

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:05,130

This is take 2, side A, and we
are interviewing Ruth Horowitz.

2

00:00:05,130 --> 00:00:08,840

And you were telling me about
being a Yankee Doodle kid.

3

00:00:08,840 --> 00:00:11,050

And you were also talking
about your transition

4

00:00:11,050 --> 00:00:13,350

to life in this country.

5

00:00:13,350 --> 00:00:15,100

Is there anything more
you want to tell me

6

00:00:15,100 --> 00:00:16,810

about your transition?

7

00:00:16,810 --> 00:00:22,520

Well, as I say, we learned
English very quickly.

8

00:00:22,520 --> 00:00:25,690

And we also learned by
going to the movies.

9

00:00:25,690 --> 00:00:28,330

My sister and I
were, as my mother

10

00:00:28,330 --> 00:00:31,840

used to say, "late in the
movies," quote unquote.

11

00:00:31,840 --> 00:00:34,660

We used to be in the movies
during the summer from morning

12

00:00:34,660 --> 00:00:35,440
till night.

13

00:00:35,440 --> 00:00:38,980
In those days, you could just
stay in the movies and keep

14

00:00:38,980 --> 00:00:43,420
watching the same movie over
and over again for about \$0.10,

15

00:00:43,420 --> 00:00:44,890
\$0.20.

16

00:00:44,890 --> 00:00:49,170
And that's a wonderful
way to learn a language.

17

00:00:49,170 --> 00:00:52,920
The school was very nice.

18

00:00:52,920 --> 00:00:55,980
Public school was very nice,
but the kids, of course,

19

00:00:55,980 --> 00:00:57,970
still made fun.

20

00:00:57,970 --> 00:01:01,300
I had a few friends,
not too many.

21

00:01:01,300 --> 00:01:07,380
And then when my father
ultimately took a position

22

00:01:07,380 --> 00:01:11,490
in Washington, he came
down here to Washington

23

00:01:11,490 --> 00:01:13,590
to live with an aunt.

24
00:01:13,590 --> 00:01:19,680
My mother, my sister,
and I stayed in New York.

25
00:01:19,680 --> 00:01:26,260
Then an aunt decided that
she would take my sister.

26
00:01:26,260 --> 00:01:30,250
Another cousin on my mother's
side decided she would take me.

27
00:01:30,250 --> 00:01:34,440
And we were sort of
split up for a time

28
00:01:34,440 --> 00:01:39,350
to make things easier until
my parents could establish

29
00:01:39,350 --> 00:01:40,880
themselves.

30
00:01:40,880 --> 00:01:45,500
But ultimately, we
lived in New York.

31
00:01:45,500 --> 00:01:48,590
My mother then moved out
of this horrible apartment

32
00:01:48,590 --> 00:01:51,980
and moved into an apartment
on West End Avenue

33
00:01:51,980 --> 00:01:53,750
with my sister and me.

34
00:01:53,750 --> 00:01:55,640
The apartment on
West End Avenue was

35

00:01:55,640 --> 00:02:00,480

owned by a physician who
had a place in the country.

36

00:02:00,480 --> 00:02:05,500

And this now was summertime--
this was 1939 in the summer.

37

00:02:05,500 --> 00:02:13,440

And at that time this doctor
his family went to the country.

38

00:02:13,440 --> 00:02:18,090

And my mother's cousins
knew this physician,

39

00:02:18,090 --> 00:02:21,480

and this physician wanted
someone to house-sit.

40

00:02:21,480 --> 00:02:27,120

So my mother was a
wonderful person for this,

41

00:02:27,120 --> 00:02:31,170

so she and my sister and
I were in this apartment

42

00:02:31,170 --> 00:02:33,420

on West End Avenue.

43

00:02:33,420 --> 00:02:36,810

When my father became
more established

44

00:02:36,810 --> 00:02:40,750

in Washington, of course, he
wanted us all to come down.

45

00:02:40,750 --> 00:02:42,960

He was separated from us.

46

00:02:42,960 --> 00:02:46,940
And he rented an apartment
on New Hampshire Avenue--

47
00:02:46,940 --> 00:02:50,280
5301 New Hampshire
Avenue, a one-bedroom.

48
00:02:50,280 --> 00:02:56,160
And my sister, and my mother,
and I came to Washington

49
00:02:56,160 --> 00:02:58,200
and we were all together again.

50
00:02:58,200 --> 00:03:01,200
It was very close quarters--

51
00:03:01,200 --> 00:03:05,130
my sister and I slept
in the living room,

52
00:03:05,130 --> 00:03:07,410
my parents had the bedroom,
and then every once

53
00:03:07,410 --> 00:03:09,540
in a while we switched
over depending

54
00:03:09,540 --> 00:03:14,250
on who was more comfortable.

55
00:03:14,250 --> 00:03:15,520
But we were together.

56
00:03:15,520 --> 00:03:18,940
And then we lived there for
about a year, year and a half.

57
00:03:18,940 --> 00:03:21,210
And then we moved
to Peabody Street

58
00:03:21,210 --> 00:03:24,060
where we had a
two-bedroom apartment.

59
00:03:24,060 --> 00:03:28,530
And my father then
was a salesman

60
00:03:28,530 --> 00:03:37,080
for a men's furnishings
line-- like belts, suspenders,

61
00:03:37,080 --> 00:03:40,590
underwear, things like that,
which was a little bit in his

62
00:03:40,590 --> 00:03:41,470
line--

63
00:03:41,470 --> 00:03:44,190
the same thing that he did
in Europe, except on his own.

64
00:03:44,190 --> 00:03:49,550
And he also took in a
line of costume jewelry.

65
00:03:49,550 --> 00:03:52,110
He was working for someone.

66
00:03:52,110 --> 00:03:56,100
And then he decided that
if someone else can do that

67
00:03:56,100 --> 00:03:58,140
and he could do it
for that someone else,

68
00:03:58,140 --> 00:04:00,310
then he could do it for himself.

69

00:04:00,310 --> 00:04:03,570

So he went into
business for himself.

70

00:04:03,570 --> 00:04:08,830

He used to go to New York
and buy costume jewelry.

71

00:04:08,830 --> 00:04:12,480

And we had a big walk-in
closet in the apartment,

72

00:04:12,480 --> 00:04:14,780

and that became
his little office.

73

00:04:14,780 --> 00:04:17,760

And that's how he started
the jewelry business.

74

00:04:17,760 --> 00:04:19,529

And he had a nice business.

75

00:04:19,529 --> 00:04:24,420

But unfortunately, he didn't
move into downtown quarters.

76

00:04:24,420 --> 00:04:28,710

But unfortunately, after only
being in this country 11 years,

77

00:04:28,710 --> 00:04:29,580

my father died.

78

00:04:29,580 --> 00:04:32,910

He had hypertension
in Europe that

79

00:04:32,910 --> 00:04:37,260

was made worse by everything
that he went through.

80

00:04:37,260 --> 00:04:41,160

And by the time he got to this country, he really was sick.

81
00:04:41,160 --> 00:04:45,910
I never remember my father being well.

82
00:04:45,910 --> 00:04:48,850
He always had headaches, and I thought, well, maybe he

83
00:04:48,850 --> 00:04:51,520
has headaches because he's so stressed.

84
00:04:51,520 --> 00:04:53,740
But the headaches were a combination

85
00:04:53,740 --> 00:04:57,240
of the stress and his physical being.

86
00:04:57,240 --> 00:05:02,350
He had a lot on his head, a lot on his mind.

87
00:05:02,350 --> 00:05:07,090
And he did beautifully, except he had a stroke when

88
00:05:07,090 --> 00:05:10,930
he was about 52, going on 53.

89
00:05:10,930 --> 00:05:11,830
And he died.

90
00:05:11,830 --> 00:05:13,720
He was completely paralyzed.

91
00:05:13,720 --> 00:05:18,210
He lasted about a year and a half-- he died when he was 54.

92
00:05:18,210 --> 00:05:23,220

93
00:05:23,220 --> 00:05:26,910
When you came to
the United States,

94
00:05:26,910 --> 00:05:30,990
were you able to maintain
contact with your relatives

95
00:05:30,990 --> 00:05:32,430
back in Europe?

96
00:05:32,430 --> 00:05:36,250
No, no.

97
00:05:36,250 --> 00:05:41,670
Perhaps my parents wrote
for their grandparents.

98
00:05:41,670 --> 00:05:47,400
But I have a lot of letters that
my grandfather and grandmother

99
00:05:47,400 --> 00:05:50,640
wrote to my mother,
to their daughter.

100
00:05:50,640 --> 00:05:52,770
But that was before the war.

101
00:05:52,770 --> 00:05:55,220
That was to Hamburg.

102
00:05:55,220 --> 00:05:59,840
I have no letters at all that
were written by them to us

103
00:05:59,840 --> 00:06:01,790
in the United States.

104

00:06:01,790 --> 00:06:06,980

And I have no record or any
inclination that my father--

105

00:06:06,980 --> 00:06:11,610

perhaps he wrote, but
nothing was ever sent back.

106

00:06:11,610 --> 00:06:14,240

So I don't think
there was any contact.

107

00:06:14,240 --> 00:06:18,140

And we really didn't know
what happened to the family

108

00:06:18,140 --> 00:06:19,560

until after the war.

109

00:06:19,560 --> 00:06:26,240

We just assumed that
either they were killed

110

00:06:26,240 --> 00:06:27,488

or they were in a camp.

111

00:06:27,488 --> 00:06:29,030

No, we didn't really
assume that they

112

00:06:29,030 --> 00:06:30,572

were killed, because
that's something

113

00:06:30,572 --> 00:06:33,750

that you just didn't assume--

114

00:06:33,750 --> 00:06:38,310

that they were in a camp or
that they escaped someplace,

115

00:06:38,310 --> 00:06:41,790
because you started to
hear all kinds of rumors.

116
00:06:41,790 --> 00:06:48,030
And there really wasn't
much information given out.

117
00:06:48,030 --> 00:06:50,405
Tell me about some of the
information that was given out.

118
00:06:50,405 --> 00:06:53,072
Do you remember at the beginning
of the war in September of '39?

119
00:06:53,072 --> 00:06:55,660

120
00:06:55,660 --> 00:06:58,210
Very little-- very little.

121
00:06:58,210 --> 00:07:00,340
Just that the Jews
were rounded up,

122
00:07:00,340 --> 00:07:04,330
and it was a good
thing that we were out.

123
00:07:04,330 --> 00:07:09,520
I do remember-- perhaps
there was a communication.

124
00:07:09,520 --> 00:07:15,160
My Aunt Flora, Rita's mother,
was married again at that time

125
00:07:15,160 --> 00:07:15,660
to a--

126
00:07:15,660 --> 00:07:22,220
[AUDIO DROPS] And I know

that he was picked up

127

00:07:22,220 --> 00:07:25,550
by the authorities in Poland.

128

00:07:25,550 --> 00:07:28,470

129

00:07:28,470 --> 00:07:33,600
But I'm not sure now whether
this was right before the war

130

00:07:33,600 --> 00:07:39,500
or after the war started.

131

00:07:39,500 --> 00:07:43,790
He was an engineer, and
I really am not sure

132

00:07:43,790 --> 00:07:45,080
just when he was picked up.

133

00:07:45,080 --> 00:07:50,653
But we did know
that he disappeared,

134

00:07:50,653 --> 00:07:52,070
and he was never
heard from again.

135

00:07:52,070 --> 00:07:55,440

136

00:07:55,440 --> 00:08:01,300
We heard very little about
what was going on, really.

