

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:05,210

2

00:00:05,210 --> 00:00:07,910

This is a continuation of
the United States Holocaust

3

00:00:07,910 --> 00:00:11,390

Memorial Museum interview
with Erwin Deutsch.

4

00:00:11,390 --> 00:00:16,070

This is tape number
three, side A.

5

00:00:16,070 --> 00:00:20,270

And now let's talk a little
bit about your thoughts

6

00:00:20,270 --> 00:00:23,420

and feelings about
what you went through.

7

00:00:23,420 --> 00:00:26,840

When your children
were the age that you

8

00:00:26,840 --> 00:00:31,850

were when you had to leave
Vienna and leave your family,

9

00:00:31,850 --> 00:00:36,960

did that bring back
any memories for you

10

00:00:36,960 --> 00:00:40,920

or affect you in any way?

11

00:00:40,920 --> 00:00:46,080

Well, here I have to say
the way I always felt.

12

00:00:46,080 --> 00:00:52,140

I knew that I am a part
of this generation that

13

00:00:52,140 --> 00:00:53,590

has suffered so much.

14

00:00:53,590 --> 00:00:57,630

On the other hand, I was
one of the lucky ones.

15

00:00:57,630 --> 00:01:01,740

Not only did I, myself,
was able to survive--

16

00:01:01,740 --> 00:01:03,480

the immediate family.

17

00:01:03,480 --> 00:01:05,940

The broader family
is a different story,

18

00:01:05,940 --> 00:01:09,720

because we just didn't
have contact anymore

19

00:01:09,720 --> 00:01:13,650

with my father's siblings,
especially with my father.

20

00:01:13,650 --> 00:01:15,735

On my mother's side, it
was different because

21

00:01:15,735 --> 00:01:18,130

of the American situation.

22

00:01:18,130 --> 00:01:21,650

So over there was,
probably, everything lost.

23

00:01:21,650 --> 00:01:26,490

I know that my grandfather
from my father's side--

24
00:01:26,490 --> 00:01:29,190
he was 86 years
old when he died.

25
00:01:29,190 --> 00:01:33,810
He died in '39 just a
short time before the war.

26
00:01:33,810 --> 00:01:36,840
But all the others perished.

27
00:01:36,840 --> 00:01:42,000
So I have to take into
consideration those people.

28
00:01:42,000 --> 00:01:48,100
They suffered without having a
chance to create new families,

29
00:01:48,100 --> 00:01:48,870
and so on.

30
00:01:48,870 --> 00:01:51,870
So I knew their sadness.

31
00:01:51,870 --> 00:01:59,340
In our home, I brought
up the situation.

32
00:01:59,340 --> 00:02:05,760
I heard sometimes that survivors
did not mention too much

33
00:02:05,760 --> 00:02:06,630
about their past.

34
00:02:06,630 --> 00:02:08,550
It's either because
of my nature,

35

00:02:08,550 --> 00:02:12,120
or I saw it really
had to happen.

36

00:02:12,120 --> 00:02:14,340
I was pretty open on what it is.

37

00:02:14,340 --> 00:02:17,130
Maybe certain details
didn't come out,

38

00:02:17,130 --> 00:02:20,640
as I expressed now
in my writings.

39

00:02:20,640 --> 00:02:24,630
But they knew clearly
what was going on.

40

00:02:24,630 --> 00:02:29,100
And here, because you had the
chance to meet my daughter,

41

00:02:29,100 --> 00:02:32,430
you see how she's involved.

42

00:02:32,430 --> 00:02:34,770
And the other daughter's
even interviewing

43

00:02:34,770 --> 00:02:40,320
people in the Spielberg action.

44

00:02:40,320 --> 00:02:44,010
And Michael, my son, went even
to Israel a few times alone.

45

00:02:44,010 --> 00:02:47,970
Apropos, the girl studied at
the University of Cincinnati,

46

00:02:47,970 --> 00:02:51,050

one one year, one two
years, and were even

47
00:02:51,050 --> 00:02:53,430
in a kibbutz for a short time.

48
00:02:53,430 --> 00:02:56,800
Their Hebrew-- they can
communicate somewhat.

49
00:02:56,800 --> 00:02:58,680
They don't speak what
we call good Hebrew.

50
00:02:58,680 --> 00:02:59,950
But they can communicate.

51
00:02:59,950 --> 00:03:01,770
So the house was Jewish.

52
00:03:01,770 --> 00:03:08,520
On the other hand, I had
plenty contact with non-Jews.

53
00:03:08,520 --> 00:03:14,220
So today, of course,
we are trying

54
00:03:14,220 --> 00:03:17,370
to reflect why it happened.

55
00:03:17,370 --> 00:03:24,330
My personal philosophy--
as much as it

56
00:03:24,330 --> 00:03:28,320
would have been nice
to skip this chapter,

57
00:03:28,320 --> 00:03:31,020
I still have to say it.

