

Mission of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum volunteer collection interview with Fritz Gluckstein. This is tape two, side A. And you were telling me that your father told you not to study law. Did you have any idea at that time what you did want to study?

I would say I always had a bent for science. That special course for the Abiturium there were two tracks, one-- languages. They had a second language-- French. And the other was mathematics and science. And I, of course, took the mathematics, science. I [? obviously-- ?] towards the medical science, particularly.

And in regard to my intentions to immigrate, of course I thought about it, and I felt that I did not-- didn't feel it my duty to rebuild Germany. But of course, I gave it some thought, and one of my father's colleague and judge had left before the war. And he worked at a [? mill, at a ?] factory, and he came back after the war. So once he got his [INAUDIBLE] he left his fiancee and he married soon after he came back. He didn't even take out the first papers. For him, the United States was only a stopgap, and he came back.

And I asked him if I should go-- or not and he said look, you go. What I did is something completely different. I'm older and I had a special bond here. I came back. But this-- and I quote-- you will thank your creator that you took the step. You went to the United States. And this actually helped me a lot.

But actually, decision wasn't too difficult. Yes, I maybe had some friends over here-- maybe they would move there, but it turned out differently. Now, I decided to-- just finished up for some reason, right after the Abiturium, pretty soon afterwards, I left. Frankly, I might have left even before the Abiturium, but it just happened to be it took some time with immigration. And shortly after I did Abiturium, then the first concrete steps for immigration was taken.

Did you ever consider at all going to Palestine?

No. And perhaps I can tell you one of my very good friends, Bill [? Freight, ?] he survived to-- actually, he did. He survived. And after the war, he went to Israel, Palestine. And he came back, actually, and we discussed it. I was always interested in Israel, Palestine, but actually never intended to go there-- visit or something. And at that time, of course, it was-- look what happened at the time-- the added difficulty, and Jews tried to get in there. The British-- it was quite an uproar. It was thought about it, but I mostly wanted to say no. I considered it, but I [INAUDIBLE].

We tried to immigrate to the United States, actually before the war. But the affidavit-- but it was difficult [INAUDIBLE] an affidavit. Finally got one from a distant relative. And well, by the time we had it and had to wait for a quarter, and by the time the quarter came, the war were there [INAUDIBLE].

Tell me about the process of coming to this country.

Yes, of course, I was thinking about immigration and trying to sign up by the register or whatever had to be done. And lo and behold, there came the day I had to appear at the consulate. And they questioned me, and we were given a physical examination.

And then, they give us a general question. I still remember distinctly, when two or three people sitting there, one doing the interview. And now, tell me about what happened in the time. And what came up that I worked some time-- worked some few weeks at Eichmann's headquarter.

[INAUDIBLE] moment-- "Hmm? Eichmann's headquarter, just a moment. Would you please be good enough to wait outside for a few minutes?" And after 15 minutes, I come back. And instead of three, there were six people there and another guy was there. Said, "Now, please tell me," and asked me to describe the various details, the rooms, and everything else, what was going on. I remember distinctly.

And for a have an hour, they questioned me about minutia of the headquarters. They said, well, thank you very much. It must be one of the SS or whoever, I don't know who it was. But they were very interested. Maybe they compared what I had to say with others.

And lo and behold, I got my visa. Actually, there was one consul, he has a reputation, was very antisemitic. But the consul here was very nice, Sullivan. Wished me good luck. And lo and behold, I got the visa.

And then, of course, they had to get us from Berlin to the boat. Don't forget it, they had to go through East Germany. They put us, at first, one night in a camp in Berlin. And next morning, on a train to Bremen.

And there were Jews and some citizens. They were Germans who had been born-- their parents lived here and they were born in the United States. They probably would have been two or three years old when their parents came back to Germany. Those were still American citizens. I still remember, they were on there too.

And we come to Bremen. And there was a kind of staging area, a camp to wait for a boat. Every year, I would say, every other week or so, one of the Liberty ships came and ferried the people. And I member sitting in the camp in Bremen.

