

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:00,750

2
00:00:00,750 --> 00:00:04,002
This is tape 2, side A. We
are interviewing William Hess.

3
00:00:04,002 --> 00:00:05,460
And I wanted to
ask you to describe

4
00:00:05,460 --> 00:00:08,580
your reunion with your parents.

5
00:00:08,580 --> 00:00:13,500
When my parents arrived, we're
going to go to Danville--

6
00:00:13,500 --> 00:00:16,379
the man whom I was living with.

7
00:00:16,379 --> 00:00:18,180
And as I said
before, they really

8
00:00:18,180 --> 00:00:20,730
treated me like their own child.

9
00:00:20,730 --> 00:00:24,180
I was taken along on
day trips and so on.

10
00:00:24,180 --> 00:00:25,560
I ate with them at their table.

11
00:00:25,560 --> 00:00:28,470
They were really
very, very kind.

12
00:00:28,470 --> 00:00:29,610
What was her name?

13
00:00:29,610 --> 00:00:31,290
Their name was Biteg.

14
00:00:31,290 --> 00:00:34,760
It's a rather
strange German name.

15
00:00:34,760 --> 00:00:37,950
And he was, of course,
of German descent.

16
00:00:37,950 --> 00:00:39,790
And his wife was Scotch-Irish.

17
00:00:39,790 --> 00:00:42,370

18
00:00:42,370 --> 00:00:45,460
He was Catholic
but non-practicing,

19
00:00:45,460 --> 00:00:46,930
and she was a Protestant.

20
00:00:46,930 --> 00:00:51,520
And the children went to, I
think, Protestant church when

21
00:00:51,520 --> 00:00:52,810
they did go.

22
00:00:52,810 --> 00:00:54,670
They were very kind.

23
00:00:54,670 --> 00:00:56,410
The man owned a car.

24
00:00:56,410 --> 00:01:00,460
He told me if I wanted to meet
my parents at the New York

25

00:01:00,460 --> 00:01:05,860
train in Indianapolis, which
is 90 miles from Danville,

26

00:01:05,860 --> 00:01:09,490
I could take the car,
which I was happy to do.

27

00:01:09,490 --> 00:01:12,730
And I met my parents at
the station in Indianapolis

28

00:01:12,730 --> 00:01:15,100
and took them back to Danville.

29

00:01:15,100 --> 00:01:18,830
And they stayed at the same
place where I was living.

30

00:01:18,830 --> 00:01:21,460
They made a room
available to them

31

00:01:21,460 --> 00:01:26,400
until they found an apartment
and until their furniture

32

00:01:26,400 --> 00:01:26,900
arrived.

33

00:01:26,900 --> 00:01:30,040
Now, that was another thing.

34

00:01:30,040 --> 00:01:33,340
It always comes through in
this that we were lucky.

35

00:01:33,340 --> 00:01:38,910
And I think we really
were extremely lucky.

36

00:01:38,910 --> 00:01:42,250

Somebody must have looked
out for us, because

37
00:01:42,250 --> 00:01:46,730
with all the pitfalls, we
made it, our little family.

38
00:01:46,730 --> 00:01:50,950
My parents were able to
ship their household goods.

39
00:01:50,950 --> 00:01:52,880
They weren't allowed
to buy anything new,

40
00:01:52,880 --> 00:01:56,020
but they were allowed
to take what they had.

41
00:01:56,020 --> 00:01:58,930
That was boxed in huge crates.

42
00:01:58,930 --> 00:02:02,710
And that arrived about
two weeks after they

43
00:02:02,710 --> 00:02:07,000
did in September of 1939.

44
00:02:07,000 --> 00:02:10,479
We were lucky to find an
inexpensive apartment.

45
00:02:10,479 --> 00:02:15,240
And so we moved
into the apartment.

46
00:02:15,240 --> 00:02:18,010
Again, a lucky break--

47
00:02:18,010 --> 00:02:21,940
the crates arrived
on a German ship,

48

00:02:21,940 --> 00:02:26,290
which was the last German ships
to make the port of New York

49

00:02:26,290 --> 00:02:28,480
before World War I broke out.

50

00:02:28,480 --> 00:02:30,700
If it had been on the
next ship or if the ship

51

00:02:30,700 --> 00:02:33,280
had left a day or
two later, it would

52

00:02:33,280 --> 00:02:35,440
have turned around in
the middle of the ocean

53

00:02:35,440 --> 00:02:38,080
and taken all of
their belongings back.

54

00:02:38,080 --> 00:02:41,170
So by the skin of
their teeth, they

55

00:02:41,170 --> 00:02:45,430
were able to salvage at
least their belongings.

56

00:02:45,430 --> 00:02:48,530
I think my father at
the time owned something

57

00:02:48,530 --> 00:02:51,820
like \$200 or so.

58

00:02:51,820 --> 00:02:58,680
That was this total substance
for 30, 40 years of work.

59

00:02:58,680 --> 00:03:01,300

And of course, we were very
happy to see each other.

60

00:03:01,300 --> 00:03:05,280

And I didn't go into a lot of
details about what happened,

61

00:03:05,280 --> 00:03:09,240

especially to how I thought
he might be sensitive to it.

62

00:03:09,240 --> 00:03:15,870

But we moved into our own place.

63

00:03:15,870 --> 00:03:20,070

And eventually, we
did talk about it.

64

00:03:20,070 --> 00:03:25,740

And my father did
tell me what happened

65

00:03:25,740 --> 00:03:28,740

to him in Dachau in detail.

66

00:03:28,740 --> 00:03:31,607

That's how I found out about it.

67

00:03:31,607 --> 00:03:33,440

What other things that
your parents tell you

68

00:03:33,440 --> 00:03:36,230

about with respect to
the changes in Germany

69

00:03:36,230 --> 00:03:37,730

since your departure?

70

00:03:37,730 --> 00:03:45,520

Well, of course, as I was

able to see for myself,

71

00:03:45,520 --> 00:03:47,200

it got a lot worse.

72

00:03:47,200 --> 00:03:49,450

My mother told me
about a woman who

73

00:03:49,450 --> 00:03:52,540

lived up on the third floor
of the apartment house

74

00:03:52,540 --> 00:03:56,350

where we had lived who were very
friendly people-- very friendly

75

00:03:56,350 --> 00:03:56,870

with us.

76

00:03:56,870 --> 00:03:59,090

She was a good bit
younger than my parents.

77

00:03:59,090 --> 00:04:04,360

And she felt comfortable
coming to our apartment.

78

00:04:04,360 --> 00:04:08,230

I remember one time when she
was pregnant at a thunderstorm,

79

00:04:08,230 --> 00:04:09,910

she was afraid--
she asked if she

80

00:04:09,910 --> 00:04:12,820

could come in, and of
course, we said, yes.

81

00:04:12,820 --> 00:04:16,329

And my mother told me
it was just terrible.

82

00:04:16,329 --> 00:04:19,300

One day her husband who
was employed at the bank

83

00:04:19,300 --> 00:04:21,970

was called in by
his boss and told

84

00:04:21,970 --> 00:04:26,950

that they understand that
they still traffic with Jews,

85

00:04:26,950 --> 00:04:30,860

and if the man valued his job,
then they better cut that out.

86

00:04:30,860 --> 00:04:34,480

And so she came to my mother
and said, I feel terrible,

87

00:04:34,480 --> 00:04:37,880

but I can't afford to be
seen talking to you anymore.

88

00:04:37,880 --> 00:04:40,870

So when I pass you, I'll wave
and say, hello, but that's

89

00:04:40,870 --> 00:04:42,920

about all I can do.

90

00:04:42,920 --> 00:04:47,010

So my parents were very upset,
of course, that this happened.

91

00:04:47,010 --> 00:04:49,120

Now, in contrast,
this business friend

92

00:04:49,120 --> 00:04:51,970

that my parents
were talking about,

93

00:04:51,970 --> 00:04:54,760

they were welcome
right up to the end

94

00:04:54,760 --> 00:04:58,340

even though they had relatives
who made snide remarks.

95

00:04:58,340 --> 00:05:00,490

When your Jewish
friends come, you

96

00:05:00,490 --> 00:05:04,870

serve them better than you would
do us when we come for dinner.

97

00:05:04,870 --> 00:05:09,070

And this man, he said
he couldn't care less

98

00:05:09,070 --> 00:05:11,910

how they felt about this thing.

99

00:05:11,910 --> 00:05:20,560

So my father also told
me of another incident--

100

00:05:20,560 --> 00:05:22,840

the place where he
had his business.

101

00:05:22,840 --> 00:05:28,030

There was a chocolate and
coffee store on the first level.

102

00:05:28,030 --> 00:05:29,860

And my father would
go in, and this man

103

00:05:29,860 --> 00:05:31,930

would talk to him
about the shortages

104
00:05:31,930 --> 00:05:34,480
and how the Nazis were
ruining everything.

105
00:05:34,480 --> 00:05:37,270
And while they were there,
a woman enters the store

106
00:05:37,270 --> 00:05:40,420
and says, Heil Hitler, and
he answers, Heil Hitler.

107
00:05:40,420 --> 00:05:43,240
And she says, I'd like to
have a pound of coffee.

108
00:05:43,240 --> 00:05:46,750
And he says, I'm sorry,
but with the shortages,

109
00:05:46,750 --> 00:05:48,310
we don't have any coffee.

110
00:05:48,310 --> 00:05:50,590
Heil Hitler, and she walked out.

111
00:05:50,590 --> 00:05:52,420
And then he says to my
father-- by the way,

112
00:05:52,420 --> 00:05:53,830
would you like some coffee?

113
00:05:53,830 --> 00:05:56,360
My father said, I don't
think my wife buys it.

114
00:05:56,360 --> 00:06:00,430
And he says, well, for
you, I have coffee.

115

00:06:00,430 --> 00:06:02,930
For her, I don't have coffee.

