

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:02,720

2

00:00:02,720 --> 00:00:05,060

This is The United States  
Holocaust Memorial Museum

3

00:00:05,060 --> 00:00:08,029

Volunteer Collection interview  
with Fritz Gluckstein conducted

4

00:00:08,029 --> 00:00:12,920

by Esther Finder on October  
5th in the year 2000.

5

00:00:12,920 --> 00:00:14,930

This interview is part  
of the museum's project

6

00:00:14,930 --> 00:00:17,540

to interview Holocaust survivors  
and witnesses who are also

7

00:00:17,540 --> 00:00:19,130

volunteers with the Museum.

8

00:00:19,130 --> 00:00:20,570

This is a follow  
up interview that

9

00:00:20,570 --> 00:00:24,493

will focus on Fritz Gluckstein's  
post-Holocaust experiences.

10

00:00:24,493 --> 00:00:25,910

In preparation for  
this interview,

11

00:00:25,910 --> 00:00:27,452

I listened to the  
interview conducted

12

00:00:27,452 --> 00:00:30,110  
with the Survivors of the  
Shoah Visual History Foundation

13

00:00:30,110 --> 00:00:32,450  
on March 10, 1997.

14

00:00:32,450 --> 00:00:34,130  
I will not ask you  
to repeat everything

15

00:00:34,130 --> 00:00:35,300  
you said in that interview.

16

00:00:35,300 --> 00:00:37,610  
Instead, I will use this  
interview as an opportunity

17

00:00:37,610 --> 00:00:39,890  
to follow-up on that  
interview and focus

18

00:00:39,890 --> 00:00:42,140  
on your post-Holocaust  
experiences.

19

00:00:42,140 --> 00:00:48,670  
This is tape number 1 side A.

20

00:00:48,670 --> 00:00:49,170  
OK.

21

00:00:49,170 --> 00:00:52,260  
We're back after a brief  
interruption with a telephone.

22

00:00:52,260 --> 00:00:54,300  
I'd like to start the  
interview by asking

23

00:00:54,300 --> 00:00:57,570  
you to set the stage

for me and describe

24

00:00:57,570 --> 00:01:00,385

the last few weeks

and months of the war

25

00:01:00,385 --> 00:01:02,760

and what was happening in your  
life, including telling me

26

00:01:02,760 --> 00:01:04,290

how old you were at this time.

27

00:01:04,290 --> 00:01:10,478

28

00:01:10,478 --> 00:01:19,502

[INAUDIBLE] I was born in '27.

29

00:01:19,502 --> 00:01:26,845

And '27 until '45--

30

00:01:26,845 --> 00:01:27,345

18.

31

00:01:27,345 --> 00:01:34,330

32

00:01:34,330 --> 00:01:38,830

Well, I would say  
the end of the war--

33

00:01:38,830 --> 00:01:43,420

the beginning of the end was  
when we could hear the cannon

34

00:01:43,420 --> 00:01:46,240

fire in the distance.

35

00:01:46,240 --> 00:01:49,450

You got up in the morning,  
and then you heard a cannon.

36

00:01:49,450 --> 00:01:54,430

Went to work and we  
heard the cannon.

37

00:01:54,430 --> 00:02:03,010

And it happened that my father  
and I worked at the same place,

38

00:02:03,010 --> 00:02:05,950

the cleaning up  
of the air raids.

39

00:02:05,950 --> 00:02:11,290

And my father came to me and  
said, you know what happened?

40

00:02:11,290 --> 00:02:15,820

The foreman, the  
overseer if you wish,

41

00:02:15,820 --> 00:02:17,920

just addressed me, your honor.

42

00:02:17,920 --> 00:02:20,944

My father was a judge.

43

00:02:20,944 --> 00:02:24,850

It used to be, in the beginning,  
it was just Gluckstein.

44

00:02:24,850 --> 00:02:29,440

Well, then it was probably  
Herr or Mr. Gluckstein.

45

00:02:29,440 --> 00:02:32,590

And lo and behold, when  
the Russians came closer,

46

00:02:32,590 --> 00:02:36,100

then he remembered, ah,  
and said, Your Honor.

47

00:02:36,100 --> 00:02:40,030

48

00:02:40,030 --> 00:02:45,970

And they put us to work  
to build tank traps.

49

00:02:45,970 --> 00:02:48,250

And there's a story now.

50

00:02:48,250 --> 00:02:50,740

How long will it  
take the Russians

51

00:02:50,740 --> 00:02:56,070

to go to breach the tank traps?

52

00:02:56,070 --> 00:02:59,890

Well, exactly 31 minutes.

53

00:02:59,890 --> 00:03:01,930

Why 31 minutes?

54

00:03:01,930 --> 00:03:03,910

Well, for 30  
minutes, they laugh,

55

00:03:03,910 --> 00:03:07,390

and they're taking one  
minute to get through.

56

00:03:07,390 --> 00:03:09,190

That's exactly what  
happened by the way.

57

00:03:09,190 --> 00:03:12,460

58

00:03:12,460 --> 00:03:16,250

Actually, pretty  
soon you could--

59

00:03:16,250 --> 00:03:19,300  
the shells fell into the city.

60

00:03:19,300 --> 00:03:25,690  
And of course there was no water  
in the houses or apartments,

61

00:03:25,690 --> 00:03:27,140  
and you had to go out.

62

00:03:27,140 --> 00:03:30,670  
you had to grab the  
couple of buckets,

63

00:03:30,670 --> 00:03:34,210  
and ran to the nearest pump.

64

00:03:34,210 --> 00:03:39,310  
Berlin at that time still had  
water pumps on the street.

65

00:03:39,310 --> 00:03:43,900  
And filled up the buckets,  
and then you ran back.

66

00:03:43,900 --> 00:03:51,550  
And suddenly, whee, and  
you just hit the ground

67

00:03:51,550 --> 00:03:54,460  
and of course spilled  
all the water.

68

00:03:54,460 --> 00:03:57,850  
And then I went back, and  
did it again, and filled up

69

00:03:57,850 --> 00:03:59,170  
the buckets again.

70

00:03:59,170 --> 00:04:01,700  
And if you were lucky,

you got the buckets home.

71

00:04:01,700 --> 00:04:03,670

Otherwise, you  
can hit the ground

72

00:04:03,670 --> 00:04:07,270

and get three or four times,  
but finally you got it home.

73

00:04:07,270 --> 00:04:10,110

74

00:04:10,110 --> 00:04:14,320

And actually it was  
quite dangerous.

75

00:04:14,320 --> 00:04:17,940

I had a very narrow  
escape standing

76

00:04:17,940 --> 00:04:22,620

in the entrance to  
the house, waiting

77

00:04:22,620 --> 00:04:25,785

for a lull in the fighting  
to get some water.

78

00:04:25,785 --> 00:04:27,540

I was standing there  
with another fellow,

79

00:04:27,540 --> 00:04:31,206

and suddenly he falls down.

80

00:04:31,206 --> 00:04:33,780

He was hit by a  
piece of shrapnel.

81

00:04:33,780 --> 00:04:38,715

This was, I want to say,  
about less than a yard.

82  
00:04:38,715 --> 00:04:40,480  
It could have been me.

83  
00:04:40,480 --> 00:04:43,410  
I've always been very lucky.

84  
00:04:43,410 --> 00:04:50,190  
And actually, some  
street fighting occurred.

85  
00:04:50,190 --> 00:04:54,990  
And I remember, it was  
a group of Russians,

86  
00:04:54,990 --> 00:04:58,830  
and I believe Ukrainians  
in German uniforms.

87  
00:04:58,830 --> 00:05:00,780  
And we said to  
each other, if they

88  
00:05:00,780 --> 00:05:05,025  
get caught by the Russians,  
they won't stay alive.

89  
00:05:05,025 --> 00:05:12,840

90  
00:05:12,840 --> 00:05:15,960  
Actually, one thing  
I still remember,

91  
00:05:15,960 --> 00:05:18,270  
the last issue of a paper--

92  
00:05:18,270 --> 00:05:21,600  
at that time they didn't--  
some special issue,

93  
00:05:21,600 --> 00:05:28,590



it was distributed, where  
Goebbels, and I quote,

94  
00:05:28,590 --> 00:05:33,360  
In front of the gates of  
Berlin, the Russians will meet

95  
00:05:33,360 --> 00:05:35,370  
their final defeat.

96  
00:05:35,370 --> 00:05:36,790  
And don't fear the Russians.

97  
00:05:36,790 --> 00:05:40,596  
They are inferior fighters.

98  
00:05:40,596 --> 00:05:43,860  
And this he wrote where  
he could hear the cannons

99  
00:05:43,860 --> 00:05:47,460  
and where the shells came in.

100  
00:05:47,460 --> 00:05:53,760  
Well, actually,  
one of the reasons

101  
00:05:53,760 --> 00:05:59,700  
I always say I was lucky,  
Berlin was attacked

102  
00:05:59,700 --> 00:06:01,680  
from two sides, the East--

103  
00:06:01,680 --> 00:06:05,880  
over the East came Marshall  
Zhukov and from the South

104  
00:06:05,880 --> 00:06:08,010  
came Marshall Konev.

105  
00:06:08,010 --> 00:06:12,960

And Marshall Konev  
came in so fast, well,

106  
00:06:12,960 --> 00:06:17,280  
actually, I wonder what  
would happen to us hadn't he

107  
00:06:17,280 --> 00:06:18,210  
came in so fast.

108  
00:06:18,210 --> 00:06:21,900  
I remember where the  
Russians came in.

109  
00:06:21,900 --> 00:06:27,990  
And of course, first they didn't  
believe that we were Jews.

110  
00:06:27,990 --> 00:06:32,080  
All Jews are gone.

111  
00:06:32,080 --> 00:06:37,230  
But we persuaded them there  
were still a few alive.

112  
00:06:37,230 --> 00:06:43,344

113  
00:06:43,344 --> 00:06:46,320  
And then, of course,  
the shelling stopped,

114  
00:06:46,320 --> 00:06:49,040  
and we ventured  
out in the street.

115  
00:06:49,040 --> 00:06:52,272  
And actually, what  
you saw there was--

116  
00:06:52,272 --> 00:06:55,130

117

00:06:55,130 --> 00:06:59,860

as you walk out, there were  
dead bodies, corpses, all

118

00:06:59,860 --> 00:07:01,590

along the street.

119

00:07:01,590 --> 00:07:08,250

And some sites were  
quite horrible.

120

00:07:08,250 --> 00:07:13,830

Bodies actually run over by  
tanks, flattened on the street.

121

00:07:13,830 --> 00:07:18,920

And you went further  
and saw the devastation,

122

00:07:18,920 --> 00:07:23,540

and you realized how lucky you  
were that the house we stayed

123

00:07:23,540 --> 00:07:26,120

in-- this was a kind of  
apartment building with two

124

00:07:26,120 --> 00:07:27,560

other families--

125

00:07:27,560 --> 00:07:29,330

only had minor damage.

126

00:07:29,330 --> 00:07:32,620

If we got hit, we  
wouldn't be alive.

127

00:07:32,620 --> 00:07:35,900

128

00:07:35,900 --> 00:07:42,540

Then of course a food shortage.

129  
00:07:42,540 --> 00:07:44,390  
However, we were lucky.

130  
00:07:44,390 --> 00:07:50,660  
In the house we lived,  
there was a horse butcher.

131  
00:07:50,660 --> 00:07:57,500  
At that time people ate horses.

132  
00:07:57,500 --> 00:07:59,090  
And of course there were some--

133  
00:07:59,090 --> 00:08:03,320  
I remember, a Russian  
officer's mount was badly hurt

134  
00:08:03,320 --> 00:08:06,080  
and had to be butchered.

