44:53,990 --> 00:44:56,490

was one of the
Japanese soldiers that

980

00:44:56,490 --> 00:44:59,630

had arrived with Japanese
forces befriended

981

00:44:59,630 --> 00:45:04,580

a Philippine family, one of the
sons of which was very, very

982

00:45:04,580 --> 00:45:05,120

ill.

983

00:45:05,120 --> 00:45:08,780

He had some problem
that was serious.

984

00:45:08,780 --> 00:45:12,320

As the film proceeded,
the Japanese soldier

985

00:45:12,320 --> 00:45:15,530
was instrumental in getting
this boy to a hospital

986
00:45:15,530 --> 00:45:18,990
and to a good Japanese
doctor and, pretty soon,

987
00:45:18,990 --> 00:45:20,060
had him cured.

988
00:45:20,060 --> 00:45:23,930
And this was a
heartwarming-rendering,

989
00:45:23,930 --> 00:45:26,670
all-baloney type of movie.

990
00:45:26,670 --> 00:45:30,080
But amongst the
background of the movie

991
00:45:30,080 --> 00:45:35,270
was the battle in
Bataan and Corregidor.

992
00:45:35,270 --> 00:45:40,520
And there, they apparently
got hold of volunteer whites

993
00:45:40,520 --> 00:45:41,300
of some kind.

994
00:45:41,300 --> 00:45:42,680
We're not sure
whether these were

995
00:45:42,680 --> 00:45:45,230
American prisoners
that they used or paid

996
00:45:45,230 --> 00:45:49,490
or someone else to play the

role of American soldiers

997

00:45:49,490 --> 00:45:53,360

that were being overrun
by the Japanese forces.

998

00:45:53,360 --> 00:45:55,130

And that was shown.

999

00:45:55,130 --> 00:45:57,680

But we never know who
these people in fact

1000

00:45:57,680 --> 00:46:00,230

were-- whether they were
people living in Japan who were

1001

00:46:00,230 --> 00:46:02,480

brought in for that filming.

1002

00:46:02,480 --> 00:46:03,470

It was not certain.

1003

00:46:03,470 --> 00:46:05,600

They made this long film.

1004

00:46:05,600 --> 00:46:08,570

And then apparently, the
problem with this boy,

1005

00:46:08,570 --> 00:46:09,660

the Philippine family.

1006

00:46:09,660 --> 00:46:11,810

He had a with his legs
and couldn't walk.

1007

00:46:11,810 --> 00:46:16,550

So at one point during the
film, this Japanese soldier,

1008

00:46:16,550 --> 00:46:20,150

part of a regiment that was
now leaving the Philippines.

1009
00:46:20,150 --> 00:46:21,900
They were departing,
going somewhere else.

1010
00:46:21,900 --> 00:46:23,000
And he was marching away.

1011
00:46:23,000 --> 00:46:26,690
And then it showed the
boy, the Philippine boy,

1012
00:46:26,690 --> 00:46:29,660
was able now to walk
and wave him goodbye.

1013
00:46:29,660 --> 00:46:32,540
So it was one of these
tear-jerker type of affairs.

1014
00:46:32,540 --> 00:46:35,110
And that movie was called
The Dawn of Freedom,

1015
00:46:35,110 --> 00:46:36,530
shown everywhere, all the time.

1016
00:46:36,530 --> 00:46:38,197
Of course, we did go
to see it, since we

1017
00:46:38,197 --> 00:46:41,770
did go to movies a lot, being
cool in the movie house.

1018
00:46:41,770 --> 00:46:43,940
And we saw a lot
Japanese war movies.

1019
00:46:43,940 --> 00:46:45,950
And you could sleep

through those.

1020
00:46:45,950 --> 00:46:50,600
But that Dawn of Freedom
was this big thing

1021
00:46:50,600 --> 00:46:55,130
they tried to pull over.

1022
00:46:55,130 --> 00:46:59,990
Before we go on a bit, what
was still available to actually

1023
00:46:59,990 --> 00:47:01,850
purchase at that time?

1024
00:47:01,850 --> 00:47:05,750
And what do you
recall personally

1025
00:47:05,750 --> 00:47:10,340
the circumstances of going out
and trying to buy something?

1026
00:47:10,340 --> 00:47:13,670
Yes, that actually leads me
right into the bar mitzvah bit,

1027
00:47:13,670 --> 00:47:15,823
because as I mentioned
before, I was--

1028
00:47:15,823 --> 00:47:17,990
one year before the bar
mitzvah actually took place,

1029
00:47:17,990 --> 00:47:21,770
I began to study with the
cantor, Joseph Cysner.

1030
00:47:21,770 --> 00:47:23,510
And at that time,
as I mentioned,

1031
00:47:23,510 --> 00:47:25,250
we lived in this larger house.

1032
00:47:25,250 --> 00:47:28,220
And my father, being
a very smart cookie,

1033
00:47:28,220 --> 00:47:31,760
he began just to scrounge
everywhere for goodies

1034
00:47:31,760 --> 00:47:35,210
for the bar mitzvah, amongst
which he was able to get hold

1035
00:47:35,210 --> 00:47:40,070
of six cases of Philippine rum
and also four or five cases

1036
00:47:40,070 --> 00:47:44,480
of cr me de menthe and
cr me de cocoa and gin.

1037
00:47:44,480 --> 00:47:46,383
We actually drank
the gin occasionally.

1038
00:47:46,383 --> 00:47:47,425
It tasted like rosewater.

1039
00:47:47,425 --> 00:47:49,040
It was Philippine gin.

1040
00:47:49,040 --> 00:47:52,590
And the rum was a very common
drink in the Philippines,

1041
00:47:52,590 --> 00:47:57,170
but we would mix that in
with Philippine lime juice.

1042

00:47:57,170 --> 00:47:59,660
The Philippine limes
were called calamansis,

1043
00:47:59,660 --> 00:48:01,160
and they were sold
by the hundreds

1044
00:48:01,160 --> 00:48:03,072
from vendors that would
tour the local area

1045
00:48:03,072 --> 00:48:05,030
or in the market-- little
green fellows, looked

1046
00:48:05,030 --> 00:48:07,880
like limes, a little
sweeter than limes,

1047
00:48:07,880 --> 00:48:09,170
yellow on the inside.

1048
00:48:09,170 --> 00:48:11,900
And that would be
squeezed out into jars.

1049
00:48:11,900 --> 00:48:16,122
That juice would then mix with
brown sugar and rum and ice,

1050
00:48:16,122 --> 00:48:17,330
or whatever-- if you had ice.

1051
00:48:17,330 --> 00:48:20,870
That would be the common
drink in the Philippines,

1052
00:48:20,870 --> 00:48:22,920
and the gin
occasionally as well.

1053
00:48:22,920 --> 00:48:26,240

But anyway, so he was preparing
for the party for the bar

1054
00:48:26,240 --> 00:48:29,300
mitzvah, and he was
buying all this stuff.

1055
00:48:29,300 --> 00:48:33,410
However, everything else
was beginning to disappear.

1056
00:48:33,410 --> 00:48:36,560
You were forced to buy
rice in sacks because--

1057
00:48:36,560 --> 00:48:38,810
and this was not the
most white rice anymore.

1058
00:48:38,810 --> 00:48:42,710
It was sort of reddish
and not as refined.

1059
00:48:42,710 --> 00:48:47,960
And sugar, brown sugar, in sacks
because that was for the future

1060
00:48:47,960 --> 00:48:51,170
because you weren't sure
whether there'd be any left.

1061
00:48:51,170 --> 00:48:53,390
So you begin to store up stuff--

1062
00:48:53,390 --> 00:48:59,600
sugar; rice; oil,
cooking oil; lard.

1063
00:48:59,600 --> 00:49:01,910
Butter was no longer--
there was never any butter

1064
00:49:01,910 --> 00:49:04,400

after the beginning of the
war, which you could get,

1065
00:49:04,400 --> 00:49:08,725
but still was quite
rancid by that time.

