1 00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:05,310

2 00:00:05,310 --> 00:00:07,980 This is a continuation of the United States Holocaust

3 00:00:07,980 --> 00:00:11,190 Memorial Museum interview with Erwin Deutscher.

4 00:00:11,190 --> 00:00:15,870 This is tape number two, side A. And we had gotten up

5 00:00:15,870 --> 00:00:19,260 to this summer time of 1938.

6 00:00:19,260 --> 00:00:21,630 And you had already gone with your father

7
00:00:21,630 --> 00:00:28,230
to the Central Office of Jewish
Emigration and got your papers.

8 00:00:28,230 --> 00:00:30,280 Let me just interject a little bit,

9 00:00:30,280 --> 00:00:32,130 which I didn't mention before.

10 00:00:32,130 --> 00:00:37,080 You know that I was a member of the HaShomer HaDati.

11 00:00:37,080 --> 00:00:42,045 And one Saturday was one meeting there. 13 00:00:45,050 --> 00:00:50,510 Our leaders were definitely pleasant people,

14 00:00:50,510 --> 00:00:53,150 outstanding leaders.

15 00:00:53,150 --> 00:00:55,910 And one was Dr. Weinstein.

16 00:00:55,910 --> 00:00:59,180 And the other one--

17 00:00:59,180 --> 00:01:02,730 oh, yeah, I'll remember it in a few minutes.

18 00:01:02,730 --> 00:01:04,160 These were Viennese Jews?

19 00:01:04,160 --> 00:01:06,020 Viennese Jews who are leading this.

20 00:01:06,020 --> 00:01:10,220 And everything was so tranquil.

21 00:01:10,220 --> 00:01:14,330 And we wanted to be prepared for the trip we are

22 00:01:14,330 --> 00:01:16,760 supposed to make these 25 kids.

23 00:01:16,760 --> 00:01:22,550 Suddenly, a few Nazis broke in, came in--

24 00:01:22,550 --> 00:01:27,410 wild, broke a few furnitures and some.

25 00:01:27,410 --> 00:01:30,240 That, we didn't expect.

26 00:01:30,240 --> 00:01:31,700 Is this while you were there?

27 00:01:31,700 --> 00:01:32,860 Yeah.

28 00:01:32,860 --> 00:01:34,820 That, we didn't expect.

29 00:01:34,820 --> 00:01:41,430 They were just informing us what to expect in Israel, and so on.

30 00:01:41,430 --> 00:01:44,180 At that time, it was Palestine, of course.

31 00:01:44,180 --> 00:01:48,980 And the leaders talked to the Nazis.

32 00:01:48,980 --> 00:01:51,320 Whatever you want, we are going to do.

33 00:01:51,320 --> 00:01:55,520 We are just informing those children what to do in Israel.

34 00:01:55,520 --> 00:01:56,870 And we were, what?

35 00:01:56,870 --> 00:01:59,720 We couldn't understand that something like this can happen.

00:02:02,400 --> 00:02:05,970 We were all sad, choked--

38

00:02:05,970 --> 00:02:09,430 not so much for ourselves, that they insult our leaders, who

39

00:02:09,430 --> 00:02:13,770 were great people in the city.

40

00:02:13,770 --> 00:02:17,500 And we just couldn't even see that there

41

00:02:17,500 --> 00:02:18,640 will be an end to this.

42

00:02:18,640 --> 00:02:19,530 They were wild.

43

00:02:19,530 --> 00:02:21,220 They are like animals.

44

00:02:21,220 --> 00:02:22,830 For some reason, they left.

45

00:02:22,830 --> 00:02:25,180 And we were happy about this.

46

00:02:25,180 --> 00:02:27,850 And they told us, go home.

47

00:02:27,850 --> 00:02:32,530 We will instruct you not in the central place anymore.

48

00:02:32,530 --> 00:02:33,520 We will find.

00:02:33,520 --> 00:02:35,890 And they didn't use--

50

00:02:35,890 --> 00:02:38,400 first of all, many people didn't have phones.

51

00:02:38,400 --> 00:02:40,780 That wasn't so common.

52

00:02:40,780 --> 00:02:45,250 And for some reason, they contact each one.

53

00:02:45,250 --> 00:02:49,110 And I was so happy that both of those leaders survived.

54

00:02:49,110 --> 00:02:51,760 One was in Haifa, and the other one in London.

55

00:02:51,760 --> 00:02:52,930 Yeah, they came on.

56

00:02:52,930 --> 00:02:55,240 But this was a shock.

57

00:02:55,240 --> 00:02:57,130 I went home.

58

00:02:57,130 --> 00:03:00,460 Had you seen any other examples of physical assault

59

00:03:00,460 --> 00:03:04,540 on the streets or in buildings up to that time?

60

00:03:04,540 --> 00:03:10,390 Direct assaults, which we heard in history,

61 00:03:10,390 --> 00:03:12,760 no, but a few unique things.

62 00:03:12,760 --> 00:03:18,370 The Jews were cleaning the streets with a toothbrush.

63 00:03:18,370 --> 00:03:19,330 Did you see that?

64 00:03:19,330 --> 00:03:20,650 I saw it.

65 00:03:20,650 --> 00:03:22,095 But I moved away.

66 00:03:22,095 --> 00:03:23,570 I didn't stand there.

67 00:03:23,570 --> 00:03:24,070 Why not?

68 00:03:24,070 --> 00:03:26,910

69 00:03:26,910 --> 00:03:29,310 It could be that either I was scared,

70 00:03:29,310 --> 00:03:32,490 or I was ashamed to see something like this.

71 00:03:32,490 --> 00:03:34,200 They told them to get dressed.

72 00:03:34,200 --> 00:03:38,520 And the women went for a coat, and the best coat. 00:03:38,520 --> 00:03:42,180 I would say I was rather embarrassed more than even

74 00:03:42,180 --> 00:03:43,040 frightened.

75 00:03:43,040 --> 00:03:44,680 I didn't want to see it.

76 00:03:44,680 --> 00:03:45,960 It was sad.

77 00:03:45,960 --> 00:03:48,190 You see your own best people.

78 00:03:48,190 --> 00:03:53,520 And they're in a fur coat with a toothbrush cleaning the signs,

79 00:03:53,520 --> 00:03:57,650 the [NON-ENGLISH],, written with the lacquer signs.

80 00:03:57,650 --> 00:03:59,310 Vote for this.

81 00:03:59,310 --> 00:04:01,680 So I never stood.

82 00:04:01,680 --> 00:04:04,380 And then, on the other hand, you would

83 00:04:04,380 --> 00:04:07,620 see the stupidity of those people that

84 00:04:07,620 --> 00:04:10,950 were standing on the side and laughing, which 00:04:10,950 --> 00:04:12,670 was just unbelievable.

86 00:04:12,670 --> 00:04:13,290 Well, what?

87 00:04:13,290 --> 00:04:19,010 Do you enjoy when people are in such agony, embarrassment?

88 00:04:19,010 --> 00:04:19,510 But--

89 00:04:19,510 --> 00:04:21,480 Did you feel threatened?

90 00:04:21,480 --> 00:04:22,510 No.

91 00:04:22,510 --> 00:04:23,010 No.

92 00:04:23,010 --> 00:04:23,510 No.

93 00:04:23,510 --> 00:04:26,430 I thought they just take advantage of us.

94 00:04:26,430 --> 00:04:30,580 A small, little story I have to tell you on this. , Actually,

95 00:04:30,580 --> 00:04:33,010 it will be two.

96 00:04:33,010 --> 00:04:37,900 I had to go again to this [PLACE NAME]

97 00:04:37,900 --> 00:04:40,590 Palace about my papers. 98 00:04:40,590 --> 00:04:42,040 Back to the emigration office.

99 00:04:42,040 --> 00:04:43,780 Yes, the emigration office.

100 00:04:43,780 --> 00:04:52,870 And it is common that students would always stand in

101 00:04:52,870 --> 00:04:56,350 a streetcar, not sitting.

102 00:04:56,350 --> 00:04:58,480 They would not sit inside.

103 00:04:58,480 --> 00:05:03,640 They would stand on the corners of the train.

104 00:05:03,640 --> 00:05:06,280 And there were a few students there

105 00:05:06,280 --> 00:05:09,670 a little bit older than I was.

106 00:05:09,670 --> 00:05:12,490 Of course, they had no idea that I was a Jew.

107 00:05:12,490 --> 00:05:14,760 They didn't even pay attention that I was there.

108 00:05:14,760 --> 00:05:18,940 So they had no idea what I was or what I--

109 00:05:18,940 --> 00:05:27,550 So they mentioned that it's better now than it was before.

110 00:05:27,550 --> 00:05:29,110 Things are better organized.

111 00:05:29,110 --> 00:05:31,420 And there's a better future.

112 00:05:31,420 --> 00:05:34,030 And one young student--

113 00:05:34,030 --> 00:05:35,950 they call them [? Buckfish. ?] That means,

114 00:05:35,950 --> 00:05:39,910 if they're between 15 to 17 years old they call them

115 00:05:39,910 --> 00:05:43,450 [? Buckfish, ?] because that's where the girls develop.

116 00:05:43,450 --> 00:05:48,560 And she said, it's really better.

117 00:05:48,560 --> 00:05:52,090 But why do they have to mistreat the Jews

118 00:05:52,090 --> 00:05:54,105 in such an embarrassing manner?

119 00:05:54,105 --> 00:05:56,720

120 00:05:56,720 --> 00:06:00,950 And then they started to pay attention to what was going on.

121 00:06:00,950 --> 00:06:02,780 So then they came to a conclusion

122

00:06:02,780 --> 00:06:07,010 and said, well, if the fuhrer would know this,

123

00:06:07,010 --> 00:06:10,010 he would not permit to do it.

124

00:06:10,010 --> 00:06:13,040 That's just the low class of it.

125

00:06:13,040 --> 00:06:15,690 Of course, then we found that it's almost the opposite.

126

00:06:15,690 --> 00:06:18,300 The low class were better than the fuhrer himself.

127

00:06:18,300 --> 00:06:21,230 Yeah, they said, but the fuhrer has class.

128

00:06:21,230 --> 00:06:25,550 That he was able to hypnotize a nation, which

129

00:06:25,550 --> 00:06:32,480 was supposed to be a somewhat cultured nation, a nation

130

00:06:32,480 --> 00:06:33,740 one of the--

131

00:06:33,740 --> 00:06:38,330 well, I would say the British and French had a good name.

132

00:06:38,330 --> 00:06:42,480 But the Germans had a name with their whole conscience. 133 00:06:42,480 --> 00:06:46,040 And the Jews were involved in their cultures.

134 00:06:46,040 --> 00:06:51,110 I heard then once, in Hitler's time, once they were saying,

135 00:06:51,110 --> 00:06:55,550 the Jews can never be good in the German language,

136 00:06:55,550 --> 00:06:57,140 because those are foreigners.

137 00:06:57,140 --> 00:06:59,760

138 00:06:59,760 --> 00:07:08,330 When they speak, there's always some slang in it.

139 00:07:08,330 --> 00:07:11,310 Did you still feel very Austrian at this point--

140 00:07:11,310 --> 00:07:11,810 No.

141 00:07:11,810 --> 00:07:13,800 --when Hitler was in power?

142 00:07:13,800 --> 00:07:18,978 The only thing I feel is--

143 00:07:18,978 --> 00:07:20,270 I'm talking about at that time.

144 00:07:20,270 --> 00:07:21,390 Yeah.

00:07:21,390 --> 00:07:25,280 Even today, he had no right to kick me out.

146

00:07:25,280 --> 00:07:27,590 And I can do what I want to do.

147

00:07:27,590 --> 00:07:28,560 I like to do--

148

00:07:28,560 --> 00:07:30,470 I was born there.

149

00:07:30,470 --> 00:07:33,170 What is beautiful in the city, I like to enjoy.

150

00:07:33,170 --> 00:07:35,390 What is not so beautiful, I brush it away.

151

00:07:35,390 --> 00:07:38,720 Even today, I feel very comfortable there,

152

00:07:38,720 --> 00:07:41,630 because that guy even who was left there--

153

00:07:41,630 --> 00:07:46,460 he had not more rights and more wisdom than I had, nothing.

154

00:07:46,460 --> 00:07:51,470 And really, they tried sometimes to impress me

155

00:07:51,470 --> 00:07:53,580 that I am the great one, and they are nothing,

156

00:07:53,580 --> 00:07:56,030

they themself.

157 00:07:56,030 --> 00:07:58,280 So you are now 15 and a half years old.

158 00:07:58,280 --> 00:07:59,540 And it's the summer time.

159 00:07:59,540 --> 00:08:02,780 And you've got your papers to go to Palestine.

160 00:08:02,780 --> 00:08:04,370 And both your parents are home--

161 00:08:04,370 --> 00:08:04,970 Yeah.

162 00:08:04,970 --> 00:08:05,660 - With you?

163 00:08:05,660 --> 00:08:08,170 Both.

164 00:08:08,170 --> 00:08:10,620 That's an additional story.

165 00:08:10,620 --> 00:08:12,290 By the way, I wanted to--

166 00:08:12,290 --> 00:08:14,990 as religious as my father was-- and that

167 00:08:14,990 --> 00:08:17,720 was the last day of Simchat Torah when I left,

168 00:08:17,720 --> 00:08:18,740 in the evening.

00:08:18,740 --> 00:08:23,150 He let me go to the bank and pick up two and a half

170

00:08:23,150 --> 00:08:24,360 Palestinian pounds.

171

00:08:24,360 --> 00:08:25,633 They had Palestinian pounds.

172

00:08:25,633 --> 00:08:26,300 I was surprised.

173

00:08:26,300 --> 00:08:29,210 I give him mark, and they gave me the Palestinian pounds.

174

00:08:29,210 --> 00:08:31,370 And that was another story, what happened.

175

00:08:31,370 --> 00:08:33,390 But he let me do it.

176

00:08:33,390 --> 00:08:37,940 So you continued your life until you left in the fall.

177

00:08:37,940 --> 00:08:40,260 Did you do anything special in September?

178

00:08:40,260 --> 00:08:41,630 Well, first I went to school.

179

00:08:41,630 --> 00:08:42,620 And there was, too--

180

00:08:42,620 --> 00:08:44,570 Did you start

school in the fall?

181 00:08:44,570 --> 00:08:45,230 No.

182 00:08:45,230 --> 00:08:50,480 No, because I was leaving already.

183 00:08:50,480 --> 00:08:51,470 Even there--

184 00:08:51,470 --> 00:08:53,460 What were your thoughts then, 15 and a half,

185 00:08:53,460 --> 00:08:55,085 leaving your parents and your siblings?

186 00:08:55,085 --> 00:08:58,130

187 00:08:58,130 --> 00:09:00,470 That cannot be answered in one second.

188 00:09:00,470 --> 00:09:04,130 There's too much involved, because the powers that

189 00:09:04,130 --> 00:09:08,690 worked on me were not only the sentimental

190 00:09:08,690 --> 00:09:15,800 powers of being a son of parents or a brother of siblings.

191 00:09:15,800 --> 00:09:20,510 Zionism had a strong impact, because I

192 00:09:20,510 --> 00:09:23,570 want to build a country.

193 00:09:23,570 --> 00:09:28,370 And when we went to my full departure

194

00:09:28,370 --> 00:09:33,320 on the southern station, the terminal station

195

00:09:33,320 --> 00:09:38,660 to go to Italy, from the streetcar to the station,

196

00:09:38,660 --> 00:09:41,330 we had to walk a couple of blocks.