135  
00:08:06,080 --> 00:08:11,330  
And thanks to the butcher,  
we had some horse meat.

136  
00:08:11,330 --> 00:08:12,830  
Of course, we did not--

137  
00:08:12,830 --> 00:08:14,750  
horse meat, you would  
think-- but, well,

138  
00:08:14,750 --> 00:08:18,110  
if you have nothing  
else, you eat it.

139  
00:08:18,110 --> 00:08:22,220  
And actually you can't tell.

140  
00:08:22,220 --> 00:08:25,460  
Unless you know it, you  
wouldn't know it was horse meat.

141  
00:08:25,460 --> 00:08:30,610

142  
00:08:30,610 --> 00:08:34,539  
And I still remember,  
my father and I

143  
00:08:34,539 --> 00:08:39,490  
ventured out for some reason  
to try to visit someone.

144  
00:08:39,490 --> 00:08:43,000  
I don't exactly  
recall why we did it.

145  
00:08:43,000 --> 00:08:47,230  
And lo and behold, there came  
a Russian soldier and shouted,

146  
00:08:47,230 --> 00:08:48,580  
"Voina kaputt!"

147  
00:08:48,580 --> 00:08:52,240  
Meaning the war was over  
because we had surrendered.

148  
00:08:52,240 --> 00:08:53,860  
I still remember distinctly.

149  
00:08:53,860 --> 00:08:57,740

150  
00:08:57,740 --> 00:09:02,120  
Now, the soldiers, I  
believe he was in the army,

151  
00:09:02,120 --> 00:09:07,550  
the front line soldiers, very  
decent behaved quite well.

152  
00:09:07,550 --> 00:09:12,140

Well, they had to fight, they  
had to face death every minute,

153  
00:09:12,140 --> 00:09:13,880  
and they behaved OK.

154  
00:09:13,880 --> 00:09:17,270  
But later on, the people  
that brought up the supplies,

155  
00:09:17,270 --> 00:09:20,690  
and there came the Kommissar  
and so on, they did not always

156  
00:09:20,690 --> 00:09:24,020  
behave very well,  
and some plunder.

157  
00:09:24,020 --> 00:09:27,290  
But there too,  
actually lucky again.

158  
00:09:27,290 --> 00:09:29,160  
Nothing much happened to us.

159  
00:09:29,160 --> 00:09:34,610  
And I must say that the  
Russian authority at that time

160  
00:09:34,610 --> 00:09:40,880  
did their best to prevent  
plundering and harassment

161  
00:09:40,880 --> 00:09:41,810  
of the population.

162  
00:09:41,810 --> 00:09:43,085  
I must say that.

163  
00:09:43,085 --> 00:09:44,420  
They tried their very best.

164

00:09:44,420 --> 00:09:47,900

165

00:09:47,900 --> 00:09:50,540

Now, it's all over.

166

00:09:50,540 --> 00:09:53,150

What do you do?

167

00:09:53,150 --> 00:09:56,030

I remember at one  
time, that just wait.

168

00:09:56,030 --> 00:09:59,840

When the war is over, I will  
get him, and I will get hurt.

169

00:09:59,840 --> 00:10:03,690

And just wait what  
I will do to them.

170

00:10:03,690 --> 00:10:04,940

Revenge.

171

00:10:04,940 --> 00:10:05,620

Did we do it?

172

00:10:05,620 --> 00:10:06,120

No.

173

00:10:06,120 --> 00:10:09,880

174

00:10:09,880 --> 00:10:12,670

Before I let you continue,  
I have a few questions

175

00:10:12,670 --> 00:10:16,960

that I would like with respect  
to the very end of the war.

176

00:10:16,960 --> 00:10:20,500

How many Jews were with  
you at the end of the war?

177  
00:10:20,500 --> 00:10:23,200  
Right close by in  
the same apartment?

178  
00:10:23,200 --> 00:10:25,690  
With you when you were working,  
when the Russians came in.

179  
00:10:25,690 --> 00:10:27,870  
Oh.

180  
00:10:27,870 --> 00:10:36,540  
I would say-- of course,  
once the Russians came close,

181  
00:10:36,540 --> 00:10:39,810  
we just stopped working,  
because we couldn't-- no public

182  
00:10:39,810 --> 00:10:44,430  
conveyances, and we simply  
couldn't get to our workplace

183  
00:10:44,430 --> 00:10:46,710  
or we just stayed home.

184  
00:10:46,710 --> 00:10:50,020  
I would say 20, 30, 40.

185  
00:10:50,020 --> 00:10:53,550  
There were groups  
all over Berlin.

186  
00:10:53,550 --> 00:10:59,010  
At that time were  
mostly mixed marriages.

187  
00:10:59,010 --> 00:11:05,430  
Most of the other Jews  
either had been deported or--



188  
00:11:05,430 --> 00:11:08,790  
well, some were in hiding.

189  
00:11:08,790 --> 00:11:12,120  
But I would say groups varied.

190  
00:11:12,120 --> 00:11:15,480  
What happened, sometimes 50,  
then they were taken away--

191  
00:11:15,480 --> 00:11:18,540  
10 taken away to  
another place and so.

192  
00:11:18,540 --> 00:11:21,630  
That's where I met my father.

193  
00:11:21,630 --> 00:11:25,000  
I used to work in one group  
and my father another.

194  
00:11:25,000 --> 00:11:28,260  
And one day I see  
a group coming,

195  
00:11:28,260 --> 00:11:29,790  
my father was among the group.

196  
00:11:29,790 --> 00:11:32,115  
And from there on,  
we worked together--

197  
00:11:32,115 --> 00:11:35,310  
it was just by chance  
in the same group.

198  
00:11:35,310 --> 00:11:38,700  
But there were  
about 30, 40 or so.

199  
00:11:38,700 --> 00:11:41,670

We did various things, cleaning up.

200  
00:11:41,670 --> 00:11:44,730  
I remember the last job was cleaning up--

201  
00:11:44,730 --> 00:11:50,190  
it was a cold storage house and apartment houses

202  
00:11:50,190 --> 00:11:51,780  
or whatever had to be done.

203  
00:11:51,780 --> 00:11:58,158  
Or they put us to work to build those Panzer tank traps.

204  
00:11:58,158 --> 00:12:01,195  
You mentioned that you were living in a house, a building.

205  
00:12:01,195 --> 00:12:02,820  
Can you describe your living conditions

206  
00:12:02,820 --> 00:12:04,080  
at the end of the war?

207  
00:12:04,080 --> 00:12:05,130  
Yes.

208  
00:12:05,130 --> 00:12:08,190  
We had been bombed out twice.

209  
00:12:08,190 --> 00:12:14,220  
And, of course, when we were bombed out, we have to--

210  
00:12:14,220 --> 00:12:16,050  
the second time we were bombed out--

211

00:12:16,050 --> 00:12:20,850

we stayed actually at  
the Jewish hospital.

212

00:12:20,850 --> 00:12:25,650

And then we found some  
kind of apartment--

213

00:12:25,650 --> 00:12:30,280

meaning an apartment that we  
shared with two other families.

214

00:12:30,280 --> 00:12:35,520

I remember, there were my  
parents, I, and two couples--

215

00:12:35,520 --> 00:12:40,260

two tailors.

216

00:12:40,260 --> 00:12:45,540

Well, at that time we all  
lived in one apartment.

217

00:12:45,540 --> 00:12:51,360

And I still remember, at that  
time you don't have bed sheets.

218

00:12:51,360 --> 00:12:57,270

You just put a blanket on a  
bed, and there you stayed.

219

00:12:57,270 --> 00:12:58,890

Usually, pretty  
often, you didn't

220

00:12:58,890 --> 00:13:03,330

even undress because of alarms  
or shelling or something.

221

00:13:03,330 --> 00:13:07,470

But we were fortunate too  
that the house wasn't hit.

222

00:13:07,470 --> 00:13:10,740

It was an apartment-- an  
older apartment house.

223

00:13:10,740 --> 00:13:13,560

And there we lived.

224

00:13:13,560 --> 00:13:16,510

225

00:13:16,510 --> 00:13:18,210

You mentioned shelling.

226

00:13:18,210 --> 00:13:21,340

Do you remember the  
birthday present

227

00:13:21,340 --> 00:13:24,120

that the Russians gave to  
Hitler in April of 1940?

228

00:13:24,120 --> 00:13:28,560

Actually, I would  
say the entire--

229

00:13:28,560 --> 00:13:30,340

let's speak about  
the birthday present.

230

00:13:30,340 --> 00:13:31,768

It's getting worse and worse.

231

00:13:31,768 --> 00:13:33,310

I wouldn't even say  
it started there.

232

00:13:33,310 --> 00:13:34,240

It ended.

233

00:13:34,240 --> 00:13:36,670

Shelling, bombing,  
everything else.

234  
00:13:36,670 --> 00:13:41,440  
And then, of course, you had  
small arms fire heard too.

235  
00:13:41,440 --> 00:13:46,870  
But of course some  
say, thank goodness

236  
00:13:46,870 --> 00:13:48,520  
the Russians took Berlin.

237  
00:13:48,520 --> 00:13:51,220  
Had the Americans  
Berlin, they probably

238  
00:13:51,220 --> 00:13:54,130  
would have pulled back the  
troops, no street fighting,

239  
00:13:54,130 --> 00:13:58,970  
and would have completely  
bombed Berlin into submission.

240  
00:13:58,970 --> 00:14:04,360

241  
00:14:04,360 --> 00:14:08,470  
When did you learn  
about Hitler's death?

242  
00:14:08,470 --> 00:14:15,850  
Actually, I didn't  
learn details.

243  
00:14:15,850 --> 00:14:19,310  
We actually didn't learn  
for quite some time.

244  
00:14:19,310 --> 00:14:23,450  
We know the shelling stopped  
and the Russians were there.

245

00:14:23,450 --> 00:14:30,070

And we were so busy trying  
to get something to eat,

246

00:14:30,070 --> 00:14:35,620

and board up the windows,  
and so on, we really didn't--

247

00:14:35,620 --> 00:14:37,840

there were no papers.

248

00:14:37,840 --> 00:14:40,100

We had a radio.

249

00:14:40,100 --> 00:14:43,000

When we had electricity,  
we heard a little bit

250

00:14:43,000 --> 00:14:44,500

on shortwave.

251

00:14:44,500 --> 00:14:47,890

But actually, the death  
of Hitler, I don't recall.

252

00:14:47,890 --> 00:14:53,020

Eventually, it came--  
we realized it.

253

00:14:53,020 --> 00:14:55,090

But was there a consequence?

254

00:14:55,090 --> 00:14:56,570

We weren't quite sure.

255

00:14:56,570 --> 00:14:58,570

We didn't even know that  
the government probably

256

00:14:58,570 --> 00:15:01,100

had left Berlin.

257

00:15:01,100 --> 00:15:03,730

I don't recall

exactly the exact time

258

00:15:03,730 --> 00:15:06,580

when we learned about Hitler.

259

00:15:06,580 --> 00:15:10,940

We learned about

the capitulation.

260

00:15:10,940 --> 00:15:18,160

It actually was, if I recall,

done first in the West .

261

00:15:18,160 --> 00:15:22,750

And then it was done.

262

00:15:22,750 --> 00:15:25,230

Yes.

263

00:15:25,230 --> 00:15:28,380

Part of the Germany

army capitulated

264

00:15:28,380 --> 00:15:30,630

to the Western powers

and part of the Russians,

265

00:15:30,630 --> 00:15:32,400

and then they came

over to Berlin in order

266

00:15:32,400 --> 00:15:35,010

to have them all together.

267

00:15:35,010 --> 00:15:35,640

I recall that.

268

00:15:35,640 --> 00:15:39,820

269

00:15:39,820 --> 00:15:42,220

What was the state of your  
health at the end of the war?