137

00:08:01,300 --> 00:08:04,210
There was no information
that we could get.

138

00:08:04,210 --> 00:08:06,610

We couldn't call anybody--
couldn't call to Europe.

139
00:08:06,610 --> 00:08:09,270

140
00:08:09,270 --> 00:08:12,570
Once the war started,
no letters went through.

141
00:08:12,570 --> 00:08:15,623
And if my father did
attempt to write,

142
00:08:15,623 --> 00:08:17,040
they wouldn't have
gotten through.

143
00:08:17,040 --> 00:08:18,510
They would have been sent back.

144
00:08:18,510 --> 00:08:22,920
There was an absolute void--

145
00:08:22,920 --> 00:08:26,880
no information came in or out.

146
00:08:26,880 --> 00:08:30,390
Do you remember following
the news of the war effort?

147
00:08:30,390 --> 00:08:32,190
Yes.

148
00:08:32,190 --> 00:08:36,010
I helped with sugar rationing.

149
00:08:36,010 --> 00:08:44,910
I remember the selling of the
bonds and being very patriotic.

150
00:08:44,910 --> 00:08:46,550

Of course, I was in school.

151

00:08:46,550 --> 00:08:50,400

And at that time, the reason
I bring up sugar rationing

152

00:08:50,400 --> 00:08:55,470

is because the sugar was
rationed, as a lot of things

153

00:08:55,470 --> 00:09:03,610

were at that time-- shoes,
gasoline, butter, meat.

154

00:09:03,610 --> 00:09:05,910

Sugar rationing
was important to me

155

00:09:05,910 --> 00:09:10,630

because the registration
and the little chits

156

00:09:10,630 --> 00:09:15,200

were issued by my grade
school, Brightwood School.

157

00:09:15,200 --> 00:09:19,340

And my class was designated
to help with sugar rationing.

158

00:09:19,340 --> 00:09:21,310

So I do remember
that very vividly.

159

00:09:21,310 --> 00:09:24,460

In fact, I have a
little citation on one

160

00:09:24,460 --> 00:09:27,010

of my report cards
that the teacher

161

00:09:27,010 --> 00:09:30,910

was very pleased that I'd
helped with sugar rationing.

162
00:09:30,910 --> 00:09:34,360
And also at that
same time, it was

163
00:09:34,360 --> 00:09:36,070
written on one of
my report cards

164
00:09:36,070 --> 00:09:37,840
that I did very well in English.

165
00:09:37,840 --> 00:09:40,840
English was one of
my best subjects--

166
00:09:40,840 --> 00:09:42,260
reading, writing.

167
00:09:42,260 --> 00:09:43,750
Arithmetic was not too great.

168
00:09:43,750 --> 00:09:48,320

169
00:09:48,320 --> 00:09:50,100
During the war years--

170
00:09:50,100 --> 00:09:52,310
the beginning of the
war and on through--

171
00:09:52,310 --> 00:09:54,830
did you get a sense that the
Jewish community in the United

172
00:09:54,830 --> 00:09:58,010
States was at all alarmed?

173
00:09:58,010 --> 00:10:00,620

They were perhaps
alarmed, but I don't think

174
00:10:00,620 --> 00:10:02,870
they understood
what was going on--

175
00:10:02,870 --> 00:10:04,100
I really don't.

176
00:10:04,100 --> 00:10:07,880
When we came to Washington,
this is really basically

177
00:10:07,880 --> 00:10:11,090
when our true life
in the United States

178
00:10:11,090 --> 00:10:16,280
started again, because anything
before that was very temporary.

179
00:10:16,280 --> 00:10:18,050
Not that life here
wasn't stressful,

180
00:10:18,050 --> 00:10:20,540
because my parents were trying
to establish themselves,

181
00:10:20,540 --> 00:10:22,880
and we always have
to remember that they

182
00:10:22,880 --> 00:10:24,710
had two young children.

183
00:10:24,710 --> 00:10:27,270
And that's traumatic in itself.

184
00:10:27,270 --> 00:10:31,550
But life really started here.

185

00:10:31,550 --> 00:10:38,250

And we had no money
except the little bit

186

00:10:38,250 --> 00:10:39,570

that my dad was making.

187

00:10:39,570 --> 00:10:42,240

Of course, we had to
buy food and rent,

188

00:10:42,240 --> 00:10:43,890

but there was
nothing being saved,

189

00:10:43,890 --> 00:10:46,830

and there was no
money for extras.

190

00:10:46,830 --> 00:10:54,130

And I will say that of
all the Jewish communities

191

00:10:54,130 --> 00:10:58,780

in the Washington area, the
Washington Hebrew congregation

192

00:10:58,780 --> 00:11:04,450

was the only one that put out
their hand to the newcomers.

193

00:11:04,450 --> 00:11:07,800

They offered English lessons.

194

00:11:07,800 --> 00:11:12,330

They offered lessons
in life in America.

195

00:11:12,330 --> 00:11:16,740

They offered tickets
for the high holy days.

196

00:11:16,740 --> 00:11:20,070

They opened up their
synagogues to the newcomers

197

00:11:20,070 --> 00:11:25,020

to come and meet
the congregation,

198

00:11:25,020 --> 00:11:27,500

to meet other newcomers.

199

00:11:27,500 --> 00:11:29,400

My parents found
this very important,

200

00:11:29,400 --> 00:11:33,470

because a lot of Jewish
people in the area--

201

00:11:33,470 --> 00:11:35,150

and I can only
speak for this area,

202

00:11:35,150 --> 00:11:37,610

because this was
where we lived--

203

00:11:37,610 --> 00:11:41,060

a lot of Jewish people
really didn't want

204

00:11:41,060 --> 00:11:45,680

to get to know us too well.

205

00:11:45,680 --> 00:11:47,930

I had that feeling,
maybe because they

206

00:11:47,930 --> 00:11:53,220

felt they would have to
give something to us--

207

00:11:53,220 --> 00:11:56,480

almost like maybe we would
be pariahs, who knows?

208
00:11:56,480 --> 00:12:00,130
They felt, perhaps, threatened.

209
00:12:00,130 --> 00:12:03,850
The first time I went to
a camp when I was a kid

210
00:12:03,850 --> 00:12:09,350
was through the auspices of the
Washington Hebrew Congregation

211
00:12:09,350 --> 00:12:12,340
and the Jewish Social Service.

212
00:12:12,340 --> 00:12:14,900
They worked with the
Jewish social services.

213
00:12:14,900 --> 00:12:17,287

214
00:12:17,287 --> 00:12:18,620
When did you come to Washington?

215
00:12:18,620 --> 00:12:20,390
We came to Washington in '41.

216
00:12:20,390 --> 00:12:25,930

217
00:12:25,930 --> 00:12:26,740
'40.

218
00:12:26,740 --> 00:12:27,970
'40.

219
00:12:27,970 --> 00:12:33,330
1940.

220

00:12:33,330 --> 00:12:36,750

You were in Washington for
some other historic events

221

00:12:36,750 --> 00:12:38,540

like Pearl Harbor and whatnot?

222

00:12:38,540 --> 00:12:39,340

Can you tell me--

223

00:12:39,340 --> 00:12:42,865

We also were at the inauguration
of Franklin D Roosevelt's

224

00:12:42,865 --> 00:12:43,365

fourth.

225

00:12:43,365 --> 00:12:46,470

226

00:12:46,470 --> 00:12:50,490

My mother's cousins in New
York knew someone in Congress,

227

00:12:50,490 --> 00:12:54,480

and they got tickets.

228

00:12:54,480 --> 00:12:56,040

All of us went--

229

00:12:56,040 --> 00:12:57,990

they got tickets
for the inauguration

230

00:12:57,990 --> 00:13:02,190

in front of the Capitol,
and they gave the tickets

231

00:13:02,190 --> 00:13:03,390

to my dad and my mother.

232

00:13:03,390 --> 00:13:07,530
And it was wonderful.

233
00:13:07,530 --> 00:13:09,270
We became very patriotic.

234
00:13:09,270 --> 00:13:12,470

235
00:13:12,470 --> 00:13:15,320
And of course, Pearl
Harbor, we were here.

236
00:13:15,320 --> 00:13:18,230
That was a trauma.

237
00:13:18,230 --> 00:13:20,570
I mean, then we were
in a full-fledged war.

238
00:13:20,570 --> 00:13:25,580
But again, other than
what all of the Americans

239
00:13:25,580 --> 00:13:29,150
read in the newspapers,
we didn't know any more.

240
00:13:29,150 --> 00:13:34,220
What was it like for you as a
German Jewish or Jewish German

241
00:13:34,220 --> 00:13:36,750
refugee in this
country during the war?

242
00:13:36,750 --> 00:13:39,260
During the war--
OK, at that point

243
00:13:39,260 --> 00:13:41,960
I was still in grade school.

244

00:13:41,960 --> 00:13:46,780

245

00:13:46,780 --> 00:13:49,518

We had a lot of anti-Semitism
among the Christians

246

00:13:49,518 --> 00:13:50,185

in this country.

247

00:13:50,185 --> 00:13:52,950

248

00:13:52,950 --> 00:13:55,470

Talking about the
Jews few feeling

249

00:13:55,470 --> 00:13:58,530

that we were strange,
with the Christians,

250

00:13:58,530 --> 00:14:00,800

we were even stranger.

251

00:14:00,800 --> 00:14:04,910

They didn't really know what
we were, why we were here,

252

00:14:04,910 --> 00:14:06,860

where Germany was.

253

00:14:06,860 --> 00:14:09,020

I mean basically, people
are very ignorant.

254

00:14:09,020 --> 00:14:13,310

And in today's
life, children are

255

00:14:13,310 --> 00:14:15,470

a little more sophisticated--

256

00:14:15,470 --> 00:14:16,370
they know.

257

00:14:16,370 --> 00:14:21,830
Having grandchildren of the
age that I was when I first

258

00:14:21,830 --> 00:14:27,590
came here, and knowing
what I knew of the world

259

00:14:27,590 --> 00:14:31,490
when I came here, the kids
that I met in this country

260

00:14:31,490 --> 00:14:34,760
were very ignorant, and
perhaps because the parents

261

00:14:34,760 --> 00:14:39,090
themselves never told the
children about other people

262

00:14:39,090 --> 00:14:42,150
other than their own.

263

00:14:42,150 --> 00:14:46,590
In these classes, I was
subject to anti-Semitism.

264

00:14:46,590 --> 00:14:50,980
And at one point, I
really felt not much

265

00:14:50,980 --> 00:14:56,530
better than over there when I
played in the yard in Hamburg.

266

00:14:56,530 --> 00:14:59,920
One little boy, and his
name came up recently

267

00:14:59,920 --> 00:15:02,620
because we're going to
have our 50th high school

268
00:15:02,620 --> 00:15:07,270
reunion next year, and this
kid went to school with me

269
00:15:07,270 --> 00:15:12,100
all through grade school,
junior high, and high school.

270
00:15:12,100 --> 00:15:19,020
And he said to me
in very gross way,

271
00:15:19,020 --> 00:15:22,380
why don't you go back to
Germany where you came from

272
00:15:22,380 --> 00:15:26,490
and burn up like the
rest of the Jews?

273
00:15:26,490 --> 00:15:30,330
And of course, I went
home crying to my mother.

274
00:15:30,330 --> 00:15:34,150
And just don't pay attention
to it-- and what do you do?

275
00:15:34,150 --> 00:15:35,670
What do you tell a child?