58

00:03:31,020 --> 00:03:38,160

I want to say that the
Nazis, the anti-Semites,

59

00:03:38,160 --> 00:03:43,560

could not have done what they
did if it would not have been

60

00:03:43,560 --> 00:03:48,960

carried on for a
couple thousand years,

61

00:03:48,960 --> 00:03:51,420

the path of Christianity.

62

00:03:51,420 --> 00:03:53,910

They failed very badly.

63

00:03:53,910 --> 00:03:57,000

And if you already bring
it up, let me tell you

64

00:03:57,000 --> 00:04:01,710

what happened once on a trip
from Cincinnati to Washington,

65

00:04:01,710 --> 00:04:05,070

because I was
flying first class.

66

00:04:05,070 --> 00:04:09,690

Next to me was a
short man, sitting,

67

00:04:09,690 --> 00:04:14,770

and getting a lot of
attention from the stewardess

68

00:04:14,770 --> 00:04:15,910

in the plane.

69

00:04:15,910 --> 00:04:20,459

I was a little bit

surprised that one person

70

00:04:20,459 --> 00:04:22,380

would get more attention
than the other one

71

00:04:22,380 --> 00:04:23,610

in the same class.

72

00:04:23,610 --> 00:04:29,700

I found out that it was the
archbishop of Cincinnati,

73

00:04:29,700 --> 00:04:33,150

Archbishop Arthur.

74

00:04:33,150 --> 00:04:36,400

And for some reason, he
started talking to me

75

00:04:36,400 --> 00:04:40,080

and telling me his
functions in Washington,

76

00:04:40,080 --> 00:04:42,780

that he has to
educate young priests,

77

00:04:42,780 --> 00:04:46,750

and what problems
he has with them.

78

00:04:46,750 --> 00:04:53,400

And after that story went
on, I mentioned to him

79

00:04:53,400 --> 00:04:55,470

that I'm on the other
side of the fence.

80

00:04:55,470 --> 00:04:57,750

I don't belong to
that same group.

81
00:04:57,750 --> 00:05:00,150
He said, well, I had
a feeling like this.

82
00:05:00,150 --> 00:05:04,230
But I got encouraged by
his easy approach to me.

83
00:05:04,230 --> 00:05:06,540
So I asked him--

84
00:05:06,540 --> 00:05:10,240
I probably did say, Your
Excellence, whatever it is--

85
00:05:10,240 --> 00:05:12,030
could I ask you a
couple of questions?

86
00:05:12,030 --> 00:05:15,120
And he said, shoot.

87
00:05:15,120 --> 00:05:20,850
And I brought up the major
question that we have.

88
00:05:20,850 --> 00:05:26,760
If Jesus Christ had
to die, why do you--

89
00:05:26,760 --> 00:05:29,460
and the man plural,
not him himself.

90
00:05:29,460 --> 00:05:34,020
Why do you accuse the
Jews of having killed him?

91
00:05:34,020 --> 00:05:36,390
That was his function
to be killed.

92

00:05:36,390 --> 00:05:39,900

In the beginning, he
tried to interject

93

00:05:39,900 --> 00:05:43,860

that maybe the Romans did it.

94

00:05:43,860 --> 00:05:49,440

But let's say, if the accusation
is as the people understand,

95

00:05:49,440 --> 00:05:52,500

let's say that the Jews did it.

96

00:05:52,500 --> 00:05:54,930

So what did they do wrong?

97

00:05:54,930 --> 00:05:56,310

It had to happen to him.

98

00:05:56,310 --> 00:05:59,610

99

00:05:59,610 --> 00:06:03,780

He did not reply
to this question.

100

00:06:03,780 --> 00:06:07,920

But he said, didn't you say that
you have a couple questions?

101

00:06:07,920 --> 00:06:12,660

102

00:06:12,660 --> 00:06:19,370

Then I said very
plainly, tell me,

103

00:06:19,370 --> 00:06:25,530

how can a god, how can
divinity, be killed?

104

00:06:25,530 --> 00:06:29,470

He just glanced at me, didn't
answer, didn't say a word.

105

00:06:29,470 --> 00:06:30,840

He just lifted my elbow.

106

00:06:30,840 --> 00:06:35,040

And that was the end
of the conversation.

107

00:06:35,040 --> 00:06:39,300

There's no question
that that had to be--

108

00:06:39,300 --> 00:06:43,390

that whole subject
has to be clarified.

109

00:06:43,390 --> 00:06:45,870

And people have to
start understanding it,

110

00:06:45,870 --> 00:06:48,150

because any religion--

111

00:06:48,150 --> 00:06:52,020

Christian, Jews, Mohammedans,
Muslims, what they

112

00:06:52,020 --> 00:06:54,750

call themselves, or others.

113

00:06:54,750 --> 00:06:58,290

If God created the
world, he created those,

114

00:06:58,290 --> 00:07:00,750

and those, and the
others, all were.