270

00:15:42,220 --> 00:15:44,960

271

00:15:44,960 --> 00:15:47,350

I would say quite good.

272

00:15:47,350 --> 00:15:47,890

Yes.

273

00:15:47,890 --> 00:15:52,610

there was never much to eat, and  
in fact we spent very often--

274

00:15:52,610 --> 00:15:54,710

while working, I  
remember particularly

275

00:15:54,710 --> 00:16:03,950

the older men designed  
menus what they would

276

00:16:03,950 --> 00:16:06,230

eat when the war was over.

277

00:16:06,230 --> 00:16:07,490

Of course, we didn't go--

278

00:16:07,490 --> 00:16:09,260

what did we know about menus.

279

00:16:09,260 --> 00:16:10,400

It was OK.

280

00:16:10,400 --> 00:16:13,970

But there too I was fortunate  
that particularly my aunt,

281



00:16:13,970 --> 00:16:21,650  
my mother's sister, did her  
very best to give us some food.

282  
00:16:21,650 --> 00:16:27,170  
I still remember when they  
met her on the street.

283  
00:16:27,170 --> 00:16:29,420  
Of course they couldn't  
go to her apartment.

284  
00:16:29,420 --> 00:16:32,690  
And she gave me a parcel.

285  
00:16:32,690 --> 00:16:35,060  
And lo and behold, who  
came around the corner?

286  
00:16:35,060 --> 00:16:40,340  
One of the biggest Nazi women  
in the district, and said,

287  
00:16:40,340 --> 00:16:44,240  
ah, good evening Mrs. So-and-so.

288  
00:16:44,240 --> 00:16:46,580  
He's helping me  
carrying some stuff.

289  
00:16:46,580 --> 00:16:48,300  
We had to do this.

290  
00:16:48,300 --> 00:16:49,250  
But it was very--

291  
00:16:49,250 --> 00:16:52,160

292  
00:16:52,160 --> 00:16:57,560  
well, let's say I was  
hungry, but not starved.

293

00:16:57,560 --> 00:16:59,600  
Other people had it much worse.

294

00:16:59,600 --> 00:17:03,305  
I can't-- really can't complain.

295

00:17:03,305 --> 00:17:05,839  
It was all right.

296

00:17:05,839 --> 00:17:08,599  
Did you have much  
contact regularly

297

00:17:08,599 --> 00:17:11,560  
during the war with your  
relatives that were not Jewish?

298

00:17:11,560 --> 00:17:15,650

299

00:17:15,650 --> 00:17:18,980  
At the end of the war, no.

300

00:17:18,980 --> 00:17:27,369  
But actually, I remember  
I would say too,

301

00:17:27,369 --> 00:17:30,490  
at the end of the war when the  
Russian bombardment started,

302

00:17:30,490 --> 00:17:32,330  
actually there was no  
contact whatsoever.

303

00:17:32,330 --> 00:17:36,370  
Before that, yes, to a  
certain degree, particularly

304

00:17:36,370 --> 00:17:37,630  
with my aunt.

305

00:17:37,630 --> 00:17:43,400

In fact, whatever she  
could give us, she gave us,

306

00:17:43,400 --> 00:17:45,220

I'm quite sure.

307

00:17:45,220 --> 00:17:49,675

But I would say we  
never lost contact.

308

00:17:49,675 --> 00:17:55,750

309

00:17:55,750 --> 00:18:00,340

You talked about the  
invasion of the Russians,

310

00:18:00,340 --> 00:18:04,070

but I'd like to ask you what  
were your thoughts, what

311

00:18:04,070 --> 00:18:07,000

was going through your head,  
given the situation that you

312

00:18:07,000 --> 00:18:08,950

had been in during  
the war, what was

313

00:18:08,950 --> 00:18:10,600

this experience like for you?

314

00:18:10,600 --> 00:18:18,010

315

00:18:18,010 --> 00:18:21,280

So actually I would say  
you were almost numb.

316

00:18:21,280 --> 00:18:24,430

You were concerned would

you survive and not get hit

317  
00:18:24,430 --> 00:18:26,560  
by a shell.

318  
00:18:26,560 --> 00:18:30,010  
And of course you  
hoped too that you

319  
00:18:30,010 --> 00:18:36,040  
don't get some  
fanatic Nazis would

320  
00:18:36,040 --> 00:18:41,480  
come after us of course,  
which some instances happened

321  
00:18:41,480 --> 00:18:43,970  
in the North of Berlin.

322  
00:18:43,970 --> 00:18:47,540  
But thanks to Marshall Konev  
coming in so far to the South,

323  
00:18:47,540 --> 00:18:49,790  
nothing happened to us.

324  
00:18:49,790 --> 00:18:58,430  
And perhaps if we  
ever think about it,

325  
00:18:58,430 --> 00:19:03,780  
would the Russians  
recognize us as Jews?

326  
00:19:03,780 --> 00:19:06,320  
Actually, we didn't  
think about it.

327  
00:19:06,320 --> 00:19:08,990  
When they came, what  
are you doing here?

328

00:19:08,990 --> 00:19:12,320

Look, a young fellow,  
sitting here--

329

00:19:12,320 --> 00:19:13,580

is he a deserter?

330

00:19:13,580 --> 00:19:15,830

What is he doing here?

331

00:19:15,830 --> 00:19:19,760

Well, we explained to them.

332

00:19:19,760 --> 00:19:26,540

But thinking back, was there  
a sudden sigh of relief?

333

00:19:26,540 --> 00:19:27,485

No.

334

00:19:27,485 --> 00:19:31,710

It slowly dawned on us,  
you know, now it is over.

335

00:19:31,710 --> 00:19:34,040

We are still in one piece.

336

00:19:34,040 --> 00:19:35,000

Wonderful.

337

00:19:35,000 --> 00:19:35,530

Thank God.

338

00:19:35,530 --> 00:19:45,440

339

00:19:45,440 --> 00:19:49,190

When you realized that it was  
over and you were in one piece,

340

00:19:49,190 --> 00:19:53,240

what steps did you take  
to start a new life again?

341  
00:19:53,240 --> 00:19:58,290

342  
00:19:58,290 --> 00:20:00,630  
Well, the beginning,  
actually, you

343  
00:20:00,630 --> 00:20:05,520  
were busy cleaning up  
in the neighborhood.

344  
00:20:05,520 --> 00:20:06,360  
Rubble everywhere.

345  
00:20:06,360 --> 00:20:08,880  
In fact, you couldn't  
even enter the house.

346  
00:20:08,880 --> 00:20:12,660  
That was number one.

347  
00:20:12,660 --> 00:20:18,270  
And then, of course, you  
tried to have better living

348  
00:20:18,270 --> 00:20:19,530  
conditions and more room.

349  
00:20:19,530 --> 00:20:23,400  
It was quite crowded in  
that apartment actually.

350  
00:20:23,400 --> 00:20:27,030  
But what did you do?

351  
00:20:27,030 --> 00:20:31,800  
At the beginning there was  
no public transportation.

352

00:20:31,800 --> 00:20:36,360  
And again, the food situation.

353  
00:20:36,360 --> 00:20:44,790  
Well, actually, we tried  
to go toward the suburbs--

354  
00:20:44,790 --> 00:20:46,710  
less devastation  
in the suburbs--

355  
00:20:46,710 --> 00:20:49,000  
to find something there.

356  
00:20:49,000 --> 00:20:52,750  
In fact, we found something.

357  
00:20:52,750 --> 00:20:58,410  
Now, of course, at that time  
there was actually a change,

358  
00:20:58,410 --> 00:21:01,560  
a condition change,  
when the Americans,

359  
00:21:01,560 --> 00:21:03,550  
the British, and French arrived.

360  
00:21:03,550 --> 00:21:07,590

361  
00:21:07,590 --> 00:21:11,760  
We took a hand to begin once--  
you had to walk an awful lot.

362  
00:21:11,760 --> 00:21:13,200  
Actually, we walked.

363  
00:21:13,200 --> 00:21:15,390  
Occasionally, we  
jumped in a truck.

364

00:21:15,390 --> 00:21:18,030  
Somebody came by,  
go a direction,

365  
00:21:18,030 --> 00:21:19,290  
and we went to the suburbs.

366  
00:21:19,290 --> 00:21:20,250  
They found something.

367  
00:21:20,250 --> 00:21:25,742  
Actually, it was a house.

368  
00:21:25,742 --> 00:21:27,970  
It may have belonged  
to a former Nazi.

369  
00:21:27,970 --> 00:21:33,340  
And well, we moved in there  
and moved some of our stuff.

370  
00:21:33,340 --> 00:21:34,430  
There wasn't much left.

371  
00:21:34,430 --> 00:21:36,690  
There was no furniture actually.

372  
00:21:36,690 --> 00:21:41,820  
The only furniture we  
had left was our beds

373  
00:21:41,820 --> 00:21:46,500  
and all the other stuff.

374  
00:21:46,500 --> 00:21:52,350  
We moved the beds, I remember,  
and the home was furnished.

375  
00:21:52,350 --> 00:21:55,580

376  
00:21:55,580 --> 00:21:58,460



And it was the suburbs.

377

00:21:58,460 --> 00:22:04,490

And we had a garden,  
which was very important.

378

00:22:04,490 --> 00:22:07,340

Because, what did  
you do for food?

379

00:22:07,340 --> 00:22:15,200

Well, we grew tomatoes,  
and potatoes, and beans

380

00:22:15,200 --> 00:22:17,160

right in the front  
yard and the backyard.

381

00:22:17,160 --> 00:22:20,050

We had to do it for food.

382

00:22:20,050 --> 00:22:26,570

And I remember it was my mother  
and I went to another suburb

383

00:22:26,570 --> 00:22:29,030

to get some apples and fruit.

384

00:22:29,030 --> 00:22:30,740

And what did we do?

385

00:22:30,740 --> 00:22:36,590

The bridge across a canal  
had been demolished,

386

00:22:36,590 --> 00:22:43,640

and we walked across the  
canal on a big sewer pipe.

387

00:22:43,640 --> 00:22:45,730

Thinking of it, what  
was in our mind?

388

00:22:45,730 --> 00:22:49,760

We could have fallen, but  
we walked right across.

389

00:22:49,760 --> 00:22:53,192

Food was very important.

390

00:22:53,192 --> 00:22:56,000

391

00:22:56,000 --> 00:23:01,040

Actually, we moved  
to that house.

392

00:23:01,040 --> 00:23:05,535

I don't exactly know why  
this particular house.

393

00:23:05,535 --> 00:23:11,210

But my father in some some way--  
probably we found it empty.

394

00:23:11,210 --> 00:23:15,800

And at that time, the  
Russians were still out there

395

00:23:15,800 --> 00:23:22,170

in that suburb, and looking  
how to get in there.

396

00:23:22,170 --> 00:23:24,170

Now, the Americans came in.

397

00:23:24,170 --> 00:23:26,150

And lo and behold,  
pretty soon, they

398

00:23:26,150 --> 00:23:31,280

started out to requisition  
some of the houses

399

00:23:31,280 --> 00:23:34,250

for the military staff.

400

00:23:34,250 --> 00:23:37,400

And I still remember,  
we were there.

401

00:23:37,400 --> 00:23:43,670

Came the American Jeep, stopped  
at almost every other house.

402

00:23:43,670 --> 00:23:47,966

I saw a young man, a young  
officer, sitting in the--

403

00:23:47,966 --> 00:23:51,710

looking in the house,  
stopped, went inside, probably

404

00:23:51,710 --> 00:23:52,430

requisitioned.

405

00:23:52,430 --> 00:23:55,320

And the people who  
lived had to leave.