1066
00:49:08,725 --> 00:49:11,540
So there was
margarines and lard.

1067
00:49:11,540 --> 00:49:13,580
And of course,
fruit was available,

1068
00:49:13,580 --> 00:49:16,310
but was obviously
getting very expensive.

1069
00:49:16,310 --> 00:49:18,980
Bananas was still
relatively inexpensive,

1070
00:49:18,980 --> 00:49:20,780
as was these large papayas.

1071
00:49:20,780 --> 00:49:22,940
In the Philippines,
papayas are about the size

1072
00:49:22,940 --> 00:49:25,250
of large watermelons-- huge.

1073
00:49:25,250 --> 00:49:27,530
And those were the
common fruit that you

1074
00:49:27,530 --> 00:49:30,240
could still get, pretty much.

1075
00:49:30,240 --> 00:49:35,090
There was corn and things
of that nature and fish

1076
00:49:35,090 --> 00:49:36,020
occasionally.

1077
00:49:36,020 --> 00:49:38,780
Meat-- there was no beef.

1078
00:49:38,780 --> 00:49:41,480
There was the water
buffalo meat, which we ate.

1079
00:49:41,480 --> 00:49:43,925
And there was horse meat,
which occasionally we ate.

1080
00:49:43,925 --> 00:49:46,380
We didn't eat it,
but you could buy it.

1081
00:49:46,380 --> 00:49:52,110
There was pork, of course,
and that was about it.

1082
00:49:52,110 --> 00:49:55,130
But the prices of these
things were rising rapidly,

1083
00:49:55,130 --> 00:49:57,950
and there just simply
were shortages.

1084
00:49:57,950 --> 00:50:00,240
And everyone began to feel that.

1085
00:50:00,240 --> 00:50:01,870
And as we got into 19--

1086
00:50:01,870 --> 00:50:06,500
end of '43, beginning of '44,
my bar mitzvah was approaching.

1087
00:50:06,500 --> 00:50:11,060

It was to be held on the
26th of February, 1944.

1088
00:50:11,060 --> 00:50:14,270
And that was the day of
the Torah portion of it

1089
00:50:14,270 --> 00:50:16,760
that I had been studying for.

1090
00:50:16,760 --> 00:50:20,330
And my father's business,
which I had mentioned,

1091
00:50:20,330 --> 00:50:23,990
was buying and selling lots--

1092
00:50:23,990 --> 00:50:28,730
not lots, but quantity lots
of hardware, nuts and bolts

1093
00:50:28,730 --> 00:50:29,960
and things like that.

1094
00:50:29,960 --> 00:50:32,480
That kind of business was
beginning to really decline

1095
00:50:32,480 --> 00:50:35,150
because pretty much
all the materiel that

1096
00:50:35,150 --> 00:50:38,000
was left in the Philippines
from before the war

1097
00:50:38,000 --> 00:50:41,930
had now essentially been
sold to users, whoever they

1098
00:50:41,930 --> 00:50:43,820
might have been at some stage.

1099

00:50:43,820 --> 00:50:46,280

It was being used up, obviously.

1100

00:50:46,280 --> 00:50:49,130

So that business began
to really decline.

1101

00:50:49,130 --> 00:50:52,520

And at that point, my
father and many other men

1102

00:50:52,520 --> 00:50:54,830

and women in business
were essentially

1103

00:50:54,830 --> 00:50:57,770

down to two things--

1104

00:50:57,770 --> 00:51:02,420

selling personal
items like silverware.

1105

00:51:02,420 --> 00:51:05,960

We had taken-- gotten out
of Germany a roll of serving

1106

00:51:05,960 --> 00:51:07,810

spoons and things like that--

1107

00:51:07,810 --> 00:51:10,100

silverware-- were
able to take that out

1108

00:51:10,100 --> 00:51:12,410

and other things of that
nature-- began to sell them,

1109

00:51:12,410 --> 00:51:14,150

piece by piece.

1110

00:51:14,150 --> 00:51:17,360

That was how you

maintained income.

1111
00:51:17,360 --> 00:51:20,840
Or you would, of course, grow
things-- as much as you could.

1112
00:51:20,840 --> 00:51:22,680
Or you would exchange things.

1113
00:51:22,680 --> 00:51:24,680
I mentioned the money was
going to be worthless.

1114
00:51:24,680 --> 00:51:28,050
You needed a bag full of
money to buy a kilo of rice.

1115
00:51:28,050 --> 00:51:32,750
So that was very tough, and
things began to deteriorate.

1116
00:51:32,750 --> 00:51:34,770
However, up until
my bar mitzvah,

1117
00:51:34,770 --> 00:51:37,220
things were still
possible, sort of.

1118
00:51:37,220 --> 00:51:39,290
And the bar mitzvah
was a big affair.

1119
00:51:39,290 --> 00:51:41,840
We had 200 people over
for the reception.

1120
00:51:41,840 --> 00:51:45,140
Had 35 people for dinner
in the house that night,

1121
00:51:45,140 --> 00:51:47,330
including my father's

Philippine friend,

1122

00:51:47,330 --> 00:51:50,630
who worked for the Philippine
government still at the time.

1123

00:51:50,630 --> 00:51:55,010
He was in the tax bureau, and it
was called the IRS equivalent.

1124

00:51:55,010 --> 00:51:57,100
We had the family
physician there.

1125

00:51:57,100 --> 00:51:58,880
We had all kinds of
people-- good friends

1126

00:51:58,880 --> 00:52:00,005
that were there for dinner.

1127

00:52:00,005 --> 00:52:03,320
And we put on as much
as we could, scraped up

1128

00:52:03,320 --> 00:52:07,580
whatever was possible, and had
a decent dinner that night.

1129

00:52:07,580 --> 00:52:09,665
The service was
kind of interesting.

1130

00:52:09,665 --> 00:52:12,770
The Temple, as usual, was full,
but that was the typical Temple

1131

00:52:12,770 --> 00:52:15,590
crowd on a Saturday morning.

1132

00:52:15,590 --> 00:52:16,700
I did my thing.

1133

00:52:16,700 --> 00:52:20,210

And I recall-- I even
have a picture of it.

1134

00:52:20,210 --> 00:52:23,600

I was all dressed in
white, short pants.

1135

00:52:23,600 --> 00:52:27,290

Here in the Philippines, so
this was a common thing to wear,

1136

00:52:27,290 --> 00:52:30,350

although some wore
long pants, depending.

1137

00:52:30,350 --> 00:52:34,640

And the rabbi was there,
Rabbi Joseph Schwartz,

1138

00:52:34,640 --> 00:52:37,160

and the sermon and all that--

1139

00:52:37,160 --> 00:52:39,920

all part of the bar
mitzvah ceremony

1140

00:52:39,920 --> 00:52:43,090

as part of the regular
Saturday morning service.

1141

00:52:43,090 --> 00:52:45,400

And then, as I said, 200
people came over to the house.

1142

00:52:45,400 --> 00:52:47,493

Now, I was always
handy with my hands.

1143

00:52:47,493 --> 00:52:48,410

I like to make things.

1144

00:52:48,410 --> 00:52:51,860
And I had made, a year before
that, a miniature Torah

1145
00:52:51,860 --> 00:52:54,218
shrine with the scrolls
and everything in it.

1146
00:52:54,218 --> 00:52:55,385
And I had that on the table.

1147
00:52:55,385 --> 00:52:58,160

1148
00:52:58,160 --> 00:53:01,400
Then people gave me
books, and all kinds--

1149
00:53:01,400 --> 00:53:04,322
I must have gotten 200 books,
all kinds of books and stuff.

1150
00:53:04,322 --> 00:53:06,780
But that was one thing that
was still available, of course.

1151
00:53:06,780 --> 00:53:08,840
It doesn't wear out.

