

1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:01,120

2  
00:00:01,120 --> 00:00:03,250  
This is a taped  
interview, being made

3  
00:00:03,250 --> 00:00:07,480  
on behalf of the United States  
Holocaust Memorial Museum.

4  
00:00:07,480 --> 00:00:10,510  
The interview is  
with Frank Ephraim.

5  
00:00:10,510 --> 00:00:13,060  
Interviewer, Nancy Alper.

6  
00:00:13,060 --> 00:00:17,750  
Today's date is  
April the 7th, 1997.

7  
00:00:17,750 --> 00:00:22,120  
This is the seventh tape,  
side A, or the first side.

8  
00:00:22,120 --> 00:00:26,830

9  
00:00:26,830 --> 00:00:30,140  
As we were talking a little  
while ago about what we did,

10  
00:00:30,140 --> 00:00:33,070  
and some of the things that  
occurred after the liberation,

11  
00:00:33,070 --> 00:00:41,110  
we are talking now approximately  
the latter part of 1945,

12

00:00:41,110 --> 00:00:43,800  
or let's say the middle of 1945.

13  
00:00:43,800 --> 00:00:46,940  
We're, let's say at--

14  
00:00:46,940 --> 00:00:49,720  
probably on June, July 1945.

15  
00:00:49,720 --> 00:00:51,380  
I had not been going to school.

16  
00:00:51,380 --> 00:00:54,400  
In fact, the last day of school  
was when the American forces

17  
00:00:54,400 --> 00:00:59,380  
came over Manila, as part of  
the Japanese drill air raid,

18  
00:00:59,380 --> 00:01:03,760  
on September the 1st, 1944.

19  
00:01:03,760 --> 00:01:04,430  
So here we here.

20  
00:01:04,430 --> 00:01:07,280  
We are almost nine  
months down the road,

21  
00:01:07,280 --> 00:01:09,930  
and no school of any kind.

22  
00:01:09,930 --> 00:01:12,350  
There were no schools  
open yet anywhere.

23  
00:01:12,350 --> 00:01:14,990  
Manila, as I mentioned,  
was essentially destroyed.

24  
00:01:14,990 --> 00:01:18,500

The main parts of Manila,  
where Ermita Malate,

25  
00:01:18,500 --> 00:01:23,350  
the main residential  
areas, the downtown area.

26  
00:01:23,350 --> 00:01:27,500  
But slowly and  
surely, we, of course,

27  
00:01:27,500 --> 00:01:31,270  
decided some schooling  
was necessary.

28  
00:01:31,270 --> 00:01:37,550  
There happened to be a woman,  
whose name was Mrs. Nathan.

29  
00:01:37,550 --> 00:01:40,430  
And she lived by  
herself, or sometimes

30  
00:01:40,430 --> 00:01:42,020  
with her brother,  
who was married,

31  
00:01:42,020 --> 00:01:44,720  
and was in business  
in Philippines.

32  
00:01:44,720 --> 00:01:47,210  
And she was a teacher.

33  
00:01:47,210 --> 00:01:53,150  
And she became a tutor  
for me, and taught me

34  
00:01:53,150 --> 00:01:56,840  
for a year, over about  
a year's worth, roughly,

35  
00:01:56,840 --> 00:01:59,510

nine months, perhaps,  
two courses--

36  
00:01:59,510 --> 00:02:02,890  
algebra and French.

37  
00:02:02,890 --> 00:02:07,570  
So I took those two things  
from her, went to her house.

38  
00:02:07,570 --> 00:02:09,699  
And me, being curious  
about many things,

39  
00:02:09,699 --> 00:02:13,150  
like solutions to  
interesting mathematical,

40  
00:02:13,150 --> 00:02:19,210  
or warfare, or sea problems,  
navigation problems,

41  
00:02:19,210 --> 00:02:21,640  
we went to the areas  
like that, to learn

42  
00:02:21,640 --> 00:02:25,640  
about how to do triangulation.

43  
00:02:25,640 --> 00:02:27,430  
But again, she  
gave me the basics

44  
00:02:27,430 --> 00:02:29,440  
in algebra, which  
I'll never forget.

45  
00:02:29,440 --> 00:02:33,340  
Because algebra is a  
basic mathematical skill,

46  
00:02:33,340 --> 00:02:35,320  
and it served me well.

47  
00:02:35,320 --> 00:02:37,810  
But I was not that  
good in calculus.

48  
00:02:37,810 --> 00:02:39,580  
But algebra was great fun.

49  
00:02:39,580 --> 00:02:41,200  
And of course, French--

50  
00:02:41,200 --> 00:02:47,280  
now here, I was, having learned,  
certainly, English in 1939.

51  
00:02:47,280 --> 00:02:48,760  
When we arrived in  
the Philippines,

52  
00:02:48,760 --> 00:02:52,600  
Japanese and Tagalog was  
required during the occupation

53  
00:02:52,600 --> 00:02:53,920  
of the Japanese.

54  
00:02:53,920 --> 00:02:56,440  
And then I had also  
taken Spanish sometime

55  
00:02:56,440 --> 00:02:59,230  
during the war, from a woman  
that was still on the, when

56  
00:02:59,230 --> 00:03:01,060  
we lived on Dakota street.

57  
00:03:01,060 --> 00:03:04,360  
And in fact, she lived just  
beyond those pink houses

58  
00:03:04,360 --> 00:03:08,770

that I had mentioned before,  
and she taught me Spanish.

59  
00:03:08,770 --> 00:03:12,520  
And so all these languages,  
I liked languages.

60  
00:03:12,520 --> 00:03:14,380  
And this was welcome.

61  
00:03:14,380 --> 00:03:17,950  
And so I studied, as I  
said, French and algebra.

62  
00:03:17,950 --> 00:03:20,860  
Then schools began  
to open again.

63  
00:03:20,860 --> 00:03:25,630  
And in this time, my father  
had gone back into business.

64  
00:03:25,630 --> 00:03:29,380  
He was always a self  
starting businessman.

65  
00:03:29,380 --> 00:03:32,590  
And import export  
was one of his loves.

66  
00:03:32,590 --> 00:03:35,260  
And in this case, he  
began to import things

67  
00:03:35,260 --> 00:03:37,210  
from the United States.

68  
00:03:37,210 --> 00:03:39,520  
And what he imported  
was moldings--

69  
00:03:39,520 --> 00:03:44,110  
wooden moldings, or wooden

moldings covered with metal,

70

00:03:44,110 --> 00:03:48,940

moldings that's used for  
home construction interiors.

71

00:03:48,940 --> 00:03:53,650

Obviously, any kind of  
materials was in great demand

72

00:03:53,650 --> 00:03:57,070

in the Philippines, because  
of the vast destruction.

73

00:03:57,070 --> 00:04:00,610

And so there was rebuilding,  
at least slowly, but surely,

74

00:04:00,610 --> 00:04:01,840

going on.

75

00:04:01,840 --> 00:04:04,570

And so this kind of material  
was, of course, also

76

00:04:04,570 --> 00:04:05,800

in great demand.

77

00:04:05,800 --> 00:04:08,830

So he began to do  
relatively well.

78

00:04:08,830 --> 00:04:12,640

Wasn't rich, but he  
did relatively well,

79

00:04:12,640 --> 00:04:15,670

by beginning to open  
up this business,

80

00:04:15,670 --> 00:04:20,440

selling these moldings,  
again, in factory lots,

81  
00:04:20,440 --> 00:04:23,560  
to do people who would retail  
them or use them directly

82  
00:04:23,560 --> 00:04:25,270  
in construction.

83  
00:04:25,270 --> 00:04:28,120  
And so they were able  
to afford to send me

84  
00:04:28,120 --> 00:04:30,790  
to this, what is known  
as the American School.

85  
00:04:30,790 --> 00:04:33,040  
That was its name,  
the American School,

86  
00:04:33,040 --> 00:04:35,350  
which had previously only been--

87  
00:04:35,350 --> 00:04:37,360  
well, was certainly not  
open during the war.

88  
00:04:37,360 --> 00:04:40,780  
Was essentially for Americans  
who live in the Philippines,

89  
00:04:40,780 --> 00:04:42,280  
and anyone else who  
could afford it.

90  
00:04:42,280 --> 00:04:45,240  
Because it was not that cheap.

91  
00:04:45,240 --> 00:04:47,440  
But it was not  
outrageous either.

92



00:04:47,440 --> 00:04:49,420

It had good teachers,  
and American teachers,

93

00:04:49,420 --> 00:04:51,010

who came from the US.

94

00:04:51,010 --> 00:04:53,710

The teacher I had was  
a graduate of Vassar,

95

00:04:53,710 --> 00:04:55,330

who taught me geometry.

96

00:04:55,330 --> 00:04:58,660

And then that school, also other  
members of the Jewish community

97

00:04:58,660 --> 00:04:59,680

my age--

98

00:04:59,680 --> 00:05:04,310

quite a-- well, not quite a  
number, but a number of people.

99

00:05:04,310 --> 00:05:08,050

And the only problem was,  
to get to this school,

100

00:05:08,050 --> 00:05:11,560

it was in one part of Manila,  
and we lived in another.

101

00:05:11,560 --> 00:05:15,880

We had eventually moved  
out of this lumber mill,

102

00:05:15,880 --> 00:05:19,630

into an apartment, which  
was like a two story house,

103

00:05:19,630 --> 00:05:22,510

also in the District

of Santa Mesa.

104  
00:05:22,510 --> 00:05:28,360  
And from there, to get  
to the American School

105  
00:05:28,360 --> 00:05:29,970  
was a heck of a distance.

106  
00:05:29,970 --> 00:05:33,010  
So we would have to take all  
kinds of transportation, which

107  
00:05:33,010 --> 00:05:35,170  
was not the world's greatest.

108  
00:05:35,170 --> 00:05:38,920  
And two of my buddies, one  
was Hans Heinz Hoeflein.

109  
00:05:38,920 --> 00:05:40,580  
I believe I mentioned  
his name before.

110  
00:05:40,580 --> 00:05:42,790  
He was a son of a  
marine engineer.

111  
00:05:42,790 --> 00:05:46,870  
And the other was a fellow, name  
of Heli Meyer, Helmut Meyer.

112  
00:05:46,870 --> 00:05:49,570  
His father was a physician,  
only on the periphery

113  
00:05:49,570 --> 00:05:50,740  
of the Jewish community.

114  
00:05:50,740 --> 00:05:51,940  
Never did attend services.

115

00:05:51,940 --> 00:05:54,700  
Perhaps once a year, for Yom  
Kippur, he would show up.

116  
00:05:54,700 --> 00:05:58,640  
But Heli Meyer was not really  
schooled in Judaism at all.

117  
00:05:58,640 --> 00:06:01,240  
And neither was  
Hans Heinz Hoeflein.

118  
00:06:01,240 --> 00:06:03,010  
But they were  
essentially, you might

119  
00:06:03,010 --> 00:06:06,040  
say, peripherally associated  
with the community,

120  
00:06:06,040 --> 00:06:07,768  
but really on the edge.

121  
00:06:07,768 --> 00:06:09,310  
But anyway, they  
went to that school,

122  
00:06:09,310 --> 00:06:11,140  
and they were good  
friends of mine.

123  
00:06:11,140 --> 00:06:13,270  
And what we would do is--

124  
00:06:13,270 --> 00:06:15,100  
well, the American kids--

125  
00:06:15,100 --> 00:06:16,660  
military kids, most of them--

126  
00:06:16,660 --> 00:06:21,170  
were being picked up by army  
buses and taken to that school.

127  
00:06:21,170 --> 00:06:24,893  
So we would just simply  
hitch a ride with them,

128  
00:06:24,893 --> 00:06:26,560  
although we were not  
really supposed to.

129  
00:06:26,560 --> 00:06:29,140  
But we stepped on  
board, and hi, hi, hi,

130  
00:06:29,140 --> 00:06:31,360  
to the bus driver, and  
he didn't say anything.

131  
00:06:31,360 --> 00:06:32,350  
So we sat down.

132  
00:06:32,350 --> 00:06:36,970  
And back and forth, we  
used the American army

133  
00:06:36,970 --> 00:06:39,880  
provided transportation.  
t go to school.

134  
00:06:39,880 --> 00:06:43,030  
And that, of course,  
went on for some time.

135  
00:06:43,030 --> 00:06:43,690  
And let's see.

136  
00:06:43,690 --> 00:06:48,730  
We're talking now  
toward the very latter--

137  
00:06:48,730 --> 00:06:51,760  
early part of 1946.

138

00:06:51,760 --> 00:06:54,850  
We're about a year after  
liberation, roughly.

139  
00:06:54,850 --> 00:06:56,660  
So there I was, in that school.

140  
00:06:56,660 --> 00:07:00,670  
I was a sophomore, second year,  
taking all these great courses

141  
00:07:00,670 --> 00:07:03,820  
in geometry, and  
struggling through biology,

142  
00:07:03,820 --> 00:07:07,090  
which I did not like.

143  
00:07:07,090 --> 00:07:10,690  
But by that time, we were  
very close to emigrating,

144  
00:07:10,690 --> 00:07:12,880  
to leaving the Philippines.

145  
00:07:12,880 --> 00:07:17,520  
And this, in fact, did occur.

146  
00:07:17,520 --> 00:07:19,890  
I may have missed a number  
of other incidents here.

147  
00:07:19,890 --> 00:07:21,810  
But this, in fact, did occur.

148  
00:07:21,810 --> 00:07:26,200  
We were prepared to  
leave the Philippines

149  
00:07:26,200 --> 00:07:29,760  
in the latter part of 1946.

150

00:07:29,760 --> 00:07:36,910  
The exact date of departure was  
to be November the 19th, 1946.

151  
00:07:36,910 --> 00:07:42,420  
But as things were, the ship did  
not leave from Manila itself.

152  
00:07:42,420 --> 00:07:47,750  
It left from a small port  
in the province of Batangas.

153  
00:07:47,750 --> 00:07:51,300  
Batangas is a province  
south of Manila.

154  
00:07:51,300 --> 00:07:54,000  
And so therefore, we had to--

155  
00:07:54,000 --> 00:07:56,310  
well, first of all, we  
had to pack up the stuff

156  
00:07:56,310 --> 00:07:58,260  
that we were going to take.

157  
00:07:58,260 --> 00:08:01,530  
There was no such thing as  
shipping things separately.

158  
00:08:01,530 --> 00:08:04,770  
Because in those days, the  
only way to get passage

159  
00:08:04,770 --> 00:08:09,600  
was on a ship that was under  
the war shipping administration.

160  
00:08:09,600 --> 00:08:12,150  
And the actual ships  
were operated--

161  
00:08:12,150 --> 00:08:15,450

many of them were what is called the US Victory Ships--

162  
00:08:15,450 --> 00:08:18,660  
were operated by the various American shipping companies.

163  
00:08:18,660 --> 00:08:23,760  
And in this case, the ship was to be run by the Pacific Far

164  
00:08:23,760 --> 00:08:24,750  
East Lines--

165  
00:08:24,750 --> 00:08:29,100  
then a fairly large enterprise, run out of San Francisco.

166  
00:08:29,100 --> 00:08:31,860  
And the ship's name was the Anchorage Victory.

167  
00:08:31,860 --> 00:08:34,590  
This was the second long voyage taken in a ship which

168  
00:08:34,590 --> 00:08:35,909  
had the name victory.

169  
00:08:35,909 --> 00:08:38,200  
The first one was the Victoria on it.

170  
00:08:38,200 --> 00:08:40,140  
But of course, victory was a common name.

171  
00:08:40,140 --> 00:08:41,682  
There were sort of thousands of ships

172  
00:08:41,682 --> 00:08:43,380  
that were the victory class.

173  
00:08:43,380 --> 00:08:46,230  
The Anchorage Victory  
was the name of the ship.

174  
00:08:46,230 --> 00:08:50,040  
But what we did was,  
we packed our things.

175  
00:08:50,040 --> 00:08:52,050  
My father was always  
very organized.

176  
00:08:52,050 --> 00:08:54,810  
I guess I am somewhat  
similar to that.

177  
00:08:54,810 --> 00:08:59,870  
We were given three army foot  
lockers, one for each of us,

178  
00:08:59,870 --> 00:09:03,740  
which she painted blue, with a  
white stripe across the middle,

179  
00:09:03,740 --> 00:09:07,860  
on its narrow part, to  
identify that these were ours.

180  
00:09:07,860 --> 00:09:10,140  
And then we packed  
what we had in those.

181  
00:09:10,140 --> 00:09:12,030  
And then we had some  
other smaller bags,

182  
00:09:12,030 --> 00:09:14,340  
and that was what we left with.

183  
00:09:14,340 --> 00:09:17,470  
Now, if you recall,  
that model that I



184  
00:09:17,470 --> 00:09:19,350  
had built for the competition.

185  
00:09:19,350 --> 00:09:21,690  
I decided-- I had,  
in the meantime,

186  
00:09:21,690 --> 00:09:24,225  
started a even larger  
one out of cardboard.

187  
00:09:24,225 --> 00:09:25,100  
I'd finished to hull.

188  
00:09:25,100 --> 00:09:29,670  
It was to be the USS Missouri,  
a battleship of the US fleet.

189  
00:09:29,670 --> 00:09:30,820  
But I left that behind.

190  
00:09:30,820 --> 00:09:35,580  
Because that thing would have  
been over three feet long.

191  
00:09:35,580 --> 00:09:39,000  
But the little fellow, I  
built a little cardboard box

192  
00:09:39,000 --> 00:09:40,860  
to slip it into.

193  
00:09:40,860 --> 00:09:42,950  
And that was going  
to be hand carried.

194  
00:09:42,950 --> 00:09:46,350  
And the footlocker  
was now filled.

195  
00:09:46,350 --> 00:09:48,420

I didn't manage to  
bring some souvenirs.

196  
00:09:48,420 --> 00:09:51,900  
I own a Japanese steel helmet  
with a bullet hole in it,

197  
00:09:51,900 --> 00:09:54,060  
picked up on the  
field of battle.