406

00:23:55,320 --> 00:24:01,820

Lo and behold, I went out  
there and I tried to explain.

407

00:24:01,820 --> 00:24:07,385

My English, well,  
it was passable.

408

00:24:07,385 --> 00:24:09,540

I tried to explain I'm Jewish.

409

00:24:09,540 --> 00:24:13,580

And he said, number one, you  
didn't have to talk English--

410

00:24:13,580 --> 00:24:14,967

fluent German.

411

00:24:14,967 --> 00:24:17,660

Probably [INAUDIBLE]

and he said,

412

00:24:17,660 --> 00:24:20,210

I see you looking at that--

413

00:24:20,210 --> 00:24:23,510

I wouldn't worry.

414

00:24:23,510 --> 00:24:27,440

I don't think I'll

need your house.

415

00:24:27,440 --> 00:24:30,650

And we could stay.

416

00:24:30,650 --> 00:24:38,710

And again and again food.

417

00:24:38,710 --> 00:24:40,780

Actually, in the

beginning, the Russians,

418

00:24:40,780 --> 00:24:44,470

before the Americans came,

tried their very best.

419

00:24:44,470 --> 00:24:46,870

I remember what they did.

420

00:24:46,870 --> 00:24:51,640

At the cemeteries

they had greenhouses.

421

00:24:51,640 --> 00:24:53,110

Well, they said,

no more flowers.

422

00:24:53,110 --> 00:24:55,170

Now we will grow

tomatoes and vegetables.

423  
00:24:55,170 --> 00:24:57,250  
And those quite good.

424  
00:24:57,250 --> 00:25:04,660  
Then the Western powers  
came and they took turns.

425  
00:25:04,660 --> 00:25:06,970  
Actually the Americans  
and the Russians

426  
00:25:06,970 --> 00:25:10,210  
took turns supplying  
food for Berlin.

427  
00:25:10,210 --> 00:25:15,220  
One month the Russians,  
meaning usually

428  
00:25:15,220 --> 00:25:18,040  
dark bread and potatoes.

429  
00:25:18,040 --> 00:25:21,490  
And then one month the American,  
that meant white bread.

430  
00:25:21,490 --> 00:25:25,450  
It was quite something--  
white bread was a delicacy.

431  
00:25:25,450 --> 00:25:28,240  
In fact Jews didn't  
get it at all.

432  
00:25:28,240 --> 00:25:32,755  
But I still remember, after the  
end of the month, people said,

433  
00:25:32,755 --> 00:25:33,880  
enough of the white breath.

434

00:25:33,880 --> 00:25:38,210  
They look forward to the  
dark bread of the Russians.

435  
00:25:38,210 --> 00:25:39,485  
It worked fairly well.

436  
00:25:39,485 --> 00:25:39,985  
They tried.

437  
00:25:39,985 --> 00:25:43,570

438  
00:25:43,570 --> 00:25:44,720  
I think it worked out OK.

439  
00:25:44,720 --> 00:25:48,100  
Organization was quite good.

440  
00:25:48,100 --> 00:25:50,150  
You said the Jews didn't  
get white bread at all.

441  
00:25:50,150 --> 00:25:50,980  
No.

442  
00:25:50,980 --> 00:25:52,270  
This is after the war.

443  
00:25:52,270 --> 00:25:54,930  
During the war you  
see ration cards.

444  
00:25:54,930 --> 00:25:57,225  
Jews essentially  
got no white bread.

445  
00:25:57,225 --> 00:25:58,850  
But after the war  
they got white bread.

446  
00:25:58,850 --> 00:25:59,540

Oh, yes.

447

00:25:59,540 --> 00:26:01,240

I just wanted to clarify.

448

00:26:01,240 --> 00:26:02,230

Yes.

449

00:26:02,230 --> 00:26:11,590

It was quite-- and then  
the first packages,

450

00:26:11,590 --> 00:26:17,530

the first food arrived, I  
remember, with the Joint.

451

00:26:17,530 --> 00:26:28,310

And I remember going  
to the place which

452

00:26:28,310 --> 00:26:32,120

distributed the food, and  
someone goofed very badly.

453

00:26:32,120 --> 00:26:35,870

What had happened,  
someone got the idea

454

00:26:35,870 --> 00:26:39,680

that the food was  
only for the Jews

455

00:26:39,680 --> 00:26:43,040

part of the mixed marriage.

456

00:26:43,040 --> 00:26:45,860

The non-Jewish part  
wouldn't get it.

457

00:26:45,860 --> 00:26:49,820

Well, I believe at  
lasted a day and half.

458

00:26:49,820 --> 00:26:52,310

The person who had  
that brilliant idea

459

00:26:52,310 --> 00:26:53,855

was never heard of again.

460

00:26:53,855 --> 00:26:57,215

(CHUCKLES) No, I must  
say they really--

461

00:26:57,215 --> 00:27:00,890

actually, there was trouble  
too, since I'm right here,

462

00:27:00,890 --> 00:27:05,360

later on clothing came,  
and for some reason

463

00:27:05,360 --> 00:27:10,560

you see many people  
from the East, refugees,

464

00:27:10,560 --> 00:27:12,410

they were housed in the camps.

465

00:27:12,410 --> 00:27:15,280

The closest was one in Duppel.

466

00:27:15,280 --> 00:27:17,493

[INAUDIBLE] It was exhibit  
at the Holocaust Museum,

467

00:27:17,493 --> 00:27:18,410

and they stayed there.

468

00:27:18,410 --> 00:27:21,590

In order to keep them  
busy, some of the people

469

00:27:21,590 --> 00:27:25,430

were asked to help



out with distribution.

470

00:27:25,430 --> 00:27:32,960

Some of them were  
really misbehaved.

471

00:27:32,960 --> 00:27:35,480

Well, they had, you were  
sitting here all the time,

472

00:27:35,480 --> 00:27:39,620

we're in camps,  
and made remarks--

473

00:27:39,620 --> 00:27:44,780

well, you married non-Jews,  
and so on, and actually

474

00:27:44,780 --> 00:27:47,010

tried to revolt from it.

475

00:27:47,010 --> 00:27:48,950

That didn't last  
very long either.

476

00:27:48,950 --> 00:27:51,290

I must say anyone who did that--

477

00:27:51,290 --> 00:27:53,390

not everyone did,  
but some did it--

478

00:27:53,390 --> 00:27:55,910

they were immediately revealed.

479

00:27:55,910 --> 00:27:58,820

They were very careful  
and very sensitive

480

00:27:58,820 --> 00:28:00,410

at the time that, the Joint.

481

00:28:00,410 --> 00:28:03,630

I must say that.

482

00:28:03,630 --> 00:28:07,620

By the way it wasn't--

483

00:28:07,620 --> 00:28:09,460

I said good luck.

484

00:28:09,460 --> 00:28:13,100

It was lucky we wound up in  
one of the Western sectors.

485

00:28:13,100 --> 00:28:15,950

If you wound up in  
the Russian sector

486

00:28:15,950 --> 00:28:19,490

it was much more  
difficult to emigrate.

487

00:28:19,490 --> 00:28:20,740

They didn't let you out.

488

00:28:20,740 --> 00:28:26,960

And the say it took a  
year or two years longer

489

00:28:26,960 --> 00:28:28,860

for those living  
in the East sector

490

00:28:28,860 --> 00:28:31,880

to even be considered  
for emigration.

491

00:28:31,880 --> 00:28:32,720

Good luck again.

492

00:28:32,720 --> 00:28:38,200

493

00:28:38,200 --> 00:28:44,080

I'd like to ask  
you, when did you

494

00:28:44,080 --> 00:28:48,450

come to realize the extent of  
the genocide during the war?

495

00:28:48,450 --> 00:28:55,590

496

00:28:55,590 --> 00:28:58,700

We knew that people  
were deported--

497

00:28:58,700 --> 00:29:01,050

or as we called it evakuiert.

498

00:29:01,050 --> 00:29:02,610

Evacuated.

499

00:29:02,610 --> 00:29:05,340

In fact, we expected it too.

500

00:29:05,340 --> 00:29:09,900

We already had  
rucksacks and suitcases

501

00:29:09,900 --> 00:29:13,570

ready in case that would happen.

502

00:29:13,570 --> 00:29:16,930

We knew if you were sent--

503

00:29:16,930 --> 00:29:18,670

I remember Litzmannstadt.

504

00:29:18,670 --> 00:29:20,730

In fact, we had some friends--

505

00:29:20,730 --> 00:29:22,500

LÃ³dz it used to be.

506

00:29:22,500 --> 00:29:27,300

We actually sent postcards  
and got postcards back.

507

00:29:27,300 --> 00:29:30,960

And we actually send  
food packages to L<sup>3</sup>dz,

508

00:29:30,960 --> 00:29:34,140

even to Theresienstadt.

509

00:29:34,140 --> 00:29:39,300

We knew something was happening.

510

00:29:39,300 --> 00:29:43,740

Some letters-- when that  
card came back no longer

511

00:29:43,740 --> 00:29:46,200

there or something.

512

00:29:46,200 --> 00:29:50,530

But well-- we are not  
fully aware of what

513

00:29:50,530 --> 00:29:51,280

actually happened.

514

00:29:51,280 --> 00:29:53,200

We knew something was happening.

515

00:29:53,200 --> 00:29:55,440

But the full what happened  
in Auschwitz, the gas

516

00:29:55,440 --> 00:29:57,960

chambers and so on,  
the death marches,

517

00:29:57,960 --> 00:30:00,570

we didn't find out until--

518

00:30:00,570 --> 00:30:06,270

well, after the war, finally  
we realized what was happening.

519

00:30:06,270 --> 00:30:09,660

But it did not--  
suddenly, you realized.

520

00:30:09,660 --> 00:30:10,960

We suspected something.

521

00:30:10,960 --> 00:30:15,720

And some people knew about it.

522

00:30:15,720 --> 00:30:17,280

Others didn't.

523

00:30:17,280 --> 00:30:20,520

Then, of course,  
you heard rumors.

524

00:30:20,520 --> 00:30:24,300

All you can say, there  
was no sudden awakening

525

00:30:24,300 --> 00:30:26,786

to the fact what had happened.

526

00:30:26,786 --> 00:30:31,540

Soon we learned about it, and  
then the pieces fit together.

527

00:30:31,540 --> 00:30:37,790

In fact, what happened  
too, at that time

528

00:30:37,790 --> 00:30:42,070

there was a transport coming  
back from Theresienstadt

529

00:30:42,070 --> 00:30:44,170

with survivors.

530

00:30:44,170 --> 00:30:46,420

And I remember going  
to the station,

531

00:30:46,420 --> 00:30:52,900

or what was left of the  
station, in order to welcome it.

532

00:30:52,900 --> 00:30:55,180

Because they came  
by train and then

533

00:30:55,180 --> 00:30:58,780

were brought actually  
to the Jewish hospital.

534

00:30:58,780 --> 00:31:02,740

And I still see the little old  
lady getting out of the train

535

00:31:02,740 --> 00:31:05,260

and asking me--  
tell me, are there

536

00:31:05,260 --> 00:31:10,516

cabs in front of the station?

537

00:31:10,516 --> 00:31:12,070

I said, no.

538

00:31:12,070 --> 00:31:15,010

They didn't go by  
cab to the hospital.

539

00:31:15,010 --> 00:31:19,340

They had to be helped  
on a truck to get there.

540

00:31:19,340 --> 00:31:21,130

We have to pause so I  
can change the tape.

541  
00:31:21,130 --> 00:31:21,797  
Just one moment.

542  
00:31:21,797 --> 00:31:29,600

543  
00:31:29,600 --> 00:31:32,090  
This is a continuation of  
the United States Holocaust

544  
00:31:32,090 --> 00:31:34,280  
Memorial Museum Volunteer  
Collection interview

545  
00:31:34,280 --> 00:31:35,780  
with Fritz Gluckstein.