276
00:15:35,670 --> 00:15:41,080
But that happened very often--

277
00:15:41,080 --> 00:15:43,600
very often.

278
00:15:43,600 --> 00:15:47,460
The children were cruel because

they don't know any better,

279

00:15:47,460 --> 00:15:50,720

and they weren't
taught any different.

280

00:15:50,720 --> 00:15:55,340

And of course, when I started
to go to Hebrew school

281

00:15:55,340 --> 00:15:59,600

or to Sunday school at
Washington Hebrew, which,

282

00:15:59,600 --> 00:16:06,470

as it is today, caters to a
very elite, wealthy, socially

283

00:16:06,470 --> 00:16:11,000

prominent congregation--

284

00:16:11,000 --> 00:16:14,030

where at that
time, three or four

285

00:16:14,030 --> 00:16:18,470

of the kids that I went
to Sunday school with

286

00:16:18,470 --> 00:16:20,450

came to school in chauffeurs.

287

00:16:20,450 --> 00:16:22,970

I felt very
intimidated there also.

288

00:16:22,970 --> 00:16:26,720

They used to whisper, she's
wearing the same dress again,

289

00:16:26,720 --> 00:16:30,590

and, can't her parents afford
to buy her another dress--

290
00:16:30,590 --> 00:16:32,070
little things like that.

291
00:16:32,070 --> 00:16:35,090
So you do feel a
little out of it.

292
00:16:35,090 --> 00:16:39,590
And it took a few years
till you get acclimated.

293
00:16:39,590 --> 00:16:41,840
And perhaps this
is not that unique.

294
00:16:41,840 --> 00:16:45,620
Maybe this is true of any
child that moves from one area

295
00:16:45,620 --> 00:16:47,210
to the other.

296
00:16:47,210 --> 00:16:52,720
But this was just my
experience being Jewish.

297
00:16:52,720 --> 00:16:58,190
The teachers-- I don't know if
you're interested in knowing

298
00:16:58,190 --> 00:17:01,040
what even went on afterwards.

299
00:17:01,040 --> 00:17:04,819
The teachers sometimes in
the upper grades gave tests,

300
00:17:04,819 --> 00:17:08,089
and the tests were given
on the high holidays.

301

00:17:08,089 --> 00:17:11,150
And when we mentioned this
once to one of the teachers--

302
00:17:11,150 --> 00:17:13,369
I think I was already
in junior high school--

303
00:17:13,369 --> 00:17:15,380
she says, well, you
people have to understand

304
00:17:15,380 --> 00:17:21,260
that you have to conform to
the society the way it is.

305
00:17:21,260 --> 00:17:24,740
And also when we first
came to Washington

306
00:17:24,740 --> 00:17:27,349
and attended Friday
night services

307
00:17:27,349 --> 00:17:29,840
at Washington
Hebrew one evening,

308
00:17:29,840 --> 00:17:34,000
Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
was the speaker.

309
00:17:34,000 --> 00:17:35,650
And that was quite interesting.

310
00:17:35,650 --> 00:17:38,110
And she used the
phrase, which I think

311
00:17:38,110 --> 00:17:41,140
she was very sorry that
she used afterwards--

312

00:17:41,140 --> 00:17:45,830
but she said, we are living
in a Christian society.

313
00:17:45,830 --> 00:17:47,820
That sort of struck me also.

314
00:17:47,820 --> 00:17:53,838
So here we were again
a distinct minority,

315
00:17:53,838 --> 00:17:58,560
a talked about minority
in a Christian society.

316
00:17:58,560 --> 00:18:01,740
And this was during the war.

317
00:18:01,740 --> 00:18:03,750
Her husband at that time
was still president.

318
00:18:03,750 --> 00:18:09,040
This was, I think, during
his last term before he died.

319
00:18:09,040 --> 00:18:13,390
We live in a Christian society--

320
00:18:13,390 --> 00:18:15,040
here in a Christian society.

321
00:18:15,040 --> 00:18:17,560
And that also did not
sit well, because when

322
00:18:17,560 --> 00:18:24,620
you hear that, then they have
a distinction between people.

323
00:18:24,620 --> 00:18:32,280
And for a refugee or immigrant,
whatever you want to call us,

324
00:18:32,280 --> 00:18:34,330
that doesn't sit right.

325
00:18:34,330 --> 00:18:37,750
You're being singled out again.

326
00:18:37,750 --> 00:18:42,520
And here was this woman in the
synagogue talking about that.

327
00:18:42,520 --> 00:18:45,190
And it doesn't even matter
what context she was saying it,

328
00:18:45,190 --> 00:18:48,440
it did not sit well
with the adults either.

329
00:18:48,440 --> 00:18:51,940
Do you remember in the days
before Pearl Harbor, was there

330
00:18:51,940 --> 00:18:53,650
much debate in
this country as to

331
00:18:53,650 --> 00:18:55,900
whether or not America should
get involved in the war?

332
00:18:55,900 --> 00:19:02,250
And was there any anti-Semitism
linked to that debate?

333
00:19:02,250 --> 00:19:02,760
Yes.

334
00:19:02,760 --> 00:19:06,880
You used to hear things
on the radio, talking--

335

00:19:06,880 --> 00:19:11,910
I used to hear my dad talk
about Father Coughlin and all

336
00:19:11,910 --> 00:19:13,350
these people--

337
00:19:13,350 --> 00:19:14,940
and they did blame the Jews.

338
00:19:14,940 --> 00:19:17,460
Why should we get involved
because this is a problem

339
00:19:17,460 --> 00:19:23,530
that the Jews had over
in Europe or in Germany?

340
00:19:23,530 --> 00:19:27,460
The Jews' fault-- yes,
I used to hear that.

341
00:19:27,460 --> 00:19:29,200
I can't give you
any specifics on it,

342
00:19:29,200 --> 00:19:32,450
but there was an undertone.

343
00:19:32,450 --> 00:19:35,090
When did you start to realize
what was going on to the Jews

344
00:19:35,090 --> 00:19:36,110
in Europe?

345
00:19:36,110 --> 00:19:38,450
When did I start to realize it?

346
00:19:38,450 --> 00:19:39,930
Probably when I was about six--

347

00:19:39,930 --> 00:19:42,550

348

00:19:42,550 --> 00:19:44,080

1936.

349

00:19:44,080 --> 00:19:45,850

I mean when you were here.

350

00:19:45,850 --> 00:19:47,090

Oh, when I was here.

351

00:19:47,090 --> 00:19:50,730

352

00:19:50,730 --> 00:19:53,530

I think once the war
started on both sides,

353

00:19:53,530 --> 00:19:56,400

we just felt there
was nothing that we

354

00:19:56,400 --> 00:20:01,500

could do to see our families
or to hear from them.

355

00:20:01,500 --> 00:20:07,500

We knew once Crystal
Night happened that that

356

00:20:07,500 --> 00:20:10,100

was the beginning of the end.

357

00:20:10,100 --> 00:20:12,530

There was no communication.

358

00:20:12,530 --> 00:20:14,720

Let me rephrase my
question-- when did you

359

00:20:14,720 --> 00:20:18,840

begin to realize about
the extermination?

360
00:20:18,840 --> 00:20:20,500
Oh, the extermination camps--

361
00:20:20,500 --> 00:20:23,570

362
00:20:23,570 --> 00:20:27,620
probably not until the end--

363
00:20:27,620 --> 00:20:30,340
I personally.

364
00:20:30,340 --> 00:20:33,500
We knew that there were
concentration camps.

365
00:20:33,500 --> 00:20:37,720
Those camps were in existence.

366
00:20:37,720 --> 00:20:40,490
We used to hear
rumors about that--

367
00:20:40,490 --> 00:20:43,110
detention camps, whatever
you want to call it.

368
00:20:43,110 --> 00:20:47,360
But as far as the death
camps, I don't think

369
00:20:47,360 --> 00:20:48,770
I really became aware of that.

370
00:20:48,770 --> 00:20:52,750
I personally didn't become aware
of that until after the war--

371
00:20:52,750 --> 00:20:54,910

right after the war when
all of this came out.

372
00:20:54,910 --> 00:21:01,410

373
00:21:01,410 --> 00:21:04,350
How did all of that,
as you said, come out?

374
00:21:04,350 --> 00:21:05,723
I think in the press.

375
00:21:05,723 --> 00:21:07,140
How was it presented
in the press?

376
00:21:07,140 --> 00:21:10,870

377
00:21:10,870 --> 00:21:15,220
Well, the British, the
Americans talked about it--

378
00:21:15,220 --> 00:21:18,400
the liberators very vividly.

379
00:21:18,400 --> 00:21:21,020
It was appalling.

380
00:21:21,020 --> 00:21:22,910
They talked about
it on the radio.

381
00:21:22,910 --> 00:21:25,890
They had the newsreels--

382
00:21:25,890 --> 00:21:27,390
vivid newsreels.

383
00:21:27,390 --> 00:21:33,390
It was incomprehensible--

just incomprehensible

384
00:21:33,390 --> 00:21:37,050
that something like this
happened or could happen.

385
00:21:37,050 --> 00:21:38,850
It was like a dream.

386
00:21:38,850 --> 00:21:41,010
And then, of course,
you start to think

387
00:21:41,010 --> 00:21:42,640
what happened to your families.

388
00:21:42,640 --> 00:21:46,580
We weren't the only
ones that thought that.

389
00:21:46,580 --> 00:21:49,130
What was the reaction
of the general public

390
00:21:49,130 --> 00:21:55,640
in this country to the news that
was coming out about the camps?

391
00:21:55,640 --> 00:21:59,200
The general public,
I don't know.

392
00:21:59,200 --> 00:22:08,630
Among our Jewish people,
very disturbed, but not

393
00:22:08,630 --> 00:22:12,990
as disturbed as I would
think they should be

394
00:22:12,990 --> 00:22:16,680
or that we thought
they should be.

395
00:22:16,680 --> 00:22:19,680
My father always seemed
to feel that way too--

396
00:22:19,680 --> 00:22:22,560
not disturbed enough.

397
00:22:22,560 --> 00:22:27,850
Perhaps if they had been
more disturbed even before,

398
00:22:27,850 --> 00:22:31,970
a lot of this stuff
would not have happened.

399
00:22:31,970 --> 00:22:35,030
The United States-- this I
do remember my father talking

400
00:22:35,030 --> 00:22:36,080
about a lot--

401
00:22:36,080 --> 00:22:39,320
the United States was not
very liberal in letting

402
00:22:39,320 --> 00:22:43,480
in a lot of people in the '30s.

403
00:22:43,480 --> 00:22:45,158
They were very liberal
in letting people

404
00:22:45,158 --> 00:22:46,450
in at the turn of the century--

405
00:22:46,450 --> 00:22:49,010

406
00:22:49,010 --> 00:22:55,170
the 20th century--

but not in the '30s.

407

00:22:55,170 --> 00:22:57,300

They had quotas.

408

00:22:57,300 --> 00:23:04,710

And they let in certain
people like scientists--

409

00:23:04,710 --> 00:23:08,040

they had a brain drain
over in Europe in the '30s

410

00:23:08,040 --> 00:23:10,860

because a lot of these
people wanted to leave,

411

00:23:10,860 --> 00:23:13,630

and the United States was
very happy to have them.

412

00:23:13,630 --> 00:23:15,540

But for the general
population that

413

00:23:15,540 --> 00:23:19,230

wanted to leave because they
were being persecuted, no.

