

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:11,520

2
00:00:11,520 --> 00:00:14,430
This is the United States
Holocaust Memorial Museum

3
00:00:14,430 --> 00:00:20,670
volunteer collection interview
with Ursula Guttstadt McKinney,

4
00:00:20,670 --> 00:00:26,430
conducted by Gail Schwartz
on August 31, 2010

5
00:00:26,430 --> 00:00:28,980
in Chevy Chase, Maryland.

6
00:00:28,980 --> 00:00:33,100
This is track number one.

7
00:00:33,100 --> 00:00:36,410
Please tell me your full name.

8
00:00:36,410 --> 00:00:39,575
Ursula Guttstadt McKinney.

9
00:00:39,575 --> 00:00:46,820
Now, originally I had
Ursula KÄthe Dora Guttstadt.

10
00:00:46,820 --> 00:00:48,680
That's the name that
you were born with.

11
00:00:48,680 --> 00:00:49,800
I was born with.

12
00:00:49,800 --> 00:00:50,300
In a sense.

13

00:00:50,300 --> 00:00:51,410

Right after you were born.

14

00:00:51,410 --> 00:00:55,970

Then when I came to the United States, I dropped the "Dora"

15

00:00:55,970 --> 00:00:58,790

and changed the KÃthe to Katherine.

16

00:00:58,790 --> 00:01:00,260

Oh, OK.

17

00:01:00,260 --> 00:01:04,280

And then I was Ursula Katherine Guttstadt.

18

00:01:04,280 --> 00:01:07,100

Then when I got married, I dropped more or less

19

00:01:07,100 --> 00:01:07,870

the Katherine.

20

00:01:07,870 --> 00:01:11,600

In some of the documents, I still have the "Katherine."

21

00:01:11,600 --> 00:01:15,140

But otherwise, I took my maiden name, Guttstadt,

22

00:01:15,140 --> 00:01:16,980

as my middle name.

23

00:01:16,980 --> 00:01:17,480

OK.

24

00:01:17,480 --> 00:01:19,920

And where were you born, and when were you born?

25

00:01:19,920 --> 00:01:27,680

I was born in Frankfurt Oder
on the 17th of November, 1925.

26

00:01:27,680 --> 00:01:30,830

OK, let's talk a little
bit about your family

27

00:01:30,830 --> 00:01:32,790

and their background.

28

00:01:32,790 --> 00:01:34,320

Your father's name?

29

00:01:34,320 --> 00:01:36,710

My father's name was Richard--

30

00:01:36,710 --> 00:01:40,010

originally Richard
Johann Guttstadt.

31

00:01:40,010 --> 00:01:46,780

And my mother's name was
Hannah Augusta Semmler.

32

00:01:46,780 --> 00:01:50,020

I'm not sure if she had
another middle name.

33

00:01:50,020 --> 00:01:53,770

And my parents got
married very late.

34

00:01:53,770 --> 00:01:55,690

My father was 42.

35

00:01:55,690 --> 00:01:57,730

My mother was 36.

36

00:01:57,730 --> 00:02:00,490

So my sister and I were

really wanted, which

37

00:02:00,490 --> 00:02:03,330
helped us during the Nazi time.

38

00:02:03,330 --> 00:02:03,940
Yeah.

39

00:02:03,940 --> 00:02:05,920
Let's talk about your
family background.

40

00:02:05,920 --> 00:02:06,930
My father--

41

00:02:06,930 --> 00:02:08,259
Where was your father born?

42

00:02:08,259 --> 00:02:18,690
My father was born in Berlin
on the 19th October 1879.

43

00:02:18,690 --> 00:02:24,240
And my mother was born
on the 21st of April,

44

00:02:24,240 --> 00:02:27,410
1886 in JÄ¼terbog.

45

00:02:27,410 --> 00:02:30,400
That is south of Berlin.

46

00:02:30,400 --> 00:02:30,900
OK.

47

00:02:30,900 --> 00:02:33,240
And let's talk about
your father's family.

48

00:02:33,240 --> 00:02:37,710
My father's father
was a physician.

49

00:02:37,710 --> 00:02:42,210

My father was born in
the old part of Berlin,

50

00:02:42,210 --> 00:02:46,620

in Alexandrinenstrasse, which
is really the middle core.

51

00:02:46,620 --> 00:02:49,510

And his father, who
was a physician,

52

00:02:49,510 --> 00:02:54,030

he was very interested,
really, in the hygiene, too.

53

00:02:54,030 --> 00:02:58,350

For he was working really
later on for the University

54

00:02:58,350 --> 00:02:59,160

of Berlin.

55

00:02:59,160 --> 00:03:02,220

He lectured on
medical statistics.

56

00:03:02,220 --> 00:03:05,280

And he wrote about
medical statistics.

57

00:03:05,280 --> 00:03:11,010

And even under Hitler, his books
were in the so-called Gift--

58

00:03:11,010 --> 00:03:12,840

poison-- closet.

59

00:03:12,840 --> 00:03:16,470

And students who studied
this could use his papers.

60

00:03:16,470 --> 00:03:20,190

And almost all his things are
in the Library of Congress.

61

00:03:20,190 --> 00:03:23,790

And he wrote his
dissertation in Latin.

62

00:03:23,790 --> 00:03:27,000

You know, the doctors
then still wrote in Latin.

63

00:03:27,000 --> 00:03:30,030

My grandfather
really came for Ost--

64

00:03:30,030 --> 00:03:31,740

from Ost-- from East Prussia.

65

00:03:31,740 --> 00:03:36,570

And he had not any--
very much money.

66

00:03:36,570 --> 00:03:41,170

He had one Dukaten, which was
then the gold money in Germany.

67

00:03:41,170 --> 00:03:46,260

And he went to Berlin, and then
he studied and did all this.

68

00:03:46,260 --> 00:03:51,480

And he was-- yeah, he was
very interested in statistics.

69

00:03:51,480 --> 00:03:53,970

He also worked
together with Virchow,

70

00:03:53,970 --> 00:03:58,570

who was a very known physician
in the Charit  in Berlin,

71

00:03:58,570 --> 00:04:00,450
which is an old hospital.

72

00:04:00,450 --> 00:04:02,370
And he wrote about--

73

00:04:02,370 --> 00:04:04,530
they had cholera then in Berlin.

74

00:04:04,530 --> 00:04:07,770
So my grandfather
really wrote about that

75

00:04:07,770 --> 00:04:10,930
to fight the cholera
is one thing,

76

00:04:10,930 --> 00:04:14,460
but you really have to fight
the hygiene conditions,

77

00:04:14,460 --> 00:04:18,160
the way how the people
live and the water.

78

00:04:18,160 --> 00:04:19,660
The water condition.

79

00:04:19,660 --> 00:04:22,660
And just fighting
the disease wouldn't

80

00:04:22,660 --> 00:04:25,420
be any really help very much.

81

00:04:25,420 --> 00:04:27,377
So he wrote a lot about
these kind of things.

82

00:04:27,377 --> 00:04:28,877
What was his name,
your grandfather?

83
00:04:28,877 --> 00:04:31,840
My father-- grandfather,
Albert Guttstadt.

84
00:04:31,840 --> 00:04:33,850
Albert Guttstadt.

85
00:04:33,850 --> 00:04:37,220
And in Rastenburg
in East Prussia

86
00:04:37,220 --> 00:04:38,920
they were very proud of him.

87
00:04:38,920 --> 00:04:43,720
The original, Hitler removed
all that, but in the city hall

88
00:04:43,720 --> 00:04:45,940
there was a picture
of my grandfather,

89
00:04:45,940 --> 00:04:49,760
and one of the streets
were named after him.

90
00:04:49,760 --> 00:04:53,380
And so-- but I never met him.

91
00:04:53,380 --> 00:04:55,910
My grandfather died
before I ever--

92
00:04:55,910 --> 00:04:58,330
before my parents
ever got married.

93
00:04:58,330 --> 00:05:03,070
I didn't meet any of
my father's parents.

94

00:05:03,070 --> 00:05:08,880
His mother was-- what
was her last name?

95
00:05:08,880 --> 00:05:12,430
Hoo, hoo, hoo. [? Grubauer. ?]
She came from Silesia.

96
00:05:12,430 --> 00:05:16,065
And they had a sugar factory.

97
00:05:16,065 --> 00:05:17,740
Yes, oops.

98
00:05:17,740 --> 00:05:18,520
Let's see.

99
00:05:18,520 --> 00:05:19,960
This is Albert.

100
00:05:19,960 --> 00:05:23,410
I see-- Klara, yeah.

101
00:05:23,410 --> 00:05:26,440
My grandfather was
born on the 25th

102
00:05:26,440 --> 00:05:31,750
of January, 1840 in Rastenburg.

103
00:05:31,750 --> 00:05:35,740
And his father's name
was Samuel Guttstadt.

104
00:05:35,740 --> 00:05:40,750
And his mother was Henrietta
Guttstadt, nee Rosenbach.

105
00:05:40,750 --> 00:05:42,430
And I met lots of
the Rosenbachs.

106

00:05:42,430 --> 00:05:45,400
This was a big family,
but they all vanished.

107
00:05:45,400 --> 00:05:48,340
Every single one vanished
in the Holocaust.

108
00:05:48,340 --> 00:05:49,750
What religion were they?

109
00:05:49,750 --> 00:05:50,660
All Jewish.

110
00:05:50,660 --> 00:05:51,550
They were all Jewish.

111
00:05:51,550 --> 00:05:51,850
They were all Jewish.

112
00:05:51,850 --> 00:05:53,470
So your father was Jewish.

113
00:05:53,470 --> 00:05:54,220
Yeah.

114
00:05:54,220 --> 00:06:02,200
And she-- and my grandmother,
Klara Guttstadt, and she

115
00:06:02,200 --> 00:06:04,570
was-- her maiden name
was [? Grubauer. ?]

116
00:06:04,570 --> 00:06:10,510
She was born in Silesia on
the 10th of September, 1850.

117
00:06:10,510 --> 00:06:14,080
And she died in Berlin.

118
00:06:14,080 --> 00:06:15,580

And so did my grandfather.

119
00:06:15,580 --> 00:06:18,560
They both died in Berlin.

120
00:06:18,560 --> 00:06:22,030
Tell me a little bit more
about your father and his work.

121
00:06:22,030 --> 00:06:27,350
My father, there were
three children, really.

122
00:06:27,350 --> 00:06:28,580
KÄthe Guttstadt.

123
00:06:28,580 --> 00:06:32,160
And she died of diphtheria
when she was 13.

124
00:06:32,160 --> 00:06:36,855
And then my father, Richard,
and his father Frederich,

125
00:06:36,855 --> 00:06:37,640
Friedrich.

126
00:06:37,640 --> 00:06:40,580
And my father,
Richard, and Friedrich

127
00:06:40,580 --> 00:06:43,640
both started to study law.

128
00:06:43,640 --> 00:06:46,770
And then my father didn't
particularly care for it.

129
00:06:46,770 --> 00:06:49,100
So then he switched,
and he studied

130

00:06:49,100 --> 00:06:52,130
engineering and architecture.

131
00:06:52,130 --> 00:06:55,700
And he won the
Schinkelpreis, which

132
00:06:55,700 --> 00:07:00,290
was something which only was
given out every five years.

133
00:07:00,290 --> 00:07:02,960
That is the prize
for architects.

134
00:07:02,960 --> 00:07:07,070
And he got it for designing
a railroad station

135
00:07:07,070 --> 00:07:09,740
and the layout of the tracks.

136
00:07:09,740 --> 00:07:12,920
And my father's-- and
I couldn't find them.

137
00:07:12,920 --> 00:07:15,440
I looked for them yesterday.

138
00:07:15,440 --> 00:07:21,200
My father studied at the
Technical University in Berlin.

139
00:07:21,200 --> 00:07:25,580
And yeah, his drawings
are there of his things.

140
00:07:25,580 --> 00:07:30,260
And then he worked
for the railroad.

141
00:07:30,260 --> 00:07:36,050
And he designed tunnels

for the railroad.

142
00:07:36,050 --> 00:07:39,600
There is a path between
Berlin and Frankfurt.

143
00:07:39,600 --> 00:07:46,280
They always-- the tracks are
low, and the sights are high.

144
00:07:46,280 --> 00:07:49,280
And it always was sliding down.

145
00:07:49,280 --> 00:07:54,830
So my father designed
how to prevent that.

146
00:07:54,830 --> 00:07:56,510
And my father was very--

147
00:07:56,510 --> 00:07:58,770
all his workers loved him.

148
00:07:58,770 --> 00:08:01,280
When they tried to--
when they kicked him out,

149
00:08:01,280 --> 00:08:02,460
the workers striked.

150
00:08:02,460 --> 00:08:04,580
And they said, we
want Guttstadt back.

151
00:08:04,580 --> 00:08:07,370
But it didn't help
under Hitler, certainly.

152
00:08:07,370 --> 00:08:09,800
Was your father's family
a religious family

153

00:08:09,800 --> 00:08:11,300
an observant family?

154
00:08:11,300 --> 00:08:13,230
I don't think so.