198  
00:09:54,060 --> 00:09:56,430  
I own a bayonet with three  
notches in the handle,

199  
00:09:56,430 --> 00:09:57,920  
an America bayonet.

200  
00:09:57,920 --> 00:10:01,110  
The three notches, apparently  
showing that this bayonet that

201  
00:10:01,110 --> 00:10:04,830  
managed to do in three people,  
and had been sharpened down

202  
00:10:04,830 --> 00:10:07,050  
to half the size that it was.

203  
00:10:07,050 --> 00:10:09,420  
A bowie knife that had  
been given to me by one

204  
00:10:09,420 --> 00:10:14,430  
of the soldiers of that  
1113th marine unit,

205  
00:10:14,430 --> 00:10:17,760  
near where we lived, by the  
river, in the lumber mill.

206  
00:10:17,760 --> 00:10:22,440  
And some insignia badges that

I collected from the US army--

207

00:10:22,440 --> 00:10:25,410  
its was of interest  
of every rank,

208

00:10:25,410 --> 00:10:28,020  
including Colonel, the eagle.

209

00:10:28,020 --> 00:10:31,360  
And those are my  
personal pieces of junk.

210

00:10:31,360 --> 00:10:33,660  
And things whatever  
clothes, everything we

211

00:10:33,660 --> 00:10:35,700  
had went into the foot locker.

212

00:10:35,700 --> 00:10:41,580  
And it was with that we went  
and got into a sort of cab

213

00:10:41,580 --> 00:10:45,150  
like affair, leaving  
our house in Santa Mesa,

214

00:10:45,150 --> 00:10:48,180  
leaving our cat, a little  
black and white job,

215

00:10:48,180 --> 00:10:51,780  
with the house girl there, some  
people who lived downstairs.

216

00:10:51,780 --> 00:10:55,720  
And then left and headed  
for a sort of central spot

217

00:10:55,720 --> 00:10:58,530  
in Manila, where we  
boarded a bus that

218  
00:10:58,530 --> 00:11:01,140  
would take us to Batangas.

219  
00:11:01,140 --> 00:11:04,200  
And that was about an hour  
and a half ride on the bus,

220  
00:11:04,200 --> 00:11:05,370  
I remember.

221  
00:11:05,370 --> 00:11:06,300  
We got to the docks.

222  
00:11:06,300 --> 00:11:08,040  
And there were  
three ships there.

223  
00:11:08,040 --> 00:11:10,230  
It was a very simple  
dock, one of which

224  
00:11:10,230 --> 00:11:12,240  
was the Anchorage Victory.

225  
00:11:12,240 --> 00:11:13,500  
We went aboard.

226  
00:11:13,500 --> 00:11:16,320  
The gangplank  
captain welcome bus,

227  
00:11:16,320 --> 00:11:18,450  
and he was out of San Francisco.

228  
00:11:18,450 --> 00:11:20,240  
The ship was what was  
called in ballast,

229  
00:11:20,240 --> 00:11:21,300  
which means it was empty.

230

00:11:21,300 --> 00:11:24,260

It had been in the Far  
East for three months.

231

00:11:24,260 --> 00:11:26,400

In ballast, meaning  
that its tanks

232

00:11:26,400 --> 00:11:29,100

were filled with water,  
to weigh it down,

233

00:11:29,100 --> 00:11:31,770

so that it would be stable.

234

00:11:31,770 --> 00:11:33,720

And the crew came aboard.

235

00:11:33,720 --> 00:11:36,240

Most of the crew came  
aboard a few hours later.

236

00:11:36,240 --> 00:11:38,940

Most had to be lifted  
and carried aboard.

237

00:11:38,940 --> 00:11:41,400

They was there,  
stone cold drunk.

238

00:11:41,400 --> 00:11:44,190

This was their last  
leave, before this voyage

239

00:11:44,190 --> 00:11:47,700

which was destined to take  
approximately 17 or 18 days,

240

00:11:47,700 --> 00:11:49,110

without stop.

241

00:11:49,110 --> 00:11:51,270

There was no scheduled stop--

242

00:11:51,270 --> 00:11:52,590

well, the ship

243

00:11:52,590 --> 00:11:54,420

We were given  
quarters in what is

244

00:11:54,420 --> 00:11:58,110

called the gun crew's portion  
in the after part of the deck.

245

00:11:58,110 --> 00:12:00,900

That's near the stern,  
the rear end of the ship.

246

00:12:00,900 --> 00:12:04,350

In that time, of course, the  
gun had been taken off the ship.

247

00:12:04,350 --> 00:12:07,430

That was, of course, used  
for anti-aircraft defense.

248

00:12:07,430 --> 00:12:09,390

This being after the  
war, no need for the gun,

249

00:12:09,390 --> 00:12:10,380

they took it off.

250

00:12:10,380 --> 00:12:12,690

But we were given the  
gun crew's quarters.

251

00:12:12,690 --> 00:12:14,570

The gun crew's quarters  
was a one big room

252

00:12:14,570 --> 00:12:16,750

with three tiered  
bunks for the men.

253  
00:12:16,750 --> 00:12:19,190  
It could hold as many as 18.

254  
00:12:19,190 --> 00:12:20,960  
And then there was  
a small cabin built

255  
00:12:20,960 --> 00:12:24,440  
into the after part of the ship  
which held three people, that

256  
00:12:24,440 --> 00:12:25,910  
was for the so-called wipers.

257  
00:12:25,910 --> 00:12:28,430  
The wipers is the  
lowest engineering rank

258  
00:12:28,430 --> 00:12:30,380  
onboard the ship.

259  
00:12:30,380 --> 00:12:32,390  
But there were no wipers there.

260  
00:12:32,390 --> 00:12:35,630  
There were three women among  
the passengers-- my mother,

261  
00:12:35,630 --> 00:12:36,830  
and the daughter of--

262  
00:12:36,830 --> 00:12:41,210  
then was a Jewish man and his  
daughter, name of Stargardter.

263  
00:12:41,210 --> 00:12:43,040  
The mother had died  
in the Philippines.

264  
00:12:43,040 --> 00:12:45,350  
And so she was in, one

of the three women.

265

00:12:45,350 --> 00:12:46,970

And the third was  
a Filipina woman,

266

00:12:46,970 --> 00:12:50,480

the wife of a man who was  
also going back to the States.

267

00:12:50,480 --> 00:12:53,120

About half of the  
people were Jews

268

00:12:53,120 --> 00:12:54,890

that were going to  
the United States.

269

00:12:54,890 --> 00:12:56,660

The other half were  
people who had--

270

00:12:56,660 --> 00:13:00,410

who were ship captains, who  
were returning after they'd

271

00:13:00,410 --> 00:13:03,260

delivered ships to  
the Far East, and were

272

00:13:03,260 --> 00:13:05,510

returning as passengers.

273

00:13:05,510 --> 00:13:06,760

And so this was the makeup.

274

00:13:06,760 --> 00:13:09,240

Now, ships were only allowed  
to carry 12 passengers.

275

00:13:09,240 --> 00:13:12,530

So we numbered, all told,  
three women, nine men.



276  
00:13:12,530 --> 00:13:15,410  
And my model ship, in this  
box, was on the little table,

277  
00:13:15,410 --> 00:13:20,810  
which was built into that  
large cabin, where the the nine

278  
00:13:20,810 --> 00:13:22,400  
men slept.

279  
00:13:22,400 --> 00:13:23,390  
So we began.

280  
00:13:23,390 --> 00:13:26,180  
We left, and we were  
given food there.

281  
00:13:26,180 --> 00:13:31,010  
We ate in what's called the ward  
room, where the officers ate,

282  
00:13:31,010 --> 00:13:32,030  
ship's officers.

283  
00:13:32,030 --> 00:13:34,750  
And they served us food.

284  
00:13:34,750 --> 00:13:36,590  
And they served us.

285  
00:13:36,590 --> 00:13:39,320  
The salad was beet and  
onions, because these are

286  
00:13:39,320 --> 00:13:41,390  
two items that last forever.

287  
00:13:41,390 --> 00:13:43,460  
And that was in their stores.

288

00:13:43,460 --> 00:13:44,870

We thought that would vary.

289

00:13:44,870 --> 00:13:47,990

But we had beet and onions  
every night for 17 days,

290

00:13:47,990 --> 00:13:50,000

and so on and so forth.

291

00:13:50,000 --> 00:13:51,520

I was the youngest  
person aboard,

292

00:13:51,520 --> 00:13:53,000

so I had a good  
time on the ship.

293

00:13:53,000 --> 00:13:56,900

But to a day and a  
half out of Batangas,

294

00:13:56,900 --> 00:13:59,420

we were in the San  
Bernardino Straits.

295

00:13:59,420 --> 00:14:02,450

And suddenly-- I believe  
it was at night--

296

00:14:02,450 --> 00:14:05,000

that the ship, they  
lost the plant.

297

00:14:05,000 --> 00:14:08,010

And what that means is  
that the engine stopped.

298

00:14:08,010 --> 00:14:10,790

That's the term that is used  
when the machinery stops

299

00:14:10,790 --> 00:14:13,250  
on a ship, or in the large  
steam pirate operation.

300  
00:14:13,250 --> 00:14:14,240  
They lose the plant.

301  
00:14:14,240 --> 00:14:16,300  
It stops.

302  
00:14:16,300 --> 00:14:18,940  
And so the ship was adrift.

303  
00:14:18,940 --> 00:14:20,770  
It had no power.

304  
00:14:20,770 --> 00:14:24,970  
No water was being pumped, no  
lights electricity, no nothing.

305  
00:14:24,970 --> 00:14:27,250  
And began to roll  
like crazy, because it

306  
00:14:27,250 --> 00:14:29,290  
had no way of steering, either.

307  
00:14:29,290 --> 00:14:31,810  
And not only that, we were  
very close to an island.

308  
00:14:31,810 --> 00:14:33,910  
And it was beginning to  
drift in that direction.

309  
00:14:33,910 --> 00:14:36,940  
Here, this thing is a rolling  
30 degrees to each side.

310  
00:14:36,940 --> 00:14:39,270  
They were giving  
us Jews to drink.

311

00:14:39,270 --> 00:14:41,170

They were trying to get things started again.

312

00:14:41,170 --> 00:14:43,210

They had to restart something that's

313

00:14:43,210 --> 00:14:46,690

called an emergency generator, which normally kicks in

314

00:14:46,690 --> 00:14:49,790

automatically when the engine goes, plant goes down.

315

00:14:49,790 --> 00:14:51,460

But in this case, it did not.

316

00:14:51,460 --> 00:14:53,865

So they sent men down into the engine room.

317

00:14:53,865 --> 00:14:55,240

However, they can only stay there

318

00:14:55,240 --> 00:14:57,100

for about 15 minutes before they fainted,

319

00:14:57,100 --> 00:14:59,523

because of the tremendous heat.

320

00:14:59,523 --> 00:15:00,440

They couldn't breathe.

321

00:15:00,440 --> 00:15:02,260

So they had to be hauled out.

322

00:15:02,260 --> 00:15:04,180

They were laid on the

hatch covers, which

323

00:15:04,180 --> 00:15:08,470

are covers to cover the cargo  
hatches of the victory ship,

324

00:15:08,470 --> 00:15:11,290

and fanned by people,  
so they would revive.

325

00:15:11,290 --> 00:15:13,210

And they were going  
down in shifts.

326

00:15:13,210 --> 00:15:14,950

And this was going  
on and on and on.

327

00:15:14,950 --> 00:15:17,510

And the ship was drifting  
toward this island.

328

00:15:17,510 --> 00:15:20,830

So the captain decided that he  
would prepare the lifeboats,

329

00:15:20,830 --> 00:15:21,820

get them ready.

330

00:15:21,820 --> 00:15:23,940

So indeed, they  
uncover the lifeboats.

331

00:15:23,940 --> 00:15:27,600

The victories carried four  
lifeboats-- one on each side.

332

00:15:27,600 --> 00:15:29,020

And it was rolling like crazy.

333

00:15:29,020 --> 00:15:31,860

And of course, lowering a  
lifeboat in those conditions

334  
00:15:31,860 --> 00:15:33,070  
is a little tricky.

335  
00:15:33,070 --> 00:15:34,710  
But they were doing that.

336  
00:15:34,710 --> 00:15:36,130  
And in the meantime,  
they sent out

337  
00:15:36,130 --> 00:15:42,160  
an SOS on the Greenwich  
Mean Time frequency,

338  
00:15:42,160 --> 00:15:44,170  
that would be heard anywhere.

339  
00:15:44,170 --> 00:15:46,960  
And about four or  
five hours later,

340  
00:15:46,960 --> 00:15:52,510  
an American gray hauled  
freighter, or a military ship,

341  
00:15:52,510 --> 00:15:55,420  
rolled over into  
view, on the horizon.

342  
00:15:55,420 --> 00:15:59,990  
And the ship started flashing,  
blinking at us, in Morse code,

343  
00:15:59,990 --> 00:16:02,260  
with their lights.

344  
00:16:02,260 --> 00:16:03,490  
Our ship, we couldn't answer.

345  
00:16:03,490 --> 00:16:04,820  
Because we had no power.

346  
00:16:04,820 --> 00:16:06,880  
So when the crew got on  
top of the flying bridge,

347  
00:16:06,880 --> 00:16:09,520  
which is the open bridge  
above the real bridge,

348  
00:16:09,520 --> 00:16:14,320  
and began to use two silver  
flags to return the messages.

349  
00:16:14,320 --> 00:16:17,980  
But they were going to stand  
by and see what would happen.

350  
00:16:17,980 --> 00:16:22,120  
But eventually, they managed  
to get this emergency generator

351  
00:16:22,120 --> 00:16:25,990  
going, which in turn  
began to power the plant

352  
00:16:25,990 --> 00:16:29,485  
and get the thing the  
engine started again.

353  
00:16:29,485 --> 00:16:31,860  
And by the way, what they did  
in the emergency situation,

354  
00:16:31,860 --> 00:16:34,900  
they dropped both anchors to  
keep the ship from dragging.

355  
00:16:34,900 --> 00:16:37,690  
But even these anchors  
wouldn't quite hold.

356  
00:16:37,690 --> 00:16:40,930  
And they also took

the American flag down

357

00:16:40,930 --> 00:16:44,600  
and fluid upside down,  
which a sign of distress.

358

00:16:44,600 --> 00:16:46,420  
So all these things  
were going on,

359

00:16:46,420 --> 00:16:48,910  
and it was all quite  
interesting to me, certainly.

360

00:16:48,910 --> 00:16:50,070  
It was a bit dangerous.

361

00:16:50,070 --> 00:16:53,260  
We thought, we figured,  
well, we'd be kind of rowing

362

00:16:53,260 --> 00:16:56,610  
ashore on this little,  
inhabited little island,

363

00:16:56,610 --> 00:17:00,580  
but with the ship running  
aground, and all that.

364

00:17:00,580 --> 00:17:03,130  
And it was another  
load of stuff.

365

00:17:03,130 --> 00:17:07,599  
But well-- in any event, they  
got the ship going again.

366

00:17:07,599 --> 00:17:09,369  
It moved ahead, very slowly.

367

00:17:09,369 --> 00:17:11,650  
The American ship stood by.



368

00:17:11,650 --> 00:17:14,730

You could see it, nighttime,  
had its lights on.

369

00:17:14,730 --> 00:17:16,450

And they were in communication.

370

00:17:16,450 --> 00:17:18,640

And it was doing what was  
called two knots, which

371

00:17:18,640 --> 00:17:22,210

is something like two and a  
half, three miles an hour,

372

00:17:22,210 --> 00:17:23,170

making headway.

373

00:17:23,170 --> 00:17:25,750

And it began to pick up  
power, and eventually

374

00:17:25,750 --> 00:17:28,520

brought itself to  
about 15 knots,

375

00:17:28,520 --> 00:17:31,970

which is its cruising speed,  
top, best cruising speed.

376

00:17:31,970 --> 00:17:37,150

And from then on, day in and day  
out, we would be on that ship.

377

00:17:37,150 --> 00:17:38,700

They were chipping the decks.

378

00:17:38,700 --> 00:17:39,910

They were cleaning the ship.

379

00:17:39,910 --> 00:17:42,760

And I was buddying

up with the crew.

380

00:17:42,760 --> 00:17:48,250

And then we were a day out of San Francisco, 17 days later.

381

00:17:48,250 --> 00:17:52,300

The date must have been December the 7th.

382

00:17:52,300 --> 00:17:55,300

That's an interesting date.

383

00:17:55,300 --> 00:17:59,890

But what happened was, it was beginning to get cool.

384

00:17:59,890 --> 00:18:05,710

This was November, as it was no longer the tropics.

385

00:18:05,710 --> 00:18:10,080

And here, we're about to approach the United States,

386

00:18:10,080 --> 00:18:12,100

which is a very exciting time.

387

00:18:12,100 --> 00:18:13,210

Never been there.

388

00:18:13,210 --> 00:18:17,320

So they said, well, what we do is, when the ship approaches

389

00:18:17,320 --> 00:18:20,740

land, is we have somebody stand up there in the bow,

390

00:18:20,740 --> 00:18:21,430

on the bridge.

391

00:18:21,430 --> 00:18:25,027

And they report to the  
captain, the first light.

392

00:18:25,027 --> 00:18:27,610

In other words, the first light  
that they see in the distance,

393

00:18:27,610 --> 00:18:30,160

you know-- that's  
landfall at night.

394

00:18:30,160 --> 00:18:32,050

So yeah, I'm not  
going to miss that.

395

00:18:32,050 --> 00:18:34,060

So I climbed up on  
the flying bridge.

396

00:18:34,060 --> 00:18:36,440

That's the bridge above  
where the captain or the crew

397

00:18:36,440 --> 00:18:37,960

would steer the ship.

398

00:18:37,960 --> 00:18:41,500

And I was going to look for  
that first light myself.

399

00:18:41,500 --> 00:18:45,130

And indeed, there it was.