1152
00:53:08,840 --> 00:53:10,760
And the Filipino
friend of my father's

1153
00:53:10,760 --> 00:53:13,530
brought me the
traditional fountain pen.

1154
00:53:13,530 --> 00:53:18,037
And he, of course, not knowing
that that was one of the things

1155
00:53:18,037 --> 00:53:18,620
that you give.

1156
00:53:18,620 --> 00:53:21,290
But indeed, that's what
he brought along, just

1157
00:53:21,290 --> 00:53:22,540
by accident.

1158
00:53:22,540 --> 00:53:25,790
And those got
interesting that evening.

1159
00:53:25,790 --> 00:53:28,220
And we had all this
booze, of course.

1160
00:53:28,220 --> 00:53:32,390
And the rabbi felt so good
about it, he got slightly tipsy.

1161
00:53:32,390 --> 00:53:35,110
And he gave his wife his house
key, and she could go home.

1162
00:53:35,110 --> 00:53:38,370
And he was going to hang
out a little bit longer.

1163
00:53:38,370 --> 00:53:40,760
It was one of those
last affairs that people

1164
00:53:40,760 --> 00:53:44,270
could enjoy themselves.

1165
00:53:44,270 --> 00:53:46,850
After that-- we're now
talking February, March,

1166
00:53:46,850 --> 00:53:49,730
March 1944-- things
began to deteriorate.

1167

00:53:49,730 --> 00:53:51,770

As I mentioned, there
were food shortages.

1168

00:53:51,770 --> 00:53:55,732

We were at the point where--

1169

00:53:55,732 --> 00:53:57,440

and of course, my
father, as I mentioned,

1170

00:53:57,440 --> 00:54:00,740

was still on the council
of the Jewish committee--

1171

00:54:00,740 --> 00:54:02,850

run the community.

1172

00:54:02,850 --> 00:54:04,660

And there were people who were--

1173

00:54:04,660 --> 00:54:06,740

they had fires, and
they were burned out.

1174

00:54:06,740 --> 00:54:10,710

And they had to be housed, and
all problems of that nature

1175

00:54:10,710 --> 00:54:13,370

in the community.

1176

00:54:13,370 --> 00:54:15,330

People no longer
able to earn livings,

1177

00:54:15,330 --> 00:54:18,090

so there was food
shortages for them.

1178

00:54:18,090 --> 00:54:21,320

They had to be helped

to the degree possible.

1179
00:54:21,320 --> 00:54:25,230
Those people that had
something were able to share.

1180
00:54:25,230 --> 00:54:29,600
So that's how you lived for
several months, at least.

1181
00:54:29,600 --> 00:54:37,190
And, well, my father was elected
or asked to join the Board,

1182
00:54:37,190 --> 00:54:39,930
as they called it, of
the Jewish community,

1183
00:54:39,930 --> 00:54:43,040
because he was an active person.

1184
00:54:43,040 --> 00:54:44,960
He had done well during
the first portion

1185
00:54:44,960 --> 00:54:47,270
of the war in business.

1186
00:54:47,270 --> 00:54:51,580
The American old-timers
were no longer there.

1187
00:54:51,580 --> 00:54:54,020
And they had often been
members of the board,

1188
00:54:54,020 --> 00:54:57,470
and they had been established,
and they knew their way around.

1189
00:54:57,470 --> 00:55:00,260
And of course, by that time,
we'd been there since '39,

1190
00:55:00,260 --> 00:55:01,940
so we'd been there
about four years

1191
00:55:01,940 --> 00:55:04,840
at least which,
looking back, doesn't

1192
00:55:04,840 --> 00:55:07,940
seem long, but certainly at
that time it seemed quite long.

1193
00:55:07,940 --> 00:55:09,770
So they were looking
for people to be

1194
00:55:09,770 --> 00:55:14,700
on committees and on boards
because, as I mentioned before,

1195
00:55:14,700 --> 00:55:16,280
there were many problems.

1196
00:55:16,280 --> 00:55:20,030
Old people had to
be taken care of.

1197
00:55:20,030 --> 00:55:23,810
There was to have a kadisha,
the Burial Society--

1198
00:55:23,810 --> 00:55:27,200
I mean, obviously people
died, and kids were born.

1199
00:55:27,200 --> 00:55:30,365
And there were difficulties
in helping out families.

1200
00:55:30,365 --> 00:55:33,090

1201

00:55:33,090 --> 00:55:35,520

So the community was on its own.

1202

00:55:35,520 --> 00:55:37,400

There was really
no one to turn to.

1203

00:55:37,400 --> 00:55:38,600

There was no joint--

1204

00:55:38,600 --> 00:55:42,470

there was no
governmental agency.

1205

00:55:42,470 --> 00:55:44,360

If anything, they were hostile.

1206

00:55:44,360 --> 00:55:47,270

So we were by ourselves.

1207

00:55:47,270 --> 00:55:51,410

Us 800 to 900 people
were on our own.

1208

00:55:51,410 --> 00:55:54,290

And some of the Jews lived
in outlying provinces

1209

00:55:54,290 --> 00:55:56,810

like on islands in Liloan, Cebu.

1210

00:55:56,810 --> 00:55:59,510

And so of course, we could
not reach them so easily,

1211

00:55:59,510 --> 00:56:02,730

but they were there,
also on their own.

1212

00:56:02,730 --> 00:56:06,220

So the community had
to take care of itself.

1213
00:56:06,220 --> 00:56:07,470
And so they looked for people.

1214
00:56:07,470 --> 00:56:09,470
And there were many others
who joined the board.

1215
00:56:09,470 --> 00:56:11,930
There must have been about a
dozen people on this board.

1216
00:56:11,930 --> 00:56:13,538
And they had various functions.

1217
00:56:13,538 --> 00:56:15,080
And as I said, my
mother-- my father,

1218
00:56:15,080 --> 00:56:16,580
one of his functions
at one time was

1219
00:56:16,580 --> 00:56:18,380
to get that money exchanged.

1220
00:56:18,380 --> 00:56:22,340
And then we also
organized work parties

1221
00:56:22,340 --> 00:56:25,940
to help in this one
large home for people.

1222
00:56:25,940 --> 00:56:31,070
Or we helped-- there was social
work going on voluntarily,

1223
00:56:31,070 --> 00:56:33,630
because we did have people
from Germany, and many of whom

1224

00:56:33,630 --> 00:56:36,090
were well-educated,
that were lawyers

1225
00:56:36,090 --> 00:56:38,060
and doctors, of
course-- extremely busy,

1226
00:56:38,060 --> 00:56:39,470
and they were in practice.

1227
00:56:39,470 --> 00:56:42,260
The lawyers, unfortunately, had
difficulty in the Philippines

1228
00:56:42,260 --> 00:56:44,780
because obviously,
once you are no longer

1229
00:56:44,780 --> 00:56:49,010
in your particular legal area,
you were not able to practice.

1230
00:56:49,010 --> 00:56:52,310
So they went into business,
most of them and did well,

1231
00:56:52,310 --> 00:56:56,810
most-- well, relatively well,
some better than others.

1232
00:56:56,810 --> 00:57:01,310
And we had some Jews who
became-- one was a butcher.

1233
00:57:01,310 --> 00:57:05,060
Akaman-- we'll come back to
him later, he and his family.

1234
00:57:05,060 --> 00:57:06,500
He did butcher.

1235
00:57:06,500 --> 00:57:08,850

He butchered, and then
he sold his stuff.

1236
00:57:08,850 --> 00:57:10,520
It was not kosher.

1237
00:57:10,520 --> 00:57:12,380
We had some kosher
families who, of course,

1238
00:57:12,380 --> 00:57:15,980
had tremendous
problems getting food.

1239
00:57:15,980 --> 00:57:18,140
Chickens was about
the only thing.

1240
00:57:18,140 --> 00:57:20,600
We had a death, and a
young boy died in one

1241
00:57:20,600 --> 00:57:21,913
of the orthodox families.