115

00:07:00,750 --> 00:07:05,160

Why would God create one
group to kill the other group?

116
00:07:05,160 --> 00:07:08,340
If he really wanted to do it,
why shouldn't he do it himself?

117
00:07:08,340 --> 00:07:15,120
Well, this is the philosophy
I have after this.

118
00:07:15,120 --> 00:07:20,850
The only thing that
I am probably dealing

119
00:07:20,850 --> 00:07:24,690
different than many others--

120
00:07:24,690 --> 00:07:26,910
I was always proud.

121
00:07:26,910 --> 00:07:30,060
I was always strong
that what I am thinking

122
00:07:30,060 --> 00:07:32,700
is a healthy outlook.

123
00:07:32,700 --> 00:07:40,610
And I never let others depress
me, or diminish my standing,

124
00:07:40,610 --> 00:07:41,990
or whatever it would be.

125
00:07:41,990 --> 00:07:44,660

126
00:07:44,660 --> 00:07:48,110
I have never felt
one second in my life

127

00:07:48,110 --> 00:07:58,490
that history, or whatever, has
endowed me with the wrong path,

128
00:07:58,490 --> 00:08:00,530
with the wrong way, with
the wrong philosophy.

129
00:08:00,530 --> 00:08:02,810
I like what it is.

130
00:08:02,810 --> 00:08:06,200
I'm not proud that we have
to suffer all the times.

131
00:08:06,200 --> 00:08:12,350
But I am proud of the
nucleus of our being.

132
00:08:12,350 --> 00:08:13,130
And--

133
00:08:13,130 --> 00:08:17,030
Do you think that you are the
way you are because of what you

134
00:08:17,030 --> 00:08:20,465
went through as a young boy?

135
00:08:20,465 --> 00:08:25,110
I didn't tell you too
much from my childhood.

136
00:08:25,110 --> 00:08:30,640
There was not an anti-Semite
in the classrooms

137
00:08:30,640 --> 00:08:33,309
I participated
that he would have

138
00:08:33,309 --> 00:08:34,870
enough nerves to attack me.

139
00:08:34,870 --> 00:08:37,240
So I think I had the
strength already then.

140
00:08:37,240 --> 00:08:37,809
Yeah.

141
00:08:37,809 --> 00:08:41,409
Yeah, I would say maybe
it strengthened later.

142
00:08:41,409 --> 00:08:45,550
And of course, look,
my knowledge in Hebrew

143
00:08:45,550 --> 00:08:52,520
and my participation in
Israel, it cannot be evaluated.

144
00:08:52,520 --> 00:08:54,580
It can't be, because
it's so great.

145
00:08:54,580 --> 00:08:58,180
And it gives me so
much purpose of life,

146
00:08:58,180 --> 00:09:01,280
so much purpose to transfer
to the next generation,

147
00:09:01,280 --> 00:09:08,200
and the next generation
that I stand on strong feet.

148
00:09:08,200 --> 00:09:11,800
If I would not have made it,
I would not have made it.

149
00:09:11,800 --> 00:09:16,060
I even had this discussion
once with my father.

150

00:09:16,060 --> 00:09:21,820
Is this survivor more privileged
by God than the not survivor?

151

00:09:21,820 --> 00:09:23,560
We cannot say this.

152

00:09:23,560 --> 00:09:26,530
So for some reason, I'm here.

153

00:09:26,530 --> 00:09:28,810
It's not only with the Nazis.

154

00:09:28,810 --> 00:09:32,110
I have to tell you,
the War of liberation

155

00:09:32,110 --> 00:09:34,000
had a few casualties, too.

156

00:09:34,000 --> 00:09:36,340
And I was involved with them.

157

00:09:36,340 --> 00:09:37,570
So I didn't get it.

158

00:09:37,570 --> 00:09:42,360
The others did-- friends
even, real close friends, even

159

00:09:42,360 --> 00:09:43,090
one relative.

160

00:09:43,090 --> 00:09:44,420
He came, too.

161

00:09:44,420 --> 00:09:46,100
So that's the way it was.

162

00:09:46,100 --> 00:09:52,630

And I have even seen in those fights, where I was involved,

163

00:09:52,630 --> 00:09:56,980
the one who died wouldn't have to be always the real hero.

164

00:09:56,980 --> 00:10:01,580
Sometimes, the hero survived, and the not-so-hero died.

165

00:10:01,580 --> 00:10:02,920
There's no rule on this.

166

00:10:02,920 --> 00:10:04,900
Or opposite, too, of course.

167

00:10:04,900 --> 00:10:08,260
Some people were very aggressive and had to die, too.

168

00:10:08,260 --> 00:10:11,440
But survivors were good heroes, too, sometimes.

169

00:10:11,440 --> 00:10:13,180
They did a good job.