400

00:18:45,130 --> 00:18:46,963

It was about 2:00  
in the morning,

401

00:18:46,963 --> 00:18:48,130

1:00 or 2:00 in the morning.

402

00:18:48,130 --> 00:18:50,500

I told my parents and

[INAUDIBLE] doing that,

403

00:18:50,500 --> 00:18:53,300  
because I wanted to be around  
when that first light shows up.

404

00:18:53,300 --> 00:18:54,190  
So there I was.

405

00:18:54,190 --> 00:18:55,300  
I saw that at first light.

406

00:18:55,300 --> 00:18:57,850  
And then I heard them down  
below calling first light.

407

00:18:57,850 --> 00:19:00,070  
And then they begin to  
head for that light,

408

00:19:00,070 --> 00:19:01,450  
or whatever they do.

409

00:19:01,450 --> 00:19:04,200  
The interesting thing-- as we  
came close to San Francisco,

410

00:19:04,200 --> 00:19:05,170  
they usually--

411

00:19:05,170 --> 00:19:07,840  
the Farallon Islands are  
outside of San Francisco.

412

00:19:07,840 --> 00:19:11,510  
And the swells are fairly  
strong outside of San Francisco.

413

00:19:11,510 --> 00:19:14,950  
So they have a pilot that  
comes aboard the ship.

414

00:19:14,950 --> 00:19:18,000  
And the way it work at  
that time, the pilot ship

415  
00:19:18,000 --> 00:19:20,820  
was like a slope or  
a small schooner,

416  
00:19:20,820 --> 00:19:23,940  
a sailboat, large sailing craft.

417  
00:19:23,940 --> 00:19:27,090  
And we saw that come along.

418  
00:19:27,090 --> 00:19:29,850  
It was a distance, came closer.

419  
00:19:29,850 --> 00:19:32,700  
From that schooner, they  
dropped a little tiny rowboat,

420  
00:19:32,700 --> 00:19:34,860  
with one man rowing,  
and then a larger man,

421  
00:19:34,860 --> 00:19:36,660  
sitting in the stern.

422  
00:19:36,660 --> 00:19:39,900  
And he was dressed in  
an overcoat and a hat,

423  
00:19:39,900 --> 00:19:41,550  
like he was going into business.

424  
00:19:41,550 --> 00:19:43,980  
And he had a briefcase.

425  
00:19:43,980 --> 00:19:46,930  
And he this man was  
rode across to us.

426

00:19:46,930 --> 00:19:49,240  
In the meantime, our ship  
dropped the Jacob's ladder,

427  
00:19:49,240 --> 00:19:52,230  
which is the vertical ladder  
that's thrown overboard.

428  
00:19:52,230 --> 00:19:56,060  
And this man began to climb  
up the Jacob's ladder.

429  
00:19:56,060 --> 00:19:57,670  
That was the pilot.

430  
00:19:57,670 --> 00:20:00,390  
And gee, that was a  
must been an old issue

431  
00:20:00,390 --> 00:20:02,090  
retired ship captains,  
these pilots.

432  
00:20:02,090 --> 00:20:04,620  
So sure enough, as he  
his head became visible,

433  
00:20:04,620 --> 00:20:08,490  
above the railing, the captain  
greeted him, and the came--

434  
00:20:08,490 --> 00:20:09,605  
stepped aboard.

435  
00:20:09,605 --> 00:20:10,980  
And then they went  
up the bridge.

436  
00:20:10,980 --> 00:20:13,350  
And then we-- my feet my  
parents and all the others--

437  
00:20:13,350 --> 00:20:17,240

stayed up to watch  
the proceedings.

438  
00:20:17,240 --> 00:20:20,970  
And then pretty soon, we were  
under the Golden Gate Bridge.

439  
00:20:20,970 --> 00:20:24,580  
And it was-- must have been  
all 3:00 in the morning.

440  
00:20:24,580 --> 00:20:27,090  
So yeah, that was all--

441  
00:20:27,090 --> 00:20:28,110  
the city was lit up.

442  
00:20:28,110 --> 00:20:29,040  
You could see lights.

443  
00:20:29,040 --> 00:20:32,080  
And so we dropped some  
pennies over the side.

444  
00:20:32,080 --> 00:20:34,708  
And then as it proceeded, my  
mother looked in the distance.

445  
00:20:34,708 --> 00:20:36,750  
And there was looked like  
some sort of an island,

446  
00:20:36,750 --> 00:20:39,150  
and looked like there  
was a big houses.

447  
00:20:39,150 --> 00:20:41,010  
It was all lit up.

448  
00:20:41,010 --> 00:20:43,290  
These buildings,  
beautifully lit up.

449

00:20:43,290 --> 00:20:44,670

Those looked great.

450

00:20:44,670 --> 00:20:48,270

She says, oh, you must  
be a resort of some kind.

451

00:20:48,270 --> 00:20:50,340

One of the crew next  
to her said, no ma'am.

452

00:20:50,340 --> 00:20:51,420

That's Alcatraz.

453

00:20:51,420 --> 00:20:53,220

That's a big prison.

454

00:20:53,220 --> 00:20:57,620

And obviously, it was lit  
up for security reasons.

455

00:20:57,620 --> 00:20:59,550

Anyway, the ship  
came into the harbor,

456

00:20:59,550 --> 00:21:02,700

dropped anchor, and stayed  
there for the night.

457

00:21:02,700 --> 00:21:05,100

We did not come  
along into a dock

458

00:21:05,100 --> 00:21:07,530

into San Francisco till the  
next morning, because we

459

00:21:07,530 --> 00:21:09,780

had to be checked  
by the customs,

460

00:21:09,780 --> 00:21:12,570



and by the quarantine  
people, and had

461  
00:21:12,570 --> 00:21:15,090  
to fill out forms, the  
usual kinds of things

462  
00:21:15,090 --> 00:21:17,910  
that you do when you  
arrive at a port.

463  
00:21:17,910 --> 00:21:22,800  
And the next morning, the  
ship was pulled into Pier 90

464  
00:21:22,800 --> 00:21:25,570  
at Hunter's Point, and Hunter's  
Point's a naval shipyard.

465  
00:21:25,570 --> 00:21:28,790  
It's northern, very north.

466  
00:21:28,790 --> 00:21:31,650  
It's way inside the  
bay, and for some reason

467  
00:21:31,650 --> 00:21:34,380  
they docked there instead  
of the regular docks.

468  
00:21:34,380 --> 00:21:35,200  
I don't know why.

469  
00:21:35,200 --> 00:21:38,730  
Maybe the ship was going to  
be repaired or something.

470  
00:21:38,730 --> 00:21:40,710  
And what happened was  
my mother has relatives

471  
00:21:40,710 --> 00:21:42,270  
all over the world,

and there, too,

472

00:21:42,270 --> 00:21:45,360  
were relatives waiting for us.

473

00:21:45,360 --> 00:21:48,900  
They were the [PERSONAL NAME],,  
a man and his two sisters--

474

00:21:48,900 --> 00:21:50,140  
none of them married--

475

00:21:50,140 --> 00:21:53,610  
who had immigrated to the United  
States, I suppose, in the 30s

476

00:21:53,610 --> 00:21:56,520  
like other people.

477

00:21:56,520 --> 00:21:58,690  
He worked for Levi Strauss  
& Company, where he

478

00:21:58,690 --> 00:22:00,370  
was a warehouse men and packer.

479

00:22:00,370 --> 00:22:04,530  
He was sort of a socialist  
and loved the labor movement,

480

00:22:04,530 --> 00:22:07,830  
and San Francisco being a  
Union town, this was ideal.

481

00:22:07,830 --> 00:22:11,170  
His two sisters worked in a  
sausage factory of some kind.

482

00:22:11,170 --> 00:22:13,810  
They were in pretty good  
shape, and they had us in,

483

00:22:13,810 --> 00:22:16,310  
and we ate with them and  
everything and very nice to us.

484  
00:22:16,310 --> 00:22:20,350  
And there was also a  
lady that welcomed us

485  
00:22:20,350 --> 00:22:23,550  
and the other family onboard.

486  
00:22:23,550 --> 00:22:27,210  
She was from the HIAS, the  
Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society,

487  
00:22:27,210 --> 00:22:29,560  
and she said, oh, how many--

488  
00:22:29,560 --> 00:22:31,170  
you need accommodations?

489  
00:22:31,170 --> 00:22:32,300  
And we says, yeah, we do.

490  
00:22:32,300 --> 00:22:33,300  
We don't have any place.

491  
00:22:33,300 --> 00:22:39,480  
And so she somehow  
managed to get us a--

492  
00:22:39,480 --> 00:22:41,278  
what it was in the hotel.

493  
00:22:41,278 --> 00:22:42,695  
It was called the  
Richelieu Hotel.

494  
00:22:42,695 --> 00:22:44,430  
It was the corner of  
Van Ness and Geary

495

00:22:44,430 --> 00:22:49,020  
Street in San Francisco,  
where she got us a room, which

496  
00:22:49,020 --> 00:22:50,850  
we paid for, of course.

497  
00:22:50,850 --> 00:22:54,160  
And so our very first day in  
San Francisco was like this.

498  
00:22:54,160 --> 00:22:55,770  
We got off the ship.

499  
00:22:55,770 --> 00:22:56,730  
There was a cab.

500  
00:22:56,730 --> 00:22:59,460  
We loaded our  
footlockers into the cab.

501  
00:22:59,460 --> 00:23:01,980  
We're wearing sort of half-army  
clothes, at least my father

502  
00:23:01,980 --> 00:23:05,460  
and I, khakis, and  
I wore this jacket

503  
00:23:05,460 --> 00:23:08,430  
that I'd gotten from the  
joint distribution, which

504  
00:23:08,430 --> 00:23:11,870  
really, for San Francisco  
nights, was not very warm.

505  
00:23:11,870 --> 00:23:13,980  
But that was the  
best thing I had.

506  
00:23:13,980 --> 00:23:16,740  
We were driven to this hotel.

507  
00:23:16,740 --> 00:23:19,860  
I'm quite observant, so  
as we drove into the city

508  
00:23:19,860 --> 00:23:24,150  
from Hunter's Point, we  
drove down Market Street,

509  
00:23:24,150 --> 00:23:25,560  
which is the main street.

510  
00:23:25,560 --> 00:23:28,770  
And then we came by what  
looked like an enormous movie

511  
00:23:28,770 --> 00:23:30,450  
house called the Fox Theater.

512  
00:23:30,450 --> 00:23:31,500  
It was enormous.

513  
00:23:31,500 --> 00:23:33,840  
And I saw on this  
marquee it was showing

514  
00:23:33,840 --> 00:23:37,410  
the movie The Verdict with Peter  
Lorre and Sydney Greenstreet.

515  
00:23:37,410 --> 00:23:38,160  
And I liked those.

516  
00:23:38,160 --> 00:23:41,760  
I really liked that stuff,  
so I marked it in my head

517  
00:23:41,760 --> 00:23:44,865  
and then followed the cab as  
to where it went because I

518  
00:23:44,865 --> 00:23:45,990

didn't know what was going.

519

00:23:45,990 --> 00:23:47,730

I didn't know where  
the hotel was.

520

00:23:47,730 --> 00:23:50,400

It made one more turn  
into Van Ness Avenue,

521

00:23:50,400 --> 00:23:51,780

where they sell cars--

522

00:23:51,780 --> 00:23:53,940

that's a street where  
automobiles are sold

523

00:23:53,940 --> 00:23:56,940

and where there are  
shops and stuff--

524

00:23:56,940 --> 00:23:59,850

to the hotel, which  
happened to be on Van Ness.

525

00:23:59,850 --> 00:24:02,760

And I sort of  
estimated the distance

526

00:24:02,760 --> 00:24:04,800

because I said to  
myself, tomorrow morning,

527

00:24:04,800 --> 00:24:06,600

I'm going to walk down  
there to that movie.

528

00:24:06,600 --> 00:24:08,280

I want to see that movie.

529

00:24:08,280 --> 00:24:11,280

So sure enough the  
next morning we got up,

530  
00:24:11,280 --> 00:24:14,490  
and we went across the street to  
a place called Foster's, which

531  
00:24:14,490 --> 00:24:18,100  
was a small chain that served  
breakfast and things like that,

532  
00:24:18,100 --> 00:24:19,720  
very simple food.

533  
00:24:19,720 --> 00:24:22,060  
They no longer exist,  
but they were all

534  
00:24:22,060 --> 00:24:24,080  
over the city in those days.

535  
00:24:24,080 --> 00:24:27,987  
So after that I think my  
parents or somebody else

536  
00:24:27,987 --> 00:24:30,070  
had already arrived, the  
San Francisco people they

537  
00:24:30,070 --> 00:24:35,380  
know from the Philippines, and  
they were going to meet them.

538  
00:24:35,380 --> 00:24:39,010  
And I was going to go to that  
movie, which I then walked down

539  
00:24:39,010 --> 00:24:43,030  
Van Ness Avenue, made that  
turn, and there was the movie.

540  
00:24:43,030 --> 00:24:44,260  
It was enormous.

541

00:24:44,260 --> 00:24:47,170  
And it was daytime, so  
I was not that full.

542  
00:24:47,170 --> 00:24:48,490  
So I went to see the movie.

543  
00:24:48,490 --> 00:24:51,906  
It was one of first things  
I did in San Francisco.

544  
00:24:51,906 --> 00:24:55,270  
It was really--

545  
00:24:55,270 --> 00:24:57,560  
Frank, why don't  
you tell me what

546  
00:24:57,560 --> 00:25:02,660  
you remember about the  
immigration experience itself,

547  
00:25:02,660 --> 00:25:06,320  
either when you were  
departing from the Philippines

548  
00:25:06,320 --> 00:25:08,930  
and when you arrived  
in San Francisco?

549  
00:25:08,930 --> 00:25:14,210  
And I assume you still had your  
Japanese passport that said

550  
00:25:14,210 --> 00:25:16,250  
"stateless, homeless Jews."

551  
00:25:16,250 --> 00:25:21,050  
Or you were still on your  
mother's passport, I think.

552  
00:25:21,050 --> 00:25:23,920  
Well, that passport was



really the German passport

553

00:25:23,920 --> 00:25:27,640  
with these stateless stamp in it  
that's put in by the Japanese.

554

00:25:27,640 --> 00:25:31,070  
It really was no longer  
a valid document,

555

00:25:31,070 --> 00:25:33,560  
and it was also an  
unnecessary document

556

00:25:33,560 --> 00:25:38,060  
because by then we had  
obtained a visa for entry

557

00:25:38,060 --> 00:25:40,730  
into the United States  
of the American consulate

558

00:25:40,730 --> 00:25:42,020  
in the Philippines.

559

00:25:42,020 --> 00:25:45,110  
And that was given to us on the  
strength of these affidavits

560

00:25:45,110 --> 00:25:51,440  
that were given by the relatives  
to sponsor us to assure that we

561

00:25:51,440 --> 00:25:53,810  
would not be a burden  
on the government

562

00:25:53,810 --> 00:25:55,970  
or the state of  
the United States.

563

00:25:55,970 --> 00:25:59,930  
So these are papers that

are valid entry papers.

564  
00:25:59,930 --> 00:26:01,760  
The only other  
thing we had to do

565  
00:26:01,760 --> 00:26:04,130  
was to go for a  
physical examination.

566  
00:26:04,130 --> 00:26:08,210  
They, of course, screened for  
tuberculosis and other diseases

567  
00:26:08,210 --> 00:26:10,760  
which they had problems with.

568  
00:26:10,760 --> 00:26:17,900  
So having passed those physical  
exams and having the visa was--

569  
00:26:17,900 --> 00:26:21,650  
the entry visa was the  
basic document you needed.

570  
00:26:21,650 --> 00:26:24,860  
And when we arrived  
in San Francisco Bay,

571  
00:26:24,860 --> 00:26:28,107  
the people that came aboard were  
the typical quarantine people.

572  
00:26:28,107 --> 00:26:29,690  
They just checked  
to see whether there

573  
00:26:29,690 --> 00:26:31,970  
was any communicable  
disease onboard,

574  
00:26:31,970 --> 00:26:35,960  
whether the people were

healthy, standard procedure.

575

00:26:35,960 --> 00:26:38,600

As far as the immigration  
was concerned,

576

00:26:38,600 --> 00:26:42,620

they, of course, looked at  
the documents, the visa,

577

00:26:42,620 --> 00:26:43,800

and that was it.

578

00:26:43,800 --> 00:26:46,310

And I think whether  
or not they give us

579

00:26:46,310 --> 00:26:49,100

some kind of piece of  
paper, a landing paper

580

00:26:49,100 --> 00:26:50,080

or not I'm not sure.

581

00:26:50,080 --> 00:26:51,530

I don't remember that.

582

00:26:51,530 --> 00:26:53,780

But it was fairly pro forma.

583

00:26:53,780 --> 00:26:54,950

That was not the really--

584

00:26:54,950 --> 00:26:57,860

I don't recall that as having  
any complications, at least

585

00:26:57,860 --> 00:27:02,890

by the time we  
entered San Francisco.

586

00:27:02,890 --> 00:27:06,010

I also wanted to ask you  
before we leave that topic.

587  
00:27:06,010 --> 00:27:08,860  
I assume at the time that you  
were leaving with your parents

588  
00:27:08,860 --> 00:27:11,980  
from the Philippines there  
were a lot of other people

589  
00:27:11,980 --> 00:27:13,690  
either in the  
process of leaving,

590  
00:27:13,690 --> 00:27:17,620  
or having already left, or  
still there but trying to leave.

591  
00:27:17,620 --> 00:27:20,560  
Is there anything in  
particular that you remember

592  
00:27:20,560 --> 00:27:26,830  
about promises to get together  
later, particular experiences

593  
00:27:26,830 --> 00:27:30,700  
of where other people were going  
and what was happening to them?

594  
00:27:30,700 --> 00:27:32,050  
Absolutely.

595  
00:27:32,050 --> 00:27:34,970  
The Philippine ,  
given this experience,

596  
00:27:34,970 --> 00:27:37,120  
was very close-knit.