155
00:08:13,230 --> 00:08:20,030
I think all my family,
as far as I know,

156
00:08:20,030 --> 00:08:24,940
I think they had
maybe a bat mitzvah.

157
00:08:24,940 --> 00:08:27,470
They went-- but I
don't think they even

158
00:08:27,470 --> 00:08:30,310
ate kosher or anything.

159
00:08:30,310 --> 00:08:33,100
It was not a very
religious family.

160
00:08:33,100 --> 00:08:37,600
That's one thing Hitler did,
all my few surviving families,

161
00:08:37,600 --> 00:08:39,220
they're all now religious Jews.

162
00:08:39,220 --> 00:08:41,860

163
00:08:41,860 --> 00:08:44,110
Now, tell me about
your mother's family.

164
00:08:44,110 --> 00:08:45,970
Now, my mother was not Jewish.

165

00:08:45,970 --> 00:08:48,820
My mother's family is Semmler.

166
00:08:48,820 --> 00:08:49,960
And--

167
00:08:49,960 --> 00:08:51,730
What religion were they?

168
00:08:51,730 --> 00:08:52,230
Lutheran.

169
00:08:52,230 --> 00:08:52,780
Lutheran.

170
00:08:52,780 --> 00:08:53,980
Yeah.

171
00:08:53,980 --> 00:08:56,950
In Germany, in general,
you had three, you know,

172
00:08:56,950 --> 00:08:58,380
which the state supported.

173
00:08:58,380 --> 00:09:00,290
They took the tax out.

174
00:09:00,290 --> 00:09:04,680
Either Jewish,
Catholic, or Lutheran.

175
00:09:04,680 --> 00:09:07,120
The state took the tax.

176
00:09:07,120 --> 00:09:12,250
You could say I'm a member,
and they took the tax out.

177
00:09:12,250 --> 00:09:13,882
But they were not
religious either.

178
00:09:13,882 --> 00:09:17,230

179
00:09:17,230 --> 00:09:19,270
My mother only went
to church if she

180
00:09:19,270 --> 00:09:22,450
liked the minister's sermons.

181
00:09:22,450 --> 00:09:25,020
You know, there was one, she
went to the Kaiser Wilhelm

182
00:09:25,020 --> 00:09:26,790
Gedachtniskirche in Berlin.

183
00:09:26,790 --> 00:09:29,470
And then one time there
was somebody, the preacher,

184
00:09:29,470 --> 00:09:31,150
she thought she
liked his sermons.

185
00:09:31,150 --> 00:09:32,320
So then she went.

186
00:09:32,320 --> 00:09:35,500
But not out of any
other conviction.

187
00:09:35,500 --> 00:09:37,240
And we didn't grow
up-- my sister

188
00:09:37,240 --> 00:09:40,430
and I didn't grow up religious.

189
00:09:40,430 --> 00:09:43,010
And so you know--

190
00:09:43,010 --> 00:09:44,930
But you knew you
were half-Jewish,

191
00:09:44,930 --> 00:09:48,170
half-Lutheran in a sense?

192
00:09:48,170 --> 00:09:51,860
Naja, I knew that only in
the beginning, I didn't.

193
00:09:51,860 --> 00:09:54,120
No, I had no idea.

194
00:09:54,120 --> 00:09:58,140
I remember that when I
was in elementary school,

195
00:09:58,140 --> 00:09:59,590
we had religious--

196
00:09:59,590 --> 00:10:04,500
we went in-- my first year,
we had religious education

197
00:10:04,500 --> 00:10:05,260
in school.

198
00:10:05,260 --> 00:10:08,550
And usually the regular
teacher gave the Lutheran.

199
00:10:08,550 --> 00:10:12,180
And I had a girlfriend, one
of my classmates was Lutheran,

200
00:10:12,180 --> 00:10:13,380
was Catholic.

201
00:10:13,380 --> 00:10:15,130
And she always wanted to leave.

202
00:10:15,130 --> 00:10:16,620
And I said, you can't do that.

203
00:10:16,620 --> 00:10:18,210
I'm not going home alone.

204
00:10:18,210 --> 00:10:19,590
You have to stay.

205
00:10:19,590 --> 00:10:23,910
And then there were two
people, two of mine,

206
00:10:23,910 --> 00:10:27,120
and they were Jewish.

207
00:10:27,120 --> 00:10:29,250
And then [? Hela ?]
came in and she said--

208
00:10:29,250 --> 00:10:31,080
there were the Ten
Commandments on.

209
00:10:31,080 --> 00:10:35,050
And she said, oh, you have the
same Ten Commandments as we do.

210
00:10:35,050 --> 00:10:37,690
And I said, yes, why not?

211
00:10:37,690 --> 00:10:42,370
So I was really not
aware of the difference.

212
00:10:42,370 --> 00:10:44,880
I thought, you know,
that was somewhere

213
00:10:44,880 --> 00:10:46,680
people said they're

different, but I

214

00:10:46,680 --> 00:10:49,600
didn't know why they
said they were different.

215

00:10:49,600 --> 00:10:56,020
But Frankfurt Oder had a
very small Jewish community.

216

00:10:56,020 --> 00:10:57,700
And they are now on the bridge.

217

00:10:57,700 --> 00:10:59,633
You know where you
have the bridge?

218

00:10:59,633 --> 00:11:01,050
Frankfurt Oder is
written on this.

219

00:11:01,050 --> 00:11:03,200
They don't have anybody.

220

00:11:03,200 --> 00:11:05,477
And we knew them all.

221

00:11:05,477 --> 00:11:06,310
We knew all of them.

222

00:11:06,310 --> 00:11:08,300
But the--

223

00:11:08,300 --> 00:11:11,530
So did you live in a mixed
neighborhood, in a sense?

224

00:11:11,530 --> 00:11:13,240
We all lived in
mixed neighborhoods.

225

00:11:13,240 --> 00:11:14,320

OK.

226

00:11:14,320 --> 00:11:17,770

The whole Jewish community
lived in a mixed neighborhood.

227

00:11:17,770 --> 00:11:19,030

There was no ghetto.

228

00:11:19,030 --> 00:11:19,960

No.

229

00:11:19,960 --> 00:11:22,810

Or there was no area--

230

00:11:22,810 --> 00:11:24,580

Where it was mostly Jewish.

231

00:11:24,580 --> 00:11:25,300

No, no.

232

00:11:25,300 --> 00:11:29,530

We're all in with
the reform house.

233

00:11:29,530 --> 00:11:32,260

No.

234

00:11:32,260 --> 00:11:34,960

Can you describe
yourself as a youngster?

235

00:11:34,960 --> 00:11:37,090

Were you an independent child?

236

00:11:37,090 --> 00:11:38,500

Or?

237

00:11:38,500 --> 00:11:39,760

Yeah, I was the second.

238

00:11:39,760 --> 00:11:41,230
My sister is older.

239
00:11:41,230 --> 00:11:43,390
So I always was up to her age.

240
00:11:43,390 --> 00:11:44,600
And her name?

241
00:11:44,600 --> 00:11:47,460
Her name is Brigitte.

242
00:11:47,460 --> 00:11:51,420
And so my sister went
to school, for example.

243
00:11:51,420 --> 00:11:53,860
She was two classes above me.

244
00:11:53,860 --> 00:11:57,270
And so I was-- we had seats.

245
00:11:57,270 --> 00:12:00,960
And in the middle
there was a raised part

246
00:12:00,960 --> 00:12:03,180
which separated the two seats.

247
00:12:03,180 --> 00:12:04,860
And there I was sitting.

248
00:12:04,860 --> 00:12:06,990
And all the teachers,
they all knew us.

249
00:12:06,990 --> 00:12:10,590
You know, Frankfurt Oder
had only 60,000 residents.

250
00:12:10,590 --> 00:12:11,340
So they knew.

251
00:12:11,340 --> 00:12:12,630
So I was sitting there.

252
00:12:12,630 --> 00:12:15,960
So one day I appeared,
and I was only four.

253
00:12:15,960 --> 00:12:18,390
And I appeared at the principal.

254
00:12:18,390 --> 00:12:20,320
And I said-- he said,
what do you want?

255
00:12:20,320 --> 00:12:22,470
And I said, I want
to go to school.

256
00:12:22,470 --> 00:12:24,740
And he said, when were you born?

257
00:12:24,740 --> 00:12:25,440
And I told him.

258
00:12:25,440 --> 00:12:27,760
And he said, you
can't go to school.

259
00:12:27,760 --> 00:12:29,580
You are too young.

260
00:12:29,580 --> 00:12:33,930
So I went home crying,
supposedly crying terrible.

261
00:12:33,930 --> 00:12:38,130
And it took my mother two hours
to find out why I was crying.

262
00:12:38,130 --> 00:12:39,570
[CHUCKLING]

263
00:12:39,570 --> 00:12:41,590
So yes, I always was.

264
00:12:41,590 --> 00:12:46,890
When we went to school, my
parents both came with me.

265
00:12:46,890 --> 00:12:49,230
And my sister was always
very good in this.

266
00:12:49,230 --> 00:12:52,030
When my sister went to
school, my parents were there.

267
00:12:52,030 --> 00:12:54,150
And then she went in her class.

268
00:12:54,150 --> 00:12:54,780
Naja, when I--

269
00:12:54,780 --> 00:12:56,320
I knew the school.

270
00:12:56,320 --> 00:12:59,430
So when I came, my
parents came with me.

271
00:12:59,430 --> 00:13:04,170
And then they called our names
and said class A or B or C.

272
00:13:04,170 --> 00:13:07,470
So when they're called A,
my parents looked around.

273
00:13:07,470 --> 00:13:09,000
Ursula was gone.

274
00:13:09,000 --> 00:13:10,900
There was no Ursula around.

275

00:13:10,900 --> 00:13:13,800

So they went to class A,
and there I was sitting.

276

00:13:13,800 --> 00:13:16,390

277

00:13:16,390 --> 00:13:20,020

So yeah, and then
we went with 10--

278

00:13:20,020 --> 00:13:23,920

we went into the Gymnasium,
in the high school.

279

00:13:23,920 --> 00:13:28,660

And I owned-- naja,
that comes later.

280

00:13:28,660 --> 00:13:31,900

But my parents-- my mother
wanted to come visit me.

281

00:13:31,900 --> 00:13:35,207

And I said, don't
dare to come with me.

282

00:13:35,207 --> 00:13:36,580

And she didn't.

283

00:13:36,580 --> 00:13:38,980

So I was-- Yes, I was very--

284

00:13:38,980 --> 00:13:45,790

so it hit me in some ways
maybe harder than my sister,

285

00:13:45,790 --> 00:13:47,800

to be an outcast in the end.

286

00:13:47,800 --> 00:13:52,000

Because I also had my whole
class were my friends.

287
00:13:52,000 --> 00:13:54,340
My sister had a few
friends, and she

288
00:13:54,340 --> 00:13:58,160
was standing in the
courtyard one time alone.

289
00:13:58,160 --> 00:13:59,860
And I said, what's
the matter with you?

290
00:13:59,860 --> 00:14:01,015
All my friends are sick.

291
00:14:01,015 --> 00:14:02,170
They have the flu.

292
00:14:02,170 --> 00:14:03,670
I said, no, join the other ones.

293
00:14:03,670 --> 00:14:05,360
No, I can't do that.

294
00:14:05,360 --> 00:14:06,980
I can't push my way between.

295
00:14:06,980 --> 00:14:08,400
I said, why not?

296
00:14:08,400 --> 00:14:09,800
[CHUCKLING]

297
00:14:09,800 --> 00:14:10,450
And so on.

298
00:14:10,450 --> 00:14:15,400
So it hit me very hard,
probably more than my sister.

299
00:14:15,400 --> 00:14:17,460
My sister also could do--

300
00:14:17,460 --> 00:14:21,610
in '38, you see--

301
00:14:21,610 --> 00:14:23,350
now let me backtrack.

302
00:14:23,350 --> 00:14:26,650
In '36, I was supposed
to go to the Gymnasium.

303
00:14:26,650 --> 00:14:29,170
We went four years
to elementary school.

304
00:14:29,170 --> 00:14:31,990
And then you could stay
in elementary school,

305
00:14:31,990 --> 00:14:33,910
or you could go
in something which

306
00:14:33,910 --> 00:14:37,840
we called middle school, where
you were until you were 16.

307
00:14:37,840 --> 00:14:39,970
And then you could
go to the Gymnasium,

308
00:14:39,970 --> 00:14:42,880
and you got your Abiturium
when you were 18.

309
00:14:42,880 --> 00:14:45,910
And then you could
go to the university.

310

00:14:45,910 --> 00:14:50,020
But we went-- my school,
and we will separate,

311
00:14:50,020 --> 00:14:51,740
the boys and the girls.

312
00:14:51,740 --> 00:14:54,430
So in my school,
there were 700 girls.

313
00:14:54,430 --> 00:15:00,640
And from the 700 girls
in 1936, only 10%

314
00:15:00,640 --> 00:15:04,770
could be either
Jewish or half-Jewish.

315
00:15:04,770 --> 00:15:07,160
So the quota was filled.

316
00:15:07,160 --> 00:15:09,140
And so that would
have meant that I

317
00:15:09,140 --> 00:15:12,080
couldn't go to the high school.

