

1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:00,600

2  
00:00:00,600 --> 00:00:02,970  
Could you talk about  
your trip or any--

3  
00:00:02,970 --> 00:00:07,020  
Yes, our trip up here  
was really quite nice.

4  
00:00:07,020 --> 00:00:08,340  
The weather was favorable.

5  
00:00:08,340 --> 00:00:10,930

6  
00:00:10,930 --> 00:00:14,320  
There was not too much traffic,  
although there is always

7  
00:00:14,320 --> 00:00:17,980  
too much traffic to be really  
comfortable on the highway.

8  
00:00:17,980 --> 00:00:22,620

9  
00:00:22,620 --> 00:00:25,950  
This is the United States  
Holocaust Memorial Museum

10  
00:00:25,950 --> 00:00:29,790  
interview with Hermann  
Kosak conducted

11  
00:00:29,790 --> 00:00:33,900  
by Margaret Garrett  
on June 18, 1997,

12  
00:00:33,900 --> 00:00:36,330

in Garrett Park, Maryland.

13

00:00:36,330 --> 00:00:39,450

Tape one, side one.

14

00:00:39,450 --> 00:00:41,950

What was your name at birth?

15

00:00:41,950 --> 00:00:45,120

My name was Hermann Kosak.

16

00:00:45,120 --> 00:00:47,220

And what was the  
date of your birth?

17

00:00:47,220 --> 00:00:49,770

May 2, 1924.

18

00:00:49,770 --> 00:00:51,180

And the place of your birth--

19

00:00:51,180 --> 00:00:53,280

--was Vienna, Austria.

20

00:00:53,280 --> 00:00:57,240

Could you talk about your  
early life in Vienna?

21

00:00:57,240 --> 00:01:04,230

My earliest memory is  
being with my grandfather

22

00:01:04,230 --> 00:01:11,950

and going with him to  
the shul, or temple,

23

00:01:11,950 --> 00:01:16,640

as we say it, early in the  
morning and late at night.

24

00:01:16,640 --> 00:01:21,950

And being an only child,

there was a number of old men

25

00:01:21,950 --> 00:01:24,005

who were praying.

26

00:01:24,005 --> 00:01:28,920

Those are the earliest  
memories, although my Aunt Mina

27

00:01:28,920 --> 00:01:30,950

lived with us.

28

00:01:30,950 --> 00:01:35,150

And my youngest uncle,  
Jacob, whom I called Kubi,

29

00:01:35,150 --> 00:01:35,925

lived there also.

30

00:01:35,925 --> 00:01:38,710

31

00:01:38,710 --> 00:01:40,220

And your grandmother?

32

00:01:40,220 --> 00:01:42,860

My grandmother had already died.

33

00:01:42,860 --> 00:01:45,320

She died in 1917.

34

00:01:45,320 --> 00:01:47,880

So I never knew her.

35

00:01:47,880 --> 00:01:52,910

I never knew the grandparents  
on my father's side

36

00:01:52,910 --> 00:01:56,450

because my mother and  
father were divorced when I

37

00:01:56,450 --> 00:01:59,840  
was, I believe, two years old.

38

00:01:59,840 --> 00:02:03,357  
My mother refused to talk  
about it at the time,

39

00:02:03,357 --> 00:02:04,940  
and she never wanted  
to talk about it.

40

00:02:04,940 --> 00:02:08,630  
So I didn't know  
much about that.

41

00:02:08,630 --> 00:02:13,740  
But by the time I was four  
years old, my mother remarried.

42

00:02:13,740 --> 00:02:16,740  
But from the age  
of two to four, you

43

00:02:16,740 --> 00:02:18,360  
lived with your grandfather.

44

00:02:18,360 --> 00:02:19,380  
Yes.

45

00:02:19,380 --> 00:02:23,670  
I don't know if I wasn't there  
earlier than that, but I know,

46

00:02:23,670 --> 00:02:27,120  
yes, I was there  
from two to four.

47

00:02:27,120 --> 00:02:29,220  
And you remember going  
to shul with him?

48

00:02:29,220 --> 00:02:32,640

Yes, I also remember going,  
walking with him alone

49

00:02:32,640 --> 00:02:37,110

to [PLACE NAME],, to  
[PLACE NAME],, which was nearby.

50

00:02:37,110 --> 00:02:40,290

And I also remember  
going to kindergarten.

51

00:02:40,290 --> 00:02:43,280

52

00:02:43,280 --> 00:02:44,310

And I remember--

53

00:02:44,310 --> 00:02:46,030

Was that a Jewish kindergarten?

54

00:02:46,030 --> 00:02:52,730

No, I don't believe so because  
this was my first encounter

55

00:02:52,730 --> 00:02:56,190

with anti-Jewish sentiments.

56

00:02:56,190 --> 00:03:01,220

The thing is I really  
didn't know what it was.

57

00:03:01,220 --> 00:03:06,170

But I got the idea that I  
had done something wrong.

58

00:03:06,170 --> 00:03:08,870

I was made to feel  
guilty about something.

59

00:03:08,870 --> 00:03:09,620

I didn't know why.

60

00:03:09,620 --> 00:03:11,120

By the other children,  
the teachers?

61

00:03:11,120 --> 00:03:15,980

Yes, by children,  
children who would

62

00:03:15,980 --> 00:03:21,830

call me "Jew, Jew" or "dirty  
Jew," and who would beat up.

63

00:03:21,830 --> 00:03:24,780

They would hit you,  
things like this.

64

00:03:24,780 --> 00:03:27,080

And when I finally--

65

00:03:27,080 --> 00:03:28,760

I complained about  
it, apparently,

66

00:03:28,760 --> 00:03:32,130

because I was switched  
to another kindergarten.

67

00:03:32,130 --> 00:03:36,080

And there I don't remember  
any unpleasantness from there.

68

00:03:36,080 --> 00:03:40,010

I remember my fourth birthday  
because my Uncle Jacob gave me

69

00:03:40,010 --> 00:03:43,850

a gift of what they  
called a Hollander, which

70

00:03:43,850 --> 00:03:50,000

was a little vehicle that  
the child could make move

71

00:03:50,000 --> 00:03:54,430  
by a handle that would move one  
back and give you some exercise

72  
00:03:54,430 --> 00:03:55,680  
and make you move around.

73  
00:03:55,680 --> 00:04:00,540  
We had a courtyard  
where I would play.

74  
00:04:00,540 --> 00:04:02,370  
Those are the earliest  
memories I have.

75  
00:04:02,370 --> 00:04:08,740  
And then I remember that I was  
taken away from my grandfather

76  
00:04:08,740 --> 00:04:09,530  
by my mother.

77  
00:04:09,530 --> 00:04:12,540

78  
00:04:12,540 --> 00:04:16,290  
And she had remarried.

79  
00:04:16,290 --> 00:04:23,160  
She married Emil Kaplan,  
who was an Austrian war

80  
00:04:23,160 --> 00:04:26,400  
veteran of the First World  
War and had been injured

81  
00:04:26,400 --> 00:04:34,660  
during the First World  
War and had difficulties,

82  
00:04:34,660 --> 00:04:36,040  
because of that, walking.

83

00:04:36,040 --> 00:04:37,840

And he had difficulties.

84

00:04:37,840 --> 00:04:39,040

He stammered, too.

85

00:04:39,040 --> 00:04:43,510

He stuttered when  
he became excited.

86

00:04:43,510 --> 00:04:46,220

I remember he had a hard  
time finding a place to live.

87

00:04:46,220 --> 00:04:52,290

It was the time  
during which Austria

88

00:04:52,290 --> 00:04:56,250

was in economic distress.

89

00:04:56,250 --> 00:05:01,510

Here, it was in the '20s,  
and was after the war.

90

00:05:01,510 --> 00:05:08,125

But eventually, they found an  
apartment, relatively small,

91

00:05:08,125 --> 00:05:09,320

by modern standards.

92

00:05:09,320 --> 00:05:14,450

It had only one  
kitchen and one room.

93

00:05:14,450 --> 00:05:19,370

The room was our living room  
and bedroom, den, whatever.

94

00:05:19,370 --> 00:05:21,950



95  
00:05:21,950 --> 00:05:26,640  
But, of course, I  
was a happy child.

96  
00:05:26,640 --> 00:05:29,060  
I was very happy.

97  
00:05:29,060 --> 00:05:29,990  
I was always happy.

98  
00:05:29,990 --> 00:05:33,860  
I didn't feel deprived.

99  
00:05:33,860 --> 00:05:37,142  
Did you miss your grandfather  
after you went back

100  
00:05:37,142 --> 00:05:37,850  
with your mother?

101  
00:05:37,850 --> 00:05:39,170  
Yes, I missed my grandfather.

102  
00:05:39,170 --> 00:05:42,590  
I miss my Aunt Mina, especially.

103  
00:05:42,590 --> 00:05:44,390  
They came to visit.

104  
00:05:44,390 --> 00:05:49,040  
They came to visit, maybe, I  
don't know, weekly or monthly.

105  
00:05:49,040 --> 00:05:50,790  
But I remember  
they came to visit,

106  
00:05:50,790 --> 00:05:56,300  
and I always looked  
forward to their visit.

107

00:05:56,300 --> 00:06:02,120

Grandfather was very  
Orthodox, a very religious man

108

00:06:02,120 --> 00:06:05,340

who was always very  
concerned about religion.

109

00:06:05,340 --> 00:06:13,660

So when he came, I had to  
start learning to read Hebrew.

110

00:06:13,660 --> 00:06:18,140

So by the time I was five or  
six years old, I read Hebrew.

111

00:06:18,140 --> 00:06:20,020

Now, where did you  
learn the Hebrew?

112

00:06:20,020 --> 00:06:21,190

From my grandfather.

113

00:06:21,190 --> 00:06:22,600

Your grandfather taught you.

114

00:06:22,600 --> 00:06:25,510

Yes, but only to read, you see.

115

00:06:25,510 --> 00:06:28,930

I had no idea when I was  
reading, and I still don't.

116

00:06:28,930 --> 00:06:32,440

I can read it, but I don't  
know what I'm reading.

117

00:06:32,440 --> 00:06:34,020

But I remember that distinctly.

118

00:06:34,020 --> 00:06:38,560

It was a daily thing.

119  
00:06:38,560 --> 00:06:41,020  
And what about your  
mother and stepfather?

120  
00:06:41,020 --> 00:06:42,700  
Were they religious?

121  
00:06:42,700 --> 00:06:45,250

122  
00:06:45,250 --> 00:06:47,290  
Not in the same sense.

123  
00:06:47,290 --> 00:06:50,440  
Yes, they were very  
religious to the extent

124  
00:06:50,440 --> 00:06:55,480  
that they kept kosher cuisine.

125  
00:06:55,480 --> 00:06:57,650  
That meant we don't eat pork.

126  
00:06:57,650 --> 00:06:59,100  
Essentially, that's  
what it meant.

127  
00:06:59,100 --> 00:07:04,810

128  
00:07:04,810 --> 00:07:09,040  
The very Orthodox wouldn't mix  
milk with meat, for example,

129  
00:07:09,040 --> 00:07:14,190  
but I don't think in our  
house that that was a problem.

130  
00:07:14,190 --> 00:07:17,010  
So then I was in  
a new kindergarten

131  
00:07:17,010 --> 00:07:18,600  
because I was still  
in preschool when

132  
00:07:18,600 --> 00:07:21,360  
we moved to the 13th district.

133  
00:07:21,360 --> 00:07:24,950

134  
00:07:24,950 --> 00:07:27,140  
Again, there were hardly  
any Jewish children.

135  
00:07:27,140 --> 00:07:29,290  
There were none in  
the kindergarten

136  
00:07:29,290 --> 00:07:31,390  
that I knew or know of.

137  
00:07:31,390 --> 00:07:33,980

138  
00:07:33,980 --> 00:07:37,460  
And I was must have been there  
a short time, maybe one year,

139  
00:07:37,460 --> 00:07:41,385  
and then went into the school  
system, the public school

140  
00:07:41,385 --> 00:07:41,885  
system.

141  
00:07:41,885 --> 00:07:48,595

142  
00:07:48,595 --> 00:07:56,540  
There, too, we had anti-Semitic  
sentiments in the class.

143  
00:07:56,540 --> 00:07:58,770  
They were sort of pervasive.

144  
00:07:58,770 --> 00:08:02,760  
There was a large percentage  
of the students who

145  
00:08:02,760 --> 00:08:04,230  
did not care one  
way or the other

146  
00:08:04,230 --> 00:08:06,770  
but wouldn't have  
anything to do with me.

147  
00:08:06,770 --> 00:08:10,023  
They just went their own way.

148  
00:08:10,023 --> 00:08:11,190  
Some of them were very nice.

149  
00:08:11,190 --> 00:08:14,285  
They said hello and how  
are you and that was it.

150  
00:08:14,285 --> 00:08:15,660  
And then there  
were, I would say,

151  
00:08:15,660 --> 00:08:18,020  
about 10%-- there  
were a few kids who

152  
00:08:18,020 --> 00:08:24,900  
always tried to hurt somebody.

153  
00:08:24,900 --> 00:08:27,030  
And we had that in any class.

154  
00:08:27,030 --> 00:08:30,550  
Of course, there's

always the big kid

155  
00:08:30,550 --> 00:08:34,080  
that picks on the little kids.

156  
00:08:34,080 --> 00:08:36,990  
But here, it was sort of  
picking on the Jew that

157  
00:08:36,990 --> 00:08:38,440  
was the pastime.

158  
00:08:38,440 --> 00:08:41,340  
Now, were there other Jewish  
children in your class?

159  
00:08:41,340 --> 00:08:42,840  
Not at that time.

160  
00:08:42,840 --> 00:08:48,620  
Later on, there was  
Richard Grunberger

161  
00:08:48,620 --> 00:08:52,480  
that I knew from school.

162  
00:08:52,480 --> 00:08:54,240  
I don't know if  
he was in my class

163  
00:08:54,240 --> 00:08:57,390  
or was in a neighboring class  
or if I met him, whether or not

164  
00:08:57,390 --> 00:09:02,040  
I met him, at the  
religious school.

165  
00:09:02,040 --> 00:09:03,630  
The school we went  
to was Catholic.

166

00:09:03,630 --> 00:09:06,960  
Of course, the state of  
Austria was a Catholic country.

167  
00:09:06,960 --> 00:09:08,960  
And when we came into  
class in the morning,

168  
00:09:08,960 --> 00:09:12,620  
we had to stay at attention  
while the class recited

169  
00:09:12,620 --> 00:09:15,640  
the Pater Noster.

170  
00:09:15,640 --> 00:09:19,210  
And then we'd sit down,  
and the day began.

171  
00:09:19,210 --> 00:09:21,760  
And I was the only one  
who didn't participate.

172  
00:09:21,760 --> 00:09:24,760  
I would stand up, but  
I didn't participate.

173  
00:09:24,760 --> 00:09:27,805  
And for the Jewish kids,  
there was a religious school

174  
00:09:27,805 --> 00:09:30,660  
on Wednesday afternoon.

175  
00:09:30,660 --> 00:09:32,990  
That was a school to  
which I had to go to.

176  
00:09:32,990 --> 00:09:35,680  
It was a couple  
hours on Wednesday.

177  
00:09:35,680 --> 00:09:39,543

And there we got instructions  
in the Old Testament.

178  
00:09:39,543 --> 00:09:40,960  
There was a teacher  
who would read

179  
00:09:40,960 --> 00:09:42,510  
to us in the Old Testament.

180  
00:09:42,510 --> 00:09:45,250  
And again, we read in Hebrew.

181  
00:09:45,250 --> 00:09:47,430  
There were students  
who didn't know Hebrew,

182  
00:09:47,430 --> 00:09:49,280  
and we went through  
reading Hebrew.