Was something strange too, I remember. They had kind of guards or-- what they were guarding, it wasn't quite clear, if they guard us or what. And those fellows were not Jewish. I think they were refugees or something from Poland or so. And some were not-- certainly not philosemitic, very antisemitic. I remember this distinctly.

And I remember that I took time-- not much to do. I took English lessons. And of course, some people, and I don't forget it, "Oh, we don't want the English lessons. We learn in the countries-- in the country." They were the ones who when they came here were completely helpless. Couldn't even ask for the restroom.

Then something else happened. Shortly before we embarked somebody said, "Ladies and gentlemen, please remember, the moment you set foot on the boat, a cigarette is only in cigarette. It has no monetary value. Please, don't forget that."

And I remember getting on the boat. And it was a very stormy voyage, I remember. It was-- we were fortunate-- it was a troop ship, a Liberty ship, a Marine Flasher. Actually, we were lucky.

Normally, there were four bunks. We only had two. But the food was very good. I tell you, it was magnificent. And the first time I tasted ginger ale. It was like-- And they showed us some films on the-- through the voyage. Well, I only understood half of it.

I still remember what it was. One was Gentleman's Agreement with Gregory Peck. But I got the idea, but of course, [INAUDIBLE].

And then to New York. I think it took 10 days or so. It was slow. But in the middle of a night, arriving, about 2:00. And we had to wait till next morning. And I still see, I guess it was Riverside Drive, the cars going at night and lights.

The next morning we came into customs. Actually, not very nice. One guy was harassing me for some reason, but then the supervisor came at said now, that's enough, let him go. I remember then, we all-- it's very clear to me-- Hotel Marseilles. And then, of course, came the-- we had to be placed.

At that time, the various family services throughout the United States took so-and-so many every month. And actually, I might have had some friends here, might have to come or go to Pasadena. But had I gone there, they would have taken more or less-- would have been obliged to take care of me and so on. I said, no, I'd rather do it on my own.

Anyhow, I appeared one morning for an interview. And the question came, well, right now there are two places-- Detroit or St. Paul. Well, it was St. Paul. I still take some time to when actually I got-- when to discover New York.

At that time, a nickel a subway ride, \$0.40, maybe \$0.50 a haircut. And something surprised me. Next to the mailboxes, these stacked packages. And I said, "Well, what's going to happen to the packages?" "Well, they just put them there." "Won't they be stolen? "No, not so much." "Why? "Risk a federal rap for taking a package." They stayed there.

At night, I remember, took a long movie. I came out of 1 or 2 o'clock. It's still there. Automat restaurant, I went in there. And then I actually walked back. Nothing happened.

And what-- and I was grateful to my teachers that I learned some English. It wasn't perfect, but it was serviceable. At least I could find my way around.

When did you come to the United States?

I came here-- I arrived on January 30th, 1948. I happen to remember this. In fact, I remember too, with a friend, who took me to the Metropolitan Opera-- a friend of friends, a musician, who took me to the Metropolitan Opera.

I still remember what was played and who was singing. I have a memory for that. And then there was a second cousin, who one time had to give an affidavit. With a lawyer in Connecticut, he came in. I remember, Sunday, and it was snowing, and he picked me up.

And he looked at me, "What, no rubber boots? No rubber boots?" First thing, stopped right in a place, "A pair of rubbers for this young man." I remember distinctly.

And then he took me to a smorgasbord. And I didn't realize this, of course the smorgasbord was just the appetizers and the real steak came afterwards. I guess the same night, we went to the opera. Anyhow, it was quite something.

In fact, we went to Mount Sinai Hospital. I had some sinus before I left Germany, had some sinus surgery that was acting up again. And I went to see the famous-- actually grand to me, Mount Sinai Hospital.

When I came today, they put me on a train. It was a Trailblazer from Pennsylvania station to Chicago. I remember it distinctly. Sit up, it was quite a trip. And in Chicago, for some reason, the train was late. I missed my connection to St. Paul. There was one train in the morning and one train and at night. And I remember we missed the train.