170

00:10:13,180 --> 00:10:15,970
When the Eichmann trial took place--

171

00:10:15,970 --> 00:10:19,150
and you had said before that you had met him--

172

00:10:19,150 --> 00:10:22,390
what were some of the things that were going

173

00:10:22,390 --> 00:10:24,220
through your head at the time?

174

00:10:24,220 --> 00:10:27,820

I want to tell you,
when I met Eichmann,

175

00:10:27,820 --> 00:10:29,440

I didn't think
too much about it.

176

00:10:29,440 --> 00:10:32,710

It's just another
Nazi in that uniform.

177

00:10:32,710 --> 00:10:35,020

And for some reason,
because I had a certain way

178

00:10:35,020 --> 00:10:37,240

to pull my father, he reacted.

179

00:10:37,240 --> 00:10:40,030

Maybe to 99% of
the other people,

180

00:10:40,030 --> 00:10:41,830

he wouldn't even pay attention.

181

00:10:41,830 --> 00:10:46,870

They only thing that, for
some reason, came up then

182

00:10:46,870 --> 00:10:51,280

was, when I saw Eichmann talking
with those Jewish girls who

183

00:10:51,280 --> 00:10:51,940

helped him--

184

00:10:51,940 --> 00:10:55,880

this, I couldn't put
two and two together.

185

00:10:55,880 --> 00:10:57,820

He was a very unique individual.

186
00:10:57,820 --> 00:11:05,650
I found out that, for
example, an Israeli policeman

187
00:11:05,650 --> 00:11:11,500
didn't do a correct things,
even to separate him,

188
00:11:11,500 --> 00:11:12,700
or something like this.

189
00:11:12,700 --> 00:11:15,470
He reminded him he
has to do it this way.

190
00:11:15,470 --> 00:11:23,200
It's a typical Nazi who
has always to get command

191
00:11:23,200 --> 00:11:27,550
from up to the lower ranks.

192
00:11:27,550 --> 00:11:30,520
And he was a lieutenant colonel.

193
00:11:30,520 --> 00:11:32,060
That was his rank again.

194
00:11:32,060 --> 00:11:34,600
So he was used to get command.

195
00:11:34,600 --> 00:11:35,740
But he was cruel.

196
00:11:35,740 --> 00:11:39,130
If he was born cruel or
not, this I don't know.

197
00:11:39,130 --> 00:11:42,640
I did even hear that

he knew some Hebrew.

198
00:11:42,640 --> 00:11:44,980
If this is true, then who knows?

199
00:11:44,980 --> 00:11:49,540
But of course, I was
relieved that he was caught,

200
00:11:49,540 --> 00:11:59,480
not only because this one
particular Nazi was caught.

201
00:11:59,480 --> 00:12:02,630
It should show to
the people that some

202
00:12:02,630 --> 00:12:04,340
have to get it for us.

203
00:12:04,340 --> 00:12:10,050
I know that so many were able
to escape all their punishment.

204
00:12:10,050 --> 00:12:12,110
And it's sad, too.

205
00:12:12,110 --> 00:12:15,320
And maybe there were some people
even crueler than Eichmann.

206
00:12:15,320 --> 00:12:17,090
But it's good that it happened.

207
00:12:17,090 --> 00:12:22,310
And I did not feel bad that he
got the punishment from Israel

208
00:12:22,310 --> 00:12:25,520
as he did, although
it would not have

209

00:12:25,520 --> 00:12:28,620
made any difference
if, for some reason,

210
00:12:28,620 --> 00:12:30,400
they would have just jailed him.

211
00:12:30,400 --> 00:12:32,750
It would be the same punishment.

212
00:12:32,750 --> 00:12:36,630
Did you feel any connection to
him because you had met him?

213
00:12:36,630 --> 00:12:37,580
No.

214
00:12:37,580 --> 00:12:41,090
I just want to add here--

215
00:12:41,090 --> 00:12:43,250
at least that was said--

216
00:12:43,250 --> 00:12:46,760
that Hitler himself,
his greatest fear

217
00:12:46,760 --> 00:12:49,940
was that he could
be caught alive,

218
00:12:49,940 --> 00:12:54,500
and they would put him in a
cage like an ape, a naked ape.

219
00:12:54,500 --> 00:12:55,900
And people would view on him.

220
00:12:55,900 --> 00:12:58,310
And if this is true
or not, I don't know.

221

00:12:58,310 --> 00:12:59,540
I heard this story.

222
00:12:59,540 --> 00:13:01,970
So they were afraid
more, I think,

223
00:13:01,970 --> 00:13:04,340
from jailing than
for being killed.

224
00:13:04,340 --> 00:13:06,620
That's my understanding.

225
00:13:06,620 --> 00:13:10,550
So the short killing is
probably not always the greatest

226
00:13:10,550 --> 00:13:12,170
punishment on a person anyway.

227
00:13:12,170 --> 00:13:14,420
But anyway, that's
the way it happened.

228
00:13:14,420 --> 00:13:16,730
And that is the end of it.