116
00:06:02,930 --> 00:06:06,430
So I'm not saying that
this was very prevalent,

117
00:06:06,430 --> 00:06:11,530
but it wasn't total.

118
00:06:11,530 --> 00:06:15,730
And these things,
of course, were

119
00:06:15,730 --> 00:06:20,710
isolated with a lot
of other experiences.

120
00:06:20,710 --> 00:06:29,340
You did run into hard times
and unfriendly responses.

121
00:06:29,340 --> 00:06:33,420
But I don't recall
specifically that they were

122
00:06:33,420 --> 00:06:38,070
in any way mistreated anywhere.

123
00:06:38,070 --> 00:06:41,120

124
00:06:41,120 --> 00:06:45,360
When your parents
came to this country,

125
00:06:45,360 --> 00:06:49,380
did they have any problems
adjusting to life in America?

126
00:06:49,380 --> 00:06:51,300
Very greatly.

127

00:06:51,300 --> 00:06:55,130

It's a strange thing, and
history repeats itself.

128

00:06:55,130 --> 00:06:59,250

I always had to remember
the story of the Israelites

129

00:06:59,250 --> 00:07:00,930

in the desert when
they complained

130

00:07:00,930 --> 00:07:02,580

to Moses, why
didn't you leave us

131

00:07:02,580 --> 00:07:04,660

with the flesh pots of Egypt?

132

00:07:04,660 --> 00:07:06,960

I had an experience with
my father one time--

133

00:07:06,960 --> 00:07:09,680

134

00:07:09,680 --> 00:07:11,510

maybe I'm getting
ahead of myself.

135

00:07:11,510 --> 00:07:14,880

Eventually, he opened a little
dry goods store with money

136

00:07:14,880 --> 00:07:17,630

he borrowed in a small
town not in Danville,

137

00:07:17,630 --> 00:07:19,460

about five miles away.

138

00:07:19,460 --> 00:07:20,840

He had to take two buses--

139
00:07:20,840 --> 00:07:22,290
we had no car.

140
00:07:22,290 --> 00:07:24,800
And it was very
difficult to get started.

141
00:07:24,800 --> 00:07:27,470
And the competition,
of course, was fierce.

142
00:07:27,470 --> 00:07:30,560
People would come on Saturday
to come to Danville and shop,

143
00:07:30,560 --> 00:07:32,330
and he would see
them go past, and he

144
00:07:32,330 --> 00:07:34,280
would take very little money.

145
00:07:34,280 --> 00:07:36,860
Well, one time I came home
from work in the evening--

146
00:07:36,860 --> 00:07:39,560
and usually Saturday
night it was--

147
00:07:39,560 --> 00:07:41,440
that was the busy day.

148
00:07:41,440 --> 00:07:44,600
And I'd come home dead tired
at 9 o'clock in the evening,

149
00:07:44,600 --> 00:07:49,530
and I would have a bite to
eat and talk to my parents.

150

00:07:49,530 --> 00:07:50,603

My father wasn't there.

151

00:07:50,603 --> 00:07:51,520

I said, what happened?

152

00:07:51,520 --> 00:07:52,850

Where's father?

153

00:07:52,850 --> 00:07:54,140

He's upstairs in bed.

154

00:07:54,140 --> 00:07:55,420

Go up and see him.

155

00:07:55,420 --> 00:07:57,200

I went up, I said, what's wrong?

156

00:07:57,200 --> 00:08:00,690

He was in bed staring
stonily at the ceiling.

157

00:08:00,690 --> 00:08:02,520

I said, what happened?

158

00:08:02,520 --> 00:08:08,380

He says, I was there all day
long from 9:00 in the morning

159

00:08:08,380 --> 00:08:09,790

till 6:00 in the afternoon.

160

00:08:09,790 --> 00:08:12,400

How much money do
you think I took in?

161

00:08:12,400 --> 00:08:14,860

I said, I don't have
the slightest idea.

162

00:08:14,860 --> 00:08:19,000

Takes a \$0.50 piece from
the table, says, \$0.50.

163
00:08:19,000 --> 00:08:21,460
That's all I take in.

164
00:08:21,460 --> 00:08:25,330
Monday, I'm going to go back to
the guy who lent me the money,

165
00:08:25,330 --> 00:08:27,850
and I'll throw the key
at his feet and say,

166
00:08:27,850 --> 00:08:29,170
I don't want to do business.

167
00:08:29,170 --> 00:08:31,010
You can't do business anymore.

168
00:08:31,010 --> 00:08:32,270
This is a terrible place.

169
00:08:32,270 --> 00:08:35,059
I should have stayed in Germany.

170
00:08:35,059 --> 00:08:37,140
I said, what?

171
00:08:37,140 --> 00:08:41,220
I said, you didn't have
enough from Dachau,

172
00:08:41,220 --> 00:08:42,809
you want to be back there?

173
00:08:42,809 --> 00:08:45,960
Well, he was in no mood
to argue at the time.

174
00:08:45,960 --> 00:08:48,210
Of course, he didn't

really believe it,

175

00:08:48,210 --> 00:08:54,270

but it was difficult. My
parents tended to speak German,

176

00:08:54,270 --> 00:08:56,475

and I told them, here
we speak English.

177

00:08:56,475 --> 00:08:59,410

178

00:08:59,410 --> 00:09:01,540

My mother always
made comparisons-- it

179

00:09:01,540 --> 00:09:04,450

became laughable after a while.

180

00:09:04,450 --> 00:09:06,250

My mother would
buy blueberries--

181

00:09:06,250 --> 00:09:09,880

and the blueberries here are
big and they're white inside--

182

00:09:09,880 --> 00:09:12,640

in Germany, they
were blue inside.

183

00:09:12,640 --> 00:09:15,340

So I made up a little
song about how much

184

00:09:15,340 --> 00:09:18,000

better everything
in Germany was--

185

00:09:18,000 --> 00:09:19,810

that even the
blueberries are blue

186
00:09:19,810 --> 00:09:21,790
all the way through and so on.

187
00:09:21,790 --> 00:09:25,360
It was very difficult, but
they did make an effort.

188
00:09:25,360 --> 00:09:27,720
They did make an effort.

189
00:09:27,720 --> 00:09:32,530
And eventually, I think
they felt at home.

190
00:09:32,530 --> 00:09:36,430
But it was difficult for
them, because for my mother,

191
00:09:36,430 --> 00:09:37,750
time stood still.

192
00:09:37,750 --> 00:09:40,910
And I used to tell her,
look, if you went back today,

193
00:09:40,910 --> 00:09:43,660
you wouldn't recognize
it, because it's not

194
00:09:43,660 --> 00:09:47,140
only the place, it's the time.

195
00:09:47,140 --> 00:09:50,860
First time I went back to
Germany on business in 1952

196
00:09:50,860 --> 00:09:55,120
and I told my parents what
had changed in this city,

197
00:09:55,120 --> 00:09:57,290

I said, you wouldn't
recognize it anymore.

198
00:09:57,290 --> 00:09:59,890
It's not the place
that you left.

199
00:09:59,890 --> 00:10:04,450
So she always used to say,
everything's so different here.

200
00:10:04,450 --> 00:10:07,090
I said, it's different
over there too now.

201
00:10:07,090 --> 00:10:09,880
It's changed.

202
00:10:09,880 --> 00:10:11,880
Let's go back to 1939.

203
00:10:11,880 --> 00:10:14,420
Are you running
ahead of me a bit.

204
00:10:14,420 --> 00:10:19,400
Tell me about September 1939--

205
00:10:19,400 --> 00:10:23,840
where you were and what you
heard about the Nazi invasion

206
00:10:23,840 --> 00:10:24,510
of Poland.

207
00:10:24,510 --> 00:10:26,270
Oh, well, of course
at that time,

208
00:10:26,270 --> 00:10:30,940
I listened to the radio
and I read the paper.

209

00:10:30,940 --> 00:10:33,320

The Danville paper was
a pretty lousy paper,

210

00:10:33,320 --> 00:10:39,320

but we had the Chicago
Tribune and so on.

211

00:10:39,320 --> 00:10:42,320

And of course, you went to the
movies, you saw the newsreel,

212

00:10:42,320 --> 00:10:46,140

and so you saw what was
going on at the time.

213

00:10:46,140 --> 00:10:48,890

And at that time,
we were pretty sure

214

00:10:48,890 --> 00:10:51,590

that there wasn't going
to be another Munich--

215

00:10:51,590 --> 00:10:55,460

that this time it was
going to break out.

216

00:10:55,460 --> 00:11:00,560

And in a way, we felt relieved
because finally, finally,

217

00:11:00,560 --> 00:11:03,590

somebody who had arms
and not just a voice

218

00:11:03,590 --> 00:11:07,940

was going to do something.

219

00:11:07,940 --> 00:11:12,670

What was the American
reaction to this news story?

220

00:11:12,670 --> 00:11:16,600

Well, the Middle West was
isolationist in outlook.

221

00:11:16,600 --> 00:11:23,140

So the outlook at the time was,
well, that's not our business.

222

00:11:23,140 --> 00:11:28,150

Let's just make sure that
we stay out of that war.

223

00:11:28,150 --> 00:11:31,380

Was that reaction surprising
to you in any way?

224

00:11:31,380 --> 00:11:35,040

Well, in a way, yes, except
I had encountered it.

225

00:11:35,040 --> 00:11:38,490

I knew that the people here
were concerned with America.

226

00:11:38,490 --> 00:11:41,020

And there were still economic
problems at the time.

227

00:11:41,020 --> 00:11:43,710

There was still a lot of
unemployment, and low wages,

228

00:11:43,710 --> 00:11:44,940

and so on.

229

00:11:44,940 --> 00:11:52,770

So I knew at that time what
the peoples feeling were.

230

00:11:52,770 --> 00:11:56,850

Tell me about your life in
Danville at the end of 1939

231

00:11:56,850 --> 00:12:02,190
and the beginning of the 1940s.