597  
00:27:37,120 --> 00:27:39,070  
Most people left.

598

00:27:39,070 --> 00:27:43,328

Oh, in the years 46,  
47, certainly by 48.

599

00:27:43,328 --> 00:27:44,620

There were a few that remained.

600

00:27:44,620 --> 00:27:46,078

They were either  
in business there.

601

00:27:46,078 --> 00:27:48,538

It was to their interest  
to remain for that reason.

602

00:27:48,538 --> 00:27:50,830

They would perhaps come to  
the United States for visits

603

00:27:50,830 --> 00:27:53,350

or send their children  
here for schooling.

604

00:27:53,350 --> 00:27:55,300

However, most left.

605

00:27:55,300 --> 00:27:58,600

And I would say,  
roughly speaking, 70%

606

00:27:58,600 --> 00:28:02,125

came to the United States,  
30% went to Australia,

607

00:28:02,125 --> 00:28:04,000

and in between there  
were some who might have

608

00:28:04,000 --> 00:28:07,390

gone to Palestine at the time.

609

00:28:07,390 --> 00:28:09,500  
What happened when we  
got to the United States?

610  
00:28:09,500 --> 00:28:13,630  
A number of people  
settled in San Francisco.

611  
00:28:13,630 --> 00:28:17,650  
Many others went East, to  
New York and other parts

612  
00:28:17,650 --> 00:28:20,470  
of the country, but I would  
say primarily the two coasts

613  
00:28:20,470 --> 00:28:22,180  
were the main recipients.

614  
00:28:22,180 --> 00:28:24,700  
We ourselves, after  
having spent some time

615  
00:28:24,700 --> 00:28:27,667  
in San Francisco three weeks  
or so, went to Los Angeles.

616  
00:28:27,667 --> 00:28:29,500  
My father thought he  
would like to, perhaps,

617  
00:28:29,500 --> 00:28:31,120  
go into business in LA.

618  
00:28:31,120 --> 00:28:32,470  
We took the train down.

619  
00:28:32,470 --> 00:28:34,210  
We stayed there for a month.

620  
00:28:34,210 --> 00:28:36,120  
We didn't like it, at  
least my mother didn't.

621  
00:28:36,120 --> 00:28:37,870  
I didn't, and I don't  
think my father did.

622  
00:28:37,870 --> 00:28:40,760  
We came back to San  
Francisco and settled there.

623  
00:28:40,760 --> 00:28:44,650  
However, we got together  
mostly with people

624  
00:28:44,650 --> 00:28:48,940  
who also were in the  
Philippines, again,

625  
00:28:48,940 --> 00:28:52,420  
this couple that married,  
where she was the nurse

626  
00:28:52,420 --> 00:28:55,990  
and he was one of the survivors  
who had been bayoneted.

627  
00:28:55,990 --> 00:28:59,680  
There were people like  
the Leopolds, who--

628  
00:28:59,680 --> 00:29:05,140  
he had a butcher shop where they  
made sausages, frankfurters.

629  
00:29:05,140 --> 00:29:07,760  
He was there, and his family  
came shortly thereafter,

630  
00:29:07,760 --> 00:29:10,090  
his wife and two boys.

631  
00:29:10,090 --> 00:29:13,720  
There were a whole  
list of people.

632

00:29:13,720 --> 00:29:18,190

We indeed had a little Manila  
Jewish community there.

633

00:29:18,190 --> 00:29:22,180

Even, I believe, the cantor  
eventually arrived there

634

00:29:22,180 --> 00:29:27,220

and married in San  
Francisco and later on went

635

00:29:27,220 --> 00:29:32,380

to settle in San Diego,  
but he also was there.

636

00:29:32,380 --> 00:29:33,630

That rabbi left.

637

00:29:33,630 --> 00:29:36,580

In fact, I don't know if he  
left just before us or not

638

00:29:36,580 --> 00:29:38,110

long there after.

639

00:29:38,110 --> 00:29:40,940

He settled in Benton  
Harbor, Michigan,

640

00:29:40,940 --> 00:29:45,040

where he ran a congregation for  
many years until he retired.

641

00:29:45,040 --> 00:29:48,370

He occasionally came to visit  
San Francisco with his wife,

642

00:29:48,370 --> 00:29:51,400

and there was lots of  
visiting among the people.



643

00:29:51,400 --> 00:29:52,700

Even to this day--

644

00:29:52,700 --> 00:29:57,130

we're in 1997-- there is  
contact, now, of course,

645

00:29:57,130 --> 00:29:58,630

more of the younger generation.

646

00:29:58,630 --> 00:30:01,810

The old [HEBREW] group--

647

00:30:01,810 --> 00:30:03,640

as we had a reunion  
here, they're

648

00:30:03,640 --> 00:30:05,980

still try to maintain  
the connections.

649

00:30:05,980 --> 00:30:09,730

And I've maintained contact  
with several friends,

650

00:30:09,730 --> 00:30:13,060

like the Leopolds, and  
there was another, two boys,

651

00:30:13,060 --> 00:30:18,730

the [? Ambruns ?] who  
lived in San Francisco.

652

00:30:18,730 --> 00:30:21,610

So there's always been  
that by-letter contact.

653

00:30:21,610 --> 00:30:24,050

Even people that  
went to Australia

654

00:30:24,050 --> 00:30:27,340

are still in contact with  
people here in the United States

655  
00:30:27,340 --> 00:30:31,540  
and elsewhere, so this  
bond has remained.

656  
00:30:31,540 --> 00:30:36,290  
We even had a Manila Evening  
once or twice in San Francisco,

657  
00:30:36,290 --> 00:30:38,560  
and they had many more  
like that in New York,

658  
00:30:38,560 --> 00:30:40,750  
where there was an even  
larger number of people

659  
00:30:40,750 --> 00:30:42,410  
from the Philippines.

660  
00:30:42,410 --> 00:30:46,540  
So we had a mock-wedding  
of the cantor and his wife,

661  
00:30:46,540 --> 00:30:50,380  
who was not in the  
Philippines, but we did it

662  
00:30:50,380 --> 00:30:51,610  
in the Philippine style.

663  
00:30:51,610 --> 00:30:54,430  
And it was a very comical idea.

664  
00:30:54,430 --> 00:30:57,440  
The man that ran that-- it was  
a man about 6 foot 6 tall--

665  
00:30:57,440 --> 00:31:00,190  
his name was [? Sundheimer ?]----  
and his wife was about 4 foot

666  
00:31:00,190 --> 00:31:01,030  
2.

667  
00:31:01,030 --> 00:31:02,440  
I'm exaggerating a bit.

668  
00:31:02,440 --> 00:31:05,500  
But there were a childless  
couple, and he was a funny guy.

669  
00:31:05,500 --> 00:31:08,590  
And they were both in  
business in San Francisco.

670  
00:31:08,590 --> 00:31:12,220  
But he officiated, and he  
did that all the joke parts

671  
00:31:12,220 --> 00:31:16,120  
and everything and initiated  
them into the kinds of foods

672  
00:31:16,120 --> 00:31:17,710  
that people from  
the Philippines eat,

673  
00:31:17,710 --> 00:31:21,580  
and then the kinds of habits  
that they have, and so on.

674  
00:31:21,580 --> 00:31:24,340  
So we had some fun  
evenings reminiscing

675  
00:31:24,340 --> 00:31:26,980  
about the Philippines.

676  
00:31:26,980 --> 00:31:31,060  
So there's always been,  
since then, contact,

677

00:31:31,060 --> 00:31:32,550  
and some are closer.

678  
00:31:32,550 --> 00:31:34,060  
Some are not as close.

679  
00:31:34,060 --> 00:31:35,750  
It all depends, of course.

680  
00:31:35,750 --> 00:31:38,260  
And if you live in the  
same area, do visit.

681  
00:31:38,260 --> 00:31:40,720  
Here in the Washington  
area, unfortunately, I'm

682  
00:31:40,720 --> 00:31:42,880  
the only one, but  
there are people

683  
00:31:42,880 --> 00:31:46,990  
up in New York, Connecticut,  
and Missouri, and California,

684  
00:31:46,990 --> 00:31:49,370  
so we do see one another.

685  
00:31:49,370 --> 00:31:54,100  
So yes, that is a  
continuing bond.

686  
00:31:54,100 --> 00:31:55,780  
What kind of business  
did your father

687  
00:31:55,780 --> 00:31:59,620  
get into in San Francisco, and  
what happened to you in terms

688  
00:31:59,620 --> 00:32:02,780  
of schooling and adjustment?

689

00:32:02,780 --> 00:32:05,390

Well, after the one-week  
sojourn at the Richelieu Hotel.

690

00:32:05,390 --> 00:32:06,950

We went to Los  
Angeles, as I said.

691

00:32:06,950 --> 00:32:10,220

When we got back, there was  
no way of getting an apartment

692

00:32:10,220 --> 00:32:11,120

or renting anything.

693

00:32:11,120 --> 00:32:13,940

The American soldiers coming  
back from the war, of course,

694

00:32:13,940 --> 00:32:15,860

were seeking homes  
and apartments,

695

00:32:15,860 --> 00:32:18,950

so the housing  
situation was hopeless.

696

00:32:18,950 --> 00:32:21,350

We were forced to move  
into a hotel, which

697

00:32:21,350 --> 00:32:22,470

was really set up for--

698

00:32:22,470 --> 00:32:24,290

like a residential hotel.

699

00:32:24,290 --> 00:32:26,810

It was the Majestic  
Hotel in Sutter Street

700

00:32:26,810 --> 00:32:29,600

in San Francisco,  
which today has

701  
00:32:29,600 --> 00:32:33,470  
been refurbished into a sort of  
almost neoclassical structure.

702  
00:32:33,470 --> 00:32:34,400  
It kind of fancy.

703  
00:32:34,400 --> 00:32:36,200  
In those days, it  
was very simple.

704  
00:32:36,200 --> 00:32:39,830  
And that included meals,  
which weren't very good.

705  
00:32:39,830 --> 00:32:42,620  
And in the hotel where also  
several other families, also

706  
00:32:42,620 --> 00:32:45,380  
refugees like us  
from the Philippines.

707  
00:32:45,380 --> 00:32:48,930  
And we had like two rooms  
and a bath, and that was it.

708  
00:32:48,930 --> 00:32:50,870  
And we lived in that  
hotel for a year.

709  
00:32:50,870 --> 00:32:53,535  
Now, at that point, of course,  
my parents were saying,

710  
00:32:53,535 --> 00:32:55,310  
this fella has to  
get back to school.

711  
00:32:55,310 --> 00:32:58,980

After all, again,  
I had had a gap,

712  
00:32:58,980 --> 00:33:02,370  
mid-November until  
here we were back in--

713  
00:33:02,370 --> 00:33:05,660  
we were now-- we  
had been Christmas,

714  
00:33:05,660 --> 00:33:07,140  
New Year's in Los Angeles.

715  
00:33:07,140 --> 00:33:11,970  
We were in late January 1947.

716  
00:33:11,970 --> 00:33:13,340  
So what to do?

717  
00:33:13,340 --> 00:33:17,500  
Well, they called up  
the Board of Education

718  
00:33:17,500 --> 00:33:19,910  
to find out, well, what  
do we do with this kid?

719  
00:33:19,910 --> 00:33:20,980  
Where do we send him?

720  
00:33:20,980 --> 00:33:23,563  
And we asked-- there's this high  
school called the High School

721  
00:33:23,563 --> 00:33:25,580  
of Commerce on Van Ness Avenue.

722  
00:33:25,580 --> 00:33:27,050  
Mind you, that's  
exactly the street

723

00:33:27,050 --> 00:33:30,740

I walked along when  
I went to that movie,

724

00:33:30,740 --> 00:33:33,420

and it's about 12 blocks away.

725

00:33:33,420 --> 00:33:35,810

And he could take the  
streetcar down Van Ness Avenue,

726

00:33:35,810 --> 00:33:39,920

walk two blocks down from  
Sutter and Gough Street,

727

00:33:39,920 --> 00:33:42,650

and take the streetcar, and  
get right there, no problem.

728

00:33:42,650 --> 00:33:47,000

And on Van Ness, in addition  
to all the sales places,

729

00:33:47,000 --> 00:33:48,907

city hall is located  
on Van Ness Avenue,

730

00:33:48,907 --> 00:33:50,990

and across from city hall  
are two large buildings.

731

00:33:50,990 --> 00:33:53,810

Once the War Memorial  
Opera House, and next to

732

00:33:53,810 --> 00:33:57,930

it is the War Memorial something  
or other, also a huge building,

733

00:33:57,930 --> 00:34:02,090

and right next to that, on that  
side, a big football field.

734



00:34:02,090 --> 00:34:04,520  
And next to that is the  
High School of Commerce.

735  
00:34:04,520 --> 00:34:05,915  
And that's where I walked in.

736  
00:34:05,915 --> 00:34:08,120  
In fact, my mother  
took me there because--

737  
00:34:08,120 --> 00:34:10,639  
make sure I got there.

738  
00:34:10,639 --> 00:34:13,760  
Being the anxious type of  
person, you want to be certain.

739  
00:34:13,760 --> 00:34:16,360  
And so I was taken  
into that school.

740  
00:34:16,360 --> 00:34:20,400  
However, it had so happened  
that it was at the--

741  
00:34:20,400 --> 00:34:25,830  
this was like the very last  
week of the low sophomore year.

742  
00:34:25,830 --> 00:34:30,230  
It was mid-year, so  
a week or two later

743  
00:34:30,230 --> 00:34:33,650  
would be high 10, yeah,  
high 10, high sophomore.

744  
00:34:33,650 --> 00:34:35,989  
Well, they looked at  
me, and they asked me

745  
00:34:35,989 --> 00:34:38,190

whether I'd taken this,  
and that, and the other.

746  
00:34:38,190 --> 00:34:40,100  
And they said, well,  
we'll just stick you

747  
00:34:40,100 --> 00:34:43,699  
into that last week  
of the low sophomore

748  
00:34:43,699 --> 00:34:44,940  
and then see how you do.

749  
00:34:44,940 --> 00:34:49,460  
And then if you do OK, well,  
you can go into high sophomore.

750  
00:34:49,460 --> 00:34:53,360  
Well, this school-- let's face  
it-- was not a college prep

751  
00:34:53,360 --> 00:34:54,560  
high school.

752  
00:34:54,560 --> 00:34:57,800  
It was in an area  
which served, well,

753  
00:34:57,800 --> 00:35:00,580  
the Chinese community,  
the black community,

754  
00:35:00,580 --> 00:35:03,008  
the Hispanic  
community, and maybe

755  
00:35:03,008 --> 00:35:04,800  
there were two or three  
Jews in that place.

756  
00:35:04,800 --> 00:35:07,470  
I don't know.

757

00:35:07,470 --> 00:35:10,770

But I did very well there,  
and I didn't have any problem.

758

00:35:10,770 --> 00:35:13,810

And I went into high sophomore.

759

00:35:13,810 --> 00:35:18,070

I also took gym for a while but  
wasn't that crazy about gym.

760

00:35:18,070 --> 00:35:20,560

They offered  
something called ROTC,

761

00:35:20,560 --> 00:35:22,060

and I think everyone  
knows what that

762

00:35:22,060 --> 00:35:23,810

stands for, the Reserve  
Officers' Training

763

00:35:23,810 --> 00:35:25,470

Corps junior-style.

764

00:35:25,470 --> 00:35:30,880

And my old military itch got  
into me, and I joined them.

765

00:35:30,880 --> 00:35:33,160

And this was great  
stuff, although it

766

00:35:33,160 --> 00:35:35,020

was reminiscent  
of the war years,

767

00:35:35,020 --> 00:35:38,260

but it was the kind of thing  
that I suppose I drifted to.

768

00:35:38,260 --> 00:35:43,190

I always was interested in that kind of activity, whenever.

769

00:35:43,190 --> 00:35:46,200

And so I learned to shoot and was on the rifle team

770

00:35:46,200 --> 00:35:47,770

and eventually won the [? Hurst ?]

771

00:35:47,770 --> 00:35:50,810

match, and the other match, and all kinds of stuff.

772

00:35:50,810 --> 00:35:55,530

And I became a captain in that ROTC,

773

00:35:55,530 --> 00:35:59,045

and one day they gave me this medal, among others.

774

00:35:59,045 --> 00:36:00,670

There were other people getting medals.

775

00:36:00,670 --> 00:36:03,310

And this old man came, and he gave me

776

00:36:03,310 --> 00:36:06,100

this medal for having had the high score on a combined

777

00:36:06,100 --> 00:36:09,610

set of matches of some kind, and mind you,

778

00:36:09,610 --> 00:36:12,490

I was not a citizen of the United States at that time.

779  
00:36:12,490 --> 00:36:14,410  
It turned out that  
he was a member

780  
00:36:14,410 --> 00:36:16,270  
of the Sons of the  
American Revolution,

781  
00:36:16,270 --> 00:36:18,430  
and this was the Sons of  
the American Revolution

782  
00:36:18,430 --> 00:36:21,630  
medal for having gotten the  
highest points [INAUDIBLE]..

783  
00:36:21,630 --> 00:36:23,990  
It was sort of the  
opposite of the DAR.

784  
00:36:23,990 --> 00:36:25,900  
It was kind of ironic.

785  
00:36:25,900 --> 00:36:29,050  
But nonetheless, as  
he pinned it on me

786  
00:36:29,050 --> 00:36:31,960  
and talked something  
about Theodore Roosevelt--

787  
00:36:31,960 --> 00:36:36,430  
I'd forgotten what he said,  
but it was really interesting.

788  
00:36:36,430 --> 00:36:38,200  
But that was my--

789  
00:36:38,200 --> 00:36:40,180  
so I went to high  
school two and 1/2 years

790

00:36:40,180 --> 00:36:44,680  
and graduated in 1949 from  
the High School of Commerce.