183  
00:09:49,280 --> 00:09:52,390  
And that was our  
religious education.

184  
00:09:52,390 --> 00:09:56,250  
Did you get time off from  
your regular school to go?

185  
00:09:56,250 --> 00:09:58,660  
It wasn't necessary,  
because regular school

186  
00:09:58,660 --> 00:10:00,910  
was from 8:00 in the morning  
to 1:00 in the afternoon.

187  
00:10:00,910 --> 00:10:01,420  
I see.

188  
00:10:01,420 --> 00:10:02,795  
So you went after  
regular school.



189  
00:10:02,795 --> 00:10:05,452  
And it was from 2:00 to  
3:00 or from 3:00 to 4:00.

190  
00:10:05,452 --> 00:10:06,160  
I don't remember.

191  
00:10:06,160 --> 00:10:10,310  
It was Wednesday afternoon.

192  
00:10:10,310 --> 00:10:14,640  
And one afternoon, we also  
had gymnastics at the school.

193  
00:10:14,640 --> 00:10:16,610  
So we went back to  
school for gymnastics.

194  
00:10:16,610 --> 00:10:20,370  
And Saturday morning,  
we had arts and crafts,

195  
00:10:20,370 --> 00:10:22,880  
which was a separate thing.

196  
00:10:22,880 --> 00:10:27,130  
So we were a lot in school,  
and we had heavy homework--

197  
00:10:27,130 --> 00:10:30,650  
two, three hours  
a day of homework.

198  
00:10:30,650 --> 00:10:34,400  
So there was very little  
time to play, actually.

199  
00:10:34,400 --> 00:10:36,200  
Did you have any time to play?

200  
00:10:36,200 --> 00:10:39,140

Oh, yes, yes, maybe  
an hour or two a day.

201  
00:10:39,140 --> 00:10:43,670  
And did you have other  
kids to play with?

202  
00:10:43,670 --> 00:10:44,270  
Very few.

203  
00:10:44,270 --> 00:10:47,180  
There were some Jewish  
children in the neighborhood.

204  
00:10:47,180 --> 00:10:50,170  
Across the street from  
us, strangely enough,

205  
00:10:50,170 --> 00:10:53,380  
was a Jewish butcher shop.

206  
00:10:53,380 --> 00:10:57,470  
He had four daughters, and the  
youngest one was my sister's

207  
00:10:57,470 --> 00:10:59,690  
age, and they played a lot.

208  
00:10:59,690 --> 00:11:01,520  
She would spend a  
lot of time with us,

209  
00:11:01,520 --> 00:11:03,980  
and my sister spent a  
lot of time over there.

210  
00:11:03,980 --> 00:11:07,030  
I spent a lot of time  
with the retarded boy

211  
00:11:07,030 --> 00:11:08,600  
who lived next door.

212

00:11:08,600 --> 00:11:13,350

We lived in an  
apartment building

213

00:11:13,350 --> 00:11:16,000

in Vienna, an apartment  
in an area that

214

00:11:16,000 --> 00:11:18,770

had a lot of apartment  
buildings that

215

00:11:18,770 --> 00:11:20,940

were built against each other.

216

00:11:20,940 --> 00:11:22,460

There was no space between them.

217

00:11:22,460 --> 00:11:24,980

They had courtyards  
in the back, but there

218

00:11:24,980 --> 00:11:27,200

was no space between them.

219

00:11:27,200 --> 00:11:28,380

You mentioned your sister.

220

00:11:28,380 --> 00:11:30,000

When was your sister born?

221

00:11:30,000 --> 00:11:36,270

She was born in March,  
on March 19, 1928.

222

00:11:36,270 --> 00:11:38,460

She was almost  
four years younger.

223

00:11:38,460 --> 00:11:40,590

She's almost four years  
younger than I am.

224  
00:11:40,590 --> 00:11:42,050  
And her name was?

225  
00:11:42,050 --> 00:11:42,880  
Margaret.

226  
00:11:42,880 --> 00:11:45,800  
Margit, we called  
her Margit, which

227  
00:11:45,800 --> 00:11:51,890  
is the Hungarian  
version of Margaret.

228  
00:11:51,890 --> 00:11:54,740  
And when you played,  
what did you play?

229  
00:11:54,740 --> 00:11:56,350  
Did you play games?

230  
00:11:56,350 --> 00:11:58,190  
Usually what we played--

231  
00:11:58,190 --> 00:12:01,070  
we went on walks,  
usually, to parks.

232  
00:12:01,070 --> 00:12:04,820  
There were lots of  
parks in Vienna.

233  
00:12:04,820 --> 00:12:08,247  
And usually, I went with  
the boy next door who

234  
00:12:08,247 --> 00:12:10,580  
I felt sorry for because  
nobody wanted to play with him.

235  
00:12:10,580 --> 00:12:13,430

He was slightly retarded.

236

00:12:13,430 --> 00:12:15,450

But he was a very sweet boy.

237

00:12:15,450 --> 00:12:16,790

He was about my age.

238

00:12:16,790 --> 00:12:17,660

He was very sweet.

239

00:12:17,660 --> 00:12:20,810

And he liked to  
collect butterflies.

240

00:12:20,810 --> 00:12:24,260

He liked to chase  
butterflies and then contrive

241

00:12:24,260 --> 00:12:27,420

ways of catching them.

242

00:12:27,420 --> 00:12:31,740

And then I got into the habit.

243

00:12:31,740 --> 00:12:33,810

I went with doing  
what he was doing,

244

00:12:33,810 --> 00:12:37,120

so I started  
collecting butterflies.

245

00:12:37,120 --> 00:12:38,860

But pretty soon,  
I got sick of this

246

00:12:38,860 --> 00:12:41,710

because you had to kill them.

247

00:12:41,710 --> 00:12:44,530

And the way they did this

was sticking the butterfly's

248

00:12:44,530 --> 00:12:47,380

head in denatured alcohol,  
and the poor thing

249

00:12:47,380 --> 00:12:50,600

would wallow around for a  
minute and then be dead.

250

00:12:50,600 --> 00:12:56,020

And then we mounted it with a  
pin on a piece of cardboard.

251

00:12:56,020 --> 00:12:59,410

252

00:12:59,410 --> 00:13:05,020

And it wasn't long before this  
didn't appeal to me at all.

253

00:13:05,020 --> 00:13:07,240

But mostly, we went for walks.

254

00:13:07,240 --> 00:13:10,380

It was very pleasant.

255

00:13:10,380 --> 00:13:12,995

Vienna has a good climate  
with lots of parks.

256

00:13:12,995 --> 00:13:17,570

We were not very  
far from Schonbrunn.

257

00:13:17,570 --> 00:13:20,640

It was about a 10-,  
12-minute walk from us.

258

00:13:20,640 --> 00:13:23,590

If you've heard of  
Schonbrunn, it's a big castle

259

00:13:23,590 --> 00:13:27,310  
and had become a public park  
after the First World War.

260

00:13:27,310 --> 00:13:30,130  
That was a very attractive  
place for children

261

00:13:30,130 --> 00:13:33,150  
to go to because, for one  
thing, it was very large.

262

00:13:33,150 --> 00:13:36,880  
And you could get  
bored in one place,

263

00:13:36,880 --> 00:13:38,170  
you could go another place.

264

00:13:38,170 --> 00:13:41,410  
And there was a  
tremendous variety

265

00:13:41,410 --> 00:13:43,120  
of places you could play.

266

00:13:43,120 --> 00:13:47,350  
And we played Indians and  
cowboys, running around,

267

00:13:47,350 --> 00:13:52,060  
mostly, playing  
catch and whatnot.

268

00:13:52,060 --> 00:13:53,960  
But we had little time for that.

269

00:13:53,960 --> 00:13:57,100  
So we'd spend an hour or two,  
and then we went home again.

270

00:13:57,100 --> 00:14:00,020

And what was your  
family life like?

271  
00:14:00,020 --> 00:14:03,070  
Did your family, on  
weekends, do things

272  
00:14:03,070 --> 00:14:04,870  
together, or not so much?

273  
00:14:04,870 --> 00:14:09,550  
On weekends, in those  
days, it was often the case

274  
00:14:09,550 --> 00:14:11,170  
that we went to visit family.

275  
00:14:11,170 --> 00:14:13,800

276  
00:14:13,800 --> 00:14:14,830  
There was no radio.

277  
00:14:14,830 --> 00:14:17,560  
We didn't have a  
radio at that time.

278  
00:14:17,560 --> 00:14:19,220  
There was no telephone.

279  
00:14:19,220 --> 00:14:22,060  
At least, we didn't have one.

280  
00:14:22,060 --> 00:14:24,360  
And, of course, there  
was no television.

281  
00:14:24,360 --> 00:14:27,040  
There was-- people went  
to-- there was movies.

282  
00:14:27,040 --> 00:14:29,290



There were cinemas.

283

00:14:29,290 --> 00:14:32,800

We went to the movies  
maybe twice a year.

284

00:14:32,800 --> 00:14:36,070

Usually, on weekends, we  
would go visiting families.

285

00:14:36,070 --> 00:14:38,695

My stepfather had a  
rather large family.

286

00:14:38,695 --> 00:14:41,890

287

00:14:41,890 --> 00:14:47,890

One of his brothers,  
Simon, had four children,

288

00:14:47,890 --> 00:14:52,870

two boys who were about my  
age, Herbert, who, I believe,

289

00:14:52,870 --> 00:14:57,700

was my age, and Ernst, who was  
two or three years younger.

290

00:14:57,700 --> 00:15:03,290

And it was fun for  
me to go visit them.

291

00:15:03,290 --> 00:15:06,860

And also on weekends,  
in the summertime,

292

00:15:06,860 --> 00:15:09,700

we would go camp picnicking--

293

00:15:09,700 --> 00:15:10,200

camping.

294

00:15:10,200 --> 00:15:12,560  
This was your family together?

295

00:15:12,560 --> 00:15:16,520  
Yes, my stepfather and my  
mother and my sister and I.

296

00:15:16,520 --> 00:15:19,890  
My mother would prepare a basket  
with boiled eggs and bread

297

00:15:19,890 --> 00:15:23,980  
and whatever-- herring--

298

00:15:23,980 --> 00:15:26,910  
and we would go  
take the streetcar--

299

00:15:26,910 --> 00:15:29,720  
streetcar 49-- to a  
place called Hutteldorf.

300

00:15:29,720 --> 00:15:33,800  
It was the last stop, and  
you were in the Vienna woods.

301

00:15:33,800 --> 00:15:36,722  
And we went out in the woods,  
and we could go and picnic

302

00:15:36,722 --> 00:15:37,222  
there.

303

00:15:37,222 --> 00:15:40,000

304

00:15:40,000 --> 00:15:41,860  
It was pleasant.

305

00:15:41,860 --> 00:15:46,220  
We'd sit around and watch  
nature and listen to the birds.

306  
00:15:46,220 --> 00:15:49,100  
What did your stepfather do?

307  
00:15:49,100 --> 00:15:53,450  
Unfortunately, he was  
suffering, mostly.

308  
00:15:53,450 --> 00:16:00,420  
By profession, he was a man  
who designed the top shoes--

309  
00:16:00,420 --> 00:16:03,600  
the top portion of shoes.

310  
00:16:03,600 --> 00:16:05,960  
But he couldn't keep  
a job because he was

311  
00:16:05,960 --> 00:16:09,770  
suffering from his war wounds.

312  
00:16:09,770 --> 00:16:12,030  
So I remember he had  
surgeries several times.

313  
00:16:12,030 --> 00:16:15,630

314  
00:16:15,630 --> 00:16:17,310  
Did your mother work?

315  
00:16:17,310 --> 00:16:19,570  
She did not, no.

316  
00:16:19,570 --> 00:16:20,900  
So we were rather poor.

317  
00:16:20,900 --> 00:16:23,980  
We were poor.

318

00:16:23,980 --> 00:16:31,550

We received monthly  
payments from my father.

319

00:16:31,550 --> 00:16:33,690

As a pension for the war?

320

00:16:33,690 --> 00:16:39,890

No, no, for me,  
from my real father.

321

00:16:39,890 --> 00:16:41,450

Oh, from your natural father.

322

00:16:41,450 --> 00:16:46,820

From my natural father,  
who I only saw twice.

323

00:16:46,820 --> 00:16:50,280

But I corresponded  
with him, monthly.

324

00:16:50,280 --> 00:16:52,580

I wrote him a letter, and  
he wrote me letters, too.

325

00:16:52,580 --> 00:16:54,450

I have those.

326

00:16:54,450 --> 00:16:55,850

And he sent a regular check?

327

00:16:55,850 --> 00:16:58,550

Yes, Yes.

328

00:16:58,550 --> 00:17:03,080

And my stepfather, I assume,  
received some compensation

329

00:17:03,080 --> 00:17:03,990

for his war injury.

330

00:17:03,990 --> 00:17:06,810

331

00:17:06,810 --> 00:17:10,920

And I imagine we lived on this,  
because we were rather poor.

332

00:17:10,920 --> 00:17:15,119

So it was, in some  
ways, pretty hard.

333

00:17:15,119 --> 00:17:19,240

It was hard, except  
I didn't know that.

334

00:17:19,240 --> 00:17:22,500

What you don't know  
about, you don't miss.

335

00:17:22,500 --> 00:17:24,599

I didn't know I  
missed the radio.

336

00:17:24,599 --> 00:17:26,839

I didn't know I  
missed the telephone.

337

00:17:26,839 --> 00:17:30,390

I didn't know that some people  
would eat meat more than once

338

00:17:30,390 --> 00:17:32,700

every two weeks or so.

339

00:17:32,700 --> 00:17:34,200

You understand?

340

00:17:34,200 --> 00:17:35,427

We mostly ate--

341

00:17:35,427 --> 00:17:36,260

I never went hungry.

342

00:17:36,260 --> 00:17:39,180

We had bread and  
we had vegetables.

343

00:17:39,180 --> 00:17:42,510

And I remember I always  
liked our breakfast.

344

00:17:42,510 --> 00:17:44,960

We got hot chocolate and rolls.

345

00:17:44,960 --> 00:17:47,490

346

00:17:47,490 --> 00:17:52,200

So we had our big dinner  
at 1:30 after I came home

347

00:17:52,200 --> 00:17:59,220

from school, which was often  
vegetables and soup and bread.

348

00:17:59,220 --> 00:18:01,260

And then, in the  
evening, we usually

349

00:18:01,260 --> 00:18:04,485

had some leftovers  
or a bite to eat,

350

00:18:04,485 --> 00:18:08,470

some sandwich or something--

351

00:18:08,470 --> 00:18:10,830

meatless sandwiches, just  
sandwich and lettuce.

352

00:18:10,830 --> 00:18:13,710

353

00:18:13,710 --> 00:18:14,970

I wasn't unhappy about it.

354  
00:18:14,970 --> 00:18:16,295  
I don't remember.

355  
00:18:16,295 --> 00:18:19,330  
I was satisfied.

356  
00:18:19,330 --> 00:18:25,050  
I think I was healthy, and my  
sister was relatively healthy.

357  
00:18:25,050 --> 00:18:28,310  
Really, I had the  
measles and the mumps,

358  
00:18:28,310 --> 00:18:31,230  
and that was about it.

359  
00:18:31,230 --> 00:18:35,230  
So when was there any  
change from that life?

360  
00:18:35,230 --> 00:18:39,220  
It became more  
difficult in the '30s.

361  
00:18:39,220 --> 00:18:41,040  
In what way, more difficult?

362  
00:18:41,040 --> 00:18:48,530  
The political situation in  
Austria became more difficult.

363  
00:18:48,530 --> 00:18:53,460  
There was a Nazi movement  
that was illegal.