546  
00:31:35,780 --> 00:31:38,150  
This is tape number  
2 side A. And you

547  
00:31:38,150 --> 00:31:40,280  
had been telling  
me about people who

548  
00:31:40,280 --> 00:31:43,460  
had survived who had come home.

549  
00:31:43,460 --> 00:31:45,920  
You were in the process of  
telling me how you slowly

550  
00:31:45,920 --> 00:31:48,200  
learned about the genocide.

551  
00:31:48,200 --> 00:31:52,250  
I wanted to ask you about your  
Jewish side of your family,

552  
00:31:52,250 --> 00:31:54,320  
your father's family.

553

00:31:54,320 --> 00:31:59,420

What happened to your Jewish  
relatives during the war?

554

00:31:59,420 --> 00:32:02,030

There was only one  
close relative,

555

00:32:02,030 --> 00:32:05,390

my father's first cousin.

556

00:32:05,390 --> 00:32:09,770

He went immigrated to Shanghai.

557

00:32:09,770 --> 00:32:15,690

His mother, my father's aunt,  
died in an old people's home,

558

00:32:15,690 --> 00:32:19,070

I would say, before  
the end of the war.

559

00:32:19,070 --> 00:32:22,070

And there were some  
very distant relatives.

560

00:32:22,070 --> 00:32:27,210

One couple, I remember, the  
Lippman's had a little boy.

561

00:32:27,210 --> 00:32:31,940

And they decided to send  
the little boy to England.

562

00:32:31,940 --> 00:32:33,920

He was two years old.

563

00:32:33,920 --> 00:32:37,350

Imagine sending a two-year-old  
little boy boy to England.

564



00:32:37,350 --> 00:32:38,980  
Well, he survived.

565  
00:32:38,980 --> 00:32:42,740  
I lost contact with  
him, but the parents

566  
00:32:42,740 --> 00:32:44,460  
perished-- both perished.

567  
00:32:44,460 --> 00:32:47,190

568  
00:32:47,190 --> 00:32:53,360  
And some other distant relatives  
died before the end of the war.

569  
00:32:53,360 --> 00:32:59,600

570  
00:32:59,600 --> 00:33:03,650  
When you said you were slowly  
learning about the genocide,

571  
00:33:03,650 --> 00:33:04,485  
how did you learn?

572  
00:33:04,485 --> 00:33:06,860  
Did you learn through the  
media or through word of mouth?

573  
00:33:06,860 --> 00:33:09,580  
Or was there some other method?

574  
00:33:09,580 --> 00:33:11,980  
Both.

575  
00:33:11,980 --> 00:33:15,700  
Word of mouth from people who  
actually came back and then

576  
00:33:15,700 --> 00:33:17,230

the media--

577

00:33:17,230 --> 00:33:19,220  
the public media.

578

00:33:19,220 --> 00:33:23,500  
And then, of course, the Jewish  
congregation was established.

579

00:33:23,500 --> 00:33:26,380  
Again, my father took  
a major part in it.

580

00:33:26,380 --> 00:33:31,870  
And in fact it would  
come slowly back.

581

00:33:31,870 --> 00:33:36,520  
We heard about it and we  
pieced things together

582

00:33:36,520 --> 00:33:38,605  
and realized what has happened.

583

00:33:38,605 --> 00:33:42,730  
In fact this was a major  
point the re-establishment

584

00:33:42,730 --> 00:33:46,390  
of the Jewish congregation.

585

00:33:46,390 --> 00:33:49,870

586

00:33:49,870 --> 00:33:54,040  
People realized the  
congregations in Germany

587

00:33:54,040 --> 00:33:56,410  
were quite different from here.

588

00:33:56,410 --> 00:34:01,450

There was one congregation, and  
we had the conservative part.

589  
00:34:01,450 --> 00:34:06,820  
We had the liberal part,  
which stands between reform

590  
00:34:06,820 --> 00:34:08,889  
and conservative.

591  
00:34:08,889 --> 00:34:10,600  
And we also had reform.

592  
00:34:10,600 --> 00:34:15,370  
Only the ultra orthodox,  
while they were still part

593  
00:34:15,370 --> 00:34:18,680  
of the so-called  
congregation, they kept--

594  
00:34:18,680 --> 00:34:20,170  
that's right.

595  
00:34:20,170 --> 00:34:21,580  
And it was established again.

596  
00:34:21,580 --> 00:34:24,760

597  
00:34:24,760 --> 00:34:31,250  
Well, I believed-- it  
reminds me of a young rabbi--

598  
00:34:31,250 --> 00:34:32,830  
he wasn't quite the rabbi--

599  
00:34:32,830 --> 00:34:40,630  
he hadn't finished his  
study when he was a student.

600  
00:34:40,630 --> 00:34:49,540

And of course they abolished  
the rabbinical college,

601  
00:34:49,540 --> 00:34:52,909  
but he took over after the war.

602  
00:34:52,909 --> 00:34:56,470  
And I remember there was  
something he didn't like.

603  
00:34:56,470 --> 00:35:00,042

604  
00:35:00,042 --> 00:35:14,260  
He got up to the pulpit, I see,  
and he says well, the President

605  
00:35:14,260 --> 00:35:17,980  
and Vice President,  
and actually it

606  
00:35:17,980 --> 00:35:22,510  
was a council of Representatives  
the Jewish congregation,

607  
00:35:22,510 --> 00:35:26,890  
he said, he had a lack  
of responsibility.

608  
00:35:26,890 --> 00:35:30,880  
And I remember my father  
called him in and said,

609  
00:35:30,880 --> 00:35:34,990  
you can differ with us, and you  
can voice a different opinion,

610  
00:35:34,990 --> 00:35:38,410  
but never will you say  
that we and my colleagues

611  
00:35:38,410 --> 00:35:39,452  
lack responsibility.

612  
00:35:39,452 --> 00:35:41,560  
I remember this.

613  
00:35:41,560 --> 00:35:42,768  
I remember what happen.

614  
00:35:42,768 --> 00:35:45,840

615  
00:35:45,840 --> 00:35:49,250  
I don't know what  
happened to him,

616  
00:35:49,250 --> 00:35:55,810  
His services started and  
actually were quite attended

617  
00:35:55,810 --> 00:35:58,150  
by some usually [INAUDIBLE].

618  
00:35:58,150 --> 00:36:00,810

619  
00:36:00,810 --> 00:36:09,640  
And then came the time to  
go back to school again.

620  
00:36:09,640 --> 00:36:11,100  
There were special courses.

621  
00:36:11,100 --> 00:36:12,590  
It was very important for us.

622  
00:36:12,590 --> 00:36:17,400

623  
00:36:17,400 --> 00:36:21,810  
And actually it was in  
paper and even radio--

624

00:36:21,810 --> 00:36:24,120  
there's going to be  
a meeting to set up

625  
00:36:24,120 --> 00:36:28,770  
special course for all  
those for some reason had

626  
00:36:28,770 --> 00:36:35,810  
to interrupt their education.

627  
00:36:35,810 --> 00:36:37,820  
And they start, I  
remember, with a meeting,

628  
00:36:37,820 --> 00:36:39,940  
and yes, they're found.

629  
00:36:39,940 --> 00:36:44,900  
They were for Jewish  
students and German students

630  
00:36:44,900 --> 00:36:51,360  
who had finished the study  
or had taken the Abitur.

631  
00:36:51,360 --> 00:36:54,110  
That's your final examination  
in high school there.

632  
00:36:54,110 --> 00:36:57,490

633  
00:36:57,490 --> 00:37:01,750  
They passed a so-called  
emergency Abiturjahr.

634  
00:37:01,750 --> 00:37:05,500  
And after a certain date, that  
was no longer recognized--

635  
00:37:05,500 --> 00:37:11,380  
that if you took this after

a certain date, it's void.

636  
00:37:11,380 --> 00:37:15,070  
And you have to  
go back to school.

637  
00:37:15,070 --> 00:37:19,180  
I remember the first  
time, the first few days,

638  
00:37:19,180 --> 00:37:24,070  
one side of the room  
or the hall were

639  
00:37:24,070 --> 00:37:29,620  
the student and the other  
side the German students.

640  
00:37:29,620 --> 00:37:32,050  
Well.

641  
00:37:32,050 --> 00:37:34,930  
But after a while,  
the Germans realized

642  
00:37:34,930 --> 00:37:37,090  
the Jews are quite  
ordinary people--

643  
00:37:37,090 --> 00:37:39,880  
not at all what they  
told us they were.

644  
00:37:39,880 --> 00:37:46,780  
And we realized that not all  
Germans are SS or Gestapo.

645  
00:37:46,780 --> 00:37:49,120  
And we got along quite well.

646  
00:37:49,120 --> 00:37:52,570  
Young people thus  
had to serve there.

647  
00:37:52,570 --> 00:37:55,039  
And they had no--

648  
00:37:55,039 --> 00:37:59,340  
frankly, they were  
not even anti-Semitic.

649  
00:37:59,340 --> 00:38:03,880  
And there was one instance,  
one of the students,

650  
00:38:03,880 --> 00:38:08,330  
he was actually from  
a mixed marriage

651  
00:38:08,330 --> 00:38:11,750  
and was raised Catholic.

652  
00:38:11,750 --> 00:38:16,150  
I remember, on one day, it was  
Winter, and he comes to school,

653  
00:38:16,150 --> 00:38:19,150  
and as a scarf he had a tallit.

654  
00:38:19,150 --> 00:38:22,853  
And you can imagine, it  
was highly offensive.

655  
00:38:22,853 --> 00:38:24,270  
What are you going  
to do about it?

656  
00:38:24,270 --> 00:38:28,330  
Someone offered in, well, if you  
do this, I'll get you a scarf.

657  
00:38:28,330 --> 00:38:30,010  
Nothing doing.

658  
00:38:30,010 --> 00:38:31,690



Well, he said, what  
are we going to do?

659  
00:38:31,690 --> 00:38:32,457  
Start--

660  
00:38:32,457 --> 00:38:33,540  
And I said, wait a minute.

661  
00:38:33,540 --> 00:38:35,080  
I had an idea.

662  
00:38:35,080 --> 00:38:38,980  
I knew he was Catholic and that  
once or twice a week a priest

663  
00:38:38,980 --> 00:38:42,250  
came to conduct services.

664  
00:38:42,250 --> 00:38:43,630  
Let's talk to the priest.

665  
00:38:43,630 --> 00:38:45,820  
Well, the priest told him.

666  
00:38:45,820 --> 00:38:46,840  
That was it.

667  
00:38:46,840 --> 00:38:49,510  
And tallit no longer appeared.

668  
00:38:49,510 --> 00:38:51,970  
I remember distinctly.

669  
00:38:51,970 --> 00:38:53,710  
And then of course the teachers.

670  
00:38:53,710 --> 00:38:55,930  
What the Nazi teachers?

671  
00:38:55,930 --> 00:38:59,230

It was quite difficult  
to find a teacher.

672  
00:38:59,230 --> 00:39:02,980  
And it happened at the time some  
teacher came, and after a week

673  
00:39:02,980 --> 00:39:04,450  
or so he disappeared.

674  
00:39:04,450 --> 00:39:10,600  
Because you found out that the  
good man was an active Nazi.

675  
00:39:10,600 --> 00:39:13,330  
Then the opposite too.

676  
00:39:13,330 --> 00:39:18,310  
For instance, history was  
quite a very sensitive subject

677  
00:39:18,310 --> 00:39:20,020  
to get a history teacher.

678  
00:39:20,020 --> 00:39:25,420  
There they got a teacher  
and must give his name.