But I went to traveler's aid. And I left my luggage there. And he said, well, I'll have to see something of Chicago. Well, he said, "Listen, listen up. You go out. You take a bus downtown. Do not walk in rough neighborhood here. You might lose your topcoat."

But anyhow, I took a bus downtown. And went to the art gallery. It had two lions on each end. And I spent most of the day at the art gallery. And then came-- took the bus back to the station. And then I remember we took the evening Zephyr to St. Paul, the Twin Cities.

And there I was greeted by Bill Hoffman. He was a social worker at the St. Paul Family Service. And he put me to a hotel. Actually, there was another refugee who had come, and we were together. And we stayed there for a few days. And then another interview.

I had to take a test, putting round thing into round hole, then square. Anyhow, and then they found a family-- actually a room with a family in St. Paul.

And actually, I was fortunate. I had some recommendation from Ginsberg. He had many, many of his [INAUDIBLE] rabbis. And there was one Rabbi Wright, Rabbi Cohen in St. Paul, and there was [INAUDIBLE].

At the time, it was close to Passover. And I guess, we went to the service there. And actually, he somewhat looked after me. And I remember going to the services. And I was somewhat taken aback that people are talking through the service.

And later on, when I went to the university, I stayed at the Hillel House. And there, when I was staying in Hillel, I mentioned that, you see at the service, it was quite noisy.

"Well," said the rabbi. And he turned to another student who had come from Poland, and said, "Where you come from, what's going on here is whispering." And he turned to me, "And where you come on, what's going on in synagogue is

yelling. It depends on your background." But the service was very nice.

And then, actually, I remember going to a conservative, I also went to a reform synagogue for the first time. That was quite interesting. But anyhow, they found me a room at a Jewish family. And then I got a job.

First, I worked as a porter at the hospital. And then I took a job-- didn't pay too much-- then I took a job at a refrigerator company, putting refrigerators together in there too. Well, they tried to embarrass me there. They tried to teach me four-letter words. [INAUDIBLE].

Well, I had to disappoint them. I said, "Four letter words of Anglo-Saxon or Germanic origin. They're almost identical in German, with a vowel in the States [INAUDIBLE] at the end isn't going to fool me. I know what they mean. I'm not going to embarrass myself."

And it then came time for school. And I, actually with the help of the family service, they found me room in Minneapolis. University of Minnesota, I had to take some entrance tests there too.

Actually, I started from the beginning, this so-called-- Abiturium. It didn't do any-- didn't mean very much. And I started out. And of course, I had to have a-- I took a job, [INAUDIBLE] job in the morning. What did I do?

I worked in the cafeteria as a busboy. Then sometimes at night worked as a guard at the-- at the gym. And what else? I had various jobs. Then tutoring. Graduate students had to pass a reading test in German and I helped to tutor. And I was severely criticized by some other tutors. Didn't charge enough-- "You'll ruin us."

And actually, I met a family too, who invited me a time, when actually, when the summer suspend. They lived in Mankato. It was a little town about 40 miles, 50 miles out of Minneapolis, a Jewish family.

And then, when we went to university, there was one important point. I had to become a resident. Because out-of-state fees at that time, prohibitive. I got some help from the family service, but most of the time, most I had to earn. And I had to become a resident.

And I had to be before the board of residency and to explain or tell them that I didn't come to visit, didn't come to study, but I did come to Minnesota to live. Well, they believed me, and I was declared a resident with resident fees. That was quite helpful.

And then I have forgotten exactly how it came about, but, yes-- there was always a student assistant caretaker to Hillel house. And the present caretaker had graduated. Needed a new one. And I got a job. And I moved to the Hillel House. And I had a room there, actually at one time with the roommate from Israel.

But they took care with the janitor, the custodian, Sundays, at and nights I had to take care of the house. At least had a place to live and it was quite helpful. Could use the kitchen, had a refrigerator. And that was most helpful. And of course, not to forget meet your spouse at the Hillel house.