197

00:09:41,330 --> 00:09:45,470 And there came an old woman-an elderly woman, let's say.

198

00:09:45,470 --> 00:09:48,800 And she-- oh, you poor Jew boy, they drive you out

199

00:09:48,800 --> 00:09:50,370 of this country.

200

00:09:50,370 --> 00:09:53,780 I said, heck, you stay with that idiot.

201

00:09:53,780 --> 00:09:58,490 I'm going to my country, and I want to be a free person.

202

00:09:58,490 --> 00:10:01,350 And of course, if I would have said this a few weeks later,

203

00:10:01,350 --> 00:10:02,600 then someone would have heard.

00:10:02,600 --> 00:10:03,517 It would be different.

205 00:10:03,517 --> 00:10:09,050

But at that time, I just

almost liked to express myself.

206

00:10:09,050 --> 00:10:11,370

Did you look older than 15 and a half?

207

00:10:11,370 --> 00:10:11,870

No.

208

 $00:10:11,870 \longrightarrow 00:10:12,170$

No.

209

00:10:12,170 --> 00:10:12,590

No.

210

00:10:12,590 --> 00:10:12,860

No.

211

00:10:12,860 --> 00:10:13,390

No.

212

00:10:13,390 --> 00:10:13,730

No.

213

00:10:13,730 --> 00:10:15,680

I don't think I looked

older than the others.

214

00:10:15,680 --> 00:10:16,440

NO.

215

00:10:16,440 --> 00:10:18,920

So you went with

this group of 25?

00:10:18,920 --> 00:10:19,550 Yeah.

217

00:10:19,550 --> 00:10:21,110 What about your family?

218

00:10:21,110 --> 00:10:22,160 They went with me, too.

219

00:10:22,160 --> 00:10:23,660 That's what I'm now saying.

220

00:10:23,660 --> 00:10:26,060 They went with me to the terminal.

221

00:10:26,060 --> 00:10:28,520 Do you know, before we left, we danced the Hora,

222

00:10:28,520 --> 00:10:30,740 because we are going into the right [INAUDIBLE]..

223

00:10:30,740 --> 00:10:32,790 The atmosphere was great.

224

00:10:32,790 --> 00:10:33,890 Nobody disturbed it.

225

00:10:33,890 --> 00:10:36,170 They let us dance there.

226

00:10:36,170 --> 00:10:42,260 And then we moved into the car.

227

00:10:42,260 --> 00:10:46,040 Do you know, as sad as it was, we were happy children.

228

00:10:46,040 --> 00:10:47,930 That's just unbelievable.

00:10:47,930 --> 00:10:51,560 You had said, by that time, you said goodbye to your parents.

230

00:10:51,560 --> 00:10:52,510 Of course.

231

00:10:52,510 --> 00:10:55,070 Did they say anything special to you?

232

00:10:55,070 --> 00:11:01,971 Well, of course, the mother expressed and all this.

233

00:11:01,971 --> 00:11:04,600 This, I don't forget what my father said.

234

00:11:04,600 --> 00:11:06,790 He said, be a Jew.

235

00:11:06,790 --> 00:11:11,230 You see, for them, the whole country knew it is Jewish.

236

00:11:11,230 --> 00:11:14,690 So that means do the commandments, like this.

237

00:11:14,690 --> 00:11:16,600 And by the way, I had a grandfather

238

00:11:16,600 --> 00:11:20,230 in [PLACE NAME],, which is Poland.

239

00:11:20,230 --> 00:11:27,280 He wrote me a card, because I wrote to him all the times.

00:11:27,280 --> 00:11:30,290 I started when I was six years old.

241

00:11:30,290 --> 00:11:33,190 So I wrote in Hebrew letters German.

242

00:11:33,190 --> 00:11:35,730 It wasn't Yiddish, because I didn't know.

243

00:11:35,730 --> 00:11:41,380 And he wrote me not to go to Palestine,

244

00:11:41,380 --> 00:11:44,710 because in Palestine it's very hard to be a religious Jew,

245

00:11:44,710 --> 00:11:47,890 and wait until my papers come to the United States.

246

00:11:47,890 --> 00:11:51,100 I just want to say how things were.

247

00:11:51,100 --> 00:11:54,130 Of course, my father, he would have crawled to Israel

248

00:11:54,130 --> 00:11:55,240 if he could have gone.

249

00:11:55,240 --> 00:11:57,820 Israel was more important to him than the United States,

250

00:11:57,820 --> 00:12:01,270 also to my mother, because it was her father whom she never

00:12:01,270 --> 00:12:04,180 had seen.

252

00:12:04,180 --> 00:12:05,170 That was her dream.

253

00:12:05,170 --> 00:12:08,540 And not only the dream of seeing her father--

254

00:12:08,540 --> 00:12:10,800 the New world was

just in her head.

255

00:12:10,800 --> 00:12:13,390

256

00:12:13,390 --> 00:12:15,580 That's the way it was.

257

00:12:15,580 --> 00:12:18,940 So now you're on the train with these 25 children.

258

00:12:18,940 --> 00:12:20,960 Did you know them well before you left?

259

00:12:20,960 --> 00:12:21,460 Some.

260

00:12:21,460 --> 00:12:22,610

I knew some of them.

261

00:12:22,610 --> 00:12:23,650

I even have a few--

262

00:12:23,650 --> 00:12:25,760

one picture left

from that period.

00:12:25,760 --> 00:12:26,950 Were these boys and girls?

264

00:12:26,950 --> 00:12:27,565 And what ages?

265

00:12:27,565 --> 00:12:30,790 No, only boys, because we went to a boys' school.

266

00:12:30,790 --> 00:12:32,320 What ages were they?

267

00:12:32,320 --> 00:12:34,060 The same age.

268

00:12:34,060 --> 00:12:35,840 Most of them were a little bit older.

269

00:12:35,840 --> 00:12:38,470 I would say a year older, or something like this.

270

00:12:38,470 --> 00:12:40,450 And who were the leaders?

271

00:12:40,450 --> 00:12:45,560 The leader-- well, we went to the group.

272

00:12:45,560 --> 00:12:50,740 That whole transport was organized by, or at least

273

00:12:50,740 --> 00:12:54,550 handled by Joseph Burg, who was for many years

274

00:12:54,550 --> 00:12:57,670 a member of the Israel cabinet.

275

00:12:57,670 --> 00:13:00,272 I met him in Jerusalem just a few years ago.

276

00:13:00,272 --> 00:13:00,980 He's still there.

277

00:13:00,980 --> 00:13:04,840 He's 86 years old, or something like this.

278

00:13:04,840 --> 00:13:06,550 He was very active.

279

00:13:06,550 --> 00:13:08,710 That guy didn't think too much about Hitler

280

00:13:08,710 --> 00:13:12,070 either, because a year later, he was back in Czechoslovakia

281

00:13:12,070 --> 00:13:14,080 and tried to pull him out there.

282

00:13:14,080 --> 00:13:16,060 He thought he can do all those things.

283

00:13:16,060 --> 00:13:17,980 They were a certain individual.

284

00:13:17,980 --> 00:13:22,570 But you know about the relationship

285

00:13:22,570 --> 00:13:26,410 after the departure with my parents.

286

00:13:26,410 --> 00:13:28,900 There's a whole story, because-- 287 00:13:28,900 --> 00:13:29,810

you want--

288

00:13:29,810 --> 00:13:32,440 Well, let's follow along on your journey.

289

00:13:32,440 --> 00:13:35,230 So you went from Vienna to?

290

00:13:35,230 --> 00:13:35,920 Trieste.

291

00:13:35,920 --> 00:13:39,250 From Vienna, I went to Trieste.

292

00:13:39,250 --> 00:13:41,720 Because we left at 10 O'clock in the morning,

293

00:13:41,720 --> 00:13:45,640 we arrived at 10 O'clock at night.

294

00:13:45,640 --> 00:13:48,280 Other children fell asleep.

295

00:13:48,280 --> 00:13:50,840 I had a little calendar book.

296

00:13:50,840 --> 00:13:55,330 I wrote on every station, looked out, and this.

297

00:13:55,330 --> 00:14:00,640 And one man had two sons.

298

00:14:00,640 --> 00:14:03,290 They went to Israel.

299

00:14:03,290 --> 00:14:09,142

And he begged me to take a golden pin with me.

300

00:14:09,142 --> 00:14:11,430 I said, why not?

301

00:14:11,430 --> 00:14:16,140 And on the border, the Nazis, already in black uniforms,

302

00:14:16,140 --> 00:14:19,710 started to examine me where everything is.

303

00:14:19,710 --> 00:14:20,730 The pin was here.

304

00:14:20,730 --> 00:14:22,260 He just didn't see it.

305

00:14:22,260 --> 00:14:23,370 He didn't pay attention.

306

00:14:23,370 --> 00:14:26,490 I brought it to Israel.

307

00:14:26,490 --> 00:14:30,240 But I was up until the first--

308

00:14:30,240 --> 00:14:32,760 until we arrived in Trieste.

309

00:14:32,760 --> 00:14:36,690 Didn't sleep a second, wrote down every note.

310

00:14:36,690 --> 00:14:38,370 And then what happened in Trieste?

311

00:14:38,370 --> 00:14:42,540

In Trieste, as soon

as I left the train--

312

00:14:42,540 --> 00:14:44,970 and first, we saw--

313

00:14:44,970 --> 00:14:46,860 it was the Mediterranean.

314

00:14:46,860 --> 00:14:50,100 But to us, it was an ocean, as we saw open, white.

315

00:14:50,100 --> 00:14:51,370 It was new.

316

00:14:51,370 --> 00:14:54,390 We saw that big ship that was waiting for us.

317

00:14:54,390 --> 00:14:56,820 But the main thing--

318

00:14:56,820 --> 00:14:58,770 you felt you could eat it.

319

00:14:58,770 --> 00:15:00,750 We felt freedom.

320

00:15:00,750 --> 00:15:04,800 People were smiling, freedom.

321

00:15:04,800 --> 00:15:08,040 And I recognized that freedom.

322

00:15:08,040 --> 00:15:09,630 The interesting thing is--

323

00:15:09,630 --> 00:15:13,240 How did you recognize it?

324

00:15:13,240 --> 00:15:16,810

That all that [INAUDIBLE] is behind me.

325

00:15:16,810 --> 00:15:23,350 And I was more concentrated on myself than probably

326

00:15:23,350 --> 00:15:24,025 on my family.

327

00:15:24,025 --> 00:15:26,650

328

00:15:26,650 --> 00:15:28,870 And I jump a little bit ahead.

329

00:15:28,870 --> 00:15:31,450 But then we'll have to go back again.

330

00:15:31,450 --> 00:15:37,170 When I was in Israel just a few days, I wrote my parents.

331

00:15:37,170 --> 00:15:40,100 I wrote my father.

332

00:15:40,100 --> 00:15:42,680 I wrote to him.

333

00:15:42,680 --> 00:15:43,910 You wouldn't believe it.

334

00:15:43,910 --> 00:15:44,990 I am so free.

335

00:15:44,990 --> 00:15:46,280 And it's so good.

336

00:15:46,280 --> 00:15:48,380

But I am homesick.

00:15:48,380 --> 00:15:50,600 And then that's the only letter I

338

00:15:50,600 --> 00:15:54,020 got for him, because after this, he was in Dachau.

339

00:15:54,020 --> 00:15:56,150 They took-- on the Kristallnacht.

340

00:15:56,150 --> 00:15:58,070 He said, you wouldn't believe it.

341

00:15:58,070 --> 00:16:02,030 Every night, when I fell asleep, I

342

00:16:02,030 --> 00:16:04,980 had to cry first, because I knew you were leaving us.

343

00:16:04,980 --> 00:16:07,380 And that was going for two months.

344

00:16:07,380 --> 00:16:11,310 So until I comprehended the whole thing,

345

00:16:11,310 --> 00:16:15,080 he had got that feeling--so free, everything is fine.

346

00:16:15,080 --> 00:16:16,370 And now I'm getting homesick.

347

00:16:16,370 --> 00:16:19,220 What do you want, go back?

348

00:16:19,220 --> 00:16:23,000 This is hard to explain for people who cannot grasp all

349

00:16:23,000 --> 00:16:24,860 those things.

350

00:16:24,860 --> 00:16:27,200 All kind of powers work together.

351

00:16:27,200 --> 00:16:29,070 Of course, in Israel--

352

00:16:29,070 --> 00:16:31,310 we will have to talk about this later.

353

00:16:31,310 --> 00:16:38,000 Israel preoccupied us so much, because we had the unrest.

354

00:16:38,000 --> 00:16:40,800 OK, now you get on the boat in Trieste.

355

00:16:40,800 --> 00:16:41,720 Yeah.

356

00:16:41,720 --> 00:16:43,460 And what was the voyage like?

357

00:16:43,460 --> 00:16:45,960 The voyage was great.

358

00:16:45,960 --> 00:16:46,880 It was very great.

359

00:16:46,880 --> 00:16:50,120 Only there was one Arab Nazi, which is [INAUDIBLE], 00:16:50,120 --> 00:16:56,450 because we were on a Italian ship, on the Galilea.

361

00:16:56,450 --> 00:16:57,560 What day was this?

362

00:16:57,560 --> 00:17:00,200

363

00:17:00,200 --> 00:17:00,740

No, wait.

364

00:17:00,740 --> 00:17:01,760

Monday, we arrived.

365

00:17:01,760 --> 00:17:03,650

So I think it was Wednesday.

366

00:17:03,650 --> 00:17:04,150

Wednesday.

367

00:17:04,150 --> 00:17:05,450

No, what date.

368

00:17:05,450 --> 00:17:06,500

What date?

369

 $00:17:06,500 \longrightarrow 00:17:08,359$

OK, the 18th.

370

00:17:08,359 --> 00:17:12,920

I left the 18th of October.

371

00:17:12,920 --> 00:17:14,180

We went on the trains.

372

00:17:14,180 --> 00:17:18,800

On the 19th, we

boarded the ship.

373

00:17:18,800 --> 00:17:21,079 We embarked on the ship.

374

00:17:21,079 --> 00:17:25,540 And for some reason, we stopped at that Arab.

375

00:17:25,540 --> 00:17:28,380 So many people, they just talked to me.

376

00:17:28,380 --> 00:17:34,160 And he said, as long as there are Jews in Palestine,

377

00:17:34,160 --> 00:17:35,540 and as long as--

378

00:17:35,540 --> 00:17:37,130 the full words, I want to say.

379

00:17:37,130 --> 00:17:39,230 As long as there are Jews in Palestine,

380

00:17:39,230 --> 00:17:41,450 and as long as there are Arabs in Palestine,

381

00:17:41,450 --> 00:17:44,150 there will never be peace.

382

00:17:44,150 --> 00:17:46,930 And of course, I react with indifference.

383

00:17:46,930 --> 00:17:48,710 I listen.

384

00:17:48,710 --> 00:17:51,660 You are talking to people who know what they want.

00:17:51,660 --> 00:17:54,410 But anyway, I felt very comfortable.

386

00:17:54,410 --> 00:17:58,310 Did you take anything special with you, anything sentimental?

387

00:17:58,310 --> 00:18:00,320 Did your parents give you anything?

388

00:18:00,320 --> 00:18:04,520 Well, by the way, some of the Jewish businesses,

389

00:18:04,520 --> 00:18:05,660 they had to close.

390

00:18:05,660 --> 00:18:12,950 They gave us material we would need in Palestine, like a--

391

00:18:12,950 --> 00:18:15,620 how do you call those nets?