318
00:15:12,080 --> 00:15:19,450
And then one family moved to
Berlin, so I could get in.

319
00:15:19,450 --> 00:15:25,630
And then in '38, the Jewish
kids were kicked out,

320
00:15:25,630 --> 00:15:28,920
and you know, after
Crystal Night,

321
00:15:28,920 --> 00:15:31,240
they couldn't stay in school.

322
00:15:31,240 --> 00:15:33,400
But we half-Jews could stay in.

323
00:15:33,400 --> 00:15:34,990
And my sister still--

324
00:15:34,990 --> 00:15:36,610
and my sister was lucky.

325
00:15:36,610 --> 00:15:40,330
She had in her class
another half-Jew.

326
00:15:40,330 --> 00:15:45,470
And after she did the
Abiturium, I was the only one.

327
00:15:45,470 --> 00:15:50,860
And so there were 699 kids in
uniforms on Hitler's birthday

328
00:15:50,860 --> 00:15:51,480
and so on.

329
00:15:51,480 --> 00:15:53,290
And I was private.

330
00:15:53,290 --> 00:15:55,558
It was awful.

331
00:15:55,558 --> 00:15:56,680
It was awful.

332
00:15:56,680 --> 00:16:00,430
I can feel how the Blacks
were feeling in those places,

333
00:16:00,430 --> 00:16:02,240
you know?

334

00:16:02,240 --> 00:16:03,990
You did not wear a uniform?

335
00:16:03,990 --> 00:16:04,490
Oh, no.

336
00:16:04,490 --> 00:16:06,390
I couldn't get into
the Hitler Youth.

337
00:16:06,390 --> 00:16:07,640
Oh, that was the Hitler Youth.

338
00:16:07,640 --> 00:16:09,057
That was the Hitler
Youth uniform?

339
00:16:09,057 --> 00:16:11,220
No, we didn't wear any
uniforms in school.

340
00:16:11,220 --> 00:16:11,820
No, we didn't.

341
00:16:11,820 --> 00:16:13,370
No, no, no.

342
00:16:13,370 --> 00:16:15,960
And then in '42,
they kicked me out.

343
00:16:15,960 --> 00:16:16,460
Right.

344
00:16:16,460 --> 00:16:17,710
We'll get to that in a minute.

345
00:16:17,710 --> 00:16:20,180
Let's back up a little bit.

346
00:16:20,180 --> 00:16:22,880
So you were a young child,

and you went to school,

347

00:16:22,880 --> 00:16:25,400

and you had Jewish and
non-Jewish friends.

348

00:16:25,400 --> 00:16:26,600

Were you athletic?

349

00:16:26,600 --> 00:16:27,283

Oh, yeah, very.

350

00:16:27,283 --> 00:16:28,700

You were in good
shape physically?

351

00:16:28,700 --> 00:16:29,690

Oh, yes.

352

00:16:29,690 --> 00:16:31,720

Did you have any hobbies?

353

00:16:31,720 --> 00:16:33,740

Did you like to read or?

354

00:16:33,740 --> 00:16:34,910

Oh, naja, I read.

355

00:16:34,910 --> 00:16:37,760

I read extensively.

356

00:16:37,760 --> 00:16:39,650

My sister and I,
we both read a lot.

357

00:16:39,650 --> 00:16:41,330

My father used to
say, how much you

358

00:16:41,330 --> 00:16:44,450

get paid for reading an hour?

359

00:16:44,450 --> 00:16:47,690

I read a lot, and I was--

360

00:16:47,690 --> 00:16:49,370

I swam a lot.

361

00:16:49,370 --> 00:16:50,870

I bicycled.

362

00:16:50,870 --> 00:16:53,030

My father-- we were
really the children

363

00:16:53,030 --> 00:16:54,830

of my father in many ways.

364

00:16:54,830 --> 00:16:58,490

My father took us
both bicycling.

365

00:16:58,490 --> 00:17:01,610

And my father was
known in Frankfurt Oder

366

00:17:01,610 --> 00:17:06,260

with on each side and arm,
he had one of his daughters.

367

00:17:06,260 --> 00:17:09,319

And my father really
taught us a lot.

368

00:17:09,319 --> 00:17:10,880

He was very great.

369

00:17:10,880 --> 00:17:13,730

When we went on
vacation, at first,

370

00:17:13,730 --> 00:17:16,730

you know, we could
go on vacation,

371
00:17:16,730 --> 00:17:20,329
he gave us a map when
we were 8 and so,

372
00:17:20,329 --> 00:17:23,510
and said now here we are,
and there we want to be.

373
00:17:23,510 --> 00:17:25,040
Now you lead us.

374
00:17:25,040 --> 00:17:25,829
And so on.

375
00:17:25,829 --> 00:17:29,930
So when we missed something,
then we said Vati, Vati!

376
00:17:29,930 --> 00:17:31,970
He said, but you are leading us.

377
00:17:31,970 --> 00:17:33,470
And then he showed us.

378
00:17:33,470 --> 00:17:35,210
OK, that's where you went wrong.

379
00:17:35,210 --> 00:17:38,570
So let's go back and
then go where we were.

380
00:17:38,570 --> 00:17:40,070
My father was very good.

381
00:17:40,070 --> 00:17:41,780
He swam very well.

382
00:17:41,780 --> 00:17:46,190
And even he walked up
some mountains this way,

383

00:17:46,190 --> 00:17:47,430
instead of going this way.

384

00:17:47,430 --> 00:17:49,220
[CHUCKLING]

385

00:17:49,220 --> 00:17:52,220
And so he was really
in good shape, too.

386

00:17:52,220 --> 00:17:54,950
And I was-- yes, I was
very good in sports.

387

00:17:54,950 --> 00:17:58,560
And under Hitler, sport
was a major subject.

388

00:17:58,560 --> 00:18:02,180
And one of my goals was to
swim the channel between France

389

00:18:02,180 --> 00:18:04,160
and England.

390

00:18:04,160 --> 00:18:05,372
[LAUGHTER]

391

00:18:05,372 --> 00:18:07,160
But I didn't get to that.

392

00:18:07,160 --> 00:18:08,360
Not yet, not yet.

393

00:18:08,360 --> 00:18:09,470
No.

394

00:18:09,470 --> 00:18:12,980
But let's start talking about
when things started changing.

395

00:18:12,980 --> 00:18:14,360
You were born in '25.

396
00:18:14,360 --> 00:18:18,230
When did you first hear
about a man named Hitler?

397
00:18:18,230 --> 00:18:19,100
Do you remember?

398
00:18:19,100 --> 00:18:23,750
Naja, one of the things
is when I went to school,

399
00:18:23,750 --> 00:18:25,730
we still said good morning.

400
00:18:25,730 --> 00:18:27,290
And then our teacher--

401
00:18:27,290 --> 00:18:28,950
[PHONE RINGING]

402
00:18:28,950 --> 00:18:29,670

403
00:18:29,670 --> 00:18:32,400
That-- forget it.

404
00:18:32,400 --> 00:18:35,580
Our teacher somewhere
must have told us

405
00:18:35,580 --> 00:18:38,460
that we had to say "Heil
Hitler" in the morning.

406
00:18:38,460 --> 00:18:40,575
But I have no
recollection of that.

407
00:18:40,575 --> 00:18:42,950

[PHONE RINGING]

408
00:18:42,950 --> 00:18:44,380

409
00:18:44,380 --> 00:18:51,150
The teacher in-- you see,
in January '33, she must--

410
00:18:51,150 --> 00:18:53,560
she must-- is the one
who told us that we

411
00:18:53,560 --> 00:18:55,030
had to say "Heil Hitler."

412
00:18:55,030 --> 00:18:56,700
Now, she was not a Nazi.

413
00:18:56,700 --> 00:18:58,010
There were lots of--

414
00:18:58,010 --> 00:19:01,060
so she-- but I have
no recollection

415
00:19:01,060 --> 00:19:05,060
of that, when she ever didn't
make any impression of me.

416
00:19:05,060 --> 00:19:10,510
The first thing, really, we
were in Silesia in vacation.

417
00:19:10,510 --> 00:19:13,120
My father, my
mother, and we two.

418
00:19:13,120 --> 00:19:17,950
And this was when-- in '34,
when they killed so many of--

419

00:19:17,950 --> 00:19:21,760
Hitler killed so many
of the Long Knives.

420
00:19:21,760 --> 00:19:26,620
And when they announced
it over the radio,

421
00:19:26,620 --> 00:19:30,760
my sister and I somewhere
knew my father was in danger,

422
00:19:30,760 --> 00:19:33,970
and we went right and left of
him, like we could protect him.

423
00:19:33,970 --> 00:19:36,050
But we were very small children.

424
00:19:36,050 --> 00:19:38,170
How did you know
he was threatened?

425
00:19:38,170 --> 00:19:39,950
I don't know.

426
00:19:39,950 --> 00:19:40,750
I don't know.

427
00:19:40,750 --> 00:19:45,586
But we-- both of him, we
knew that Vati was in danger.

428
00:19:45,586 --> 00:19:46,240
I guess--

429
00:19:46,240 --> 00:19:47,920
Do you remember
talking this over

430
00:19:47,920 --> 00:19:49,640
with him or with your mother?

431
00:19:49,640 --> 00:19:52,110
No, we were really
too young to talk--

432
00:19:52,110 --> 00:19:53,340
Yeah, you were very young.

433
00:19:53,340 --> 00:19:55,690
--to talk that over, really.

434
00:19:55,690 --> 00:19:56,515
I don't know.

435
00:19:56,515 --> 00:20:01,090
It was just, I
guess, somewhere I

436
00:20:01,090 --> 00:20:03,890
guess my parents must
have talked about it.

437
00:20:03,890 --> 00:20:07,930
Also we maybe have
overheard some--

438
00:20:07,930 --> 00:20:13,750
and I know that
relatives of my father

439
00:20:13,750 --> 00:20:18,140
called on him all the time,
and you know, what to do.

440
00:20:18,140 --> 00:20:24,670
And so somewhere not
maybe we couldn't really

441
00:20:24,670 --> 00:20:26,500
put it in words,
but somewhere we

442
00:20:26,500 --> 00:20:30,870

were aware of that the--
my Jewish relatives were

443
00:20:30,870 --> 00:20:31,370
in danger.

444
00:20:31,370 --> 00:20:34,680

445
00:20:34,680 --> 00:20:36,300
Do you remember,
when you were young,

446
00:20:36,300 --> 00:20:38,820
hearing Hitler give
speeches over the radio?

447
00:20:38,820 --> 00:20:41,110
Oh, I saw him.

448
00:20:41,110 --> 00:20:43,360
I saw Hitler, too.

449
00:20:43,360 --> 00:20:44,890
With Hindenburg.

450
00:20:44,890 --> 00:20:47,350
That was when Hindenburg
was still alive.

451
00:20:47,350 --> 00:20:51,220
He came to Frankfurt Oder, and
we all-- all schoolchildren

452
00:20:51,220 --> 00:20:52,150
went there.

453
00:20:52,150 --> 00:20:54,610
And there was a car, open car.

454
00:20:54,610 --> 00:20:58,960
And there was this old

gentleman Hindenburg and Hitler.

455

00:20:58,960 --> 00:21:01,690

And--

456

00:21:01,690 --> 00:21:04,330

But did it mean anything to you?

457

00:21:04,330 --> 00:21:05,650

To none of us.

458

00:21:05,650 --> 00:21:08,080

We're all just supposed
to look at this.

459

00:21:08,080 --> 00:21:12,070

And we said, ah, that's the
rulers, and we didn't care.

460

00:21:12,070 --> 00:21:13,634

We were too young.

461

00:21:13,634 --> 00:21:14,390

Yeah.

462

00:21:14,390 --> 00:21:15,520

Yeah.

463

00:21:15,520 --> 00:21:20,080

And didn't make any
impression on us, I think.

464

00:21:20,080 --> 00:21:21,970

But I did see him, yeah.

465

00:21:21,970 --> 00:21:24,470

Do you remember when
exactly that was?

466

00:21:24,470 --> 00:21:26,170

Naja, when did Hindenburg die?

467

00:21:26,170 --> 00:21:28,890

That must have been
'34, too, you know?

468

00:21:28,890 --> 00:21:31,700

So I was really, you know?

469

00:21:31,700 --> 00:21:32,200

Yeah.

470

00:21:32,200 --> 00:21:33,283

Yeah, you were very young.

471

00:21:33,283 --> 00:21:34,210

And so on.

472

00:21:34,210 --> 00:21:34,710

So--

473

00:21:34,710 --> 00:21:37,660

So at that point, you still
didn't feel in danger.

474

00:21:37,660 --> 00:21:41,890

You knew your father
was, but you yourself--

475

00:21:41,890 --> 00:21:43,060

I didn't feel in danger.

476

00:21:43,060 --> 00:21:44,380

You didn't feel in danger.

477

00:21:44,380 --> 00:21:45,820

No, no.

478

00:21:45,820 --> 00:21:47,680

And this was also--

479

00:21:47,680 --> 00:21:48,850

then in--

480
00:21:48,850 --> 00:21:49,690
Then what happened?