It was on Sunday. And I went downstairs. And explained to students who used the kitchen, because it's Sunday, the sororities and fraternities didn't serve meal for some reason. Anyhow, they came to the Hillel House to use the kitchen-- fine.

But I explained there was the milchig and the fleishig, and don't mix them up. Five minutes later, I come down, they're all mixed up. I was quite upset. And there was a redhead, and, "Oh, tell me about it." Well, I told here.

Well, that was Ethel, meet your spouse at the Hillel House. She listened to my complaints. I remember that.

Your spouse and the other people that you met when you came to the States, did they ask you about your experiences during the war? And what did you tell them?

Well, actually I never sat down to told them about it. But yes, they asked. And I told them here and there. There was one incident, one incident at Purim carnival. They had various booths and games.

And there was a pie throwing contest. They bought pies. And someone stuck his face out. And they threw it. And I got very upset. Food, and how can you do this?

And they went to the rabbi-- now, "Why is Fred so upset? It was our own pie." Well, Rabbi Meldrum had to explain that food is food. And in the past, there were times I didn't have so much food. And I found it offensive if the food, whatever it is, used for this.

Yes, they asked me questions. But there was actually never any formal-- never [INAUDIBLE]. What happened here, what happened there, or incident reminds more instance.

Example, comes a time, at Passover, I mentioned how we baked our own matzos from rye flour, pretty bad. Really [NON-ENGLISH]. Not the nice egg matzo we get here. But this was-- actually, I never formally talked about it. But I was frequently asked what happened.

What did you tell your future wife about your childhood and your past when you were meeting her, and dating her, and courting her?

That's interesting too. Well, she knew that I had come over. And her relatives were in Duluth. And we went there, introduced. And of course, she was afraid I wouldn't understand Yiddish. Of course, I knew Yiddish quite well.

There were actually two aunts there I remember. I even impressed her uncle and her aunt, and everything fine. Then we went to Aunt Jenny's house for dinner, Aunt Jenny and Uncle [? Jelik. ?]

And there, Aunt Jenny-- it was-- well, how should I say, a hefty woman, tried to explain to me-- at that time, I believe Ethel was 19 or 20. The advantages of a heavy woman, what-- this is very good, you see.

And other-- and poor Ethel was sitting there and hoping he doesn't understand. He won't understand what she is saying. And she was quite drastic to explain. I understood very well. It was a good woman.

And I might as well mention it to you what happened to her [INAUDIBLE]. She told me the other aunt was asking questions. They knew that her mother wasn't Jewish. And she was always raised Jewish, but it wasn't enough.

Anyhow, they told me. And [INAUDIBLE] was hemming and hawing around her. Finally, she realized what she wanted. She wanted to know whether I was circumcised. Well, a young woman should know in general, particular in this case.

Well, she told her aunt, "Fritz has assured me he was raised Jewish from birth on." And this was it. This was very important. But otherwise, we were treated very well. I remember this, about the business with Aunt Jenny. Poor Ethel was sitting there, so embarrassed, red in her face. It was [INAUDIBLE].

But, well, at that time, 19 years old, that was already an old maid. But of course, we decided not to marry till I graduated. And since it took some time-- since I went to professional school, that was taking some time. Well, it was a good time. Not much money and lots of work. But we were young. It didn't matter.

At this point, where you had met your future wife, did you know what you wanted to study?

Oh, yes, yes I do. I already-- I wanted to become a veterinarian. Actually, what I wanted to become was a zoo veterinarian, but I went-- I was ready to go to a veterinary school. And at that time, yes.

And I remember, it was a nice time-- I remember I met her. There was a little town, close to a little community, called the Dinky Town, very close to the university. Had stores, and restaurants, on so on. And we met.

And she told me afterwards I was just sneaking out in my grungies. And lo and behold I run right into you. I didn't know what she wore-- didn't remember what she wore. Didn't never knew what it was wearing.

Well, about-- it was hard. Working, one morning at work, [INAUDIBLE], of course, lots of work and tired. And the busboy and I had-- I had-- was a truck. I took, loaded the truck with glasses that had been washed. I'm very tired. And I didn't look where I put the tray. Somebody had moved the truck. And the tray fell right onto the ground. That woke me up.