392

00:18:15,620 --> 00:18:20,840 Mosquito nets and special boots.

393

00:18:20,840 --> 00:18:22,490 We got this.

394

00:18:22,490 --> 00:18:25,220 Did you take anything sentimental with you?

395

00:18:25,220 --> 00:18:27,135 I had my [INAUDIBLE].

396

00:18:27,135 --> 00:18:28,760

And of course, I had that [INAUDIBLE],,

00:18:28,760 --> 00:18:31,220 and all this Hebrew stuff.

398

00:18:31,220 --> 00:18:32,090 And that's it.

399

00:18:32,090 --> 00:18:34,970 I didn't want to take too much away from them.

400

00:18:34,970 --> 00:18:36,560 Let them have it.

401

00:18:36,560 --> 00:18:38,540 Did you take photographs?

402

00:18:38,540 --> 00:18:39,200 We didn't.

403

00:18:39,200 --> 00:18:40,610 I have only one picture.

404

00:18:40,610 --> 00:18:41,750 That's all.

405

00:18:41,750 --> 00:18:43,280 It was the passport picture.

406

00:18:43,280 --> 00:18:44,120 That's all I have.

407

00:18:44,120 --> 00:18:45,770 And the passport is gone.

408

00:18:45,770 --> 00:18:48,990 So I have it, the membership of HaShomer HaDati.

409

00:18:48,990 --> 00:18:50,660 It's the only one I

have left, and then

410

00:18:50,660 --> 00:18:56,180

that little picture in

Trieste, which I enlarged.

411

 $00:18:56,180 \longrightarrow 00:18:58,340$

And now it's a great

thing I have at home.

412

00:18:58,340 --> 00:19:01,700

Is this a picture of the group?

413

00:19:01,700 --> 00:19:05,930

It's the original group,

the nucleus of the group.

414

00:19:05,930 --> 00:19:09,800

That means the HaShomer HaDati

from before, not the new one,

415

00:19:09,800 --> 00:19:11,120

[INAUDIBLE].

416

00:19:11,120 --> 00:19:16,210

Interesting, each of those

individuals, one was--

417

00:19:16,210 --> 00:19:18,840

listen, they were all

famous later on in the army,

418

00:19:18,840 --> 00:19:19,490

and after this.

419

00:19:19,490 --> 00:19:20,740

But this is a different story.

420

00:19:20,740 --> 00:19:21,890

We'll talk about that.

421

00:19:21,890 --> 00:19:23,510

So you arrive.

422

00:19:23,510 --> 00:19:27,350

How long was your voyage to Palestine?

423

00:19:27,350 --> 00:19:28,320

Four days.

424

00:19:28,320 --> 00:19:29,390

Five days, actually.

425

00:19:29,390 --> 00:19:30,380

It was five.

426

 $00:19:30,380 \longrightarrow 00:19:32,600$

What did you do on board ship?

427

00:19:32,600 --> 00:19:33,890

Oh.

428

 $00:19:33,890 \longrightarrow 00:19:37,400$

We had our meetings.

429

 $00:19:37,400 \longrightarrow 00:19:38,810$

They gave us even films.

430

00:19:38,810 --> 00:19:44,090

Every day, we had American

films, Zarah Leander,

431

00:19:44,090 --> 00:19:46,670

all that stuff, [INAUDIBLE].

432

00:19:46,670 --> 00:19:49,070

It didn't even interest

us much, because we

433

00:19:49,070 --> 00:19:50,120

were looking forward.

434

00:19:50,120 --> 00:19:53,750 Always, we were talking about the past and about the future.

435

00:19:53,750 --> 00:19:55,970 We didn't talk about our home so much.

436

00:19:55,970 --> 00:19:58,340 It's about the Zionist movement.

437

00:19:58,340 --> 00:20:00,230 How big a group of children were there?

438

00:20:00,230 --> 00:20:04,790 Well, this, the close group, was 25 Viennese.

439

00:20:04,790 --> 00:20:07,640 There were others, too.

440

00:20:07,640 --> 00:20:14,480 Even the Palestinian doors were close, too.

441

00:20:14,480 --> 00:20:16,070 And that's a big story.

442

00:20:16,070 --> 00:20:17,150 It goes on.

443

00:20:17,150 --> 00:20:18,080 But--

444

00:20:18,080 --> 00:20:20,390 So you come to Palestine.

445

00:20:20,390 --> 00:20:23,630 And what was your first impression?

446

00:20:23,630 --> 00:20:27,650 By the way, I did not tell you that I

447

00:20:27,650 --> 00:20:29,420 had an aunt in Palestine.

448

00:20:29,420 --> 00:20:33,830 And that was-- that happened in [INAUDIBLE]..

449

00:20:33,830 --> 00:20:40,490 In 1932, the second murder case--

450

00:20:40,490 --> 00:20:45,560 that means murder for money--

451

00:20:45,560 --> 00:20:46,430 was my uncle.

452

00:20:46,430 --> 00:20:49,370 They killed him.

453

00:20:49,370 --> 00:20:51,110 He had a little factory--

454

00:20:51,110 --> 00:20:54,140 a shop, rather-- to make brushes.

455

00:20:54,140 --> 00:21:01,010 And the brushes were made from animal hair.

456

00:21:01,010 --> 00:21:03,500 For some reason, there was a dispute between one

457

00:21:03,500 --> 00:21:05,250 who supplied them, the hairs.

458

00:21:05,250 --> 00:21:09,920 Actually, I think they stole the hairs from the slaughterhouses.

459

00:21:09,920 --> 00:21:10,940 They brought him.

460

00:21:10,940 --> 00:21:12,410 They killed him.

461

00:21:12,410 --> 00:21:13,400 And--

462

00:21:13,400 --> 00:21:14,150 Where was this?

463

00:21:14,150 --> 00:21:16,100 In Vienna.

464

00:21:16,100 --> 00:21:23,900 And the newspapers, because life insurance was almost not--

465

00:21:23,900 --> 00:21:26,510 not, common, at least--

466

00:21:26,510 --> 00:21:31,250 collected some money for the widow with her two children.

467

00:21:31,250 --> 00:21:34,820 And after years, somehow she got an entrance--

468

00:21:34,820 --> 00:21:38,990 and that was, I'm talking, 1932 or '33.

469

00:21:38,990 --> 00:21:41,540 They went to Israel.

470

00:21:41,540 --> 00:21:44,330

She couldn't help us either to get papers, and so on.

471 00:21:44,330 --> 00:21:45,870 Yes, I know she was there.

472 00:21:45,870 --> 00:21:50,980 But when we arrived, she didn't even come to the boat.

473 00:21:50,980 --> 00:21:53,820 It was very unique.

474 00:21:53,820 --> 00:21:56,090 Everybody was afraid to move around.

475 00:21:56,090 --> 00:21:58,400 It's not like Israel today.

476 00:21:58,400 --> 00:22:00,800 But anyway, I came.

477 00:22:00,800 --> 00:22:02,045 And when we--

478 00:22:02,045 --> 00:22:04,190 What was it like to put your foot down on soil?

479 00:22:04,190 --> 00:22:05,982 That's exactly what I'm trying to tell you.

480 00:22:05,982 --> 00:22:12,410 When we arrived, we came to stay overnight.

481 00:22:12,410 --> 00:22:13,940 They called it [NON-ENGLISH].

482 00:22:13,940 --> 00:22:18,410 That means, to an emigration house.

483

00:22:18,410 --> 00:22:19,640

We still were happy.

484

00:22:19,640 --> 00:22:22,190 And we saw a few Viennese there.

485

 $00:22:22,190 \longrightarrow 00:22:24,740$

They already were in the auxiliary police,

486

00:22:24,740 --> 00:22:26,900

and helped a little bit, or bragged

487

00:22:26,900 --> 00:22:28,820

a little bit, whatever,

as if they know

488

00:22:28,820 --> 00:22:30,740

whatever is going on there.

489

00:22:30,740 --> 00:22:34,550

And we slept there overnight.

490

 $00:22:34,550 \longrightarrow 00:22:41,010$

The main thing immediately was how you were served food.

491

 $00:22:41,010 \longrightarrow 00:22:43,730$

First of all, there

was a little smell

492

 $00:22:43,730 \longrightarrow 00:22:47,420$

in those kind of dining rooms.

493

00:22:47.420 --> 00:22:54.830

They didn't have linen cover on

the table, whatever materials

 $00:22:54,830 \longrightarrow 00:22:56,270$ were so easier to clean.

495

 $00:22:56,270 \longrightarrow 00:22:57,650$ It had a little smell.

496

 $00:22:57,650 \longrightarrow 00:23:01,190$ It was already different.

497

00:23:01,190 --> 00:23:03,560 It was like a commune.

498

00:23:03,560 --> 00:23:04,250 It was OK.

499

00:23:04,250 --> 00:23:07,190 We were young, what does it matter, this.

500

00:23:07,190 --> 00:23:11,630 And then, because I haven't even told you where we were going,

501

00:23:11,630 --> 00:23:16,100 we were going to Mikveh Israel, the outstanding agricultural

502

00:23:16,100 --> 00:23:18,470 school in Israel.

503

00:23:18,470 --> 00:23:20,930 It was something supreme, actually.

504

 $00:23:20,930 \longrightarrow 00:23:23,210$

The school was great.

505

00:23:23,210 --> 00:23:25,940 And it had a system

like in England,

506

00:23:25,940 --> 00:23:28,370

10 children in one room.

507 00:23:28,370 --> 00:23:29,780 And this was only boys there.

508 00:23:29,780 --> 00:23:31,350 But it was a great school.

509 00:23:31,350 --> 00:23:35,000 At that time, it was very prestigious, too.

510 00:23:35,000 --> 00:23:37,400 And we did appreciate all this.

511 00:23:37,400 --> 00:23:39,690 But the first few days--

512 00:23:39,690 --> 00:23:40,190 homesick.

513 00:23:40,190 --> 00:23:43,310

514 00:23:43,310 --> 00:23:48,410 I think the Viennese showed it strong, their homesickness.

515 00:23:48,410 --> 00:23:50,750 They showed it stronger than those

516 00:23:50,750 --> 00:23:53,810 that came from Germany, because the Germans were already

517 00:23:53,810 --> 00:23:57,110 in preparation camps before.

518 00:23:57,110 --> 00:24:01,670 You see, in Germany, that whole thing started slow. 519 00:24:01,670 --> 00:24:04,460 And we got that whole thing at once.

520 00:24:04,460 --> 00:24:08,490 And I think, in the first few years,

521 00:24:08,490 --> 00:24:10,310 the Jews had a much better chance

522 00:24:10,310 --> 00:24:14,360 to leave the country than in the coming years.

523 00:24:14,360 --> 00:24:17,390 But to put your foot down on the soil for the first time,

524 00:24:17,390 --> 00:24:20,960 was that a special--

525 00:24:20,960 --> 00:24:22,730 It was a thrill in the full meaning.

526 00:24:22,730 --> 00:24:25,520 And you know, when you come on in Haifa,

527 00:24:25,520 --> 00:24:26,780 it's a beautiful city.

528 00:24:26,780 --> 00:24:31,910 And you see the Carmel Mountains immediately.

529 00:24:31,910 --> 00:24:33,920 And then, of course, Jews are all around. 530 00:24:33,920 --> 00:24:35,960 You don't even have to think about everything.

531 00:24:35,960 --> 00:24:40,670 And we really were dreaming about building a country,

532 00:24:40,670 --> 00:24:44,270 not only just coming there as refugees, and so on.

533 00:24:44,270 --> 00:24:47,360 So You go to this agricultural settlement in Israel.

534 00:24:47,360 --> 00:24:49,970 Two years, I was there in that school.

535 00:24:49,970 --> 00:24:51,600 And that was outstanding.

536 00:24:51,600 --> 00:24:53,960 The level of learning was great.

537 00:24:53,960 --> 00:24:56,000 The atmosphere was great.

538 00:24:56,000 --> 00:25:01,640 Of course, we were in a religious compound.

539 00:25:01,640 --> 00:25:05,240 We were almost different than the regular students--

540 00:25:05,240 --> 00:25:08,520 well, although we worked together.

541 00:25:08,520 --> 00:25:12,410 There were so many famous people in that school.

542

00:25:12,410 --> 00:25:16,340 The chief-- how do you call it?

543

00:25:16,340 --> 00:25:20,810 The chief rabbi-- no, we don't.

544

00:25:20,810 --> 00:25:22,870 In the military, the chief--

545

00:25:22,870 --> 00:25:23,570 Chaplin.

546

00:25:23,570 --> 00:25:25,940 Chief Chaplin slept in the--

547

00:25:25,940 --> 00:25:28,190 I was four years with him together.

548

00:25:28,190 --> 00:25:31,760 And then Haim Bar-Lev, who was the head

549

00:25:31,760 --> 00:25:36,410 of the military's system, and many--

550

00:25:36,410 --> 00:25:41,860 the two sons of the future President, [INAUDIBLE],,

551

00:25:41,860 --> 00:25:43,540 we were all together.

552

00:25:43,540 --> 00:25:45,620 [PERSONAL NAME] was with me together.

553

00:25:45,620 --> 00:25:48,260

We were students together, two years.

554

00:25:48,260 --> 00:25:51,050 The whole atmosphere was very elevated.

555

00:25:51,050 --> 00:25:53,720 And there was no such thing that there was even

556

00:25:53,720 --> 00:25:58,130 not a single student who didn't study.

557

00:25:58,130 --> 00:26:00,980 And we didn't have to be pressed for anything.

558

00:26:00,980 --> 00:26:02,210 That was natural.

559

00:26:02,210 --> 00:26:03,920 And we did everything together.

560

00:26:03,920 --> 00:26:05,240 And we had to go.

561

00:26:05,240 --> 00:26:09,740 I would say, two weeks after, we arrived on Shmeerah to watch

562

00:26:09,740 --> 00:26:11,140 [INAUDIBLE] already arrive.

563

00:26:11,140 --> 00:26:13,550 I was 15 years old, 16.

564

00:26:13,550 --> 00:26:16,820 And we were very active in all this--

565

00:26:16,820 --> 00:26:21,530 exercising, working, studying, studying Judaism.

566 00:26:21,530 --> 00:26:24,830 The food was very unique, but we liked it.

567 00:26:24,830 --> 00:26:27,740 The first time I ate olives, they were bitter.

568 00:26:27,740 --> 00:26:29,990 And then, later on, I loved them--

569 00:26:29,990 --> 00:26:31,700 halva, and all this.

570 00:26:31,700 --> 00:26:33,150 It's a new world.

571 00:26:33,150 --> 00:26:34,100 We loved it.

572 00:26:34,100 --> 00:26:36,100 Did you know what was happening?

573 00:26:36,100 --> 00:26:37,505 Now you left in October.

574 00:26:37,505 --> 00:26:39,330 That's a totally different story.

575 00:26:39,330 --> 00:26:41,900 Did you know about Kristallnacht?

576 00:26:41,900 --> 00:26:46,220 My mother-- you're talking about Vienna, what happened there.

00:26:46,220 --> 00:26:51,590 My mother should have been a member either of the Secret

578

00:26:51,590 --> 00:26:53,270 Service or whatever it is.

579

00:26:53,270 --> 00:26:55,370 She sent me a letter.

580

00:26:55,370 --> 00:26:57,560 And there were a few lines left over.

581

00:26:57,560 --> 00:27:04,160 She said, well, I left those lines for your father, for Dad.