481
00:21:49,690 --> 00:21:53,620
In '35, I think, is when--

482
00:21:53,620 --> 00:21:56,950
before, you know, people
the school gave out

483
00:21:56,950 --> 00:21:59,500
the forms for being--

484
00:21:59,500 --> 00:22:02,020
for joining the Hitler Youth.

485
00:22:02,020 --> 00:22:04,660
And I certainly didn't get it.

486
00:22:04,660 --> 00:22:07,840
Because my teacher knew
that I was half-Jewish.

487
00:22:07,840 --> 00:22:11,800
And then I came home, and I
talked to-- told it Mommy.

488
00:22:11,800 --> 00:22:15,650
And then Mommy told me
why I didn't get it.

489
00:22:15,650 --> 00:22:18,722
And do you-- do you
remember your feelings?

490
00:22:18,722 --> 00:22:19,430
Yeah, I thought--

491
00:22:19,430 --> 00:22:20,210
Were you upset?

492

00:22:20,210 --> 00:22:23,390

Somewhere I was upset,
because I didn't--

493

00:22:23,390 --> 00:22:28,270

I didn't like to be different
than the other ones.

494

00:22:28,270 --> 00:22:31,300

And I was the only one
in my class, so you know,

495

00:22:31,300 --> 00:22:34,030

I was the only one who
was somewhat different.

496

00:22:34,030 --> 00:22:37,960

But on the other
hand, is my classmates

497

00:22:37,960 --> 00:22:40,297

were not anywhere against me.

498

00:22:40,297 --> 00:22:42,130

Well, that was going
to be my next question.

499

00:22:42,130 --> 00:22:44,450

Did they start to
treat you differently?

500

00:22:44,450 --> 00:22:44,950

No.

501

00:22:44,950 --> 00:22:46,510

You didn't sense any--

502

00:22:46,510 --> 00:22:48,910

No, my classmates--
my classmates

503

00:22:48,910 --> 00:22:50,530

didn't treat me differently.

504

00:22:50,530 --> 00:22:54,850

My classmates didn't
treat me differently

505

00:22:54,850 --> 00:22:57,070

after the Crystal Night either.

506

00:22:57,070 --> 00:22:58,180

Not in high school.

507

00:22:58,180 --> 00:23:01,920

The ones who treated me
differently were the teachers.

508

00:23:01,920 --> 00:23:03,047

Because the teacher--

509

00:23:03,047 --> 00:23:03,630

Starting when?

510

00:23:03,630 --> 00:23:06,040

In the very beginning
when Hitler came in?

511

00:23:06,040 --> 00:23:07,410

No, no.

512

00:23:07,410 --> 00:23:08,695

They didn't.

513

00:23:08,695 --> 00:23:13,530

My teacher in elementary school
was an old spinster, old lady.

514

00:23:13,530 --> 00:23:15,090

And she was not a Nazi.

515

00:23:15,090 --> 00:23:18,570

And she didn't treat
me any way different.

516
00:23:18,570 --> 00:23:24,570
And my classmates at this
point, it was just small city.

517
00:23:24,570 --> 00:23:26,370
I mean, it wasn't that obvious.

518
00:23:26,370 --> 00:23:30,840
And then in high school, the
teachers somewhere were afraid.

519
00:23:30,840 --> 00:23:33,250
I always was a
very good student.

520
00:23:33,250 --> 00:23:34,830
And I loved to study.

521
00:23:34,830 --> 00:23:39,450
And then my teachers were
afraid to give me good grades.

522
00:23:39,450 --> 00:23:42,120
Because then they
would maybe say,

523
00:23:42,120 --> 00:23:44,850
oh, you are friendly
to the Jews.

524
00:23:44,850 --> 00:23:48,120
But my classmates were not.

525
00:23:48,120 --> 00:23:50,950
And how does a young
person respond to that?

526
00:23:50,950 --> 00:23:53,370
Did you know that's why the
teachers didn't give you--

527

00:23:53,370 --> 00:23:54,100
Yeah, sure.

528
00:23:54,100 --> 00:23:55,860
So what--

529
00:23:55,860 --> 00:23:56,700
Now, that was--

530
00:23:56,700 --> 00:23:57,660
Were you angry?

531
00:23:57,660 --> 00:23:59,520
Were you sad?

532
00:23:59,520 --> 00:24:02,140
What were you?

533
00:24:02,140 --> 00:24:06,910
Naja, are at this point,
you know, that was--

534
00:24:06,910 --> 00:24:08,470
you just try to--

535
00:24:08,470 --> 00:24:10,270
at this point, you
had the feeling

536
00:24:10,270 --> 00:24:16,000
that maybe you survive all
that without any real bad harm

537
00:24:16,000 --> 00:24:17,140
and so on.

538
00:24:17,140 --> 00:24:19,360
But my father then
already started

539
00:24:19,360 --> 00:24:22,120
to talk about people

who came back,

540

00:24:22,120 --> 00:24:26,980

not necessarily Jews, really
more communists who came back

541

00:24:26,980 --> 00:24:28,240

from camps.

542

00:24:28,240 --> 00:24:32,590

And he told us about a man
who came back and had a beard.

543

00:24:32,590 --> 00:24:35,350

And because his jaws
were all broken.

544

00:24:35,350 --> 00:24:38,020

He didn't want his
family to saw that.

545

00:24:38,020 --> 00:24:41,710

And he never got undressed in
front of his wife or anything

546

00:24:41,710 --> 00:24:43,250

because of that.

547

00:24:43,250 --> 00:24:46,660

So my father told us
about these things.

548

00:24:46,660 --> 00:24:49,390

But these were mostly the
communists, not really

549

00:24:49,390 --> 00:24:51,010

the Jews.

550

00:24:51,010 --> 00:24:52,630

And--

551

00:24:52,630 --> 00:24:55,240

What did you do while
the other students were

552

00:24:55,240 --> 00:24:57,370

going to Hitler Youth meetings?

553

00:24:57,370 --> 00:25:00,342

Well, that was in
the after school.

554

00:25:00,342 --> 00:25:02,050

No, I'm saying while
they were busy going

555

00:25:02,050 --> 00:25:03,700

to meetings, what did you do?

556

00:25:03,700 --> 00:25:05,395

I went to ballet school.

557

00:25:05,395 --> 00:25:08,010

[LAUGHTER]

558

00:25:08,010 --> 00:25:10,290

I don't know how many
people went there, really.

559

00:25:10,290 --> 00:25:12,360

Oh, I see.

560

00:25:12,360 --> 00:25:15,470

No, and I went
swimming and so on.

561

00:25:15,470 --> 00:25:19,470

And my best friend, she didn't
go to anything that I know of.

562

00:25:19,470 --> 00:25:20,970

Oh, OK.

563

00:25:20,970 --> 00:25:24,990
Had you heard of something
called the Nuremberg Laws?

564
00:25:24,990 --> 00:25:26,920
Yeah, the Mendelssohnengesetze.

565
00:25:26,920 --> 00:25:28,410
Yeah, sure.

566
00:25:28,410 --> 00:25:30,090
And again as a child--

567
00:25:30,090 --> 00:25:30,990
The Mendelssohn.

568
00:25:30,990 --> 00:25:32,970
Yeah, we knew all
about the Mendel--

569
00:25:32,970 --> 00:25:34,990
Mendelssohn who did this with--

570
00:25:34,990 --> 00:25:35,820
yeah.

571
00:25:35,820 --> 00:25:38,010
And yeah, we knew.

572
00:25:38,010 --> 00:25:40,330
Then-- by then I
knew about it, yeah.

573
00:25:40,330 --> 00:25:44,190
OK, and again, do
you remember what

574
00:25:44,190 --> 00:25:45,900
was going on inside
your head when

575
00:25:45,900 --> 00:25:48,270

you learned about these laws?

576

00:25:48,270 --> 00:25:50,900

Naja, my father was
stateless, you know?

577

00:25:50,900 --> 00:25:53,040

They stripped him of his--

578

00:25:53,040 --> 00:25:56,430

and my father was
really a civil servant.

579

00:25:56,430 --> 00:26:02,910

And then in '36, they
sent him a notice

580

00:26:02,910 --> 00:26:06,720

that he had this
special position,

581

00:26:06,720 --> 00:26:13,940

because you couldn't expect that
Aryans would work with a Jew.

582

00:26:13,940 --> 00:26:16,120

So he had a special assignment.

583

00:26:16,120 --> 00:26:18,500

And we knew about
that, certainly.

584

00:26:18,500 --> 00:26:24,705

And we knew that--

585

00:26:24,705 --> 00:26:27,870

586

00:26:27,870 --> 00:26:30,330

I don't know.

587

00:26:30,330 --> 00:26:32,670

you see, one of these
things in the beginning

588
00:26:32,670 --> 00:26:39,360
is, we all had somewhere
the feeling in Germany,

589
00:26:39,360 --> 00:26:42,720
number one is, the German Jews
were in many ways very bad,

590
00:26:42,720 --> 00:26:45,040
because they were
very emancipated.

591
00:26:45,040 --> 00:26:47,700
They felt very German.

592
00:26:47,700 --> 00:26:50,910
And their religion was
Jewish, like somebody else's

593
00:26:50,910 --> 00:26:52,780
was Catholic and so on.

594
00:26:52,780 --> 00:26:55,680
So many of them
thought they couldn't

595
00:26:55,680 --> 00:27:00,880
believe that the Germans
would go along with it.

596
00:27:00,880 --> 00:27:05,770
So many of them
really didn't expect

597
00:27:05,770 --> 00:27:08,070
that it would get that
bad and the Germans

598
00:27:08,070 --> 00:27:09,790
would go along with it.

599

00:27:09,790 --> 00:27:14,650

There also, you know--

600

00:27:14,650 --> 00:27:17,440

601

00:27:17,440 --> 00:27:20,800

I don't know how to say this.

602

00:27:20,800 --> 00:27:24,970

You see, none of my
relatives spoke Yiddish.

603

00:27:24,970 --> 00:27:26,020

They were assimilated.

604

00:27:26,020 --> 00:27:28,250

Yeah, that was below
the-- you know, Yiddish?

605

00:27:28,250 --> 00:27:29,190

Right, right.

606

00:27:29,190 --> 00:27:29,690

Yiddish?

607

00:27:29,690 --> 00:27:30,576

No.

608

00:27:30,576 --> 00:27:31,390

[CHUCKLING]

609

00:27:31,390 --> 00:27:32,030

You know?

610

00:27:32,030 --> 00:27:32,530

Right.

611

00:27:32,530 --> 00:27:36,610

I mean, so that

was the bad part.

612
00:27:36,610 --> 00:27:40,090
And the Jews got
citizenship in Prussia

613
00:27:40,090 --> 00:27:43,370
before they got
it anywhere else.

614
00:27:43,370 --> 00:27:48,100
The citizen paper of my
great-great-grandfather

615
00:27:48,100 --> 00:27:49,750
is at the Beck Institute.

616
00:27:49,750 --> 00:27:54,110
My cousin gave it to
the Beck Institute.

617
00:27:54,110 --> 00:27:59,570
So somewhere there
was always the belief

618
00:27:59,570 --> 00:28:06,250
is that somewhere it
will be ending before it

619
00:28:06,250 --> 00:28:08,170
gets really, really bad.

620
00:28:08,170 --> 00:28:08,770
You know?

621
00:28:08,770 --> 00:28:11,810

622
00:28:11,810 --> 00:28:12,310
But--

623
00:28:12,310 --> 00:28:16,100

624

00:28:16,100 --> 00:28:19,780

And did you know how you were
considered, having half--

625

00:28:19,780 --> 00:28:20,280

Oh, yeah.

626

00:28:20,280 --> 00:28:21,350

Sure, yeah.

627

00:28:21,350 --> 00:28:23,947

I was a Mischling ersten Grades.

628

00:28:23,947 --> 00:28:26,330

[CHUCKLING]

629

00:28:26,330 --> 00:28:27,680

Sure, I know about it.

630

00:28:27,680 --> 00:28:29,250

Yeah.

631

00:28:29,250 --> 00:28:30,660

Yeah.

632

00:28:30,660 --> 00:28:36,030

But I was-- no, I had
blond hair and blue eyes.

633

00:28:36,030 --> 00:28:38,010

So people didn't realize that.

634

00:28:38,010 --> 00:28:42,060

I have a cousin,
Gerhard Guttstadt,

635

00:28:42,060 --> 00:28:44,520

who looked very Jewish.

636

00:28:44,520 --> 00:28:46,635
You know, what they considered.

637
00:28:46,635 --> 00:28:48,650
He's [? big, ?] dark
hair, and everything.

638
00:28:48,650 --> 00:28:51,330
They beat him up merciless.

639
00:28:51,330 --> 00:28:52,840
Nobody beat me up.

640
00:28:52,840 --> 00:28:56,670
But if they had dared, I
would have beaten back.

641
00:28:56,670 --> 00:28:58,260
And I would have won.

642
00:28:58,260 --> 00:29:01,890
Speaking about your cousin, did
you have large extended family?

643
00:29:01,890 --> 00:29:08,300
No, my father had one
brother, who had two sons.