By the way, on that I can recommend something else if you'd want to be awakened. In the mornings, very tired-- it was twice it happened. I took shaving cream out of the tube-- that was in the tube, instead of toothbrush. That'll wake you up, if you brush your teeth with shaving cream. I still remember that.

I'm going to pause now because we're at the end of the tape.

This is a continuation of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Volunteer Collection interview with Fritz Gluckstein. This is being resumed on December 7th, in the year 2000. Originally, we began on October 5th, 2000. This is tape two, side B.

What surprised you most when you first came to the United States? What were the things in America that surprised you?

I tried very much to come to the United States without any preconceived ideas. Well, that's the country I'm going to live. I'm not going to obviously compare what was here. A few things did surprise me.

In high school, I remember teachers and my fellow students had some very strange ideas about the United States. For instance, the principal-- well Fred, talked about United States. He gave the distinct impression that the United States had no cultural life.

And then they had some very strange customs. For instance, if you went to a party you were invited, it was impolite to use a knife. Because the meat had to be cooked tender that you could cut it with your fork-- nonsense.

| at school we got a plumber or a carpenter that came and did some work. And we watched a little bit what he was doing. "Oh, oh, that's the American way. We don't do it here. In the United States, one fella works, and the other looks on." This kind of nonsense.

Well, I don't know where they got it. Let's not forget, some of the Jews in Germany, particularly, they consider themselves elite. They came over here. Well, we are going to [INAUDIBLE]. We are going to show the Americans what cultural life is. Not all, but some.

And look, some actually tried to hold on desperately-- I would see desperately to old times. They had so-called old world clubs. There was one in Minneapolis and there was one in St. Paul. And I remember, they asked me to join, to go. Well, I went. Guess how often-- once.

I wasn't like sitting there and reminisce how things here, and how different it is, and, oh, oh, oh. No, I tried to come over here and to adapt the best I could. What surprised me most, yes, some very minor thing.

In New York, walked down the street, and you see packages piled next to the post-- to the mailbox. Why? Well, the mailman bill collector, of course. So then, well, I asked might not it be stolen? "No," they said, "If anybody wanted it, it would be a federal offense and it isn't worth it." And of course, traffic. And I was more in awe than surprised.

I'd like to know what your ambitions were in those first few years and what career goals you were setting for yourself for the long term.

I wanted to go back to school. I wanted to go to college. And I wanted to become a veterinarian. So I set my goals and went after them. And came to Minnesota. And did my best to fulfill the requirements for admission.

And that actually kept me busy with the jobs I had, the part-time jobs, and the quite rigorous course. Well, I hadn't too much time. And I remember even people at the family service, who were very nice. Each newcomer more or less was looked after to a certain degree by the family service.

They taught me, look, very nice, but recreation just as important as studying. I had some advisors too who would say, "Now, look, don't overdo it." Well, I tried not. Actually, still, it was-- well, I was busy. And it wasn't easy. But still, had a good time. And I have pleasant memories of my student days.

You said you wanted to be a veterinarian. Did you have any idea in what capacity?

No. Originally, I wanted to become a zoo veterinarian. Well, it didn't turn out, but a veterinarian nevertheless. And of course, I still remember, actually, what my father told me-- "Do not take a profession that is limited to one country." And what he meant is law. But actually, it only played a minor part. But I always was interested in animals. And I think that would be a job I would be happy.

Did you imagine yourself setting up a private clinic? Or did you think that you might-- you said originally you wanted to work in a zoo. Where did you think you would be professionally established?

Actually, at the beginning, actually, your main goal is to graduate. And to feel that through your study, you will actually realize what your interests are, what are your abilities. And you might have surgical ability or your might have-- well, would like to be with people at a practice, or research.

Actually, I was a little more towards the research type. Because on the other hand-- well, it went back and forth. Some would be nice to work with hands on. Frankly, when I started out, I had some vague idea of becoming a zoo veterinarian, but my mind wasn't set. I said, let's see what happens.