582

00:27:04,160 --> 00:27:05,870 I left a few lines.

583

00:27:05,870 --> 00:27:09,320 Oh, he just left, and didn't add.

584

00:27:09,320 --> 00:27:16,400 Next time, she wrote, he went to get some food downtown

585

00:27:16,400 --> 00:27:17,570 to the markets.

586

00:27:17,570 --> 00:27:19,910 Again, he didn't write.

587

00:27:19,910 --> 00:27:24,230 And then she-- oh, he had some meetings in the consular.

588

00:27:24,230 --> 00:27:26,930

And she pulled me for two and a half months.

589 00:27:26,930 --> 00:27:29,360 And for some reason, I didn't follow.

590 00:27:29,360 --> 00:27:33,115 Then she writes back, he just came back from Dachau.

591 00:27:33,115 --> 00:27:35,240 And of course, later on, he was in Buchenwald, too.

592 00:27:35,240 --> 00:27:38,750 But I'm just-that's the way she--

593 00:27:38,750 --> 00:27:40,880 Meanwhile, I had a few guys--

594 00:27:40,880 --> 00:27:43,250 or at least one I definitely know.

595 00:27:43,250 --> 00:27:47,000 But he was informed by his mother that, from Dachau,

596 00:27:47,000 --> 00:27:48,770 they sent his urn home.

597 00:27:48,770 --> 00:27:51,140 That's the ashes.

598 00:27:51,140 --> 00:27:52,910 And--

599 00:27:52,910 --> 00:27:56,450 So your father was picked up after Kristallnacht.

600 00:27:56,450 --> 00:27:57,120 The same.

601

00:27:57,120 --> 00:27:58,500

They took him in the stadium.

602

00:27:58,500 --> 00:27:59,750

And he was picked up.

603

00:27:59,750 --> 00:28:02,420

First, he was taken in the stadium in Vienna.

604

00:28:02,420 --> 00:28:03,830

And they were picked up.

605

00:28:03,830 --> 00:28:07,520

Then later on, of course,

he told me who was with him.

606

00:28:07,520 --> 00:28:08,660

But he was stubborn.

607

00:28:08,660 --> 00:28:09,590

Let's say, he--

608

00:28:09,590 --> 00:28:12,390

Did you know about Kristallnacht

when you were in Palestine?

609

00:28:12.390 --> 00:28:14.468

But I didn't know that

my father was in it.

610

00:28:14,468 --> 00:28:16,010

But you knew about

what had happened.

611

00:28:16,010 --> 00:28:17,960

They were cracking

a few synagogues.

612

00:28:17,960 --> 00:28:19,610

How do you know?

613

00:28:19,610 --> 00:28:24,410 It was not so clear as it really was.

614

00:28:24,410 --> 00:28:30,440 Kristallnacht-- so they have damaged a few stores.

615

00:28:30,440 --> 00:28:40,310 On the other hand, I know that they had papers to America.

616

00:28:40,310 --> 00:28:45,590 So somehow, it would have to go through, whatever,

617

00:28:45,590 --> 00:28:48,350 to grandfather.

618

00:28:48,350 --> 00:28:53,390 But as soon as he left Dachau, he

619

00:28:53,390 --> 00:28:56,810 was 45 kilograms, about 90 pounds.

620

00:28:56,810 --> 00:29:02,860 So the American consular tells him, you have to recover.

621

00:29:02,860 --> 00:29:04,570 And then, because he said--

622

00:29:04,570 --> 00:29:07,360 he told me, you will not be able to stand

623

00:29:07,360 --> 00:29:10,250 ocean trip in this condition.

00:29:10,250 --> 00:29:12,430 So when he recovered--

625

00:29:12,430 --> 00:29:18,880 he was discharged from Dachau in January.

626

00:29:18,880 --> 00:29:19,630 1939.

627

00:29:19,630 --> 00:29:22,180 1939.

628

00:29:22,180 --> 00:29:25,720 And in June, they picked him up for Buchenwald.

629

00:29:25,720 --> 00:29:29,260 And again, my mother didn't tell me.

630

00:29:29,260 --> 00:29:34,210 And then, after September '39, I had no contact at all.

631

00:29:34,210 --> 00:29:35,610 So I didn't know what happened.

632

00:29:35,610 --> 00:29:39,490 I didn't know if they survived, if they lived, whatever it is.

633

00:29:39,490 --> 00:29:40,870 Later on, the stories--

634

00:29:40,870 --> 00:29:43,540 well, then really the stories started

635

00:29:43,540 --> 00:29:49,810 there, which was great agony.

00:29:49,810 --> 00:29:55,360 You heard Hitler marches into Poland September, 1939.

637

00:29:55,360 --> 00:29:58,840 And what was your reaction being in Palestine?

638

00:29:58,840 --> 00:30:02,110 That time it already started to penetrate

639

00:30:02,110 --> 00:30:04,960 that we're in real troubles.

640

00:30:04,960 --> 00:30:12,340 And then, later on when we found out about more concentration

641

00:30:12,340 --> 00:30:14,650 camps, we saw it very badly.

642

00:30:14,650 --> 00:30:18,490 But until the full destruction came,

643

00:30:18,490 --> 00:30:22,690 that took a little bit longer to even penetrate.

644

00:30:22,690 --> 00:30:26,290 And we still had hopes this will be, and this will be.

645

00:30:26,290 --> 00:30:29,200 But then we saw that the doors were locked.

646

00:30:29,200 --> 00:30:30,940 You couldn't get Jews out.

647

00:30:30,940 --> 00:30:32,590

I got other relatives.

648

00:30:32,590 --> 00:30:36,640 They came on illegal transports.

649

00:30:36,640 --> 00:30:39,580 They went to Danube town, and so on.

650

00:30:39,580 --> 00:30:42,850 So many came at the doors of Palestine.

651

00:30:42,850 --> 00:30:48,330 Some were taken to one of the islands,

652

00:30:48,330 --> 00:30:53,950 to the British islands, and then later on some to Cyprus.

653

00:30:53,950 --> 00:30:56,170 Your father was taken away to Buchenwald when,

654

00:30:56,170 --> 00:30:58,800 and for how long?

655

00:30:58,800 --> 00:31:02,530 Until, again, January '40, in 1940.

656

00:31:02,530 --> 00:31:05,100 But I didn't know anything about this.

657

00:31:05,100 --> 00:31:08,940 That was already an entirely different story,

658

00:31:08,940 --> 00:31:13,800 that Buchenwald business.

00:31:13,800 --> 00:31:24,180 Anyway, in January 1940, the commandant of Buchenwald

660

00:31:24,180 --> 00:31:28,560 approached him and said, they're working for you in the United

661

00:31:28,560 --> 00:31:33,100 States to get you out of here.

662

00:31:33,100 --> 00:31:35,980 And my father reacted--

663

00:31:35,980 --> 00:31:38,420 oh, yeah.

664

00:31:38,420 --> 00:31:42,470 And he said, well, we're going to relieve you soon.

665

00:31:42,470 --> 00:31:46,040 And for some reason, he felt so confident to talk

666

00:31:46,040 --> 00:31:48,230 to that commandant.

667

00:31:48,230 --> 00:31:51,950 He said, why do you hate the Jews so much?

668

00:31:51,950 --> 00:31:55,880 He says, 'cause they're bad people.

669

00:31:55,880 --> 00:31:58,730 So my father told him, all of them?

670

00:31:58,730 --> 00:32:02,060 Don't we have a handful of good people, some of them?

671

00:32:02,060 --> 00:32:06,650

He said, well, very few.

672

00:32:06,650 --> 00:32:11,670

Then he said, tell me, and

Germans, are they good people?

673

00:32:11,670 --> 00:32:13,980

Yes, definitely, he said.

674

00:32:13,980 --> 00:32:16,950

Don't you have a few crooks?

675

00:32:16,950 --> 00:32:19,170

And meanwhile, the

commandant knew

676

00:32:19,170 --> 00:32:21,900

what was going on in his head.

677

00:32:21,900 --> 00:32:26,340

So at that day, when

my father was relieved,

678

 $00:32:26,340 \longrightarrow 00:32:34,290$

they had 1 meter

snow in Buchenwald.

679

00:32:34,290 --> 00:32:39,960

And 11 Aryans were

released, non-Jews.

680

00:32:39,960 --> 00:32:43,050

And he was the

only Jew relieved.

681

00:32:43,050 --> 00:32:45,030

So he called the Aryans.

682

00:32:45,030 --> 00:32:51,530

And he told them, that Jew will have to march out

683 00:32:51,530 --> 00:32:53,660 with you on the gate.

684 00:32:53,660 --> 00:32:59,060 And they were marching, they called it, in goose lines, one

685 00:32:59,060 --> 00:33:00,650 after the other.

686 00:33:00,650 --> 00:33:02,900 And what happens when you go in snow?

687 00:33:02,900 --> 00:33:05,720 When the first one gets tired, he goes on the side

688 00:33:05,720 --> 00:33:09,980 and goes in at the last one so that it's easier to walk.

689 00:33:09,980 --> 00:33:15,240 And he told him, that Jew is always going to be the last.

690 00:33:15,240 --> 00:33:18,050 And he protected him, I just want to say.

691 00:33:18,050 --> 00:33:23,660 So as soon as those Aryans came to the gate of Buchenwald,

692 00:33:23,660 --> 00:33:25,730 they just let him lay in the snow.

693 00:33:25,730 --> 00:33:29,300 Apparently, that guy knew that will happen.

694

00:33:29,300 --> 00:33:30,426

So they came in as--

695

 $00:33:30,426 \longrightarrow 00:33:33,200$

696

00:33:33,200 --> 00:33:34,880

wagon, like this.

697

00:33:34,880 --> 00:33:41,600 They just threw him in that

wagon and drove him to the--

698

00:33:41,600 --> 00:33:43,488

maybe because he had to go to America.

699

00:33:43,488 --> 00:33:44,030

I don't know.

700

00:33:44,030 --> 00:33:46,070

He drove him to the terminal.

701

00:33:46,070 --> 00:33:48,920

702

00:33:48,920 --> 00:33:52,610

And at the terminal.

my father stands there.

703

00:33:52,610 --> 00:33:54,530

And the detective came to him.

704

00:33:54,530 --> 00:33:55,830

What are you doing here?

705

 $00:33:55,830 \longrightarrow 00:33:59,150$

And he said, well, you

know what I'm doing here,

00:33:59,150 --> 00:34:02,060 because, you know, his beard.

707

00:34:02,060 --> 00:34:04,820

Oh, they just released you from over there?

708

00:34:04,820 --> 00:34:05,850

Yes.

709

00:34:05,850 --> 00:34:07,820

So why are you standing here?

710

00:34:07,820 --> 00:34:11,130

I'm hungry, very hungry.

711

00:34:11,130 --> 00:34:15,179

So the detective looked at

him and said, why don't you

712

00:34:15,179 --> 00:34:16,610

go in that restaurant?

713

00:34:16,610 --> 00:34:18,980

Go in and get something.

714

00:34:18,980 --> 00:34:20,764

He said, don't you see the sign?

715

00:34:20,764 --> 00:34:25,790

It says, Jews and dogs,

their entrance forbidden.

716

 $00:34:25,790 \longrightarrow 00:34:28,860$

Oh, OK, I'll buy you something.

717

00:34:28,860 --> 00:34:31,550

He says, I don't have any money.

718

00:34:31,550 --> 00:34:33,860

So the detective

bought him some food.

719

00:34:33,860 --> 00:34:36,350

He swallowed it.

720

00:34:36,350 --> 00:34:39,409

Then he went to buy his tickets.

721

00:34:39,409 --> 00:34:42,440

And that girl looked at him and said, you're very hungry,

722

00:34:42,440 --> 00:34:43,670

aren't you?

723

00:34:43,670 --> 00:34:46,940

She slipped her sandwich to him.

724

00:34:46,940 --> 00:34:48,965

He said, kosher, he's

not going to eat it.

725

00:34:48,965 --> 00:34:50,630

He ate everything.

726

00:34:50,630 --> 00:34:52,409

And he still was standing there.

727

 $00:34:52,409 \longrightarrow 00:34:54,380$

And then the detective--

why are you standing?

728

00:34:54,380 --> 00:34:55,989

Why don't you go?

729

00:34:55,989 --> 00:34:56,989

He says, don't you know?

730

00:34:56,989 --> 00:35:01,050

The Jews can only

go on the train

00:35:01,050 --> 00:35:05,630 who stops in every station, the local, not the free.

732

00:35:05,630 --> 00:35:06,650 Oh.

733

00:35:06,650 --> 00:35:10,010 So he put him on a--

734

00:35:10,010 --> 00:35:16,880 that detective put him on a military transport.

735

00:35:16,880 --> 00:35:20,450 And he said there were soldiers also.

736

00:35:20,450 --> 00:35:23,570 He said not a single soldier paid attention to him.

737

00:35:23,570 --> 00:35:25,010 And they were drinking beer.

738

00:35:25,010 --> 00:35:29,780 And everyone-- he said he had a thirst for that yeast.

739

00:35:29,780 --> 00:35:36,350 Every drop that was left, he said, ugly or not,

740

00:35:36,350 --> 00:35:38,540 his body demanded it.

741

00:35:38,540 --> 00:35:45,080 So then he arrived in Vienna at night.

742

00:35:45,080 --> 00:35:49,520

And in Vienna, the last

streetcar has a blue light.

743

00:35:49,520 --> 00:35:52,200 That means you don't have to wait.

744

00:35:52,200 --> 00:35:56,000 He comes, and he saw that last one,

745

00:35:56,000 --> 00:36:00,230 that last streetcar passing.

746

00:36:00,230 --> 00:36:06,520 So he walked home, and far, to cross the river, walked home.

747

00:36:06,520 --> 00:36:10,310 So he came up between 2 and 3 O'clock at home.

748

00:36:10,310 --> 00:36:14,180 And we had those spiked wooden fence.

749

00:36:14,180 --> 00:36:18,410 Do you know what I'm-green, spiked woods.

750

00:36:18,410 --> 00:36:21,170 He climbed over this.

751

00:36:21,170 --> 00:36:23,750 And he knocked on the door.

752

00:36:23,750 --> 00:36:27,350 And my mother didn't want to-she didn't recognize his face,

753

00:36:27,350 --> 00:36:30,500 didn't want to go in, didn't let him in.

00:36:30,500 --> 00:36:33,680 And my sister said, that's Dad.

755

00:36:33,680 --> 00:36:35,660 Let him in, [INAUDIBLE].

756

00:36:35,660 --> 00:36:36,900 Finally, they let him in.

757

00:36:36,900 --> 00:36:38,990 He came in like in a marathon run.

758

00:36:38,990 --> 00:36:40,525 He fell down.

759

00:36:40,525 --> 00:36:41,150 You understand?

760

00:36:41,150 --> 00:36:43,040 He could make it up to there, down.

761

00:36:43,040 --> 00:36:45,110 They picked him up in the bed.

762

00:36:45,110 --> 00:36:50,510 And then they started feeding him for days, and so on.

763

00:36:50,510 --> 00:36:52,880 He had, too-- he have something very unique.

764

00:36:52,880 --> 00:36:58,040 The next day, my mother went to a store

765

00:36:58,040 --> 00:37:00,800 and wanted to buy some food.

766

00:37:00,800 --> 00:37:03,470 In the store, there was a woman.

767

00:37:03,470 --> 00:37:06,680 She's screaming, you dirty Jews.