679  
00:39:25,420 --> 00:39:27,310  
His name was Birkler.

680  
00:39:27,310 --> 00:39:28,770  
He did not go long.

681  
00:39:28,770 --> 00:39:34,450  
I guess they put him along  
to a little in the boondocks,

682  
00:39:34,450 --> 00:39:39,580  
and he did not join the party,  
and he really did the very best

683

00:39:39,580 --> 00:39:41,830  
to oppose immediately.

684  
00:39:41,830 --> 00:39:45,430  
And they got him in, and  
he was our history teacher.

685  
00:39:45,430 --> 00:39:49,390  
There were still teachers  
who did not go along,

686  
00:39:49,390 --> 00:39:51,740  
I remember distinctly.

687  
00:39:51,740 --> 00:39:54,820  
I remember the music teacher.

688  
00:39:54,820 --> 00:40:00,730  
And I remember-- we didn't  
know too much about him.

689  
00:40:00,730 --> 00:40:04,630  
But lo and behold  
here was a test.

690  
00:40:04,630 --> 00:40:11,680  
And one of our Jewish  
students got a poor grade

691  
00:40:11,680 --> 00:40:13,540  
and said, wait a minute.

692  
00:40:13,540 --> 00:40:17,300  
Now, I'm going to tell  
that the guy was a Nazi

693  
00:40:17,300 --> 00:40:19,180  
and did so and so and so.

694  
00:40:19,180 --> 00:40:21,880  
And we said, other  
Jews, you are not.

695

00:40:21,880 --> 00:40:23,920  
You should have done it before.

696

00:40:23,920 --> 00:40:26,800  
Not now after he  
gave you a bad grade.

697

00:40:26,800 --> 00:40:28,450  
That is out.

698

00:40:28,450 --> 00:40:31,090  
He was a music teacher.

699

00:40:31,090 --> 00:40:36,280  
Not a great Nazi,  
but he was a Nazi.

700

00:40:36,280 --> 00:40:38,290  
But he stayed there.

701

00:40:38,290 --> 00:40:41,260

702

00:40:41,260 --> 00:40:44,230  
And well, I mentioned  
something else what

703

00:40:44,230 --> 00:40:47,730  
happened with the studying.

704

00:40:47,730 --> 00:40:53,630

705

00:40:53,630 --> 00:40:56,540  
Then came the time  
when there was quite--

706

00:40:56,540 --> 00:41:02,090  
I still remember distinctly--  
a very, very tough winter.

707

00:41:02,090 --> 00:41:12,060

Well, it was no heat,  
little electricity.

708

00:41:12,060 --> 00:41:14,340

We rationed electricity.

709

00:41:14,340 --> 00:41:16,890

You actually had to go  
to the meter and see,

710

00:41:16,890 --> 00:41:20,250

well, I may use  
so much kilowatts,

711

00:41:20,250 --> 00:41:22,410

then I have to shut  
it off or something.

712

00:41:22,410 --> 00:41:27,900

Or suddenly you sitting  
there and the light went out.

713

00:41:27,900 --> 00:41:29,370

Silly story.

714

00:41:29,370 --> 00:41:31,830

Whether it really  
happened, I don't know.

715

00:41:31,830 --> 00:41:36,510

People sit, have a party and  
someone had nice cake, probably

716

00:41:36,510 --> 00:41:38,160

sent from the United State.

717

00:41:38,160 --> 00:41:41,190

Lo and behold, one piece left.

718

00:41:41,190 --> 00:41:42,810

I can eat the last piece.

719

00:41:42,810 --> 00:41:44,820

Light went out.

720

00:41:44,820 --> 00:41:46,860

Suddenly, all of us screamed.

721

00:41:46,860 --> 00:41:49,680

And now there are two versions--

722

00:41:49,680 --> 00:41:52,800

one version is everybody  
grabbed with a hand and one

723

00:41:52,800 --> 00:41:54,900

with a fork, and  
the other version

724

00:41:54,900 --> 00:41:58,620

is everybody grabbed with a fork  
and one with their bare head.

725

00:41:58,620 --> 00:42:01,080

But you never know  
what happened.

726

00:42:01,080 --> 00:42:03,730

But it was unbelievably cold.

727

00:42:03,730 --> 00:42:10,440

I remember and I went to bed  
fully clothed in an overcoat.

728

00:42:10,440 --> 00:42:12,270

We had gotten some potatoes.

729

00:42:12,270 --> 00:42:15,690

The potatoes were out  
in a kind of veranda.

730

00:42:15,690 --> 00:42:17,760

They froze.

731

00:42:17,760 --> 00:42:22,990

But it was no plumbing now.

732

00:42:22,990 --> 00:42:25,080

People don't realize  
what that means

733

00:42:25,080 --> 00:42:29,160

if you have no plumbing--  
no sanitary facilities.

734

00:42:29,160 --> 00:42:32,610

Well, there you could see.

735

00:42:32,610 --> 00:42:34,140

It was wintertime.

736

00:42:34,140 --> 00:42:36,480

It was bad.

737

00:42:36,480 --> 00:42:39,392

Women, very nice in fur coat.

738

00:42:39,392 --> 00:42:41,580

There's little packages.

739

00:42:41,580 --> 00:42:44,460

You can't imagine  
what they contained.

740

00:42:44,460 --> 00:42:46,390

We couldn't use the toilet.

741

00:42:46,390 --> 00:42:49,950

We were-- we went  
furtively through either--

742

00:42:49,950 --> 00:42:56,700

well, on someone's lawn, or went  
to the park, or even the side,

743

00:42:56,700 --> 00:43:00,000  
which in wintertime  
there was snow.

744  
00:43:00,000 --> 00:43:03,570  
But you can imagine when the  
that set in what happened.

745  
00:43:03,570 --> 00:43:06,790

746  
00:43:06,790 --> 00:43:09,340  
It wasn't funny particularly.

747  
00:43:09,340 --> 00:43:14,080  
Look, if you lived out we  
lived with a yard at least.

748  
00:43:14,080 --> 00:43:16,190  
But what did you do if  
you have an apartment?

749  
00:43:16,190 --> 00:43:21,127  
Well, you had to empty  
the stuff someplace.

750  
00:43:21,127 --> 00:43:22,960  
You emptied it in places  
you shouldn't have.

751  
00:43:22,960 --> 00:43:25,210  
It was quite a bit.

752  
00:43:25,210 --> 00:43:28,040

753  
00:43:28,040 --> 00:43:30,920  
And now what to do?

754  
00:43:30,920 --> 00:43:34,410  
I had to study school.

755



00:43:34,410 --> 00:43:38,450  
No heat and no light.

756  
00:43:38,450 --> 00:43:42,530  
Well, I picked up my  
books, went to the subway,

757  
00:43:42,530 --> 00:43:47,590  
and spent the evening driving  
in the subway across Berlin.

758  
00:43:47,590 --> 00:43:53,640

759  
00:43:53,640 --> 00:43:55,440  
Let's take a quick pause.

760  
00:43:55,440 --> 00:43:56,700  
We have a minor problem here.

761  
00:43:56,700 --> 00:44:00,180

762  
00:44:00,180 --> 00:44:02,507  
We are back now  
after a minor break.

763  
00:44:02,507 --> 00:44:04,590  
Would you please continue  
what you were telling me

764  
00:44:04,590 --> 00:44:05,298  
about the subway.

765  
00:44:05,298 --> 00:44:08,640

766  
00:44:08,640 --> 00:44:13,600  
I took my books and I  
studied in the subway,

767  
00:44:13,600 --> 00:44:16,500

going cross-cross Berlin.

768

00:44:16,500 --> 00:44:19,560

Only had to watch out at the  
end of a line that you got off.

769

00:44:19,560 --> 00:44:28,560

But otherwise, I would say, more  
to three or four days a week,

770

00:44:28,560 --> 00:44:33,210

every evening, 4, 5,  
6 o'clock to 9 o'clock

771

00:44:33,210 --> 00:44:34,410

I was sitting in the subway.

772

00:44:34,410 --> 00:44:37,620

Difficult to write at times  
if you had to do something,

773

00:44:37,620 --> 00:44:42,880

but it worked.

774

00:44:42,880 --> 00:44:46,930

Then, of course, came  
the first care packages.

775

00:44:46,930 --> 00:44:51,910

And the first the care packages  
were actually care rations.

776

00:44:51,910 --> 00:44:55,660

Actually, it was a  
big package which

777

00:44:55,660 --> 00:45:00,790

contained one day provisions  
for four or five men.

778

00:45:00,790 --> 00:45:08,980

Everything from bread  
and usually crackers,

779  
00:45:08,980 --> 00:45:14,230  
and coffee, and  
cans, and napkins,

780  
00:45:14,230 --> 00:45:17,500  
and whatever-- your  
toilet paper everything.

781  
00:45:17,500 --> 00:45:22,165  
And something else-- cigarettes.

782  
00:45:22,165 --> 00:45:26,140  
Now, cigarettes had  
become the currency.

783  
00:45:26,140 --> 00:45:27,580  
And what did you do?

784  
00:45:27,580 --> 00:45:31,370  
You got a package and you  
never knew what brand it was,

785  
00:45:31,370 --> 00:45:34,220  
because that was important.

786  
00:45:34,220 --> 00:45:38,710  
I still remember, to  
this day, the value.

787  
00:45:38,710 --> 00:45:50,266  
On top with Camel,  
followed by Lucky Strike

788  
00:45:50,266 --> 00:45:52,330  
and there was one brand--

789  
00:45:52,330 --> 00:45:55,986  
I forget-- Chesterton?

790  
00:45:55,986 --> 00:45:56,900  
Chesterfield.

791  
00:45:56,900 --> 00:45:57,690  
Chesterfield.

792  
00:45:57,690 --> 00:46:00,230

793  
00:46:00,230 --> 00:46:04,940  
Then came Pall Mall.

794  
00:46:04,940 --> 00:46:08,720  
Then came Phillip Morris.

795  
00:46:08,720 --> 00:46:12,350  
Then came Old Gold.

796  
00:46:12,350 --> 00:46:13,965  
And the bottom was Raleigh.

797  
00:46:13,965 --> 00:46:17,060

798  
00:46:17,060 --> 00:46:18,680  
You never knew what you had.

799  
00:46:18,680 --> 00:46:20,460  
Of course, we had  
some difficulties.

800  
00:46:20,460 --> 00:46:23,420  
My father at the  
time was reinstated.

801  
00:46:23,420 --> 00:46:26,540  
And we used to get some food.

802  
00:46:26,540 --> 00:46:31,302  
But my father mustn't  
know about it, you see?

803  
00:46:31,302 --> 00:46:33,440

We kept it all from him.

804  
00:46:33,440 --> 00:46:36,410  
I think he knew,  
but we tried not

805  
00:46:36,410 --> 00:46:38,060  
to embarrass him and tell him.

806  
00:46:38,060 --> 00:46:41,960  
But cigarettes, it was  
absolutely everything.

807  
00:46:41,960 --> 00:46:45,710  
And remember, at  
the time, it was--

808  
00:46:45,710 --> 00:46:47,390  
interest in music  
started again--

809  
00:46:47,390 --> 00:46:49,880  
concerts and opera.

810  
00:46:49,880 --> 00:46:53,330  
And I remember, at that  
time, I took the first.

811  
00:46:53,330 --> 00:46:58,020  
Sundays, they sold tickets  
for the following week.

812  
00:46:58,020 --> 00:47:00,960  
And you had to stand in line  
to get the cheaper tickets.

813  
00:47:00,960 --> 00:47:05,120  
And I took Sunday, the  
first train running again

814  
00:47:05,120 --> 00:47:10,100  
at least to center of  
Berlin, and then walked

815  
00:47:10,100 --> 00:47:11,525  
to the opera house.