414

00:23:19,230 --> 00:23:23,080

The doors were basically
shut very tight.

415

00:23:23,080 --> 00:23:29,230

And unless you were
on the quota or came

416

00:23:29,230 --> 00:23:33,070

from Northern European
stock as opposed

417

00:23:33,070 --> 00:23:37,210

to the Eastern European

stock, you were just not

418

00:23:37,210 --> 00:23:38,590

let in very easily.

419

00:23:38,590 --> 00:23:41,120

It was very, very tough.

420

00:23:41,120 --> 00:23:41,965

We all had numbers.

421

00:23:41,965 --> 00:23:45,385

422

00:23:45,385 --> 00:23:46,760

Is there anything
that stands out

423

00:23:46,760 --> 00:23:49,700

in your mind from the war
years from your experience

424

00:23:49,700 --> 00:23:52,930

in the United States during
World War II that you haven't

425

00:23:52,930 --> 00:23:55,430

mentioned that you'd like to
share before I start asking you

426

00:23:55,430 --> 00:23:58,870

some post-war questions?

427

00:23:58,870 --> 00:24:03,670

During the war years,
my father, of course,

428

00:24:03,670 --> 00:24:05,920

tried very hard
to make a living.

429

00:24:05,920 --> 00:24:10,050

His living was based
on his traveling.

430
00:24:10,050 --> 00:24:12,030
And it was always a trauma--

431
00:24:12,030 --> 00:24:16,680
did he have enough gasoline
to visit all his customers?

432
00:24:16,680 --> 00:24:18,900
If he didn't have
gasoline, he couldn't

433
00:24:18,900 --> 00:24:21,922
travel to see his customers.

434
00:24:21,922 --> 00:24:23,380
And if he didn't
see his customers,

435
00:24:23,380 --> 00:24:24,730
he didn't make any money.

436
00:24:24,730 --> 00:24:27,160
So this was always an issue.

437
00:24:27,160 --> 00:24:33,210
The issue was, do I have
enough coupons for gasoline?

438
00:24:33,210 --> 00:24:36,690
And I couldn't understand it
too much at that point either.

439
00:24:36,690 --> 00:24:38,280
I said, why is he
always so worried?

440
00:24:38,280 --> 00:24:39,960
He'll get where he's going.

441

00:24:39,960 --> 00:24:41,670

No, you couldn't
get where you're

442

00:24:41,670 --> 00:24:47,040

going if you didn't
have the gas to go.

443

00:24:47,040 --> 00:24:50,020

And sometimes it was a problem.

444

00:24:50,020 --> 00:24:53,050

Sometimes he would exchange
coupons for one thing

445

00:24:53,050 --> 00:24:55,060

or something else with someone.

446

00:24:55,060 --> 00:25:00,280

Or we had an uncle here
who didn't use his coupons,

447

00:25:00,280 --> 00:25:05,230

so he'd fill up my father's
gas tank using his coupons.

448

00:25:05,230 --> 00:25:07,210

This was a big issue.

449

00:25:07,210 --> 00:25:10,000

Food was rationed-- that
was not a big issue.

450

00:25:10,000 --> 00:25:12,010

People in this
country had plenty

451

00:25:12,010 --> 00:25:14,920

to eat with the rationing.

452

00:25:14,920 --> 00:25:19,700

And I think a lot
of us hoarded more

453
00:25:19,700 --> 00:25:21,560
because when you
got a coupon, you

454
00:25:21,560 --> 00:25:23,190
felt you had to buy the item--

455
00:25:23,190 --> 00:25:26,960
be it canned goods, sugar,
butter, or what have you.

456
00:25:26,960 --> 00:25:28,220
There was plenty to eat here.

457
00:25:28,220 --> 00:25:31,310
We lacked nothing--
we really didn't.

458
00:25:31,310 --> 00:25:34,250
The only thing we
lacked is trying

459
00:25:34,250 --> 00:25:40,130
to make a decent living
and an honest living.

460
00:25:40,130 --> 00:25:44,870
Honest living was always
the prime target--

461
00:25:44,870 --> 00:25:47,340
making an honest living.

462
00:25:47,340 --> 00:25:49,000
Because a lot of
people made a living,

463
00:25:49,000 --> 00:25:53,100
and it wasn't too honest
during the war years.

464

00:25:53,100 --> 00:25:54,960
It was very important.

465
00:25:54,960 --> 00:26:00,430
And of course-- well, we
didn't become citizens

466
00:26:00,430 --> 00:26:06,260
until '47, which
was a big thing.

467
00:26:06,260 --> 00:26:09,920
It was a wonderful thing.

468
00:26:09,920 --> 00:26:12,200
I'm not ready to go to 1947 yet.

469
00:26:12,200 --> 00:26:17,000
The war is over, what attempts
were made to find relatives?

470
00:26:17,000 --> 00:26:22,340
When the war was over, I do
remember my father immediately

471
00:26:22,340 --> 00:26:28,650
went to HIAS, which
was a group that

472
00:26:28,650 --> 00:26:30,530
was like a Jewish
social service group.

473
00:26:30,530 --> 00:26:31,620
It was international.

474
00:26:31,620 --> 00:26:36,510
I'm not quite sure
exactly what the letters--

475
00:26:36,510 --> 00:26:39,240
Hebrew Immigrant
Aid Society, right.

476
00:26:39,240 --> 00:26:45,950
And we found out
through that grapevine

477
00:26:45,950 --> 00:26:52,240
that cousin Rita and
her mother, Flora,

478
00:26:52,240 --> 00:26:59,170
survived and were living
in Sweden in a DP camp.

479
00:26:59,170 --> 00:27:03,420
And when we found their
address, my dad immediately

480
00:27:03,420 --> 00:27:06,660
went downtown on
Connecticut Avenue

481
00:27:06,660 --> 00:27:12,650
to Mackey, which was at that
time like a Western Union,

482
00:27:12,650 --> 00:27:18,260
and he sent them a message and
sent them I think it was \$50.

483
00:27:18,260 --> 00:27:22,450
And that's how we started
to communicate with them.

484
00:27:22,450 --> 00:27:28,870
And then we wanted
to bring them over.

485
00:27:28,870 --> 00:27:30,220
What is very interesting--

486
00:27:30,220 --> 00:27:34,330

487

00:27:34,330 --> 00:27:37,630

as I had mentioned, my
mother and my aunt Flora--

488

00:27:37,630 --> 00:27:40,270

this is my cousin
Rita's mother--

489

00:27:40,270 --> 00:27:43,860

had cousins in New York.

490

00:27:43,860 --> 00:27:46,755

There were, I think, six
brothers and a sister.

491

00:27:46,755 --> 00:27:49,390

492

00:27:49,390 --> 00:27:54,580

They were very nice, and they
helped us a lot-- giving us

493

00:27:54,580 --> 00:27:56,290

information, et cetera.

494

00:27:56,290 --> 00:27:58,270

They were very
affluent all of them.

495

00:27:58,270 --> 00:28:00,908

They were artists and in
the advertising business,

496

00:28:00,908 --> 00:28:01,825

and they were artists.

497

00:28:01,825 --> 00:28:06,070

498

00:28:06,070 --> 00:28:10,990

However, my father and mother
could not send an affidavit

499
00:28:10,990 --> 00:28:16,410
to Flora and to her
daughter because we were not

500
00:28:16,410 --> 00:28:18,770
citizens ourselves.

501
00:28:18,770 --> 00:28:23,720
So there was a problem how we're
going to get them over here.

502
00:28:23,720 --> 00:28:27,460
You still had to have
somebody to sign.

503
00:28:27,460 --> 00:28:32,690
So they wouldn't do it
up there in New York

504
00:28:32,690 --> 00:28:35,470
for whatever reason.

505
00:28:35,470 --> 00:28:40,120
And my father approached his
mother's sister here-- the one

506
00:28:40,120 --> 00:28:44,380
that he lived with briefly,
his aunt Dora Allman,

507
00:28:44,380 --> 00:28:48,250
who was also an immigrant
from the early-1900s.

508
00:28:48,250 --> 00:28:49,310
She was an elderly lady.

509
00:28:49,310 --> 00:28:50,980
She had no children.

510
00:28:50,980 --> 00:28:53,980

So he approached
her and her husband,

511
00:28:53,980 --> 00:28:55,840
if they would please
sign an affidavit

512
00:28:55,840 --> 00:28:59,230
for Flora and her daughter.

513
00:28:59,230 --> 00:29:04,930
And they did-- not that they had
to give any money at that time,

514
00:29:04,930 --> 00:29:06,280
they never had to.

515
00:29:06,280 --> 00:29:07,780
But it was just
the idea in case,

516
00:29:07,780 --> 00:29:09,910
god forbid, something
happened, somebody

517
00:29:09,910 --> 00:29:13,090
would be responsible who was
an American citizen, which

518
00:29:13,090 --> 00:29:15,040
they were.

519
00:29:15,040 --> 00:29:19,240
And then shortly
thereafter, they came over.

520
00:29:19,240 --> 00:29:21,680
And they lived with us
for a very short time.

521
00:29:21,680 --> 00:29:23,770
We were still in the apartments.

522

00:29:23,770 --> 00:29:28,840

And then we found out that
my father's mother was also

523

00:29:28,840 --> 00:29:32,840

in Auschwitz at the same time
with my mother's parents.

524

00:29:32,840 --> 00:29:37,170

And we found out that my
father's sister was killed

525

00:29:37,170 --> 00:29:40,440

and various cousins.

526

00:29:40,440 --> 00:29:42,720

And we never found
out where uncle Roman

527

00:29:42,720 --> 00:29:46,080

was, because he was in France.

528

00:29:46,080 --> 00:29:48,690

And we didn't find out
about him until a few years

529

00:29:48,690 --> 00:29:52,920

later when he suddenly appeared.

530

00:29:52,920 --> 00:29:54,600

Well, he sort of
was looking for us.

531

00:29:54,600 --> 00:29:58,020

He knew that we
were in the States.

532

00:29:58,020 --> 00:30:00,510

And it really is very
easy to find people

533

00:30:00,510 --> 00:30:04,472

if you know that they
settled in a certain area

534
00:30:04,472 --> 00:30:05,805
and through the social services.

535
00:30:05,805 --> 00:30:10,860

536
00:30:10,860 --> 00:30:12,720
Did you follow the
Nuremberg Trials?

537
00:30:12,720 --> 00:30:14,680
Yes.

538
00:30:14,680 --> 00:30:17,120
What do you remember
of the trials?

539
00:30:17,120 --> 00:30:19,640
I couldn't wait
until they all hung.

540
00:30:19,640 --> 00:30:23,360
But unfortunately, they didn't,
because Mr Goering, I think,

541
00:30:23,360 --> 00:30:25,610
killed himself, didn't he?

542
00:30:25,610 --> 00:30:29,330
And a few of the others
were sent to jail.

543
00:30:29,330 --> 00:30:34,970
And I think any punishment
would have been too kind.

544
00:30:34,970 --> 00:30:39,290
It was an interesting era
with the Nuremberg Trials--

545

00:30:39,290 --> 00:30:40,340

very interesting.

546

00:30:40,340 --> 00:30:45,810

547

00:30:45,810 --> 00:30:49,560

Everyone is entitled to a
trial, but I keep thinking, why?

548

00:30:49,560 --> 00:30:52,860

549

00:30:52,860 --> 00:30:56,190

Which is not really a
humane thing to think,

550

00:30:56,190 --> 00:30:58,230

but they were not humane.

551

00:30:58,230 --> 00:31:00,610

These people were not humane.