768

00:37:06,680 --> 00:37:09,320 Do you come in my store?

769

00:37:09,320 --> 00:37:12,140 You filthy here, everything here.

770

00:37:12,140 --> 00:37:14,330 And the other customers--

771

00:37:14,330 --> 00:37:16,370 at that time, it was little grocery stores.

772

00:37:16,370 --> 00:37:19,670 The other customers knew him.

773

00:37:19,670 --> 00:37:23,180 She was so embarrassed.

774

00:37:23,180 --> 00:37:25,720 And then that woman gave here a sign.

775

00:37:25,720 --> 00:37:28,050 She said, well, you come later on.

776

00:37:28,050 --> 00:37:30,090 We'll have some junk, what's left over.

777

00:37:30,090 --> 00:37:31,600 But you have to pay for it.

778

00:37:31,600 --> 00:37:35,880

This is at 4 O'clock, or something like this.

779

00:37:35,880 --> 00:37:40,680 And when she came to the store, there

780

00:37:40,680 --> 00:37:42,710 were two packages, good food.

781

00:37:42,710 --> 00:37:46,500 And she didn't even take any money.

782

00:37:46,500 --> 00:37:48,260 Can you put two and two together?

783

00:37:48,260 --> 00:37:49,490 God knows.

784

00:37:49,490 --> 00:37:54,530 But their luck was that neighborhood was a little bit

785

00:37:54,530 --> 00:37:55,920 different.

786

00:37:55,920 --> 00:37:57,170 They had a Jewish doctor.

787

00:37:57,170 --> 00:37:58,280 He was on a bike.

788

00:37:58,280 --> 00:38:00,740 We didn't know that he was Jewish.

789

00:38:00,740 --> 00:38:04,520 That doctor did so much good for them, maybe.

790

00:38:16,360 --> 00:38:19,030 This is a continuation of the United States Holocaust

792

00:38:19,030 --> 00:38:22,900 Memorial Museum interview with Erwin Deutscher.

793

00:38:22,900 --> 00:38:27,850 This is tape number two, side B. And you've already

794

00:38:27,850 --> 00:38:31,660 mentioned previously that you had arrived in Palestine.

795

00:38:31,660 --> 00:38:35,950 You had been two years at this agricultural school, Mikveh

796

00:38:35,950 --> 00:38:36,610 Israel.

797

00:38:36,610 --> 00:38:38,710 And you had told us of your father returning

798

00:38:38,710 --> 00:38:40,060 from Buchenwald.

799

00:38:40,060 --> 00:38:42,340 So let's pick up from that point.

800

00:38:42,340 --> 00:38:45,060

801

00:38:45,060 --> 00:38:51,150 In order to tell you the next step, for Mikveh Israel

802 00:38:51,150 --> 00:38:55,380 to the yeshiva actually that I went,

803

00:38:55,380 --> 00:38:57,690 I have to tell you how it happened.

804

00:38:57,690 --> 00:38:59,040 Let's just say the time.

805

00:38:59,040 --> 00:39:00,630 This is 1940.

806

00:39:00,630 --> 00:39:03,870 Do you remember what month when you finished Mikveh Israel?

807

00:39:03,870 --> 00:39:06,630 It was the fall, 1940.

808

00:39:06,630 --> 00:39:12,720 And at that time, the unrest in Israel came to a still stand.

809

00:39:12,720 --> 00:39:18,600 As soon as World War II started September 1939,

810

00:39:18,600 --> 00:39:20,670 for some reason, the Arabs immediately

811

00:39:20,670 --> 00:39:23,430 stopped attacking us.

812

00:39:23,430 --> 00:39:25,710 So we had a grand tour.

813

00:39:25,710 --> 00:39:30,990

As a reward to the

studies in Mikveh Israel,

814

00:39:30,990 --> 00:39:34,700 they organized for the grand tour, a lot [AUDIO OUT]

815

00:39:34,700 --> 00:39:37,790 marching in the land itself.

816

00:39:37,790 --> 00:39:42,550 And between the Netanya section and the Hadera section,

817

00:39:42,550 --> 00:39:47,140 on a hill, we saw a beautiful building--

818

00:39:47,140 --> 00:39:50,200 first of all, a large building with a cupola,

819

00:39:50,200 --> 00:39:56,530 and then a arrangement of small rooms from the side.

820

00:39:56,530 --> 00:39:58,810 We inquired what it is.

821

00:39:58,810 --> 00:40:04,330 And they told us it is the agricultural yeshiva.

822

00:40:04,330 --> 00:40:06,340 Mizrahi started this.

823

00:40:06,340 --> 00:40:14,650 However, because World War II stopped the flow of money

824

00:40:14,650 --> 00:40:22,870 for those kind of expenses, Bnai Akiva, through Rabbi Neria,

00:40:22,870 --> 00:40:28,600 just saw those empty buildings.

826

00:40:28,600 --> 00:40:31,840 And he had about 13 people.

827

00:40:31,840 --> 00:40:35,530 And they started to open yeshiva Bnai Akiva.

828

00:40:35,530 --> 00:40:41,380 When we passed by, the main thing that went in our mind

829

00:40:41,380 --> 00:40:44,870 was what to do after that school.

830

00:40:44,870 --> 00:40:47,910 So we were between 17 and 19 years old.

831

00:40:47,910 --> 00:40:51,170 I, personally, was the youngest of this group.

832

00:40:51,170 --> 00:40:56,980 And as much as they encouraged us to go to a kibbutz or start

833

00:40:56,980 --> 00:41:01,690 working, we were yearning to get more education.

834

00:41:01,690 --> 00:41:04,090 Money didn't exist, not a little.

835

00:41:04,090 --> 00:41:06,550 We just didn't have anything.

836

00:41:06,550 --> 00:41:09,790

For some reason, we were five [INAUDIBLE]

837

00:41:09,790 --> 00:41:15,220 when we passed by after our excursion in Israel.

838

00:41:15,220 --> 00:41:16,720 And they pushed me.

839

00:41:16,720 --> 00:41:20,860 Let's get here and see what can be done.

840

00:41:20,860 --> 00:41:22,960 So we met Rabbi Neria.

841

00:41:22,960 --> 00:41:26,370 We told him the whole story.

842

00:41:26,370 --> 00:41:28,600 He was excited about us.

843

00:41:28,600 --> 00:41:31,900 But on the other hand, we didn't have any money.

844

00:41:31,900 --> 00:41:34,890 The yeshiva itself had almost nothing.

845

00:41:34,890 --> 00:41:41,190 And I am even not talking for food and tuition.

846

00:41:41,190 --> 00:41:43,840 What happens if one of us five gets sick?

847

00:41:43,840 --> 00:41:45,510 Who is going to take care?

848

00:41:45,510 --> 00:41:48,360 What are we going to do when the others get a few weeks

849 00:41:48,360 --> 00:41:50,610 vacation, and we had nowhere to go?

850 00:41:50,610 --> 00:41:52,590 Anyway, finally they took us.

851 00:41:52,590 --> 00:41:58,050 And they made arrangements that, rather to be regular students,

852 00:41:58,050 --> 00:42:04,900 we are the managers of the agricultural fields there.

853 00:42:04,900 --> 00:42:07,380 So we actually were already called managers.

854 00:42:07,380 --> 00:42:11,100 We had to work half a day, and have a day to study.

855 00:42:11,100 --> 00:42:13,770 But we had to study as good as the others.

856 00:42:13,770 --> 00:42:18,900 So that means we went up very early, got up very early,

857 00:42:18,900 --> 00:42:20,550 and studied in the evenings.

858 00:42:20,550 --> 00:42:24,060 And we just had to be ready for those classes

859 00:42:24,060 --> 00:42:27,570 as all the other students, a few.

860

00:42:27,570 --> 00:42:32,430 Then, meanwhile, the situation got quite bad-- first

861

00:42:32,430 --> 00:42:37,740 of all, Stalingrad and El Alamein.

862

00:42:37,740 --> 00:42:42,330 And the Haganah prepared us, at least mentally,

863

00:42:42,330 --> 00:42:50,010 that in case the Germans should be able to cross into Egypt--

864

00:42:50,010 --> 00:42:53,500 and if they would go to Egypt, they would have us entirely.

865

00:42:53,500 --> 00:42:57,990 So the Haganah had some plan.

866

00:42:57,990 --> 00:42:59,700 It wasn't fully known.

867

00:42:59,700 --> 00:43:02,520 But the women and the children would

868

00:43:02,520 --> 00:43:07,440 have to go to Southeast Asia, mainly to India.

869

00:43:07,440 --> 00:43:12,300 And the menfolks would have to hide in the mountains

870

00:43:12,300 --> 00:43:14,670 and fight against them.

871 00:43:14,670 --> 00:43:18,300 Well, here, you see, we were in the yeshiva itself.

872 00:43:18,300 --> 00:43:20,520 We were already active for the Haganah.

873 00:43:20,520 --> 00:43:22,860 But luck came very fast.

874 00:43:22,860 --> 00:43:30,710 And El Alamein was actually the beginning of the end

875 00:43:30,710 --> 00:43:32,700 when they pushed the Germans back.

876 00:43:32,700 --> 00:43:34,200 So there was relief.

877 00:43:34,200 --> 00:43:36,660 So I studied there two years.

878 00:43:36,660 --> 00:43:40,080 Some of the other fellows continued

879 00:43:40,080 --> 00:43:44,310 to go to higher schools in Jerusalem.

880 00:43:44,310 --> 00:43:49,830 But I got more entangled with the Haganah business.

881 00:43:49,830 --> 00:43:55,570 So the war defense was more serious to me. 00:43:55,570 --> 00:44:00,960 And this Rabbi Neria, he had a brother who came sometimes

883 00:44:00,960 --> 00:44:03,940 on Shabbat visiting us.

884 00:44:03,940 --> 00:44:08,290 And he came in full mounted police uniform.

885 00:44:08,290 --> 00:44:13,230 He was the head of that group.

886 00:44:13,230 --> 00:44:18,180 It started, actually, through General [PERSONAL NAME]..

887 00:44:18,180 --> 00:44:20,940 He was the friend of Israel.

888 00:44:20,940 --> 00:44:25,730 And once, after my two years, I just

889 00:44:25,730 --> 00:44:28,920 went visiting Rabbi Neria's brother.

890 00:44:28,920 --> 00:44:31,940 His name was [? Benjamin ?] [? Mankin. ?] And I just talked

891 00:44:31,940 --> 00:44:32,660 to him.

892 00:44:32,660 --> 00:44:40,070 What do you think about my joining this force, and so on?

893 00:44:40,070 --> 00:44:41,480 And he grabbed me first.

00:44:41,480 --> 00:44:44,990 Oh, we're waiting for you, for the kind of you.

895

00:44:44,990 --> 00:44:46,240 And he said--

896

00:44:46,240 --> 00:44:48,650 [COUGHS] excuse me--

897

00:44:48,650 --> 00:44:52,620 they just have a riding school starting in a few weeks.

898

00:44:52,620 --> 00:44:53,120 Come.

899

00:44:53,120 --> 00:44:55,010 And that was very fast.

900

00:44:55,010 --> 00:44:57,130 And I was a member of the--

901

00:44:57,130 --> 00:45:00,380

902

00:45:00,380 --> 00:45:08,990 it was called [NON-ENGLISH],, Mounted Police Settlement

903

00:45:08,990 --> 00:45:09,680 Force--

TOICC-

904

00:45:09,680 --> 00:45:11,750 Settlement Police, rather.

905

00:45:11,750 --> 00:45:17,520 After a while, they pulled me into the Haganah headquarters.

906

00:45:17,520 --> 00:45:19,590

So I was a mounted police, and still

907

00:45:19,590 --> 00:45:21,090 had to go to the headquarters.

908

00:45:21,090 --> 00:45:23,490 And all the others is history.

909

00:45:23,490 --> 00:45:26,310 I just was involved there.

910

00:45:26,310 --> 00:45:31,020 So maybe a point I have to make-- now what

911

00:45:31,020 --> 00:45:32,740 I found out about my parents.

912

00:45:32,740 --> 00:45:35,820 But it was at that time I just didn't know

913

00:45:35,820 --> 00:45:37,740 what was going on with them.

914

00:45:37,740 --> 00:45:39,060 It's very interesting.

915

00:45:39,060 --> 00:45:44,220 I was thinking about them many times, quite often.

916

00:45:44,220 --> 00:45:45,990 But you have to know that we were

917

00:45:45,990 --> 00:45:50,160 so busy that our daily life had to be performed.

918

00:45:50,160 --> 00:45:53,010

And once in a while, I could get sad and think about this.

919 00:45:53,010 --> 00:45:58,560 For some reason, I don't think I fully

920 00:45:58,560 --> 00:46:03,750 expected them to be a casualty of that misery.

921 00:46:03,750 --> 00:46:04,810 I don't know.

922 00:46:04,810 --> 00:46:09,060 Maybe people think positive all the time.

923 00:46:09,060 --> 00:46:10,980 But I definitely [INAUDIBLE].

924 00:46:10,980 --> 00:46:17,220 So once I was on a maneuver in Tel Mond in the same section.

925 00:46:17,220 --> 00:46:19,710 And we had those new machine guns.

926 00:46:19,710 --> 00:46:22,860 They were full machine guns, not submachine guns.

927 00:46:22,860 --> 00:46:28,620 And Harold came running with a piece of paper right away.

928 00:46:28,620 --> 00:46:29,970 You got a telegram.

929 00:46:29,970 --> 00:46:31,180 You got a telegram.

00:46:31,180 --> 00:46:33,810 And it was a Red Cross telegram.

931

00:46:33,810 --> 00:46:35,010 It was already--

932

00:46:35,010 --> 00:46:37,190 I think it was in '43, 1943.

933

00:46:37,190 --> 00:46:40,440 It was a Red Cross telegram.

934

00:46:40,440 --> 00:46:44,910 And it had 24, 25 words.

935

00:46:44,910 --> 00:46:49,410 It was handled through the Spanish Red Cross.

936

00:46:49,410 --> 00:46:52,830 That means from the Italian to the Spanish Red Cross.

937

00:46:52,830 --> 00:47:01,440 And they told me they were in the Apennine Mountains there.

938

00:47:01,440 --> 00:47:04,710 From the telegram itself, I just found out that they were alive.

939

00:47:04,710 --> 00:47:08,190 They, with my sister, were alive.

940

00:47:08,190 --> 00:47:14,340 And no indication if they were in prison or privately hidden,

941

00:47:14,340 --> 00:47:15,060 and so on.

00:47:15,060 --> 00:47:17,190 But anyway, that was the only thing

943

00:47:17,190 --> 00:47:20,910 I received until the end of the war.

944

00:47:20,910 --> 00:47:23,880 The other details, I got later.

945

00:47:23,880 --> 00:47:26,340 But I have to tell you something else before I

946

00:47:26,340 --> 00:47:28,740 go into the other details.

947

00:47:28,740 --> 00:47:33,090 I mentioned to you before that there were two brothers, Edmund

948

00:47:33,090 --> 00:47:35,490 and Siegmund.

949

00:47:35,490 --> 00:47:36,510 They were lucky.

950

00:47:36,510 --> 00:47:41,400 In 1939-- it could be because of my grandfather

951

00:47:41,400 --> 00:47:42,840 in Oklahoma City, or not.

952

00:47:42,840 --> 00:47:48,480 In 1939, May 1939, they got a special arrangement

953

00:47:48,480 --> 00:47:51,660 to go to the United States.