1242
00:57:21,913 --> 00:57:23,330
We're not certain
whether this had

1243
00:57:23,330 --> 00:57:27,530
to do with the fact of the
food shortage or something--

1244
00:57:27,530 --> 00:57:30,510
a disease or
illness that created

1245
00:57:30,510 --> 00:57:32,330
a serious problem for the boy.

1246
00:57:32,330 --> 00:57:33,320
He died.

1247
00:57:33,320 --> 00:57:38,060
And then there were
situations where people

1248
00:57:38,060 --> 00:57:39,900
needed major medical care.

1249
00:57:39,900 --> 00:57:42,360
And they were old,
so they had to be--

1250
00:57:42,360 --> 00:57:44,710
the doctors would
not take any money.

1251
00:57:44,710 --> 00:57:47,330
Did that for free.

1252
00:57:47,330 --> 00:57:49,640
Of those 800 or 900
Jews who were still

1253
00:57:49,640 --> 00:57:52,970
left in Manila, at
least at the time,

1254
00:57:52,970 --> 00:57:55,820
would you say most of
those were German Jews?

1255
00:57:55,820 --> 00:57:58,370
It seems to me that toward
the end of the period

1256
00:57:58,370 --> 00:58:00,950
where Jews were still able
to get into the Philippines,

1257
00:58:00,950 --> 00:58:03,390
there were a few more coming
in from Eastern Europe.

1258

00:58:03,390 --> 00:58:06,590

But the bulk were from
Germany and Austria.

1259

00:58:06,590 --> 00:58:09,290

I would say we're talking
at least 80% German Jews,

1260

00:58:09,290 --> 00:58:12,830

20% Austrian Jews, and then
a scattering of some people

1261

00:58:12,830 --> 00:58:15,620

who had come from
Poland, Czechoslovakia,

1262

00:58:15,620 --> 00:58:19,950

and other countries that were
able to get out at that time.

1263

00:58:19,950 --> 00:58:22,580

So that was the
predominant form--

1264

00:58:22,580 --> 00:58:27,440

German-speaking Jews, a strange
community in the Philippines,

1265

00:58:27,440 --> 00:58:28,790

including the rabbi.

1266

00:58:28,790 --> 00:58:31,040

But the cantor was from Poland.

1267

00:58:31,040 --> 00:58:35,480

And his mother
spoke only Yiddish.

1268

00:58:35,480 --> 00:58:37,250

But Yiddish was not spoken.

1269

00:58:37,250 --> 00:58:44,150

German Jews don't speak

Yiddish, nor do Austrian Jews.

1270

00:58:44,150 --> 00:58:45,910

But most spoke English.

1271

00:58:45,910 --> 00:58:49,550

They preferred to speak
English to all around.

1272

00:58:49,550 --> 00:58:51,830

And that was the community.

1273

00:58:51,830 --> 00:58:55,100

Was there a Jewish
burial ground?

1274

00:58:55,100 --> 00:58:58,820

Yes, there was a
Jewish section in one

1275

00:58:58,820 --> 00:59:01,940

of the burial [INAUDIBLE].

1276

00:59:01,940 --> 00:59:04,610

Yes, there was.

1277

00:59:04,610 --> 00:59:06,170

They had arranged for that--

1278

00:59:06,170 --> 00:59:06,980

the community.

1279

00:59:06,980 --> 00:59:08,690

I was not familiar with it.

1280

00:59:08,690 --> 00:59:10,030

I had not been there.

1281

00:59:10,030 --> 00:59:13,760

I don't recall, anyway.

1282

00:59:13,760 --> 00:59:15,860

But, yes, we had
a chevra kadisha.

1283

00:59:15,860 --> 00:59:20,450

It was run by a person who was
an Orthodox Jew from Germany.

1284

00:59:20,450 --> 00:59:22,550

And they were a couple,
childless couple.

1285

00:59:22,550 --> 00:59:24,332

The name was Hahn--

1286

00:59:24,332 --> 00:59:26,060

H-a-h-n.

1287

00:59:26,060 --> 00:59:30,050

And when they went to the
synagogue, she said upstairs,

1288

00:59:30,050 --> 00:59:31,100

and he sat downstairs.

1289

00:59:31,100 --> 00:59:34,290

But this was his tradition.

1290

00:59:34,290 --> 00:59:36,780

But he was head.

1291

00:59:36,780 --> 00:59:43,200

Before we go onto the more
intensive period in '44,

1292

00:59:43,200 --> 00:59:45,960

you had mentioned
to me that if there

1293

00:59:45,960 --> 00:59:50,760

was any organized anti-Semitic
activity in Manila

1294

00:59:50,760 --> 00:59:54,000
during this period of
Japanese occupation,

1295

00:59:54,000 --> 01:00:00,360
that it came from the non-Jewish
German community and not

1296

01:00:00,360 --> 01:00:03,450
from the Japanese
government or an arm

1297

01:00:03,450 --> 01:00:06,040
of the Japanese government.

1298

01:00:06,040 --> 01:00:10,083
I am not 100% certain about
exactly where anti-Semitism

1299

01:00:10,083 --> 01:00:11,000
might have cropped up.

1300

01:00:11,000 --> 01:00:15,430
It's not impossible that it
came in some form at some point

1301

01:00:15,430 --> 01:00:16,270
from the Japanese.

1302

01:00:16,270 --> 01:00:19,000
However, there was an
incident-- and I just

1303

01:00:19,000 --> 01:00:21,580
want to retrace a little bit.

1304

01:00:21,580 --> 01:00:25,240
The German community in
Manila was mostly made up

1305

01:00:25,240 --> 01:00:28,510
of the so-called "old-timers,"

who were not there in Nazi

1306

01:00:28,510 --> 01:00:29,570

Germany at any time.

1307

01:00:29,570 --> 01:00:31,960

They had come there right
after the First World War.

1308

01:00:31,960 --> 01:00:35,367

However, there was a small
group of them, of Germans.

1309

01:00:35,367 --> 01:00:36,700

And there was a big German club.

1310

01:00:36,700 --> 01:00:38,110

They all belonged
to that, simply

1311

01:00:38,110 --> 01:00:39,640

because they were Germans.

1312

01:00:39,640 --> 01:00:41,920

But there was a small group
that would walk around

1313

01:00:41,920 --> 01:00:45,680

with little pins on their lapels
with a swastika on it-- you

1314

01:00:45,680 --> 01:00:49,120

know, "We are good
Nazis," et cetera.

1315

01:00:49,120 --> 01:00:51,920

Not many of the Germans
wore those pins.

1316

01:00:51,920 --> 01:00:56,197

I would say you probably had
maybe 5% or 10% maximum of them

1317
01:00:56,197 --> 01:00:57,280
who would be wearing that.

1318
01:00:57,280 --> 01:00:58,697
The others would
not have anything

1319
01:00:58,697 --> 01:01:00,340
to do that sort of thing.

1320
01:01:00,340 --> 01:01:03,970
One fine day in
downtown Manila--

1321
01:01:03,970 --> 01:01:07,270
well, there was, first of all,
a restaurant called the Astoria.

1322
01:01:07,270 --> 01:01:08,800
It was on Escolta Street.

1323
01:01:08,800 --> 01:01:10,660
It was on a main
business street.

1324
01:01:10,660 --> 01:01:14,170
And this was an air-conditioned
restaurant, sort of upscale,

1325
01:01:14,170 --> 01:01:15,040
for businessmen.

1326
01:01:15,040 --> 01:01:18,270
And it was actually run and
owned by a man called But--

1327
01:01:18,270 --> 01:01:20,560
B-u-t, or something like that.

1328
01:01:20,560 --> 01:01:23,140
He was a big, fat
blubbery fella.

1329
01:01:23,140 --> 01:01:28,030
And he was a pro at
being a bartender,

1330
01:01:28,030 --> 01:01:30,850
at being a restaurateur.

1331
01:01:30,850 --> 01:01:33,140
And he had long
come from Europe.