552

00:31:00,610 --> 00:31:03,740

Did you get a sense of what
the American reaction was

553

00:31:03,740 --> 00:31:07,570

to the Nuremberg proceedings?

554

00:31:07,570 --> 00:31:10,190

I think they just thought
it was appropriate.

555

00:31:10,190 --> 00:31:16,030

I really have no
input with that.

556

00:31:16,030 --> 00:31:19,180

I do know one of
our neighbors here--

557

00:31:19,180 --> 00:31:21,820

and this, of course, is
since we're married--

558

00:31:21,820 --> 00:31:27,130

was one of the lawyers that
was attached to the Nuremberg

559

00:31:27,130 --> 00:31:28,130

Trials.

560

00:31:28,130 --> 00:31:31,390

And what I found
very interesting

561

00:31:31,390 --> 00:31:34,870

was that while he was
over there in Germany,

562

00:31:34,870 --> 00:31:42,390

he married a German woman
who was from Stuttgart.

563

00:31:42,390 --> 00:31:45,060

And then ultimately, he
brought her over here,

564

00:31:45,060 --> 00:31:48,180

and then she worked for
my husband for a time.

565

00:31:48,180 --> 00:31:53,280

And I never could quite
understand her position,

566

00:31:53,280 --> 00:31:56,850

but she never talked
about it either.

567

00:31:56,850 --> 00:32:01,620

And then we used to think, well,
it wasn't her fault, but maybe

568

00:32:01,620 --> 00:32:05,840

her father's fault, or
her brother's fault,

569

00:32:05,840 --> 00:32:13,050

or whoever's fault. But that's
really my only reaction.

570

00:32:13,050 --> 00:32:16,560

I was very disappointed
that Mr Hitler was not

571

00:32:16,560 --> 00:32:21,100

around to be looked at.

572

00:32:21,100 --> 00:32:24,740

And I think my father,
of course, was.

573

00:32:24,740 --> 00:32:28,170

I know he was--

574

00:32:28,170 --> 00:32:32,700

and that the others were
just sitting there gloating.

575

00:32:32,700 --> 00:32:36,410

576

00:32:36,410 --> 00:32:41,480

And the fact that a couple
of them killed themselves,

577

00:32:41,480 --> 00:32:42,140

so what?

578

00:32:42,140 --> 00:32:44,400

That was an easy way out.

579

00:32:44,400 --> 00:32:45,450

They were military.

580

00:32:45,450 --> 00:32:48,290

They had expected to
get shot, or shot down,

581

00:32:48,290 --> 00:32:49,910

or whatever anyway.

582

00:32:49,910 --> 00:32:52,280

That's what one,
I guess, expects.

583

00:32:52,280 --> 00:32:54,960

584

00:32:54,960 --> 00:32:57,080

But other than that, no--

585

00:32:57,080 --> 00:33:00,620

no other feeling, really.

586

00:33:00,620 --> 00:33:02,570

Do you remember the
debates in the UN

587

00:33:02,570 --> 00:33:05,360

about the partition of
Palestine and the ultimate birth

588

00:33:05,360 --> 00:33:06,630

of the state of Israel?

589

00:33:06,630 --> 00:33:09,890

A little bit, yeah--

590

00:33:09,890 --> 00:33:12,620

we were very happy.

591

00:33:12,620 --> 00:33:17,180

And again, why not
have a state of Israel?

592

00:33:17,180 --> 00:33:24,190

Why did they make it so
difficult after all of that,

593

00:33:24,190 --> 00:33:25,220

what happened in Europe?

594

00:33:25,220 --> 00:33:28,060

595

00:33:28,060 --> 00:33:30,330

Tell me a little bit about
your life since the war--

596

00:33:30,330 --> 00:33:31,650

your life in this country.

597

00:33:31,650 --> 00:33:33,530

You mentioned your husband.

598

00:33:33,530 --> 00:33:40,700

Well, my husband and I
were married in 1950.

599

00:33:40,700 --> 00:33:46,410

My father at that
point was already sick.

600

00:33:46,410 --> 00:33:49,620

He had not had his stroke
yet, but he had been ill.

601

00:33:49,620 --> 00:33:52,490

My mother was helping
him in his business,

602

00:33:52,490 --> 00:33:56,330

as was my sister and me.

603

00:33:56,330 --> 00:33:59,920

We used to go down after school.

604

00:33:59,920 --> 00:34:02,997

I went to George Washington
University for two years

605

00:34:02,997 --> 00:34:03,955

where I met my husband.

606

00:34:03,955 --> 00:34:07,580

607

00:34:07,580 --> 00:34:10,800

He was going to school
at the time as well.

608

00:34:10,800 --> 00:34:14,739

And my father adored my husband.

609

00:34:14,739 --> 00:34:16,920

He liked him very, very much.

610

00:34:16,920 --> 00:34:18,810

We were very young
when we got married.

611

00:34:18,810 --> 00:34:23,860

I was barely 20, and
my husband was just 22,

612

00:34:23,860 --> 00:34:28,520

which was, by today's
standards, very, very young.

613

00:34:28,520 --> 00:34:32,828

But we got married,
and here we are--

614

00:34:32,828 --> 00:34:38,790

a very nice life, not easy.

615

00:34:38,790 --> 00:34:42,630

My in-laws were not affluent,
and obviously my parents

616

00:34:42,630 --> 00:34:43,380
were not either.

617

00:34:43,380 --> 00:34:46,080
My father made a
very nice living.

618

00:34:46,080 --> 00:34:49,170
And I might mention what
I find very interesting

619

00:34:49,170 --> 00:34:51,420
and we have always
found very interesting,

620

00:34:51,420 --> 00:34:56,639
even when I was growing up
after we came here and observed

621

00:34:56,639 --> 00:34:58,580
our parents--

622

00:34:58,580 --> 00:35:02,060
my mother was always
quite conservative.

623

00:35:02,060 --> 00:35:07,490
She was very level-headed,
very conservative,

624

00:35:07,490 --> 00:35:10,490
and basically ran the household.

625

00:35:10,490 --> 00:35:12,380
And even though she
worked for my father,

626

00:35:12,380 --> 00:35:14,090
she knew very little
about business,

627

00:35:14,090 --> 00:35:17,150

she knew very little about
writing checks or paying

628
00:35:17,150 --> 00:35:17,840
bills--

629
00:35:17,840 --> 00:35:21,980
he did everything, everything.

630
00:35:21,980 --> 00:35:25,680
My dad loved the
good things in life.

631
00:35:25,680 --> 00:35:30,230
That's why I think he moved from
Poland to Germany, because he

632
00:35:30,230 --> 00:35:32,360
liked the arts.

633
00:35:32,360 --> 00:35:34,250
He loved music.

634
00:35:34,250 --> 00:35:36,590
And he just liked the
nice things in life.

635
00:35:36,590 --> 00:35:38,630
He liked to dress well.

636
00:35:38,630 --> 00:35:41,480
And he liked to
partake of everything.

637
00:35:41,480 --> 00:35:43,940
And sometimes we think--

638
00:35:43,940 --> 00:35:45,440
my sister, and my
mother, and I used

639
00:35:45,440 --> 00:35:47,390

to talk about this--
that perhaps there

640
00:35:47,390 --> 00:35:48,920
was a reason for all of this.

641
00:35:48,920 --> 00:35:52,380
And he didn't deny
himself too much.

642
00:35:52,380 --> 00:35:55,730
Whatever he had, he enjoyed.

643
00:35:55,730 --> 00:35:59,990
And when he made it, he used it.

644
00:35:59,990 --> 00:36:02,750
Maybe there was a reason
for it, because he really

645
00:36:02,750 --> 00:36:06,470
had a tough life leaving home.

646
00:36:06,470 --> 00:36:10,940
He didn't have too much at home
in Poland, made it in Germany

647
00:36:10,940 --> 00:36:13,730
only to be torn down.

648
00:36:13,730 --> 00:36:18,760
And then coming here, and having
a tough time, and being ill,

649
00:36:18,760 --> 00:36:21,910
and he only lived
a short time here.

650
00:36:21,910 --> 00:36:25,480
He died so young
that perhaps it was

651

00:36:25,480 --> 00:36:30,430
nice that he had that
kind of an attitude

652
00:36:30,430 --> 00:36:35,770
that, darn it, I'm here, and
now I'm in the United States,

653
00:36:35,770 --> 00:36:40,110
and I want to enjoy everything.

654
00:36:40,110 --> 00:36:44,880
After my father died, my mother,
of course, was devastated.

655
00:36:44,880 --> 00:36:50,100
She really took very good care
of him, but it didn't work.

656
00:36:50,100 --> 00:36:51,870
She went to work in the office.

657
00:36:51,870 --> 00:36:54,930
She had somebody
stay with my father

658
00:36:54,930 --> 00:36:57,870
at home because he
could no longer work.

659
00:36:57,870 --> 00:37:01,150
And he became totally paralyzed.

660
00:37:01,150 --> 00:37:08,530
And when he died, she
really had to be reborn.

661
00:37:08,530 --> 00:37:10,830
She learned how
to write a check.

662
00:37:10,830 --> 00:37:13,320
She learned how

to run a business.

663

00:37:13,320 --> 00:37:17,830

And she did a
complete turn-about.

664

00:37:17,830 --> 00:37:29,633

She was a Hausfrau that
became a very worldly person.

665

00:37:29,633 --> 00:37:31,300

We have to pause so
I can flip the tape.

666

00:37:31,300 --> 00:37:38,660

667

00:37:38,660 --> 00:37:42,860

This is tape 2, side B. We're
interviewing Ruth Horowitz.

668

00:37:42,860 --> 00:37:45,830

And you had told me about
your father passing away

669

00:37:45,830 --> 00:37:48,500

and your mother
rebuilding her life.

670

00:37:48,500 --> 00:37:51,980

Yes. at that time,
my husband had just

671

00:37:51,980 --> 00:37:53,840

graduated optometry school--

672

00:37:53,840 --> 00:37:56,350

this was in 1953.

673

00:37:56,350 --> 00:37:59,900

And my dad passed
away in October.

674

00:37:59,900 --> 00:38:03,710

We were living with
my dad and her,

675

00:38:03,710 --> 00:38:07,950

because we were looking for
a place to live ourselves.

676

00:38:07,950 --> 00:38:10,460

We had been living
in Philadelphia

677

00:38:10,460 --> 00:38:12,770

while my husband
was going to school.

678

00:38:12,770 --> 00:38:17,570

In any case, we decided
that we would stay together.

679

00:38:17,570 --> 00:38:23,700

And we did for about seven years
until we moved to this house

680

00:38:23,700 --> 00:38:25,110

here on Meadow Hill Road.

681

00:38:25,110 --> 00:38:29,080

And then my mother
lived with us.

682

00:38:29,080 --> 00:38:36,210

So anyway, my mom,
who was a helpmate--

683

00:38:36,210 --> 00:38:40,680

she did everything that my
father needed to be done,

684

00:38:40,680 --> 00:38:43,110

in business as well as at home--

685

00:38:43,110 --> 00:38:48,210
but all the things
like writing checks,

686
00:38:48,210 --> 00:38:51,810
worrying about a mortgage,
or bills, or anything like--

687
00:38:51,810 --> 00:38:54,660
that phone bills even--

688
00:38:54,660 --> 00:38:57,720
she depended on my
father to take care of.

689
00:38:57,720 --> 00:39:00,570
Well, suddenly, she had to
do these things herself.