644
00:29:08,300 --> 00:29:11,570
Albert-- Albert and
Gerhard Guttstadt.

645
00:29:11,570 --> 00:29:13,220
And were you close
to those cousins?

646
00:29:13,220 --> 00:29:13,820
Oh, yeah.

647
00:29:13,820 --> 00:29:14,570
Oh, yeah.

648

00:29:14,570 --> 00:29:16,220
Oh, yeah.

649
00:29:16,220 --> 00:29:18,260
But you didn't observe
holidays or anything?

650
00:29:18,260 --> 00:29:20,780
No, but there were
also half-Jewish.

651
00:29:20,780 --> 00:29:22,310
Oh, OK.

652
00:29:22,310 --> 00:29:26,690
He also married a non-Jew.

653
00:29:26,690 --> 00:29:28,730
And so they were half-Jewish.

654
00:29:28,730 --> 00:29:32,550
But both of them were in
the Organisation Todt.

655
00:29:32,550 --> 00:29:34,230
You know, which
was the labor camp

656
00:29:34,230 --> 00:29:37,290
for people they didn't put
into concentration camp,

657
00:29:37,290 --> 00:29:39,370
but in a labor camp.

658
00:29:39,370 --> 00:29:43,620
And both of them were broken,
broken men afterwards.

659
00:29:43,620 --> 00:29:45,720
And they admired
my sister and me

660

00:29:45,720 --> 00:29:47,820

that we had the
guts to immigrate.

661

00:29:47,820 --> 00:29:50,940

And neither one of
them immigrated.

662

00:29:50,940 --> 00:29:54,390

They just didn't have the--

663

00:29:54,390 --> 00:29:57,230

they couldn't.

664

00:29:57,230 --> 00:29:58,070

So all right.

665

00:29:58,070 --> 00:30:02,725

So it's Kristallnacht,
you said happened.

666

00:30:02,725 --> 00:30:03,350

in fall of '38.

667

00:30:03,350 --> 00:30:05,090

In '38.

668

00:30:05,090 --> 00:30:07,890

Yeah, and we saw the
synagogue burning.

669

00:30:07,890 --> 00:30:08,390

You did.

670

00:30:08,390 --> 00:30:10,220

And-- oh, yes.

671

00:30:10,220 --> 00:30:12,440

And we went down.

672

00:30:12,440 --> 00:30:14,450

You're almost-- you're 13 now.

673

00:30:14,450 --> 00:30:18,030

Yeah, and we went down.

674

00:30:18,030 --> 00:30:20,730

And you know, I mean,

we knew all of the--

675

00:30:20,730 --> 00:30:24,170

now maybe not all, but

we knew most of the Jews

676

00:30:24,170 --> 00:30:25,200

in Frankfurt Oder.

677

00:30:25,200 --> 00:30:27,810

Yes, we did.

678

00:30:27,810 --> 00:30:30,650

And again, as a

13-year-old child,

679

00:30:30,650 --> 00:30:33,770

you said you saw this happening.

680

00:30:33,770 --> 00:30:35,130

Yeah.

681

00:30:35,130 --> 00:30:36,130

Do you just stand there?

682

00:30:36,130 --> 00:30:37,030

What do you--

683

00:30:37,030 --> 00:30:38,830

Then my sister and--

684

00:30:38,830 --> 00:30:41,920

my sister and I were

lying awake at night.

685

00:30:41,920 --> 00:30:45,080

And we waited that
would take my father.

686

00:30:45,080 --> 00:30:46,660

We were very much
aware that they

687

00:30:46,660 --> 00:30:48,970

arrested all the Jews then.

688

00:30:48,970 --> 00:30:51,670

And they didn't take my
father at this point.

689

00:30:51,670 --> 00:30:54,760

And then they had
the children's--

690

00:30:54,760 --> 00:30:59,590

the children went to, with
the Quakers, to England.

691

00:30:59,590 --> 00:31:02,860

And my sister and I wanted
badly to go to England.

692

00:31:02,860 --> 00:31:06,940

And my mother couldn't say
goodbye to us, so we stayed.

693

00:31:06,940 --> 00:31:10,870

But from then on, we were
lying awake hours and so on,

694

00:31:10,870 --> 00:31:13,390

and talking to each
other and waiting

695

00:31:13,390 --> 00:31:16,630

that something might happen.

696

00:31:16,630 --> 00:31:19,210
Because they didn't
hit our house,

697
00:31:19,210 --> 00:31:21,957
and they didn't do anything
to us at this point.

698
00:31:21,957 --> 00:31:22,540
At that point.

699
00:31:22,540 --> 00:31:25,240

700
00:31:25,240 --> 00:31:30,250
But the Gestapo came
all the time and looked.

701
00:31:30,250 --> 00:31:32,730
And my father did
all those things.

702
00:31:32,730 --> 00:31:36,770
You know, he had one typewriter,
and he typed with two fingers.

703
00:31:36,770 --> 00:31:41,800
And he typed all the
underground and so on.

704
00:31:41,800 --> 00:31:44,050
And he had-- we knew he
had it hidden somewhere,

705
00:31:44,050 --> 00:31:46,240
and we didn't know
where he had it hidden.

706
00:31:46,240 --> 00:31:50,390
And then came the
Gestapo and so on.

707
00:31:50,390 --> 00:31:50,890

Yeah.

708
00:31:50,890 --> 00:31:53,160
And I always watched them.

709
00:31:53,160 --> 00:31:55,420
Some way I was not
afraid of the Gestapo.

710
00:31:55,420 --> 00:31:56,510
I watched them.

711
00:31:56,510 --> 00:31:59,620
And when they confiscated
our typewriter,

712
00:31:59,620 --> 00:32:03,497
I said to my mother, mommy, they
are stealing our typewriter.

713
00:32:03,497 --> 00:32:05,080
You said that in
front of the Gestapo?

714
00:32:05,080 --> 00:32:05,620
Yeah.

715
00:32:05,620 --> 00:32:08,890
They didn't do anything to me.

716
00:32:08,890 --> 00:32:11,050
But some way I wasn't
afraid of them.

717
00:32:11,050 --> 00:32:13,750

718
00:32:13,750 --> 00:32:18,070
But we knew that somewhere
that we are doomed, Yeah

719
00:32:18,070 --> 00:32:20,410

What was your mother's
reaction at that point?

720
00:32:20,410 --> 00:32:22,150
Do you remember her
being very fearful?

721
00:32:22,150 --> 00:32:25,470
Or was she a very strong woman?

722
00:32:25,470 --> 00:32:29,640
Naja, my father-- there were
then people who told my mother,

723
00:32:29,640 --> 00:32:32,400
why don't you get a divorce,
and then you are safe?

724
00:32:32,400 --> 00:32:35,710
And my mother said, I
would never do that.

725
00:32:35,710 --> 00:32:39,230
Said, I would always
stay to my husband

726
00:32:39,230 --> 00:32:43,940
and to my children,
whatever happens.

727
00:32:43,940 --> 00:32:47,755
So no, she was very much--

728
00:32:47,755 --> 00:32:49,970
you know, she was very strong.

729
00:32:49,970 --> 00:32:53,440
And then we had a house
in Frankfurt Oder, which

730
00:32:53,440 --> 00:32:55,810
was in the name of my husband--

731
00:32:55,810 --> 00:32:57,010
of my father.

732
00:32:57,010 --> 00:32:59,680
And at first it was
Richard Guttstadt.

733
00:32:59,680 --> 00:33:02,350
And then it was Richard
Israel Guttstadt.

734
00:33:02,350 --> 00:33:05,790
And then it was crossed
out in the registry,

735
00:33:05,790 --> 00:33:08,920
and there was the Third
Reich was the owner.

736
00:33:08,920 --> 00:33:11,150
And my father stayed there.

737
00:33:11,150 --> 00:33:12,160
They did not kick--

738
00:33:12,160 --> 00:33:13,420
They let you all stay.

739
00:33:13,420 --> 00:33:17,780
Naja, my father just
refused to move somewhere.

740
00:33:17,780 --> 00:33:18,880
He didn't.

741
00:33:18,880 --> 00:33:23,500
But then in October '42,
they took my father.

742
00:33:23,500 --> 00:33:26,140
So up to October '42,
you stayed in that house.

743
00:33:26,140 --> 00:33:27,520
You were going to school.

744
00:33:27,520 --> 00:33:28,960
Things were--

745
00:33:28,960 --> 00:33:32,500
In October '42,
they kicked me out.

746
00:33:32,500 --> 00:33:34,120
They took my father.

747
00:33:34,120 --> 00:33:36,010
When you say they
took your father,

748
00:33:36,010 --> 00:33:38,990
was he at home and they
came and arrested him?

749
00:33:38,990 --> 00:33:39,490
Yeah.

750
00:33:39,490 --> 00:33:41,330
Did you see that?

751
00:33:41,330 --> 00:33:42,850
I was in school.

752
00:33:42,850 --> 00:33:45,020
You were in school
when he was taken away.

753
00:33:45,020 --> 00:33:45,710
Yeah.

754
00:33:45,710 --> 00:33:49,920
But he was wait a moment.

755

00:33:49,920 --> 00:33:53,480
He was arrested in '41.

756
00:33:53,480 --> 00:33:54,965
He was arrested in '41.

757
00:33:54,965 --> 00:33:57,700

758
00:33:57,700 --> 00:33:59,650
What did he do?

759
00:33:59,650 --> 00:34:00,190
Yeah, no.

760
00:34:00,190 --> 00:34:03,820
I was in school still,
and I wasn't there.

761
00:34:03,820 --> 00:34:06,130
But then the--

762
00:34:06,130 --> 00:34:07,240
Was your mother at home?

763
00:34:07,240 --> 00:34:07,870
Yeah.

764
00:34:07,870 --> 00:34:09,100
Did she work, or was she--

765
00:34:09,100 --> 00:34:09,600
No.

766
00:34:09,600 --> 00:34:11,767
OK, so she was at home when
they came to arrest him.

767
00:34:11,767 --> 00:34:12,810
Yeah, yeah.

768

00:34:12,810 --> 00:34:13,810
And then you come home--

769
00:34:13,810 --> 00:34:15,250
And then there was--

770
00:34:15,250 --> 00:34:18,219
they took him to
the police prison.

771
00:34:18,219 --> 00:34:20,710
The police station
had a small prison.

772
00:34:20,710 --> 00:34:24,550
And they took my father
there and said that--

773
00:34:24,550 --> 00:34:29,500
and one of the guards
there was very--

774
00:34:29,500 --> 00:34:31,090
was a Roman Catholic.

775
00:34:31,090 --> 00:34:36,310
And he went to the
Monsignor and said

776
00:34:36,310 --> 00:34:39,100
the Monsignor should
go to my mother

777
00:34:39,100 --> 00:34:42,310
and tell that Vati is
there, and they are going

778
00:34:42,310 --> 00:34:45,639
to transport him to Mauthausen.

779
00:34:45,639 --> 00:34:49,510
And that she-- when he is
on duty then and there,

780
00:34:49,510 --> 00:34:51,280
Mommy should come.

781
00:34:51,280 --> 00:34:52,540
And she did.

782
00:34:52,540 --> 00:34:56,710
And then another time,
my sister and I went.

783
00:34:56,710 --> 00:34:57,640
We said--

784
00:34:57,640 --> 00:34:58,720
You said goodbye.

785
00:34:58,720 --> 00:35:00,410
We said goodbye to my father.

786
00:35:00,410 --> 00:35:03,100
What did you think
was happening?

787
00:35:03,100 --> 00:35:06,910
And my father took us both, and
my father never really cried,

788
00:35:06,910 --> 00:35:10,390
but some way we-- we all
knew that this was the end.

789
00:35:10,390 --> 00:35:11,460
You did know.

790
00:35:11,460 --> 00:35:11,960
Yeah.

791
00:35:11,960 --> 00:35:14,160
How did you know that?

792

00:35:14,160 --> 00:35:17,883
Naja, by then we knew about
the concentration camps.

793
00:35:17,883 --> 00:35:20,300
OK.

794
00:35:20,300 --> 00:35:21,070
I mean, we--

795
00:35:21,070 --> 00:35:23,880
How did you know?

796
00:35:23,880 --> 00:35:26,700
How did we know?

797
00:35:26,700 --> 00:35:29,340
I don't really know how
we knew, but we knew

798
00:35:29,340 --> 00:35:31,320
about the concentration camps.

799
00:35:31,320 --> 00:35:36,410
And we knew about the death
chambers, the crematoriums.

800
00:35:36,410 --> 00:35:39,010

801
00:35:39,010 --> 00:35:40,540
And--

802
00:35:40,540 --> 00:35:43,070
Did you know what Mauthausen
was at that point?

803
00:35:43,070 --> 00:35:46,870
Naja, at this point it was very
unusual that they took Vati

804
00:35:46,870 --> 00:35:50,710

to Mauthausen, which is
outside of Linz, in Austria.

805
00:35:50,710 --> 00:35:52,300
Right.

806
00:35:52,300 --> 00:35:55,000
Because, you know, usually
all of these people

807
00:35:55,000 --> 00:35:57,730
went to Auschwitz
or to any of the--

808
00:35:57,730 --> 00:36:00,730
Birkenau or any of
the Eastern ones.