1332
01:01:33,140 --> 01:01:35,078
He was Jewish, but
only partially.

1333
01:01:35,078 --> 01:01:35,620
I don't know.

1334
01:01:35,620 --> 01:01:38,515
I'm not sure exactly what he
was, but he owned the Astoria.

1335
01:01:38,515 --> 01:01:40,540
And it was a meeting
place of businessmen,

1336
01:01:40,540 --> 01:01:42,010
particular at
lunchtime, and also

1337
01:01:42,010 --> 01:01:47,110
became a meeting place for Jews
and for who'd be in that area

1338
01:01:47,110 --> 01:01:48,700
and eat there.

1339
01:01:48,700 --> 01:01:51,100
But also, it was a
hangout for people who

1340

01:01:51,100 --> 01:01:52,510
were in the diamond exchange.

1341
01:01:52,510 --> 01:01:54,160
So there was always
a few people at one

1342
01:01:54,160 --> 01:01:57,310
of the tables that were
doing their diamond thing,

1343
01:01:57,310 --> 01:02:00,100
apparently-- or
jewelry, whatever.

1344
01:02:00,100 --> 01:02:03,730
Anyway, one fine
lunchtime, this German--

1345
01:02:03,730 --> 01:02:07,330
one of the German Germans who
wore a little swastika pin--

1346
01:02:07,330 --> 01:02:12,290
at a table rose and
began to make a speech.

1347
01:02:12,290 --> 01:02:15,490
And in that speech,
he essentially

1348
01:02:15,490 --> 01:02:19,615
mimicked the policies of Adolph
Hitler, talked about the fact

1349
01:02:19,615 --> 01:02:21,960
that the Jews ought
to be banished.

1350
01:02:21,960 --> 01:02:23,650
He talked about the
fact that the Jews

1351

01:02:23,650 --> 01:02:27,250
ought to be put into a camp
in Manila and et cetera, et

1352
01:02:27,250 --> 01:02:29,620
cetera, and complained about
the Jewish interference

1353
01:02:29,620 --> 01:02:30,580
in business--

1354
01:02:30,580 --> 01:02:34,330
made a whole anti-Semitic
speech, plain and simple.

1355
01:02:34,330 --> 01:02:39,520
Well, most the Jews got up
and left that were in there.

1356
01:02:39,520 --> 01:02:42,940
The others didn't know what
was happening, I'm sure.

1357
01:02:42,940 --> 01:02:45,717
This was related to me, by the
way, by someone who was there.

1358
01:02:45,717 --> 01:02:47,800
And one of the persons
from the Jewish community--

1359
01:02:47,800 --> 01:02:49,720
I believe he was one of the
board members or something.

1360
01:02:49,720 --> 01:02:51,100
And he actually
stayed because he

1361
01:02:51,100 --> 01:02:53,683
felt that he wanted to listen
to this guy all the way through,

1362

01:02:53,683 --> 01:02:56,500
see what he had to say,
just be able to report it.

1363
01:02:56,500 --> 01:03:00,350
And then he did, in fact,
tell everyone else about it.

1364
01:03:00,350 --> 01:03:03,760
However, that incident
came and went,

1365
01:03:03,760 --> 01:03:05,440
and nothing happened thereafter.

1366
01:03:05,440 --> 01:03:08,650
I mean, he was not arrested
or anything like that,

1367
01:03:08,650 --> 01:03:11,800
because again, you're
dealing in a situation.

1368
01:03:11,800 --> 01:03:13,180
The Japanese are in command.

1369
01:03:13,180 --> 01:03:16,100
They're allies of the Germans.

1370
01:03:16,100 --> 01:03:18,400
They could care less or
wouldn't do anything about it

1371
01:03:18,400 --> 01:03:20,860
anyway and so on.

1372
01:03:20,860 --> 01:03:22,180
But nothing happened.

1373
01:03:22,180 --> 01:03:25,000
There was some talk at
one point in the war--

1374

01:03:25,000 --> 01:03:30,040

1943, '44-- some suggestion
in one of the newspapers,

1375

01:03:30,040 --> 01:03:32,470

where maybe the Jews ought
to be wearing some kind

1376

01:03:32,470 --> 01:03:37,060

of an armband, just
to identify them--

1377

01:03:37,060 --> 01:03:39,430

a yellow armband, of course.

1378

01:03:39,430 --> 01:03:43,030

But that never materialized.

1379

01:03:43,030 --> 01:03:47,440

What anti-Semitic, official
anti-Semitic processes

1380

01:03:47,440 --> 01:03:50,680

or procedures existed, I can't--

1381

01:03:50,680 --> 01:03:51,460

I'm not sure.

1382

01:03:51,460 --> 01:03:54,760

There might have been,
but I did not directly

1383

01:03:54,760 --> 01:03:58,090

see any, although
obviously, the Japanese

1384

01:03:58,090 --> 01:03:59,380

were allied with the Germans.

1385

01:03:59,380 --> 01:04:02,890

And one day, during the
war, a German flying boat

1386
01:04:02,890 --> 01:04:06,640
arrived in Manila with German
naval officers on board.

1387
01:04:06,640 --> 01:04:08,770
And they were trotting
around downtown.

1388
01:04:08,770 --> 01:04:10,930
But that was just
four or five people,

1389
01:04:10,930 --> 01:04:13,480
and not much attention was paid.

1390
01:04:13,480 --> 01:04:16,810
And it was just partly
Japanese-German Axis

1391
01:04:16,810 --> 01:04:20,260
collaboratory event.

1392
01:04:20,260 --> 01:04:23,050
That's it.

1393
01:04:23,050 --> 01:04:25,960
You mentioned that-- and I
don't know if it was at every

1394
01:04:25,960 --> 01:04:26,560
service--

1395
01:04:26,560 --> 01:04:30,760
but that the Japanese would
show up, periodically anyway,

1396
01:04:30,760 --> 01:04:32,740
when Jews were
gathering, particularly

1397
01:04:32,740 --> 01:04:35,800

for services, to make
sure nothing subversive

1398
01:04:35,800 --> 01:04:37,180
was going on.

1399
01:04:37,180 --> 01:04:42,820
And I'm wondering if Rabbi
Schwartz or anyone else

1400
01:04:42,820 --> 01:04:46,180
transferred information
to the Jewish community

1401
01:04:46,180 --> 01:04:48,760
from the pulpit--

1402
01:04:48,760 --> 01:04:52,750
how you knew about an
incident like this German

1403
01:04:52,750 --> 01:04:57,190
standing up at the hotel and
making this kind of speech.

1404
01:04:57,190 --> 01:05:04,120
Well, the rabbi was pretty set
on the way he gave his sermons.

1405
01:05:04,120 --> 01:05:08,410
He was a very slow-spoken,
quiet, and non-demonstrative

1406
01:05:08,410 --> 01:05:11,620
type of person.

1407
01:05:11,620 --> 01:05:15,850
He would not make direct
reference to that.

1408
01:05:15,850 --> 01:05:17,830
Sermons there were
still carried out

1409
01:05:17,830 --> 01:05:21,430
in the traditional
Western European manner.

1410
01:05:21,430 --> 01:05:23,200
There were none of
these announcements

1411
01:05:23,200 --> 01:05:27,940
type of thing and none of these
solicitation type of things.

1412
01:05:27,940 --> 01:05:33,190
In fact, money was never
referred to in that Temple

1413
01:05:33,190 --> 01:05:36,040
at any time.

1414
01:05:36,040 --> 01:05:39,250
So if anything, there
would be announcements

1415
01:05:39,250 --> 01:05:47,860
made in other venues, maybe
after the service was Over

1416
01:05:47,860 --> 01:05:50,320
or it was passed around.

1417
01:05:50,320 --> 01:05:54,430
People are great communicators,
and the word gets around

1418
01:05:54,430 --> 01:05:56,840
of anything very quickly.