690
00:39:00,570 --> 00:39:01,350
And she did.

691
00:39:01,350 --> 00:39:03,040
She did beautifully.

692
00:39:03,040 --> 00:39:09,010
And my mom, and my
sister, and brother-in-law

693
00:39:09,010 --> 00:39:12,520
maintained the jewelry
business for some years.

694
00:39:12,520 --> 00:39:18,730
And then my mother
decided that, enough.

695
00:39:18,730 --> 00:39:22,660
And she was working for a
jewelry store in Silver Spring.

696
00:39:22,660 --> 00:39:24,370
My mom always worked.

697

00:39:24,370 --> 00:39:28,940

She worked until about two weeks before she got sick

698

00:39:28,940 --> 00:39:31,490

and went into the hospital.

699

00:39:31,490 --> 00:39:37,670

She lived with us another 13, 14 years.

700

00:39:37,670 --> 00:39:39,260

We were together a long time.

701

00:39:39,260 --> 00:39:41,030

And then she moved to Florida.

702

00:39:41,030 --> 00:39:44,840

I basically was her housekeeper at that point.

703

00:39:44,840 --> 00:39:48,560

I worked for my husband.

704

00:39:48,560 --> 00:39:52,910

Originally, I worked at Walter Reed as a secretary.

705

00:39:52,910 --> 00:39:56,510

And then when my husband opened up his business,

706

00:39:56,510 --> 00:40:01,640

his office, I should say, I went to work for him.

707

00:40:01,640 --> 00:40:04,710

And to this day, I still work 2 and 1/2 days a week,

708

00:40:04,710 --> 00:40:06,350

which I really love.

709

00:40:06,350 --> 00:40:08,510

He's very easy to
get along with,

710

00:40:08,510 --> 00:40:13,430

and I do like the
people contact.

711

00:40:13,430 --> 00:40:15,650

We have two children.

712

00:40:15,650 --> 00:40:19,050

Our daughter,
Marcia, is married.

713

00:40:19,050 --> 00:40:21,890

And she has four little boys.

714

00:40:21,890 --> 00:40:27,260

And our son is
Edward, and he's 42.

715

00:40:27,260 --> 00:40:32,120

And he has one son who was born
after 12 years of marriage.

716

00:40:32,120 --> 00:40:38,320

So we have five grandchildren,
all boys, which is a delight.

717

00:40:38,320 --> 00:40:40,600

One little boy is named
Max after my uncle

718

00:40:40,600 --> 00:40:43,780

Max who my father lived with.

719

00:40:43,780 --> 00:40:47,960

The first grandchild is
named after my mother.

720

00:40:47,960 --> 00:40:51,390

Our son is named
after my father.

721

00:40:51,390 --> 00:40:55,080

And the other boys
are named after--

722

00:40:55,080 --> 00:40:59,970

and I can't think right offhand
after whom, but that's OK.

723

00:40:59,970 --> 00:41:05,820

They are Ross, who's
now seven, and there's

724

00:41:05,820 --> 00:41:11,520

Henry, who's six there's
Andrew, who's five,

725

00:41:11,520 --> 00:41:13,860

and Fletcher is three.

726

00:41:13,860 --> 00:41:19,230

And Max, our son Eddie's boy,
is a year and a half old.

727

00:41:19,230 --> 00:41:22,400

So we have a wonderful
family, and I'm

728

00:41:22,400 --> 00:41:28,530

just sorry that my father, who
worked so hard to get us out

729

00:41:28,530 --> 00:41:31,770

of this horror, never
really had a chance

730

00:41:31,770 --> 00:41:33,660

to see any grandchildren--

731

00:41:33,660 --> 00:41:37,370
any great-grandchildren,
I should say.

732
00:41:37,370 --> 00:41:39,980
Did you, and your
parents, and your sister

733
00:41:39,980 --> 00:41:44,580
ever talk about what you missed
by getting out when you did?

734
00:41:44,580 --> 00:41:45,530
Yes.

735
00:41:45,530 --> 00:41:50,300
We missed being killed, because,
ultimately, we would have

736
00:41:50,300 --> 00:41:53,930
been annihilated, I'm sure.

737
00:41:53,930 --> 00:41:54,500
I'm sure.

738
00:41:54,500 --> 00:41:57,710

739
00:41:57,710 --> 00:42:00,503
My father for sure,
because he was not well.

740
00:42:00,503 --> 00:42:02,420
I don't think he would
have been able to work.

741
00:42:02,420 --> 00:42:06,110
Perhaps my mother could have
done something, and perhaps

742
00:42:06,110 --> 00:42:07,250
my sister.

743

00:42:07,250 --> 00:42:13,760

But I think my father and
me, since I was younger,

744

00:42:13,760 --> 00:42:16,310

I don't think we would have
survived this unless we

745

00:42:16,310 --> 00:42:19,660

were hiding someplace.

746

00:42:19,660 --> 00:42:26,250

And especially I feel
this now, after we've

747

00:42:26,250 --> 00:42:30,030

gotten more educated
about the Holocaust--

748

00:42:30,030 --> 00:42:32,610

and believe me, I've
gotten very educated

749

00:42:32,610 --> 00:42:38,620

now about the Holocaust myself,
because I feel 20 years ago,

750

00:42:38,620 --> 00:42:41,820

30 years ago, I really
didn't know enough.

751

00:42:41,820 --> 00:42:45,600

And perhaps we should
have, but we didn't.

752

00:42:45,600 --> 00:42:51,120

And we should have really talked
about all these things more.

753

00:42:51,120 --> 00:42:53,620

That's my regret.

754

00:42:53,620 --> 00:42:57,860

I never even spoke about it
that much to my children.

755

00:42:57,860 --> 00:43:00,650

Are you familiar with any
Holocaust related groups?

756

00:43:00,650 --> 00:43:03,860

The Holocaust Survivors and
Friends of Washington, and,

757

00:43:03,860 --> 00:43:07,160

of course, the museum.

758

00:43:07,160 --> 00:43:08,990

What do you do for the museum?

759

00:43:08,990 --> 00:43:11,300

Right now just money.

760

00:43:11,300 --> 00:43:13,010

I don't do anything
much right now.

761

00:43:13,010 --> 00:43:15,680

I would really like to.

762

00:43:15,680 --> 00:43:18,260

As I say, I'm still
working the 2 and 1/2 days,

763

00:43:18,260 --> 00:43:21,050

and I would like to do something
down there, even if it's just

764

00:43:21,050 --> 00:43:23,470

greeting people.

765

00:43:23,470 --> 00:43:27,100

And I am going to look
into that before the fall.

766

00:43:27,100 --> 00:43:30,870

767

00:43:30,870 --> 00:43:33,560

Have you been back to
Germany since the war?

768

00:43:33,560 --> 00:43:40,740

Yes, we went back
in 1995 in August.

769

00:43:40,740 --> 00:43:44,680

And at that point,
I was 65 years old.

770

00:43:44,680 --> 00:43:48,690

We had just celebrated our
45th wedding anniversary.

771

00:43:48,690 --> 00:43:52,530

As a matter of fact, we
celebrated it on the airplane.

772

00:43:52,530 --> 00:43:59,530

And this trip was a trip,
truly, of a lifetime.

773

00:43:59,530 --> 00:44:01,990

I will say that my
sister and I have talked

774

00:44:01,990 --> 00:44:04,900

about this a long time, and
we had never really thought

775

00:44:04,900 --> 00:44:10,620

we would go back unless they
sent us money, which we really

776

00:44:10,620 --> 00:44:11,160

never got.

777

00:44:11,160 --> 00:44:14,700

My sister and I really never
got anything from Germany.

778

00:44:14,700 --> 00:44:17,430

And we always felt, well,
why should we go back?

779

00:44:17,430 --> 00:44:21,490

Why give money to their economy?

780

00:44:21,490 --> 00:44:28,570

Well as it turned out we
were solicited to come,

781

00:44:28,570 --> 00:44:32,440

all expenses paid for one week.

782

00:44:32,440 --> 00:44:35,170

We flew Lufthansa.

783

00:44:35,170 --> 00:44:36,910

My sister and I did
not go together,

784

00:44:36,910 --> 00:44:39,790

because there was
a problem in time.

785

00:44:39,790 --> 00:44:43,270

I couldn't go at the time
that she wanted to go.

786

00:44:43,270 --> 00:44:46,150

So ultimately, they went
first, she and her husband,

787

00:44:46,150 --> 00:44:49,240

and my husband I went
in August of that year.

788

00:44:49,240 --> 00:44:51,920

789
00:44:51,920 --> 00:44:54,520
We went Lufthansa--
beautiful, we

790
00:44:54,520 --> 00:44:56,095
got an upgrade to first class.

791
00:44:56,095 --> 00:45:00,220

792
00:45:00,220 --> 00:45:02,230
We were met at the airport.

793
00:45:02,230 --> 00:45:07,210
There was not one thing
during the seven days

794
00:45:07,210 --> 00:45:12,610
that I would say
offended me that anyone

795
00:45:12,610 --> 00:45:16,150
did to me personally.

796
00:45:16,150 --> 00:45:20,170
A lot of the things that
offended me were stupidity--

797
00:45:20,170 --> 00:45:22,690
like this young girl
who didn't quite

798
00:45:22,690 --> 00:45:27,700
understand the time frame of
the war and when people left.

799
00:45:27,700 --> 00:45:31,660
There were some things
that offended me

800
00:45:31,660 --> 00:45:35,740

by just seeing some of
the elderly people that

801
00:45:35,740 --> 00:45:39,490
looked at us with suspicion.

802
00:45:39,490 --> 00:45:43,240
But in a way now, I'm
sorry that I went back,

803
00:45:43,240 --> 00:45:48,280
because it just opened
up a lot of thoughts.

804
00:45:48,280 --> 00:45:51,760
It opened up a can of
worms, because I now

805
00:45:51,760 --> 00:45:55,870
feel, how in the
world could anyone

806
00:45:55,870 --> 00:46:02,090
get away with what
the Germans did,

807
00:46:02,090 --> 00:46:05,430
including the people
that are still alive?

808
00:46:05,430 --> 00:46:08,630
They are still there,
the ones that took part

809
00:46:08,630 --> 00:46:12,110
in all of this horror.

810
00:46:12,110 --> 00:46:19,180
And what also made me so much
aware of this was, number one,

811
00:46:19,180 --> 00:46:20,573
we went to visit a synagogue.

812
00:46:20,573 --> 00:46:22,490
This is not the synagogue
that we belonged to.

813
00:46:22,490 --> 00:46:25,690
This is an entirely
different building.

814
00:46:25,690 --> 00:46:28,450
This is actually
inhabited by people

815
00:46:28,450 --> 00:46:30,460
that are Russian immigrants--

816
00:46:30,460 --> 00:46:31,600
Jewish Russian immigrants.

817
00:46:31,600 --> 00:46:34,450
There are very few Jewish people
now that live in Hamburg--

818
00:46:34,450 --> 00:46:36,430
very few.

819
00:46:36,430 --> 00:46:38,200
When you look at
the synagogue, it's

820
00:46:38,200 --> 00:46:43,030
on a street that's blocked
on both sides by police cars.

821
00:46:43,030 --> 00:46:46,160
Now, if that doesn't tell you
something, nothing else will.

822
00:46:46,160 --> 00:46:51,250
In other words, why do they have
to have this kind of security.

823

00:46:51,250 --> 00:46:56,470
There must be still a lot of
anti-Semitism there, obviously.