809
00:36:00,730 --> 00:36:03,700
And so that they took
Vati to Mauthausen

810
00:36:03,700 --> 00:36:06,230
was somewhat unusual.

811
00:36:06,230 --> 00:36:10,220
There were more the Austrian
Jews and the Dutch Jews,

812
00:36:10,220 --> 00:36:15,240
and you know, but not
really the German Jews.

813
00:36:15,240 --> 00:36:17,640
But we knew that we would--

814
00:36:17,640 --> 00:36:19,500
Were there other
men picked up that--

815
00:36:19,500 --> 00:36:21,060
Jewish men picked
up that same time?

816
00:36:21,060 --> 00:36:22,740
There was nobody left.

817
00:36:22,740 --> 00:36:24,660
By the time your
father was arrested.

818
00:36:24,660 --> 00:36:25,970
Yeah.

819
00:36:25,970 --> 00:36:27,470
The other men had
been taken away.

820
00:36:27,470 --> 00:36:32,180
The other-- all the Jews were
taken away before they were--

821
00:36:32,180 --> 00:36:35,720
after '38, they
were all-- you know,

822
00:36:35,720 --> 00:36:39,200
my sister and I went into
the city of Frankfurt,

823
00:36:39,200 --> 00:36:43,100
and there they were with
their luggage and so on.

824
00:36:43,100 --> 00:36:47,270
And they went to
one of the schools,

825
00:36:47,270 --> 00:36:48,950
where they were assembled.

826
00:36:48,950 --> 00:36:51,140
You see, the
Gestapo always sent,

827

00:36:51,140 --> 00:36:55,580
usually through the
Judenrat, the papers,

828
00:36:55,580 --> 00:36:58,370
where the people
knew what to take,

829
00:36:58,370 --> 00:37:02,150
and what they couldn't
take, and where to go,

830
00:37:02,150 --> 00:37:05,090
and what time and so on.

831
00:37:05,090 --> 00:37:07,890
So we saw them, and
we knew where they go.

832
00:37:07,890 --> 00:37:12,530
And then we went to that
school, my sister and I.

833
00:37:12,530 --> 00:37:15,200
And people say,
you shouldn't come.

834
00:37:15,200 --> 00:37:17,510
And we said, yes,
we do have to come.

835
00:37:17,510 --> 00:37:19,535
So we knew about that.

836
00:37:19,535 --> 00:37:24,230
And they went all to
Warsaw and the ghetto.

837
00:37:24,230 --> 00:37:29,610
And so my father was the only
Jew left in Frankfurt Oder.

838
00:37:29,610 --> 00:37:35,420

And my father was accompanied
by policemen, regular police,

839
00:37:35,420 --> 00:37:37,100
German police.

840
00:37:37,100 --> 00:37:40,160
Again, what do you
attribute the fact

841
00:37:40,160 --> 00:37:42,200
that your father was
the only one left?

842
00:37:42,200 --> 00:37:45,022
Because he had a Christian wife.

843
00:37:45,022 --> 00:37:46,510
Oh.

844
00:37:46,510 --> 00:37:47,110
I think.

845
00:37:47,110 --> 00:37:49,700

846
00:37:49,700 --> 00:37:52,340
Though he himself
was 100% Jewish.

847
00:37:52,340 --> 00:37:53,030
Yeah.

848
00:37:53,030 --> 00:37:54,905
But the fact that he
had the Christian wife--

849
00:37:54,905 --> 00:37:56,860
Yeah, yeah.

850
00:37:56,860 --> 00:37:58,690
I think that was the--

851
00:37:58,690 --> 00:38:02,530
so he was-- he was
the only one left.

852
00:38:02,530 --> 00:38:04,210
There was nobody else there.

853
00:38:04,210 --> 00:38:06,520
There was another
Jewish man, but his wife

854
00:38:06,520 --> 00:38:11,200
divorced him and he
was taken before.

855
00:38:11,200 --> 00:38:13,720
When your father was
the only one left,

856
00:38:13,720 --> 00:38:16,180
did he become depressed, or
did he still keep hoping?

857
00:38:16,180 --> 00:38:21,370
Naja, when you see my pictures
of my father, '32, my father

858
00:38:21,370 --> 00:38:25,180
had blue eyes, but he
had very sparkling eyes.

859
00:38:25,180 --> 00:38:30,830
And then '33, he had sparkle
almost gone, and he aged.

860
00:38:30,830 --> 00:38:32,210
He looked like an old man.

861
00:38:32,210 --> 00:38:34,040
Once Hitler got into power.

862

00:38:34,040 --> 00:38:39,455
So my father-- and my
father tried to go out.

863
00:38:39,455 --> 00:38:42,700

864
00:38:42,700 --> 00:38:46,270
But you know, it
was very difficult.

865
00:38:46,270 --> 00:38:50,170
He was-- you know, the
Americans didn't let anybody in.

866
00:38:50,170 --> 00:38:53,060
And his relatives, you
know, tried to get him out,

867
00:38:53,060 --> 00:38:54,550
but he couldn't get in.

868
00:38:54,550 --> 00:38:57,130
So my father more or less
knew that he was doomed.

869
00:38:57,130 --> 00:39:00,510

870
00:39:00,510 --> 00:39:03,450
So now your father's taken
away, and it's your mother

871
00:39:03,450 --> 00:39:04,620
and you two girls.

872
00:39:04,620 --> 00:39:06,910
And then they got my
father out of the house--

873
00:39:06,910 --> 00:39:08,610
my mother out of the house.

874

00:39:08,610 --> 00:39:10,390

She left the house.

875

00:39:10,390 --> 00:39:12,630

The Gestapo said you have to go.

876

00:39:12,630 --> 00:39:14,040

And Mommy went.

877

00:39:14,040 --> 00:39:14,940

With you girls.

878

00:39:14,940 --> 00:39:16,050

With us two girls.

879

00:39:16,050 --> 00:39:17,970

And then we rented--

880

00:39:17,970 --> 00:39:21,204

we rented some rooms
with other people.

881

00:39:21,204 --> 00:39:22,980

Uh-huh.

882

00:39:22,980 --> 00:39:24,010

And how do you support--

883

00:39:24,010 --> 00:39:25,510

How did your mother
support you all?

884

00:39:25,510 --> 00:39:27,090

Naja, then my mother worked.

885

00:39:27,090 --> 00:39:31,410

You see, my mother had really
studied music and never

886

00:39:31,410 --> 00:39:32,340

really worked.

887
00:39:32,340 --> 00:39:37,070
So then she-- there
was a lawyer and--

888
00:39:37,070 --> 00:39:37,830
a tax lawyer.

889
00:39:37,830 --> 00:39:41,250
My mother worked in an
office then and put--

890
00:39:41,250 --> 00:39:44,980
stuffed envelopes and
all those kind of things.

891
00:39:44,980 --> 00:39:50,118
And then my mother's mother
helped us financially.

892
00:39:50,118 --> 00:39:51,790
OK.

893
00:39:51,790 --> 00:39:55,600
And you, at that point,
were still in school?

894
00:39:55,600 --> 00:39:56,170
Or you--

895
00:39:56,170 --> 00:39:59,110
No, I was kicked
out in October '42.

896
00:39:59,110 --> 00:40:00,340
OK.

897
00:40:00,340 --> 00:40:01,330
Yeah.

898
00:40:01,330 --> 00:40:04,840
And again, you're almost 17.

899
00:40:04,840 --> 00:40:08,080
So what does that do
to a 17-year-old girl,

900
00:40:08,080 --> 00:40:08,950
to be told that?

901
00:40:08,950 --> 00:40:11,626

902
00:40:11,626 --> 00:40:13,500
[SIGHS]

903
00:40:13,500 --> 00:40:18,880
Naja, my sister
and I left in '42.

904
00:40:18,880 --> 00:40:21,781
We got the papers in '42.

905
00:40:21,781 --> 00:40:25,550
To go to-- you know,
that we should go.

906
00:40:25,550 --> 00:40:28,660
We should go to a
factory in Briesen,

907
00:40:28,660 --> 00:40:33,190
which was between a city between
Berlin and Frankfurt Oder.

908
00:40:33,190 --> 00:40:36,512
And we should go
there to a factory.

909
00:40:36,512 --> 00:40:39,760
Oh, OK, to work.

910
00:40:39,760 --> 00:40:41,680
Yeah.

911
00:40:41,680 --> 00:40:47,050
And so my sister and I decided
we are not going to go.

912
00:40:47,050 --> 00:40:53,440
And so we took a train
to Berlin at night.

913
00:40:53,440 --> 00:40:55,690
OK, now that's very unusual.

914
00:40:55,690 --> 00:40:58,450
And what was your
mother's role in that?

915
00:40:58,450 --> 00:41:00,250
Naja, my mother stayed
in Frankfurt Oder.

916
00:41:00,250 --> 00:41:03,700
And the Gestapo called her in
and said, where are your girls?

917
00:41:03,700 --> 00:41:05,260
And Mommy said, they left me.

918
00:41:05,260 --> 00:41:06,690
I have no idea.

919
00:41:06,690 --> 00:41:09,990
Now, was it her idea
for you girls to leave?

920
00:41:09,990 --> 00:41:10,660
What?

921
00:41:10,660 --> 00:41:15,040
I think it was the consent of
all of us, that we don't go.

922
00:41:15,040 --> 00:41:17,650

Because that-- and
that Briesen factory

923
00:41:17,650 --> 00:41:18,970
went to the Warsaw Ghetto.

924
00:41:18,970 --> 00:41:22,460

925
00:41:22,460 --> 00:41:25,520
So we-- yes, so then
we were in Berlin, just

926
00:41:25,520 --> 00:41:27,380
the two of us, my sister and I.

927
00:41:27,380 --> 00:41:28,740
How did you get there?

928
00:41:28,740 --> 00:41:31,130
By train.

929
00:41:31,130 --> 00:41:32,060
You had papers?

930
00:41:32,060 --> 00:41:34,670
Did you have papers, ID papers?

931
00:41:34,670 --> 00:41:36,270
Oh, yeah.

932
00:41:36,270 --> 00:41:37,570
Yeah, we had a Kennkarte.

933
00:41:37,570 --> 00:41:38,590
Yeah, sure.

934
00:41:38,590 --> 00:41:39,090
Yeah.

935
00:41:39,090 --> 00:41:41,970

Saying that you
were a Mischling?

936
00:41:41,970 --> 00:41:42,640
No.

937
00:41:42,640 --> 00:41:43,800
No.

938
00:41:43,800 --> 00:41:48,180
Anything there showing that
you had Jewish parentage?

939
00:41:48,180 --> 00:41:48,690
No, no.

940
00:41:48,690 --> 00:41:50,990
It didn't say anything.

941
00:41:50,990 --> 00:41:53,360
OK.

942
00:41:53,360 --> 00:41:56,360
So then we went to Berlin,
and we stayed with friends,

943
00:41:56,360 --> 00:41:57,950
and we stayed in a pension.

944
00:41:57,950 --> 00:42:00,740
And I went to a
Carmelite convent

945
00:42:00,740 --> 00:42:06,630
to help with the children, and
my sister worked, and so on.

946
00:42:06,630 --> 00:42:09,980
And a relative on
my mother's side,

947
00:42:09,980 --> 00:42:12,890

who was a religious nut, but--

948
00:42:12,890 --> 00:42:16,940
a Christian religious nut,
but he was not a Nazi.

949
00:42:16,940 --> 00:42:21,210
And he hired her, and
she worked in his office.

950
00:42:21,210 --> 00:42:23,510
He was a tax lawyer.

951
00:42:23,510 --> 00:42:25,100
And she worked there.

952
00:42:25,100 --> 00:42:29,540
And I helped the nuns
with the children.

953
00:42:29,540 --> 00:42:32,890
Did you live in
the convent itself?

954
00:42:32,890 --> 00:42:34,760
Partly I lived in the convent.

955
00:42:34,760 --> 00:42:37,070
But then my mother
came to Berlin,

956
00:42:37,070 --> 00:42:40,610
and we lived in, again,
in furnished rooms.

957
00:42:40,610 --> 00:42:43,580
And then the bombs
started to fall.

958
00:42:43,580 --> 00:42:48,680
And in some ways, the bombs
were a little bit mixed.

959

00:42:48,680 --> 00:42:51,650

Because you see, you always
had to register in Germany

960

00:42:51,650 --> 00:42:54,260

at the police station
when you moved.

961

00:42:54,260 --> 00:42:56,340

All the Germans had to do that.

962

00:42:56,340 --> 00:43:00,090

And so then so many of
them were destroyed.

963

00:43:00,090 --> 00:43:04,260

So it was a little bit
easier to evade them.

964

00:43:04,260 --> 00:43:05,750

And--

965

00:43:05,750 --> 00:43:08,450

Once your father was
taken away, did you

966

00:43:08,450 --> 00:43:10,610

have any contact with him?

967

00:43:10,610 --> 00:43:11,240

No.

968

00:43:11,240 --> 00:43:12,380

He was in Mauthausen.

969

00:43:12,380 --> 00:43:13,838

Right, that's what
I'm just saying.