232

00:12:02,190 --> 00:12:05,010
The fact that at
16 I had to work

233

00:12:05,010 --> 00:12:09,960
didn't put me in touch
with young people.

234

00:12:09,960 --> 00:12:14,310
I worked six days
a week, and I still

235

00:12:14,310 --> 00:12:17,070
had to take lessons
for quite a while--

236

00:12:17,070 --> 00:12:18,690
two or three nights a week.

237

00:12:18,690 --> 00:12:21,590
And I was supposed
to do homework too.

238

00:12:21,590 --> 00:12:24,990
And Saturday, the day when
most young people have free,

239

00:12:24,990 --> 00:12:27,400
that was the day in which
I worked the longest,

240

00:12:27,400 --> 00:12:29,620
and I was dead tired
in the evening.

241

00:12:29,620 --> 00:12:33,210
So I had very little contact
with people of my own age

242

00:12:33,210 --> 00:12:35,520
at that particular time.

243
00:12:35,520 --> 00:12:37,590
There were Jewish
people living there,

244
00:12:37,590 --> 00:12:39,510
and they had children my age.

245
00:12:39,510 --> 00:12:43,860
But I was at that
time rather shy.

246
00:12:43,860 --> 00:12:46,710
I would never go out
and call up a girl

247
00:12:46,710 --> 00:12:48,480
or ask somebody to go out.

248
00:12:48,480 --> 00:12:51,240
If they asked me, that was fine.

249
00:12:51,240 --> 00:12:55,690
But the fact that I had no
money, and the Jews in Danville

250
00:12:55,690 --> 00:12:59,280
very relatively
better off, I always

251
00:12:59,280 --> 00:13:03,720
felt like I was
the poor relative.

252
00:13:03,720 --> 00:13:07,080
And the people I met
at the store, well,

253
00:13:07,080 --> 00:13:11,990
they were nice people, but
they didn't have my interests.

254
00:13:11,990 --> 00:13:14,910
Usually I had one or two
friends, but what can

255
00:13:14,910 --> 00:13:16,110
you do in Danville?

256
00:13:16,110 --> 00:13:23,380
I went to the movies, listened
to the radio, not an awful lot.

257
00:13:23,380 --> 00:13:28,410
Now, in 1940, I was contacted
by some of the young people.

258
00:13:28,410 --> 00:13:32,410
I found out there was a Jewish
youth group, which I joined.

259
00:13:32,410 --> 00:13:34,420
And so I had a
little more contact

260
00:13:34,420 --> 00:13:40,700
then with the local people,
which helped me a great deal.

261
00:13:40,700 --> 00:13:45,520
But I always felt that
I came from a big city,

262
00:13:45,520 --> 00:13:46,870
an interesting area.

263
00:13:46,870 --> 00:13:50,720
And here it's all flat
land and cornfields.

264
00:13:50,720 --> 00:13:57,950
And so I never really
particularly liked

265
00:13:57,950 --> 00:13:58,740
living there.

266
00:13:58,740 --> 00:14:03,720

267
00:14:03,720 --> 00:14:05,730
You followed the war news.

268
00:14:05,730 --> 00:14:08,820
Oh, yes, assiduously, always.

269
00:14:08,820 --> 00:14:12,900
Tell me about your reaction
to the Nazi invasion

270
00:14:12,900 --> 00:14:16,470
of Soviet Russia.

271
00:14:16,470 --> 00:14:20,520
Well, I had mixed
reactions at the time,

272
00:14:20,520 --> 00:14:23,910
because after all, the
year before, the arch enemy

273
00:14:23,910 --> 00:14:29,100
of Hitler, Stalin, had
signed a non-aggression pact

274
00:14:29,100 --> 00:14:31,140
with the Russians.

275
00:14:31,140 --> 00:14:34,635
And incidentally, I remember
one guy in Danville,

276
00:14:34,635 --> 00:14:37,440
a Jewish tailor who
was a communist--

277

00:14:37,440 --> 00:14:42,870
and I couldn't wait when they
signed that Hitler-Stalin pact

278

00:14:42,870 --> 00:14:45,030
when he came into the
store to look for goods,

279

00:14:45,030 --> 00:14:49,560
I said, well, what do you say
now about your friends making

280

00:14:49,560 --> 00:14:50,940
friends with the Nazis?

281

00:14:50,940 --> 00:14:53,380
He was somewhat
embarrassed about it.

282

00:14:53,380 --> 00:14:57,090
But still, I figured, well, if
he attacked the Soviet Union,

283

00:14:57,090 --> 00:15:01,920
then here's a powerful enemy.

284

00:15:01,920 --> 00:15:06,990
And up to that point to 1941,
the Nazis had had it their way.

285

00:15:06,990 --> 00:15:09,770
They overran everything
they invaded,

286

00:15:09,770 --> 00:15:12,030
and it looked like
there was no stopping.

287

00:15:12,030 --> 00:15:15,600
And here's this vaunted
huge Red Army, of which

288

00:15:15,600 --> 00:15:17,070
they were so deadly afraid.

289
00:15:17,070 --> 00:15:19,800
Maybe now he's
bitten off too much.

290
00:15:19,800 --> 00:15:24,060
But of course, the first few
weeks were very disconcerting

291
00:15:24,060 --> 00:15:27,120
when the Nazis advanced,
took hundreds of thousands

292
00:15:27,120 --> 00:15:29,910
of prisoners, and it
looked like Russia

293
00:15:29,910 --> 00:15:36,000
was going the way of
Belgium, and France, and all

294
00:15:36,000 --> 00:15:39,420
the other countries
that were invaded.

295
00:15:39,420 --> 00:15:42,550
Pearl Harbor--
your recollection.

296
00:15:42,550 --> 00:15:43,050
Yes.

297
00:15:43,050 --> 00:15:46,740
Well, of course, everybody
who lived at a given time

298
00:15:46,740 --> 00:15:47,710
will remember.

299
00:15:47,710 --> 00:15:48,990
And it was a Sunday.

300
00:15:48,990 --> 00:15:50,580
We were having dinner.

301
00:15:50,580 --> 00:15:52,470
I was waiting to
listen to the concert

302
00:15:52,470 --> 00:15:56,610
by the New York Philharmonic
when the broadcast was

303
00:15:56,610 --> 00:15:59,470
interrupted with a
very stark announcement

304
00:15:59,470 --> 00:16:04,020
that unidentified planes
had attacked Pearl Harbor,

305
00:16:04,020 --> 00:16:07,180
and there was nothing
further at the time.

306
00:16:07,180 --> 00:16:10,500
So this, of course,
brought it home--

307
00:16:10,500 --> 00:16:14,940
now we're in it for sure,
and for god knows how long.

308
00:16:14,940 --> 00:16:20,740

309
00:16:20,740 --> 00:16:22,330
Did you see service
in the military?

310
00:16:22,330 --> 00:16:23,840
Yes.

311

00:16:23,840 --> 00:16:32,680
Yes, I received a draft
notice in August of 1942

312
00:16:32,680 --> 00:16:38,230
and was making arrangements
to leave when I suddenly

313
00:16:38,230 --> 00:16:42,630
got a recall of the draft notice
and to come to the draft board.

314
00:16:42,630 --> 00:16:44,620
Why?

315
00:16:44,620 --> 00:16:47,770
Well, we just discovered
you're an enemy alien.

316
00:16:47,770 --> 00:16:51,550
You have to sign a certain
form, and this is a small town,

317
00:16:51,550 --> 00:16:58,940
we don't have it, so we'll let
when you will be called up.

318
00:16:58,940 --> 00:17:01,870
Now, one of the things
that really griped me--

319
00:17:01,870 --> 00:17:07,030
here I was an enemy alien,
and I couldn't leave town

320
00:17:07,030 --> 00:17:10,089
without permission of
the state's attorney

321
00:17:10,089 --> 00:17:12,730
and let him know where
I go and when I go.

322

00:17:12,730 --> 00:17:15,910
And so I really bridled at that.

323
00:17:15,910 --> 00:17:18,430
And so I was pretty
much locked in--

324
00:17:18,430 --> 00:17:22,089
I could do some traveling, but
I always had to get permission.

325
00:17:22,089 --> 00:17:23,920
And they never
contacted me again.

326
00:17:23,920 --> 00:17:26,500
So I wrote to them and I
said, what's the matter now?

327
00:17:26,500 --> 00:17:28,870
Don't you want me or what?

328
00:17:28,870 --> 00:17:31,870
So very promptly then,
the form had arrived,

329
00:17:31,870 --> 00:17:34,360
and I got another draft notice.

330
00:17:34,360 --> 00:17:40,690
And one year after Pearl
Harbor, on December 7, 1942,

331
00:17:40,690 --> 00:17:45,880
I left for the reception center
at that time of Scott Field,

332
00:17:45,880 --> 00:17:47,530
Illinois, near St. Louis.

333
00:17:47,530 --> 00:17:51,750

334

00:17:51,750 --> 00:17:54,360
In what capacity did you serve?

335

00:17:54,360 --> 00:17:56,640
Well, of course, I was
drafted into the army.

336

00:17:56,640 --> 00:17:59,070
At that time, you couldn't
even volunteer anymore

337

00:17:59,070 --> 00:18:01,550
if you wanted to,
because everyone

338

00:18:01,550 --> 00:18:03,820
was subject to the draft.

339

00:18:03,820 --> 00:18:06,690
I was drafted into the army.

340

00:18:06,690 --> 00:18:13,300
And in the beginning, they were
very anxious to have linguists.

341

00:18:13,300 --> 00:18:16,960
So anyone who had foreign
language knowledge-- not

342

00:18:16,960 --> 00:18:19,050
everybody, but a great
many of the people

343

00:18:19,050 --> 00:18:22,390
were pulled out from whatever
they had been assigned to

344

00:18:22,390 --> 00:18:26,380
and sent to the Military
Intelligence Training Center

345

00:18:26,380 --> 00:18:29,200

at Camp Ritchie,
Maryland for training

346
00:18:29,200 --> 00:18:33,160
to be a German interrogator.