791

00:36:44,680 --> 00:36:46,570  
Were there any  
courses that you had

792

00:36:46,570 --> 00:36:49,810  
had no background in  
whatsoever as a result

793

00:36:49,810 --> 00:36:53,890  
of your rather spotty  
education in the Philippines?

794

00:36:53,890 --> 00:36:56,803  
English definitely was one,  
and I had a wonderful teacher

795

00:36:56,803 --> 00:36:57,970  
by the name of Mary Golding.

796

00:36:57,970 --> 00:37:00,670  
And she one day approached  
me and said, you know,

797

00:37:00,670 --> 00:37:02,590  
Frank, with all your  
background, we've

798

00:37:02,590 --> 00:37:04,520  
got a couple of  
things coming up here.

799

00:37:04,520 --> 00:37:08,950  
This was now just before  
the summer of 1948.

800

00:37:08,950 --> 00:37:11,200  
And she said one is  
there's a contest that's

801  
00:37:11,200 --> 00:37:12,910  
given by the American Legion.

802  
00:37:12,910 --> 00:37:14,770  
It's a speaking  
contest, and winners

803  
00:37:14,770 --> 00:37:18,110  
get taken to the Boys  
State in Sacramento.

804  
00:37:18,110 --> 00:37:19,740  
It's a nationwide program.

805  
00:37:19,740 --> 00:37:21,877  
Why don't you try out for that?

806  
00:37:21,877 --> 00:37:23,710  
And the other, she said,  
is the same summer.

807  
00:37:23,710 --> 00:37:26,230  
It's something called the  
Junior State of America.

808  
00:37:26,230 --> 00:37:28,513  
They give scholarships  
for six weeks.

809  
00:37:28,513 --> 00:37:30,430  
You go up to a place  
called Montezuma Mountain

810  
00:37:30,430 --> 00:37:33,910  
School for Boys near  
Los Gatos in Santa Cruz,

811  
00:37:33,910 --> 00:37:35,920  
and they have all  
kinds of courses.

812  
00:37:35,920 --> 00:37:36,860

It's very interesting.

813  
00:37:36,860 --> 00:37:37,640  
It's very limited.

814  
00:37:37,640 --> 00:37:40,480  
There's only 20 boys that  
are taken there every year

815  
00:37:40,480 --> 00:37:41,020  
for summer.

816  
00:37:41,020 --> 00:37:43,300  
And then it's also 20  
girls, but they actually

817  
00:37:43,300 --> 00:37:45,400  
are taken to Mills  
College for the six weeks,

818  
00:37:45,400 --> 00:37:48,160  
and you get together and all  
kinds of stuff like that.

819  
00:37:48,160 --> 00:37:49,110  
This is OK.

820  
00:37:49,110 --> 00:37:50,170  
What have I got lose?

821  
00:37:50,170 --> 00:37:53,680  
And so I went for this speaking  
contest, the American Legion.

822  
00:37:53,680 --> 00:37:56,410  
There were six other  
contestants, but I won.

823  
00:37:56,410 --> 00:37:59,110  
And there was a  
panel that judged,

824



00:37:59,110 --> 00:38:01,140  
including the San  
Francisco Sheriff

825  
00:38:01,140 --> 00:38:03,910  
and people like that there were  
members of the American Legion

826  
00:38:03,910 --> 00:38:04,990  
Post.

827  
00:38:04,990 --> 00:38:08,020  
And so they gave me a  
few bucks, and then I

828  
00:38:08,020 --> 00:38:14,290  
attended the Boys  
State in Sacramento.

829  
00:38:14,290 --> 00:38:15,540  
And that was fascinating.

830  
00:38:15,540 --> 00:38:18,520  
It was about a thousand  
boys, and they were organized

831  
00:38:18,520 --> 00:38:20,230  
into political parties.

832  
00:38:20,230 --> 00:38:22,930  
And I learned a lot about  
the American government.

833  
00:38:22,930 --> 00:38:27,610  
And the fellow that actually  
eventually won, this governor,

834  
00:38:27,610 --> 00:38:29,913  
was in the bunk  
right next to mine.

835  
00:38:29,913 --> 00:38:31,330  
I talked to him,

a very bright guy

836

00:38:31,330 --> 00:38:33,400  
from the southern  
part of the state.

837

00:38:33,400 --> 00:38:37,260  
And I met a lot of guys there,  
and it was very interesting.

838

00:38:37,260 --> 00:38:40,840  
But it was only a week,  
and then after that, I went

839

00:38:40,840 --> 00:38:43,520  
and I did get that scholarship  
for the six weeks up

840

00:38:43,520 --> 00:38:44,800  
in Montezuma.

841

00:38:44,800 --> 00:38:46,360  
There was 20 boys.

842

00:38:46,360 --> 00:38:48,060  
I was the only foreigner.

843

00:38:48,060 --> 00:38:51,160  
They were all white,  
and they were all--

844

00:38:51,160 --> 00:38:52,510  
I was the only Jew.

845

00:38:52,510 --> 00:38:55,090  
The place was actually  
run by Professor Rogers,

846

00:38:55,090 --> 00:38:57,940  
who had formed this  
with the idea that--

847

00:38:57,940 --> 00:39:01,090  
his motto was, "Make  
democracy work."

848  
00:39:01,090 --> 00:39:04,570  
And the boys were all  
politically astute.

849  
00:39:04,570 --> 00:39:08,470  
They were like Republicans  
and Democrats, and 1948,

850  
00:39:08,470 --> 00:39:10,220  
we're talking Truman and Dewey.

851  
00:39:10,220 --> 00:39:11,580  
Get your ass off the grass.

852  
00:39:11,580 --> 00:39:12,580  
It's Dewey in November.

853  
00:39:12,580 --> 00:39:18,690

854  
00:39:18,690 --> 00:39:21,890  
This is an interview being  
made on behalf of United States

855  
00:39:21,890 --> 00:39:24,170  
Holocaust Memorial Museum.

856  
00:39:24,170 --> 00:39:26,420  
The interview is  
with Frank Ephraim.

857  
00:39:26,420 --> 00:39:28,880  
The interviewer is Nancy Alper.

858  
00:39:28,880 --> 00:39:32,880  
Today is April the 7th, 1997.

859  
00:39:32,880 --> 00:39:36,710

This is the second side,  
side B, of the seventh tape

860  
00:39:36,710 --> 00:39:38,770  
of the interview.

861  
00:39:38,770 --> 00:39:47,030  
And we were at this point where  
I was heading for the six weeks

862  
00:39:47,030 --> 00:39:49,400  
session in the Montezuma  
Mountain School

863  
00:39:49,400 --> 00:39:52,340  
for Boys near Los  
Gatos in the Santa Cruz

864  
00:39:52,340 --> 00:39:55,940  
area of California, Santa Cruz,  
the mountain air of California.

865  
00:39:55,940 --> 00:39:57,890  
And there was this  
Professor Rogers,

866  
00:39:57,890 --> 00:40:01,680  
who had founded the organization  
back in the early 30s

867  
00:40:01,680 --> 00:40:03,200  
to make democracy work.

868  
00:40:03,200 --> 00:40:06,860  
He was a very  
philosophical type of guy.

869  
00:40:06,860 --> 00:40:10,730  
The courses we took there could  
be divided into government,

870  
00:40:10,730 --> 00:40:13,280  
into public speaking,

into ethics,

871

00:40:13,280 --> 00:40:20,540  
which he taught himself, and  
into other aspects of civics.

872

00:40:20,540 --> 00:40:22,820  
It was all totally  
focused on that.

873

00:40:22,820 --> 00:40:25,280  
Politics were at the  
center of the thing.

874

00:40:25,280 --> 00:40:27,740  
Most of the boys that were  
there had some experience

875

00:40:27,740 --> 00:40:30,270  
with local politics already.

876

00:40:30,270 --> 00:40:33,080  
Strange as it may seem, we  
were all 17 years old, juniors

877

00:40:33,080 --> 00:40:36,770  
in high school, and  
some of those boys

878

00:40:36,770 --> 00:40:39,710  
became well-known  
in later years.

879

00:40:39,710 --> 00:40:42,620  
Amongst them were none  
other than Ed Meese, who

880

00:40:42,620 --> 00:40:44,220  
was an assistant  
to Ronald Reagan

881

00:40:44,220 --> 00:40:46,010  
then came here to Washington.

882  
00:40:46,010 --> 00:40:47,360  
I met him here again.

883  
00:40:47,360 --> 00:40:50,260  
Since we all were members  
of this organization

884  
00:40:50,260 --> 00:40:53,330  
as a lifelong thing, once  
we were a junior statesman

885  
00:40:53,330 --> 00:40:55,310  
for our summer sessions--

886  
00:40:55,310 --> 00:40:57,470  
we were the '48 session, 1948--

887  
00:40:57,470 --> 00:41:00,290  
we became graduate  
statesmen and are

888  
00:41:00,290 --> 00:41:02,720  
still members,  
directly or indirectly,

889  
00:41:02,720 --> 00:41:05,723  
of that organization even today.

890  
00:41:05,723 --> 00:41:08,390  
And the other was a fellow named  
Herb Ellingwood, perhaps not as

891  
00:41:08,390 --> 00:41:08,990  
well known.

892  
00:41:08,990 --> 00:41:12,590  
He came from a town of Salinas,  
where his father was a farmer.

893  
00:41:12,590 --> 00:41:14,540  
He also was one

of the assistants

894

00:41:14,540 --> 00:41:17,300  
to Ronald Reagan during his  
governorship of California.

895

00:41:17,300 --> 00:41:19,610  
He also came with him  
here to Washington

896

00:41:19,610 --> 00:41:21,860  
when Reagan was  
elected president.

897

00:41:21,860 --> 00:41:23,780  
There was another  
fellow name of Scheer,

898

00:41:23,780 --> 00:41:28,160  
who was a very conservative  
guy from the La Mesa, San Diego

899

00:41:28,160 --> 00:41:29,190  
area.

900

00:41:29,190 --> 00:41:32,600  
And he and I got  
along very well,

901

00:41:32,600 --> 00:41:37,400  
but he became later on the  
California spokesperson

902

00:41:37,400 --> 00:41:41,390  
or campaign manager  
for George Wallace.

903

00:41:41,390 --> 00:41:43,820  
And there were people, of  
course, on the Democratic.

904

00:41:43,820 --> 00:41:49,890  
It was a mix of people from

liberal to conservative.

905  
00:41:49,890 --> 00:41:51,590  
I was sort of an  
outsider in a way

906  
00:41:51,590 --> 00:41:54,950  
because, after all, I'd had very  
little experience with politics

907  
00:41:54,950 --> 00:41:58,880  
in the United States  
but became very--

908  
00:41:58,880 --> 00:42:01,130  
got into that, and it  
was quite interesting.

909  
00:42:01,130 --> 00:42:06,380  
But I never myself was  
a member of a campaign,

910  
00:42:06,380 --> 00:42:08,540  
although a friend of mine  
did run for something,

911  
00:42:08,540 --> 00:42:10,940  
but that's neither  
here nor there.

912  
00:42:10,940 --> 00:42:13,670  
I just want to mention  
that we now revert back

913  
00:42:13,670 --> 00:42:17,120  
to adjustments coming to  
this country, adjustments

914  
00:42:17,120 --> 00:42:21,315  
to the country, adjustments  
to the people, the schools.

915  
00:42:21,315 --> 00:42:23,690



As you recall, I went through  
the High School of Commerce

916  
00:42:23,690 --> 00:42:25,710  
because it was the  
closest school.

917  
00:42:25,710 --> 00:42:29,210  
However, at the  
time I had no idea

918  
00:42:29,210 --> 00:42:31,160  
what other schools,  
if any, there where.

919  
00:42:31,160 --> 00:42:35,000  
One day each of us had gotten  
a locker in that school

920  
00:42:35,000 --> 00:42:37,700  
to put our clothes  
or to put books in,

921  
00:42:37,700 --> 00:42:40,580  
and I noticed on the locker  
there were the signs that

922  
00:42:40,580 --> 00:42:42,230  
said "Beat Mission."

923  
00:42:42,230 --> 00:42:44,600  
And for a moment I  
thought, my God, this

924  
00:42:44,600 --> 00:42:50,990  
is some sort of a  
anti-religious type of graffiti,

925  
00:42:50,990 --> 00:42:55,190  
and so I did finally ask  
this one fellow, who I got

926  
00:42:55,190 --> 00:42:56,780

to know in my registry class.

927  
00:42:56,780 --> 00:42:58,280  
That's a class that  
meets 20 minutes

928  
00:42:58,280 --> 00:43:00,440  
at the beginning of school  
before we all dispersed

929  
00:43:00,440 --> 00:43:02,750  
to our various other courses.

930  
00:43:02,750 --> 00:43:04,983  
I says, what's this  
"Beat Mission" thing?

931  
00:43:04,983 --> 00:43:06,650  
Oh, he says, yeah,  
we're playing Mission

932  
00:43:06,650 --> 00:43:08,300  
this weekend at football.

933  
00:43:08,300 --> 00:43:09,170  
Mission, Mission?

934  
00:43:09,170 --> 00:43:11,630  
What-- Mission is  
another high school.

935  
00:43:11,630 --> 00:43:12,233  
Oh, really?

936  
00:43:12,233 --> 00:43:14,400  
And I said, you mean there  
are two high schools here

937  
00:43:14,400 --> 00:43:15,350  
in San Francisco?

938  
00:43:15,350 --> 00:43:16,280

He says, what are  
you talking about?

939  
00:43:16,280 --> 00:43:17,510  
There's seven or eight.

940  
00:43:17,510 --> 00:43:18,300  
I said, really?

941  
00:43:18,300 --> 00:43:19,460  
Oh, I didn't know that.

942  
00:43:19,460 --> 00:43:22,830  
So that was the newness  
of the situation.

943  
00:43:22,830 --> 00:43:23,330  
Now.

944  
00:43:23,330 --> 00:43:25,280  
Some of my other friends,  
as I found out later,

945  
00:43:25,280 --> 00:43:27,238  
who, when they came here  
from the Philippines--

946  
00:43:27,238 --> 00:43:28,430  
they went to other schools.

947  
00:43:28,430 --> 00:43:31,550  
They went to George Washington  
High School or Lincoln,

948  
00:43:31,550 --> 00:43:34,220  
and those were really far  
more college prep schools

949  
00:43:34,220 --> 00:43:36,140  
than the High  
School of Commerce.

950

00:43:36,140 --> 00:43:38,630  
However, I did very well  
at High School of Commerce,

951  
00:43:38,630 --> 00:43:42,860  
and also, as I said, I went  
to these two summer sessions

952  
00:43:42,860 --> 00:43:46,430  
back to back in 1948 and  
then went and completed

953  
00:43:46,430 --> 00:43:50,780  
my senior year at the  
High School of Commerce.

954  
00:43:50,780 --> 00:43:54,830  
And meantime, my  
father was continuing

955  
00:43:54,830 --> 00:43:59,630  
to do his export business,  
and I had a job after school

956  
00:43:59,630 --> 00:44:04,790  
at first for Globe Wireless  
delivering telegraph messages

957  
00:44:04,790 --> 00:44:06,830  
in downtown San Francisco.

958  
00:44:06,830 --> 00:44:10,310  
And one day I was  
wearing my ROTC uniform

959  
00:44:10,310 --> 00:44:11,600  
and with another fellow.

960  
00:44:11,600 --> 00:44:14,840  
By then we were officers,  
and we went across the street

961  
00:44:14,840 --> 00:44:16,880

to this shop which  
sold uniforms.

962  
00:44:16,880 --> 00:44:20,490  
And the fellow said-- and we  
bought some stuff, and he says,

963  
00:44:20,490 --> 00:44:25,580  
would you like a job as  
whatever it is, clean-up man

964  
00:44:25,580 --> 00:44:26,360  
and helper here?

965  
00:44:26,360 --> 00:44:28,910  
And so I took the job, and  
I worked there for about two

966  
00:44:28,910 --> 00:44:32,330  
years after school and on  
weekends working for L.

967  
00:44:32,330 --> 00:44:36,230  
[? Resnik ?] and Son--  
it was a Jewish outfit--

968  
00:44:36,230 --> 00:44:38,640  
in this uniform store--  
it sold police uniforms,

969  
00:44:38,640 --> 00:44:41,960  
sold army, Air Force uniforms,  
and all that sort of thing--

970  
00:44:41,960 --> 00:44:44,660  
until I went off to college.

971  
00:44:44,660 --> 00:44:48,140  
My father, in the meantime--

972  
00:44:48,140 --> 00:44:53,390  
by 1948, that business,  
actually, was about a year--

973  
00:44:53,390 --> 00:44:56,390  
that business he did  
in the Philippines,

974  
00:44:56,390 --> 00:44:57,987  
importing moldings--

975  
00:44:57,987 --> 00:44:59,570  
and he was going to  
continue something

976  
00:44:59,570 --> 00:45:03,050  
like that from this end, from  
the American end, exporting.

977  
00:45:03,050 --> 00:45:05,670  
But that did not  
work out too well.

978  
00:45:05,670 --> 00:45:08,540  
So instead he went  
into importing

979  
00:45:08,540 --> 00:45:11,090  
Chinese figurines,  
little clay figurines,

980  
00:45:11,090 --> 00:45:12,480  
unpainted, from China.

981  
00:45:12,480 --> 00:45:14,480  
They were shipped to him,  
and he would sell them

982  
00:45:14,480 --> 00:45:15,470  
all over the place.

983  
00:45:15,470 --> 00:45:18,980  
He mounted them on driftwood  
and would sell that stuff.

984

00:45:18,980 --> 00:45:20,720

However, that  
began to close down

985

00:45:20,720 --> 00:45:25,070

because China was occupied  
by the communists 1948,

986

00:45:25,070 --> 00:45:27,110

and of course, the  
Shanghai Jewish community,

987

00:45:27,110 --> 00:45:28,640

what was left of  
it, were beginning

988

00:45:28,640 --> 00:45:31,530

to arrive in Manila  
by the ship loads.