And look, what happens though, is you get very often, become a mentor, and in some way, you are guided in a certain direction. And of course, how did it happen that I wound up in the information field?

Well, it was my second year and the library wasn't open nights and weekends. Well, we got together, the students-- something has to be done. We have to have the library open. Well, why don't you go to the professor whose in charge of the library and talk to him about what could be done. Maybe we could do something about, take turns.

Well, I went up there. I remember distinctly-- in fact, this professor just died in one of the air crashes, the plane that went to Zurich. Very nice. Oh, he listened to me. "An excellent idea. You are hereby appointed chairman of a committee to redevelop detailed plans to have the library open nights and weekends."

Well, what could I do? See, there I was, spending quite a bit of time, drawing up plans, making assignments, and so on. And actually, I got into-- I didn't object, but actually that guided and gently pushed into information field. There it started.

So when you got out of school, what was your first professional job?

At that time, actually, it was the Korean War at the end. In fact, during the summertime, one of the summers, I worked on a farm with veterinarian, of course. And I remember at that time, I had to-- this was up in northern Minnesota, and I had to come to Minneapolis to take a physical to be inducted in the army.

However, let's see, when it came down to it, I was deferred because I was officially a student. However, only deferred. I had to fulfill my obligations. And upon graduation, I actually volunteered-- I didn't want to wait till they called me-- for the army.

And while waiting for the army, I took a job in meat inspection. Very interesting. And worked a year, year and a half in meat inspection. First, I-- in south St. Paul. And then, actually, I got an assignment, a temporary assignment in Beltsville.

Actually, that is an interesting story too, how I got this assignment. I was a meat inspector. And lo and behold, one day came the big boss from Washington, Dr. Stein. Came home for a visit. And they came with the local chief inspector and some other inspectors. Went around the pickling plant.

Lo and behold, they came to the place where I was at that time inspecting calves. And the calves primary is immaturity. You get to not pass-- immature calves are not passed. They're watery and not very aesthetic.

Now, comes a calf. And comes down. And I say, well, this is immature. Lo and behold, the local inspector in charge, said "Wait a minute, wait a minute, wait a minute, let's talk about this here. I don't think that is quite correct." Hmm? OK.

And he asked, so Dr. So-and-So, "Now what do you think about it?" Well, he said, "I think its immature." The other said, "Well, he--" He probably didn't want, in view of the big boss standing there-- "It can go either way."

There was another one I will recall. I guess he said he wasn't sure either. OK, lo and behold, the [INAUDIBLE]. Now, I did something. And actually, this has always been my motto. Behold the turtle, he makes progress only if he sticks his neck out. Well, I did something [INAUDIBLE]. Now, I stuck my neck out.

"Wait a minute, gentlemen. Dr. Stein, now, we must make a decision. Please, would you make a decision." He upheld me-- immature. Maybe he didn't like it, but he remembered me. And two months later, I get a temporary job in Washington at the [? Beltzer ?] Laboratory.

What's the timeframe on that? When did this happen?

I graduated in '55. This was about-- it was, I would say, that was in 19-- in spring, 1956.

And what was the ultimate story on your military service?

While I was out here, I was called to the army. And I took me physical in Alexandria. What if physical, I want to tell you. It wasn't very stringent. And actually, I came back to Minneapolis. Was sworn in.

Actually, I didn't-- I quit my job. Then immediately went to Chicago to the meat and dairy hygiene school for about two or three months.

The government sent you there?

That was in the army. Fortunately, I got a commission-- being a veterinarian, I didn't have to go through basic training. And I got a commission as first lieutenant right away. And I spent some time there in Chicago, specialty courses.

There, too, I was extremely lucky. I remember we had to-- every Monday there was an examination. Meaning the weekend was filled with studying and what have you. That was OK, but once I got my assignment, well, I kept up, but I didn't really kill myself anymore.