347
00:18:33,160 --> 00:18:40,360
Interrogator in the language of
German with a mission of being

348
00:18:40,360 --> 00:18:44,740
formed into a team to be
attached to an American combat

349
00:18:44,740 --> 00:18:49,600
division to interrogate
newly-captured prisoners

350
00:18:49,600 --> 00:18:52,270
for tactical information
on the battlefield--

351
00:18:52,270 --> 00:18:53,560
that was my training.

352
00:18:53,560 --> 00:18:59,530

353
00:18:59,530 --> 00:19:02,200
Did you actually serve
in the European theater?

354
00:19:02,200 --> 00:19:04,930
No, I never went overseas.

355
00:19:04,930 --> 00:19:07,720
Very few of us were
pulled out and sent

356
00:19:07,720 --> 00:19:10,750
to a strategic
interrogation center

357

00:19:10,750 --> 00:19:15,550
at Fort Hunt, which was a
classified installation, South

358

00:19:15,550 --> 00:19:18,010
of Alexandria.

359

00:19:18,010 --> 00:19:21,790
It was what you would call
the day a combined services

360

00:19:21,790 --> 00:19:23,020
interrogation center.

361

00:19:23,020 --> 00:19:25,960
Was used by Army, and
Navy, and by the British

362

00:19:25,960 --> 00:19:32,700
as well to interrogate prisoners
who had strategic information.

363

00:19:32,700 --> 00:19:37,467
And that included all
captured submarine personnel--

364

00:19:37,467 --> 00:19:39,550
and there were many of
them who were brought there

365

00:19:39,550 --> 00:19:45,370
for interrogation about
technological developments,

366

00:19:45,370 --> 00:19:47,140
naval order of battle.

367

00:19:47,140 --> 00:19:50,500
And then, of course, there also
was interrogation primarily

368

00:19:50,500 --> 00:19:56,380

for main strategic targets--

369

00:19:56,380 --> 00:19:58,390

ball-bearing,
petroleum, and rubber

370

00:19:58,390 --> 00:20:00,550

were the most
strategic material.

371

00:20:00,550 --> 00:20:02,800

But anyone who had
knowledge about the workings

372

00:20:02,800 --> 00:20:06,040

of the government, or
the propaganda machinery,

373

00:20:06,040 --> 00:20:08,710

or anything, they were
brought to that center

374

00:20:08,710 --> 00:20:13,210

and interrogated by Army
or Navy interrogators.

375

00:20:13,210 --> 00:20:15,350

Including you?

376

00:20:15,350 --> 00:20:15,850

Yes.

377

00:20:15,850 --> 00:20:19,000

Actually, I didn't do
much interrogation.

378

00:20:19,000 --> 00:20:21,910

There was something else
that was going on there,

379

00:20:21,910 --> 00:20:25,820

and that is they had
bugged all the rooms.

380
00:20:25,820 --> 00:20:29,800
And so we sat with
earphones on our ears

381
00:20:29,800 --> 00:20:31,400
to listen to prisoners.

382
00:20:31,400 --> 00:20:34,310
There were always two,
sometimes three in the room.

383
00:20:34,310 --> 00:20:37,480
And some of the prisoners
were turned around

384
00:20:37,480 --> 00:20:42,460
and became stool pigeons who
were made to entice information

385
00:20:42,460 --> 00:20:45,040
from these people.

386
00:20:45,040 --> 00:20:48,940
Then important information
was transcribed and used.

387
00:20:48,940 --> 00:20:52,330
I don't know how
good the stuff was.

388
00:20:52,330 --> 00:20:56,470
We found out from a book that
was written after the war, when

389
00:20:56,470 --> 00:20:59,410
information became
available under the Freedom

390
00:20:59,410 --> 00:21:02,470
of Information Act-- because
this data was classified,

391

00:21:02,470 --> 00:21:04,150
and we were made to
sign we would never

392

00:21:04,150 --> 00:21:07,450
talk about what went on there
because the British found

393

00:21:07,450 --> 00:21:10,030
after World War I
that people talked

394

00:21:10,030 --> 00:21:13,690
and that helped the
Germans in World War II.

395

00:21:13,690 --> 00:21:18,640
But anyway, there's a book,
The [GERMAN] Escape is the name

396

00:21:18,640 --> 00:21:21,340
of it, which was
written by an American--

397

00:21:21,340 --> 00:21:25,960
that the Navy personnel
did spot the microphones

398

00:21:25,960 --> 00:21:29,350
under the ceiling by
the third round there

399

00:21:29,350 --> 00:21:31,640
and got coded letters
back to Germany

400

00:21:31,640 --> 00:21:34,540
so that people who
arrived there knew what

401

00:21:34,540 --> 00:21:36,220
was going on at that center.

402

00:21:36,220 --> 00:21:41,080

And so I don't know.

403

00:21:41,080 --> 00:21:43,240

I guess the
interrogation yielded

404

00:21:43,240 --> 00:21:49,380

important material, but not
the listening, I don't believe.

405

00:21:49,380 --> 00:21:51,400

Did you experience
any anti-Semitism

406

00:21:51,400 --> 00:21:55,070

or any anti-foreign sentiment?

407

00:21:55,070 --> 00:21:57,940

Well, the only thing I remember
that once during the war,

408

00:21:57,940 --> 00:22:01,670

I was going somewhere, and
I was on a railway train,

409

00:22:01,670 --> 00:22:03,560

and I stood on the
platform while the train

410

00:22:03,560 --> 00:22:05,420

was halted at a station.

411

00:22:05,420 --> 00:22:10,410

And I heard a couple of
people talking to each other,

412

00:22:10,410 --> 00:22:12,020

making anti-Semitic remarks.

413

00:22:12,020 --> 00:22:13,970

And I was boiling,

and I was considering,

414
00:22:13,970 --> 00:22:17,070
should I punch them in
the nose for doing that?

415
00:22:17,070 --> 00:22:20,330
But of course, I would have
been court martialed for it.

416
00:22:20,330 --> 00:22:22,100
And these people
were, at that time,

417
00:22:22,100 --> 00:22:27,020
I guess, just making use of
their First Amendment rights.

418
00:22:27,020 --> 00:22:33,080
Strangely, at work at Fort Hunt,
the only anti-Semitic remarks

419
00:22:33,080 --> 00:22:37,400
I heard was made by two
American officers who

420
00:22:37,400 --> 00:22:43,160
were called in because they
had been attaches in Berlin,

421
00:22:43,160 --> 00:22:46,280
and one of our prisoners
was a German officer

422
00:22:46,280 --> 00:22:48,680
who was being interrogated
at that center.

423
00:22:48,680 --> 00:22:52,940
And I guess they thought maybe
that these two colonels could

424
00:22:52,940 --> 00:22:56,690

get some information from him.

425

00:22:56,690 --> 00:23:04,190

But they held conversations in
which these officers lambasted

426

00:23:04,190 --> 00:23:08,960

Roosevelt and I guess also
made some anti-Semitic remarks.

427

00:23:08,960 --> 00:23:13,860

I remember their names, but I'm
not going to mention them now.

428

00:23:13,860 --> 00:23:16,480

Did you have citizenship
during the war?

429

00:23:16,480 --> 00:23:17,560

I applied.

430

00:23:17,560 --> 00:23:20,230

I was eligible
before I was drafted.

431

00:23:20,230 --> 00:23:23,610

But actually, by
being in the Army,

432

00:23:23,610 --> 00:23:27,040

you qualify a little
earlier than you would.

433

00:23:27,040 --> 00:23:28,480

You don't have to
wait five years.

434

00:23:28,480 --> 00:23:30,970

But since I was
drafted at such a time,

435

00:23:30,970 --> 00:23:33,730

my citizenship was actually

delayed a little bit.

436
00:23:33,730 --> 00:23:38,460
And I did become a
citizen in May of 1943

437
00:23:38,460 --> 00:23:41,820
at Hagerstown, Maryland while I
was stationed in Camp Ritchie--

438
00:23:41,820 --> 00:23:45,320
Fort Ritchie now.

439
00:23:45,320 --> 00:23:46,820
What did you know
about the way Jews

440
00:23:46,820 --> 00:23:50,240
were being treated in
Nazi-occupied Europe

441
00:23:50,240 --> 00:23:52,430
during the war years?

442
00:23:52,430 --> 00:23:58,700
Well, during the war years,
of course, news came back.

443
00:23:58,700 --> 00:24:04,020
Now, my parents subscribed to
a German refugee newspaper,

444
00:24:04,020 --> 00:24:08,990
Aufbau which is still
published in New York.

445
00:24:08,990 --> 00:24:11,120
It's really a fine publication.

446
00:24:11,120 --> 00:24:13,010
They had renowned writers.

447

00:24:13,010 --> 00:24:15,680
They were not noisy,
anti-Nazi propagandists--

448
00:24:15,680 --> 00:24:17,480
they were very factual.

449
00:24:17,480 --> 00:24:20,040
And they carried a tremendous
amount of information.

450
00:24:20,040 --> 00:24:23,870
And of course reading
that, you read whenever

451
00:24:23,870 --> 00:24:25,890
something became available.

452
00:24:25,890 --> 00:24:27,430
So you knew what was going on--

453
00:24:27,430 --> 00:24:31,940
not the total scope of
it, but you knew enough

454
00:24:31,940 --> 00:24:34,370
that people were being
killed wholesale, that they

455
00:24:34,370 --> 00:24:36,110
were being deported.