364  
00:18:53,460 --> 00:18:56,810  
The Nazi party was not  
very legal, I believe,

365  
00:18:56,810 --> 00:18:57,940

because I'm not an expert.

366  
00:18:57,940 --> 00:18:58,950  
I'm not a historian.

367  
00:18:58,950 --> 00:19:01,290  
I can only tell you  
my impressions of it.

368  
00:19:01,290 --> 00:19:04,200  
That's what we want to know,  
how it affected your life.

369  
00:19:04,200 --> 00:19:06,360  
I became a little--

370  
00:19:06,360 --> 00:19:12,960  
I became aware and uneasy  
about Nazis because--

371  
00:19:12,960 --> 00:19:16,890  
That was in the '30s,  
when you were about 10.

372  
00:19:16,890 --> 00:19:19,090  
Yes.

373  
00:19:19,090 --> 00:19:23,130  
In '34, matter of fact,  
there was a drastic change.

374  
00:19:23,130 --> 00:19:27,390  
First of all, there  
was an uprising.

375  
00:19:27,390 --> 00:19:31,150  
I believe it was in July 1934.

376  
00:19:31,150 --> 00:19:37,510  
There was a socialist  
uprising, the reasons

377



00:19:37,510 --> 00:19:41,140  
for which I don't know anymore  
because I didn't know it then.

378  
00:19:41,140 --> 00:19:43,390  
But I remember we woke up  
in the middle of the night

379  
00:19:43,390 --> 00:19:46,900  
and heard shooting and machine  
guns and all kinds of racket

380  
00:19:46,900 --> 00:19:48,740  
going on.

381  
00:19:48,740 --> 00:19:50,485  
And we found out  
when daylight came

382  
00:19:50,485 --> 00:19:53,470  
that there was no electricity  
and there was no gas

383  
00:19:53,470 --> 00:19:56,290  
and there was some sort  
of revolution going on.

384  
00:19:56,290 --> 00:20:02,560  
It lasted only two, three  
days because Mr. Dollfuss, who

385  
00:20:02,560 --> 00:20:08,580  
was the premier of  
Austria at that time,

386  
00:20:08,580 --> 00:20:10,490  
was in control of  
the armed forces.

387  
00:20:10,490 --> 00:20:13,230  
And they quickly took  
care of the revolt.

388

00:20:13,230 --> 00:20:14,740

It was suppressed,  
in other words.

389

00:20:14,740 --> 00:20:17,610

390

00:20:17,610 --> 00:20:21,200

A lot of people were killed  
and arrested at the time.

391

00:20:21,200 --> 00:20:24,060

392

00:20:24,060 --> 00:20:27,930

And a few months  
later, Dollfuss was

393

00:20:27,930 --> 00:20:32,250

assassinated by the Nazis,  
who tried to take over

394

00:20:32,250 --> 00:20:34,616

the Austrian government.

395

00:20:34,616 --> 00:20:36,975

They did not  
succeed at the time.

396

00:20:36,975 --> 00:20:39,890

397

00:20:39,890 --> 00:20:41,940

But we became more  
and more aware,

398

00:20:41,940 --> 00:20:44,600

and the Nazi movement  
grew more and more.

399

00:20:44,600 --> 00:20:48,545

So at the time, you were aware  
that something was changing.

400  
00:20:48,545 --> 00:20:50,060  
Oh, yes.

401  
00:20:50,060 --> 00:20:52,010  
They were forming gangs.

402  
00:20:52,010 --> 00:20:55,830  
They had youth groups  
they called Hitler Youth.

403  
00:20:55,830 --> 00:21:04,600  
And part of their activities  
was to harass Jews,

404  
00:21:04,600 --> 00:21:07,390  
which they did with regularity.

405  
00:21:07,390 --> 00:21:09,820  
How did they harass you?

406  
00:21:09,820 --> 00:21:13,320  
They would attack you when  
they saw you in the street.

407  
00:21:13,320 --> 00:21:14,730  
They'd come running after you.

408  
00:21:14,730 --> 00:21:16,030  
Physically attack you?

409  
00:21:16,030 --> 00:21:18,670  
Oh, yes.

410  
00:21:18,670 --> 00:21:22,690  
I learned to be a good  
runner in those days.

411  
00:21:22,690 --> 00:21:28,680  
They would beat you or they  
would throw garbage at you

412

00:21:28,680 --> 00:21:39,080  
or spit or throw things at  
your window like they harrass--

413

00:21:39,080 --> 00:21:44,250  
People who harass people still  
do that sort of thing today.

414

00:21:44,250 --> 00:21:48,710  
That's the tragedy of all  
this, as far as I'm concerned.

415

00:21:48,710 --> 00:21:52,910  
Because at the time, the Jews  
were the only tangible minority

416

00:21:52,910 --> 00:21:54,650  
in Vienna.

417

00:21:54,650 --> 00:22:01,080  
There were no Blacks or there  
were very, very few Gypsies.

418

00:22:01,080 --> 00:22:08,720  
I never knew one,  
hardly any Protestants,

419

00:22:08,720 --> 00:22:10,840  
hardly any foreigners.

420

00:22:10,840 --> 00:22:12,530  
There were some  
foreigners who had

421

00:22:12,530 --> 00:22:18,110  
lived in Vienna for many years  
because they moved during when

422

00:22:18,110 --> 00:22:21,010  
the Austrian empire  
included Czechoslovakia

423

00:22:21,010 --> 00:22:24,400  
and Poland and part of  
Hungary and whatnot.

424  
00:22:24,400 --> 00:22:29,150  
There were people,  
like my natural father,

425  
00:22:29,150 --> 00:22:32,240  
who had been in Vienna  
because of that.

426  
00:22:32,240 --> 00:22:34,670  
They were really  
Austrians at that time,

427  
00:22:34,670 --> 00:22:38,600  
and they moved to the capital  
for one reason or another.

428  
00:22:38,600 --> 00:22:42,590  
And after the war,  
there were jokes

429  
00:22:42,590 --> 00:22:47,510  
told about the Czech and jokes  
made about the Polish people

430  
00:22:47,510 --> 00:22:49,130  
and that sort of thing.

431  
00:22:49,130 --> 00:22:53,650  
But they were not  
harassed physically.

432  
00:22:53,650 --> 00:22:56,580  
After all, they all went  
to the same churches.

433  
00:22:56,580 --> 00:22:59,230  
So they were not  
bad to each other.

434

00:22:59,230 --> 00:23:05,590  
But for people who  
were real angry

435  
00:23:05,590 --> 00:23:10,520  
and wanted to  
express their anger,

436  
00:23:10,520 --> 00:23:16,790  
the Jews were an easy target,  
an easy target to vent anger.

437  
00:23:16,790 --> 00:23:20,030  
And there was more  
and more of that.

438  
00:23:20,030 --> 00:23:24,240  
Life was becoming  
uncomfortable for me.

439  
00:23:24,240 --> 00:23:28,310  
I had to walk to school,  
and it was a 15-minute walk,

440  
00:23:28,310 --> 00:23:29,480  
depending on the weather.

441  
00:23:29,480 --> 00:23:31,100  
Did you walk by yourself?

442  
00:23:31,100 --> 00:23:33,740  
I walked by myself, yes.

443  
00:23:33,740 --> 00:23:37,400  
And I had to constantly  
watch and look and see

444  
00:23:37,400 --> 00:23:39,860  
if there was somebody waiting  
for me behind the corner

445  
00:23:39,860 --> 00:23:41,490  
or coming behind me.

446  
00:23:41,490 --> 00:23:44,240  
Now, would these be  
other kids or adults?

447  
00:23:44,240 --> 00:23:45,980  
Yes, other kids, mostly kids.

448  
00:23:45,980 --> 00:23:49,850  
No, adults wouldn't  
do that, mostly kids.

449  
00:23:49,850 --> 00:23:51,500  
And then after  
you got to school,

450  
00:23:51,500 --> 00:23:53,780  
did the teachers  
maintain some order

451  
00:23:53,780 --> 00:23:54,990  
or did they go along with it?

452  
00:23:54,990 --> 00:23:55,490  
Yes.

453  
00:23:55,490 --> 00:24:01,580  
Oh, the discipline was terrific  
while the teacher was in class.

454  
00:24:01,580 --> 00:24:05,460  
There was a 10-minute  
break between classes.

455  
00:24:05,460 --> 00:24:09,080  
But in school, the  
kids were more careful.

456  
00:24:09,080 --> 00:24:10,920  
Also, I had a very good friend--

457  
00:24:10,920 --> 00:24:14,170

I have to mention him--

458

00:24:14,170 --> 00:24:16,670

William Clement.

459

00:24:16,670 --> 00:24:19,580

He went with me through  
school for eight years.

460

00:24:19,580 --> 00:24:22,850

We were together  
in grammar school.

461

00:24:22,850 --> 00:24:25,940

And kids graduate and go  
to the next step and so

462

00:24:25,940 --> 00:24:28,950

on the next year together  
so that the kids who

463

00:24:28,950 --> 00:24:31,700

started grammar school  
would be together,

464

00:24:31,700 --> 00:24:34,550

usually, for eight years till  
they get out of Hauptschule.

465

00:24:34,550 --> 00:24:40,820

It was the equivalent of junior  
high school in this country.

466

00:24:40,820 --> 00:24:45,740

So Clement was a very  
solid friend in my class,

467

00:24:45,740 --> 00:24:48,560

and he protected me in school.

468

00:24:48,560 --> 00:24:52,040

Oh, nobody could come--  
he was so good to me.



469  
00:24:52,040 --> 00:24:53,390  
He was big and strong.

470  
00:24:53,390 --> 00:24:57,620  
He was bigger than I  
was, taller and stronger.

471  
00:24:57,620 --> 00:25:01,900  
And he had some terrific  
fistfights because of me.

472  
00:25:01,900 --> 00:25:06,320  
But he proved that he  
was serious, capable,

473  
00:25:06,320 --> 00:25:10,010  
and others left alone  
when I was in school.

474  
00:25:10,010 --> 00:25:12,950  
But he lived opposite  
from where I was living,

475  
00:25:12,950 --> 00:25:16,330  
so when we left school,  
we went opposite ways.

476  
00:25:16,330 --> 00:25:17,750  
So you were on your own then.

477  
00:25:17,750 --> 00:25:19,400  
I was on my own.

478  
00:25:19,400 --> 00:25:23,680  
So what was the next  
change that you noticed?

479  
00:25:23,680 --> 00:25:29,120  
Well, actually the next  
drastic change in my life

480

00:25:29,120 --> 00:25:36,520  
was that I joined the Boy Scouts  
and the choir in the synagogue.

481  
00:25:36,520 --> 00:25:37,420  
I was singing.

482  
00:25:37,420 --> 00:25:41,450  
There were eight boys in that  
choir, and I was one of them.

483  
00:25:41,450 --> 00:25:44,330  
And I joined.

484  
00:25:44,330 --> 00:25:49,790  
They all belonged  
to a Boy Scout club,

485  
00:25:49,790 --> 00:25:52,720  
and this is how I got enrolled  
in the Boy Scout club.

486  
00:25:52,720 --> 00:25:54,980  
That was a big,  
exciting event for me.

487  
00:25:54,980 --> 00:25:57,560  
Now, the Boy Scout club was a  
part of the synagogue program

488  
00:25:57,560 --> 00:25:58,060  
also?

489  
00:25:58,060 --> 00:26:01,240  
Yeah, it was Jewish.

490  
00:26:01,240 --> 00:26:02,330  
Yes, Yes.

491  
00:26:02,330 --> 00:26:07,070  
It was not part of the singing  
cohort, but they met there.

492

00:26:07,070 --> 00:26:12,360

And we got a uniform, and  
I was very happy with that.

493

00:26:12,360 --> 00:26:19,280

And we went on long hikes  
on weekends and camping.

494

00:26:19,280 --> 00:26:21,180

So this was a different  
kind of experience.

495

00:26:21,180 --> 00:26:24,410

And for me, it also was  
a socializing experience

496

00:26:24,410 --> 00:26:30,250

because I met other boys  
and got along with them.

497

00:26:30,250 --> 00:26:33,590

We ate together and  
slept in tents together.

498

00:26:33,590 --> 00:26:35,180

Mostly, it was hiking.

499

00:26:35,180 --> 00:26:36,680

So that was fun for you.

500

00:26:36,680 --> 00:26:38,790

It was, it was.

501

00:26:38,790 --> 00:26:41,040

Now, how old were  
you by this time?

502

00:26:41,040 --> 00:26:42,800

It started when I was--

503

00:26:42,800 --> 00:26:45,830

actually, I started in the choir

when I was eight years old,

504

00:26:45,830 --> 00:26:50,830

and I was involved in that  
for four years till I was 12.

505

00:26:50,830 --> 00:26:54,930

And by that time, I  
started studying for my bar

506

00:26:54,930 --> 00:26:57,200

mitzvah, which was rigorous.

507

00:26:57,200 --> 00:26:59,770

It took a year to  
study for that.

508

00:26:59,770 --> 00:27:06,850

I studied with my stepfather's  
father, who was a cantor

509

00:27:06,850 --> 00:27:11,170

and knew the Hebrew in the  
Jewish services inside out.

510

00:27:11,170 --> 00:27:14,020

He was also Orthodox.

511

00:27:14,020 --> 00:27:20,630

And every weekend I had to spend  
with him, studying, because--

512

00:27:20,630 --> 00:27:24,820

a bar mitzvah, I had  
to conduct a service.

513

00:27:24,820 --> 00:27:29,850

So my 13th year was for  
that and going to school

514

00:27:29,850 --> 00:27:34,280

and doing the homework  
and that sort of thing.

515  
00:27:34,280 --> 00:27:42,810  
But that was 1937, and it also  
was getting worse and worse.

516  
00:27:42,810 --> 00:27:44,160  
In what way, specifically?

517  
00:27:44,160 --> 00:27:47,580  
The Nazis were getting stronger  
and stronger in Austria.

518  
00:27:47,580 --> 00:27:51,000  
What were they-- how  
did it affect your life?

519  
00:27:51,000 --> 00:27:57,750  
It affected my life because  
the kids became more brazen.

520  
00:27:57,750 --> 00:28:03,430  
They knew the teachers  
who were Nazis,

521  
00:28:03,430 --> 00:28:08,110  
and they knew  
those who were not.

522  
00:28:08,110 --> 00:28:10,620  
And I knew those who were not.

523  
00:28:10,620 --> 00:28:15,610  
And there was a teacher,  
he taught mathematics.

524  
00:28:15,610 --> 00:28:16,855  
And he was not a Nazi.

525  
00:28:16,855 --> 00:28:18,850  
I don't know what he was.

526  
00:28:18,850 --> 00:28:22,000

But I had discovered  
that he was walking

527  
00:28:22,000 --> 00:28:27,490  
the same way I was for quite a  
ways to get to his streetcar.

528  
00:28:27,490 --> 00:28:30,820  
He went on the streetcar, but  
that was almost more than half

529  
00:28:30,820 --> 00:28:34,100  
the way home to my place.

530  
00:28:34,100 --> 00:28:37,180  
And I asked him permission  
to walk with him,

531  
00:28:37,180 --> 00:28:41,020  
and he gladly let  
me walk with him.

532  
00:28:41,020 --> 00:28:43,630  
So I was lucky there.

533  
00:28:43,630 --> 00:28:47,350  
And there were two,  
three teachers, I think,

534  
00:28:47,350 --> 00:28:48,920  
who were Nazis.

535  
00:28:48,920 --> 00:28:54,500  
There was one, I didn't  
believe he was, but he was.

536  
00:28:54,500 --> 00:28:58,490  
And there was one that was  
a very outspoken Nazi who

537  
00:28:58,490 --> 00:29:02,840  
was very bad, and I'm  
still sorry that we had him

538  
00:29:02,840 --> 00:29:05,930  
for a teacher because  
he was a history

539  
00:29:05,930 --> 00:29:09,660  
teacher in junior high school.