229
00:13:16,730 --> 00:13:23,970
Do you feel Austrian,
or Israeli, or American?

230
00:13:23,970 --> 00:13:26,000
How do you feel about that?

231
00:13:26,000 --> 00:13:27,150
Yeah, the question should--

232
00:13:27,150 --> 00:13:29,630
well, Austria, we
really can put aside.

233

00:13:29,630 --> 00:13:31,160
I was born in Austria.

234
00:13:31,160 --> 00:13:33,320
I like to run
around in that city

235
00:13:33,320 --> 00:13:36,290
sometimes for all
kind of other reasons,

236
00:13:36,290 --> 00:13:41,540
because it connects the
past with the present.

237
00:13:41,540 --> 00:13:43,470
The Israeli in me is in.

238
00:13:43,470 --> 00:13:45,770
There's no question.

239
00:13:45,770 --> 00:13:47,870
Why I am in the United States?

240
00:13:47,870 --> 00:13:49,950
I try to make it
clear to a point.

241
00:13:49,950 --> 00:13:51,440
That was not fully planned.

242
00:13:51,440 --> 00:13:53,990
But on the other hand,
I don't feel guilty

243
00:13:53,990 --> 00:14:00,590
that I left Israel, because life
sometimes comes out this way.

244
00:14:00,590 --> 00:14:03,110
And nothing is new in this.

245

00:14:03,110 --> 00:14:06,080

We had great Jews
outside Israel.

246

00:14:06,080 --> 00:14:08,810

And we had great Jews in Israel.

247

00:14:08,810 --> 00:14:13,490

If you really want to
know, to go into history

248

00:14:13,490 --> 00:14:16,460

in Babylonian, which
was outside of Israel,

249

00:14:16,460 --> 00:14:18,360

was a glorious period.

250

00:14:18,360 --> 00:14:20,360

And so it was in Spain.

251

00:14:20,360 --> 00:14:22,550

Of course, you can say,
in the 20th century,

252

00:14:22,550 --> 00:14:24,830

because it's a
rebuild of Israel,

253

00:14:24,830 --> 00:14:26,330

the connection
should be different.

254

00:14:26,330 --> 00:14:29,480

But we have a different
world now than it was

255

00:14:29,480 --> 00:14:31,680

just a few hundred years ago.

256

00:14:31,680 --> 00:14:36,980

The world is, to a certain
point at least, is one unit.

257

00:14:36,980 --> 00:14:39,560

And that's the way it happens.

258

00:14:39,560 --> 00:14:48,980

Do you feel that your commitment
to Judaism is different,

259

00:14:48,980 --> 00:14:51,890

or affected in any way, because
of what you went through

260

00:14:51,890 --> 00:14:53,270

because you were Jewish?

261

00:14:53,270 --> 00:14:55,700

I see.

262

00:14:55,700 --> 00:14:57,110

I would say, no.

263

00:14:57,110 --> 00:15:00,530

But on Judaism, I have to tell
you something very unique--

264

00:15:00,530 --> 00:15:09,560

that sometimes people try to
continue their Judaism in order

265

00:15:09,560 --> 00:15:11,020

to keep the continuity.

266

00:15:11,020 --> 00:15:14,060

267

00:15:14,060 --> 00:15:21,260

This is not the right outlook,
because when I go back

268

00:15:21,260 --> 00:15:25,130

to parents, grandparents,
and even before,

269

00:15:25,130 --> 00:15:28,820
their behavior as
Jews was not so

270

00:15:28,820 --> 00:15:31,730
much for continuity's Judaism.

271

00:15:31,730 --> 00:15:35,060
It was, that's the
way it had to be done.

272

00:15:35,060 --> 00:15:36,830
And that's what they did.

273

00:15:36,830 --> 00:15:41,150
When they observe the rules,
it's just for that reason,

274

00:15:41,150 --> 00:15:50,060
and not just because
to keep Judaism forever

275

00:15:50,060 --> 00:15:51,830
as a continuity.

276

00:15:51,830 --> 00:15:59,180
So I do it just the
way I feel doing it.

277

00:15:59,180 --> 00:16:03,320
I cannot do more, because
then it wouldn't be me.

278

00:16:03,320 --> 00:16:06,270
And if I do less, then
it would be negligent.

279

00:16:06,270 --> 00:16:08,570
So I just leave
it the way it is,

280

00:16:08,570 --> 00:16:11,430
the way I can understand it.

281
00:16:11,430 --> 00:16:15,320
We have a few explanations.

282
00:16:15,320 --> 00:16:21,530
Habakkuk, one of our prophets,
he brings it in this manner.

283
00:16:21,530 --> 00:16:24,200
[HEBREW]

284
00:16:24,200 --> 00:16:30,060
That means, the just
shall live by his fate.

285
00:16:30,060 --> 00:16:32,700
By the way, they had
something similar in the New

286
00:16:32,700 --> 00:16:36,660
Testament that says, the
just by faith shall live.