456
00:24:36,110 --> 00:24:40,910
In fact, I have a
postcard upstairs

457
00:24:40,910 --> 00:24:46,010
that my mother
received in 1940 or '41

458
00:24:46,010 --> 00:24:48,830
from a woman she didn't
know in Frankfurt

459

00:24:48,830 --> 00:24:52,790

who wrote to my mother
that she has been asked

460

00:24:52,790 --> 00:24:57,740

by her neighbor, Mr.
Sternberg, to let my mother

461

00:24:57,740 --> 00:25:01,640

know that they are going to
go on a trip now for a while,

462

00:25:01,640 --> 00:25:04,040

so they won't be
able to communicate.

463

00:25:04,040 --> 00:25:06,290

But when they arrive
to where they're going,

464

00:25:06,290 --> 00:25:08,030

she will get in touch again.

465

00:25:08,030 --> 00:25:11,120

And that was, of course,
when my uncle and aunt were

466

00:25:11,120 --> 00:25:13,490

being deported from Frankfurt.

467

00:25:13,490 --> 00:25:16,100

468

00:25:16,100 --> 00:25:19,680

They were being deported
to Lodz in Poland.

469

00:25:19,680 --> 00:25:21,710

And my mother wrote to them.

470

00:25:21,710 --> 00:25:25,550

I don't know whether they
ever received any answer.

471
00:25:25,550 --> 00:25:28,010
And my mother sent
food packages,

472
00:25:28,010 --> 00:25:30,800
which were signed
for not by them

473
00:25:30,800 --> 00:25:34,430
but, by someone in the camp
as receipt of the package.

474
00:25:34,430 --> 00:25:37,280
And then, of course,
after we got in the war,

475
00:25:37,280 --> 00:25:39,990
we didn't have any news anymore.

476
00:25:39,990 --> 00:25:45,200
And they were
undoubtedly gassed,

477
00:25:45,200 --> 00:25:49,520
because the Germans themselves
said that they were disappeared

478
00:25:49,520 --> 00:25:54,530
in the East, which means they
weren't put in a labor camp

479
00:25:54,530 --> 00:25:56,260
where they worked
and died there,

480
00:25:56,260 --> 00:25:57,635
but they were
immediately gassed.

481
00:25:57,635 --> 00:26:02,013

482
00:26:02,013 --> 00:26:03,930
Is there anything else
that comes to your mind

483
00:26:03,930 --> 00:26:05,910
that you want to
talk about regarding

484
00:26:05,910 --> 00:26:09,210
the war years and your
service in this country?

485
00:26:09,210 --> 00:26:13,470
Being in the army, we
received a lot of information

486
00:26:13,470 --> 00:26:16,140
through intelligence.

487
00:26:16,140 --> 00:26:19,860
We knew that what the
Nazis were building,

488
00:26:19,860 --> 00:26:22,350
that they were building
in Peenemunde, that they

489
00:26:22,350 --> 00:26:24,730
were doing rocket research.

490
00:26:24,730 --> 00:26:30,480
And so they were also
active in nuclear research.

491
00:26:30,480 --> 00:26:32,610
And that, of course,
were subjects

492
00:26:32,610 --> 00:26:34,200
which we watched very closely.

493

00:26:34,200 --> 00:26:38,700

If anybody came in who knew
what the status of production

494

00:26:38,700 --> 00:26:42,600

and in Peenemunde was.

495

00:26:42,600 --> 00:26:45,630

And then also, we
were very interested

496

00:26:45,630 --> 00:26:49,110

in any kinds of developments
in submarines and aircraft

497

00:26:49,110 --> 00:26:49,740

production.

498

00:26:49,740 --> 00:26:56,420

And so from these
sources, I was informed

499

00:26:56,420 --> 00:26:58,130

as to what was going on.

500

00:26:58,130 --> 00:27:00,850

501

00:27:00,850 --> 00:27:04,080

Tell me about May 8, 1945--

502

00:27:04,080 --> 00:27:06,350

V-E Day.

503

00:27:06,350 --> 00:27:09,260

That was a great
holiday, because now it

504

00:27:09,260 --> 00:27:11,420

was over in Europe.

505

00:27:11,420 --> 00:27:13,910
And especially after
the Battle of the Bulge,

506
00:27:13,910 --> 00:27:17,330
when we all thought that
the war was just about over,

507
00:27:17,330 --> 00:27:20,120
and here comes this
terrible and very successful

508
00:27:20,120 --> 00:27:26,720
German counter-offensive, which
would add weeks to the war.

509
00:27:26,720 --> 00:27:32,810
But now in Europe, it's finally
over, but it's still just half

510
00:27:32,810 --> 00:27:33,440
a victory.

511
00:27:33,440 --> 00:27:36,280
Because although
for the Jews there

512
00:27:36,280 --> 00:27:39,280
is no further suffering,
for the American soldier,

513
00:27:39,280 --> 00:27:41,465
there is still Japan
and the Pacific.

514
00:27:41,465 --> 00:27:44,800

515
00:27:44,800 --> 00:27:47,920
After the war was
over in May in Europe,

516
00:27:47,920 --> 00:27:52,150

did you make any efforts to
find friends, or cousins,

517
00:27:52,150 --> 00:27:56,770
or other people that were
left behind in Germany?

518
00:27:56,770 --> 00:27:58,120
No, I didn't.

519
00:27:58,120 --> 00:28:00,430
There was no way of
doing this thing,

520
00:28:00,430 --> 00:28:04,630
because in the first few months,
there was no fraternization.

521
00:28:04,630 --> 00:28:08,500
And I was still in
the Army, so there

522
00:28:08,500 --> 00:28:12,370
wasn't very much we found out.

523
00:28:12,370 --> 00:28:15,220
I had relatives in
Europe-- in Italy,

524
00:28:15,220 --> 00:28:18,940
in Belgium, and in France.

525
00:28:18,940 --> 00:28:24,130
My one sister of my mother's and
her husband had gone to France,

526
00:28:24,130 --> 00:28:28,010
and we were in touch with
her until the war broke out

527
00:28:28,010 --> 00:28:31,420
in 1941.

528

00:28:31,420 --> 00:28:34,060
I don't know whether my mother
heard anything from them.

529

00:28:34,060 --> 00:28:37,410

530

00:28:37,410 --> 00:28:38,390
They were in Paris.

531

00:28:38,390 --> 00:28:42,020
So that was the occupied area.

532

00:28:42,020 --> 00:28:44,750
I don't remember at this
point when my mother learned

533

00:28:44,750 --> 00:28:47,630
that that sister and
her husband as well were

534

00:28:47,630 --> 00:28:52,110
deported to Auschwitz.

535

00:28:52,110 --> 00:28:53,990
My cousin in Italy we had--

536

00:28:53,990 --> 00:28:56,580
well, that was
enemy territory too,

537

00:28:56,580 --> 00:28:59,520
so we didn't hear
anything from her.

538

00:28:59,520 --> 00:29:02,690
And another cousin who
had been in Belgium,

539

00:29:02,690 --> 00:29:05,250
we learned then
that he had somehow

540
00:29:05,250 --> 00:29:07,500
been able to get to
Switzerland where he was

541
00:29:07,500 --> 00:29:10,330
interned and survived the war.

542
00:29:10,330 --> 00:29:13,780
On my father's side, my
immediate family members

543
00:29:13,780 --> 00:29:19,820
all were able to emigrate.

544
00:29:19,820 --> 00:29:24,810
How was the news of the genocide
covered in American press?

545
00:29:24,810 --> 00:29:27,720

546
00:29:27,720 --> 00:29:38,000
It became known fairly early on.

547
00:29:38,000 --> 00:29:47,450
I really don't recall too
much in detail about it.

548
00:29:47,450 --> 00:29:50,480
Once the war was over,
of course, you heard it.

549
00:29:50,480 --> 00:29:55,390
And in the beginning, there
were so many other things

550
00:29:55,390 --> 00:29:57,640
that you were preoccupied with--

551
00:29:57,640 --> 00:29:59,200
the end of the war.

552
00:29:59,200 --> 00:30:05,440
And organizations weren't set
up where you could readily

553
00:30:05,440 --> 00:30:06,340
make inquiries.

554
00:30:06,340 --> 00:30:08,530
I'm sure my parents
who at that time

555
00:30:08,530 --> 00:30:12,880
lived in Danville, where as
I was here in Washington,

556
00:30:12,880 --> 00:30:20,590
I'm sure whatever possibilities
there were to find out,

557
00:30:20,590 --> 00:30:21,430
my parents did.

558
00:30:21,430 --> 00:30:22,930
Oh, I forgot one thing--

559
00:30:22,930 --> 00:30:27,430
one sister and brother-in-law of
my mother's lived in Brussels.

560
00:30:27,430 --> 00:30:30,550
And they were the
closest to my parents.

561
00:30:30,550 --> 00:30:32,800
And I'm sure that my
parents immediately

562
00:30:32,800 --> 00:30:35,350
tried to find out
what happened to them.

563

00:30:35,350 --> 00:30:40,030
As it happened, they did
survive the war in Belgium.

564
00:30:40,030 --> 00:30:42,560

565
00:30:42,560 --> 00:30:45,230
Did you follow the events
of the Nuremberg Trials?

566
00:30:45,230 --> 00:30:48,710
Well, somehow or other, I
didn't follow them that closely.

567
00:30:48,710 --> 00:30:53,210
I tried to get a job in the
Washington office of the war

568
00:30:53,210 --> 00:30:55,940
crimes commission.

569
00:30:55,940 --> 00:30:58,070
I didn't get the job.

570
00:30:58,070 --> 00:30:59,820
And then just two weeks--

571
00:30:59,820 --> 00:31:02,640
this was only a temporary
job anyway-- two weeks later,

572
00:31:02,640 --> 00:31:07,310
then I found a permanent job
that I held for a long time.

573
00:31:07,310 --> 00:31:08,450
I did follow it.

574
00:31:08,450 --> 00:31:14,120
As a matter of fact, after
the war, I worked at Ford Hunt

575

00:31:14,120 --> 00:31:14,810
for a while.

576

00:31:14,810 --> 00:31:16,970
They kept the operation going.