540  
00:29:09,660 --> 00:29:13,130  
And he managed to blame  
everything on the Jews,

541  
00:29:13,130 --> 00:29:15,210  
you name it.

542  
00:29:15,210 --> 00:29:16,790  
Was he one of your teachers?

543  
00:29:16,790 --> 00:29:18,710  
Yes, yes.

544  
00:29:18,710 --> 00:29:21,800  
I had him for four years.

545  
00:29:21,800 --> 00:29:25,010  
During the First World War,  
he was shot in the head,

546  
00:29:25,010 --> 00:29:27,020  
and they never got  
the bullet out.

547  
00:29:27,020 --> 00:29:30,380  
And he complained  
about headaches.

548  
00:29:30,380 --> 00:29:33,920  
And whenever the class was  
noisy and he had his headaches,

549  
00:29:33,920 --> 00:29:39,000  
he would say, this is just

like being in a Jew school.

550

00:29:39,000 --> 00:29:40,000

There was no such thing.

551

00:29:40,000 --> 00:29:42,840

What was he talking about?

552

00:29:42,840 --> 00:29:46,320

And the Jews were responsible  
for the Black Plague

553

00:29:46,320 --> 00:29:49,770

in the Middle Ages, and  
they would eat and drink

554

00:29:49,770 --> 00:29:53,490

children's blood on  
Passover, and they

555

00:29:53,490 --> 00:29:55,170

had the most horrid stories.

556

00:29:55,170 --> 00:29:57,020

My hair was standing up.

557

00:29:57,020 --> 00:29:59,866

They were talking about me.

558

00:29:59,866 --> 00:30:04,300

And, of course, we killed  
God's only beloved Son.

559

00:30:04,300 --> 00:30:06,453

My God, I couldn't understand.

560

00:30:06,453 --> 00:30:07,370

I couldn't understand.

561

00:30:07,370 --> 00:30:08,412

I still don't understand.



562

00:30:08,412 --> 00:30:10,600

I couldn't understand  
any of this.

563

00:30:10,600 --> 00:30:14,410

But he was the one that the  
kids would all turn to me

564

00:30:14,410 --> 00:30:20,120

and shake their fist at me  
and say, oh, he enjoyed that.

565

00:30:20,120 --> 00:30:21,120

But he was the--

566

00:30:21,120 --> 00:30:24,620

I have to say we had different  
teachers for every subject that

567

00:30:24,620 --> 00:30:26,240

was taught.

568

00:30:26,240 --> 00:30:32,290

He was the only one  
that was actively

569

00:30:32,290 --> 00:30:35,300

sponsoring this kind  
of sentiment in class.

570

00:30:35,300 --> 00:30:38,010

But the other Nazi  
teachers were doing--

571

00:30:38,010 --> 00:30:40,630

They did not express  
anything in class.

572

00:30:40,630 --> 00:30:41,940

I have to say that, for one.

573

00:30:41,940 --> 00:30:44,500

574

00:30:44,500 --> 00:30:47,380

We found out who the Nazis  
were when the Nazis finally

575

00:30:47,380 --> 00:30:50,050

got to Vienna because they  
got a special distinction.

576

00:30:50,050 --> 00:30:55,640

They wore a special  
metal knob on their lapel

577

00:30:55,640 --> 00:30:59,400

on their coat that showed that  
they were underground Nazis.

578

00:30:59,400 --> 00:31:01,030

It was a distinction.

579

00:31:01,030 --> 00:31:03,940

So we knew, suddenly,  
who the Nazis were.

580

00:31:03,940 --> 00:31:05,780

Were you surprised?

581

00:31:05,780 --> 00:31:09,700

I was surprised at a  
couple teachers, yes, yes.

582

00:31:09,700 --> 00:31:12,110

But they were  
always decent to me.

583

00:31:12,110 --> 00:31:14,920

I couldn't say-- no  
teacher ever hit me.

584

00:31:14,920 --> 00:31:17,890

I couldn't say that.

585

00:31:17,890 --> 00:31:22,610

But what happened, eventually,  
after Schuschnigg was

586

00:31:22,610 --> 00:31:25,550

assassinated, he was replaced--

587

00:31:25,550 --> 00:31:27,680

I mean Dollfuss was  
assassinated and was

588

00:31:27,680 --> 00:31:31,070

replaced by Schuschnigg.

589

00:31:31,070 --> 00:31:35,230

And Schuschnigg was  
a much milder fellow.

590

00:31:35,230 --> 00:31:38,320

He was much more friendly  
towards the Nazis

591

00:31:38,320 --> 00:31:41,480

than Dollfuss has been.

592

00:31:41,480 --> 00:31:43,940

If my recollection  
is correct, Dollfuss

593

00:31:43,940 --> 00:31:46,130

was an Austrian patriot.

594

00:31:46,130 --> 00:31:49,220

He wouldn't have anything  
to do with the Nazis.

595

00:31:49,220 --> 00:31:50,660

But Schuschnigg  
flirted with them.

596

00:31:50,660 --> 00:31:53,490

597

00:31:53,490 --> 00:31:58,560

The idea of Austria being  
part of the German nation

598

00:31:58,560 --> 00:32:00,190

is an old one.

599

00:32:00,190 --> 00:32:04,150

It was way, way back  
nourished by some people.

600

00:32:04,150 --> 00:32:07,110

They always saw  
greatness in this,

601

00:32:07,110 --> 00:32:11,230

especially after World War  
I when Austria was wiped off

602

00:32:11,230 --> 00:32:13,740

the-- there was nothing  
left to speak of,

603

00:32:13,740 --> 00:32:18,260

but Germany survived pretty  
much as a large nation.

604

00:32:18,260 --> 00:32:22,550

And the idea of being  
part of a large nation

605

00:32:22,550 --> 00:32:24,342

was appealing to a  
lot of Austrians.

606

00:32:24,342 --> 00:32:30,930

607

00:32:30,930 --> 00:32:34,410

And, of course, now we  
know that Hitler's aim

608

00:32:34,410 --> 00:32:39,042  
was to annex Austria.

609

00:32:39,042 --> 00:32:40,500  
And all of the  
things that happened

610

00:32:40,500 --> 00:32:44,160  
make sense now because there  
was a lot of unemployment,

611

00:32:44,160 --> 00:32:48,030  
for example, and the unemployed  
would get gift packages

612

00:32:48,030 --> 00:32:50,890  
from Germany.

613

00:32:50,890 --> 00:32:55,950  
It was like we had done in  
this country after the war.

614

00:32:55,950 --> 00:32:57,120  
We sent packages.

615

00:32:57,120 --> 00:33:00,990  
We still do send packages  
to impoverished nations.

616

00:33:00,990 --> 00:33:04,530  
Well, the Germans did  
that for the Austrians.

617

00:33:04,530 --> 00:33:07,275  
And they got money  
and promises of work.

618

00:33:07,275 --> 00:33:10,280

619

00:33:10,280 --> 00:33:16,800  
So it's not surprising that the

Nazi movement grew in Austria.

620

00:33:16,800 --> 00:33:18,425

Let's stop here and  
turn over the tape.

621

00:33:18,425 --> 00:33:26,350

622

00:33:26,350 --> 00:33:32,260

Hermann Kosak,  
tape one, side two.

623

00:33:32,260 --> 00:33:36,130

Mr. Kosak, could  
you talk about what

624

00:33:36,130 --> 00:33:39,190

happened with the Anschluss?

625

00:33:39,190 --> 00:33:40,150

I'd be glad to.

626

00:33:40,150 --> 00:33:43,320

This is a very important  
event in our lives.

627

00:33:43,320 --> 00:33:46,750

628

00:33:46,750 --> 00:33:49,650

We knew there was  
something going on.

629

00:33:49,650 --> 00:33:53,940

There were more and more  
Nazis in the streets.

630

00:33:53,940 --> 00:33:57,260

I was appalled to see policemen,  
when they met each other,

631

00:33:57,260 --> 00:33:59,040  
to salute themselves--

632  
00:33:59,040 --> 00:34:01,640  
each other with  
the Hitler salute.

633  
00:34:01,640 --> 00:34:05,810  
And there was now  
talk about Anschluss,

634  
00:34:05,810 --> 00:34:10,070  
the possibility of Austria  
becoming part of Germany.

635  
00:34:10,070 --> 00:34:14,040  
And there was much  
ado about that.

636  
00:34:14,040 --> 00:34:15,860  
And finally, there  
was supposed to be

637  
00:34:15,860 --> 00:34:20,210  
a plebiscite in which the people  
were supposed to determine

638  
00:34:20,210 --> 00:34:23,600  
whether or not it wanted  
to be part of Germany

639  
00:34:23,600 --> 00:34:26,510  
or remain independent.

640  
00:34:26,510 --> 00:34:29,360  
That was a big, big  
thing at the time.

641  
00:34:29,360 --> 00:34:30,810  
Everybody talked about it.

642  
00:34:30,810 --> 00:34:33,650

643  
00:34:33,650 --> 00:34:37,810  
Then, suddenly, the  
Germans were there.

644  
00:34:37,810 --> 00:34:40,040  
They had walked into--  
they had not waited.

645  
00:34:40,040 --> 00:34:43,620  
they had not waited for the  
plebiscite to take place.

646  
00:34:43,620 --> 00:34:45,949  
We didn't know what took place.

647  
00:34:45,949 --> 00:34:48,889  
As I said, we didn't  
even have a radio.

648  
00:34:48,889 --> 00:34:52,699  
And the newspaper  
certainly didn't tell you

649  
00:34:52,699 --> 00:34:55,850  
what was going on, exactly.

650  
00:34:55,850 --> 00:35:00,230  
And suddenly there were German  
troops coming down the street

651  
00:35:00,230 --> 00:35:01,780  
in cars and motorcycles.

652  
00:35:01,780 --> 00:35:05,330  
And there were Nazi flags  
on all the buildings,

653  
00:35:05,330 --> 00:35:07,940  
people going into hysterics.

654  
00:35:07,940 --> 00:35:09,500



It was unbelievable.

655

00:35:09,500 --> 00:35:12,450

Vienna was in hysteria  
for at least three days.

656

00:35:12,450 --> 00:35:13,580

Now, what about you?

657

00:35:13,580 --> 00:35:16,280

Where were you, and  
how did you take it?

658

00:35:16,280 --> 00:35:18,230

I walked around stunned.

659

00:35:18,230 --> 00:35:20,342

You were 14.

660

00:35:20,342 --> 00:35:22,220

It was '38, in March.

661

00:35:22,220 --> 00:35:23,510

I was still 13.

662

00:35:23,510 --> 00:35:24,150

13.

663

00:35:24,150 --> 00:35:25,680

I became 14 in May.

664

00:35:25,680 --> 00:35:29,030

So you'd just had your bar  
mitzvah a few months before.

665

00:35:29,030 --> 00:35:29,690

Yes.

666

00:35:29,690 --> 00:35:35,112

I'd had my bar mitzvah,  
and I was stunned.

667

00:35:35,112 --> 00:35:36,570

I was walking around  
in the street.

668

00:35:36,570 --> 00:35:40,080

People didn't pay any attention  
to me now, they were so happy.

669

00:35:40,080 --> 00:35:42,410

And there was dancing  
and screaming,

670

00:35:42,410 --> 00:35:45,380

and the German soldiers  
were in the streets

671

00:35:45,380 --> 00:35:47,840

and people were kissing  
them and dancing with them.

672

00:35:47,840 --> 00:35:49,730

It was like a big liberation.

673

00:35:49,730 --> 00:35:51,570

And how did your family take it?

674

00:35:51,570 --> 00:35:52,792

They were very upset.

675

00:35:52,792 --> 00:35:53,793

They were very upset.

676

00:35:53,793 --> 00:35:55,210

They didn't want  
me to be outside.

677

00:35:55,210 --> 00:35:58,400

678

00:35:58,400 --> 00:36:01,500

I wasn't outside all the time.

679

00:36:01,500 --> 00:36:06,500

I happened to be on the  
Linzerstrasse, which

680

00:36:06,500 --> 00:36:09,650

was one of the main  
avenues in Vienna,

681

00:36:09,650 --> 00:36:11,240

just as Hitler came into Vienna.

682

00:36:11,240 --> 00:36:14,740

And I saw him come in.

683

00:36:14,740 --> 00:36:18,970

And the funny thing  
about this was--

684

00:36:18,970 --> 00:36:21,790

now I think it was funny--

685

00:36:21,790 --> 00:36:25,930

his car came, or you could  
think it was his car.

686

00:36:25,930 --> 00:36:30,900

And people were screaming and  
yelling, and it wasn't him.

687

00:36:30,900 --> 00:36:33,580

They had maybe 10  
or 12 cars come

688

00:36:33,580 --> 00:36:37,190

before he actually came by.

689

00:36:37,190 --> 00:36:39,820

And he came very fast, and  
he'd come and was gone,

690

00:36:39,820 --> 00:36:44,020

and people were

screaming their head off.

691

00:36:44,020 --> 00:36:47,140

After that, they were so  
hoarse that, in Vienna,

692

00:36:47,140 --> 00:36:52,840

if you were not hoarse after  
Hitler had come to Vienna,

693

00:36:52,840 --> 00:36:56,710

you were suspected of  
being a communist or a Jew.

694

00:36:56,710 --> 00:36:58,420

That's how bad it was.

695

00:36:58,420 --> 00:37:00,430

Well, what I found  
out immediately

696

00:37:00,430 --> 00:37:03,460

was that the Jews had lost  
their civic rights that day.

697

00:37:03,460 --> 00:37:07,510

698

00:37:07,510 --> 00:37:10,540

That means that  
we could not rely

699

00:37:10,540 --> 00:37:12,375

on the government  
or any branch of it

700

00:37:12,375 --> 00:37:15,070

for any assistance  
in any circumstances.

701

00:37:15,070 --> 00:37:18,570

They could if they wanted  
to, but they didn't have to.

702  
00:37:18,570 --> 00:37:21,335  
We also found out  
within three days

703  
00:37:21,335 --> 00:37:24,220  
that the Jews were expropriated.

704  
00:37:24,220 --> 00:37:27,612  
They were not allowed to  
own any property anymore.

705  
00:37:27,612 --> 00:37:30,920  
It was all confiscated.

706  
00:37:30,920 --> 00:37:33,770  
And the looting had  
begun immediately.

707  
00:37:33,770 --> 00:37:36,980  
Now, how did this affect  
your family specifically?

708  
00:37:36,980 --> 00:37:41,300  
Well, we didn't own any store,  
for example, any business.

709  
00:37:41,300 --> 00:37:44,550  
In that respect, we  
were not affected.

710  
00:37:44,550 --> 00:37:48,680  
We were only affected in  
as much as, for example, I

711  
00:37:48,680 --> 00:37:51,530  
couldn't go to school anymore.

712  
00:37:51,530 --> 00:37:54,860  
Jews were not allowed  
to go to school.

713

00:37:54,860 --> 00:37:59,280  
Eventually, I don't  
know how long it took--

714  
00:37:59,280 --> 00:38:02,540  
a couple of weeks or  
so-- they opened a school

715  
00:38:02,540 --> 00:38:05,420  
for Jews, Jew school.

716  
00:38:05,420 --> 00:38:06,590  
They--

717  
00:38:06,590 --> 00:38:08,100  
The Nazis, the new government.

718  
00:38:08,100 --> 00:38:10,017  
Oh, the Nazis opened the  
school, not the Jews.

719  
00:38:10,017 --> 00:38:12,560  
There was a new  
government in Austria now.

720  
00:38:12,560 --> 00:38:15,240  
The Austrian government  
had resigned, of course,

721  
00:38:15,240 --> 00:38:16,795  
when the Nazis came in.