I remember, I went to a movie on weekends. And with my assignment, I was exceedingly lucky too. I could have been wound up looking for dented cans, pinned feathers in turkeys. It has to be done. Don't get me wrong, this is an important job.

Or as one of my classmates, he was going in Nebraska from farm to farm candling eggs, which is important, because unfortunately, still now, people-- some contractors try to palm off to the army what they can't sell to others.

Well, anyhow, comes the great day of assignment. Now, what will happen to me? I walk in there. And it's a colonel and the personnel officer of the veterinary corp. [INAUDIBLE] saluting, reporting there.

"Ha, ha," he laughed at me. He then addresses me in German. Well, I was taken somewhat surprised. Maury was his name. "Ha, ha, ha, you're surprised, aren't you? Well, don't-- my mother is from Hamburg." He probably talked German before he--

But for some reason, [INAUDIBLE] my experience here at the lab, and perhaps he took a liking to me, because he had to do something that surprised me. I got a very good job. It's biological warfare center in Frederick, Maryland.

And while [INAUDIBLE], I learned a lot there. Actually, worked at a laboratory. It was like a job in the morning. Went to the lab, evening come back. Every time I left the lab, I had to take a shower, because we worked with quite dangerous organisms.

But I really-- and I did an awful lot-- how to handle dangerous, contagious agents, how to work-- exacting. I was quite grateful the army-- was grateful what they did. Very little soldiering. Occasionally, or throughout the day, but mostly in the laboratory.

And I must say, I still remember my second anniversary. We were already to go out at night. Had the reservations. But I couldn't come because I was inside the lab. Had a very restricted area. There were monkeys that were infected with certain organism.

And they could only be approached in kind of spacesuits. We went in with a spacesuit. And one monkey escaped. And we had to catch him. And I lost my glasses inside the spacesuit. And my wife, who was sitting outside, didn't know what happened. I still remember this.

Is there anything more you can tell me about the nature of the work that you did in the military?

Actually, it was biological warfare. Quite a bit-- some stuff I could talk about, others I couldn't. Some people, of course, criticized me-- how can you possibly work for biological warfare? Well, I thought it has to be done. And you can learn quite a bit if defensive too. And quite a bit of what we were doing there benefits every day.

Even there, I was-- did quite a bit in the information field. "Huh? German? Go to the library and look up and translate." Quite a bit of this work had been done on certain organisms in German. And there too, I did quite a bit of information. It was really a good job. I can't complain.

Did you have any moral qualms about doing the kind of work, given your personal background?

No, I thought about it. Actually, I remember later on when I went to library school, I wrote a paper about that. Look, war-- war is hell anyway. And if you come down to it, some of the methods used in war actually are not [INAUDIBLE].

And very often, biological warfare doesn't necessarily kill. It's directed just to disable the enemy and to effect his livestock and so on. There's quite a bit-- what we know now in immunization and vaccination has been learned actually through work similar to this or actually done at Fort Detrick.

How long did you stay in the army?

Two years. And then I stayed on in the reserve. I stayed on several years in the reserve, which meant you met once a week. And in the summertime, you had some-- went to some exercises and some courses. But this was not, at that time, was not biological warfare. It was more or less medical food inspection.

At that time, I was a reserve on the veterinary corp, this food inspection, zoonoses, diseases transmissible from animal to men, which later on became one of my specialties. And I stayed there, actually, in the reserves, till I joined the public health service.

Can you give me some timeframe on when you get out of the army, how long you stayed in the reserve?

I got out of the army-- I came in at '56, roughly. And I guess in '57. I came out in '59. In '59, I left the army. And went back, actually, for the Department of Agriculture. And this was meat inspection.

But at the time, when I went back to meat inspection, it wasn't named that. What I did, it was in the laboratory, not on the killing floor. See where your specimens are taken is the killing floor and sent to a laboratory. The animal is held in a freezer and then it's been examined. Something like this, I did.

And when did you start working for agriculture?

I started at agriculture right after-- in '55. And actually, I worked all the time, even when I was in the army and was officially-- I was on military leave. You see, you had to go. It was [INAUDIBLE]. And when I came back, right away I went back to agriculture.