577

00:31:16,970 --> 00:31:19,880
And a lot of the work
that was being done there

578

00:31:19,880 --> 00:31:23,510
was to go through documents
that they had generated

579

00:31:23,510 --> 00:31:26,660
that were being transmitted
to Justice Jackson, who

580

00:31:26,660 --> 00:31:29,690
was the American representative
on the war crimes trial.

581

00:31:29,690 --> 00:31:34,100
So we did have some information
as to certain things

582

00:31:34,100 --> 00:31:39,010
that were being dealt
with at the time.

583

00:31:39,010 --> 00:31:41,560
How long did you
stay in the military?

584

00:31:41,560 --> 00:31:46,690
I was discharged
in February of '46.

585

00:31:46,690 --> 00:31:51,490
So I was in for a
little over three years.

586

00:31:51,490 --> 00:31:55,990
Tell me a little bit about your
post-war professional career.

587
00:31:55,990 --> 00:31:58,930
I liked what I was doing.

588
00:31:58,930 --> 00:32:00,760
I wasn't a good
businessman at all.

589
00:32:00,760 --> 00:32:03,900
I really didn't enjoy it,
and I wasn't good at it.

590
00:32:03,900 --> 00:32:06,680
But what to do-- now, by
that time, I was married.

591
00:32:06,680 --> 00:32:09,460
We got married and
in October '45.

592
00:32:09,460 --> 00:32:10,520
The war was over.

593
00:32:10,520 --> 00:32:14,860
My wife had come to Washington
as a government worker.

594
00:32:14,860 --> 00:32:17,830
And so when the war was
over, we got married.

595
00:32:17,830 --> 00:32:21,760
And I went back to work at
the last military installation

596
00:32:21,760 --> 00:32:25,660
where I was, and I really
didn't have too much of an idea.

597
00:32:25,660 --> 00:32:30,220

My education had been
greatly curtailed.

598
00:32:30,220 --> 00:32:34,330
It was incomplete.

599
00:32:34,330 --> 00:32:36,230
Business didn't appeal to me.

600
00:32:36,230 --> 00:32:38,500
And my wife says,
well, go to school

601
00:32:38,500 --> 00:32:40,750
under the GI Bill of Rights.

602
00:32:40,750 --> 00:32:45,010
Well, I'd taken care of
myself ever since I was 16,

603
00:32:45,010 --> 00:32:50,350
and I couldn't see to
earn my own living.

604
00:32:50,350 --> 00:32:52,620
So I figured, well, I'll
go to school at night.

605
00:32:52,620 --> 00:32:55,370

606
00:32:55,370 --> 00:32:59,700
The camp closed or was
transferred a short time later,

607
00:32:59,700 --> 00:33:02,580
and I found employment
as a technical translator

608
00:33:02,580 --> 00:33:04,650
for the Signal Corps.

609

00:33:04,650 --> 00:33:07,440
And that was moved too.

610
00:33:07,440 --> 00:33:10,770
So somebody suggested I go
to the Army map service.

611
00:33:10,770 --> 00:33:11,770
They used linguists.

612
00:33:11,770 --> 00:33:14,310
Well, I'm not a cartographer.

613
00:33:14,310 --> 00:33:17,850
I went out anyway, out
in the sticks in Maryland

614
00:33:17,850 --> 00:33:19,200
in Glen Echo.

615
00:33:19,200 --> 00:33:22,860
And to my surprise, I was
hired, because they didn't only

616
00:33:22,860 --> 00:33:26,550
do maps, they were also
doing intelligence work

617
00:33:26,550 --> 00:33:28,590
for the Corps of Engineers.

618
00:33:28,590 --> 00:33:32,490
And since I spoke German and
since they had captured a great

619
00:33:32,490 --> 00:33:39,000
deal of German documents, and
since intelligence was really

620
00:33:39,000 --> 00:33:41,520
a neglected field,
especially in the Army--

621

00:33:41,520 --> 00:33:45,240

the Navy did a little more,
the army did very little--

622

00:33:45,240 --> 00:33:47,880

and there was a
decision at the time.

623

00:33:47,880 --> 00:33:51,600

We've got to know more about
our potential enemies, which was

624

00:33:51,600 --> 00:33:53,790

at that time the Soviet Union.

625

00:33:53,790 --> 00:33:58,080

And since most of the documents
were in German, I was hired.

626

00:33:58,080 --> 00:34:01,830

But I didn't realize that this
was an up and coming career

627

00:34:01,830 --> 00:34:07,260

field that under the
National Security Act of 1947

628

00:34:07,260 --> 00:34:11,730

they had established the CIA
as a permanent institution,

629

00:34:11,730 --> 00:34:14,840

and also an
intelligence program--

630

00:34:14,840 --> 00:34:18,570

a coordinated intelligence
program in a career field.

631

00:34:18,570 --> 00:34:23,820

So I took an exam,
which was an elaboration

632
00:34:23,820 --> 00:34:25,230
of your experiences.

633
00:34:25,230 --> 00:34:28,110
And this is how I got
into the Civil Service.

634
00:34:28,110 --> 00:34:32,909
And I have worked on
intelligence ever since.

635
00:34:32,909 --> 00:34:34,500
I went to school at night.

636
00:34:34,500 --> 00:34:36,300
I went to GW University.

637
00:34:36,300 --> 00:34:37,870
I never finished.

638
00:34:37,870 --> 00:34:39,210
GW is George Washington.

639
00:34:39,210 --> 00:34:40,650
George Washington
University here

640
00:34:40,650 --> 00:34:44,500
in Washington for several
years taking courses,

641
00:34:44,500 --> 00:34:47,170
which I greatly
enjoyed, but which

642
00:34:47,170 --> 00:34:49,469
were also somewhat
of a drag-- working

643
00:34:49,469 --> 00:34:51,719
full-time taking courses.

644

00:34:51,719 --> 00:34:57,120

And then I also did translations
to make some extra money.

645

00:34:57,120 --> 00:35:01,140

But I found the
intelligence field something

646

00:35:01,140 --> 00:35:05,890

I was good, at something
which I enjoyed doing.

647

00:35:05,890 --> 00:35:09,030

And it also later formed
sort of the basis for my work

648

00:35:09,030 --> 00:35:12,180

in the Holocaust museum.

649

00:35:12,180 --> 00:35:15,300

What work do you do for
the Holocaust museum?

650

00:35:15,300 --> 00:35:19,840

My basic employment is
learning center specialist.

651

00:35:19,840 --> 00:35:25,980

The learning center is a bank of
20 interactive computers which

652

00:35:25,980 --> 00:35:31,020

have as their database the
four volumes of the MacMillan

653

00:35:31,020 --> 00:35:34,080

Encyclopedia of the Holocaust
plus additional data

654

00:35:34,080 --> 00:35:39,180

from the MacMillan Encyclopedia
of the Third Reich,

655

00:35:39,180 --> 00:35:41,250

eyewitness interviews
of survivors,

656

00:35:41,250 --> 00:35:45,120

music from and about the
period, and documentary films.

657

00:35:45,120 --> 00:35:49,440

And what I do is I
answer any questions

658

00:35:49,440 --> 00:35:51,540

that come up, other
than explaining

659

00:35:51,540 --> 00:35:53,370

how the system works.

660

00:35:53,370 --> 00:35:57,840

Very frequently, people ask
me substantive questions,

661

00:35:57,840 --> 00:36:00,280

or a question about what
we have in the system,

662

00:36:00,280 --> 00:36:02,280

and how to go about getting it.

663

00:36:02,280 --> 00:36:05,100

That's my basic
occupation, and then I'm

664

00:36:05,100 --> 00:36:09,090

also busy on the floor doing
whatever duties come up

665

00:36:09,090 --> 00:36:10,920

for the volunteers--

666

00:36:10,920 --> 00:36:11,990

working with the public.

667

00:36:11,990 --> 00:36:15,050

668

00:36:15,050 --> 00:36:18,080

What have you with your
background brought to this work

669

00:36:18,080 --> 00:36:19,250

that you do at the museum?

670

00:36:19,250 --> 00:36:21,450

Well, of course, a great deal--

671

00:36:21,450 --> 00:36:24,020

I have not mentioned
one thing that I also

672

00:36:24,020 --> 00:36:27,620

did in my variegated life.

673

00:36:27,620 --> 00:36:30,120

Again, with a very
little basic knowledge,

674

00:36:30,120 --> 00:36:32,120

when we joined the
congregation, they

675

00:36:32,120 --> 00:36:34,610

were looking for
religious school teachers.

676

00:36:34,610 --> 00:36:36,470

And since I had gone
to religious school

677

00:36:36,470 --> 00:36:40,430

myself and I was willing
to learn, they hired me.

678

00:36:40,430 --> 00:36:42,560
I kept one jump
ahead of the students

679
00:36:42,560 --> 00:36:44,260
by doing a lot of reading.

680
00:36:44,260 --> 00:36:48,170
And I eventually became
my own best student.

681
00:36:48,170 --> 00:36:52,130
And I taught religious
school for 14 years

682
00:36:52,130 --> 00:36:56,780
talking to young people,
addressing subjects

683
00:36:56,780 --> 00:36:59,000
and teaching them.

684
00:36:59,000 --> 00:37:00,830
In the field of
intelligence, I had

685
00:37:00,830 --> 00:37:06,010
to deliver briefings frequently
of military attaches,

686
00:37:06,010 --> 00:37:09,650
for example, going on
station or coming back,

687
00:37:09,650 --> 00:37:12,260
foreign visitors,
and things like that.

688
00:37:12,260 --> 00:37:18,890
And having had to keep up
with the political situation,

689
00:37:18,890 --> 00:37:24,860

the history, and the geography
on a fairly wide basis,

690
00:37:24,860 --> 00:37:30,560
I felt that in the museum I
could use all these skills.

691
00:37:30,560 --> 00:37:35,840
And I have found that
it comes in very handy.