00:47:51,660 --> 00:48:00,270 And they were in a children's system, probably a school year.

955

00:48:00,270 --> 00:48:04,290 And they had a pretty good time there.

956

00:48:04,290 --> 00:48:06,300 Of course, the older one, Edmund,

957

00:48:06,300 --> 00:48:13,280 was pretty soon drafted to the army for Second World--

958

00:48:13,280 --> 00:48:14,850 well, it was a little bit later.

959

00:48:14,850 --> 00:48:18,090 I am going a little bit too fast on this--

960

00:48:18,090 --> 00:48:21,510 because as soon as he arrived in the United States,

961

00:48:21,510 --> 00:48:22,800 he had his Bar Mitzvah.

962

00:48:22,800 --> 00:48:26,260 So his parents couldn't even be there.

963

00:48:26,260 --> 00:48:30,780 So I just want to say that those two went to Pennsylvania

964

00:48:30,780 --> 00:48:32,910 and were there two years in school.

965

00:48:32,910 --> 00:48:37,800 And then they went to my grandfather in Oklahoma City.

966 00:48:37,800 --> 00:48:40,570 But because it was the second marriage,

967 00:48:40,570 --> 00:48:43,440 it was not the same as it would be.

968 00:48:43,440 --> 00:48:45,630 So he then placed them in Chicago.

969 00:48:45,630 --> 00:48:47,820 And then, of course, World War II started.

970 00:48:47,820 --> 00:48:50,920 And Eddie had to go to the army.

971 00:48:50,920 --> 00:48:52,500 So this was settled.

972 00:48:52,500 --> 00:48:56,160 Now let's go back to my parents.

973 00:48:56,160 --> 00:49:07,870 As soon as the British conquered up to the middle part of Italy,

974 00:49:07,870 --> 00:49:14,380 they were able to get a ship to the United States.

975 00:49:14,380 --> 00:49:17,830 There were 1,100 people that Roosevelt

976 00:49:17,830 --> 00:49:20,250 let come into this country. 977 00:49:20,250 --> 00:49:21,790 I forgot the name of the ship, but I

978 00:49:21,790 --> 00:49:24,580 have it written down somewhere.

979 00:49:24,580 --> 00:49:25,945 The war was still going on.

980 00:49:25,945 --> 00:49:27,820 There were still mines there for some reason.

981 00:49:27,820 --> 00:49:28,960 They took him.

982 00:49:28,960 --> 00:49:33,490 And of course, they had to go to Las Vegas and New York.

983 00:49:33,490 --> 00:49:37,180 There were 1,100 people that were interned then.

984 00:49:37,180 --> 00:49:41,290 But the interesting thing was, meanwhile,

985 00:49:41,290 --> 00:49:44,020 I found out how my parents--

986 00:49:44,020 --> 00:49:46,660 what happened to my parents from the time

987 00:49:46,660 --> 00:49:51,400 I didn't receive anything from Vienna.

988 00:49:51,400 --> 00:49:56,230 So here I found out the story that my father

989

00:49:56,230 --> 00:49:58,510 was in Buchenwald later on.

990

00:49:58,510 --> 00:50:00,880 But he was relieved.

991

00:50:00,880 --> 00:50:05,710 And suddenly, they got tickets to go to the United States

992

00:50:05,710 --> 00:50:06,670 on the Rex.

993

00:50:06,670 --> 00:50:08,420 That was supposed to leave.

994

00:50:08,420 --> 00:50:12,250 The boat, Rex, a very large ship,

995

00:50:12,250 --> 00:50:15,010 it was supposed to leave from Genoa.

996

00:50:15,010 --> 00:50:20,050 When they went to Genoa, there was a constant postponement

997

00:50:20,050 --> 00:50:25,030 of the departure of the Rex because, it

998

00:50:25,030 --> 00:50:28,720 was very clear Mussolini knew that he

999

00:50:28,720 --> 00:50:30,580 will sooner or later enter the war,

1000 00:50:30,580 --> 00:50:33,190 because he wanted

1001

to enter France.

00:50:33,190 --> 00:50:36,880 And he wouldn't let that ship out of his sight.

1002

00:50:36,880 --> 00:50:42,130 And they didn't want to announce that it the trip

1003

00:50:42,130 --> 00:50:43,300 will not occur.

1004

00:50:43,300 --> 00:50:46,480 But they did announce their postponement.

1005

00:50:46,480 --> 00:50:49,450 The interesting thing there--

1006

00:50:49,450 --> 00:50:53,050 when the Italian Jews, especially from Florence,

1007

00:50:53,050 --> 00:50:58,780 found out some refugees from Vienna, they helped them.

1008

00:50:58,780 --> 00:51:02,000 That means the Jews helped them.

1009

00:51:02,000 --> 00:51:06,860 But not long after this, the situation for the Italian Jews

1010

00:51:06,860 --> 00:51:08,630 got bad, too.

1011

00:51:08,630 --> 00:51:12,830 And when my parents saw that the ship is not going to leave

1012 00:51:12,830 --> 00:51:15,680 and Italy enters into the war, they

1013

00:51:15,680 --> 00:51:19,650 were hiding in the Apennine mountains.

1014

00:51:19,650 --> 00:51:25,710 And after a while, those Jews in Italy, they helped them,

1015

00:51:25,710 --> 00:51:28,570 needed a little bit of support from them.

1016

00:51:28,570 --> 00:51:33,120 So there was the [? Campanana ?] family.

1017

00:51:33,120 --> 00:51:38,280 And their son was, I would say, a year older than I was.

1018

00:51:38,280 --> 00:51:42,150 And he and my sister, they fell in love.

1019

00:51:42,150 --> 00:51:45,640 And they met all the times.

1020

00:51:45,640 --> 00:51:49,650 And then, when that ship had to depart from Naples,

1021

00:51:49,650 --> 00:51:55,170 six hours before the departure my sister told my parents,

1022

00:51:55,170 --> 00:51:59,250 I am not going with you, I'm

going to stay with Marcello.

1023 00:51:59,250 --> 00:52:03,540 So they fast tried to find a rabbi.

1024 00:52:03,540 --> 00:52:05,820 And they were very young, of course.

1025 00:52:05,820 --> 00:52:09,210 And their marriage was consummated.

1026 00:52:09,210 --> 00:52:10,440 And it was a beautiful life.

1027 00:52:10,440 --> 00:52:13,710 She developed to be a beauty in the full meaning of the word.

1028 00:52:13,710 --> 00:52:16,517 And they had a very beautiful life, two daughters.

1029 00:52:16,517 --> 00:52:17,850 But that whole thing is history.

1030 00:52:17,850 --> 00:52:25,638 But I just want to say how many things were unplanned entirely.

1031 00:52:25,638 --> 00:52:27,750 Was there any particular influence

1032 00:52:27,750 --> 00:52:31,110 that your grandfather had to get your parents out?

1033 00:52:31,110 --> 00:52:31,680 No. 1034 00:52:31,680 --> 00:52:32,180 No.

1035 00:52:32,180 --> 00:52:34,590 No, I don't think it was, because he already

1036 00:52:34,590 --> 00:52:37,260 committed himself in the beginning with the papers

1037 00:52:37,260 --> 00:52:39,090 and sent them tickets.

1038 00:52:39,090 --> 00:52:41,160 The only thing I have to tell you

1039 00:52:41,160 --> 00:52:44,910 is the tickets that were sent before

1040 00:52:44,910 --> 00:52:48,720 for the Rex wouldn't have been valid for the second ship.

1041 00:52:48,720 --> 00:52:51,480 So he sent, a second time, tickets.

1042 00:52:51,480 --> 00:52:53,970 And that was it.

1043 00:52:53,970 --> 00:52:58,650 Let's move back now to your story in Palestine.

1044 00:52:58,650 --> 00:53:00,510 Can you just maybe just briefly tell us

1045 00:53:00,510 --> 00:53:04,590 some of the activities you were involved with in the Haganah?

1046 00:53:04,590 --> 00:53:05,130

1047

OK.

00:53:05,130 --> 00:53:08,910 Like I told you before, I was a member of the mounted police

1048

00:53:08,910 --> 00:53:09,870 force.

1049

00:53:09,870 --> 00:53:14,730 But I was transferred, which was just a few miles away from us.

1050 00:53:14,730 --> 00:53:16,450 Actually, I wouldn't call it transferred.

1051 00:53:16,450 --> 00:53:20,580 I was engaged with the headquarter of the Haganah

1052 00:53:20,580 --> 00:53:22,890 in Even Yehuda.

1053 00:53:22,890 --> 00:53:26,520 Just a little picture of the structure of the Haganah--

1054 00:53:26,520 --> 00:53:32,970 Israel was partitioned, Haganah was, in three major part.

1055 00:53:32,970 --> 00:53:36,600 And that part was called Galil.

1056 00:53:36,600 --> 00:53:40,050 Let's say, a territory you can call it, if you want to. 1057 00:53:40,050 --> 00:53:45,810 It was called the Upper Galil, the Central Galil,

1058 00:53:45,810 --> 00:53:47,910

and the Southern Galil.

1059 00:53:47,910 --> 00:53:51,090 Jerusalem, as a city, had a status

1060 00:53:51,090 --> 00:53:53,580 of galil because of the importance.

1061 00:53:53,580 --> 00:53:55,950 Tel Aviv was called [INAUDIBLE].

1062 00:53:55,950 --> 00:53:59,160 That was a much lower ranking galil.

1063 00:53:59,160 --> 00:54:03,960 Every galil was partitioned in smaller districts.

1064 00:54:03,960 --> 00:54:06,210 They were called nafa.

1065 00:54:06,210 --> 00:54:12,360 And the nafa were partitioned into settlement groups--

1066 00:54:12,360 --> 00:54:16,360 and then, of course, the settlement itself.

1067 00:54:16,360 --> 00:54:20,120 I was the-- they call it [? secretary ?] [INAUDIBLE]..

1068 00:54:20,120 --> 00:54:25,540 But actually, I was number four in the nafa, nafa [? Heifa ?]..

1069

00:54:25,540 --> 00:54:28,840

That's a central nafa.

1070

00:54:28,840 --> 00:54:34,770 In addition to have to handle the administration there,

1071

00:54:34,770 --> 00:54:39,250

I have to tell you about

the hidden weapon we had.

1072

00:54:39,250 --> 00:54:42,640

Every village had some weapon.

1073

00:54:42,640 --> 00:54:44,860

And they had one,

or two, or sometimes

1074

00:54:44,860 --> 00:54:47,867

even three people who

were in charge of this,

1075

 $00:54:47,867 \longrightarrow 00:54:49,450$

because if one

wouldn't be there, then

1076

00:54:49,450 --> 00:54:51,340

somebody else knows.

1077

 $00:54:51,340 \longrightarrow 00:54:56,140$

The weapon had to be hidden

in all kind of manners.

1078

00:54:56,140 --> 00:54:58,430

First of all, it shouldn't rust.

1079

00:54:58,430 --> 00:54:59,605

So it was in the soil.

1080

00:54:59,605 --> 00:55:01,160 It shouldn't rust.

1081

00:55:01,160 --> 00:55:04,570

And then Israel had all kind of weapons--

1082

00:55:04,570 --> 00:55:10,540 Czechoslovakian, English, Americans, and even

1083

00:55:10,540 --> 00:55:11,620

German weapons.

1084

00:55:11,620 --> 00:55:15,340 So they had to be separated

and the ammunition separated.

1085

00:55:15,340 --> 00:55:19,540 So in each section, there

were responsible people.

1086

00:55:19,540 --> 00:55:23,500

But I, for the center, I was responsible for all

1087

00:55:23,500 --> 00:55:24,460

the weapons.

1088

 $00:55:24,460 \longrightarrow 00:55:25,570$

So we had to--

1089

 $00:55:25,570 \longrightarrow 00:55:28,180$

even the head of

the nafa did not

1090

00:55:28,180 --> 00:55:30,730

know as much as I did about those.

1091

 $00:55:30,730 \longrightarrow 00:55:32,560$

And the British,

meanwhile, found out

1092 00:55:32,560 --> 00:55:34,270 that I had something to do with this.

1093 00:55:34,270 --> 00:55:35,770 But they couldn't prove it.

1094 00:55:35,770 --> 00:55:39,430 So they were after me, especially

1095 00:55:39,430 --> 00:55:42,170 because I was a member of the police force.

1096 00:55:42,170 --> 00:55:43,440 So they had power after me.

1097 00:55:43,440 --> 00:55:45,610 I had to court martials.

1098 00:55:45,610 --> 00:55:48,770 One for the weapon, but they couldn't prove anything,

1099 00:55:48,770 --> 00:55:50,260 so I was freed.

1100 00:55:50,260 --> 00:55:53,230 And the other one, we had a portable radio.

1101 00:55:53,230 --> 00:55:55,035 That means children went to the pharmacy.

1102 00:55:55,035 --> 00:55:58,540 At 2 O'clock, there will be a short announcement

1103 00:55:58,540 --> 00:55:59,920 on this radio.

1104

00:55:59,920 --> 00:56:01,810 And we usually had an announcement from 10,

1105

00:56:01,810 --> 00:56:04,120 to 20, to maybe 30 minutes.

1106

00:56:04,120 --> 00:56:08,050 As soon as this happened, that whole thing was taken apart.

1107

00:56:08,050 --> 00:56:11,470 And again, they tried to get me on this.

1108

00:56:11,470 --> 00:56:13,840 I wasn't even afraid that something would happen to me,

1109

00:56:13,840 --> 00:56:16,930 because it was a death sentence, and I knew

1110

00:56:16,930 --> 00:56:18,880 it was not going to happen.

1111

00:56:18,880 --> 00:56:23,230 And the British, in this respect, were very unique.

1112

00:56:23,230 --> 00:56:27,310 If it could not be 100% proven, they just broke it up,

1113

00:56:27,310 --> 00:56:28,370 said it's not.

1114

00:56:28,370 --> 00:56:30,610 So that's the way it was.

1115

00:56:30,610 --> 00:56:36,010 Then, in '46, I got--

1116

00:56:36,010 --> 00:56:38,920 and this would be too long to say it in full details.

1117

00:56:38,920 --> 00:56:40,690 I got a mission to Europe.

1118

00:56:40,690 --> 00:56:42,880 OK, we'll talk about '46 in a minute.

1119

00:56:42,880 --> 00:56:44,740 When did you meet your wife?

1120

00:56:44,740 --> 00:56:47,210 In the army.

1121

00:56:47,210 --> 00:56:49,570 OK, so that was--

1122

00:56:49,570 --> 00:56:50,690 What year was that?

1123

00:56:50,690 --> 00:56:53,380 In 1948.

1124

00:56:53,380 --> 00:57:01,030 In '47, when they announced the partition of Palestine

1125

00:57:01,030 --> 00:57:05,900 in November '47, when it was announced,

1126

00:57:05,900 --> 00:57:09,640 we already got active in the Haganah to do certain things.

1127

00:57:09,640 --> 00:57:11,420

So you met your wife after--

1128

00:57:11,420 --> 00:57:12,110 After this.

1129

00:57:12,110 --> 00:57:12,610

OK.

1130

00:57:12,610 --> 00:57:16,120

1131

00:57:16,120 --> 00:57:18,160 So World War II is now over.

1132

00:57:18,160 --> 00:57:18,710

Over.

1133

00:57:18,710 --> 00:57:22,150

And what was your

feelings and your reaction

1134

 $00:57:22,150 \longrightarrow 00:57:26,110$

when you heard that

the war was over?