1419
01:05:56,840 --> 01:05:59,020
So people would
phone each other,

1420

01:05:59,020 --> 01:06:01,540
or they would see each other.

1421
01:06:01,540 --> 01:06:04,625
That's how you kept in touch.

1422
01:06:04,625 --> 01:06:06,750
Announcement at the
synagogue-- well, first of all,

1423
01:06:06,750 --> 01:06:08,110
it was a bit dangerous.

1424
01:06:08,110 --> 01:06:10,930
If the Kempeitai were sitting
there, and they'd heard,

1425
01:06:10,930 --> 01:06:12,340
they would get in--

1426
01:06:12,340 --> 01:06:16,640
we just didn't-- we
avoided that sort of thing.

1427
01:06:16,640 --> 01:06:20,920
So that was not the
place, for many reasons.

1428
01:06:20,920 --> 01:06:23,940

1429
01:06:23,940 --> 01:06:27,180
As I mentioned before,
we're now entering '44,

1430
01:06:27,180 --> 01:06:29,890
and the economy
is going downhill.

1431
01:06:29,890 --> 01:06:32,430
We were beginning to see
people collapse in the street

1432

01:06:32,430 --> 01:06:34,770

and begin to starve
out of forced

1433

01:06:34,770 --> 01:06:37,260

starvation in the Philippines.

1434

01:06:37,260 --> 01:06:40,530

Many people were
beginning to go hungry.

1435

01:06:40,530 --> 01:06:42,960

This was very
widespread, particularly

1436

01:06:42,960 --> 01:06:46,650

in the city, because their
food supply was running dry.

1437

01:06:46,650 --> 01:06:48,190

The Japanese took everything.

1438

01:06:48,190 --> 01:06:51,390

I mean, they would often
just confiscate stuff,

1439

01:06:51,390 --> 01:06:52,410

whatever it was--

1440

01:06:52,410 --> 01:06:55,400

come into your house
and grab stuff.

1441

01:06:55,400 --> 01:06:56,970

Up the street,
they were beginning

1442

01:06:56,970 --> 01:06:59,100

to confiscate bicycles.

1443

01:06:59,100 --> 01:07:02,730

People were building little

pushcarts to haul stuff around,

1444

01:07:02,730 --> 01:07:05,070
and they would confiscate
those pushcarts.

1445

01:07:05,070 --> 01:07:07,380
Their whole supply
service was pretty soon--

1446

01:07:07,380 --> 01:07:10,590
consisted of whole trains
of these pushcarts, which

1447

01:07:10,590 --> 01:07:15,400
they had Korean or
Taiwanese soldiers which

1448

01:07:15,400 --> 01:07:20,030
were under the Japanese Army
push around in the streets.

1449

01:07:20,030 --> 01:07:22,830
So that you were beginning
to see a tremendous amount

1450

01:07:22,830 --> 01:07:24,340
of shortages.

1451

01:07:24,340 --> 01:07:27,770
And of course, in
the course of which,

1452

01:07:27,770 --> 01:07:32,820
there was more theft,
although most people didn't

1453

01:07:32,820 --> 01:07:34,350
have that much left anyway.

1454

01:07:34,350 --> 01:07:36,120
There's not much to steal.

1455

01:07:36,120 --> 01:07:38,850

Wood-- any bench,
anything made of wood,

1456

01:07:38,850 --> 01:07:40,470

was taken from the streets.

1457

01:07:40,470 --> 01:07:42,240

They were used for firewood.

1458

01:07:42,240 --> 01:07:43,530

You could not leave anything.

1459

01:07:43,530 --> 01:07:45,990

A bicycle with chains they
would get to very quickly.

1460

01:07:45,990 --> 01:07:48,240

You had to bring everything
into the house, of course.

1461

01:07:48,240 --> 01:07:52,110

So these were times
when things were

1462

01:07:52,110 --> 01:07:55,230

getting to the point where--

1463

01:07:55,230 --> 01:07:58,440

and nobody knew what
the future would be.

1464

01:07:58,440 --> 01:08:01,290

You didn't see an
end to all this.

1465

01:08:01,290 --> 01:08:03,840

Did the Japanese ever
come into your house?

1466

01:08:03,840 --> 01:08:06,930

And if so, what were

the circumstances?

1467

01:08:06,930 --> 01:08:10,170

Yes, they came regularly
in groups of about seven

1468

01:08:10,170 --> 01:08:11,430

with fixed bayonets.

1469

01:08:11,430 --> 01:08:13,230

And again, they
looked for radios.

1470

01:08:13,230 --> 01:08:14,610

They looked for shortwave.

1471

01:08:14,610 --> 01:08:17,189

They looked for--

1472

01:08:17,189 --> 01:08:18,870

I don't know what
they looked for.

1473

01:08:18,870 --> 01:08:21,479

But I remember once they went
across the street in the house

1474

01:08:21,479 --> 01:08:24,390

where now people were
living who were mixtures.

1475

01:08:24,390 --> 01:08:26,550

They were
Philippine-Spanish mixtures.

1476

01:08:26,550 --> 01:08:29,100

It was some young guys
and a younger fellow,

1477

01:08:29,100 --> 01:08:30,210

and then they had a dog.

1478

01:08:30,210 --> 01:08:32,220
And there was an older man.

1479
01:08:32,220 --> 01:08:35,120
And apparently, one of the
young guys-- they were sort of--

1480
01:08:35,120 --> 01:08:39,689
well, should I say, they
were minor criminals

1481
01:08:39,689 --> 01:08:40,550
in some respect.

1482
01:08:40,550 --> 01:08:43,800
And one of them had been
taken by the Japanese

1483
01:08:43,800 --> 01:08:46,620
and given the torture,
the water torture.

1484
01:08:46,620 --> 01:08:47,340
And I don't know.

1485
01:08:47,340 --> 01:08:49,465
The Japanese would come
back there once in a while.

1486
01:08:49,465 --> 01:08:52,770
Once the dog barked, and the
Japanese bayoneted the dog.

1487
01:08:52,770 --> 01:08:54,890
And then they took the
old man and took him in,

1488
01:08:54,890 --> 01:08:57,779
and he was never seen again.

1489
01:08:57,779 --> 01:09:00,279
So this was the kind
of thing they did.

1490
01:09:00,279 --> 01:09:02,370
And one of the six
houses in our court

1491
01:09:02,370 --> 01:09:06,180
was actually occupied
by these geisha girls.

1492
01:09:06,180 --> 01:09:08,160
That's where they
slept, some of them.

1493
01:09:08,160 --> 01:09:10,109
But these were not the working--

1494
01:09:10,109 --> 01:09:12,510
these were the support geishas.

1495
01:09:12,510 --> 01:09:15,300
They were older, and their
job was to haul water

1496
01:09:15,300 --> 01:09:19,140
and to haul food over to those
pink houses down the street.

1497
01:09:19,140 --> 01:09:23,460
But they were in that house,
but that was soon also vacated.

1498
01:09:23,460 --> 01:09:24,810
That was vacated--

1499
01:09:24,810 --> 01:09:29,220
I may have mentioned the
incident when the bombings--

1500
01:09:29,220 --> 01:09:31,540
well, I'll get back to that one.

1501
01:09:31,540 --> 01:09:36,600

But anyway, that was occupied
by these geishas or helpers--

1502
01:09:36,600 --> 01:09:37,560
Japanese women.

1503
01:09:37,560 --> 01:09:42,180

1504
01:09:42,180 --> 01:09:47,140
Well, in the back of those
six houses were garages.

1505
01:09:47,140 --> 01:09:50,979
You drove-- you
came into the alley,

1506
01:09:50,979 --> 01:09:53,890
and then just beyond our
house was another alley.

1507
01:09:53,890 --> 01:09:58,300
And that led to four garages,
above which was a home,

1508
01:09:58,300 --> 01:09:59,140
a place--

1509
01:09:59,140 --> 01:10:00,310
a huge apartment.