722  
00:38:16,795 --> 00:38:20,720  
And now the Nazis set  
up their own plebiscite

723  
00:38:20,720 --> 00:38:22,580  
after they had taken over.

724  
00:38:22,580 --> 00:38:24,860  
It was a farce.

725

00:38:24,860 --> 00:38:30,800  
99.9% of all the people were  
for them now, according to them,

726  
00:38:30,800 --> 00:38:32,750  
anyway.

727  
00:38:32,750 --> 00:38:33,950  
So that was all over.

728  
00:38:33,950 --> 00:38:37,270

729  
00:38:37,270 --> 00:38:41,050  
Jews couldn't work for  
the government anymore.

730  
00:38:41,050 --> 00:38:42,565  
They never had,  
really, an easy time

731  
00:38:42,565 --> 00:38:44,440  
working for their  
government because in order

732  
00:38:44,440 --> 00:38:47,380  
to have a government job,  
you had to be a Catholic.

733  
00:38:47,380 --> 00:38:49,840  
So Jews were excluded  
automatically

734  
00:38:49,840 --> 00:38:51,520  
from government positions.

735  
00:38:51,520 --> 00:38:55,240  
But to teach at the  
university or have another job

736  
00:38:55,240 --> 00:38:58,450  
that sort of related  
to government functions

737

00:38:58,450 --> 00:39:00,010  
was no longer possible for Jews.

738

00:39:00,010 --> 00:39:05,830  
But was your family specifically  
affected in any other way?

739

00:39:05,830 --> 00:39:07,390  
Relatives of mine were.

740

00:39:07,390 --> 00:39:09,460  
Yes, of course.

741

00:39:09,460 --> 00:39:12,460  
I had an uncle who was in  
business who was affected.

742

00:39:12,460 --> 00:39:15,310  
He lost his business  
immediately.

743

00:39:15,310 --> 00:39:18,100  
We had friends  
that were affected.

744

00:39:18,100 --> 00:39:20,590  
That means immediately  
they lost their business.

745

00:39:20,590 --> 00:39:23,230  
Now, what the Germans did--  
or what the Nazis did,

746

00:39:23,230 --> 00:39:26,650  
I should say-- they kept  
him on to work there

747

00:39:26,650 --> 00:39:29,112  
because they didn't know  
how to run the business.

748



00:39:29,112 --> 00:39:33,070  
But they didn't own it anymore.

749  
00:39:33,070 --> 00:39:38,650  
And there was a great  
deal of confusion.

750  
00:39:38,650 --> 00:39:42,490  
I know some people were  
talking about getting out,

751  
00:39:42,490 --> 00:39:44,480  
about leaving.

752  
00:39:44,480 --> 00:39:49,390  
I know my Aunt Mina was  
going to come to this country

753  
00:39:49,390 --> 00:39:57,080  
anyway because just before World  
War I and right after World War

754  
00:39:57,080 --> 00:40:00,820  
I, some of her brothers  
and sisters came here.

755  
00:40:00,820 --> 00:40:05,360  
And they had established  
themselves in New York City.

756  
00:40:05,360 --> 00:40:07,548  
And she was going to join them.

757  
00:40:07,548 --> 00:40:10,090  
She didn't know that the Nazis  
were going to come to Austria,

758  
00:40:10,090 --> 00:40:13,930  
but she had already  
applied for a visa.

759  
00:40:13,930 --> 00:40:16,830  
Now a lot of people did.

760  
00:40:16,830 --> 00:40:19,920  
And it became especially  
frantic after the so-called

761  
00:40:19,920 --> 00:40:22,510  
Kristallnacht on November 19.

762  
00:40:22,510 --> 00:40:25,960

763  
00:40:25,960 --> 00:40:31,970  
But before that, in July,  
my stepfather and my sister

764  
00:40:31,970 --> 00:40:33,040  
left Austria.

765  
00:40:33,040 --> 00:40:35,570

766  
00:40:35,570 --> 00:40:39,270  
They went to Holland, where  
my stepfather had two sisters.

767  
00:40:39,270 --> 00:40:43,530  
He had a sister who  
had married a Dutchman

768  
00:40:43,530 --> 00:40:46,140  
and lived in  
Amsterdam and had been

769  
00:40:46,140 --> 00:40:49,710  
joined by his youngest sister.

770  
00:40:49,710 --> 00:40:53,100  
So he had two sisters there.

771  
00:40:53,100 --> 00:40:59,520  
And he and my sister joined  
his sister in Holland.

772  
00:40:59,520 --> 00:41:03,600  
So Mother and I stayed behind  
to close the apartment,

773  
00:41:03,600 --> 00:41:06,240  
and I don't know.

774  
00:41:06,240 --> 00:41:08,520  
People didn't tell children  
what they were doing.

775  
00:41:08,520 --> 00:41:10,620  
I just stayed behind  
with my mother,

776  
00:41:10,620 --> 00:41:14,310  
and we were supposed  
to follow them.

777  
00:41:14,310 --> 00:41:16,240  
But in the meantime--

778  
00:41:16,240 --> 00:41:19,890  
I don't whether it was the  
end of July or August--

779  
00:41:19,890 --> 00:41:26,760  
the countries had closed  
their borders to the Jews.

780  
00:41:26,760 --> 00:41:29,550  
So my stepfather and  
sister had gone across

781  
00:41:29,550 --> 00:41:31,470  
without any problems.

782  
00:41:31,470 --> 00:41:34,240  
But when my mother  
and I arrived--

783

00:41:34,240 --> 00:41:38,040  
we sneaked out of Vienna in  
the middle of the night--

784  
00:41:38,040 --> 00:41:42,690  
when we arrived at the border,  
they wouldn't let you out.

785  
00:41:42,690 --> 00:41:43,740  
They wouldn't let you in.

786  
00:41:43,740 --> 00:41:44,910  
The Nazis let you out.

787  
00:41:44,910 --> 00:41:46,770  
Now, this was the  
border of Germany and--

788  
00:41:46,770 --> 00:41:50,830  
Well, we tried to go to Holland  
because my stepfather was

789  
00:41:50,830 --> 00:41:51,780  
in Holland.

790  
00:41:51,780 --> 00:41:55,260  
So you left Vienna in  
the middle of the night.

791  
00:41:55,260 --> 00:41:56,850  
We left in the  
middle of the night.

792  
00:41:56,850 --> 00:41:59,550  
We had been robbed,  
I should say that.

793  
00:41:59,550 --> 00:42:01,680  
I should mention that.

794  
00:42:01,680 --> 00:42:06,070  
I should mention that they  
were plundering the Jews.

795  
00:42:06,070 --> 00:42:06,860  
It was legal now.

796  
00:42:06,860 --> 00:42:09,510  
See, the Jews had  
no civic rights.

797  
00:42:09,510 --> 00:42:12,130  
So we had Hitler Youth  
come to our house,

798  
00:42:12,130 --> 00:42:15,770  
to our apartment--  
young kids, I remember.

799  
00:42:15,770 --> 00:42:18,930  
Mother and I were  
eating supper--

800  
00:42:18,930 --> 00:42:21,720  
dinner, I should say,  
early in the afternoon.

801  
00:42:21,720 --> 00:42:24,150  
I even remember what I ate.

802  
00:42:24,150 --> 00:42:26,760  
And those Nazis came to the  
door and banged on the door

803  
00:42:26,760 --> 00:42:29,480  
and came crashing  
in and yelling.

804  
00:42:29,480 --> 00:42:32,042

805  
00:42:32,042 --> 00:42:34,540  
They were carrying rifles.

806  
00:42:34,540 --> 00:42:35,410

They were teenagers.

807

00:42:35,410 --> 00:42:37,240

They had guns.

808

00:42:37,240 --> 00:42:39,630

And they were pointing  
them at my mother and me,

809

00:42:39,630 --> 00:42:40,950

and they wanted our money--

810

00:42:40,950 --> 00:42:44,790

the money, Jew-- and  
they took our documents,

811

00:42:44,790 --> 00:42:46,710

and they searched for valuables.

812

00:42:46,710 --> 00:42:48,210

They tore the place up.

813

00:42:48,210 --> 00:42:50,350

And, of course, we were  
poor to begin with.

814

00:42:50,350 --> 00:42:52,110

There wasn't much.

815

00:42:52,110 --> 00:42:55,063

But what we had, they took, and  
they also took our documents.

816

00:42:55,063 --> 00:42:56,355

They took my mother's passport.

817

00:42:56,355 --> 00:42:58,440

They took our passports.

818

00:42:58,440 --> 00:43:00,510

And this was one thing  
that kept us in Vienna

819  
00:43:00,510 --> 00:43:02,470  
longer than we intended.

820  
00:43:02,470 --> 00:43:07,330  
And my mother was a remarkable  
woman in that respect

821  
00:43:07,330 --> 00:43:11,400  
that when she became very  
angry, she had no fear.

822  
00:43:11,400 --> 00:43:17,230  
And she became very angry  
during this visit we had,

823  
00:43:17,230 --> 00:43:19,420  
and she actually started  
kicking those boys out,

824  
00:43:19,420 --> 00:43:22,170  
even though they had rifles.

825  
00:43:22,170 --> 00:43:27,130  
And they laughed and hit her  
and laughed and went out.

826  
00:43:27,130 --> 00:43:29,130  
And my mother was so  
upset she went straight

827  
00:43:29,130 --> 00:43:32,910  
down to Gestapo headquarters  
in downtown Vienna

828  
00:43:32,910 --> 00:43:38,190  
to complain about it and  
get our passports back.

829  
00:43:38,190 --> 00:43:41,310  
And to my amazement, she  
did get our passports back--

830

00:43:41,310 --> 00:43:44,250

not that day, but eventually  
she got them back.

831

00:43:44,250 --> 00:43:47,640

And that's when we left.

832

00:43:47,640 --> 00:43:50,250

We had tickets.

833

00:43:50,250 --> 00:43:52,330

We had railway tickets.

834

00:43:52,330 --> 00:43:55,150

There was a train going  
to Aachen every evening

835

00:43:55,150 --> 00:44:00,580

from Vienna, and we caught one  
of those trains out of town.

836

00:44:00,580 --> 00:44:04,890

Mother and I left  
to go to Holland.

837

00:44:04,890 --> 00:44:09,240

And when we were in Aachen,  
we got a room at a small

838

00:44:09,240 --> 00:44:11,980

[NON-ENGLISH]---- a small  
hotel, very small--

839

00:44:11,980 --> 00:44:12,870

and we were lucky.

840

00:44:12,870 --> 00:44:14,730

It was a very nice woman.

841

00:44:14,730 --> 00:44:17,560

She was middle-aged  
and very friendly.



842  
00:44:17,560 --> 00:44:22,890  
She knew we were Jewish,  
and she let us stay there.

843  
00:44:22,890 --> 00:44:26,430  
So Mother and I  
tried to go across.

844  
00:44:26,430 --> 00:44:31,140  
And we realized our first  
try that you couldn't do it.

845  
00:44:31,140 --> 00:44:35,610  
The Nazis let you out, said,  
good luck, don't come back.

846  
00:44:35,610 --> 00:44:38,490  
And they let you go  
with seven marks.

847  
00:44:38,490 --> 00:44:41,040  
They took everything  
we had, and they

848  
00:44:41,040 --> 00:44:42,890  
let you have seven  
marks, which was--

849  
00:44:42,890 --> 00:44:47,830  
I don't know in  
dollars, maybe \$2, \$3.

850  
00:44:47,830 --> 00:44:51,720  
And a few hours later,  
we were already back.

851  
00:44:51,720 --> 00:44:53,430  
So we decided we  
had to try again.

852  
00:44:53,430 --> 00:44:57,720  
We tried three, four

times, different ways,

853

00:44:57,720 --> 00:44:58,980  
and couldn't make it.

854

00:44:58,980 --> 00:45:00,720  
You couldn't even get  
across the border.

855

00:45:00,720 --> 00:45:01,780  
No.

856

00:45:01,780 --> 00:45:07,050  
We got out of Germany,  
not into Holland.

857

00:45:07,050 --> 00:45:08,763  
So I said to my mother--

858

00:45:08,763 --> 00:45:09,680  
we were out of money--

859

00:45:09,680 --> 00:45:13,190

860

00:45:13,190 --> 00:45:16,890  
let's go to a Jewish community.

861

00:45:16,890 --> 00:45:19,570  
Jewish communities  
had social services,

862

00:45:19,570 --> 00:45:22,650  
but there wasn't one in  
Aachen for some reason.

863

00:45:22,650 --> 00:45:24,990  
We had to go to  
Frankfurt, Frankfurt

864

00:45:24,990 --> 00:45:29,880  
am Main, which was almost

halfway back to Austria.

865

00:45:29,880 --> 00:45:31,960

But we went there  
with great hopes

866

00:45:31,960 --> 00:45:35,700

that they would give us  
advice and some money.

867

00:45:35,700 --> 00:45:40,360

And at that time, they  
interviewed us and asked us

868

00:45:40,360 --> 00:45:43,050

what we were trying to  
do, and they apologized.

869

00:45:43,050 --> 00:45:45,570

They couldn't give us  
any money, they said,

870

00:45:45,570 --> 00:45:49,480

but they could give us  
tickets back to Vienna.

871

00:45:49,480 --> 00:45:51,720

That's all they could do.

872

00:45:51,720 --> 00:45:53,990

So we wound up back in Vienna.

873

00:45:53,990 --> 00:45:57,450

In Vienna, we had nobody  
left but my Uncle Viktor

874

00:45:57,450 --> 00:46:01,920

and Aunt [ ? Tetscha. ? ] Uncle  
Viktor was my mother's oldest

875

00:46:01,920 --> 00:46:06,230

brother, who was an artist  
and lived in an artist studio

876

00:46:06,230 --> 00:46:12,300  
with his wife [? Tetscha. ?] And  
they were ready to go to Paris.

877

00:46:12,300 --> 00:46:16,230  
They had visas to leave  
for France, not with us,

878

00:46:16,230 --> 00:46:18,450  
but they were working on it.

879

00:46:18,450 --> 00:46:20,520  
So it was really an  
uncomfortable situation

880

00:46:20,520 --> 00:46:23,760  
because we know they were  
getting ready to leave,

881

00:46:23,760 --> 00:46:28,680  
and what could they  
do but take us in?

882

00:46:28,680 --> 00:46:31,020  
So we stayed with them.

883

00:46:31,020 --> 00:46:38,660  
And while we were there,  
the Kristallnacht happened.

884

00:46:38,660 --> 00:46:41,840  
My mother was going around  
trying to raise some money,

885

00:46:41,840 --> 00:46:43,700  
trying to find  
some friends where

886

00:46:43,700 --> 00:46:49,730  
we could stay in case my uncle  
was leaving and going to Paris.

887

00:46:49,730 --> 00:46:59,230

And I was going out one  
day to the railway station

888

00:46:59,230 --> 00:47:01,210

to see about tickets.

889

00:47:01,210 --> 00:47:03,060

We were about ready to go again.

890

00:47:03,060 --> 00:47:09,160

And as I had to cross  
the Danube canal,

891

00:47:09,160 --> 00:47:12,600

and I saw Nazis  
beating up a man,

892

00:47:12,600 --> 00:47:16,070

terribly beating him  
until he was unconscious

893

00:47:16,070 --> 00:47:18,080

and then throwing him  
in the back of a truck

894

00:47:18,080 --> 00:47:19,100

and taking off with him.

895

00:47:19,100 --> 00:47:23,340

All this was being photographed  
by an American photographer,

896

00:47:23,340 --> 00:47:25,690

a press photographer  
with a press camera,

897

00:47:25,690 --> 00:47:27,820

and he had an American armband.

898

00:47:27,820 --> 00:47:32,740

Now, whether or not he really

was an American, I don't know.