1135

00:57:26,110 --> 00:57:29,140

When the war was over--

1136

00:57:29,140 --> 00:57:33,820 just a short time before it was

over, I was always dreaming.

1137

 $00:57:33,820 \longrightarrow 00:57:38,110$

How could a world be peacefully?

1138

 $00:57:38,110 \longrightarrow 00:57:42,820$

And when it happened, it was

almost like a dream came true.

1139

 $00:57:42,820 \longrightarrow 00:57:45,730$

But meanwhile, we found

out the bitterness

1140 00:57:45,730 --> 00:57:47,440 that happened in Europe.

1141

00:57:47,440 --> 00:57:51,530 And I think, at that time, we understood it even more than

1142

00:57:51,530 --> 00:57:53,260 at the time when it really happened,

1143

00:57:53,260 --> 00:57:56,410 because we saw the open wounds.

1144

00:57:56,410 --> 00:58:01,970 The real shock came that we saw that the British locked

1145

00:58:01,970 --> 00:58:04,090 the doors for Palestine.

1146

00:58:04,090 --> 00:58:08,770 And even those people who came on boats--

1147

00:58:08,770 --> 00:58:10,330 they were not even called boats--

1148

00:58:10,330 --> 00:58:13,990 they wouldn't be in, and they were chasing them.

1149

00:58:13,990 --> 00:58:15,670 There was great sadness.

1150

00:58:15,670 --> 00:58:18,190 But we have seen that things have to change.

1151

00:58:18,190 --> 00:58:20,110

And it did change, of course.

1152

00:58:20,110 --> 00:58:21,430 And that's it.

1153

00:58:21,430 --> 00:58:26,350 And finally, when the partition was declared,

1154

00:58:26,350 --> 00:58:28,330 I was in Netanya at that time.

1155

00:58:28,330 --> 00:58:31,900 And the first bus from Netanya to Jerusalem was ambushed.

1156

00:58:31,900 --> 00:58:34,570 And five people were killed.

1157

00:58:34,570 --> 00:58:39,020 And two of the five were very close friends of mine

1158

00:58:39,020 --> 00:58:43,090 I met just today, the same day, before they left the bus.

1159

00:58:43,090 --> 00:58:45,490 But we knew what was happening.

1160

00:58:45,490 --> 00:58:46,630 In the beginning--

1161

00:58:46,630 --> 00:58:48,550 Let's back up a little bit.

1162

00:58:48,550 --> 00:58:50,120 Here, you were born in Vienna.

1163

00:58:50,120 --> 00:58:51,310 You were able to come out.

00:58:51,310 --> 00:58:54,670 When you heard after the war was over the even more

1165

00:58:54,670 --> 00:58:57,160 terrible things that had happened,

1166

00:58:57,160 --> 00:58:58,540 do you think it made a difference

1167

00:58:58,540 --> 00:59:00,910 that you had come from Vienna?

1168

00:59:00,910 --> 00:59:01,840 No.

1169

00:59:01,840 --> 00:59:02,930 At that time, Vienna was--

1170

00:59:02,930 --> 00:59:04,930 That you had come from Europe, I meant, that you

1171

00:59:04,930 --> 00:59:07,060 had been able to escape.

1172

00:59:07,060 --> 00:59:12,460 Well, all those surrounded me had almost the same background.

1173

00:59:12,460 --> 00:59:15,460 So first of all, a lot of Viennese

1174

00:59:15,460 --> 00:59:20,470 were German even more, and even from other countries already.

1175

00:59:20,470 --> 00:59:23,330 Romanians came in a little bit.

1176 00:59:23,330 --> 00:59:25,390 And so we were together.

1177

00:59:25,390 --> 00:59:29,560 By the way, even a few Italians came to my school.

1178

00:59:29,560 --> 00:59:32,420 And that was interesting too, of course.

1179

00:59:32,420 --> 00:59:34,060 Many of them were fascists.

1180

00:59:34,060 --> 00:59:35,410 They were fascists before.

1181

00:59:35,410 --> 00:59:38,350 Their fathers were high officers in the army.

1182

00:59:38,350 --> 00:59:41,440

1183

00:59:41,440 --> 00:59:47,560 So Vienna-- at that point, to be an important factor,

1184

00:59:47,560 --> 00:59:48,490 I cannot say.

1185

00:59:48,490 --> 00:59:50,560 I don't mean especially Vienna.

1186

00:59:50,560 --> 00:59:53,020 I meant the fact that you had been in Europe

1187

00:59:53,020 --> 00:59:56,650 and were able to get out as opposed to someone

1188 00:59:56,650 --> 00:59:58,460 who was not born in Europe.

1189

00:59:58,460 --> 01:00:02,800 Do you think you had a different reaction than someone else?

1190 01:00:02,800 --> 01:00:06,010 At that time, I think more than the reaction of Europe

1191 01:00:06,010 --> 01:00:08,230 and anything else was Israel.

1192 01:00:08,230 --> 01:00:12,160 I was very concentrated on this.

1193 01:00:12,160 --> 01:00:16,920 I felt definitely privileged, not only that I was saved.

1194 01:00:16,920 --> 01:00:21,100 I was privileged to be a part of this most historic time.

1195 01:00:21,100 --> 01:00:24,340 Probably, in hundreds of years, they will again come.

1196 01:00:24,340 --> 01:00:30,010 I felt almost this, that I was doing something very special.

1197 01:00:30,010 --> 01:00:30,940 And I enjoyed it.

1198 01:00:30,940 --> 01:00:31,750 And I loved it.

1199 01:00:31,750 --> 01:00:34,450 And I was proud of it. 1200 01:00:34,450 --> 01:00:37,540 And then, at that time, after this,

1201

01:00:37,540 --> 01:00:43,330 I volunteered to form missions to break through to Jerusalem

1202 01:00:43,330 --> 01:00:47,598 in [NON-ENGLISH],, like the Arab's [NON-ENGLISH]..

1203 01:00:4

01:00:47,598 --> 01:00:49,640 Are we talking about the War of Independence now?

1204

01:00:49,640 --> 01:00:51,610 Yeah, the War of Independence.

1205

01:00:51,610 --> 01:00:55,600 And we had four missions.

1206

01:00:55,600 --> 01:00:57,790 We couldn't fully break through.

1207

01:00:57,790 --> 01:01:02,920 Even my vehicle was damaged.

1208

01:01:02,920 --> 01:01:05,350 And we had to pull back.

1209

01:01:05,350 --> 01:01:11,920 But we had a

[NON-ENGLISH],, who pressed.

1210

01:01:11,920 --> 01:01:14,830 And they went up on that hill.

1211

01:01:14,830 --> 01:01:18,010 And they killed the Arab leader.

01:01:18,010 --> 01:01:28,670

He was called

[? Abdul-Kader ?] Husseini.

1213

01:01:28,670 --> 01:01:32,240

That's the father of that

Husseini who's now in Jerusalem

1214

01:01:32,240 --> 01:01:34,820

trying to make the peace.

1215

01:01:34,820 --> 01:01:38,210

So when he was killed, that

whole thing fell apart.

1216

01:01:38,210 --> 01:01:44,600

And actually, we could connect

ourselves with Jerusalem.

1217

01:01:44,600 --> 01:01:47,060

But meanwhile,

something else happened.

1218

01:01:47,060 --> 01:01:49,820

When the Haganah

has seen this, we

1219

 $01:01:49,820 \longrightarrow 01:01:54,890$

might have a problem to

bring food to Jerusalem.

1220

01:01:54,890 --> 01:01:57,320

So they took old men.

1221

01:01:57,320 --> 01:01:59,630

Many of them were Yemenites.

1222

01:01:59,630 --> 01:02:02,660

And they had little

stone baskets.

1223

01:02:02,660 --> 01:02:07,040

They were carrying that stone and building a Burma street,

1224

01:02:07,040 --> 01:02:10,190 a Burma road south of that one.

1225

01:02:10,190 --> 01:02:14,040 It's traumatic, but we couldn't have been without Jerusalem.

1226

01:02:14,040 --> 01:02:14,930 It was done.

1227

01:02:14,930 --> 01:02:20,960 Whoever was there, it was a thrill in a certain way.

1228

01:02:20,960 --> 01:02:22,340 It was a sad thrill.

1229

01:02:22,340 --> 01:02:24,050 But that's what we called it.

1230

01:02:24,050 --> 01:02:26,720 Even the songs said, [NON-ENGLISH]..

1231

01:02:26,720 --> 01:02:29,660 That means, sadness and glory together.

1232

01:02:29,660 --> 01:02:30,860 And it worked this way.

1233

01:02:30,860 --> 01:02:34,160

1234

01:02:34,160 --> 01:02:38,930 In northern Tel Aviv, there was a German section.

1235

01:02:38,930 --> 01:02:41,930

It was called Sarona.

1236 01:02:41,930 --> 01:02:47,180 But because the Germans had some Nazi activity during World War

1237 01:02:47,180 --> 01:02:50,730 II, the British evacuated them.

1238 01:02:50,730 --> 01:02:53,990 So as soon as the Jews--

1239 01:02:53,990 --> 01:02:59,030 that means that the Israeli took care of the whole section that

1240 01:02:59,030 --> 01:03:04,610 was taken for governments, for government buildings.

1241 01:03:04,610 --> 01:03:09,980 But on the slope to the road, we had our tents.

1242 01:03:09,980 --> 01:03:13,880 And from there, we went to Jerusalem

1243 01:03:13,880 --> 01:03:15,740 To fight for Jerusalem.

1244 01:03:15,740 --> 01:03:18,770 As soon as our mission was over, I just

1245 01:03:18,770 --> 01:03:21,380 was resting in one of those tents.

1246 01:03:21,380 --> 01:03:25,290 And a quartermaster came to me and said, 1247 01:03:25,290 --> 01:03:29,540 would you be willing to go

would you be willing to go in something very special?

1248 01:03:29,540 --> 01:03:31,470 I said, what do you have in mind?

1249 01:03:31,470 --> 01:03:34,760 Well, we have to create a certain section

1250 01:03:34,760 --> 01:03:39,290 to rebuild those vehicles, to rebuild

1251 01:03:39,290 --> 01:03:43,010 the vehicles we have taken from the British,

1252 01:03:43,010 --> 01:03:47,690 and we have bought the old, vehicles, mainly Command cars.

1253 01:03:47,690 --> 01:03:52,550 That was Dodge Command cars and Jeeps.

1254 01:03:52,550 --> 01:03:59,240 What happened when they bought it from Southern France,

1255 01:03:59,240 --> 01:04:02,660 they caused a certain sabotage.

1256 01:04:02,660 --> 01:04:06,110 They made holes in the motors and stuffed it

1257 01:04:06,110 --> 01:04:08,570 with some material so, if we would start this,

01:04:08,570 --> 01:04:09,620 it wouldn't work.

1259

01:04:09,620 --> 01:04:12,020 All this had to be repaired.

1260

01:04:12,020 --> 01:04:15,920 And I accepted this.

1261

01:04:15,920 --> 01:04:19,190 And I was in charge of the administration.

1262

01:04:19,190 --> 01:04:22,400 And that other guy, his name was [PERSONAL NAME],,

1263

01:04:22,400 --> 01:04:26,400 he was in charge of the mechanical works.

1264

01:04:26,400 --> 01:04:32,450 And I think it was one of the major operation for the army,

1265

01:04:32,450 --> 01:04:38,150 because we didn't have work shops here to prepare all this.

1266

01:04:38,150 --> 01:04:41,900 And we needed cars and vehicles all the times.

1267

01:04:41,900 --> 01:04:44,870 And even Moshe Dayan came once to me.

1268

01:04:44,870 --> 01:04:49,340 He said, try to get me a few vehicles out of the regular.

1269

01:04:49,340 --> 01:04:51,590

And we gave him a few.

1270 01:04:51,590 --> 01:04:56,270 Later on, they caught that they were not painted

1271 01:04:56,270 --> 01:04:58,310 according to the standards.

1272 01:04:58,310 --> 01:05:00,570 So we were warned not to do this anymore.

1273 01:05:00,570 --> 01:05:02,330 But anyway, this is what happened.

1274 01:05:02,330 --> 01:05:06,080 So once, I sit in my office.

1275 01:05:06,080 --> 01:05:08,810 And in the-- when I came in the office, actually.

1276 01:05:08,810 --> 01:05:10,460 That's the way it was.

1277 01:05:10,460 --> 01:05:14,570 There was one of the supervisor of the garages

1278 01:05:14,570 --> 01:05:21,380 who had to inspect all the vehicles.

1279 01:05:21,380 --> 01:05:25,250 He came with a young lady, a charming young lady.

1280 01:05:25,250 --> 01:05:28,190 And I didn't expect anything.

1281

01:05:28,190 --> 01:05:31,828 But he came in and had that Israeli approach.

1282 01:05:31,828 --> 01:05:32,870 You know what I'm saying.

1283 01:05:32,870 --> 01:05:34,130 Oh, you ruin.

1284 01:05:34,130 --> 01:05:35,990 Ha, you can do everything.

1285 01:05:35,990 --> 01:05:38,820 Yeah, whatever, anything you want to.

1286 01:05:38,820 --> 01:05:39,610 What do you mean?

1287 01:05:39,610 --> 01:05:46,460 He said, well, this young lady, she's the only daughter,

1288 01:05:46,460 --> 01:05:48,170 has a mother only.

1289 01:05:48,170 --> 01:05:50,840 And for here, it would be good if she

1290 01:05:50,840 --> 01:05:54,410 doesn't have to go out to the other camps

1291 01:05:54,410 --> 01:05:58,070 and just be in the area of Tel Aviv.

1292 01:05:58,070 --> 01:05:59,820 I said, no problem.

01:05:59,820 --> 01:06:03,820 So I picked up the phone, and I called.

1294 01:06:03,820 --> 01:06:10,480 And that central station, whatever it was told me,

1295 01:06:10,480 --> 01:06:15,610 you cannot do it anymore, because now we are state.

1296 01:06:15,610 --> 01:06:19,650 And it has to go to regulations.

1297 01:06:19,650 --> 01:06:22,570 She has to go to a army training course.

1298 01:06:22,570 --> 01:06:26,112 And we'll send her wherever we think we'll send her.

1299 01:06:26,112 --> 01:06:28,030 I told this to the young lady.

1300 01:06:28,030 --> 01:06:29,890 I said, that's all I could do.

1301 01:06:29,890 --> 01:06:31,620 I tried.

1302 01:06:31,620 --> 01:06:35,710 So the next morning, she was sitting there.

1303 01:06:35,710 --> 01:06:37,810 And I said, didn't I tell you yesterday

1304 01:06:37,810 --> 01:06:39,610 that I am just helpless? 1305 01:06:39,610 --> 01:06:41,520 I cannot do anything.

1306 01:06:41,520 --> 01:06:47,950 And she said, look, I was told that if you really

1307 01:06:47,950 --> 01:06:52,000 want to do something, you will find a way to do it.

1308 01:06:52,000 --> 01:06:53,340 So I didn't know what to do.

1309 01:06:53,340 --> 01:06:58,360 I had, outside, a little pick-up truck.

1310 01:06:58,360 --> 01:07:00,580 It was a standard, that they call it,

1311 01:07:00,580 --> 01:07:02,170 or the British pick-up.

1312 01:07:02,170 --> 01:07:07,600 And I went with her to the women's training place

1313 01:07:07,600 --> 01:07:10,300 in [PLACE NAME] where the British used

1314 01:07:10,300 --> 01:07:12,310 to train their soldiers.