1510
01:10:00,310 --> 01:10:05,770
And that was occupied by a man
with his extended family who

1511
01:10:05,770 --> 01:10:10,240
came to Manila from a province
in Luzon called Pampanga.

1512
01:10:10,240 --> 01:10:11,650
And he fled there.

1513

01:10:11,650 --> 01:10:15,760
And he fled with several horses,
these little Filipino horses,

1514
01:10:15,760 --> 01:10:21,070
and a vehicle, a caratella,
and all his family.

1515
01:10:21,070 --> 01:10:25,390
And the garages were now used
as stalls for the horses.

1516
01:10:25,390 --> 01:10:30,460
In fact, one night a colt was
born in that very courtyard.

1517
01:10:30,460 --> 01:10:34,110
And then also one
day, one of the kids--

1518
01:10:34,110 --> 01:10:35,830
she was about a
10-year-old-- stopped

1519
01:10:35,830 --> 01:10:37,330
by in the back of our house.

1520
01:10:37,330 --> 01:10:38,320
We'd chat with them.

1521
01:10:38,320 --> 01:10:40,990
And she had a little
five-year-old by the hand.

1522
01:10:40,990 --> 01:10:42,150
And she introduced him.

1523
01:10:42,150 --> 01:10:43,120
"This is Jose.

1524
01:10:43,120 --> 01:10:44,690
He is my uncle."

1525

01:10:44,690 --> 01:10:47,650

Now we can talk about
the extended families.

1526

01:10:47,650 --> 01:10:50,040

That's how it worked
in the Philippines.

1527

01:10:50,040 --> 01:10:51,700

That was very interesting.

1528

01:10:51,700 --> 01:10:54,840

But this fellow who was called--

1529

01:10:54,840 --> 01:10:56,830

the leader of the
family-- a "cochero,"

1530

01:10:56,830 --> 01:11:00,960

which means a person who runs
a horse and buggy operation.

1531

01:11:00,960 --> 01:11:03,370

But he was a
relatively wealthy man

1532

01:11:03,370 --> 01:11:07,960

and had many water buffalo
where he came from.

1533

01:11:07,960 --> 01:11:10,920

They lived there
throughout this period--

1534

01:11:10,920 --> 01:11:14,950

1942, '43 mainly.

1535

01:11:14,950 --> 01:11:17,470

And one day they had a
pig roast in the back.

1536

01:11:17,470 --> 01:11:22,150

And everybody got a big chunk
of that, and people sat around.

1537
01:11:22,150 --> 01:11:25,090
That was during the war,
so whatever people ate.

1538
01:11:25,090 --> 01:11:26,260
They called it lechón.

1539
01:11:26,260 --> 01:11:29,080
This is the Filipino-Spanish
word for "roast pig."

1540
01:11:29,080 --> 01:11:32,200
It was roasted on a spit.

1541
01:11:32,200 --> 01:11:33,880
In any event, that was the--

1542
01:11:33,880 --> 01:11:35,500
now we're into '44.

1543
01:11:35,500 --> 01:11:43,350
And basically we can jump
to September of that year.

1544
01:11:43,350 --> 01:11:46,110
September-- a very famous day.

1545
01:11:46,110 --> 01:11:50,820
It was actually September
the 21st in 1944.

1546
01:11:50,820 --> 01:11:53,010
I was home from school
because I was sick.

1547
01:11:53,010 --> 01:11:56,070
I had a sore throat--
the usual problem.

1548

01:11:56,070 --> 01:11:59,400
And we had one house girl,
who was cleaning house.

1549

01:11:59,400 --> 01:12:03,180
And my mother was at the market,
and my father was downtown--

1550

01:12:03,180 --> 01:12:05,915
work-- still doing
whatever he was doing.

1551

01:12:05,915 --> 01:12:08,040
And the Japanese had
announced that they would have

1552

01:12:08,040 --> 01:12:10,890
an air raid practice that day.

1553

01:12:10,890 --> 01:12:13,840
And sure enough, the
sirens began to--

1554

01:12:13,840 --> 01:12:16,010
you could hear the
air raid sirens.

1555

01:12:16,010 --> 01:12:19,760
And then pretty soon, you could
hear some planes flying about.

1556

01:12:19,760 --> 01:12:27,150
And then pretty soon, I heard
some thuds, like a gun firing.

1557

01:12:27,150 --> 01:12:28,500
So I went outside.

1558

01:12:28,500 --> 01:12:32,220
And I looked up in the sky,
and I see way up there,

1559

01:12:32,220 --> 01:12:34,140

a whole squadron--

1560

01:12:34,140 --> 01:12:36,930
maybe about 50 planes,
little, tiny silver

1561

01:12:36,930 --> 01:12:39,450
dots of planes way up there.

1562

01:12:39,450 --> 01:12:42,870
And then I see puffs of
smoke like anti-aircraft--

1563

01:12:42,870 --> 01:12:44,520
AK AK flak.

1564

01:12:44,520 --> 01:12:47,610
And pretty soon, I see a plane--
it was on fire-- come down.

1565

01:12:47,610 --> 01:12:50,400
And not long after
that, I hear--

1566

01:12:50,400 --> 01:12:51,900
most of the houses
there are covered

1567

01:12:51,900 --> 01:12:54,480
with some corrugated tin roofs.

1568

01:12:54,480 --> 01:12:55,620
And I hear noises--

1569

01:12:55,620 --> 01:12:57,950
things falling on those roofs.

1570

01:12:57,950 --> 01:13:00,600
And I finally realized,
this is shrapnel

1571

01:13:00,600 --> 01:13:03,240

from anti-aircraft weapons.

1572

01:13:03,240 --> 01:13:07,550

And those planes up
there are American.

1573

01:13:07,550 --> 01:13:15,070

So into the practice air raid
was the first raid by what--

1574

01:13:15,070 --> 01:13:16,690

once we found later--

1575

01:13:16,690 --> 01:13:20,440

was an aircraft
carrier division.

1576

01:13:20,440 --> 01:13:22,030

I believe that was
the one under--

1577

01:13:22,030 --> 01:13:23,230

it was Halsey--

1578

01:13:23,230 --> 01:13:27,040

Mark Mitscher's squadron--
Task Force 58, I believe--

1579

01:13:27,040 --> 01:13:31,990

that raided us with
some 200 crewmen F6Fs--

1580

01:13:31,990 --> 01:13:33,760

carrier-based planes.

1581

01:13:33,760 --> 01:13:36,800

And of course, they bombed
a lot of areas, strafed

1582

01:13:36,800 --> 01:13:38,410

a lot of areas--
not where we lived,

1583

01:13:38,410 --> 01:13:40,240

but there was chaos
all over the city.

1584

01:13:40,240 --> 01:13:43,120

My mother was at the market
and out there somewhere.

1585

01:13:43,120 --> 01:13:44,770

And she had a tough
time getting back.

1586

01:13:44,770 --> 01:13:47,012

My father was panicking there.

1587

01:13:47,012 --> 01:13:48,220

So they all finally got back.

1588

01:13:48,220 --> 01:13:51,670

But the house girl and I, when
we realized what was happening,

1589

01:13:51,670 --> 01:13:52,955

we dived under the table.

1590

01:13:52,955 --> 01:13:55,330

That was where we took shelter
because these planes would

1591

01:13:55,330 --> 01:13:59,410

occasionally dive down, strafe,
drop a bomb somewhere, and then

1592

01:13:59,410 --> 01:14:00,053

take off again.

1593

01:14:00,053 --> 01:14:01,720

And then pretty soon,
the raid was over.

1594

01:14:01,720 --> 01:14:04,470

1595
01:14:04,470 --> 01:14:06,900
After that, of course,
things got even

1596
01:14:06,900 --> 01:14:09,120
obviously much tighter--

1597
01:14:09,120 --> 01:14:09,960
restrictions.