989

00:45:31,530 --> 00:45:35,300

And we would go, again, to  
the docks to meet the ships,

990

00:45:35,300 --> 00:45:37,970

and again, there  
were people that we

991

00:45:37,970 --> 00:45:40,640

knew from way back  
in Germany, even,

992

00:45:40,640 --> 00:45:43,490

and we'd known that  
had gone to Shanghai.

993

00:45:43,490 --> 00:45:46,380

And these people were  
being settled, held over

994

00:45:46,380 --> 00:45:47,920

in San Francisco.

995

00:45:47,920 --> 00:45:49,420  
They were put into  
hotels, and there

996  
00:45:49,420 --> 00:45:53,150  
were all kinds of organized  
efforts to then move them

997  
00:45:53,150 --> 00:45:55,100  
into other areas.

998  
00:45:55,100 --> 00:45:58,580  
There was a batch that moved  
to Albuquerque, New Mexico

999  
00:45:58,580 --> 00:46:01,160  
because people felt that  
that must be a good place

1000  
00:46:01,160 --> 00:46:03,650  
to settle since San  
Francisco was beginning

1001  
00:46:03,650 --> 00:46:05,660  
to be a bit overloaded.

1002  
00:46:05,660 --> 00:46:10,520  
And a number went to  
Albuquerque and to other parts

1003  
00:46:10,520 --> 00:46:12,620  
of the country, but a  
good number, of course,

1004  
00:46:12,620 --> 00:46:14,000  
from Shanghai stayed.

1005  
00:46:14,000 --> 00:46:17,540  
They brought their  
rabbi, Dr. Kantorowsky.

1006  
00:46:17,540 --> 00:46:23,960  
They founded a huge community,



the B'nai Emunah, a synagogue

1007

00:46:23,960 --> 00:46:26,270

attended by the  
people from Shanghai.

1008

00:46:26,270 --> 00:46:28,790

We attended a synagogue,  
again, made up

1009

00:46:28,790 --> 00:46:32,800

of, essentially, German and  
Austrian Jews in San Francisco.

1010

00:46:32,800 --> 00:46:35,000

It was called the  
Council of 1933,

1011

00:46:35,000 --> 00:46:37,280

obviously '33 being  
a significant year

1012

00:46:37,280 --> 00:46:39,100

of the rise of Nazism.

1013

00:46:39,100 --> 00:46:40,850

And this was a group  
of people, of course,

1014

00:46:40,850 --> 00:46:44,270

who emigrated to the United  
States thereafter, many of whom

1015

00:46:44,270 --> 00:46:45,883

came directly from Europe.

1016

00:46:45,883 --> 00:46:47,300

Others joined them  
who were either

1017

00:46:47,300 --> 00:46:49,130

from Shanghai or  
the Philippines,

1018  
00:46:49,130 --> 00:46:52,260  
and the Philippine, Manila  
community was always small.

1019  
00:46:52,260 --> 00:46:55,700  
So we would always join someone  
else for services, certainly,

1020  
00:46:55,700 --> 00:46:59,420  
once a year, Yom Kippur, Rosh  
Hashanah, which they held.

1021  
00:46:59,420 --> 00:47:06,560  
And so we were part of that  
from a religious standpoint.

1022  
00:47:06,560 --> 00:47:09,710  
I was never that great in  
the religious department,

1023  
00:47:09,710 --> 00:47:11,080  
though my parents were.

1024  
00:47:11,080 --> 00:47:14,600  
And they tried to, of  
course, force me into that,

1025  
00:47:14,600 --> 00:47:18,830  
but I was not totally  
enamored with that.

1026  
00:47:18,830 --> 00:47:20,660  
I did go to Jewish affairs.

1027  
00:47:20,660 --> 00:47:21,980  
I did go to dances.

1028  
00:47:21,980 --> 00:47:24,440  
I went to the Jewish  
Community Center, yes,

1029

00:47:24,440 --> 00:47:30,260  
but religiously I was never  
that strong a believer.

1030  
00:47:30,260 --> 00:47:34,640  
But in any event, that was our  
early years in San Francisco.

1031  
00:47:34,640 --> 00:47:37,760  
We adapted fairly easily.

1032  
00:47:37,760 --> 00:47:42,630  
My father had some difficulties  
in earning a living,

1033  
00:47:42,630 --> 00:47:45,890  
but he was very industrious,  
always was a busy fellow.

1034  
00:47:45,890 --> 00:47:49,520  
And he got into-- after  
this business of exporting

1035  
00:47:49,520 --> 00:47:54,170  
collapsed, he eventually got  
in to the optical eyeglass

1036  
00:47:54,170 --> 00:47:58,100  
and frame business, first  
working for another person who

1037  
00:47:58,100 --> 00:47:59,660  
was in that business.

1038  
00:47:59,660 --> 00:48:02,000  
It was a wholesale  
thing where you'd

1039  
00:48:02,000 --> 00:48:04,310  
have you'd go around and  
sell the eyeglass frames

1040  
00:48:04,310 --> 00:48:08,600

and lenses to optometrists,  
and then later on he

1041  
00:48:08,600 --> 00:48:10,430  
went into it on his own.

1042  
00:48:10,430 --> 00:48:12,350  
And my mother helped  
him, and that's

1043  
00:48:12,350 --> 00:48:14,930  
what he did until he  
eventually retired,

1044  
00:48:14,930 --> 00:48:17,390  
probably by the age of 80.

1045  
00:48:17,390 --> 00:48:22,460  
And he traveled in California  
down to as far as Fresno

1046  
00:48:22,460 --> 00:48:25,820  
and up north and also  
within the city, of course,

1047  
00:48:25,820 --> 00:48:30,760  
so that's what he did  
and did find there.

1048  
00:48:30,760 --> 00:48:32,660  
It was not enough to  
send me to the greatest

1049  
00:48:32,660 --> 00:48:34,400  
college in the  
country, but I went

1050  
00:48:34,400 --> 00:48:36,950  
to the University of  
California at Berkeley

1051  
00:48:36,950 --> 00:48:40,690  
and stayed there until--

1052  
00:48:40,690 --> 00:48:44,600  
it was 1950 when the  
Korean War broke out.

1053  
00:48:44,600 --> 00:48:46,260  
I was at the university.

1054  
00:48:46,260 --> 00:48:50,700

1055  
00:48:50,700 --> 00:48:53,120  
With finances being  
what they were,

1056  
00:48:53,120 --> 00:48:54,710  
I thought I'd take a year off.

1057  
00:48:54,710 --> 00:48:57,680  
I got a job at the Mare  
Island Naval Shipyard.

1058  
00:48:57,680 --> 00:49:00,560  
At that time I was studying  
to be a naval architect

1059  
00:49:00,560 --> 00:49:03,740  
or mechanical engineer-- these  
two things were taught together

1060  
00:49:03,740 --> 00:49:06,100  
at the University  
of California--

1061  
00:49:06,100 --> 00:49:08,570  
and went to work at Mare Island.

1062  
00:49:08,570 --> 00:49:11,630  
There was a special program for  
students in naval architecture,

1063  
00:49:11,630 --> 00:49:13,490

and they were very  
glad to have me.

1064  
00:49:13,490 --> 00:49:14,680  
And so I stayed there.

1065  
00:49:14,680 --> 00:49:17,980  
It was just for summer at  
first, but when I told them

1066  
00:49:17,980 --> 00:49:20,230  
I'd like to be out  
of school here,

1067  
00:49:20,230 --> 00:49:22,340  
he says, great, stay with us.

1068  
00:49:22,340 --> 00:49:25,540  
That would be wonderful, and  
then you can earn your money,

1069  
00:49:25,540 --> 00:49:26,410  
go back to school.

1070  
00:49:26,410 --> 00:49:27,190  
That was the plan.

1071  
00:49:27,190 --> 00:49:27,940  
That didn't work.

1072  
00:49:27,940 --> 00:49:29,740  
The Korean War, of  
course, drew people

1073  
00:49:29,740 --> 00:49:33,070  
in from my age group, which was  
a small number, the Depression

1074  
00:49:33,070 --> 00:49:35,350  
Babies, so to speak,  
and I was drafted,

1075

00:49:35,350 --> 00:49:37,480  
although the shipyard  
sent a letter to the Draft

1076  
00:49:37,480 --> 00:49:39,940  
Board signed by the  
shipyard commander,

1077  
00:49:39,940 --> 00:49:41,650  
something to the  
effect, without me,

1078  
00:49:41,650 --> 00:49:44,970  
why, the submarine fleet  
would go out of business.

1079  
00:49:44,970 --> 00:49:47,070  
It would sink.

1080  
00:49:47,070 --> 00:49:50,740  
But they didn't buy  
that, so I was drafted

1081  
00:49:50,740 --> 00:49:52,180  
in the United States Army.

1082  
00:49:52,180 --> 00:49:56,920  
I went to the service on  
December the 2nd, 1952

1083  
00:49:56,920 --> 00:49:59,080  
and served for 21  
months because--

1084  
00:49:59,080 --> 00:50:02,110  
I was let out three months early  
because the Korean War had been

1085  
00:50:02,110 --> 00:50:05,080  
over, and they allowed people  
out three months early,

1086  
00:50:05,080 --> 00:50:07,150

provided they were  
accepted at a college

1087  
00:50:07,150 --> 00:50:10,060  
and that the beginning  
of the college year

1088  
00:50:10,060 --> 00:50:13,420  
tied in within those three  
months, which it did.

1089  
00:50:13,420 --> 00:50:16,240  
So I served in the  
United States Army.

1090  
00:50:16,240 --> 00:50:19,600  
I was trained infantry for 16  
weeks at Fort Ord, California

1091  
00:50:19,600 --> 00:50:21,790  
since I was what they  
call it a "picket fence,"

1092  
00:50:21,790 --> 00:50:25,120  
had all ones, physically  
great condition.

1093  
00:50:25,120 --> 00:50:30,650  
And so I was in the infantry  
and graduated and that.

1094  
00:50:30,650 --> 00:50:35,720  
I was sent to Europe  
because I spoke German,

1095  
00:50:35,720 --> 00:50:38,670  
and they asked people, anyone  
here speak a foreign language?

1096  
00:50:38,670 --> 00:50:42,190  
So I raised my hand,  
and they gave me a test.

1097



00:50:42,190 --> 00:50:44,820  
I actually took the test in  
German, French, and Spanish,

1098  
00:50:44,820 --> 00:50:46,030  
passed them all.

1099  
00:50:46,030 --> 00:50:47,480  
And they said,  
well, in that case,

1100  
00:50:47,480 --> 00:50:49,810  
you're great  
interpreter material,

1101  
00:50:49,810 --> 00:50:54,100  
and chances are you'll be  
assigned to European Theater.

1102  
00:50:54,100 --> 00:50:56,980  
Well, at that time, Korean  
War was still going strong,

1103  
00:50:56,980 --> 00:51:00,160  
and the company I was  
in-- it was about 300 men,

1104  
00:51:00,160 --> 00:51:02,380  
heavy weapons infantry company.

1105  
00:51:02,380 --> 00:51:05,095  
And when the time came and  
the 16 weeks were over,

1106  
00:51:05,095 --> 00:51:09,100  
we were all assigned, and there  
were four of us out of that 300

1107  
00:51:09,100 --> 00:51:11,200  
who were assigned to  
the European Theater.

1108  
00:51:11,200 --> 00:51:14,410

Everyone else was the other  
assigned to Japan, Korea,

1109  
00:51:14,410 --> 00:51:17,380  
or remained in the United  
States for the training.

1110  
00:51:17,380 --> 00:51:24,030  
And so the four of us went by  
ourselves by train or whatever

1111  
00:51:24,030 --> 00:51:27,010  
for the East Coast  
or to Camp Kilmer

1112  
00:51:27,010 --> 00:51:31,780  
and from there shipped by ship  
to Bremerhaven and from there

1113  
00:51:31,780 --> 00:51:36,530  
by train to [PLACE NAME]  
and [PLACE NAME] in Germany.

1114  
00:51:36,530 --> 00:51:39,670  
And there we were interviewed  
and assigned further.

1115  
00:51:39,670 --> 00:51:42,400  
There I was sent to a  
school which-- they first

1116  
00:51:42,400 --> 00:51:44,290  
said it was finance  
school, but it turned out

1117  
00:51:44,290 --> 00:51:48,130  
to be a school where I was  
to learn the IBM machines.

1118  
00:51:48,130 --> 00:51:52,420  
It was 1952, and we were  
taught by a Swiss instructor

1119

00:51:52,420 --> 00:51:58,720  
in some sort of German kaserne,  
which is a German barracks.

1120  
00:51:58,720 --> 00:52:00,170  
It was in a town called--

1121  
00:52:00,170 --> 00:52:03,760

1122  
00:52:03,760 --> 00:52:05,740  
gee, I forgot for the second.

1123  
00:52:05,740 --> 00:52:07,180  
Lenggries it was called.

1124  
00:52:07,180 --> 00:52:10,150  
It was near Bad Tolz,  
which was later a center

1125  
00:52:10,150 --> 00:52:12,370  
for the 10th Special Forces.

1126  
00:52:12,370 --> 00:52:15,340  
So I went to that  
school, took my IBM,

1127  
00:52:15,340 --> 00:52:18,340  
was assigned to Heidelberg,  
stayed there one month,

1128  
00:52:18,340 --> 00:52:20,170  
and was sent to  
France, and spent

1129  
00:52:20,170 --> 00:52:25,060  
the rest of my army career  
in France, stationed there.

1130  
00:52:25,060 --> 00:52:30,450  
So that now takes us  
down to the year 1954.

1131  
00:52:30,450 --> 00:52:32,070  
Of course, during  
all these years

1132  
00:52:32,070 --> 00:52:34,800  
I essentially lived in  
and around San Francisco.

1133  
00:52:34,800 --> 00:52:36,450  
While I was working  
at the shipyard,

1134  
00:52:36,450 --> 00:52:38,280  
I lived in Vallejo, California.

1135  
00:52:38,280 --> 00:52:41,070  
That's where Mare Island  
Naval Shipyard was located.

1136  
00:52:41,070 --> 00:52:45,030  
And I lived in Berkeley  
when I went to school there.

1137  
00:52:45,030 --> 00:52:50,010  
But up to the time when I  
went into the service and even

1138  
00:52:50,010 --> 00:52:51,750  
thereafter, my  
parents were always

1139  
00:52:51,750 --> 00:52:56,460  
members of this Council of '33  
group for the simple reason

1140  
00:52:56,460 --> 00:52:59,160  
that they would go  
to the services that

1141  
00:52:59,160 --> 00:53:01,110  
were held only on  
the high holidays

1142

00:53:01,110 --> 00:53:05,550

and sponsored by  
this organization.

1143

00:53:05,550 --> 00:53:12,120

It probably is good to point out  
that Jews with our background,

1144

00:53:12,120 --> 00:53:15,360

from the Philippines,  
from Germany and Austria,

1145

00:53:15,360 --> 00:53:18,690

were in many ways quite  
different from most American

1146

00:53:18,690 --> 00:53:22,440

Jews, the reason being--

1147

00:53:22,440 --> 00:53:25,310

well, it's hard to say whether  
it's culturally or what

1148

00:53:25,310 --> 00:53:28,110

or based on experience,  
but I suppose

1149

00:53:28,110 --> 00:53:33,960

the majority of American Jews  
stemmed from Eastern Europe

1150

00:53:33,960 --> 00:53:36,840

and where Yiddish-speaking  
originally, which the Western

1151

00:53:36,840 --> 00:53:37,810

Jews were not.

1152

00:53:37,810 --> 00:53:41,280

There's a major  
difference in background.

1153

00:53:41,280 --> 00:53:43,530

Also in experience--  
after all, people

1154

00:53:43,530 --> 00:53:46,050

who came to United States,  
oh, at the beginning

1155

00:53:46,050 --> 00:53:49,815

of the century, established  
themselves here,

1156

00:53:49,815 --> 00:53:51,440

went through several  
hours, experienced

1157

00:53:51,440 --> 00:53:54,720

some very hard times also,  
the depression, and just being

1158

00:53:54,720 --> 00:53:57,840

accepted as Jews here  
certainly, and were certainly

1159

00:53:57,840 --> 00:53:59,730

on the periphery of things.

1160

00:53:59,730 --> 00:54:02,580

They were not in the big  
wheels, in the steel business

1161

00:54:02,580 --> 00:54:04,950

but were in the  
scrap iron business,

1162

00:54:04,950 --> 00:54:06,750

or they were in the  
clothing business,

1163

00:54:06,750 --> 00:54:12,300

or they wear beginning to be  
in the professions of medicine

1164

00:54:12,300 --> 00:54:13,790  
and law.

1165  
00:54:13,790 --> 00:54:18,600  
There weren't very many Jewish  
engineers and still aren't.

1166  
00:54:18,600 --> 00:54:21,040  
They were certainly  
not in agriculture.

1167  
00:54:21,040 --> 00:54:23,700  
So they were a  
peripheral people,

1168  
00:54:23,700 --> 00:54:29,730  
as, unfortunately, Jews are  
in the diaspora today, even.

1169  
00:54:29,730 --> 00:54:33,330  
So not that the German-Austrians  
were any different.

1170  
00:54:33,330 --> 00:54:34,310  
They were the same.

1171  
00:54:34,310 --> 00:54:38,610  
They also had that similar  
background, medicine, law,

1172  
00:54:38,610 --> 00:54:43,980  
clothing, sales,  
retail, et cetera.

1173  
00:54:43,980 --> 00:54:48,000  
But we were different  
because mainly,

1174  
00:54:48,000 --> 00:54:52,170  
I, think of the experiences,  
the life we'd gone through.

1175  
00:54:52,170 --> 00:54:55,020

We look back, those  
who came through

1176  
00:54:55,020 --> 00:54:57,390  
the Philippine experience  
and perhaps the Shanghai

1177  
00:54:57,390 --> 00:54:58,860  
experience--

1178  
00:54:58,860 --> 00:55:01,950  
we left with not very  
much from Germany,

1179  
00:55:01,950 --> 00:55:05,950  
had to start again in the  
Philippines at the beginning.