287
00:16:36,660 --> 00:16:41,070
But our says, the just
shall live by his faith.

288
00:16:41,070 --> 00:16:45,840
Apparently, he shall live the
way he develops his faith,

289
00:16:45,840 --> 00:16:47,880
and the way he can accept it.

290
00:16:47,880 --> 00:16:49,890
And I like that
sentence very much.

291
00:16:49,890 --> 00:16:53,490
It could be that some of
the very Orthodox ones

292
00:16:53,490 --> 00:16:58,260
would not want me to have it
expressed in the same manner.

293
00:16:58,260 --> 00:17:01,470
But I think we are entitled to
interpret our thoughts the way

294
00:17:01,470 --> 00:17:02,700
we want to.

295
00:17:02,700 --> 00:17:05,010
You said you had continued
your education when

296
00:17:05,010 --> 00:17:06,540
you came to the United States.

297
00:17:06,540 --> 00:17:07,619
When was that?

298
00:17:07,619 --> 00:17:09,390
Oh, constantly.

299
00:17:09,390 --> 00:17:15,430
Constantly, as soon as I
entered the business world here.

300
00:17:15,430 --> 00:17:19,470
First of all, I
studied economics.

301
00:17:19,470 --> 00:17:23,430
And I got a CLU, if
this means something.

302
00:17:23,430 --> 00:17:25,530
And then I get a master.

303
00:17:25,530 --> 00:17:29,610
And then I go a PhD,

just during my work time.

304

00:17:29,610 --> 00:17:31,470

What did you get your PhD in?

305

00:17:31,470 --> 00:17:33,420

In Hebrew letters.

306

00:17:33,420 --> 00:17:35,580

And where did you
get your degree?

307

00:17:35,580 --> 00:17:38,610

Hebrew Union College.

308

00:17:38,610 --> 00:17:39,300

So--

309

00:17:39,300 --> 00:17:43,290

And why did you go to get
your PhD in Hebrew letters?

310

00:17:43,290 --> 00:17:46,810

That's an interesting story.

311

00:17:46,810 --> 00:17:49,230

I was 55 years old.

312

00:17:49,230 --> 00:17:54,960

And the company wanted to
transfer me to Pennsylvania

313

00:17:54,960 --> 00:17:56,160

to a higher position.

314

00:17:56,160 --> 00:17:59,700

But I didn't want
to leave any more

315

00:17:59,700 --> 00:18:03,420

Cincinnati, because to connect
with my family, I told them,

316
00:18:03,420 --> 00:18:06,960
if I leave Cincinnati,
I go to Israel.

317
00:18:06,960 --> 00:18:09,780
I'm not going to
Pennsylvania, to Philadelphia.

318
00:18:09,780 --> 00:18:11,400
That's where they wanted.

319
00:18:11,400 --> 00:18:17,250
For some reason, I
had a very large deal

320
00:18:17,250 --> 00:18:19,650
with the University
of Cincinnati.

321
00:18:19,650 --> 00:18:23,610
And that professor was--

322
00:18:23,610 --> 00:18:25,470
well, I probably don't--

323
00:18:25,470 --> 00:18:33,870
he was from
Scandinavian parenthood.

324
00:18:33,870 --> 00:18:40,620
And that deal didn't develop.

325
00:18:40,620 --> 00:18:44,610
And I saw that he had a--

326
00:18:44,610 --> 00:18:49,080
he was feeling very
uncomfortable letting me know

327
00:18:49,080 --> 00:19:01,660
that whatever was planned

cannot be consummated.

328

00:19:01,660 --> 00:19:06,240

And in order for him not
to feel so bad, I said,

329

00:19:06,240 --> 00:19:07,440

don't worry about me.

330

00:19:07,440 --> 00:19:09,430

I'm doing very well.

331

00:19:09,430 --> 00:19:14,320

And I have no special desires
to have anything else.

332

00:19:14,320 --> 00:19:16,320

And I am not envying anything.

333

00:19:16,320 --> 00:19:20,490

Just feel comfortable
that it didn't work.

334

00:19:20,490 --> 00:19:25,210

And when I left his
office and turned back,

335

00:19:25,210 --> 00:19:28,800

I said, well, I still
do envy some people.

336

00:19:28,800 --> 00:19:31,470

And he said, what
do you envy so much?

337

00:19:31,470 --> 00:19:34,050

I said, the academic world.

338

00:19:34,050 --> 00:19:36,690

And he called the
Hebrew Union College.

339

00:19:36,690 --> 00:19:38,400
And that's what happened.

340
00:19:38,400 --> 00:19:41,040

341
00:19:41,040 --> 00:19:45,930
Did you-- do you belong
to any organizations?

342
00:19:45,930 --> 00:19:48,750
Or do you keep up with other
people who are survivors?