970

00:43:13,838 --> 00:43:16,880

Once he said goodbye,
there was no more contact.

971
00:43:16,880 --> 00:43:21,980
No, we got-- we got-- my mother
got a letter from Mauthausen

972
00:43:21,980 --> 00:43:27,680
that my father was killed
while he tried to escape.

973
00:43:27,680 --> 00:43:31,310
All the concentration
camps had certain deaths.

974
00:43:31,310 --> 00:43:32,780
In one they had heart attacks.

975
00:43:32,780 --> 00:43:34,580
In one they had something else.

976
00:43:34,580 --> 00:43:36,965
In Mauthausen, they
all tried to escape.

977
00:43:36,965 --> 00:43:40,570

978
00:43:40,570 --> 00:43:45,230
It's all in-- did you ever
read The SS State by Kogon?

979
00:43:45,230 --> 00:43:45,730
No.

980
00:43:45,730 --> 00:43:48,820

981
00:43:48,820 --> 00:43:49,940
So when was that?

982
00:43:49,940 --> 00:43:51,540
When did your mother
get that letter?

983
00:43:51,540 --> 00:43:52,650
In '42.

984
00:43:52,650 --> 00:43:56,448
Oh, so it was soon
after he left?

985
00:43:56,448 --> 00:43:58,710
I see.

986
00:43:58,710 --> 00:44:00,310
Yeah.

987
00:44:00,310 --> 00:44:01,450
And so-- and then--

988
00:44:01,450 --> 00:44:03,340
How did she present
that to you girls?

989
00:44:03,340 --> 00:44:04,580
Was that--

990
00:44:04,580 --> 00:44:05,900
Well, she told us the letter.

991
00:44:05,900 --> 00:44:09,190

992
00:44:09,190 --> 00:44:10,355
Was she very emotional?

993
00:44:10,355 --> 00:44:11,470
Was she--

994
00:44:11,470 --> 00:44:12,190
Yeah.

995
00:44:12,190 --> 00:44:13,720
In some ways yes.

996
00:44:13,720 --> 00:44:14,680
In some ways not.

997
00:44:14,680 --> 00:44:17,200
And somewhere--
we somewhere knew

998
00:44:17,200 --> 00:44:20,380
that Vati would not come back.

999
00:44:20,380 --> 00:44:21,850
In some ways.

1000
00:44:21,850 --> 00:44:25,210
On the other hand, is we
didn't trust anything.

1001
00:44:25,210 --> 00:44:26,320
Right.

1002
00:44:26,320 --> 00:44:30,160
So '45, we didn't dare
to move anywhere far

1003
00:44:30,160 --> 00:44:34,150
away from Frankfurt Oder,
because we thought maybe,

1004
00:44:34,150 --> 00:44:35,770
maybe he comes back.

1005
00:44:35,770 --> 00:44:38,490

1006
00:44:38,490 --> 00:44:40,260
There's always that hope, yeah.

1007
00:44:40,260 --> 00:44:41,710
And so on.

1008

00:44:41,710 --> 00:44:44,550
But on the other hand,
is then my sister

1009
00:44:44,550 --> 00:44:46,170
and I were running for our life.

1010
00:44:46,170 --> 00:44:47,320
Yes.

1011
00:44:47,320 --> 00:44:50,210
And then the bombs came.

1012
00:44:50,210 --> 00:44:51,780
Did you go into shelters?

1013
00:44:51,780 --> 00:44:52,350
Yeah, sure.

1014
00:44:52,350 --> 00:44:54,920
We sit in the basement
in the shelters.

1015
00:44:54,920 --> 00:44:57,620
And so then the bombs came.

1016
00:44:57,620 --> 00:45:02,270
And you know, an the
rations, and then, you know,

1017
00:45:02,270 --> 00:45:10,430
we heard the Russian cannons
from around Christmas '44.

1018
00:45:10,430 --> 00:45:14,030
And they didn't march into
Berlin until April '45.

1019
00:45:14,030 --> 00:45:16,920
You heard all the
time the cannons.

1020

00:45:16,920 --> 00:45:24,970
So in some ways, you know, we
all moved somewhere like dolls.

1021
00:45:24,970 --> 00:45:27,760
You know, you pull
a leg and you move.

1022
00:45:27,760 --> 00:45:30,100
You pull the other
one and you move.

1023
00:45:30,100 --> 00:45:34,420
And you just keep-- you're
somewhere dull to pain.

1024
00:45:34,420 --> 00:45:38,290
You know, there is so
much that you just say,

1025
00:45:38,290 --> 00:45:39,600
you can't anymore.

1026
00:45:39,600 --> 00:45:45,610
And in '45, really
Hitler tried to kill

1027
00:45:45,610 --> 00:45:47,860
all the half-Jews
and all the Jews

1028
00:45:47,860 --> 00:45:50,450
and all the people in
the concentration camp,

1029
00:45:50,450 --> 00:45:54,710
so that nobody could say
anything against him and so on.

1030
00:45:54,710 --> 00:46:01,510
So in April '45, the few people
I knew, I still had contact to,

1031

00:46:01,510 --> 00:46:04,250
I wrote farewell letters.

1032
00:46:04,250 --> 00:46:06,200
And I said, I'm going to go.

1033
00:46:06,200 --> 00:46:08,850
I'm not going to run anymore.

1034
00:46:08,850 --> 00:46:11,660
I just can't anymore.

1035
00:46:11,660 --> 00:46:13,110
And so on.

1036
00:46:13,110 --> 00:46:15,880
And somewhere, I never
said yes again to life.

1037
00:46:15,880 --> 00:46:18,430

1038
00:46:18,430 --> 00:46:20,350
You know, I can't--

1039
00:46:20,350 --> 00:46:23,530
people get-- like when
I moved out of my house,

1040
00:46:23,530 --> 00:46:25,300
I said, sure, I can go.

1041
00:46:25,300 --> 00:46:32,050
I can't get-- it's very,
very difficult. I try--

1042
00:46:32,050 --> 00:46:35,810
I also have trouble getting
people too close to me.

1043
00:46:35,810 --> 00:46:37,490
You know, and so on.

1044
00:46:37,490 --> 00:46:41,660
But you know, it was just--

1045
00:46:41,660 --> 00:46:44,450
on the other hand, you
were also so divided.

1046
00:46:44,450 --> 00:46:46,470
You know, when the
bombs were falling,

1047
00:46:46,470 --> 00:46:50,240
and the apartment houses
in Berlin were burning,

1048
00:46:50,240 --> 00:46:53,900
and then the Germans were
sitting in front with just

1049
00:46:53,900 --> 00:46:55,790
a little bit belongings.

1050
00:46:55,790 --> 00:46:57,120
You feel sorry for them.

1051
00:46:57,120 --> 00:46:59,410
They were human beings.

1052
00:46:59,410 --> 00:47:00,880
So you were so divided.

1053
00:47:00,880 --> 00:47:04,540
On the one hand, is I hope that
more bombs are falling and more

1054
00:47:04,540 --> 00:47:08,740
get destroyed, because
then I may be surviving.

1055
00:47:08,740 --> 00:47:12,250
On the other hand, is

you know, you felt sorry.

1056
00:47:12,250 --> 00:47:18,990
And in some of the people,
you know, like my best friend

1057
00:47:18,990 --> 00:47:21,090
from high school--

1058
00:47:21,090 --> 00:47:24,190
my Mommy's mother lived
in Frankfurt Oder.

1059
00:47:24,190 --> 00:47:26,520
And she went to Frankfurt--
to my grandmother,

1060
00:47:26,520 --> 00:47:29,850
and she said, where Ursula?

1061
00:47:29,850 --> 00:47:32,730
And my grandmother
said, I can't tell you.

1062
00:47:32,730 --> 00:47:34,800
And she kept on pestering her.

1063
00:47:34,800 --> 00:47:38,160
So finally my grandmother
broke down and told her.

1064
00:47:38,160 --> 00:47:40,300
She gave her my address.

1065
00:47:40,300 --> 00:47:48,500
And then she rang the bell,
and we usually didn't open.

1066
00:47:48,500 --> 00:47:52,550
Because Mommy always was afraid
if the bell rang somebody

1067

00:47:52,550 --> 00:47:53,810
will take us.

1068
00:47:53,810 --> 00:47:56,840
And there she was.

1069
00:47:56,840 --> 00:48:00,560
So some of the people,
you know, never abandoned

1070
00:48:00,560 --> 00:48:01,940
me or my sister.

1071
00:48:01,940 --> 00:48:05,360

1072
00:48:05,360 --> 00:48:11,000
But it was-- but
you were somewhere--

1073
00:48:11,000 --> 00:48:14,120
you thought that either
the bombs get you,

1074
00:48:14,120 --> 00:48:20,210
or the Russians get you, or the
Gestapo gets you, or somewhere.

1075
00:48:20,210 --> 00:48:25,025
The percentage of
survivors was very small.

1076
00:48:25,025 --> 00:48:33,010

1077
00:48:33,010 --> 00:48:34,170
It was very small.

1078
00:48:34,170 --> 00:48:37,300

1079
00:48:37,300 --> 00:48:43,280

And then after the
war, nobody ever

1080
00:48:43,280 --> 00:48:45,320
thought that we were
in shock or anything.

1081
00:48:45,320 --> 00:48:47,750
Nobody helped us anywhere.

1082
00:48:47,750 --> 00:48:52,020
Your sister stayed through
the end of the war?

1083
00:48:52,020 --> 00:48:52,520
She stayed.

1084
00:48:52,520 --> 00:48:52,850
Oh, yeah.

1085
00:48:52,850 --> 00:48:53,940
We stayed all the time.

1086
00:48:53,940 --> 00:48:55,310
Yeah, we were together.

1087
00:48:55,310 --> 00:48:59,990
My sister wanted to run
away from the Russians.

1088
00:48:59,990 --> 00:49:02,990
And we were beating each other.

1089
00:49:02,990 --> 00:49:06,060
And I said, you are crazy
to go on the highway.

1090
00:49:06,060 --> 00:49:08,150
We are going to stay.

1091
00:49:08,150 --> 00:49:09,170
And so I won.

1092
00:49:09,170 --> 00:49:11,210
We did stay.

1093
00:49:11,210 --> 00:49:14,660
My biggest fear then,
well, really at this point,

1094
00:49:14,660 --> 00:49:20,510
when we knew it was the end,
is that the British bombs,

1095
00:49:20,510 --> 00:49:23,220
you know, they had
these blockbusters.

1096
00:49:23,220 --> 00:49:25,290
And in the basement,
when the alarm was--

1097
00:49:25,290 --> 00:49:28,140
and we were sitting with the
Germans, nobody opposed us,

1098
00:49:28,140 --> 00:49:28,640
really--

1099
00:49:28,640 --> 00:49:32,240

1100
00:49:32,240 --> 00:49:34,160
it's a blockbuster,
but we were sitting.

1101
00:49:34,160 --> 00:49:35,690
You know, my mother,
and my sister,

1102
00:49:35,690 --> 00:49:37,430
and I, we were all
sitting together.

1103

00:49:37,430 --> 00:49:40,440
I think my sister sat in
the middle, and Mommy and I

1104
00:49:40,440 --> 00:49:41,330
on the outside.

1105
00:49:41,330 --> 00:49:45,920
And these blockbuster,
the people were blew then.

1106
00:49:45,920 --> 00:49:48,930
You know, because it's
just everything burst.

1107
00:49:48,930 --> 00:49:51,900
You know, so they were
blew when they were hit.

1108
00:49:51,900 --> 00:49:54,400
But there was
sometimes a vacuum.

1109
00:49:54,400 --> 00:49:58,840
And so my fear was always
that I sit in the vacuum

1110
00:49:58,840 --> 00:50:01,110
and Mommy and Gitte are dead.

1111
00:50:01,110 --> 00:50:04,665
That was my greatest fear,
too, till the end of '45.

1112
00:50:04,665 --> 00:50:07,260

1113
00:50:07,260 --> 00:50:08,490
Yeah, you know, I mean--

1114
00:50:08,490 --> 00:50:10,620
What do you mean,
people were blew?

1115
00:50:10,620 --> 00:50:13,230
Because all their outer--

1116
00:50:13,230 --> 00:50:16,590
everything burst, when you--

1117
00:50:16,590 --> 00:50:19,900
this is such a strong
pressure, from the pressure.

1118
00:50:19,900 --> 00:50:22,250
Oh.

1119
00:50:22,250 --> 00:50:25,010
The blockbusters were
awful from the British.

1120
00:50:25,010 --> 00:50:27,170
And they hit, you
know, the blockbuster

1121
00:50:27,170 --> 00:50:29,630
means they hit whole blocks.

1122
00:50:29,630 --> 00:50:36,650
And that-- and so it was--
that was one of my fears.

1123
00:50:36,650 --> 00:50:37,550
You know.

1124
00:50:37,550 --> 00:50:44,200
And '45, naja, then I
knew that the Gestapo

1125
00:50:44,200 --> 00:50:45,820
wouldn't get me anymore.

1126
00:50:45,820 --> 00:50:49,390
Even the government
said to the end

1127
00:50:49,390 --> 00:50:51,850
it's a relief army and so on.