816  
00:47:11,525 --> 00:47:13,670  
It was a temporary  
quarters in the theater,

817  
00:47:13,670 --> 00:47:16,190  
and you stood in  
line for the tickets.

818  
00:47:16,190 --> 00:47:21,530  
And even there one time,  
with a ticket, a cigarette.

819  
00:47:21,530 --> 00:47:23,990  
I didn't smoke, but  
I had cigarettes.

820  
00:47:23,990 --> 00:47:27,950  
And we bartered  
cigarettes for tickets.

821  
00:47:27,950 --> 00:47:31,010  
We went to a store or  
something-- don't have any!

822  
00:47:31,010 --> 00:47:33,560

823  
00:47:33,560 --> 00:47:35,368  
You want a cigarette?

824  
00:47:35,368 --> 00:47:36,770  
Ah.

825  
00:47:36,770 --> 00:47:42,090  
I'll come back to this later,  
to the cigarettes as a currency.

826  
00:47:42,090 --> 00:47:46,350

But the care packages  
were wonderful.

827  
00:47:46,350 --> 00:47:52,490  
And I remember, the first  
time we had instant coffee.

828  
00:47:52,490 --> 00:47:54,040  
Never had instant coffee before.

829  
00:47:54,040 --> 00:47:56,270  
It was in a little  
can, you open it up.

830  
00:47:56,270 --> 00:47:58,880  
And of course, what you  
usually did with coffee,

831  
00:47:58,880 --> 00:48:00,983  
you used it once and  
then kept the ground

832  
00:48:00,983 --> 00:48:02,150  
for a second and third time.

833  
00:48:02,150 --> 00:48:04,340  
But lo and behold,  
there wasn't left over.

834  
00:48:04,340 --> 00:48:07,550  
And I still remember  
what happened--

835  
00:48:07,550 --> 00:48:10,220  
instant.

836  
00:48:10,220 --> 00:48:16,600  
At that time too, I remembered  
coffee, a GI named Rosenberg,

837  
00:48:16,600 --> 00:48:22,380  
he visited us and brought as  
a present a pound of coffee.

838  
00:48:22,380 --> 00:48:24,970  
I remember it distinctly.

839  
00:48:24,970 --> 00:48:27,450  
It was quite something.

840  
00:48:27,450 --> 00:48:32,680  
And I remember at that  
time other packages

841  
00:48:32,680 --> 00:48:34,030  
came on the regular.

842  
00:48:34,030 --> 00:48:38,230  
The army, after they  
have used up all the army

843  
00:48:38,230 --> 00:48:42,540  
care packages then came packages  
of actually care packages

844  
00:48:42,540 --> 00:48:50,640  
and such, that had Crisco  
and various foods there.

845  
00:48:50,640 --> 00:48:53,620  
What we did, we ate what  
with spread on bread?

846  
00:48:53,620 --> 00:48:56,350  
You ever try it?

847  
00:48:56,350 --> 00:48:58,730  
Not very good, but we did it.

848  
00:48:58,730 --> 00:49:04,140  
And we also had, it  
was a food package.

849  
00:49:04,140 --> 00:49:09,850  
And there was also



blanket packages.

850

00:49:09,850 --> 00:49:13,390

And what usually happened, you  
got a little note in the mail--

851

00:49:13,390 --> 00:49:18,520

a are package has been  
purchased for you by so-and-so,

852

00:49:18,520 --> 00:49:20,740

and would you please pick it up.

853

00:49:20,740 --> 00:49:23,920

And I remember, once  
you went there-- we

854

00:49:23,920 --> 00:49:28,840

didn't know what it was-- and  
we got two or three blanket

855

00:49:28,840 --> 00:49:29,630

packages.

856

00:49:29,630 --> 00:49:34,180

Well, very nice, but food  
would have been more welcome.

857

00:49:34,180 --> 00:49:37,760

We come back, and the mail  
had come, and lo and behold,

858

00:49:37,760 --> 00:49:41,830

there were two or  
three food packages.

859

00:49:41,830 --> 00:49:45,490

And we went back and  
got the real packages.

860

00:49:45,490 --> 00:49:47,740

Real-- well, the food package.

861

00:49:47,740 --> 00:49:55,814

And at that time the  
chaplain center opened.

862

00:49:55,814 --> 00:50:00,370

There were two chaplains,  
army chaplains in Berlin.

863

00:50:00,370 --> 00:50:05,600

At the time, one  
was Rabbi Zhukov,

864

00:50:05,600 --> 00:50:11,230

a conservative from Boston,  
and Rabbi Friedman, who

865

00:50:11,230 --> 00:50:15,470

is still alive, Denver.

866

00:50:15,470 --> 00:50:18,800

What they do, every  
Friday night we

867

00:50:18,800 --> 00:50:24,560

went there to the [INAUDIBLE]  
and for the first time gefilte

868

00:50:24,560 --> 00:50:26,450

fish.

869

00:50:26,450 --> 00:50:28,610

That was quite something.

870

00:50:28,610 --> 00:50:32,480

We had known it too, but what  
we had known, the real gefilte

871

00:50:32,480 --> 00:50:36,200

fish, you actually had  
a pike, and then you

872

00:50:36,200 --> 00:50:39,860

filled that fish with pike--

873

00:50:39,860 --> 00:50:41,870

this what we have

here, we'd never seen.

874

00:50:41,870 --> 00:50:43,730

It was quite something.

875

00:50:43,730 --> 00:50:47,540

And there was a service.

876

00:50:47,540 --> 00:50:51,860

And also the chaplain

regularly got letters

877

00:50:51,860 --> 00:50:53,330

from the United States.

878

00:50:53,330 --> 00:50:57,920

Can you find out what happened

to my cousin so-and-so?

879

00:50:57,920 --> 00:50:59,180

Last seen here.

880

00:50:59,180 --> 00:51:02,600

Or what happened to

our friend so-and-so?

881

00:51:02,600 --> 00:51:05,240

And there the rabbi

was sitting there.

882

00:51:05,240 --> 00:51:08,420

Here is a letter

addressed to so-and-so.

883

00:51:08,420 --> 00:51:09,950

Anybody?

884

00:51:09,950 --> 00:51:10,580

No.

885  
00:51:10,580 --> 00:51:14,630  
Well, for instance, I  
said, I go to school

886  
00:51:14,630 --> 00:51:17,210  
and the address  
given is close by.

887  
00:51:17,210 --> 00:51:19,190  
I will stop in  
Bavaria, there where

888  
00:51:19,190 --> 00:51:20,510  
the house is still standing.

889  
00:51:20,510 --> 00:51:22,790  
Well, someone there  
said, yes, I know.

890  
00:51:22,790 --> 00:51:24,440  
I will take the letter.

891  
00:51:24,440 --> 00:51:26,840  
I will tell them that  
the letter is there.

892  
00:51:26,840 --> 00:51:31,760  
Lo and behold, one night,  
our name was called.

893  
00:51:31,760 --> 00:51:33,080  
And we got two letters.

894  
00:51:33,080 --> 00:51:37,130  
One for very good friends,  
the Aarons in Pasadena,

895  
00:51:37,130 --> 00:51:39,740  
and then a letter  
for Ginzberg, Louis

896

00:51:39,740 --> 00:51:46,220

Ginzberg the Talmud scholar.

897

00:51:46,220 --> 00:51:51,260

His wife was the sister of  
my father's best friend.

898

00:51:51,260 --> 00:51:55,179

And they too asked  
us, what have you--

899

00:51:55,179 --> 00:51:57,140

you know what happened to them.

900

00:51:57,140 --> 00:52:00,410

Well, we got their  
letters, we wrote them,

901

00:52:00,410 --> 00:52:05,090

and then they sent off  
packages directly I remember.

902

00:52:05,090 --> 00:52:08,690

But many times--  
well, what do you

903

00:52:08,690 --> 00:52:14,060

know about Cohens or the Davies  
or the Friedlanders or so.

904

00:52:14,060 --> 00:52:15,560

Well, we'll take a look.

905

00:52:15,560 --> 00:52:19,280

And we went to the place,  
and either the building

906

00:52:19,280 --> 00:52:22,940

had been destroyed or  
nobody knew about them.

907

00:52:22,940 --> 00:52:28,790

Or some neighbor said, yes,  
he had been deported or so.

908  
00:52:28,790 --> 00:52:30,920  
And what happened,  
there was a curfew.

909  
00:52:30,920 --> 00:52:34,280  
Everyone had to be  
home at a certain time,

910  
00:52:34,280 --> 00:52:38,150  
at 8 or 0 o'clock.

911  
00:52:38,150 --> 00:52:42,770  
But the services in the  
chaplain center lasted long.

912  
00:52:42,770 --> 00:52:43,640  
Well, what happened?

913  
00:52:43,640 --> 00:52:45,530  
An army truck came  
afterwards and we all

914  
00:52:45,530 --> 00:52:46,590  
went in the army truck.

915  
00:52:46,590 --> 00:52:50,090  
And the army truck went around  
to the various addresses

916  
00:52:50,090 --> 00:52:51,860  
and dropped us off.

917  
00:52:51,860 --> 00:52:57,560  
And the driver and  
his assistant, he

918  
00:52:57,560 --> 00:52:59,780  
waited until we were  
inside so that we are not

919

00:52:59,780 --> 00:53:02,360  
picked up by a patrol.

920

00:53:02,360 --> 00:53:04,040  
It was tough at the time.

921

00:53:04,040 --> 00:53:07,610  
And sometimes we went to the  
opera and came back late.

922

00:53:07,610 --> 00:53:11,330  
I had a nightstick just in  
case something happened.

923

00:53:11,330 --> 00:53:17,090  
There were some elements  
who tried to rob people.

924

00:53:17,090 --> 00:53:20,540  
But well, actually,  
nothing happened to me.

925

00:53:20,540 --> 00:53:23,130

926

00:53:23,130 --> 00:53:27,940  
And at that time we had  
the first seder too.

927

00:53:27,940 --> 00:53:33,310  
A seder in the courthouse  
in Schulenburg.

928

00:53:33,310 --> 00:53:37,240  
In fact it was the same  
place, the same quarter

929

00:53:37,240 --> 00:53:40,305  
from which Kennedy went, Ich--

930

00:53:40,305 --> 00:53:42,690  
I am a Berliner.

931  
00:53:42,690 --> 00:53:48,090  
There was quite-- the  
British, American,

932  
00:53:48,090 --> 00:53:49,530  
and French commandant came.

933  
00:53:49,530 --> 00:53:53,760  
The Russian didn't come when  
we had been our first seder.

934  
00:53:53,760 --> 00:53:55,495  
It was quite something.

935  
00:53:55,495 --> 00:54:04,710

936  
00:54:04,710 --> 00:54:08,640  
There was something else--

937  
00:54:08,640 --> 00:54:10,190  
there was an anecdote.

938  
00:54:10,190 --> 00:54:20,030  
Well, of course, people  
came back and somebody--

939  
00:54:20,030 --> 00:54:20,690  
one more.

940  
00:54:20,690 --> 00:54:28,680

941  
00:54:28,680 --> 00:54:36,240  
It's a number of restaurants  
of teahouses in London.

942  
00:54:36,240 --> 00:54:38,100  
I think they're still there.

943



00:54:38,100 --> 00:54:41,880  
And the host Gluckstein.

944  
00:54:41,880 --> 00:54:46,110  
Well, why don't you go  
over there, to London?

945  
00:54:46,110 --> 00:54:51,520  
You are a poor cousin  
there who survived.

946  
00:54:51,520 --> 00:54:54,060  
And you want some handouts.