343
00:19:48,750 --> 00:19:52,410
Well, B'nai B'rith,
for some reason,

344
00:19:52,410 --> 00:19:57,760
is not as active as they used to
be, at least not my age group.

345
00:19:57,760 --> 00:19:59,640
Some are already gone.

346
00:19:59,640 --> 00:20:02,040
And ZOA is even less.

347
00:20:02,040 --> 00:20:02,850
So I don't.

348
00:20:02,850 --> 00:20:09,780
The only thing is, with the
synagogue, I'm involved with.

349
00:20:09,780 --> 00:20:17,780
And others are just health
groups that I participate in.

350
00:20:17,780 --> 00:20:18,418
That's all.

351

00:20:18,418 --> 00:20:20,460
Do you feel any connection
when you meet somebody

352
00:20:20,460 --> 00:20:22,450
else who came from Europe?

353
00:20:22,450 --> 00:20:22,950
Oh, yeah.

354
00:20:22,950 --> 00:20:23,730
We have friends.

355
00:20:23,730 --> 00:20:24,910
We have plenty of friends.

356
00:20:24,910 --> 00:20:27,090
Yeah, all kind.

357
00:20:27,090 --> 00:20:30,180
But I want to tell you, we
have some Chinese friends, too.

358
00:20:30,180 --> 00:20:32,550
And we feel very
comfortable with them--

359
00:20:32,550 --> 00:20:36,600
and non-Jews, too.

360
00:20:36,600 --> 00:20:41,310
So I cannot say that I'm just
hanging with that one group.

361
00:20:41,310 --> 00:20:42,620
That's definitely not.

362
00:20:42,620 --> 00:20:44,370
But what I meant is,
when you meet someone

363
00:20:44,370 --> 00:20:47,980

who was born in Europe
in that time span,

364
00:20:47,980 --> 00:20:52,400
do you feel any kind of
relationship with that person?

365
00:20:52,400 --> 00:20:54,430
I would say it's almost the--

366
00:20:54,430 --> 00:21:00,040
they have reached my stage, too.

367
00:21:00,040 --> 00:21:01,460
It's a part of life.

368
00:21:01,460 --> 00:21:02,770
We accepted it.

369
00:21:02,770 --> 00:21:04,150
And that's the way it is.

370
00:21:04,150 --> 00:21:07,660
And we try to be good
citizens, as far as we go.

371
00:21:07,660 --> 00:21:10,420
And we participate
for Israel a lot.

372
00:21:10,420 --> 00:21:14,170
But I have never missed an
election in the United States

373
00:21:14,170 --> 00:21:15,400
either.

374
00:21:15,400 --> 00:21:16,660
And I do appreciate it.

375
00:21:16,660 --> 00:21:20,245
I sometimes say what is wrong

here and what is good here.

376

00:21:20,245 --> 00:21:23,440

In this way, I express myself.

377

00:21:23,440 --> 00:21:26,200

You see, I am already

nine years-- more,

378

00:21:26,200 --> 00:21:28,570

almost 10 years retired.

379

00:21:28,570 --> 00:21:32,000

And they now invited me

to a convention in Vienna.

380

00:21:32,000 --> 00:21:34,840

So I'm involved with them.

381

00:21:34,840 --> 00:21:37,810

And they try to invite

me as often as possible.

382

00:21:37,810 --> 00:21:39,730

What kind of

convention in Vienna?

383

00:21:39,730 --> 00:21:42,700

It's from the Metropolitan

Life Insurance Company.

384

00:21:42,700 --> 00:21:43,660

Not only this.

385

00:21:43,660 --> 00:21:47,580

The last time we had

a regional meeting--

386

00:21:47,580 --> 00:21:49,270

the [INAUDIBLE],,

if that would be.

387

00:21:49,270 --> 00:21:51,100
Who knows what?

388
00:21:51,100 --> 00:21:54,640
So I have a connection
with them, too.

389
00:21:54,640 --> 00:21:58,060
But I would say I'm
a regular citizen.

390
00:21:58,060 --> 00:22:01,030
And I'm involved in
whatever has to be involved.

391
00:22:01,030 --> 00:22:03,070
And I skip what I
don't want to see.

392
00:22:03,070 --> 00:22:03,970
And that's it.

393
00:22:03,970 --> 00:22:08,140
Even sports-- we bike a
little bit, or horse riding--

394
00:22:08,140 --> 00:22:13,670
is still going on even though I
am closing pretty close to 75.

395
00:22:13,670 --> 00:22:16,030
So that's the way it is.

396
00:22:16,030 --> 00:22:20,200
Is there anything else you
wanted to add before we finish?

397
00:22:20,200 --> 00:22:27,600
I would say that the story, it
was told as true as possible.

398
00:22:27,600 --> 00:22:30,430
I don't think that it

stretched too much.

399

00:22:30,430 --> 00:22:32,380

It might not be everything.

400

00:22:32,380 --> 00:22:34,910

But sometimes, people
would say, too much.