1180  
00:55:05,950 --> 00:55:08,280  
Accumulated some  
things, lost them

1181  
00:55:08,280 --> 00:55:12,480  
all during the Battle  
of Manila in 1945,

1182  
00:55:12,480 --> 00:55:14,960  
accumulated a few  
things thereafter,

1183  
00:55:14,960 --> 00:55:17,700  
three footlockers  
for three people,

1184  
00:55:17,700 --> 00:55:22,110  
and arrived in San  
Francisco again,

1185  
00:55:22,110 --> 00:55:24,960  
starting again from  
the very beginning.

1186  
00:55:24,960 --> 00:55:26,970



By that time, most  
Jews in America

1187  
00:55:26,970 --> 00:55:32,010  
had already been accumulated  
and been established,

1188  
00:55:32,010 --> 00:55:37,740  
so there was this social and  
cultural difference that,

1189  
00:55:37,740 --> 00:55:38,620  
naturally, was there.

1190  
00:55:38,620 --> 00:55:41,340  
And by the very  
fact that we'd been

1191  
00:55:41,340 --> 00:55:46,260  
in another part of the  
world, we drifted more

1192  
00:55:46,260 --> 00:55:48,990  
toward those people with  
similar experiences.

1193  
00:55:48,990 --> 00:55:50,640  
Birds of a feather  
flock together.

1194  
00:55:50,640 --> 00:55:52,720  
It certainly is true.

1195  
00:55:52,720 --> 00:55:56,250  
So not that there  
was any animosity.

1196  
00:55:56,250 --> 00:55:57,750  
I didn't detect any of that.

1197  
00:55:57,750 --> 00:55:59,280  
But we were different.

1198

00:55:59,280 --> 00:56:04,610

Also we were different simply  
because, in the Jewish culture,

1199

00:56:04,610 --> 00:56:07,160

there is the Yiddish-speaking,  
non-Yiddish speaking part.

1200

00:56:07,160 --> 00:56:09,930

And there's the Ladino-speaking,  
which we have also, of course,

1201

00:56:09,930 --> 00:56:11,670

experienced.

1202

00:56:11,670 --> 00:56:14,880

So these internal Jewish  
cultural difference

1203

00:56:14,880 --> 00:56:17,080

also existed.

1204

00:56:17,080 --> 00:56:22,270

However, as part of  
the larger community,

1205

00:56:22,270 --> 00:56:25,140

we were all Jews  
from that standpoint.

1206

00:56:25,140 --> 00:56:27,180

The other interesting  
difference was,

1207

00:56:27,180 --> 00:56:29,580

when I came to San  
Francisco or not too

1208

00:56:29,580 --> 00:56:32,070

long thereafter, while  
I was going to college,

1209

00:56:32,070 --> 00:56:34,000  
these Shanghai people,  
as I mentioned,

1210  
00:56:34,000 --> 00:56:36,090  
were coming in in  
droves in 1948,

1211  
00:56:36,090 --> 00:56:39,470  
and they, too, were imbued  
with the Zionist idea.

1212  
00:56:39,470 --> 00:56:41,610  
A number of them had  
trained in Shanghai

1213  
00:56:41,610 --> 00:56:45,210  
as part of the Betar, which was  
the more conservative group,

1214  
00:56:45,210 --> 00:56:49,290  
and various labor-oriented  
Zionist organizations,

1215  
00:56:49,290 --> 00:56:51,720  
which had formed in  
Shanghai, trained

1216  
00:56:51,720 --> 00:56:56,520  
and went to help in Israel, '48,  
when the state was established.

1217  
00:56:56,520 --> 00:56:59,010  
Not only that, in San  
Francisco, most of us

1218  
00:56:59,010 --> 00:57:03,600  
who came from Shanghai or Manila  
were members of Zionist groups.

1219  
00:57:03,600 --> 00:57:06,480  
I was a member of three of  
them, and they were militant.

1220

00:57:06,480 --> 00:57:09,840

And we did those, quote,  
"militant" things.

1221

00:57:09,840 --> 00:57:12,090

We went around  
selling the shekels,

1222

00:57:12,090 --> 00:57:15,390

and we went around  
trying to convince

1223

00:57:15,390 --> 00:57:17,805

American Jews to participate.

1224

00:57:17,805 --> 00:57:18,930

And it is very interesting.

1225

00:57:18,930 --> 00:57:23,220

At that time, the American Jews,  
we sensed, who had been here,

1226

00:57:23,220 --> 00:57:24,480

were not that--

1227

00:57:24,480 --> 00:57:27,750

they were certainly  
pro-Judaism, pro-Israel,

1228

00:57:27,750 --> 00:57:31,530

but they were not really  
actively participating.

1229

00:57:31,530 --> 00:57:35,370

Collecting funds for  
Israel was a bear.

1230

00:57:35,370 --> 00:57:38,610

There were people who would  
come over from Israel expecting

1231

00:57:38,610 --> 00:57:41,250

to be received here, and  
money being thrown at them,

1232  
00:57:41,250 --> 00:57:43,860  
and all that because  
they represented

1233  
00:57:43,860 --> 00:57:45,720  
various organizations.

1234  
00:57:45,720 --> 00:57:48,830  
It was difficult, although  
many took part in the effort,

1235  
00:57:48,830 --> 00:57:51,810  
like George Jessel,  
certainly, who

1236  
00:57:51,810 --> 00:57:55,680  
played a major role, and many  
important people on the only

1237  
00:57:55,680 --> 00:57:58,720  
American scene in the  
movie business and so on.

1238  
00:57:58,720 --> 00:58:01,050  
However, when it  
came to doing things

1239  
00:58:01,050 --> 00:58:04,950  
like trying to gather  
material for the Israelis

1240  
00:58:04,950 --> 00:58:08,820  
or for the Israeli army in  
this country, that was tough.

1241  
00:58:08,820 --> 00:58:11,207  
There were many American Jews  
who were very influential.

1242  
00:58:11,207 --> 00:58:12,540

There are several books written.

1243

00:58:12,540 --> 00:58:16,950

One's called The Pledge, where  
people gathered material,

1244

00:58:16,950 --> 00:58:21,780

collected money to buy  
related war material.

1245

00:58:21,780 --> 00:58:24,840

There was this fellow by  
the name of Schwimmer,

1246

00:58:24,840 --> 00:58:28,230

who was Israeli, who  
came to this country

1247

00:58:28,230 --> 00:58:30,030

to procure airplanes.

1248

00:58:30,030 --> 00:58:32,460

And he came to  
California, and he

1249

00:58:32,460 --> 00:58:34,830

got hold of  
Constellations, which

1250

00:58:34,830 --> 00:58:38,550

was a commercial airplane,  
and P-51 Mustangs,

1251

00:58:38,550 --> 00:58:43,290

and eventually three B7  
teams Flying Fortresses were

1252

00:58:43,290 --> 00:58:50,220

put together and flown to  
Israel at that time, 1948.

1253

00:58:50,220 --> 00:58:54,060

But we were active in trying

to locate simple things,

1254  
00:58:54,060 --> 00:58:57,600  
like simple water  
flasks, and web belts,

1255  
00:58:57,600 --> 00:59:01,680  
and stuff like that because  
this was all surplus material

1256  
00:59:01,680 --> 00:59:03,570  
and could be exported.

1257  
00:59:03,570 --> 00:59:08,190  
It was not weaponry, although  
weaponry went as well.

1258  
00:59:08,190 --> 00:59:10,350  
But those people  
in Zionist groups

1259  
00:59:10,350 --> 00:59:14,430  
were promoting this strongly,  
were trying to assist in it,

1260  
00:59:14,430 --> 00:59:20,130  
trying to collect money  
or gather money, yet very

1261  
00:59:20,130 --> 00:59:22,650  
few, quote, "native"  
American Jews

1262  
00:59:22,650 --> 00:59:26,160  
were part of these Zionist  
organizations in San Francisco.

1263  
00:59:26,160 --> 00:59:28,820  
We had, as I say,  
three or four of them,

1264  
00:59:28,820 --> 00:59:31,560  
and pretty much the

majority of membership

1265  
00:59:31,560 --> 00:59:34,980  
were people who were from  
Shanghai, who were originally

1266  
00:59:34,980 --> 00:59:37,050  
from Germany, or  
Austria, or Poland

1267  
00:59:37,050 --> 00:59:39,660  
who had come to this  
country in more recent years

1268  
00:59:39,660 --> 00:59:43,230  
or a few of us from the  
Philippines, not very many.

1269  
00:59:43,230 --> 00:59:47,430  
But that was the consist  
of the Zionist movement

1270  
00:59:47,430 --> 00:59:50,010  
in the San Francisco  
area, although, as I say,

1271  
00:59:50,010 --> 00:59:55,040  
there were many large  
rallies for Israel

1272  
00:59:55,040 --> 00:59:56,280  
where people attended.

1273  
00:59:56,280 --> 00:59:57,400  
There were evenings.

1274  
00:59:57,400 --> 01:00:01,130  
They had music, and stuff like  
that, and speakers, and so on,

1275  
01:00:01,130 --> 01:00:03,420  
yeah.



1276

01:00:03,420 --> 01:00:07,660

I also wanted to ask you before  
we move to the post-Korean War

1277

01:00:07,660 --> 01:00:12,360

period, when you were in  
Germany, when you were assigned

1278

01:00:12,360 --> 01:00:18,090

there, did you go to where  
you had lived as a child,

1279

01:00:18,090 --> 01:00:22,560

or try to find family,  
or try to trace

1280

01:00:22,560 --> 01:00:26,130

anything that had happened?

1281

01:00:26,130 --> 01:00:28,110

I never went back--  
during my military career,

1282

01:00:28,110 --> 01:00:29,490

I never went back to Berlin.

1283

01:00:29,490 --> 01:00:32,730

At that time, Berlin was,  
of course, a divided city.

1284

01:00:32,730 --> 01:00:34,930

We were asked or  
told, really, not

1285

01:00:34,930 --> 01:00:38,080

to go there as military on  
leave or anything like that,

1286

01:00:38,080 --> 01:00:40,620

so we didn't go.

1287

01:00:40,620 --> 01:00:42,870

Family-- well, we knew  
they had all perished.

1288  
01:00:42,870 --> 01:00:44,850  
Whatever was left  
there was gone,

1289  
01:00:44,850 --> 01:00:49,080  
and so there was really no  
point in seeking family there.

1290  
01:00:49,080 --> 01:00:51,250  
Some people-- we didn't  
know what happened to them.

1291  
01:00:51,250 --> 01:00:56,190  
I didn't, perhaps, mention this  
one uncle, my mother's uncle,

1292  
01:00:56,190 --> 01:01:00,990  
actually, who lived in a house  
that was owned by the family.

1293  
01:01:00,990 --> 01:01:05,530  
And we never knew what  
had happened to him.

1294  
01:01:05,530 --> 01:01:07,060  
He was a bachelor.

1295  
01:01:07,060 --> 01:01:09,370  
We only found that  
out after I'd been

1296  
01:01:09,370 --> 01:01:12,610  
a volunteer at the Holocaust  
Museum here in Washington,

1297  
01:01:12,610 --> 01:01:15,790  
and these books came in.

1298  
01:01:15,790 --> 01:01:18,250  
These were two big black

books which listed, oh,

1299

01:01:18,250 --> 01:01:20,605  
about 100,000 or so  
names of German Jews--

1300

01:01:20,605 --> 01:01:22,450  
they're published  
by the Germans--

1301

01:01:22,450 --> 01:01:25,030  
that had perished, and  
listed their names,

1302

01:01:25,030 --> 01:01:26,800  
and where possible,  
listed where they

1303

01:01:26,800 --> 01:01:30,100  
perished and perhaps the  
date, if that was available.

1304

01:01:30,100 --> 01:01:34,210  
And I looked this man up,  
and there I found his name.

1305

01:01:34,210 --> 01:01:37,600  
This was the first time  
we knew in all that time

1306

01:01:37,600 --> 01:01:40,840  
that he indeed had  
committed suicide so as not

1307

01:01:40,840 --> 01:01:45,790  
to be arrested by  
the Nazis, and that's

1308

01:01:45,790 --> 01:01:48,440  
how we knew then, finally,  
what happened to him.

1309

01:01:48,440 --> 01:01:50,170

And I had guessed  
that he might have

1310  
01:01:50,170 --> 01:01:52,780  
been buried at that  
cemetery four blocks away.

1311  
01:01:52,780 --> 01:01:57,010  
I called them up, and  
they called me back.

1312  
01:01:57,010 --> 01:01:58,360  
Yes, he's buried there.

1313  
01:01:58,360 --> 01:01:59,490  
He's listed.

1314  
01:01:59,490 --> 01:02:02,860  
And I did manage to locate the  
grave a few years ago visiting

1315  
01:02:02,860 --> 01:02:06,280  
that area, so these are some of  
the things that happened later.

1316  
01:02:06,280 --> 01:02:09,570  
But I never went back to Berlin  
while I was in the military.

1317  
01:02:09,570 --> 01:02:14,020  
I did go back in later  
years, once, twice.

1318  
01:02:14,020 --> 01:02:16,540  
What was your reaction  
to being around Germans

1319  
01:02:16,540 --> 01:02:18,390  
when you were there?

1320  
01:02:18,390 --> 01:02:22,120  
That was the thing that sort of  
made me a bit nervous at first.

1321  
01:02:22,120 --> 01:02:25,345  
We landed by a troop  
ship at Bremerhaven.

1322  
01:02:25,345 --> 01:02:31,660  
It must have been sometime  
around the 1st of April, 1953,

1323  
01:02:31,660 --> 01:02:33,850  
and the first  
chairman I heard in

1324  
01:02:33,850 --> 01:02:38,410  
that context was the  
dockers docking the ship.

1325  
01:02:38,410 --> 01:02:41,230  
I was onboard the ship  
in a special group

1326  
01:02:41,230 --> 01:02:45,460  
that included other  
Americans of German origin.

1327  
01:02:45,460 --> 01:02:47,360  
Interesting enough, none  
of them were Jewish.

1328  
01:02:47,360 --> 01:02:51,520  
They were Germans who  
come here and were still

1329  
01:02:51,520 --> 01:02:54,640  
somewhat enamored with Germany.

1330  
01:02:54,640 --> 01:02:55,900  
But these were younger people.

1331  
01:02:55,900 --> 01:02:57,710  
They were not born in Germany.

1332

01:02:57,710 --> 01:02:59,800  
But we were all,  
quote, "interpreters"

1333  
01:02:59,800 --> 01:03:02,780  
or something of that  
nature, and I was with them.

1334  
01:03:02,780 --> 01:03:04,630  
They did not know I  
was Jewish since we

1335  
01:03:04,630 --> 01:03:08,470  
didn't exchange any personal  
identification at all.

1336  
01:03:08,470 --> 01:03:10,750  
That was the reason for that.

1337  
01:03:10,750 --> 01:03:13,630  
But we're in uniform,  
and so we first

1338  
01:03:13,630 --> 01:03:16,240  
met Germans with  
a troop train that

1339  
01:03:16,240 --> 01:03:18,010  
pulled alongside  
the ship, the dock,

1340  
01:03:18,010 --> 01:03:19,330  
and we were put onboard that.

1341  
01:03:19,330 --> 01:03:21,160  
There was about  
a thousand of us.

1342  
01:03:21,160 --> 01:03:23,230  
That took us all the  
way, practically, to--

1343  
01:03:23,230 --> 01:03:25,450

I guess it was to Frankfurt.

1344  
01:03:25,450 --> 01:03:29,420  
It had seats that turned into  
bunks so we could sleep there.

1345  
01:03:29,420 --> 01:03:33,517  
It's like a troop barracks train  
with a cafeteria car hooked up

1346  
01:03:33,517 --> 01:03:34,100  
in the middle.

1347  
01:03:34,100 --> 01:03:36,930  
You could line up, and walk  
through, and pick up some food.

1348  
01:03:36,930 --> 01:03:40,150  
But there was a German  
porter assigned to each car,

1349  
01:03:40,150 --> 01:03:42,040  
and so it was the first  
person that you ran

1350  
01:03:42,040 --> 01:03:44,770  
into that was a German-German.

1351  
01:03:44,770 --> 01:03:49,780  
And we talked to him  
in German, and this

1352  
01:03:49,780 --> 01:03:52,420  
was a very ordinary man.

1353  
01:03:52,420 --> 01:03:57,080  
Our reaction was,  
we were military.

1354  
01:03:57,080 --> 01:04:02,290  
You play the role of  
that, and you didn't

1355

01:04:02,290 --> 01:04:03,970  
have much to do with them.

1356

01:04:03,970 --> 01:04:08,490  
My own reaction was that I  
had little or no interest

1357

01:04:08,490 --> 01:04:15,340  
in dealing with the Germans  
except in an official capacity.

1358

01:04:15,340 --> 01:04:17,760  
But this, of course,  
was often the case.

1359

01:04:17,760 --> 01:04:20,760  
I had to deal with  
them, talk to them.

1360

01:04:20,760 --> 01:04:23,830

1361

01:04:23,830 --> 01:04:25,240  
They would always see--

1362

01:04:25,240 --> 01:04:27,760  
well, they would look at  
you because you were wearing

1363

01:04:27,760 --> 01:04:31,000  
an American uniform  
when I was in uniform,

1364

01:04:31,000 --> 01:04:34,660  
and their view was that you  
might be-- in their eyes,

1365

01:04:34,660 --> 01:04:37,300  
you were sort of, quote,  
"a traitor" because you

1366

01:04:37,300 --> 01:04:40,870



had deserted Germany  
to go to America

1367  
01:04:40,870 --> 01:04:45,460  
and become an American soldier  
to come back to be a big boss

1368  
01:04:45,460 --> 01:04:46,930  
or be someone.

1369  
01:04:46,930 --> 01:04:48,880  
That was their view of you.

1370  
01:04:48,880 --> 01:04:54,820  
They didn't see me as a Jew,  
but that was their view.