899

00:47:32,740 --> 00:47:36,700

But as I was walking  
by and saw this,

900

00:47:36,700 --> 00:47:41,050

then I saw smoke rising  
over the neighborhood,

901

00:47:41,050 --> 00:47:43,010

black columns of smoke.

902

00:47:43,010 --> 00:47:46,880

So I was running back  
to my uncle's studio.

903

00:47:46,880 --> 00:47:49,160

He was up on the top  
floor of his building,

904

00:47:49,160 --> 00:47:50,420

so he had a good view.

905

00:47:50,420 --> 00:47:52,680

And they were burning  
the synagogues.

906

00:47:52,680 --> 00:47:56,300

There was a synagogue down  
the street that was in flames,

907

00:47:56,300 --> 00:48:00,920

and the fire engines would come  
and set themselves up and get

908

00:48:00,920 --> 00:48:03,770

on the roofs around  
the synagogue

909

00:48:03,770 --> 00:48:05,510

to make sure that  
the houses around it

910  
00:48:05,510 --> 00:48:09,830  
wouldn't catch fire and let the  
synagogue burn to the ground.

911  
00:48:09,830 --> 00:48:15,110  
So the next morning,  
I was going out again,

912  
00:48:15,110 --> 00:48:17,540  
trying to get whatever--  
whatever I was after,

913  
00:48:17,540 --> 00:48:19,910  
I don't remember  
exactly what it was.

914  
00:48:19,910 --> 00:48:22,812  
I was arrested by SA.

915  
00:48:22,812 --> 00:48:25,340  
That was the brown shirts.

916  
00:48:25,340 --> 00:48:27,740  
And they took me to a  
synagogue-- not the one

917  
00:48:27,740 --> 00:48:30,560  
that we saw burning down,  
but another one that

918  
00:48:30,560 --> 00:48:35,000  
was across the canal some  
place in the 9th District.

919  
00:48:35,000 --> 00:48:36,440  
And they had me--

920  
00:48:36,440 --> 00:48:38,750  
they had several-- they  
had about 20 Jews there.

921

00:48:38,750 --> 00:48:41,540

922

00:48:41,540 --> 00:48:45,000

We had to carry out the  
charred lumber, whatever

923

00:48:45,000 --> 00:48:48,290

was left after the  
place had burned down.

924

00:48:48,290 --> 00:48:53,000

The furniture was left burned,  
but we had to carry it out.

925

00:48:53,000 --> 00:48:58,747

They had us work there all  
day, no food, no water.

926

00:48:58,747 --> 00:49:00,080

They didn't beat us or anything.

927

00:49:00,080 --> 00:49:04,810

They just were not  
particularly friendly about it.

928

00:49:04,810 --> 00:49:08,680

And while working  
there, you'd go out

929

00:49:08,680 --> 00:49:13,540

to the street to come back and  
pass other men working there.

930

00:49:13,540 --> 00:49:15,820

Some men worked in  
tandem, two or three,

931

00:49:15,820 --> 00:49:17,540

carrying things together.

932

00:49:17,540 --> 00:49:21,160

I heard awful horror stories



about the preceding night,

933

00:49:21,160 --> 00:49:25,720

the children that had been  
thrown from apartment buildings

934

00:49:25,720 --> 00:49:29,165

into the street and people  
that had been thrown or jumped

935

00:49:29,165 --> 00:49:31,990

and people had been thrown in  
the Danube, all kinds of horror

936

00:49:31,990 --> 00:49:33,660

stories.

937

00:49:33,660 --> 00:49:35,920

I was the only  
boy working there.

938

00:49:35,920 --> 00:49:38,660

And the other people worked  
at that particular burned-out

939

00:49:38,660 --> 00:49:40,450

place with me.

940

00:49:40,450 --> 00:49:44,930

They had us work till nightfall,  
and then they let us go.

941

00:49:44,930 --> 00:49:48,640

So when I came back  
with those news,

942

00:49:48,640 --> 00:49:51,005

my mother and I were decided.

943

00:49:51,005 --> 00:49:54,080

And Uncle Viktor, he  
was about to leave.

944

00:49:54,080 --> 00:49:56,290

He got his visa to France,  
and Mother decided,

945

00:49:56,290 --> 00:49:57,850

we had to get out somehow.

946

00:49:57,850 --> 00:50:04,900

She had found a friend  
on the Bergstrasse

947

00:50:04,900 --> 00:50:08,860

that would put her up.

948

00:50:08,860 --> 00:50:12,870

And I decided that  
I would go ahead--

949

00:50:12,870 --> 00:50:15,930

because I have big ideas--

950

00:50:15,930 --> 00:50:17,750

I had read a lot of  
detective stories,

951

00:50:17,750 --> 00:50:20,260

and I thought I was a bigshot.

952

00:50:20,260 --> 00:50:24,110

And I had gotten special  
shoes with rubber soles

953

00:50:24,110 --> 00:50:27,800

so I could walk  
silently at night.

954

00:50:27,800 --> 00:50:31,280

I had to memorize the  
maps of the border.

955

00:50:31,280 --> 00:50:34,460

I knew the crossings by heart.

956  
00:50:34,460 --> 00:50:35,810  
I knew how to get--

957  
00:50:35,810 --> 00:50:37,865  
And where did you get  
the maps of the border

958  
00:50:37,865 --> 00:50:38,702  
with the crossing?

959  
00:50:38,702 --> 00:50:39,410  
I don't remember.

960  
00:50:39,410 --> 00:50:40,452  
I tried to remember that.

961  
00:50:40,452 --> 00:50:43,022  
Of course, we had  
access to libraries.

962  
00:50:43,022 --> 00:50:45,650  
I must have gotten them  
out of the library.

963  
00:50:45,650 --> 00:50:48,530  
I knew the street.

964  
00:50:48,530 --> 00:50:51,800  
In the meantime, we found out  
that my stepfather and sister

965  
00:50:51,800 --> 00:50:55,760  
had gone to Brussels from  
Amsterdam because his brother

966  
00:50:55,760 --> 00:50:57,920  
was in Brussels.

967  
00:50:57,920 --> 00:51:00,425  
And most of the people who  
had escaped from our family

968  
00:51:00,425 --> 00:51:01,976  
were in Brussels.

969  
00:51:01,976 --> 00:51:04,640  
They now lived in Brussels.

970  
00:51:04,640 --> 00:51:06,330  
The Belgians were a  
little bit leaner,

971  
00:51:06,330 --> 00:51:11,000  
I think, than the Dutch.

972  
00:51:11,000 --> 00:51:14,030  
If you managed to stay  
in Belgium three months,

973  
00:51:14,030 --> 00:51:18,050  
I believe, without being  
arrested and sent back,

974  
00:51:18,050 --> 00:51:20,840  
then you could  
claim to stay there.

975  
00:51:20,840 --> 00:51:25,310  
So anyway, I said to my mother,  
look, please, let me try.

976  
00:51:25,310 --> 00:51:29,184  
I'll find a way, and  
I'll come get you.

977  
00:51:29,184 --> 00:51:32,630  
And I believed I  
could do all this.

978  
00:51:32,630 --> 00:51:35,140  
So I went all the way by myself.

979  
00:51:35,140 --> 00:51:36,550

And you were then--

980  
00:51:36,550 --> 00:51:37,830  
14.

981  
00:51:37,830 --> 00:51:39,700  
I just had turned 14.

982  
00:51:39,700 --> 00:51:43,938  
I went to Aachen, and it was  
not very comfortable sitting

983  
00:51:43,938 --> 00:51:44,480  
on the train.

984  
00:51:44,480 --> 00:51:47,180  
It took 12 hours on the train.

985  
00:51:47,180 --> 00:51:49,730  
And I had a slice of  
bread, and that was it.

986  
00:51:49,730 --> 00:51:53,750  
And I was coming down with  
an awful cold, an awful cold.

987  
00:51:53,750 --> 00:51:57,660  
I came to Aachen and made a  
beeline for that little hotel

988  
00:51:57,660 --> 00:51:59,410  
where I was staying before.

989  
00:51:59,410 --> 00:52:02,750  
And the woman, to my  
great disappointment,

990  
00:52:02,750 --> 00:52:04,370  
told me she had no rooms.

991  
00:52:04,370 --> 00:52:05,750  
It was all occupied.

992  
00:52:05,750 --> 00:52:08,150  
There was no room in the hotel.

993  
00:52:08,150 --> 00:52:09,520  
So I said, no problem.

994  
00:52:09,520 --> 00:52:11,660  
There are lots of  
hotels in Aachen.

995  
00:52:11,660 --> 00:52:15,860  
So I went around the  
hotels and found out

996  
00:52:15,860 --> 00:52:19,180  
that there was no room anywhere.

997  
00:52:19,180 --> 00:52:21,530  
And then I got back  
to a large hotel.

998  
00:52:21,530 --> 00:52:22,430  
I had gotten in.

999  
00:52:22,430 --> 00:52:26,445  
And I didn't realize there was a  
back entrance to the hotel that

1000  
00:52:26,445 --> 00:52:27,570  
looked just like the front.

1001  
00:52:27,570 --> 00:52:29,090  
It had two big entrances.

1002  
00:52:29,090 --> 00:52:31,310  
I went in the other  
side and didn't

1003  
00:52:31,310 --> 00:52:34,660  
realize that I had been there  
before till I recognized

1004  
00:52:34,660 --> 00:52:38,480  
the man, the receptionist  
who was there.

1005  
00:52:38,480 --> 00:52:42,440  
He was an elderly  
man, maybe in his 50s.

1006  
00:52:42,440 --> 00:52:44,238  
And he saw me come  
up to him again,

1007  
00:52:44,238 --> 00:52:45,530  
and I started shaking his hand.

1008  
00:52:45,530 --> 00:52:48,710  
And he had actual tears  
come into his eyes.

1009  
00:52:48,710 --> 00:52:52,010  
And he says, boy, you're  
wasting your time.

1010  
00:52:52,010 --> 00:52:54,637  
We're not allowed to give  
rooms to Jews anymore.

1011  
00:52:54,637 --> 00:52:59,510

1012  
00:52:59,510 --> 00:53:01,770  
No problem.

1013  
00:53:01,770 --> 00:53:02,670  
I was a tough kid.

1014  
00:53:02,670 --> 00:53:07,380  
I was going back to  
the railway station.

1015  
00:53:07,380 --> 00:53:11,670

I bought a ticket to the nearest town, which cost a few pfennig,

1016  
00:53:11,670 --> 00:53:15,910  
and went out on the quay,  
installed myself on the bench,

1017  
00:53:15,910 --> 00:53:19,420  
and was going to sleep there.

1018  
00:53:19,420 --> 00:53:23,135  
It was very cold and noisy,  
and I had this runny nose.

1019  
00:53:23,135 --> 00:53:26,360  
And I wasn't out there very long when two Gestapo guys

1020  
00:53:26,360 --> 00:53:29,790  
came up to me and arrested me.

1021  
00:53:29,790 --> 00:53:30,910  
You could tell.

1022  
00:53:30,910 --> 00:53:34,080  
By then, at that time, you knew what Gestapo looked like.

1023  
00:53:34,080 --> 00:53:37,380  
They wore gray rubber raincoats and gray hats.

1024  
00:53:37,380 --> 00:53:40,750  
They had sort of a uniform.

1025  
00:53:40,750 --> 00:53:42,700  
They asked me what I was doing there,

1026  
00:53:42,700 --> 00:53:44,930  
and I showed them I had a ticket to go to the train.



1027

00:53:44,930 --> 00:53:46,512

They said, haha.

1028

00:53:46,512 --> 00:53:48,095

I noticed you're  
trying to sleep here.

1029

00:53:48,095 --> 00:53:49,310

You can't sleep here.

1030

00:53:49,310 --> 00:53:51,310

He said, why don't you  
come in the waiting room?

1031

00:53:51,310 --> 00:53:52,477

It's nice and warm in there.

1032

00:53:52,477 --> 00:53:53,990

You can sleep in there.

1033

00:53:53,990 --> 00:53:57,620

So he knew I was Jewish because  
I showed him my passport,

1034

00:53:57,620 --> 00:53:59,260

but he was friendly.

1035

00:53:59,260 --> 00:54:00,400

This is the Gestapo.

1036

00:54:00,400 --> 00:54:02,870

Yeah, yeah, it's the Gestapo.

1037

00:54:02,870 --> 00:54:05,700

They took me into  
that waiting room,

1038

00:54:05,700 --> 00:54:09,140

and I installed myself  
in a chair there.

1039

00:54:09,140 --> 00:54:13,460  
And one of the  
Gestapo persons left,

1040  
00:54:13,460 --> 00:54:16,370  
and the other one sat himself  
about 10 feet down from me

1041  
00:54:16,370 --> 00:54:19,780  
across from me in his  
chair and read the paper--

1042  
00:54:19,780 --> 00:54:22,120  
or pretended to read the paper.

1043  
00:54:22,120 --> 00:54:24,640  
And I tried to sleep.

1044  
00:54:24,640 --> 00:54:28,880  
And in the morning, I had  
decided the only thing

1045  
00:54:28,880 --> 00:54:32,420  
I could do now is go back  
to that woman at the hotel

1046  
00:54:32,420 --> 00:54:35,840  
where we had stayed and at least  
get information from her what

1047  
00:54:35,840 --> 00:54:38,210  
I should do, what I could do.

1048  
00:54:38,210 --> 00:54:40,400  
So as soon as I stepped  
out of the railway station,

1049  
00:54:40,400 --> 00:54:43,040  
that fellow was tailing me.

1050  
00:54:43,040 --> 00:54:48,130  
And I didn't want to  
have that woman see

1051  
00:54:48,130 --> 00:54:53,450  
that I was coming with a  
Gestapo person behind me.

1052  
00:54:53,450 --> 00:54:55,130  
So I had to get rid of that guy.

1053  
00:54:55,130 --> 00:54:57,740  
And the way I did this--

1054  
00:54:57,740 --> 00:54:59,810  
clever as I thought it was--

1055  
00:54:59,810 --> 00:55:01,220  
I started walking around.

1056  
00:55:01,220 --> 00:55:05,060  
I went to a very busy  
section downtown and walked.

1057  
00:55:05,060 --> 00:55:07,460  
I kept walking around  
the block, looking

1058  
00:55:07,460 --> 00:55:09,230  
at the window of this place.

1059  
00:55:09,230 --> 00:55:11,620  
I kept doing this for  
a couple of hours.

1060  
00:55:11,620 --> 00:55:14,440  
The guy was getting  
tired of following me,

1061  
00:55:14,440 --> 00:55:17,540  
and he would stand  
behind more and more.

1062  
00:55:17,540 --> 00:55:22,160  
And eventually, he stepped,

stepped, stepped behind so far

1063

00:55:22,160 --> 00:55:26,060  
that I could go around  
the corner and run.

1064

00:55:26,060 --> 00:55:29,060  
I went around the  
corner, ran, and jumped

1065

00:55:29,060 --> 00:55:33,070  
on the first streetcar  
I saw and was gone.

1066

00:55:33,070 --> 00:55:37,120  
And I went to that woman and  
I had a serious talk with her.

1067

00:55:37,120 --> 00:55:40,500  
I said, look, you  
have to tell me

1068

00:55:40,500 --> 00:55:43,680  
if you know somebody I  
can address myself to.

1069

00:55:43,680 --> 00:55:47,040  
Do you know where there's  
any Jewish families

1070

00:55:47,040 --> 00:55:49,860  
that I could contact?

1071

00:55:49,860 --> 00:55:51,180  
She said, well, yes.

1072

00:55:51,180 --> 00:55:55,200  
She did know one family,  
some Jewish people

1073

00:55:55,200 --> 00:55:56,460  
that she was acquainted with.