824
00:46:56,470 --> 00:46:58,330
They have a buzzer door.

825
00:46:58,330 --> 00:47:01,037
You just can't walk
into the synagogue.

826
00:47:01,037 --> 00:47:02,620
You can walk in front
of the building,

827
00:47:02,620 --> 00:47:04,690
but if you even want
to go through the gate,

828
00:47:04,690 --> 00:47:07,510
you have to wait for the
security guard inside

829
00:47:07,510 --> 00:47:10,960
to buzz you, in just like they
do at the B'nai B'rith Building

830
00:47:10,960 --> 00:47:15,190
downtown here in Washington,
DC where they've had problems.

831
00:47:15,190 --> 00:47:20,830
Then another thing, I didn't
realize that Hamburg had

832
00:47:20,830 --> 00:47:22,780
its own concentration camps.

833
00:47:22,780 --> 00:47:25,270
That, we didn't realize
until we went there.

834
00:47:25,270 --> 00:47:28,300

They had concentration
camps way before the war

835
00:47:28,300 --> 00:47:32,290
where they used to take
people for whatever reason.

836
00:47:32,290 --> 00:47:40,660
And also, the last full day that
we were in Germany, in Hamburg,

837
00:47:40,660 --> 00:47:44,680
we asked the two very
lovely young ladies--

838
00:47:44,680 --> 00:47:47,740
who were historians
and who were taking

839
00:47:47,740 --> 00:47:52,410
our notes and our interviews--

840
00:47:52,410 --> 00:47:54,980
we asked them to take
us to Bergen-Belsen,

841
00:47:54,980 --> 00:48:00,720
because someone said that
it's quite close to Hamburg.

842
00:48:00,720 --> 00:48:01,850
It's West of Hamburg.

843
00:48:01,850 --> 00:48:04,900

844
00:48:04,900 --> 00:48:09,050
I never realized that
Bergen-Belsen was so close.

845
00:48:09,050 --> 00:48:12,520
It was an awesome ride.

846

00:48:12,520 --> 00:48:18,650

It was a ride of about
35 miles, maybe 40--

847

00:48:18,650 --> 00:48:20,645

a beautiful, beautiful ride--

848

00:48:20,645 --> 00:48:23,160

849

00:48:23,160 --> 00:48:28,470

birch trees on either
side of the road, houses.

850

00:48:28,470 --> 00:48:30,810

The girls decided not
to take the Autobahn,

851

00:48:30,810 --> 00:48:34,290

because they thought we would
enjoy a scenic ride more,

852

00:48:34,290 --> 00:48:35,430

which we did--

853

00:48:35,430 --> 00:48:37,080

nothing not to like--

854

00:48:37,080 --> 00:48:41,640

little towns like a Frederick,
Maryland or like a Sykesville.

855

00:48:41,640 --> 00:48:44,910

They have an inn where
you can have lunch.

856

00:48:44,910 --> 00:48:47,100

You can stay overnight--

857

00:48:47,100 --> 00:48:48,150

beautiful.

858

00:48:48,150 --> 00:48:51,390

And you go for miles
and miles, and you see

859

00:48:51,390 --> 00:48:54,230

lovely homes, mansions, farms--

860

00:48:54,230 --> 00:48:55,647

a lot of potato farms.

861

00:48:55,647 --> 00:48:57,480

And suddenly, you come
to a little clearing,

862

00:48:57,480 --> 00:49:00,050

and it says Bergen--

863

00:49:00,050 --> 00:49:03,920

not Belsen, it says,
Bergen. And you drive in,

864

00:49:03,920 --> 00:49:08,360

and there you are in the
Bergen-Belsen concentration

865

00:49:08,360 --> 00:49:10,270

camp, or what is left of it.

866

00:49:10,270 --> 00:49:13,340

867

00:49:13,340 --> 00:49:17,030

I couldn't quite
believe what I saw--

868

00:49:17,030 --> 00:49:21,320

not only because of
the place itself--

869

00:49:21,320 --> 00:49:23,450

how enormous it is--

870

00:49:23,450 --> 00:49:26,700

but they have plaques--

871

00:49:26,700 --> 00:49:29,420

10,000, 5,000 bodies.

872

00:49:29,420 --> 00:49:31,640

These are the where
they had the pits.

873

00:49:31,640 --> 00:49:34,930

And all the pits now are burned.

874

00:49:34,930 --> 00:49:38,500

It's a very awesome, a
very beautiful place.

875

00:49:38,500 --> 00:49:41,490

You could smell the heather.

876

00:49:41,490 --> 00:49:46,950

And I kept thinking to
myself, how in the world

877

00:49:46,950 --> 00:49:51,540

did these people that live
on either side of the road

878

00:49:51,540 --> 00:49:57,270

not know that there were human
beings being transported there?

879

00:49:57,270 --> 00:50:00,360

Now, this was not a
death camp as such--

880

00:50:00,360 --> 00:50:02,640

not a extermination camp.

881

00:50:02,640 --> 00:50:06,210

This was a death camp
because at that point,

882
00:50:06,210 --> 00:50:09,060
a lot of these people
were sent to Bergen-Belsen

883
00:50:09,060 --> 00:50:11,610
from the East toward the West.

884
00:50:11,610 --> 00:50:13,830
And they also had
Russian prisoners of war

885
00:50:13,830 --> 00:50:17,050
there that just perished
because they were starved,

886
00:50:17,050 --> 00:50:21,360
they were diseased, they
dropped dead in their tracks.

887
00:50:21,360 --> 00:50:23,640
Thousands, and
thousands, and thousands,

888
00:50:23,640 --> 00:50:25,710
and thousands of people--

889
00:50:25,710 --> 00:50:27,540
how did these people get there?

890
00:50:27,540 --> 00:50:30,240
They didn't drop them
from a helicopter.

891
00:50:30,240 --> 00:50:33,680
They didn't jet them in a tube.

892
00:50:33,680 --> 00:50:36,445
They must have gotten
there by a truck.

893
00:50:36,445 --> 00:50:39,880

894
00:50:39,880 --> 00:50:41,320
Nobody seems to know.

895
00:50:41,320 --> 00:50:44,610
I even asked these two
women that drove us there

896
00:50:44,610 --> 00:50:47,530
in their darling little
red convertible--

897
00:50:47,530 --> 00:50:51,580
can you answer me a question,
how did all these people that

898
00:50:51,580 --> 00:50:53,170
died here get here?

899
00:50:53,170 --> 00:50:55,710

900
00:50:55,710 --> 00:50:57,180
I guess at night.

901
00:50:57,180 --> 00:51:00,090
I says, what do
you mean at night?

902
00:51:00,090 --> 00:51:02,480
Nobody knew.

903
00:51:02,480 --> 00:51:09,130
I have such a resentment
against this whole German thing,

904
00:51:09,130 --> 00:51:12,160
you have no idea.

905
00:51:12,160 --> 00:51:17,500
When we went to the apartment

two or three days before--

906

00:51:17,500 --> 00:51:18,940
the apartment where we live--

907

00:51:18,940 --> 00:51:21,820
the apartment is frozen in time.

908

00:51:21,820 --> 00:51:23,470
It's beautiful.

909

00:51:23,470 --> 00:51:27,130
The downtown area is beautiful.

910

00:51:27,130 --> 00:51:28,750
Everything is new.

911

00:51:28,750 --> 00:51:34,030
We were entertained royally
in the Hamburg City Hall--

912

00:51:34,030 --> 00:51:37,400
the Rathaus, what they
call the rat house.

913

00:51:37,400 --> 00:51:39,250
It's Rathaus.

914

00:51:39,250 --> 00:51:43,180
We were served on
beautiful gold dishes

915

00:51:43,180 --> 00:51:46,630
with white-gloved waiters.

916

00:51:46,630 --> 00:51:51,160
The hall is the most magnificent
thing that I have ever seen.

917

00:51:51,160 --> 00:51:54,100
I understand it was
completely bombed out.

918
00:51:54,100 --> 00:51:55,510
How did it get so beautiful?

919
00:51:55,510 --> 00:51:57,100
Did they win the war?

920
00:51:57,100 --> 00:51:58,750
I thought it was bombed out.

921
00:51:58,750 --> 00:52:01,270
The areas that
were not bombed out

922
00:52:01,270 --> 00:52:04,570
are still beautiful, not
even from being restored.

923
00:52:04,570 --> 00:52:08,370
That's just the way it is.

924
00:52:08,370 --> 00:52:11,880
Everything is the same.

925
00:52:11,880 --> 00:52:13,460
We are not the same.

926
00:52:13,460 --> 00:52:15,230
We didn't live the same.

927
00:52:15,230 --> 00:52:16,160
Why did they?

928
00:52:16,160 --> 00:52:20,130

929
00:52:20,130 --> 00:52:23,900
And this is what gets to me.

930
00:52:23,900 --> 00:52:28,040
When we went to the apartment,

I walked up the steps,

931
00:52:28,040 --> 00:52:30,440
and I said to my husband--

932
00:52:30,440 --> 00:52:34,910
I kept talking my whole life
with Harvey about the mirrors

933
00:52:34,910 --> 00:52:39,540
and the apartment and the
hall, with a winding staircase

934
00:52:39,540 --> 00:52:41,172
and an elevator on the right.

935
00:52:41,172 --> 00:52:43,380
I remembered that, because
every day when I came home

936
00:52:43,380 --> 00:52:45,450
from school, I
used to see myself

937
00:52:45,450 --> 00:52:46,940
in the mirrors like infinity.

938
00:52:46,940 --> 00:52:51,330
You know you have two mirrors,
and you see yourself forever.

939
00:52:51,330 --> 00:52:53,910
And this beautiful
marble floor--

940
00:52:53,910 --> 00:52:55,170
and we walked up the steps--

941
00:52:55,170 --> 00:52:56,760
I said, I don't even want
to take the elevator,

942

00:52:56,760 --> 00:52:57,840
because I used to walk.

943
00:52:57,840 --> 00:53:00,300
And we walked up to
the floor, and just

944
00:53:00,300 --> 00:53:03,380
when I was standing in front
of the door just looking--

945
00:53:03,380 --> 00:53:05,580
there were only two
flats on every floor,

946
00:53:05,580 --> 00:53:08,160
they were big, big apartments--

947
00:53:08,160 --> 00:53:10,180
this woman gets out
of the elevator.

948
00:53:10,180 --> 00:53:13,650
She took the lift up,
and she says to me--

949
00:53:13,650 --> 00:53:16,390

950
00:53:16,390 --> 00:53:17,920
I'll say it in English--

951
00:53:17,920 --> 00:53:19,420
what do you want?

952
00:53:19,420 --> 00:53:21,490
So I said, nothing.

953
00:53:21,490 --> 00:53:22,690
I used to live here.

954
00:53:22,690 --> 00:53:26,230

And I was so excited, and
I had a smile on my face--

955
00:53:26,230 --> 00:53:28,600
I used to live here,
and I just wanted

956
00:53:28,600 --> 00:53:30,370
to see what the
apartment looked like.

957
00:53:30,370 --> 00:53:32,350
So she looked at
my husband and me,

958
00:53:32,350 --> 00:53:33,970
she said, when
did you live here,

959
00:53:33,970 --> 00:53:35,710
in a very arrogant manner.

960
00:53:35,710 --> 00:53:39,670
I says, oh, we left in 1938,
with which she took her key,

961
00:53:39,670 --> 00:53:42,730
opened up the door, and
shut the door in our faces.

962
00:53:42,730 --> 00:53:44,110
She never said one word.