And how long did you continue to work for the Department of Agriculture?

Actually for AIMS. I went to Washington and worked there for the agricultural service. And there too, I collect information about livestock, animal diseases in foreign countries. How do you find out? You go there. You interview people. And you search the literature.

Well, that I did. And I got more and more in the information field. Eventually, if you do it a long time, you develop a sense of where to look, what to find, and so on. And there I stayed till '60. Wait a minute-- [INAUDIBLE]. Yes, about '60. I came there in '60. I believed I stayed there till-- four or five years, '65.

And then I went to the Smithsonian Institution in information service there too. There I stayed for about a year, a year and a half. Then I joined the public health service as a commissioned officer at the National Library of Medicine.

And there, the National Library of Medicine. I stayed for 28 years. Actually, I was fortunate, because of this special position I had I wasn't transferred. They kept me there. And I was not [INAUDIBLE].

In the army, you know, there's a transfer every two, or three, or four years. In the public health service, not that frequently, but they tried to transfer people too. It didn't happen to me. And I stayed here at the National Library of Medicine for 28 years.

By being there, I said, finally-- well, I worked with the librarian-- I might as well find out what they think, learn a little bit more about it. And I went to library school. And actually, I did it on my own. I made up-- I went nights, weekends.

And if I had to go at the time that we had duty, I made it up. And I graduated in '84, I remember. And it was difficult to go back to school. But it was interesting too. I always wondered when I was doing it, well, once this is over, look all the time I will have. I still don't know what happened.

I finished, became a master of library science, but I never found the time. But it was very interesting. Usually, going back to school, it's the old thing-- you always see it-- 25% eminently worthwhile, 25% useful, 25% redundant and useless, and 25%, you know what. But I believe this is usually at many schools. But 25%, it was worthwhile.

You mentioned your second wedding anniversary. Do you have children?

Yes, a daughter, Ruth. She was born, actually, when I was still at the Smithsonian Institution. This was in '64. One daughter, yes. She lives close by. And I am now an insufferable grandfather.

What does it mean to be an insufferable grandfather?

An insufferable grandfather-- look, the other day, we played running around the island in the kitchen. Guess who had more fun? Or playing with the trains or running around, making a complete fool of myself. And I enjoy every minute.

She's just two years, in September, two years old, Emily. I tell you, they tell me, whenever I see her, I light up like a Christmas tree. Probably right. I don't notice it. And of course, I try to be a good grandfather, not to indulge her too much. Has to be some discipline. And of course, no criticism.

Well, if I-- and Maran, of course, is a wonderful grandmother. But if I have anything to say, perhaps, I might do it once. I might be insufferable, but I don't like to be a nagging grandfather. Yes, sometimes I have to-- stop, it's time now, it's enough. But, of course, at the beginning, everybody be told about it.

But look, it is so nice to be a grandparent. You just enjoy it. And then you go home. And the parents [INAUDIBLE].

I want to go back and review some of the things that were happening around you during these years that you just outlined for me. You were in the United States during the Nuremberg trials.

Correct.

How were they reported in the US media? And what was the general reaction that you saw around you?

Frankly, I didn't-- I read about it, but people around me, it was not discussed, at least in school. It was really not discussed. Yes, occasionally you saw it, but by no means was that a topic of conversation.

Did that surprise you?

No. I realize people would mention-- yes, they were not unaware of it. But it was not-- perhaps too, probably, maybe history and sociology students, probably it was discussed more.

I stayed that time-- I had a position as the assistant caretaker at the Hillel House. But even there, it wasn't-- I don't recall it was discussed very much.

Was there anything about the way it was covered by the American press that surprised you?

No, [INAUDIBLE].

What was your reaction to the judgments in the trial?

At that point, I think I found it just. Right now, I'm reading-- I have read the book The Nuremberg Trials, by Persico. In retrospect, certain things could be different now. But at that point, I felt it was certainly just.

I think I'm going to pause, and change tape, and not ask you another question right now.