1598
01:14:09,960 --> 01:14:13,770
The Japanese set up
anti-aircraft houses

1599
01:14:13,770 --> 01:14:17,010
and machine guns, anti-aircraft
machine guns and artillery

1600
01:14:17,010 --> 01:14:19,380
all over the place.

1601
01:14:19,380 --> 01:14:21,000
But there was quiet.

1602
01:14:21,000 --> 01:14:23,520
Nothing happened for
several months after that.

1603
01:14:23,520 --> 01:14:26,700
The task force must have
left Philippine waters.

1604
01:14:26,700 --> 01:14:31,110
And of course, we knew that the
American forces were coming up

1605
01:14:31,110 --> 01:14:34,410
from Guadalcanal up through
Bougainville, Rabaul, all

1606
01:14:34,410 --> 01:14:36,240

these areas.

1607

01:14:36,240 --> 01:14:38,040

At this point in
time, how are you

1608

01:14:38,040 --> 01:14:43,190

getting information about what
was going on in the Pacific?

1609

01:14:43,190 --> 01:14:46,320

Well, again, people were
listening through the shortwave

1610

01:14:46,320 --> 01:14:49,320

and would find out where
the Americans were.

1611

01:14:49,320 --> 01:14:52,650

You'd see occasional reports
in the newspaper about battles

1612

01:14:52,650 --> 01:14:56,400

or combat and about these
tremendous losses that

1613

01:14:56,400 --> 01:15:00,120

were being inflicted on
American forces by the Japanese.

1614

01:15:00,120 --> 01:15:01,860

By that time, the
Japanese Air Force

1615

01:15:01,860 --> 01:15:03,750

didn't appear to really exist.

1616

01:15:03,750 --> 01:15:07,290

They had biplanes made
of some red cloth.

1617

01:15:07,290 --> 01:15:11,670

They looked like the German

Ace of First World War--

1618
01:15:11,670 --> 01:15:14,280
borrowed them from
Rick Tobin's thing.

1619
01:15:14,280 --> 01:15:17,380
And they were flying in groups
of about 20 over the city.

1620
01:15:17,380 --> 01:15:20,040
And you kind of wondered--
these were not true-blue fighter

1621
01:15:20,040 --> 01:15:20,730
planes--

1622
01:15:20,730 --> 01:15:22,910
what they were for.

1623
01:15:22,910 --> 01:15:26,190
They restricted entry
to the Dewey Boulevard,

1624
01:15:26,190 --> 01:15:29,380
but that's because they
made a landing strip out

1625
01:15:29,380 --> 01:15:31,330
of part of it.

1626
01:15:31,330 --> 01:15:34,320
And then they also
made more restrictions.

1627
01:15:34,320 --> 01:15:36,873
Now you couldn't go through
a lot of areas of the city.

1628
01:15:36,873 --> 01:15:38,790
And at the same time,
of course, food supplies

1629

01:15:38,790 --> 01:15:41,520
were really dwindling fast.

1630

01:15:41,520 --> 01:15:47,010
And so not much
more happened till--

1631

01:15:47,010 --> 01:15:49,560
but, well, the first thing that
happened after the air raid

1632

01:15:49,560 --> 01:15:52,310
was no more school,
since they figured, well,

1633

01:15:52,310 --> 01:15:54,660
I'm not going to send kids
to school here with air raids

1634

01:15:54,660 --> 01:15:55,785
and all that kind of stuff.

1635

01:15:55,785 --> 01:15:56,950
And they closed down.

1636

01:15:56,950 --> 01:16:03,810
So September of 1944 was the
last day of school until after

1637

01:16:03,810 --> 01:16:07,950
the war, when I was back with
a tutor for about a year until

1638

01:16:07,950 --> 01:16:13,980
regular schools opened back
in 1946, early '46 or so--

1639

01:16:13,980 --> 01:16:15,480
late '46, '46.

1640

01:16:15,480 --> 01:16:18,360
So we're talking over a year's

worth of no formal school

1641
01:16:18,360 --> 01:16:19,290
at that time.

1642
01:16:19,290 --> 01:16:24,710

1643
01:16:24,710 --> 01:16:28,250
We now get back to
the Jewish community.

1644
01:16:28,250 --> 01:16:29,498
And what were they doing?

1645
01:16:29,498 --> 01:16:31,790
Well, they were doing what
they had been doing before--

1646
01:16:31,790 --> 01:16:33,320
trying to scrounge food.

1647
01:16:33,320 --> 01:16:35,430
That was the number-one thing.

1648
01:16:35,430 --> 01:16:38,150
And we didn't have any
casualties among them

1649
01:16:38,150 --> 01:16:39,800
from those air raids.

1650
01:16:39,800 --> 01:16:43,160
There were very few casualties
among the population.

1651
01:16:43,160 --> 01:16:45,940
After all, they tried to
identify military targets.

1652
01:16:45,940 --> 01:16:48,500
And as a result, that's what

they were trying to hit.

1653

01:16:48,500 --> 01:16:50,000

However, one of the incidents I want

1654

01:16:50,000 --> 01:16:53,390

to get back to now, talking about those pink houses,

1655

01:16:53,390 --> 01:16:55,755

was the fact that one of the air raids

1656

01:16:55,755 --> 01:17:00,810

at one time during that period-- maybe it was later in October.

1657

01:17:00,810 --> 01:17:03,420

There was a bombing run at night.

1658

01:17:03,420 --> 01:17:07,020

And the aim-- the targets were Japanese warships

1659

01:17:07,020 --> 01:17:08,610

in Manila Bay.

1660

01:17:08,610 --> 01:17:14,010

And the next thing you know, after the raid was over, a few

1661

01:17:14,010 --> 01:17:17,640

of us went out because we were interested to see what's just

1662

01:17:17,640 --> 01:17:20,190

going on because we heard a lot of activity

1663

01:17:20,190 --> 01:17:23,190

down where those

pink houses were.

1664
01:17:23,190 --> 01:17:27,420
But they were apparently
working furiously

1665
01:17:27,420 --> 01:17:32,310
to drag and bring wounded
sailors ashore and carry them

1666
01:17:32,310 --> 01:17:35,250
two blocks or three blocks
from the water at Manila

1667
01:17:35,250 --> 01:17:37,530
Bay to these houses.

1668
01:17:37,530 --> 01:17:42,360
And these were all half-drowned,
wounded, and what have you.

1669
01:17:42,360 --> 01:17:44,250
And they converted
that whole section

1670
01:17:44,250 --> 01:17:47,280
instantly into a
sort of hospital

1671
01:17:47,280 --> 01:17:50,065
and used the girls to help out.

1672
01:17:50,065 --> 01:17:52,050
It was unbelievable.

1673
01:17:52,050 --> 01:17:54,510
And as I mentioned, before the
incident, we looked around,

1674
01:17:54,510 --> 01:17:57,030
and we saw caps, sailor's
caps, lying around.

1675

01:17:57,030 --> 01:17:59,080

And on the sailor's caps
with the names of ships.

1676

01:17:59,080 --> 01:18:01,590

And so that information we
passed on to other people.

1677

01:18:01,590 --> 01:18:03,630

We knew that
eventually, hopefully,

1678

01:18:03,630 --> 01:18:05,220

it would go further up the line.

1679

01:18:05,220 --> 01:18:08,010

And then it would be known
by United States forces

1680

01:18:08,010 --> 01:18:09,300

which ships were hit.

1681

01:18:09,300 --> 01:18:11,450

But that major
incident-- overnight,

1682

01:18:11,450 --> 01:18:14,970

they converted that whole
area, 40 houses, into--

1683

01:18:14,970 --> 01:18:18,160

and then what they did was
every morning, they would march.

1684

01:18:18,160 --> 01:18:23,805

A Japanese military unit
would march down the street.

1685

01:18:23,805 --> 01:18:26,040

Most of them-- well,
two guys would then

1686

01:18:26,040 --> 01:18:29,180

be hauling a kettle
of cooked rice.