401

00:22:34,910 --> 00:22:37,860

Then I would have to
explain more other things.

402

00:22:37,860 --> 00:22:39,530

But it's a whole story.

403

00:22:39,530 --> 00:22:41,200

It's a life story.

404

00:22:41,200 --> 00:22:45,040

Of course, in
retrospect, I can smile

405

00:22:45,040 --> 00:22:46,600

that everything came out good.

406

00:22:46,600 --> 00:22:48,780

But I know that others cannot.

407

00:22:48,780 --> 00:22:53,170

And it's sad again and again.

408

00:22:53,170 --> 00:22:55,930

The Christians didn't
do the right things.

409

00:22:55,930 --> 00:22:59,710

And in Europe, in
the 20th century,

410

00:22:59,710 --> 00:23:03,490

to develop such a stupid hatred

still doesn't even make sense.

411

00:23:03,490 --> 00:23:06,520

And then that America
did not have more sense

412

00:23:06,520 --> 00:23:10,810

to help to pull the people out--
that they could have put them

413

00:23:10,810 --> 00:23:17,620

to Alaska, or wherever, or in
South America, South Africa.

414

00:23:17,620 --> 00:23:19,930

Everyone would have
benefited from this.

415

00:23:19,930 --> 00:23:21,490

The world has failed.

416

00:23:21,490 --> 00:23:23,680

There's also the German--

417

00:23:23,680 --> 00:23:25,780

the Hitler crime was great.

418

00:23:25,780 --> 00:23:29,380

But we cannot say that
the Poles didn't fail,

419

00:23:29,380 --> 00:23:32,920

and many other nations,
including the United States,

420

00:23:32,920 --> 00:23:33,610

and so on.

421

00:23:33,610 --> 00:23:35,110

I think that's all I had.

422

00:23:35,110 --> 00:23:40,270

What inspired you to write
down your life story?

423

00:23:40,270 --> 00:23:42,040

First of all, the
children are one.

424

00:23:42,040 --> 00:23:46,090

But as soon as I start
writing, UC jumped on me.

425

00:23:46,090 --> 00:23:48,070

And I had pictures
all hanging around.

426

00:23:48,070 --> 00:23:48,580

Do it.

427

00:23:48,580 --> 00:23:49,630

Do it.

428

00:23:49,630 --> 00:23:51,670

And one more thing.

429

00:23:51,670 --> 00:23:55,490

When I started the Hebrew Union
College, the writings other

430

00:23:55,490 --> 00:23:57,930

had, I wasn't too satisfied.

431

00:23:57,930 --> 00:24:03,190

It wasn't covering--
it did not cover

432

00:24:03,190 --> 00:24:04,890

what should have been covered.

433

00:24:04,890 --> 00:24:10,150

It was to concentrate, either
on the bad things only.

434

00:24:10,150 --> 00:24:13,810

And I didn't like it,
because I wouldn't

435

00:24:13,810 --> 00:24:16,930

sell even my childhood
for anything else,

436

00:24:16,930 --> 00:24:18,220

because it was good.

437

00:24:18,220 --> 00:24:20,470

It had a few bumps, of course.

438

00:24:20,470 --> 00:24:21,700

But it was good.

439

00:24:21,700 --> 00:24:24,130

And the relationship with
my parents that I have

440

00:24:24,130 --> 00:24:28,390

was outstanding, because I see
what others sometimes write.

441

00:24:28,390 --> 00:24:32,560

And I'm a little bit
sorry that I did not

442

00:24:32,560 --> 00:24:35,800

think about that subject
when my father was alive,

443

00:24:35,800 --> 00:24:37,540

because he really
would have broadened

444

00:24:37,540 --> 00:24:39,880

that whole thing to a point.

445

00:24:39,880 --> 00:24:42,490

But I have to be satisfied
with what I am doing.

446
00:24:42,490 --> 00:24:46,150
And I am even satisfied to
have a chance to have met you.

447
00:24:46,150 --> 00:24:47,530
It was very charming.

448
00:24:47,530 --> 00:24:49,960
Really, I cannot say any more.

449
00:24:49,960 --> 00:24:53,320
I could not have met
a better interviewer.

450
00:24:53,320 --> 00:24:55,270
Maybe I have to say
sometimes to others, too.

451
00:24:55,270 --> 00:24:56,837
But in your case,
it was charming.

452
00:24:56,837 --> 00:24:57,670
There's no question.

453
00:24:57,670 --> 00:24:58,750
Thank you.

454
00:24:58,750 --> 00:25:02,967
Well, thank you very much
for doing the interview.

455
00:25:02,967 --> 00:25:03,550
[BOTH TALKING]

456
00:25:03,550 --> 00:25:05,470
I mean it.

457
00:25:05,470 --> 00:25:10,020
This concludes the interview
of Erwin Deutscher.

458

00:25:10,020 --> 00:25:11,101