1074

00:55:56,460 --> 00:55:59,140

The man owned the  
vinegar factory,

1075

00:55:59,140 --> 00:56:04,180

and she told me where he lived  
and gave me something to eat,

1076

00:56:04,180 --> 00:56:08,730

gave me some bread and coffee,  
and I went to see them.

1077

00:56:08,730 --> 00:56:11,490

And these Jewish  
families-- again, they

1078

00:56:11,490 --> 00:56:15,140

didn't hold a factory anymore,  
but they were running it

1079

00:56:15,140 --> 00:56:17,580

for the Germans.

1080

00:56:17,580 --> 00:56:21,325

And they had an  
apartment in front of it.

1081

00:56:21,325 --> 00:56:23,700

I don't know what it was, a  
little house or an apartment.

1082

00:56:23,700 --> 00:56:24,750

I don't remember.

1083

00:56:24,750 --> 00:56:27,660

1084

00:56:27,660 --> 00:56:30,900

And I told them that I  
was trying to get across.

1085

00:56:30,900 --> 00:56:33,630

And they told me that they  
had a son in a concentration

1086  
00:56:33,630 --> 00:56:37,090  
camp already, their only son.

1087  
00:56:37,090 --> 00:56:40,810  
And they didn't want to attract  
the attention of the Nazis.

1088  
00:56:40,810 --> 00:56:44,030  
And I had to swear to them that  
I would not come to the place

1089  
00:56:44,030 --> 00:56:46,670  
if I was followed.

1090  
00:56:46,670 --> 00:56:49,290  
And that I would not stay  
there more than a week.

1091  
00:56:49,290 --> 00:56:53,450  
If I could promise them  
that, they would keep me.

1092  
00:56:53,450 --> 00:56:54,960  
Naturally, what else could I do?

1093  
00:56:54,960 --> 00:56:57,270  
I promised them.

1094  
00:56:57,270 --> 00:56:59,120  
So early the next  
morning, I tried

1095  
00:56:59,120 --> 00:57:03,890  
to cross over again to Holland.

1096  
00:57:03,890 --> 00:57:06,860  
And I paid close attention  
to what I was doing.

1097

00:57:06,860 --> 00:57:09,280  
I crossed the German border,  
and I had some money now

1098  
00:57:09,280 --> 00:57:11,700  
that I left at the hotel room--

1099  
00:57:11,700 --> 00:57:15,850  
not at the hotel, I mean,  
I left with those people.

1100  
00:57:15,850 --> 00:57:18,620  
Because I knew  
that, getting out,

1101  
00:57:18,620 --> 00:57:20,620  
they would take it from me.

1102  
00:57:20,620 --> 00:57:26,200  
And if, by chance, I had to come  
back, I wouldn't have anything.

1103  
00:57:26,200 --> 00:57:27,360  
So I crossed.

1104  
00:57:27,360 --> 00:57:32,560  
They took everything  
except seven marks.

1105  
00:57:32,560 --> 00:57:34,840  
And they search you  
very thoroughly.

1106  
00:57:34,840 --> 00:57:36,670  
They look in all  
your orifices to make

1107  
00:57:36,670 --> 00:57:42,130  
sure you're not smuggling  
diamonds or gold or anything.

1108  
00:57:42,130 --> 00:57:44,493  
They did this each time

that you tried to cross.

1109  
00:57:44,493 --> 00:57:45,160  
Each time, yeah.

1110  
00:57:45,160 --> 00:57:48,280  
Very unpleasant.

1111  
00:57:48,280 --> 00:57:52,240  
But in those days, they let  
you out with the promise

1112  
00:57:52,240 --> 00:57:56,860  
that if you come back,  
you'll be real sorry.

1113  
00:57:56,860 --> 00:57:57,970  
Get lost.

1114  
00:57:57,970 --> 00:58:00,890  
Don't come back.

1115  
00:58:00,890 --> 00:58:05,700  
So I got out of there and  
get on the first train

1116  
00:58:05,700 --> 00:58:07,340  
the first village I came to.

1117  
00:58:07,340 --> 00:58:11,110

1118  
00:58:11,110 --> 00:58:14,480  
And when they let you out,  
you're in no-man's land.

1119  
00:58:14,480 --> 00:58:21,380  
And across the no-man's land,  
there is a Dutch border guard.

1120  
00:58:21,380 --> 00:58:24,190  
And I learned to avoid those.



1121  
00:58:24,190 --> 00:58:26,690  
This is a woodsy  
area, and it wasn't

1122  
00:58:26,690 --> 00:58:28,070  
too difficult to avoid them.

1123  
00:58:28,070 --> 00:58:31,140  
You just walked  
sideways away from them.

1124  
00:58:31,140 --> 00:58:33,340  
If you had a good  
sense of direction

1125  
00:58:33,340 --> 00:58:36,140  
so you know where you  
were, you could do this.

1126  
00:58:36,140 --> 00:58:40,130  
And you walked around them,  
and then you were in Holland.

1127  
00:58:40,130 --> 00:58:42,480  
So you just walked across  
the border through the woods?

1128  
00:58:42,480 --> 00:58:43,730  
Just walked across the border.

1129  
00:58:43,730 --> 00:58:45,105  
Of course, there  
were some there.

1130  
00:58:45,105 --> 00:58:47,150  
You couldn't walk off  
very far because there

1131  
00:58:47,150 --> 00:58:48,750  
was a secret line.

1132

00:58:48,750 --> 00:58:54,050  
There were the defenses,  
military establishment.

1133  
00:58:54,050 --> 00:58:56,570  
But there was the secret line.

1134  
00:58:56,570 --> 00:59:02,135  
There was barbed  
wire, concrete blocks,

1135  
00:59:02,135 --> 00:59:05,060  
but there were not  
manned at that time.

1136  
00:59:05,060 --> 00:59:08,250  
At least, I didn't see anybody.

1137  
00:59:08,250 --> 00:59:12,830  
But you could get through there  
if you're fast and careful.

1138  
00:59:12,830 --> 00:59:14,030  
And I got through.

1139  
00:59:14,030 --> 00:59:18,110  
And then, I looked to the  
railway and got on the railway.

1140  
00:59:18,110 --> 00:59:21,460  
And I got as far as Maastricht.

1141  
00:59:21,460 --> 00:59:26,150  
Maastricht was the big city.

1142  
00:59:26,150 --> 00:59:29,690  
And this is where Belgium,  
Holland, and Germany

1143  
00:59:29,690 --> 00:59:30,980  
come together.

1144

00:59:30,980 --> 00:59:36,820  
And all those countries have  
big border guards there.

1145  
00:59:36,820 --> 00:59:39,790  
And I realized the  
mistake we've done before

1146  
00:59:39,790 --> 00:59:43,190  
and the mistake we made again.

1147  
00:59:43,190 --> 00:59:48,693  
So I was promptly  
arrested by the Dutch.

1148  
00:59:48,693 --> 00:59:49,360  
I was going to--

1149  
00:59:49,360 --> 00:59:54,140  
I had gotten on the train  
that was going to Amsterdam.

1150  
00:59:54,140 --> 00:59:57,440  
And they took me off the train.

1151  
00:59:57,440 --> 00:59:58,710  
And it wasn't the first time.

1152  
00:59:58,710 --> 00:59:59,320  
They knew me.

1153  
00:59:59,320 --> 01:00:03,920  
It was the second time or  
third time they took me off.

1154  
01:00:03,920 --> 01:00:05,260  
And I decided--

1155  
01:00:05,260 --> 01:00:06,350  
I'd never made a fuss.

1156  
01:00:06,350 --> 01:00:09,950

And I said, this time  
I'm going to make a fuss.

1157  
01:00:09,950 --> 01:00:12,500  
So I told them, I  
don't want to go back.

1158  
01:00:12,500 --> 01:00:14,210  
I'm not going back.

1159  
01:00:14,210 --> 01:00:15,050  
Oh, yes, they said.

1160  
01:00:15,050 --> 01:00:15,948  
You're going back.

1161  
01:00:15,948 --> 01:00:17,240  
I said, no, I'm not going back.

1162  
01:00:17,240 --> 01:00:19,640  
I have nobody there.

1163  
01:00:19,640 --> 01:00:24,590  
My father and his  
sister are in Amsterdam.

1164  
01:00:24,590 --> 01:00:26,390  
And they said,  
where in Amsterdam?

1165  
01:00:26,390 --> 01:00:29,340  
I gave him the address,  
and I had their address.

1166  
01:00:29,340 --> 01:00:34,870  
And he called the  
police in Amsterdam

1167  
01:00:34,870 --> 01:00:37,120  
and talked with  
them on the phone.

1168

01:00:37,120 --> 01:00:41,200

And then they both  
decided to send me back.

1169

01:00:41,200 --> 01:00:43,155

And I said, no,  
I'm not going back.

1170

01:00:43,155 --> 01:00:44,390

He said, yes, you are.

1171

01:00:44,390 --> 01:00:45,950

And I said, no, I'm not.

1172

01:00:45,950 --> 01:00:50,220

So they put me in handcuffs  
and put chains around me

1173

01:00:50,220 --> 01:00:52,670

and chains around my  
ankles and locked me

1174

01:00:52,670 --> 01:00:54,950

outside a police station.

1175

01:00:54,950 --> 01:00:57,320

They put me on the  
back of a bicycle--

1176

01:00:57,320 --> 01:01:01,810

the bicycle in the back  
in sort of a carrier where

1177

01:01:01,810 --> 01:01:04,190

you put packages and  
such, and they had me

1178

01:01:04,190 --> 01:01:07,220

sit on that side of it.

1179

01:01:07,220 --> 01:01:11,520

And the policemen pedaled me  
back to the German border.

1180  
01:01:11,520 --> 01:01:13,240  
That took a long time.

1181  
01:01:13,240 --> 01:01:15,580  
We went through a  
couple of villages,

1182  
01:01:15,580 --> 01:01:20,100  
and I had an awful time holding  
on so I wouldn't fall off.

1183  
01:01:20,100 --> 01:01:21,860  
And people were staring at me.

1184  
01:01:21,860 --> 01:01:26,588  
Look at that young boy, there's  
chains on him and handcuffs.

1185  
01:01:26,588 --> 01:01:29,490  
And I couldn't hold  
on to the belt.

1186  
01:01:29,490 --> 01:01:32,900  
I was holding onto the belt  
as the guy was pedaling.

1187  
01:01:32,900 --> 01:01:35,120  
He didn't say a word  
to me the whole trip.

1188  
01:01:35,120 --> 01:01:36,890  
He didn't stop once.

1189  
01:01:36,890 --> 01:01:39,470  
He took me all the way back--  
pedaled me all the way back

1190  
01:01:39,470 --> 01:01:42,540  
to the no-man's land.

1191  
01:01:42,540 --> 01:01:46,010

It was fine enough, but by the time we got there, it was dark.

1192  
01:01:46,010 --> 01:01:48,810  
And I mean it was  
a pitch-dark night.

1193  
01:01:48,810 --> 01:01:53,176  
It was so dark I couldn't see  
the hand in front of my face.

1194  
01:01:53,176 --> 01:01:55,290  
And they put me  
down from the bike

1195  
01:01:55,290 --> 01:01:59,610  
and took the chains off and  
the handcuffs off and said--

1196  
01:01:59,610 --> 01:02:02,960  
pointed me straight down the  
road, said, you go there.

1197  
01:02:02,960 --> 01:02:04,530  
He said, I'm going to watch you.

1198  
01:02:04,530 --> 01:02:07,200  
Don't turn around.

1199  
01:02:07,200 --> 01:02:09,230  
So I walked down the  
road, real frustrated.

1200  
01:02:09,230 --> 01:02:10,470  
I couldn't see a thing.

1201  
01:02:10,470 --> 01:02:12,680  
I didn't know whether I  
was on the road or not.

1202  
01:02:12,680 --> 01:02:15,760  
And I was so upset  
I started crying.

1203  
01:02:15,760 --> 01:02:18,150  
I hadn't eaten all  
day, naturally.

1204  
01:02:18,150 --> 01:02:22,560  
I was totally exhausted  
and desperate.

1205  
01:02:22,560 --> 01:02:24,490  
I didn't know what I  
was going to do next.

1206  
01:02:24,490 --> 01:02:26,490  
Then, all of a sudden,  
there was this flashlight

1207  
01:02:26,490 --> 01:02:28,210  
in front of my eyes--

1208  
01:02:28,210 --> 01:02:30,610  
right there, an  
inch from my face.

1209  
01:02:30,610 --> 01:02:32,830  
And the German  
voice said, "Halt!

1210  
01:02:32,830 --> 01:02:34,690  
Who goes there?"

1211  
01:02:34,690 --> 01:02:37,270  
in Germany.

1212  
01:02:37,270 --> 01:02:38,870  
And he saw I was crying.

1213  
01:02:38,870 --> 01:02:42,713  
He says, oh, he  
says, [NON-ENGLISH]..

1214  
01:02:42,713 --> 01:02:44,130



You don't have to  
be afraid of me.

1215  
01:02:44,130 --> 01:02:46,320  
Stop crying.

1216  
01:02:46,320 --> 01:02:49,410  
And he patted me  
on the shoulder.

1217  
01:02:49,410 --> 01:02:53,340  
It turned out to be an elderly  
man who was on guard there.

1218  
01:02:53,340 --> 01:02:56,910  
And they took me to the  
shack that he was in,

1219  
01:02:56,910 --> 01:02:57,900  
which was heated.

1220  
01:02:57,900 --> 01:02:58,760  
It was cold.

1221  
01:02:58,760 --> 01:03:01,300  
It was heated and warm.

1222  
01:03:01,300 --> 01:03:04,350  
And he said to sit  
down, and I told him

1223  
01:03:04,350 --> 01:03:08,040  
what I was up to, that I'd  
tried to get across the border

1224  
01:03:08,040 --> 01:03:11,610  
but I was being sent  
back all the time.

1225  
01:03:11,610 --> 01:03:15,240  
And I showed him my passport  
again, and he studied it,

1226

01:03:15,240 --> 01:03:18,620  
and he gave me an apple.

1227

01:03:18,620 --> 01:03:20,000  
And he said, here,  
eat something.

1228

01:03:20,000 --> 01:03:23,590  
He says, I'm getting  
off, he says, in an hour.

1229

01:03:23,590 --> 01:03:26,620  
I'm going to take  
you to Brussels.

1230

01:03:26,620 --> 01:03:27,430  
He has a motorbike.

1231

01:03:27,430 --> 01:03:29,705  
I know how to get there.

1232

01:03:29,705 --> 01:03:33,980  
I'll take you to your  
family, he said to me.

1233

01:03:33,980 --> 01:03:39,000  
Some naturally, I was very  
happy about this development.

1234

01:03:39,000 --> 01:03:41,460  
I was so happy about it,  
I couldn't eat the apple.

1235

01:03:41,460 --> 01:03:43,860  
I couldn't eat,  
I was so excited.

1236

01:03:43,860 --> 01:03:47,400  
So when the time came,  
he said, come with me.

1237

01:03:47,400 --> 01:03:48,910

And I went with him.

1238  
01:03:48,910 --> 01:03:50,160  
I walked with him for a while.

1239  
01:03:50,160 --> 01:03:51,950  
He said, I don't  
have a motorbike,

1240  
01:03:51,950 --> 01:03:55,320  
he says, but my friend has,  
and I'm going to borrow it.

1241  
01:03:55,320 --> 01:03:58,667  
It was midnight.

1242  
01:03:58,667 --> 01:04:00,625  
We come to this little  
house out in the country

1243  
01:04:00,625 --> 01:04:02,430  
where his friend lived.

1244  
01:04:02,430 --> 01:04:04,315  
It was all dark.

1245  
01:04:04,315 --> 01:04:06,170  
You couldn't see a thing.