963
00:53:44,110 --> 00:53:45,580
She knew.

964
00:53:45,580 --> 00:53:48,370
Now, she wasn't
probably the resident

965
00:53:48,370 --> 00:53:56,190
of my apartment since then,
but yet maybe she was.

966
00:53:56,190 --> 00:53:59,580
Maybe she thought
I wanted to go in.

967
00:53:59,580 --> 00:54:03,684
Maybe she had something in there
that she felt belonged to us.

968
00:54:03,684 --> 00:54:06,370

969
00:54:06,370 --> 00:54:09,042
After that experience,
we went downstairs

970
00:54:09,042 --> 00:54:11,000
and I started to walk
through the neighborhood.

971
00:54:11,000 --> 00:54:15,610
And as little as I was,
I knew exactly where

972
00:54:15,610 --> 00:54:18,610
all the little stores
were that I went to.

973
00:54:18,610 --> 00:54:23,290
My husband was completely
amazed at the recall that I had.

974
00:54:23,290 --> 00:54:26,890
He says he never really
thought that I remembered.

975
00:54:26,890 --> 00:54:30,760
And we went to the dairy store
across the street, which is now

976
00:54:30,760 --> 00:54:32,830
an Italian ice cream place--

977

00:54:32,830 --> 00:54:35,200

I said, the counter
is on the left.

978

00:54:35,200 --> 00:54:40,750

And I remember it had a greenish
cover on it like a Formica.

979

00:54:40,750 --> 00:54:43,180

And sure enough,
that's the same.

980

00:54:43,180 --> 00:54:46,870

Why is everything
the same with them?

981

00:54:46,870 --> 00:54:49,510

And better-- it's
the same and better.

982

00:54:49,510 --> 00:54:55,747

And for the people that
were in the camps who died,

983

00:54:55,747 --> 00:54:57,080

things certainly weren't better.

984

00:54:57,080 --> 00:54:57,983

They're dead.

985

00:54:57,983 --> 00:54:59,400

They never even
had an opportunity

986

00:54:59,400 --> 00:55:03,400

to have any life or children--

987

00:55:03,400 --> 00:55:10,450

three or four generations
are gone, never to multiply.

988

00:55:10,450 --> 00:55:11,380

That's lost.

989

00:55:11,380 --> 00:55:14,200

And the ones that did
survive, their life

990

00:55:14,200 --> 00:55:18,370

has changed forever, and not
necessarily for the better.

991

00:55:18,370 --> 00:55:24,400

Their life over there is better
because of people like us--

992

00:55:24,400 --> 00:55:26,560

not even people
like me, people that

993

00:55:26,560 --> 00:55:29,050

sat in a concentration
camp and built up

994

00:55:29,050 --> 00:55:36,880

that country because they
worked as slave laborers.

995

00:55:36,880 --> 00:55:44,510

And we left our possessions,
whatever they might have been,

996

00:55:44,510 --> 00:55:47,058

and somebody took it over.

997

00:55:47,058 --> 00:55:47,558

Why?

998

00:55:47,558 --> 00:55:51,450

999

00:55:51,450 --> 00:55:52,920

That is my--

1000

00:55:52,920 --> 00:55:57,170

1001

00:55:57,170 --> 00:55:58,400

I can't even describe it.

1002

00:55:58,400 --> 00:56:01,410

1003

00:56:01,410 --> 00:56:08,070

I am so discouraged
by it, and I feel

1004

00:56:08,070 --> 00:56:15,580

so bad that I feel, why in the
world did I ever go back there?

1005

00:56:15,580 --> 00:56:17,060

The school is still there.

1006

00:56:17,060 --> 00:56:20,420

1007

00:56:20,420 --> 00:56:24,680

Everything is there-- the
bathroom, it's all the same.

1008

00:56:24,680 --> 00:56:26,300

And if it wasn't
bombed out, which

1009

00:56:26,300 --> 00:56:30,660

most of the stuff in the
residential areas was not,

1010

00:56:30,660 --> 00:56:33,620

then the other things
were completely built up,

1011

00:56:33,620 --> 00:56:37,730

with American dollars for sure.

1012

00:56:37,730 --> 00:56:41,270
Hamburg itself is
a beautiful city.

1013
00:56:41,270 --> 00:56:43,070
It's almost like Venice.

1014
00:56:43,070 --> 00:56:46,070
It's got canals,
the beautiful houses

1015
00:56:46,070 --> 00:56:50,210
are there, the homes that were
owned by the Jewish people--

1016
00:56:50,210 --> 00:56:55,220
everything is there, and there
are non-Jews living there.

1017
00:56:55,220 --> 00:56:59,320
How did they
acquire all of this?

1018
00:56:59,320 --> 00:57:02,990
Where is my mother's furniture?

1019
00:57:02,990 --> 00:57:04,900
She always used to
say, she wondered who's

1020
00:57:04,900 --> 00:57:08,380
sitting in her dining room?

1021
00:57:08,380 --> 00:57:11,320
Of course, these are
such little things.

1022
00:57:11,320 --> 00:57:15,160
Who took over my
grandfather's office

1023
00:57:15,160 --> 00:57:18,310
and all the beautiful

antiques and things?

1024

00:57:18,310 --> 00:57:20,360

I have pictures of
my grandmother--

1025

00:57:20,360 --> 00:57:22,950

who took all that jewelry?

1026

00:57:22,950 --> 00:57:24,360

Where is all of that?

1027

00:57:24,360 --> 00:57:27,720

I guess the same people that
knocked out the gold fillings.

1028

00:57:27,720 --> 00:57:31,420

It's horrendous.

1029

00:57:31,420 --> 00:57:34,900

When you really start
to think about it,

1030

00:57:34,900 --> 00:57:39,040

it's worse than seeing
anything on a television

1031

00:57:39,040 --> 00:57:42,820

screen, or a movie screen,
or seen in a picture.

1032

00:57:42,820 --> 00:57:51,080

I think it's even worse what
a human being remembers.

1033

00:57:51,080 --> 00:57:56,300

You can't even put that
on celluloid on a screen.

1034

00:57:56,300 --> 00:57:56,870

You can't.

1035

00:57:56,870 --> 00:58:01,670

1036

00:58:01,670 --> 00:58:04,700

That really bothered me.

1037

00:58:04,700 --> 00:58:09,830

What happened to all the Torahs?

1038

00:58:09,830 --> 00:58:11,070

All the things?

1039

00:58:11,070 --> 00:58:13,780

And I know I was always
told my whole life,

1040

00:58:13,780 --> 00:58:17,390

now, Ruth, don't get
hung up on things.

1041

00:58:17,390 --> 00:58:19,510

You do get hung up on things.

1042

00:58:19,510 --> 00:58:22,910

That's you, that's us--

1043

00:58:22,910 --> 00:58:28,370

all these things when
you think about it.

1044

00:58:28,370 --> 00:58:33,440

1045

00:58:33,440 --> 00:58:37,660

Any way, we should
not dwell on things.

1046

00:58:37,660 --> 00:58:42,380

But I just wanted
to share this--

1047

00:58:42,380 --> 00:58:44,210

my feeling about going back.

1048

00:58:44,210 --> 00:58:46,250

And I did write a letter.

1049

00:58:46,250 --> 00:58:52,190

I wrote all my thank you
notes to all the people that

1050

00:58:52,190 --> 00:58:53,930

were very nice to us in Europe.

1051

00:58:53,930 --> 00:58:57,150

And they tried very hard.

1052

00:58:57,150 --> 00:59:01,560

My feeling toward it might not
be the same as someone else's.

1053

00:59:01,560 --> 00:59:03,780

Some people were
absolutely thrilled,

1054

00:59:03,780 --> 00:59:07,380

and they took other trips
besides going to Hamburg.

1055

00:59:07,380 --> 00:59:08,430

I didn't feel that way.

1056

00:59:08,430 --> 00:59:12,670

1057

00:59:12,670 --> 00:59:14,680

I don't think I would
ever go back again.

1058

00:59:14,680 --> 00:59:16,310

I had thought when
we came back, maybe

1059

00:59:16,310 --> 00:59:17,560

I'd like to take our children.

1060
00:59:17,560 --> 00:59:21,460

1061
00:59:21,460 --> 00:59:29,620
You can go home again, but
you don't want to live there.

1062
00:59:29,620 --> 00:59:32,350
And I don't think I even
want to visit it again,

1063
00:59:32,350 --> 00:59:39,100
because it really has turned out
to be a beautiful place but not

1064
00:59:39,100 --> 00:59:39,700
for us.

1065
00:59:39,700 --> 00:59:42,820
It was built on
something horrible.

1066
00:59:42,820 --> 00:59:45,100
And I think all of the cities--

1067
00:59:45,100 --> 00:59:50,470
in Germany especially, were
built on something horrible.

1068
00:59:50,470 --> 00:59:55,030
And if I might just
add one more thing--

1069
00:59:55,030 --> 01:00:02,790
I know that the United States
has relations with Germany,

1070
01:00:02,790 --> 01:00:05,850
Israel has wonderful
relations with Germany.

1071

01:00:05,850 --> 01:00:09,900

To this day, I can't stand
looking at a Mercedes.

1072

01:00:09,900 --> 01:00:12,510

That logo gets
me, because that's

1073

01:00:12,510 --> 01:00:16,740

what I used to see the
SS guys go in and out of.

1074

01:00:16,740 --> 01:00:19,860

A Jew was not allowed
to have that car, so why

1075

01:00:19,860 --> 01:00:26,590

is this now the car of
choice for African-Americans

1076

01:00:26,590 --> 01:00:28,060

as well as Jews?

1077

01:00:28,060 --> 01:00:30,160

These were hateful people.

1078

01:00:30,160 --> 01:00:33,543

And the people that are
still running it in 1997

1079

01:00:33,543 --> 01:00:34,210

are still there.

1080

01:00:34,210 --> 01:00:36,970

It's going to take a few
generations for this all

1081

01:00:36,970 --> 01:00:39,940

to be washed out, to be dilute.

1082

01:00:39,940 --> 01:00:42,310

This is how I personally feel--

1083
01:00:42,310 --> 01:00:49,138
it has to be diluted by
a few more generations.

1084
01:00:49,138 --> 01:00:51,430
Is there anything you'd like
to add before we conclude?

1085
01:00:51,430 --> 01:00:54,150

1086
01:00:54,150 --> 01:01:00,810
I just want to add that I feel
that we all should remember,

1087
01:01:00,810 --> 01:01:02,870
talk about it.

1088
01:01:02,870 --> 01:01:06,640
Even though I was not
in a concentration camp,

1089
01:01:06,640 --> 01:01:12,610
that does not make my
experience of lesser value.

1090
01:01:12,610 --> 01:01:21,510
I think any child
10 years up should

1091
01:01:21,510 --> 01:01:24,720
learn about the Holocaust
and what it means--

1092
01:01:24,720 --> 01:01:28,480
every Jewish child for
sure, what it means.

1093
01:01:28,480 --> 01:01:37,250
And if we don't take care of
our own people, who is going to?

1094

01:01:37,250 --> 01:01:39,610

Nobody.

1095

01:01:39,610 --> 01:01:42,550

And take pictures, because
that's your record.

1096

01:01:42,550 --> 01:01:45,223

1097

01:01:45,223 --> 01:01:47,640

Thank you very much for doing
the interview with me today.

1098

01:01:47,640 --> 01:01:50,450

And this concludes
the interview today.

1099

01:01:50,450 --> 01:01:51,317