692
00:37:35,840 --> 00:37:39,500
Some consider me a
walking encyclopedia.

693
00:37:39,500 --> 00:37:41,140
We have to pause
to flip the tape.

694
00:37:41,140 --> 00:37:41,640
One moment.

695
00:37:41,640 --> 00:37:49,580

696
00:37:49,580 --> 00:37:52,207
This is tape 2, side B. We
are interviewing William Hess.

697
00:37:52,207 --> 00:37:54,290
And you were just telling
me about being a walking

698
00:37:54,290 --> 00:37:55,740
encyclopedia.

699
00:37:55,740 --> 00:37:57,530
No, I never used
that expression,

700
00:37:57,530 --> 00:38:01,100
but that's what my
fellow workers tell me.

701
00:38:01,100 --> 00:38:03,050
And of course, speaking
German is helpful

702
00:38:03,050 --> 00:38:06,890
because we do get German
visitors who greatly appreciate

703
00:38:06,890 --> 00:38:09,410
to find someone when they
don't speak German so well

704
00:38:09,410 --> 00:38:10,580
themselves--

705
00:38:10,580 --> 00:38:14,510
to find someone who is
knowledgeable and who

706
00:38:14,510 --> 00:38:16,610
can talk to them
in their language.

707
00:38:16,610 --> 00:38:20,900
And I'm sure that that
has made friends for us.

708
00:38:20,900 --> 00:38:25,910
And I always felt at the museum
that especially Germans who

709
00:38:25,910 --> 00:38:29,810
come should have every
opportunity to see and hear

710
00:38:29,810 --> 00:38:34,880
as much as possible,
because it's vitally

711
00:38:34,880 --> 00:38:39,740
important for Germans to
know as much as they can

712
00:38:39,740 --> 00:38:40,555
about that period.

713
00:38:40,555 --> 00:38:44,980

714
00:38:44,980 --> 00:38:50,120
What have you gotten from
your volunteer experience?

715
00:38:50,120 --> 00:38:55,440
I get a great deal of
satisfaction from it.

716
00:38:55,440 --> 00:38:58,190
One of the duties
I occasionally draw

717
00:38:58,190 --> 00:39:03,380
is giving introductory talks to
young people who come-- well,

718
00:39:03,380 --> 00:39:04,970
actually, groups, any groups.

719
00:39:04,970 --> 00:39:08,340
But it's very frequently
high school students.

720
00:39:08,340 --> 00:39:11,720
I find that being a
survivor-- although I

721
00:39:11,720 --> 00:39:15,200
don't like to use that
term, because survivor

722
00:39:15,200 --> 00:39:21,200
conjures up thoughts of someone
who escaped or was in the camp.

723

00:39:21,200 --> 00:39:23,480
I never was in any real peril.

724
00:39:23,480 --> 00:39:27,470
But under the terms of the
museum, I'm a survivor.

725
00:39:27,470 --> 00:39:31,460
I can talk of some of
my personal experience,

726
00:39:31,460 --> 00:39:36,050
having lived in the period,
having kept up with it.

727
00:39:36,050 --> 00:39:38,670
There are not many people
left who can do it.

728
00:39:38,670 --> 00:39:42,260
So if I can teach especially
young people something

729
00:39:42,260 --> 00:39:43,460
firsthand--

730
00:39:43,460 --> 00:39:46,430
not out of a book,
but firsthand--

731
00:39:46,430 --> 00:39:51,460
or at least having
been alive at the time,

732
00:39:51,460 --> 00:39:56,170
that the lessons of the
Holocaust have truly not been

733
00:39:56,170 --> 00:39:57,580
learned.

734
00:39:57,580 --> 00:39:59,860
Every year, there

are new examples--

735
00:39:59,860 --> 00:40:03,730
but one that just ended
last year in a lot of areas

736
00:40:03,730 --> 00:40:07,360
like parts of East
Timor, which is

737
00:40:07,360 --> 00:40:09,010
hidden in the jungle
where people are

738
00:40:09,010 --> 00:40:13,510
being murdered all the time--

739
00:40:13,510 --> 00:40:15,280
all the generations
up until now,

740
00:40:15,280 --> 00:40:17,250
having failed to do
something about it.

741
00:40:17,250 --> 00:40:20,020
I always tell them
someday if you

742
00:40:20,020 --> 00:40:22,240
get into a leading position--

743
00:40:22,240 --> 00:40:23,940
and this can happen.

744
00:40:23,940 --> 00:40:25,810
We have Madeleine
Albright, and we have

745
00:40:25,810 --> 00:40:27,700
Henry Kissinger, and so on--

746

00:40:27,700 --> 00:40:30,670
maybe if you remember your
visit here at the museum

747
00:40:30,670 --> 00:40:34,060
and that which you have seen,
that you can make a difference

748
00:40:34,060 --> 00:40:38,980
and see to it that measures
can be taken on a global basis

749
00:40:38,980 --> 00:40:45,320
that this sort of thing
does not happen again.

750
00:40:45,320 --> 00:40:46,990
Do you speak publicly
outside the museum

751
00:40:46,990 --> 00:40:48,280
about your experiences?

752
00:40:48,280 --> 00:40:49,570
No.

753
00:40:49,570 --> 00:40:51,920
When I was in Danville,
as a matter of fact,

754
00:40:51,920 --> 00:40:54,160
I was occasionally
asked by the lions

755
00:40:54,160 --> 00:40:56,560
or some other organization--

756
00:40:56,560 --> 00:41:00,960
would I come in and talk about
my experiences in Germany?

757
00:41:00,960 --> 00:41:04,390
Now, that was, of course,

still the pre-war period.

758
00:41:04,390 --> 00:41:07,250
My father also was
asked, and he did.

759
00:41:07,250 --> 00:41:09,490
And so at that
time, yes, we tried

760
00:41:09,490 --> 00:41:12,760
to spread what word we could.

761
00:41:12,760 --> 00:41:14,410
Again there, we
had to be careful

762
00:41:14,410 --> 00:41:16,510
because my boss
thought that maybe

763
00:41:16,510 --> 00:41:20,920
that the customers would
like to have somebody here

764
00:41:20,920 --> 00:41:26,140
who is trying to maybe voice
any opinion that maybe we

765
00:41:26,140 --> 00:41:29,350
should get into the war
and help fight these Nazis.

766
00:41:29,350 --> 00:41:33,970
That wasn't very popular in
the late-'30s, and early-'40s--

767
00:41:33,970 --> 00:41:35,410
at least until Pearl Harbor.

768
00:41:35,410 --> 00:41:38,950

769

00:41:38,950 --> 00:41:42,220

I'd like you to think about
your volunteer experiences

770

00:41:42,220 --> 00:41:44,410

at the museum, and see
if there's anything you

771

00:41:44,410 --> 00:41:46,780

can share any special moments--

772

00:41:46,780 --> 00:41:52,670

meaningful experiences--
that you can share?

773

00:41:52,670 --> 00:41:54,730

Well, occasionally,
I meet people

774

00:41:54,730 --> 00:42:02,065

who come from Germany,
from my own area.

775

00:42:02,065 --> 00:42:04,890

A man came in one time--

776

00:42:04,890 --> 00:42:08,350

he was sent to see me, and
I talked in German to him.

777

00:42:08,350 --> 00:42:12,900

And I told him where I
had lived and where I

778

00:42:12,900 --> 00:42:14,620

had spent a vacation one time.

779

00:42:14,620 --> 00:42:16,750

And he just couldn't
get over it.

780

00:42:16,750 --> 00:42:19,720

Here's a man he
meets in Washington

781
00:42:19,720 --> 00:42:23,800
who knows their home, and
who has lived in Germany,

782
00:42:23,800 --> 00:42:27,400
and who speaks German
and can talk to him

783
00:42:27,400 --> 00:42:30,520
now about the Holocaust.

784
00:42:30,520 --> 00:42:34,300
This is always very gratifying--
or if you can help somebody

785
00:42:34,300 --> 00:42:36,730
to get into the museum.

786
00:42:36,730 --> 00:42:41,980
One time there was a man
who came in and asked where

787
00:42:41,980 --> 00:42:44,380
he could get a pass to go in.

788
00:42:44,380 --> 00:42:47,290
I said, well, they're
all given out today.

789
00:42:47,290 --> 00:42:49,090
He was German, I said,
where do you come?

790
00:42:49,090 --> 00:42:51,373
He was from Germany.

791
00:42:51,373 --> 00:42:52,540
He says, well, don't bother.

792

00:42:52,540 --> 00:42:54,940
If I can't get in, I
come here occasionally.

793
00:42:54,940 --> 00:42:56,350
I said, well, what do you do?

794
00:42:56,350 --> 00:42:58,180
I'm a member of parliament.

795
00:42:58,180 --> 00:43:00,550
I said, well, you're a
member of parliament,

796
00:43:00,550 --> 00:43:03,340
I've got to get you
in here somehow.

797
00:43:03,340 --> 00:43:06,640
So there's a way of
scrounging tickets,

798
00:43:06,640 --> 00:43:10,310
and so I scrounged a ticket,
and I gave it to him.

799
00:43:10,310 --> 00:43:12,800
And he was very,
very appreciative.

800
00:43:12,800 --> 00:43:14,470
I saw him again
when he came out,

801
00:43:14,470 --> 00:43:17,770
and he told me that
this is something

802
00:43:17,770 --> 00:43:18,850
that he'll never forget.

803
00:43:18,850 --> 00:43:21,040
And I thought, well, if a

member of the parliament

804
00:43:21,040 --> 00:43:25,810
comes back with these views--

805
00:43:25,810 --> 00:43:29,320
and one other thing,
of course, was

806
00:43:29,320 --> 00:43:33,610
we occasionally get survivors
who sign books or talk.

807
00:43:33,610 --> 00:43:36,310
And one of my
eyewitness interviews

808
00:43:36,310 --> 00:43:42,970
that I always like to use as an
example is that of Gerda Klein.