1315 01:07:12,310 --> 01:07:14,860 Now they called it, in Hebrew, [HEBREW]..

1316 01:07:14,860 --> 01:07:17,090 I came there. 1317 01:07:17,090 --> 01:07:20,090 And I didn't see any officer.

1318 01:07:20,090 --> 01:07:23,330 That whole thing was not really developed yet.

1319 01:07:23,330 --> 01:07:28,090 So I thought, I'm not going to let them fool me.

1320 01:07:28,090 --> 01:07:30,017 But meanwhile, we got hungry.

1321 01:07:30,017 --> 01:07:31,600 First of all, I didn't have any money.

1322 01:07:31,600 --> 01:07:35,030 And even if I had money, there was no restaurant about this.

1323 01:07:35,030 --> 01:07:36,310 So we looked around.

1324 01:07:36,310 --> 01:07:39,310 And we saw sabras.

1325 01:07:39,310 --> 01:07:42,370 Those are the prickled pears.

1326 01:07:42,370 --> 01:07:45,430 Now, how do you get sabras?

1327 01:07:45,430 --> 01:07:46,690 Not on your fingers.

1328 01:07:46,690 --> 01:07:48,370 Anyway, we started eating sabras. 1329

01:07:48,370 --> 01:07:50,050 We had it full on our lips.

1330

01:07:50,050 --> 01:07:53,290 At that time, Jaffa

was just conquered.

1331

01:07:53,290 --> 01:07:55,780 But I had an entrance card.

1332

01:07:55,780 --> 01:07:56,990

So I went to Jaffa.

1333

01:07:56,990 --> 01:08:02,590

We roamed around in a city without inhabitants

1334

01:08:02,590 --> 01:08:07,270

and, like young

people, finally we

1335

 $01:08:07,270 \longrightarrow 01:08:10,900$

realized it's better

to go to my base.

1336

01:08:10,900 --> 01:08:12,200

How long can I fool around?

1337

01:08:12,200 --> 01:08:15,580

So we went there, probably

came just before closing time.

1338

01:08:15,580 --> 01:08:17,170

I picked up that phone.

1339

01:08:17,170 --> 01:08:20,660

And I said, listen, whatever you tell me is not going to work.

1340

01:08:20,660 --> 01:08:23,660

She is already working,

and that's the way it is.

1341 01:08:23,660 --> 01:08:25,840 And if you cause me some problems,

1342 01:08:25,840 --> 01:08:28,450 I know how to talk to the headquarters.

1343 01:08:28,450 --> 01:08:31,660 And four months later, we were married.

1344 01:08:31,660 --> 01:08:32,560 That's it.

1345 01:08:32,560 --> 01:08:34,359 That's as far as it goes.

1346 01:08:34,359 --> 01:08:37,149 Then you stayed in Israel for how long?

1347 01:08:37,149 --> 01:08:40,300 Then the reason--

1348 01:08:40,300 --> 01:08:43,010 I have to stay here the real, true fact.

1349 01:08:43,010 --> 01:08:46,960 At that time, marriage was not in my plans,

1350 01:08:46,960 --> 01:08:49,420 because I wanted first to visit my parents,

1351 01:08:49,420 --> 01:08:52,750 and then come back and marry.

1352 01:08:52,750 --> 01:08:54,790 But everything went fast.

1353 01:08:54,790 --> 01:08:57,010 The American consulate, in the beginning,

1354 01:08:57,010 --> 01:09:01,584 when I asked for a visa to visit to the United States,

1355 01:09:01,584 --> 01:09:05,720 they says no, because I'm a son to parents, I will stay there.

1356 01:09:05,720 --> 01:09:08,590 So I have to work on a emigration visa.

1357 01:09:08,590 --> 01:09:12,520 I couldn't care less what kind of visa as they'll let me in.

1358 01:09:12,520 --> 01:09:16,300 Then, when the emigration visa was activated,

1359 01:09:16,300 --> 01:09:20,979 they told me I have to wait for my quota waiting list.

1360 01:09:20,979 --> 01:09:24,550 And then I said, well, let's go back to visiting.

1361 01:09:24,550 --> 01:09:25,689 I just need a visa.

1362 01:09:25,689 --> 01:09:28,630 He said, no, after you have applied for emigration you

1363 01:09:28,630 --> 01:09:30,220 cannot have a visa. 1364 01:09:30,220 --> 01:09:31,120 So we waited.

1365 01:09:31,120 --> 01:09:32,740 Meanwhile, a child was born.

1366 01:09:32,740 --> 01:09:35,560 And we got an apartment.

1367 01:09:35,560 --> 01:09:40,420 And for some reason, I wrote a letter to Truman,

1368 01:09:40,420 --> 01:09:42,790 to President Truman.

1369 01:09:42,790 --> 01:09:45,729 And after a while, I didn't even expect an answer.

1370 01:09:45,729 --> 01:09:49,990 After three or four months, I got a reply.

1371 01:09:49,990 --> 01:09:54,279 And they said, this is not a department

1372 01:09:54,279 --> 01:09:55,750 that handles emigration.

1373 01:09:55,750 --> 01:10:00,225 That all goes to embassies and consulates.

1374 01:10:00,225 --> 01:10:03,520 I said, well, so I didn't make it.

1375 01:10:03,520 --> 01:10:06,910 Just a few weeks later, I got a letter from the consulate

1376

01:10:06,910 --> 01:10:09,700 that I was allowed to come.

1377

01:10:09,700 --> 01:10:14,500 So we went to the United States to visit my parents,

1378

01:10:14,500 --> 01:10:17,510 whom I haven't seen in 13 years.

1379

01:10:17,510 --> 01:10:20,500 What was it like for you to see them?

1380

01:10:20,500 --> 01:10:24,010 The main thing, first of all, my father

1381

01:10:24,010 --> 01:10:25,660 got a-- he was always religious.

1382

01:10:25,660 --> 01:10:27,610 But he got even more religious.

1383

01:10:27,610 --> 01:10:30,310 And we would arrive Friday afternoon.

1384

01:10:30,310 --> 01:10:32,530 He said, if it's very late, stay in New York.

1385

01:10:32,530 --> 01:10:36,380 I was just puzzled that he couldn't overcome this.

1386

01:10:36,380 --> 01:10:41,830 But anyway, we saw a plane leaving for Cincinnati

01:10:41,830 --> 01:10:46,990 a few hours before our flight was scheduled.

1388

01:10:46,990 --> 01:10:49,210 I asked the captain, would you take us?

1389

01:10:49,210 --> 01:10:50,470 He said, yes, come in.

1390

01:10:50,470 --> 01:10:52,180 It was a little more casual.

1391

01:10:52,180 --> 01:10:56,260 It was at that time called Idlewild Airport.

1392

01:10:56,260 --> 01:10:57,730 I came.

1393

01:10:57,730 --> 01:10:59,890 It was very cheerful.

1394

01:10:59,890 --> 01:11:03,420 And the greatest cheer I saw--

1395

01:11:03,420 --> 01:11:05,820 they looked fairly young.

1396

01:11:05,820 --> 01:11:10,590 And they looked as if they're already recovered from this.

1397

01:11:10,590 --> 01:11:13,230 The only thing-- the sentimentality was strong.

1398

01:11:13,230 --> 01:11:15,930

1399

01:11:15,930 --> 01:11:19,320

Well, first, we decided let's stay with them a while.

1400

01:11:19,320 --> 01:11:21,270 I haven't seen them in so long.

1401

01:11:21,270 --> 01:11:24,750 Then, after a while, we said, well, I have to do something.

1402

01:11:24,750 --> 01:11:26,070 I started working.

1403

01:11:26,070 --> 01:11:28,380 I didn't want to be involved with their business.

1404

01:11:28,380 --> 01:11:29,550 It wouldn't fit me.

1405

01:11:29,550 --> 01:11:31,740 But I just wanted a temporary job.

1406

01:11:31,740 --> 01:11:33,780 Then we said, oh, it would be good

1407

01:11:33,780 --> 01:11:36,330 if we have a refrigerator, because in Israel he

1408

01:11:36,330 --> 01:11:37,860 couldn't have all those things.

1409

01:11:37,860 --> 01:11:39,480 Let's work for this.

1410

01:11:39,480 --> 01:11:43,080 And all this is history.

1411

01:11:43,080 --> 01:11:45,480

Longer and longer we were.

1412

01:11:45,480 --> 01:11:47,730

I think, at that time already, my parents

1413

01:11:47,730 --> 01:11:49,860

needed me just to be around them.

1414

01:11:49,860 --> 01:11:53,400

That was their reward for their whole suffering.

1415

01:11:53,400 --> 01:11:56,340

And I think the family found itself in there.

1416

01:11:56,340 --> 01:11:59,670

And another child was born, and many years later another child.

1417

01:11:59,670 --> 01:12:03,630

I have then to say something about the United States.

1418

01:12:03,630 --> 01:12:09,060

It has a certain magnet professionally, culturally.

1419

01:12:09,060 --> 01:12:17,160

And you can develop yourself at any age in all kind of studies.

1420

01:12:17,160 --> 01:12:19,990

University is open until

you're 99 years old.

1421

01:12:19,990 --> 01:12:21,630

What's the difference?

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01:12:21,630 --> 01:12:24,270

It was amazing.

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01:12:24,270 --> 01:12:25,380 Things went much faster.

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01:12:25,380 --> 01:12:28,410 And then my brothers came.

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01:12:28,410 --> 01:12:31,860 So we hung around a little bit longer and a little bit longer

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01:12:31,860 --> 01:12:34,560 until the leverage changed, and it was more

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01:12:34,560 --> 01:12:36,720 America than Israel.

1428

01:12:36,720 --> 01:12:41,160 It's very hard to say what I feel,

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01:12:41,160 --> 01:12:44,490 because Israel is still a part of me, and it's going to be.

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01:12:44,490 --> 01:12:47,670 Even the children went later on studying.

1431

01:12:47,670 --> 01:12:49,860 When I go back to Austria, first we

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01:12:49,860 --> 01:12:55,410 had to go back to settle certain estate problems.

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01:12:55,410 --> 01:12:58,470 And then I always had that feeling--

01:12:58,470 --> 01:13:01,620 and I still have it, and I think I will always have it--

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01:13:01,620 --> 01:13:07,500 that, when I left Austria, it was involuntary.

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01:13:07,500 --> 01:13:11,430 And the one who caused it had no right to do anything to me

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01:13:11,430 --> 01:13:13,080 this way or the other way.

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01:13:13,080 --> 01:13:16,170 And that's the reason I react different than some people.

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01:13:16,170 --> 01:13:17,970 But there are others, too.

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01:13:17,970 --> 01:13:20,430 They have my line.

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01:13:20,430 --> 01:13:23,610 This is actually the way it was.

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01:13:23,610 --> 01:13:28,410 There were, of course, many other little things in between.

1443

01:13:28,410 --> 01:13:30,060 Where was your wife born?

1444

01:13:30,060 --> 01:13:32,680

1445

01:13:32,680 --> 01:13:36,010 My wife was actually born in [? Wolyn. ?]

01:13:36,010 --> 01:13:39,130 And as a three-year-old child, she came with her parents

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01:13:39,130 --> 01:13:40,270 to Israel.

1448

01:13:40,270 --> 01:13:43,480 But her life is Israeli from the beginning,

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01:13:43,480 --> 01:13:48,130 because she was a little tiny girl when they came there.

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01:13:48,130 --> 01:13:51,260 What year did she come to Palestine?

1451

01:13:51,260 --> 01:13:52,480 I would say 1930.

1452

01:13:52,480 --> 01:13:55,930 She was two years old, or something like this.

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01:13:55,930 --> 01:13:57,670 Her family was very charming.

1454

01:13:57,670 --> 01:14:01,510 I think, almost from the first day on, I was accepted there.

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01:14:01,510 --> 01:14:05,530 So if, for any reason I didn't come, why didn't you come here?

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01:14:05,530 --> 01:14:07,720 But you know, there was a war going on, too.

1457

01:14:07,720 --> 01:14:10,660 I was right away in that.

1458

01:14:10,660 --> 01:14:13,540 In the United States, what kind of work did you do?

1459

01:14:13,540 --> 01:14:15,880 You said you did not want to join your father.

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01:14:15,880 --> 01:14:18,130 No, because he had a restaurant.

1461

01:14:18,130 --> 01:14:20,200 That wasn't for me.

1462

01:14:20,200 --> 01:14:22,630 And this is an entirely different story,

1463

01:14:22,630 --> 01:14:26,320 because Rabbi Silver pulled them to Cincinnati

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01:14:26,320 --> 01:14:28,060 to open a kosher restaurant.

1465

01:14:28,060 --> 01:14:29,650 That would have never fitted me.

1466

01:14:29,650 --> 01:14:31,360 This is Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver?

1467

01:14:31,360 --> 01:14:35,680 No, that is Eliezer Silver, the orthodox rabbi

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01:14:35,680 --> 01:14:39,310 who was the head of all the orthodox in the United States

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01:14:39,310 --> 01:14:40,660

and Canada.

1470

01:14:40,660 --> 01:14:47,980 But I want to tell you, because I just wanted to have

1471

01:14:47,980 --> 01:14:55,660 a temporary job, I started as a shipping clerk, which wasn't--

1472

01:14:55,660 --> 01:14:58,600 the bosses were too bossy.

1473

01:14:58,600 --> 01:15:00,910 And I couldn't tolerate this.

1474

01:15:00,910 --> 01:15:04,390 But somehow, Metropolitan Life was after me.

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01:15:04,390 --> 01:15:06,800 And they promised me great things.

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01:15:06,800 --> 01:15:07,953 I couldn't believe it.

1477

01:15:07,953 --> 01:15:08,620 It was so great.

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01:15:08,620 --> 01:15:11,020 Why don't people stand in line to get it?

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01:15:11,020 --> 01:15:16,840 But they promised me a certain amount to earn.

1480

01:15:16,840 --> 01:15:20,620 And actually, the first year I earned three times as much

01:15:20,620 --> 01:15:21,460 as they promised.

1482

01:15:21,460 --> 01:15:24,850 And I was promoted faster in management, and then

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01:15:24,850 --> 01:15:25,930 in upper management.

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01:15:25,930 --> 01:15:27,550 I didn't dream about this.

1485

01:15:27,550 --> 01:15:28,240 It just went.

1486

01:15:28,240 --> 01:15:32,410 And then I studied full time, sometime 15 hours a week.

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01:15:32,410 --> 01:15:35,770 And I could work it out.

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01:15:35,770 --> 01:15:41,140 And I got active in B'nai B'rith and was the president

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01:15:41,140 --> 01:15:42,610 a few years there.

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01:15:42,610 --> 01:15:46,450 That means a large president.

1491

01:15:46,450 --> 01:15:50,050 And the same with the ZOAs, Zionist Organization

1492

01:15:50,050 --> 01:15:51,250 of America.

1493

01:15:51,250 --> 01:15:52,870 I think I even

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deserve a pension,

1494

01:15:52,870 --> 01:15:55,900 so many years have I been president there.

1495

01:15:55,900 --> 01:15:56,950 That's it then.

1496

01:15:56,950 --> 01:15:59,190 The family grew beautiful.

1497

01:15:59,190 --> 01:16:01,270 They started a little bit in Israel.

1498

01:16:01,270 --> 01:16:04,930 We gave them a good Jewish education.

1499

01:16:04,930 --> 01:16:08,640 And everything else is history, I would say.

1500

01:16:08,640 --> 01:16:10,000