1246  
01:04:06,170 --> 01:04:09,020  
Of course, the man with  
us, we had a flashlight.

1247  
01:04:09,020 --> 01:04:10,690  
That's how we saw.

1248  
01:04:10,690 --> 01:04:13,090  
And he went right up to  
his house and rang the bell

1249  
01:04:13,090 --> 01:04:15,040  
and woke everybody up.

1250  
01:04:15,040 --> 01:04:19,380  
And this man came out, and he  
explained what he wanted to do,

1251  
01:04:19,380 --> 01:04:23,330  
and the guy started  
yelling at him,

1252  
01:04:23,330 --> 01:04:27,680  
shouting, how dare you take  
a Jew over there to Brussels!

1253  
01:04:27,680 --> 01:04:29,610  
I'm not going to give  
you the motorbike!

1254  
01:04:29,610 --> 01:04:33,170  
You're not going to risk  
your life and all your career

1255  
01:04:33,170 --> 01:04:34,340  
doing this.

1256  
01:04:34,340 --> 01:04:38,600  
And his wife stood behind this  
guy, saying, no, sir, no, sir.

1257  
01:04:38,600 --> 01:04:39,410  
Don't you do that.

1258  
01:04:39,410 --> 01:04:40,865  
No, sir.

1259  
01:04:40,865 --> 01:04:41,990  
What's the matter with you?

1260  
01:04:41,990 --> 01:04:43,365  
Have you lost your  
mind, and all?

1261  
01:04:43,365 --> 01:04:44,780

You know.

1262  
01:04:44,780 --> 01:04:48,380  
And after a few  
minutes of that, I

1263  
01:04:48,380 --> 01:04:52,290  
realized this was  
all for naught.

1264  
01:04:52,290 --> 01:04:55,190  
And I felt sorry for  
the man who felt--

1265  
01:04:55,190 --> 01:04:58,670  
you could see he was  
very disappointed.

1266  
01:04:58,670 --> 01:05:01,090  
And they slammed  
the doors on us.

1267  
01:05:01,090 --> 01:05:06,380  
And then he said to  
me, I'm so sorry.

1268  
01:05:06,380 --> 01:05:09,740  
All I can do is take  
you to the streetcar

1269  
01:05:09,740 --> 01:05:12,655  
and have you go back to Aachen.

1270  
01:05:12,655 --> 01:05:14,300  
He said he was sorry.

1271  
01:05:14,300 --> 01:05:15,400  
Take you back to--

1272  
01:05:15,400 --> 01:05:16,920  
Aachen.

1273

01:05:16,920 --> 01:05:18,500  
And that's what happened.

1274  
01:05:18,500 --> 01:05:22,500  
I said, all right, no problem.

1275  
01:05:22,500 --> 01:05:24,500  
So he got me on the  
streetcar and I went back

1276  
01:05:24,500 --> 01:05:27,020  
to Aachen and back  
to those people.

1277  
01:05:27,020 --> 01:05:30,300

1278  
01:05:30,300 --> 01:05:32,940  
The next day I tried again,  
and again it was wrong.

1279  
01:05:32,940 --> 01:05:35,850  
And I finally decided--

1280  
01:05:35,850 --> 01:05:40,080  
on the way back from  
Holland, I decided that I

1281  
01:05:40,080 --> 01:05:41,580  
was doing this all wrong.

1282  
01:05:41,580 --> 01:05:45,910  
And what was wrong is that I  
was trying to get on a train.

1283  
01:05:45,910 --> 01:05:48,750  
And I was lucky I had no  
problems while I was walking.

1284  
01:05:48,750 --> 01:05:51,030  
As soon as I got  
in a contrivance,

1285

01:05:51,030 --> 01:05:52,500

I was getting caught.

1286

01:05:52,500 --> 01:05:55,860

So I decided the thing to do for me was to walk across and keep

1287

01:05:55,860 --> 01:05:59,880

walking, keep walking, until I am deep in the country,

1288

01:05:59,880 --> 01:06:01,710

and then take a train.

1289

01:06:01,710 --> 01:06:04,350

In other words, I had the map.

1290

01:06:04,350 --> 01:06:09,690

I knew what I had to do is walk around Maastricht.

1291

01:06:09,690 --> 01:06:12,230

I was taking the train into Maastricht wrong.

1292

01:06:12,230 --> 01:06:14,530

Walk around Maastricht to the other side,

1293

01:06:14,530 --> 01:06:18,480

to the west side of it, which was Belgium--

1294

01:06:18,480 --> 01:06:19,620

I would be in Belgium--

1295

01:06:19,620 --> 01:06:24,910

and go along the railway tracks to the next town, village,

1296

01:06:24,910 --> 01:06:30,010

whatever, and there take a

train, behind the guards.

1297

01:06:30,010 --> 01:06:33,370

That's what I was going to do.

1298

01:06:33,370 --> 01:06:37,120

I was thinking this, and I  
was walking by the railway

1299

01:06:37,120 --> 01:06:38,550

station in Aachen.

1300

01:06:38,550 --> 01:06:39,850

And my heart stopped.

1301

01:06:39,850 --> 01:06:44,430

My mother was standing in  
front of that railway station.

1302

01:06:44,430 --> 01:06:46,185

She'd just arrived from Austria.

1303

01:06:46,185 --> 01:06:49,340

1304

01:06:49,340 --> 01:06:51,600

And I didn't expect her.

1305

01:06:51,600 --> 01:06:55,620

I was going to write to her or  
call her and tell her to come

1306

01:06:55,620 --> 01:06:58,030

and I knew how to get across.

1307

01:06:58,030 --> 01:07:01,790

So I said, mother, my God,  
what are you doing here?

1308

01:07:01,790 --> 01:07:04,720

And she says, oh, I'm  
am so happy to see you.



1309  
01:07:04,720 --> 01:07:06,260  
I didn't know what  
happened to you.

1310  
01:07:06,260 --> 01:07:08,570  
I was worried about  
you, she said to me.

1311  
01:07:08,570 --> 01:07:11,300  
I didn't know where  
to go when I got here.

1312  
01:07:11,300 --> 01:07:14,610  
And there you are,  
right in front of me.

1313  
01:07:14,610 --> 01:07:17,930  
Now I had the problem  
of taking my mother

1314  
01:07:17,930 --> 01:07:20,330  
to these kind of people who  
owned the vinegar factory.

1315  
01:07:20,330 --> 01:07:23,055

1316  
01:07:23,055 --> 01:07:26,890  
And, of course, I  
was very embarrassed.

1317  
01:07:26,890 --> 01:07:33,380  
I was young, and I was ashamed  
of doing this to those people.

1318  
01:07:33,380 --> 01:07:34,710  
But I had no choice.

1319  
01:07:34,710 --> 01:07:35,210  
I

1320

01:07:35,210 --> 01:07:39,455  
Told them my mother had arrived  
and would they be so kind

1321  
01:07:39,455 --> 01:07:41,600  
and let her stay with  
me for a day or two?

1322  
01:07:41,600 --> 01:07:42,560  
She was dead tired.

1323  
01:07:42,560 --> 01:07:45,140  
She's been on a train all night.

1324  
01:07:45,140 --> 01:07:50,370  
And I think it was on a Friday  
and I told them on Sunday.

1325  
01:07:50,370 --> 01:07:52,760  
It was a week that I'd been  
there with those people.

1326  
01:07:52,760 --> 01:07:55,580  
I said, on Sunday morning,  
we're going to leave,

1327  
01:07:55,580 --> 01:07:58,490  
and I swear to you  
we're not coming back.

1328  
01:07:58,490 --> 01:08:00,990  
Please let us stay here.

1329  
01:08:00,990 --> 01:08:03,020  
And the important  
thing of staying there

1330  
01:08:03,020 --> 01:08:05,330  
was, of course, that we  
had something to eat.

1331  
01:08:05,330 --> 01:08:06,770  
We ate with those people.

1332  
01:08:06,770 --> 01:08:09,690  
They were kind.

1333  
01:08:09,690 --> 01:08:14,400  
So Sunday morning, Mother and  
I left at 5:30 in the morning.

1334  
01:08:14,400 --> 01:08:19,830  
And I knew already how to  
get to the German border.

1335  
01:08:19,830 --> 01:08:24,435  
And I made sure I was going  
through a German guardpost

1336  
01:08:24,435 --> 01:08:25,560  
where I hadn't been before.

1337  
01:08:25,560 --> 01:08:28,580

1338  
01:08:28,580 --> 01:08:31,189  
And we were going out  
through the routine search

1339  
01:08:31,189 --> 01:08:32,330  
to take the money away.

1340  
01:08:32,330 --> 01:08:36,050  
And we had seven marks, and  
don't come back, or else.

1341  
01:08:36,050 --> 01:08:38,399  
And it was barely--

1342  
01:08:38,399 --> 01:08:42,062  
the day was barely breaking  
when we left that place.

1343  
01:08:42,062 --> 01:08:43,520  
And I walked straight

in the woods,

1344

01:08:43,520 --> 01:08:46,200  
walking away from the border  
guards, straight in the woods.

1345

01:08:46,200 --> 01:08:50,609  
And this time, I was walking to  
the left side towards Belgium

1346

01:08:50,609 --> 01:08:52,880  
because the borders  
came together.

1347

01:08:52,880 --> 01:08:56,660  
You didn't have to go very  
far to go to another country.

1348

01:08:56,660 --> 01:08:59,180  
And we were walking and walking,  
and it was becoming day.

1349

01:08:59,180 --> 01:09:09,810  
And suddenly I saw three border  
guards with German shepherds.

1350

01:09:09,810 --> 01:09:12,420  
And these were  
Belgian border guards?

1351

01:09:12,420 --> 01:09:14,979  
I knew they were not  
German, to my great relief.

1352

01:09:14,979 --> 01:09:18,359  
But they were border guards,  
and they had big dogs with them.

1353

01:09:18,359 --> 01:09:20,520  
So I pulled my mother  
behind a big tree,

1354

01:09:20,520 --> 01:09:24,399

and we went down and  
lied down on the ground.

1355  
01:09:24,399 --> 01:09:26,100  
Remember, it was November--

1356  
01:09:26,100 --> 01:09:27,270  
no, this was December.

1357  
01:09:27,270 --> 01:09:28,862  
This was December 8.

1358  
01:09:28,862 --> 01:09:31,470  
It was December 8 already.

1359  
01:09:31,470 --> 01:09:34,140  
And there were leaves  
on the ground--

1360  
01:09:34,140 --> 01:09:37,359  
lots of leaves, so  
it was easy to hide.

1361  
01:09:37,359 --> 01:09:41,899  
And we were lucky  
the dogs didn't--

1362  
01:09:41,899 --> 01:09:45,560  
they were about 150  
feet ahead of us.

1363  
01:09:45,560 --> 01:09:48,029  
They didn't become aware of us.

1364  
01:09:48,029 --> 01:09:50,127  
And we walked behind  
and let them walk till I

1365  
01:09:50,127 --> 01:09:51,210  
couldn't see or hear them.

1366  
01:09:51,210 --> 01:09:53,359

They were talking.

1367

01:09:53,359 --> 01:09:55,830

And then they were  
out of sight, we

1368

01:09:55,830 --> 01:09:58,320

felt safe and continued walking.

1369

01:09:58,320 --> 01:09:59,880

And we walked and  
walked, and we came

1370

01:09:59,880 --> 01:10:08,800

to a fence that went as far left  
as far right as you could see.

1371

01:10:08,800 --> 01:10:14,360

It was a steel mesh  
and was very strong,

1372

01:10:14,360 --> 01:10:16,360

a very strong, stiff fence.

1373

01:10:16,360 --> 01:10:22,100

And it had metal posts, and  
there was a metal post on top.

1374

01:10:22,100 --> 01:10:25,550

And my mother and I,  
we had one suitcase.

1375

01:10:25,550 --> 01:10:28,950

She had a suitcase  
that I was carrying.

1376

01:10:28,950 --> 01:10:31,385

And I looked at her, and  
I had to get across there.

1377

01:10:31,385 --> 01:10:32,940

And that wasn't the worst thing.

1378

01:10:32,940 --> 01:10:35,860

About 15 or 20 feet  
on the other side

1379

01:10:35,860 --> 01:10:42,940

was a river that was  
about 30, 40 feet wide.

1380

01:10:42,940 --> 01:10:47,070

And neither Mother  
nor I could swim.

1381

01:10:47,070 --> 01:10:50,010

And on the other side, we  
noticed, was a highway.

1382

01:10:50,010 --> 01:10:52,500

There was traffic  
going by occasionally.

1383

01:10:52,500 --> 01:10:55,150

In those days, there  
wasn't much traffic.

1384

01:10:55,150 --> 01:10:57,540

And on our right, there  
was a railway bridge--

1385

01:10:57,540 --> 01:11:00,840

a big stone railway bridge.

1386

01:11:00,840 --> 01:11:04,110

So we decided if we  
had to go across,

1387

01:11:04,110 --> 01:11:06,570

we have to cross near  
the bridge so that people

1388

01:11:06,570 --> 01:11:09,180

wouldn't see us go across.

1389

01:11:09,180 --> 01:11:11,940  
So we went to the  
bridge, and I helped

1390  
01:11:11,940 --> 01:11:14,220  
my mother climb that thing.

1391  
01:11:14,220 --> 01:11:15,510  
She was-- bless her soul.

1392  
01:11:15,510 --> 01:11:17,940  
She was 42 years old.

1393  
01:11:17,940 --> 01:11:20,448  
I threw her suitcase  
over the fence.

1394  
01:11:20,448 --> 01:11:21,990  
Of course, all the  
time, I was making

1395  
01:11:21,990 --> 01:11:24,570  
sure there was nobody  
coming right or left.

1396  
01:11:24,570 --> 01:11:27,350  
And I helped her climb over  
it, and I climbed over it

1397  
01:11:27,350 --> 01:11:29,770  
and down the other side.

1398  
01:11:29,770 --> 01:11:32,500  
And then we just  
crossed our fingers

1399  
01:11:32,500 --> 01:11:35,800  
and walked into the  
river, and right

1400  
01:11:35,800 --> 01:11:39,730  
at the side of the bridge, so  
we were in the shadow, actually.



1401  
01:11:39,730 --> 01:11:41,740  
The sun was up now.

1402  
01:11:41,740 --> 01:11:42,850  
It was terribly cold.

1403  
01:11:42,850 --> 01:11:45,490  
It was terribly cold.

1404  
01:11:45,490 --> 01:11:48,750  
The water was ice cold.

1405  
01:11:48,750 --> 01:11:51,420  
And we walked, we walked,  
and we walked slowly

1406  
01:11:51,420 --> 01:11:53,640  
through the water.

1407  
01:11:53,640 --> 01:11:56,130  
And it came all the  
way up to my neck.

1408  
01:11:56,130 --> 01:12:00,130  
And I was a little taller  
than my mother, maybe an inch.

1409  
01:12:00,130 --> 01:12:04,870  
And in the middle of the stream,  
she had her nose up like this,

1410  
01:12:04,870 --> 01:12:09,400  
and I was holding her suitcase  
over us, over my head.

1411  
01:12:09,400 --> 01:12:12,760  
And I was praying that the  
river wouldn't get any deeper,

1412  
01:12:12,760 --> 01:12:14,836  
and it did not.

1413

01:12:14,836 --> 01:12:18,100

We walked like this a  
few feet, and then we

1414

01:12:18,100 --> 01:12:20,720

went up on the other side and  
we came out the other side.

1415

01:12:20,720 --> 01:12:24,500

Now we were soaking  
wet, soaking wet.

1416

01:12:24,500 --> 01:12:26,780

So we took our  
other garments off.

1417

01:12:26,780 --> 01:12:30,730

She took her whole coat  
off, and I took my coat off.

1418

01:12:30,730 --> 01:12:34,000