809
00:43:42,970 --> 00:43:51,230
And hers-- it's like
a fairy tale almost.

810
00:43:51,230 --> 00:43:54,770
In a way, I can't
compare it to myself,

811
00:43:54,770 --> 00:43:57,470
because I wasn't in
peril, and she was.

812
00:43:57,470 --> 00:44:00,380
But she got through
to it too where

813
00:44:00,380 --> 00:44:02,210
there were so many
instances where

814
00:44:02,210 --> 00:44:04,790
she could have been wiped out.

815
00:44:04,790 --> 00:44:07,850
She goes to a camp
that's run by a woman who

816
00:44:07,850 --> 00:44:10,910
looks like evil incarnate,
and yet this woman

817
00:44:10,910 --> 00:44:14,360
saved all the inmates.

818
00:44:14,360 --> 00:44:18,260
And finally, she's liberated
by a man she marries.

819
00:44:18,260 --> 00:44:21,520
And she lives in
this country now.

820
00:44:21,520 --> 00:44:27,110
That, I always think, is
one of the high points when

821
00:44:27,110 --> 00:44:30,590
you have experiences like that.

822
00:44:30,590 --> 00:44:32,360
Is your wife also a survivor?

823
00:44:32,360 --> 00:44:36,230
No, my wife was born
in this country.

824
00:44:36,230 --> 00:44:40,980

825
00:44:40,980 --> 00:44:42,810
Is there anything
you'd like to add?

826
00:44:42,810 --> 00:44:46,715

Anything that has come to
your mind before we conclude?

827
00:44:46,715 --> 00:44:48,340
Any final thoughts
that you might have?

828
00:44:48,340 --> 00:44:51,470

829
00:44:51,470 --> 00:44:53,090
Well, one of the things--

830
00:44:53,090 --> 00:44:55,370
I don't know if this
is going too far afield

831
00:44:55,370 --> 00:44:57,590
again-- it comes
up very frequently,

832
00:44:57,590 --> 00:45:04,820
you know, how Jews
in Germany felt.

833
00:45:04,820 --> 00:45:09,170
The German Jews, most
of whom had lived there

834
00:45:09,170 --> 00:45:12,020
for hundreds of years,
had always yearned

835
00:45:12,020 --> 00:45:14,000
to be full-fledged citizens.

836
00:45:14,000 --> 00:45:19,730
Finally, we reached that status
and became super patriots.

837
00:45:19,730 --> 00:45:25,700
They considered themselves
Germans who were Jewish,

838
00:45:25,700 --> 00:45:30,800
but primarily they were Germans.

839
00:45:30,800 --> 00:45:37,880
In World War I, they fought to
a slightly greater proportion

840
00:45:37,880 --> 00:45:42,110
in the situation in the army and
also died to a slightly greater

841
00:45:42,110 --> 00:45:42,890
proportion.

842
00:45:42,890 --> 00:45:45,780

843
00:45:45,780 --> 00:45:48,920
So when the Nazis
came, this was totally

844
00:45:48,920 --> 00:45:51,500
incomprehensible to them.

845
00:45:51,500 --> 00:45:53,270
They tried to reason with them.

846
00:45:53,270 --> 00:45:55,010
We are Germans like you are.

847
00:45:55,010 --> 00:45:56,210
We fought in the war.

848
00:45:56,210 --> 00:45:58,020
What do you want from us?

849
00:45:58,020 --> 00:46:02,760
They never understood that they
were dealing with a man who

850

00:46:02,760 --> 00:46:06,770
wasn't ignorant about all that.

851
00:46:06,770 --> 00:46:11,960
They were dealing with a
fanatic, ultra-nationalist,

852
00:46:11,960 --> 00:46:16,820
racist who had an idea of
purging Germany of everything

853
00:46:16,820 --> 00:46:20,090
that was not Germanic.

854
00:46:20,090 --> 00:46:24,350
And he had no use for those
people he couldn't re-educate.

855
00:46:24,350 --> 00:46:26,450
And of course, you
can't re-educate someone

856
00:46:26,450 --> 00:46:30,860
from out of their race.

857
00:46:30,860 --> 00:46:34,610
So this was the
viewpoint that they

858
00:46:34,610 --> 00:46:37,550
brought to this whole thing.

859
00:46:37,550 --> 00:46:46,580
And prior to the Hitler
period, most Jews--

860
00:46:46,580 --> 00:46:49,390
not all of them, but
a great many of them--

861
00:46:49,390 --> 00:46:52,180
lived a very good life there.

862

00:46:52,180 --> 00:46:54,910

And in many cases,
like my parents--

863

00:46:54,910 --> 00:46:57,430

my father was 55
when he came here--

864

00:46:57,430 --> 00:47:00,230

865

00:47:00,230 --> 00:47:07,010

out of those 55 years, 50 years
or more were very gratifying.

866

00:47:07,010 --> 00:47:08,930

He earned a good living.

867

00:47:08,930 --> 00:47:12,050

He had his roots there,
his family was there,

868

00:47:12,050 --> 00:47:14,510

and so he didn't want to let go.

869

00:47:14,510 --> 00:47:17,720

And I have since found
that even my generation,

870

00:47:17,720 --> 00:47:22,070

there is still an
attachment to your old home.

871

00:47:22,070 --> 00:47:27,020

In 1993, we were
invited to be guests

872

00:47:27,020 --> 00:47:29,660

of the city in the program
that had been going on

873

00:47:29,660 --> 00:47:34,190

and still goes on where
former citizens are invited.

874
00:47:34,190 --> 00:47:37,430
We were received by
the mayor at the time

875
00:47:37,430 --> 00:47:43,640
who was then Manfred Rommel,
the son of the famous field

876
00:47:43,640 --> 00:47:45,730
marshal.

877
00:47:45,730 --> 00:47:51,290
And they really tried to
make us feel, well, you

878
00:47:51,290 --> 00:47:53,840
belong to us-- in the
way even the rabbis

879
00:47:53,840 --> 00:47:56,720
spoke that while you're
gone, there is still

880
00:47:56,720 --> 00:47:59,000
part of your old home in you.

881
00:47:59,000 --> 00:48:01,490
And I find this is
true-- there is still

882
00:48:01,490 --> 00:48:06,340
a certain sentimental
attachment to it.

883
00:48:06,340 --> 00:48:08,405
It was part of your life.

884
00:48:08,405 --> 00:48:11,600

885

00:48:11,600 --> 00:48:19,070

I'm not angry at Germans today.

886

00:48:19,070 --> 00:48:22,880

Those who committed crimes,
of course, there is in my mind

887

00:48:22,880 --> 00:48:24,530

no forgiving them.

888

00:48:24,530 --> 00:48:28,950

You can't forgive something
that's done to other people,

889

00:48:28,950 --> 00:48:30,230

especially.

890

00:48:30,230 --> 00:48:37,230

But I feel that the
current country--

891

00:48:37,230 --> 00:48:39,450

I feel that a
democracy, which didn't

892

00:48:39,450 --> 00:48:44,280

exist before during the
Hitler period-- they

893

00:48:44,280 --> 00:48:45,360

weren't accustomed to it.

894

00:48:45,360 --> 00:48:48,180

They've had two
generations of it now.

895

00:48:48,180 --> 00:48:50,730

And of course, there's no
guarantee for anything,

896

00:48:50,730 --> 00:48:57,710

but I think there's a good

chance that Germany will remain

897

00:48:57,710 --> 00:49:01,430

not a hostile
environment, will be

898

00:49:01,430 --> 00:49:05,590

part of the family of nations.

899

00:49:05,590 --> 00:49:09,890

And when we visit
over there, which

900

00:49:09,890 --> 00:49:14,290

we have done since we have
a daughter over there,

901

00:49:14,290 --> 00:49:16,520

I have an open mind.

902

00:49:16,520 --> 00:49:19,760

Of course, when I talk
to somebody my own age

903

00:49:19,760 --> 00:49:22,670

and they ask me, how long
have you been in America?

904

00:49:22,670 --> 00:49:26,360

I can see the wheels turn
and I think, what were you

905

00:49:26,360 --> 00:49:28,860

doing at that particular time?

906

00:49:28,860 --> 00:49:34,880

And I know I've talked to people
who if this were 1933 or '34

907

00:49:34,880 --> 00:49:36,965

would kick me out
of their presence.

908

00:49:36,965 --> 00:49:40,400

909

00:49:40,400 --> 00:49:46,190

And I don't want to know
so much either of what they

910

00:49:46,190 --> 00:49:47,780

did at that particular time.

911

00:49:47,780 --> 00:49:52,090

If they talk to me, I'll
address what I think about it.

912

00:49:52,090 --> 00:49:55,850

But most of the people now,
the overwhelming majority,

913

00:49:55,850 --> 00:50:00,090

were either children or
weren't even born at that time.

914

00:50:00,090 --> 00:50:05,810

So when I was in
the army, I felt

915

00:50:05,810 --> 00:50:09,100

that I was an American soldier.

916

00:50:09,100 --> 00:50:14,630

I had been kicked out of there--
vilified, kicked out, deprived

917

00:50:14,630 --> 00:50:16,460

of my citizenship.

918

00:50:16,460 --> 00:50:22,040

Here, I was allowed to come in,
I was invited to participate,

919

00:50:22,040 --> 00:50:26,720

I was allowed to

participate in everything.

920
00:50:26,720 --> 00:50:31,410
And so I fought
for this country.

921
00:50:31,410 --> 00:50:32,510
And this is my home.

922
00:50:32,510 --> 00:50:36,620
I have no desire to go
back and live there.

923
00:50:36,620 --> 00:50:40,220
It's fine to visit,
but that's it.

924
00:50:40,220 --> 00:50:44,300

925
00:50:44,300 --> 00:50:45,000
Thank you.

926
00:50:45,000 --> 00:50:47,920
And that concludes our
conversation today.

927
00:50:47,920 --> 00:50:49,295