1371  
01:04:54,820 --> 01:04:56,830  
It was very interesting.

1372  
01:04:56,830 --> 01:05:03,520  
But I never let on because,  
to me, they were robots,

1373  
01:05:03,520 --> 01:05:08,890  
and I viewed them with  
that kind of attitude,

1374  
01:05:08,890 --> 01:05:12,460  
interesting but  
irrelevant to me.

1375  
01:05:12,460 --> 01:05:15,720  
If they thought  
that, that was fine.

1376  
01:05:15,720 --> 01:05:18,900  
There were times when I was  
able to, in civilian clothes,

1377  
01:05:18,900 --> 01:05:20,470  
mingle among the Germans.

1378

01:05:20,470 --> 01:05:22,230

We were at that point--

1379

01:05:22,230 --> 01:05:26,320

in this unit, we're  
able to do that.

1380

01:05:26,320 --> 01:05:31,850

The interesting part there  
was one had the impression--

1381

01:05:31,850 --> 01:05:34,250

they had not typically  
or realistically

1382

01:05:34,250 --> 01:05:36,860

changed very much,  
not that I was

1383

01:05:36,860 --> 01:05:40,340

an expert on their philosophy  
or psychology before the war,

1384

01:05:40,340 --> 01:05:42,200

during, or after.

1385

01:05:42,200 --> 01:05:46,940

But their ways of  
interpreting, their commentary,

1386

01:05:46,940 --> 01:05:50,520

their discretion was  
very definitely--

1387

01:05:50,520 --> 01:05:53,330

1388

01:05:53,330 --> 01:05:57,380

I guess to them, Jews,  
foreigners, Americans--

1389

01:05:57,380 --> 01:06:02,450

they were not on  
the preferred list.

1390  
01:06:02,450 --> 01:06:05,810  
There was one incident alone I  
recall that I was with three--

1391  
01:06:05,810 --> 01:06:08,030  
there were four of us,  
and we were in uniform,

1392  
01:06:08,030 --> 01:06:09,830  
all German-speaking.

1393  
01:06:09,830 --> 01:06:12,440  
And we went into  
this town and went

1394  
01:06:12,440 --> 01:06:16,910  
to eat in a guest house, a  
restaurant, and went in there,

1395  
01:06:16,910 --> 01:06:19,790  
and they sort of  
looked at us and--

1396  
01:06:19,790 --> 01:06:23,790  
we said in English--

1397  
01:06:23,790 --> 01:06:26,810  
we decided we would only  
talk in English since we

1398  
01:06:26,810 --> 01:06:28,460  
were wearing American uniforms.

1399  
01:06:28,460 --> 01:06:31,375  
So they finally gave us a  
table, which was really for 8,

1400  
01:06:31,375 --> 01:06:33,920  
but there was four  
of us, set us down.

1401  
01:06:33,920 --> 01:06:36,260  
And the place began to  
fill up, and of course,

1402  
01:06:36,260 --> 01:06:38,450  
all the other tables were  
being filled with Germans.

1403  
01:06:38,450 --> 01:06:42,100  
And they were moving eight  
people into a section,

1404  
01:06:42,100 --> 01:06:46,370  
fill up the tables, except they  
would move no one to our table.

1405  
01:06:46,370 --> 01:06:48,500  
No one was being  
asked to sit there.

1406  
01:06:48,500 --> 01:06:50,630  
Finally, the place  
got so full that I

1407  
01:06:50,630 --> 01:06:55,640  
suppose in desperation two  
couples were put at our table.

1408  
01:06:55,640 --> 01:06:58,970  
And we continued speaking  
English amongst one another,

1409  
01:06:58,970 --> 01:07:01,580  
and these Germans sat down,  
began to speak German,

1410  
01:07:01,580 --> 01:07:04,070  
and pretty soon they  
discussed American soldiers,

1411  
01:07:04,070 --> 01:07:07,145  
how badly they were

behaved, and how lousy they

1412  
01:07:07,145 --> 01:07:08,270  
were, and all these things.

1413  
01:07:08,270 --> 01:07:11,120  
And of course, we all understood  
what they were saying.

1414  
01:07:11,120 --> 01:07:13,460  
So we decided we  
were going to go

1415  
01:07:13,460 --> 01:07:17,570  
back to our base on the  
train, say, at 10:00 or 10:30,

1416  
01:07:17,570 --> 01:07:20,180  
and we decided that we  
would automatically--

1417  
01:07:20,180 --> 01:07:23,180  
in English we discussed  
as we quickly among us.

1418  
01:07:23,180 --> 01:07:26,090  
We would switch  
automatically into German

1419  
01:07:26,090 --> 01:07:28,170  
at a certain signal.

1420  
01:07:28,170 --> 01:07:30,810  
So we were all from  
California, as it turned out,

1421  
01:07:30,810 --> 01:07:36,200  
and we said 15 minutes  
before we leave one of us

1422  
01:07:36,200 --> 01:07:38,330  
would utter the  
word "California."

1423  
01:07:38,330 --> 01:07:40,540  
And from that second  
on our conversation

1424  
01:07:40,540 --> 01:07:43,400  
would all be German,  
which happened.

1425  
01:07:43,400 --> 01:07:46,610  
California, and we  
switch into German.

1426  
01:07:46,610 --> 01:07:50,280  
And these people  
were so astounded.

1427  
01:07:50,280 --> 01:07:56,720  
They never uttered a single  
word until we left, not a word.

1428  
01:07:56,720 --> 01:08:03,445  
It was just our way of  
reacting to their views.

1429  
01:08:03,445 --> 01:08:05,320  
We never said anything  
to them when we moved.

1430  
01:08:05,320 --> 01:08:08,660  
Oh, just excuse  
me, all in German,

1431  
01:08:08,660 --> 01:08:10,690  
just smiled in there  
then walked away

1432  
01:08:10,690 --> 01:08:13,460  
out the door after  
we paid, of course.

1433  
01:08:13,460 --> 01:08:15,610  
So these were some

of the incidences--

1434  
01:08:15,610 --> 01:08:17,380  
I'm sorry, incidents  
that occurred

1435  
01:08:17,380 --> 01:08:22,413  
when I was in the service in  
Germany, always interesting.

1436  
01:08:22,413 --> 01:08:23,830  
They were trying  
to buy cigarettes

1437  
01:08:23,830 --> 01:08:26,080  
from us at the railway station.

1438  
01:08:26,080 --> 01:08:27,550  
When we arrived,  
say, from Munich

1439  
01:08:27,550 --> 01:08:29,439  
we were stationed at Lenggries.

1440  
01:08:29,439 --> 01:08:34,149  
And a box of cigarettes and--

1441  
01:08:34,149 --> 01:08:35,800  
they tried to, of  
course, cheat you

1442  
01:08:35,800 --> 01:08:39,350  
by gathering the cigarettes,  
offering a very high price,

1443  
01:08:39,350 --> 01:08:41,080  
and then walking  
around a little bit,

1444  
01:08:41,080 --> 01:08:44,830  
and then finally giving you  
money at the very last moment

1445

01:08:44,830 --> 01:08:47,979

when it would look like  
plainclothes German police

1446

01:08:47,979 --> 01:08:49,120

arrived.

1447

01:08:49,120 --> 01:08:51,100

They were neither police.

1448

01:08:51,100 --> 01:08:53,208

They were one of  
their gang but made

1449

01:08:53,208 --> 01:08:55,750

it appear as if they're about  
to pounce upon all these people

1450

01:08:55,750 --> 01:08:57,220

dealing with cigarettes.

1451

01:08:57,220 --> 01:09:00,460

They would then  
slip soldiers paper

1452

01:09:00,460 --> 01:09:06,430

with a one, single 10 mark  
note wrapped around it

1453

01:09:06,430 --> 01:09:10,220

for cigarettes worth 500  
marks or something like that.

1454

01:09:10,220 --> 01:09:11,810

So there had been  
cases like that,

1455

01:09:11,810 --> 01:09:14,649

and so they had sent us  
to look into the situation

1456

01:09:14,649 --> 01:09:16,510



because we could  
both be soldiers,

1457  
01:09:16,510 --> 01:09:19,779  
and we could both be  
civilians speaking German.

1458  
01:09:19,779 --> 01:09:21,609  
So yes, indeed.

1459  
01:09:21,609 --> 01:09:24,580  
And they would always  
prey on guys or soldiers.

1460  
01:09:24,580 --> 01:09:28,779  
But then when these  
plainclothes guys showed up,

1461  
01:09:28,779 --> 01:09:30,880  
who were really  
part of the gang,

1462  
01:09:30,880 --> 01:09:36,340  
we surrounded them, and blocked  
them from leaving the area,

1463  
01:09:36,340 --> 01:09:39,399  
and then got the German police  
to arrest them because we

1464  
01:09:39,399 --> 01:09:41,920  
did not have civil authority--

1465  
01:09:41,920 --> 01:09:44,640  
we were not law officers.

1466  
01:09:44,640 --> 01:09:48,990  
But our job was to protect  
the American soldier

1467  
01:09:48,990 --> 01:09:52,160  
from being taken in.

1468

01:09:52,160 --> 01:09:55,085

So these are some of the things that we got into,

1469

01:09:55,085 --> 01:09:56,710

but the rest of the time in the service

1470

01:09:56,710 --> 01:10:01,450

was spent in France because they needed people there.

1471

01:10:01,450 --> 01:10:05,590

And so we were draftees, and that other part of the job

1472

01:10:05,590 --> 01:10:09,580

was not as important anymore.

1473

01:10:09,580 --> 01:10:12,860

I was going to ask you, Frank--

1474

01:10:12,860 --> 01:10:17,580

you mentioned the differences between your Jewish community,

1475

01:10:17,580 --> 01:10:20,110

those who had had experiences and had

1476

01:10:20,110 --> 01:10:24,020

a different cultural derivation than the American Jewish

1477

01:10:24,020 --> 01:10:29,240

community, and I wondered, too, how

1478

01:10:29,240 --> 01:10:33,500

citizenship, how American citizenship in particular,

1479

01:10:33,500 --> 01:10:35,570  
felt different for  
you and perhaps

1480  
01:10:35,570 --> 01:10:37,430  
for your family and  
the other members

1481  
01:10:37,430 --> 01:10:42,170  
of this expatriate community  
compared to what you saw around

1482  
01:10:42,170 --> 01:10:45,350  
you in the United States.

1483  
01:10:45,350 --> 01:10:47,553  
Well, there are two  
views on that, I think.

1484  
01:10:47,553 --> 01:10:49,220  
Certainly, we looked  
forward to becoming

1485  
01:10:49,220 --> 01:10:50,720  
citizens of the United States.

1486  
01:10:50,720 --> 01:10:53,940  
After all, we had been  
stateless all this time,

1487  
01:10:53,940 --> 01:10:56,780  
and we had taken out our  
so-called "first papers"

1488  
01:10:56,780 --> 01:10:59,570  
shortly after we arrived.

1489  
01:10:59,570 --> 01:11:02,180  
We were allowed to work  
here and everything.

1490  
01:11:02,180 --> 01:11:08,735  
So certainly in 1952

it was, I believe--

1491

01:11:08,735 --> 01:11:13,190  
it just before I was  
drafted into the army.

1492

01:11:13,190 --> 01:11:15,045  
It was that year, '52.

1493

01:11:15,045 --> 01:11:17,420  
March of '52, I believe, we  
became citizens of the United

1494

01:11:17,420 --> 01:11:19,875  
States, having studied and  
learned all the things you

1495

01:11:19,875 --> 01:11:22,280  
needed to know, gone through  
the testing procedure,

1496

01:11:22,280 --> 01:11:25,330  
sworn in in a large  
group in the opera house

1497

01:11:25,330 --> 01:11:28,520  
with Danny Kaye as  
the guest entertainer

1498

01:11:28,520 --> 01:11:31,180  
and speaker for the occasion.

1499

01:11:31,180 --> 01:11:32,900  
That was all very  
interesting, and I

1500

01:11:32,900 --> 01:11:38,870  
think that was a big moment  
in our lives, the first time

1501

01:11:38,870 --> 01:11:43,190  
again being a formal citizen of  
a country, the diverse country,

1502  
01:11:43,190 --> 01:11:47,330  
obviously, but nonetheless,  
that was very important to us

1503  
01:11:47,330 --> 01:11:51,860  
and welcome that we sought  
that right from the beginning,

1504  
01:11:51,860 --> 01:11:55,220  
I'm sure as everyone did.

1505  
01:11:55,220 --> 01:11:58,370  
But of course, after that,  
there you were, a citizen,

1506  
01:11:58,370 --> 01:12:00,920  
and you did your voting,  
and you did everything.

1507  
01:12:00,920 --> 01:12:03,040  
And most people  
that became citizens

1508  
01:12:03,040 --> 01:12:04,970  
were very patriotic people.

1509  
01:12:04,970 --> 01:12:06,530  
They certainly  
believed in everything

1510  
01:12:06,530 --> 01:12:08,120  
that country stood for.

1511  
01:12:08,120 --> 01:12:12,280  
They are very  
meticulous about voting.

1512  
01:12:12,280 --> 01:12:16,830  
They're very meticulous about  
following the laws, the rules,

1513

01:12:16,830 --> 01:12:20,630  
and paying their income tax,  
and doing all these things,

1514  
01:12:20,630 --> 01:12:25,850  
and sometimes almost too much  
so when other people would say,

1515  
01:12:25,850 --> 01:12:29,150  
oh, you don't have to do this  
or you don't have to do that.

1516  
01:12:29,150 --> 01:12:31,130  
Those that became  
citizens certainly

1517  
01:12:31,130 --> 01:12:35,960  
liked to follow the laws and  
the processes in this country.

1518  
01:12:35,960 --> 01:12:43,210  
But other than that, people  
after while also looked

1519  
01:12:43,210 --> 01:12:49,000  
at the policies of this  
country, and if I sit back here

1520  
01:12:49,000 --> 01:12:54,370  
I would say that,  
unfortunately, many times

1521  
01:12:54,370 --> 01:12:57,550  
what may appear to  
be a great support

1522  
01:12:57,550 --> 01:13:02,020  
for the notion of the state of  
Israel, or for the Israelis,

1523  
01:13:02,020 --> 01:13:04,550  
or for the Jewish people  
by American presidents

1524

01:13:04,550 --> 01:13:09,520

or perhaps by the  
Congress and the public

1525

01:13:09,520 --> 01:13:13,420

tends to get warped a bit.

1526

01:13:13,420 --> 01:13:20,380

I speak from the standpoint  
of Judaism as a nation.

1527

01:13:20,380 --> 01:13:25,570

I see being Jewish no different  
from being Irish or Italian.

1528

01:13:25,570 --> 01:13:28,120

When they say, Jews, if you're  
so interested in Israel,

1529

01:13:28,120 --> 01:13:30,740

why don't you go live there,  
it's like saying to an Italian,

1530

01:13:30,740 --> 01:13:34,570

if you want to be an Italian,  
why don't you go live in Italy

1531

01:13:34,570 --> 01:13:37,600

or the Vatican as a  
Catholic or the same

1532

01:13:37,600 --> 01:13:40,510

with the Irish people  
or anyone else.

1533

01:13:40,510 --> 01:13:44,710

I view the Jews as a  
nation, not as a religion.

1534

01:13:44,710 --> 01:13:48,190

I don't view-- the  
religion is, to me,

1535

01:13:48,190 --> 01:13:53,470  
a separate-- well, not quite  
separate but a different thing.

1536

01:13:53,470 --> 01:13:58,450  
I am very, very, very cautious  
about any kind of cultism

1537

01:13:58,450 --> 01:14:01,450  
that can be developed  
from religion

1538

01:14:01,450 --> 01:14:06,490  
and Judaism included  
because if we look back

1539

01:14:06,490 --> 01:14:11,770  
on the origins of  
Nazism of that era,

1540

01:14:11,770 --> 01:14:13,780  
people often say  
that much of what

1541

01:14:13,780 --> 01:14:17,200  
happened in Germany in the 30s  
is a result of the Versailles

1542

01:14:17,200 --> 01:14:22,360  
Treaty, which I believe is  
nonsense because, really, it

1543

01:14:22,360 --> 01:14:25,540  
was the Kaiser who fought  
the First World War.

1544

01:14:25,540 --> 01:14:28,060  
He was the one that  
did the attacking.

1545

01:14:28,060 --> 01:14:31,810  
He's the one that  
created the situation.



1546  
01:14:31,810 --> 01:14:35,590  
The Germans suffered  
accordingly, as did many others

1547  
01:14:35,590 --> 01:14:39,040  
but not react as  
the Germans did.

1548  
01:14:39,040 --> 01:14:41,850  
The Kaiser, unfortunately,  
was a man that--

1549  
01:14:41,850 --> 01:14:46,440

1550  
01:14:46,440 --> 01:14:50,580  
it was a man who was  
physically somewhat, deformed.

1551  
01:14:50,580 --> 01:14:54,030  
He had a shriveled arm,  
and this may or man not

1552  
01:14:54,030 --> 01:14:57,690  
have given him a complex.

1553  
01:14:57,690 --> 01:15:00,810  
In pictures you saw him  
carrying long gloves

1554  
01:15:00,810 --> 01:15:04,380  
in that shortened  
arm and his uniform.

1555  
01:15:04,380 --> 01:15:08,370  
This brings us-- and I will talk  
about that in a little while--

1556  
01:15:08,370 --> 01:15:11,730  
to other people  
who have had what

1557

01:15:11,730 --> 01:15:17,380  
we call today disabilities,  
psychological problems as well,

1558

01:15:17,380 --> 01:15:21,880  
and that's when we get,  
certainly, to the four people

1559

01:15:21,880 --> 01:15:27,520  
that formed the core of Nazism  
in their late 20s and 30s.

1560

01:15:27,520 --> 01:15:30,070  
But if you want  
to wait for that,

1561

01:15:30,070 --> 01:15:32,480  
we'll do it just in a moment.

1562

01:15:32,480 --> 01:15:33,000