947  
00:54:54,060 --> 00:54:56,670  
Even if you're not  
related, you can

948  
00:54:56,670 --> 00:54:59,280  
be absolutely sure they  
will give you something,

949  
00:54:59,280 --> 00:55:01,560  
because it would  
be bad for business

950  
00:55:01,560 --> 00:55:06,810  
if somebody would find out  
that the Gluckstein teahouses--

951  
00:55:06,810 --> 00:55:10,230  
I guess t 4 or 5 or 6 are  
still there in London--

952  
00:55:10,230 --> 00:55:12,090  
don't help one of their cousins.

953  
00:55:12,090 --> 00:55:14,610  
No, they are not relatives.

954  
00:55:14,610 --> 00:55:21,660  
Because I know for sure  
that the name Gluckstein,

955  
00:55:21,660 --> 00:55:24,120  
actually none of  
them are relatives.

956  
00:55:24,120 --> 00:55:28,680  
My grandfather came from  
Russia and took the name.

957  
00:55:28,680 --> 00:55:30,030  
Well, I didn't know it.

958  
00:55:30,030 --> 00:55:35,320  
But still, unfortunately, I  
might as well mention here,

959  
00:55:35,320 --> 00:55:37,800  
some people came  
back and claimed

960  
00:55:37,800 --> 00:55:40,950  
to have had property which  
they didn't really have.

961  
00:55:40,950 --> 00:55:47,280  
The said that-- hoped that  
the records had burned.

962  
00:55:47,280 --> 00:55:50,580  
Well, nobody could prove it--

963  
00:55:50,580 --> 00:55:54,030  
Say, come and look  
here, that was my house.

964  
00:55:54,030 --> 00:55:57,060  
But people came back, and  
my father at that time

965  
00:55:57,060 --> 00:56:03,441  
was reinstated, and he  
was involved in this.

966

00:56:03,441 --> 00:56:06,400

It was embarrassing, of course.

967

00:56:06,400 --> 00:56:08,340

They came and said,  
look, there's my house,

968

00:56:08,340 --> 00:56:10,890

and they have found the records.

969

00:56:10,890 --> 00:56:14,490

Well, you lived there,  
but it wasn't your house.

970

00:56:14,490 --> 00:56:19,140

But that was on;y  
far and inbetween.

971

00:56:19,140 --> 00:56:22,440

Otherwise, it didn't happen.

972

00:56:22,440 --> 00:56:25,128

973

00:56:25,128 --> 00:56:30,460

And actually, my  
father was invited

974

00:56:30,460 --> 00:56:33,050

to visit the Nuremberg  
Trial for a couple of days.

975

00:56:33,050 --> 00:56:35,464

It was a very  
interesting [INAUDIBLE]..

976

00:56:35,464 --> 00:56:40,310

977

00:56:40,310 --> 00:56:42,860

Can you elaborate on  
the Nuremberg Trails.

978  
00:56:42,860 --> 00:56:47,510  
Well, actually, some  
of the Jewish jurists

979  
00:56:47,510 --> 00:56:50,930  
were given the  
opportunity to go there.

980  
00:56:50,930 --> 00:56:53,990  
There was a special  
train, interzone train,

981  
00:56:53,990 --> 00:56:57,590  
and they took the train  
and spent some time there.

982  
00:56:57,590 --> 00:57:00,110  
Just observers-- just to  
see how things are going on.

983  
00:57:00,110 --> 00:57:04,500

984  
00:57:04,500 --> 00:57:07,580  
Had you been following the  
preparations for the trial

985  
00:57:07,580 --> 00:57:12,000  
and then the actual  
trials themselves?

986  
00:57:12,000 --> 00:57:13,420  
Only to a limited degree.

987  
00:57:13,420 --> 00:57:15,480  
Yes, I know what's going  
on, read occasionally.

988  
00:57:15,480 --> 00:57:18,060  
But at the time, I  
was busy with school.

989

00:57:18,060 --> 00:57:22,290

Don't forget you had to go  
back to school, and it wasn't--

990

00:57:22,290 --> 00:57:28,800

going back to school after  
there was still quite difficult.

991

00:57:28,800 --> 00:57:32,350

And we knew what would happen.

992

00:57:32,350 --> 00:57:35,470

993

00:57:35,470 --> 00:57:39,870

In fact, I had the  
opportunity-- right now,

994

00:57:39,870 --> 00:57:41,820

things come back to me--

995

00:57:41,820 --> 00:57:46,470

to do some translations  
at the Nuremberg Trial.

996

00:57:46,470 --> 00:57:49,080

Nobody knew what was going on.

997

00:57:49,080 --> 00:57:52,440

But not that I  
followed it every day.

998

00:57:52,440 --> 00:58:04,740

999

00:58:04,740 --> 00:58:06,160

I had two questions for you.

1000

00:58:06,160 --> 00:58:10,020

My first one was,  
after the war was over,

1001

00:58:10,020 --> 00:58:14,880  
and the Soviets had come,  
and everything was opened up,

1002

00:58:14,880 --> 00:58:18,690  
did you ever go back to your  
home from before the war?

1003

00:58:18,690 --> 00:58:30,510

1004

00:58:30,510 --> 00:58:32,550  
Not directly.

1005

00:58:32,550 --> 00:58:36,240  
We had some friends, non-Jewish  
friends that actually

1006

00:58:36,240 --> 00:58:37,770  
lived close to where we lived.

1007

00:58:37,770 --> 00:58:41,550  
But you didn't go back.

1008

00:58:41,550 --> 00:58:43,170  
That was over.

1009

00:58:43,170 --> 00:58:47,340  
In fact, I can tell  
you, the last time I

1010

00:58:47,340 --> 00:58:50,740  
went there two years  
ago, and I took Marin.

1011

00:58:50,740 --> 00:58:53,880  
I wanted to see what happened  
in Berlin where I came from.

1012

00:58:53,880 --> 00:58:57,870  
And I went back there and  
went to the court there.

1013  
00:58:57,870 --> 00:59:00,420  
That was the last time.

1014  
00:59:00,420 --> 00:59:02,970  
And I was so  
surprised how small it

1015  
00:59:02,970 --> 00:59:05,280  
was, how narrow everything was.

1016  
00:59:05,280 --> 00:59:06,570  
I had forgotten.

1017  
00:59:06,570 --> 00:59:10,210  
No, I didn't go back there.

1018  
00:59:10,210 --> 00:59:11,460  
The neighborhood, yes.

1019  
00:59:11,460 --> 00:59:15,390  
But not with the purpose of  
going back to the old home, no.

1020  
00:59:15,390 --> 00:59:20,290

1021  
00:59:20,290 --> 00:59:24,640  
You were in your late teens  
when the war was over.

1022  
00:59:24,640 --> 00:59:28,315  
Did you have any kind of social  
life and did you have friends?

1023  
00:59:28,315 --> 00:59:31,400

1024  
00:59:31,400 --> 00:59:33,080  
Yes, I had friends.

1025

00:59:33,080 --> 00:59:37,640  
Actually friends still--  
high school friends.

1026  
00:59:37,640 --> 00:59:39,590  
But they emigrated too.

1027  
00:59:39,590 --> 00:59:43,430  
The are now here in the States--

1028  
00:59:43,430 --> 00:59:48,805  
Minneapolis, Jersey, California.

1029  
00:59:48,805 --> 00:59:49,820  
I had some friends.

1030  
00:59:49,820 --> 00:59:52,880  
Actually, social life, yes.

1031  
00:59:52,880 --> 00:59:58,940  
But primarily with  
Jewish friends.

1032  
00:59:58,940 --> 01:00:02,930  
Made some new friends at school.

1033  
01:00:02,930 --> 01:00:07,476  
Even went for dance class.

1034  
01:00:07,476 --> 01:00:09,442  
Didn't do any good.

1035  
01:00:09,442 --> 01:00:11,800  
[LAUGHING]

1036  
01:00:11,800 --> 01:00:16,390  
But yes, I had some social life.

1037  
01:00:16,390 --> 01:00:22,060  
But still it took time to--

1038



01:00:22,060 --> 01:00:23,740  
we lived in the suburbs.

1039  
01:00:23,740 --> 01:00:28,990  
The school, the special  
courses, were the suburbs

1040  
01:00:28,990 --> 01:00:30,920  
on the other side of town.

1041  
01:00:30,920 --> 01:00:33,640  
And it took a long  
time to get there.

1042  
01:00:33,640 --> 01:00:35,650  
And then, of course,  
studying, and then

1043  
01:00:35,650 --> 01:00:37,600  
you still had to  
scrounge for food.

1044  
01:00:37,600 --> 01:00:43,120  
And social life slowly started--

1045  
01:00:43,120 --> 01:00:45,290  
movies.

1046  
01:00:45,290 --> 01:00:50,440  
Actually, the only thing, I  
became a complete opera nut.

1047  
01:00:50,440 --> 01:00:53,650

1048  
01:00:53,650 --> 01:00:57,940  
But this was, yes,  
some social life.

1049  
01:00:57,940 --> 01:01:01,120  
But then the friends  
left one after another.

1050

01:01:01,120 --> 01:01:04,960

And yes.

1051

01:01:04,960 --> 01:01:10,560

1052

01:01:10,560 --> 01:01:13,890

When you started studying again,  
and you became a student again

1053

01:01:13,890 --> 01:01:18,180

after the war,  
what goals or plans

1054

01:01:18,180 --> 01:01:20,030

did you have for  
yourself for your future?

1055

01:01:20,030 --> 01:01:22,620

1056

01:01:22,620 --> 01:01:29,020

Actually, I planned  
to leave Germany,

1057

01:01:29,020 --> 01:01:31,120

because it was quite clear--

1058

01:01:31,120 --> 01:01:37,420

my father, he  
encouraged me to go.

1059

01:01:37,420 --> 01:01:42,127

He told me, if I were 10 years  
younger, I would go with you.

1060

01:01:42,127 --> 01:01:42,835

But as a lawyer--

1061

01:01:42,835 --> 01:01:46,930

1062

01:01:46,930 --> 01:01:51,640

over there, law is based  
on the old English law,

1063

01:01:51,640 --> 01:01:55,390

and here Germany is  
based on Roman law.

1064

01:01:55,390 --> 01:01:58,450

The philosophy is different,  
and there are only so

1065

01:01:58,450 --> 01:02:03,330

many spots for consultants  
of international law

1066

01:02:03,330 --> 01:02:05,180

in the States.

1067

01:02:05,180 --> 01:02:09,670

I expected to emigrate.

1068

01:02:09,670 --> 01:02:14,560

But on the other hand, you  
didn't want to sit around.

1069

01:02:14,560 --> 01:02:22,440

You wanted to continue studying,  
complete your education,

1070

01:02:22,440 --> 01:02:24,430

regardless of whether  
you would leave

1071

01:02:24,430 --> 01:02:30,206

or whether you would go  
on to University there.

1072

01:02:30,206 --> 01:02:35,850

It was quite important.

1073

01:02:35,850 --> 01:02:38,080

But what would happen--

1074

01:02:38,080 --> 01:02:39,150

well, one thing.

1075

01:02:39,150 --> 01:02:46,530

I knew my father told me, I wish  
you would not become a lawyer.

1076

01:02:46,530 --> 01:02:47,730

I was raised by a lawyer.

1077

01:02:47,730 --> 01:02:49,740

Nothing or anything  
is wrong with lawyers.

1078

01:02:49,740 --> 01:02:53,910

But he said, look, I wish you  
would take a profession that

1079

01:02:53,910 --> 01:02:56,700

is not limited to one country.

1080

01:02:56,700 --> 01:02:58,040

Look what happened to me.

1081

01:02:58,040 --> 01:03:02,620

1082

01:03:02,620 --> 01:03:05,620

We're going to pause  
so I can change tapes.

1083

01:03:05,620 --> 01:03:08,000