1128
00:50:51,850 --> 00:50:56,550
And in front of us, we had the--

1129
00:50:56,550 --> 00:51:01,450
for the tanks, when the tanks
would go on the main streets,

1130
00:51:01,450 --> 00:51:03,880
they would go against
it, they would blow up.

1131
00:51:03,880 --> 00:51:06,370
Except the Russian
tanks were very small,

1132
00:51:06,370 --> 00:51:08,320
and they went through
all the side streets

1133
00:51:08,320 --> 00:51:10,930
and never hit any
of these things.

1134
00:51:10,930 --> 00:51:19,060
And it's-- I don't know.

1135
00:51:19,060 --> 00:51:21,320
You know, you were--

1136
00:51:21,320 --> 00:51:24,560
in some ways, you were--

1137
00:51:24,560 --> 00:51:26,480
you were numb.

1138
00:51:26,480 --> 00:51:29,450
But on the other hand, you
were not afraid of anything,

1139
00:51:29,450 --> 00:51:31,500
really, anymore.

1140
00:51:31,500 --> 00:51:35,460
You know, it was so bad that you
thought, you know, what else?

1141
00:51:35,460 --> 00:51:37,780
You know, one way or another.

1142
00:51:37,780 --> 00:51:39,850
So who cares?

1143
00:51:39,850 --> 00:51:40,350
You know?

1144
00:51:40,350 --> 00:51:43,440

1145
00:51:43,440 --> 00:51:47,500
Did you know what had happened
to Hitler at that time?

1146
00:51:47,500 --> 00:51:49,010
No, we heard that afterwards.

1147
00:51:49,010 --> 00:51:51,750
Yeah, yeah.

1148
00:51:51,750 --> 00:51:55,670
Yeah, we heard that afterwards.

1149
00:51:55,670 --> 00:51:58,340
We didn't even know
Eva Braun existed.

1150
00:51:58,340 --> 00:51:59,510
If what?

1151
00:51:59,510 --> 00:52:00,990

That Eva Braun existed.

1152
00:52:00,990 --> 00:52:01,970
Oh, Eva Braun, yeah.

1153
00:52:01,970 --> 00:52:04,340
We didn't even know
that she existed.

1154
00:52:04,340 --> 00:52:06,440
Hitler was such a purist.

1155
00:52:06,440 --> 00:52:08,390
He was a vegetarian.

1156
00:52:08,390 --> 00:52:10,040
And he didn't have girlfriends.

1157
00:52:10,040 --> 00:52:11,500
And he did have.

1158
00:52:11,500 --> 00:52:12,420
[CHUCKLING]

1159
00:52:12,420 --> 00:52:13,790
But--

1160
00:52:13,790 --> 00:52:21,530
When you were in Berlin, did you
meet any other Jews in hiding?

1161
00:52:21,530 --> 00:52:25,140
Or did you come across
any that you knew of?

1162
00:52:25,140 --> 00:52:26,770
We knew that there are Jews.

1163
00:52:26,770 --> 00:52:29,100
We tried not to
find any of them.

1164

00:52:29,100 --> 00:52:31,130

Because you see,
any time you tried

1165

00:52:31,130 --> 00:52:35,040

to get in contact with any
of them, you endangered them.

1166

00:52:35,040 --> 00:52:37,170

So you, in a sense,
did not meet any.

1167

00:52:37,170 --> 00:52:38,730

So you tried not.

1168

00:52:38,730 --> 00:52:41,900

If you somewhere
were where there

1169

00:52:41,900 --> 00:52:45,240

were-- at the Jewish
cemetery in Weissensee,

1170

00:52:45,240 --> 00:52:49,350

there were Jews hidden in
these old-fashioned mausoleums.

1171

00:52:49,350 --> 00:52:54,640

And the gardeners,
who were Aryans,

1172

00:52:54,640 --> 00:52:56,500

they gave them food
and everything.

1173

00:52:56,500 --> 00:52:59,160

But if you tried to
any way to do anything,

1174

00:52:59,160 --> 00:53:02,670

you were afraid
to endanger them.

1175

00:53:02,670 --> 00:53:07,920

And so, you know, you tried
not to do anything like this.

1176

00:53:07,920 --> 00:53:10,870

Because you-- you
know, you hoped

1177

00:53:10,870 --> 00:53:12,510

that nobody would find them.

1178

00:53:12,510 --> 00:53:15,570

And if you found them,
somebody else might find them.

1179

00:53:15,570 --> 00:53:18,870

Or you were also afraid that
somebody might follow you,

1180

00:53:18,870 --> 00:53:21,360

and you would lead
them to something.

1181

00:53:21,360 --> 00:53:28,170

So at this point,
we did not really

1182

00:53:28,170 --> 00:53:31,530

try to find anybody in hiding.

1183

00:53:31,530 --> 00:53:34,260

Because you endangered the
Jews, but you endangered also

1184

00:53:34,260 --> 00:53:35,430

the people who hid them.

1185

00:53:35,430 --> 00:53:36,240

Right, right.

1186

00:53:36,240 --> 00:53:37,200

You know?

1187
00:53:37,200 --> 00:53:41,820
So you tried not to find
out anything about them.

1188
00:53:41,820 --> 00:53:44,430
You knew somewhere--
you know, the trouble

1189
00:53:44,430 --> 00:53:46,620
is, there was
always a grapevine,

1190
00:53:46,620 --> 00:53:49,200
so you heard about things.

1191
00:53:49,200 --> 00:53:54,550
I had contact with some
Dutch underground people.

1192
00:53:54,550 --> 00:53:59,640
And so I knew about D-Day before
anybody ever admitted that

1193
00:53:59,640 --> 00:54:00,360
the English--

1194
00:54:00,360 --> 00:54:04,620
that the Americans had landed
because the Dutch Underground

1195
00:54:04,620 --> 00:54:05,970
told me that.

1196
00:54:05,970 --> 00:54:07,650
But you know--

1197
00:54:07,650 --> 00:54:09,840
Tell me your connection
with the Dutch Underground.

1198
00:54:09,840 --> 00:54:10,860

How did that happen?

1199

00:54:10,860 --> 00:54:15,150
Naja, the Dutch Underground,
you know, Hitler had all these--

1200

00:54:15,150 --> 00:54:19,680
they just took cars,
you know, pickup trucks,

1201

00:54:19,680 --> 00:54:23,220
and drove to factories and
took all the young men in

1202

00:54:23,220 --> 00:54:30,900
and shipped them to Germany
for to manage the factories

1203

00:54:30,900 --> 00:54:32,130
and so on.

1204

00:54:32,130 --> 00:54:35,610
And the Carmelite
nuns, you know,

1205

00:54:35,610 --> 00:54:37,410
where I helped
them with the kids,

1206

00:54:37,410 --> 00:54:41,010
until the kids were
all really sent out

1207

00:54:41,010 --> 00:54:44,190
of Berlin, these Dutch
underground kids,

1208

00:54:44,190 --> 00:54:45,180
they were Catholic.

1209

00:54:45,180 --> 00:54:47,640
So they came to that convent.

1210

00:54:47,640 --> 00:54:51,772

And in the evening,
and they talked.

1211

00:54:51,772 --> 00:54:52,480

And they told me.

1212

00:54:52,480 --> 00:54:55,090

1213

00:54:55,090 --> 00:54:56,830

You yourself never
actually worked

1214

00:54:56,830 --> 00:54:58,345

for an underground organization?

1215

00:54:58,345 --> 00:55:00,550

No. no, I didn't.

1216

00:55:00,550 --> 00:55:03,070

Do you know if there
were any Jewish children

1217

00:55:03,070 --> 00:55:05,440

hiding in this convent?

1218

00:55:05,440 --> 00:55:07,450

There were some.

1219

00:55:07,450 --> 00:55:08,110

Yes.

1220

00:55:08,110 --> 00:55:11,090

Yes, we did have
Jewish kids hid.

1221

00:55:11,090 --> 00:55:16,630

We had-- there was
one woman, and she--

1222

00:55:16,630 --> 00:55:20,410
you know, she couldn't
marry because, you know,

1223
00:55:20,410 --> 00:55:21,880
Jews couldn't marry--

1224
00:55:21,880 --> 00:55:22,930
marry.

1225
00:55:22,930 --> 00:55:26,500
And she converted
to Catholicism,

1226
00:55:26,500 --> 00:55:27,670
but she was in Auschwitz.

1227
00:55:27,670 --> 00:55:29,530
She survived.

1228
00:55:29,530 --> 00:55:30,610
She survived.

1229
00:55:30,610 --> 00:55:32,860
But her son before she--

1230
00:55:32,860 --> 00:55:37,510
her son was with her in this--

1231
00:55:37,510 --> 00:55:40,030
where they all collect
all the Jews before they

1232
00:55:40,030 --> 00:55:41,440
shipped them out.

1233
00:55:41,440 --> 00:55:48,280
So somewhere she contacted
the Catholic Church.

1234
00:55:48,280 --> 00:55:51,360
And so the nuns--

1235
00:55:51,360 --> 00:55:53,320
they took me with them.

1236
00:55:53,320 --> 00:55:56,620
With them, because they couldn't
go alone as just the nuns.

1237
00:55:56,620 --> 00:55:58,710
And I looked so nice
and Aryan, you know,

1238
00:55:58,710 --> 00:56:00,370
with blond hair and everything.

1239
00:56:00,370 --> 00:56:02,920
So we went to her--
to the apartment.

1240
00:56:02,920 --> 00:56:06,340
And there was a Gestapo,
and it was sealed.

1241
00:56:06,340 --> 00:56:09,700
And so the Gestapo unsealed
it, and the nuns took out

1242
00:56:09,700 --> 00:56:11,290
the children's clothes.

1243
00:56:11,290 --> 00:56:15,940
And then the little boy
stayed, stayed in the convent.

1244
00:56:15,940 --> 00:56:18,010
And then there was
another little girl,

1245
00:56:18,010 --> 00:56:20,770
where we don't know
anything about the parents.

1246

00:56:20,770 --> 00:56:26,410
And who they just left
her on the front doors.

1247
00:56:26,410 --> 00:56:30,720

1248
00:56:30,720 --> 00:56:35,940
One of the problems with that
was that the kids itself,

1249
00:56:35,940 --> 00:56:41,010
and they went with it then,
there were very few children

1250
00:56:41,010 --> 00:56:44,490
left in Berlin because the
schools were all closed.

1251
00:56:44,490 --> 00:56:47,320
Because of the bombs.

1252
00:56:47,320 --> 00:56:55,320
And so the-- so any
school age kid was--

1253
00:56:55,320 --> 00:56:57,360
I mean, if they
stayed in Berlin,

1254
00:56:57,360 --> 00:56:58,570
they didn't have any school.

1255
00:56:58,570 --> 00:57:01,690
They were all sent in
the country and so on.

1256
00:57:01,690 --> 00:57:04,680
So it was a little bit of
problem with older children.

1257
00:57:04,680 --> 00:57:08,220
The smaller ones, you

know, you could just--

1258
00:57:08,220 --> 00:57:11,430
you can just keep and
you just fed them from--

1259
00:57:11,430 --> 00:57:14,940
you had enough from your
own cards, you know?

1260
00:57:14,940 --> 00:57:16,180
You know, and so on.

1261
00:57:16,180 --> 00:57:19,900
But the mother of the
little boy came back.

1262
00:57:19,900 --> 00:57:21,310
She survived Auschwitz.

1263
00:57:21,310 --> 00:57:22,480
And she talked.

1264
00:57:22,480 --> 00:57:26,080
And this is one thing,
too, is that I made a big--

1265
00:57:26,080 --> 00:57:27,820
those things made
big impressions

1266
00:57:27,820 --> 00:57:33,940
on me, too, is because
they put her into a hole

1267
00:57:33,940 --> 00:57:37,270
and they said, now,
if you submit to us--

1268
00:57:37,270 --> 00:57:41,780
you know-- and you know, they
wanted to rape her and so on--

1269

00:57:41,780 --> 00:57:42,700
we give you food.

1270

00:57:42,700 --> 00:57:44,410
And she said, I'm not hungry.

1271

00:57:44,410 --> 00:57:46,932
And she always
resisted this all.

1272

00:57:46,932 --> 00:57:48,390
This is while she
was in Auschwitz.

1273

00:57:48,390 --> 00:57:49,990
In Auschwitz, yeah.

1274

00:57:49,990 --> 00:57:51,010
And so on.

1275

00:57:51,010 --> 00:57:53,185
And so I always thought
that it's really

1276

00:57:53,185 --> 00:57:54,830
you should never depend on it.

1277

00:57:54,830 --> 00:57:58,150
People shouldn't be able to
kid because they're hold this

1278

00:57:58,150 --> 00:58:00,742
as a coward, you know?

1279

00:58:00,742 --> 00:58:05,360
If you go with us, we give
you food if you do that.

1280

00:58:05,360 --> 00:58:09,680
And I said, I'm never going to
get dependent on any of that.

1281
00:58:09,680 --> 00:58:10,660
And so on.

1282
00:58:10,660 --> 00:58:12,250
But yes, she survived it.

1283
00:58:12,250 --> 00:58:16,450
But she was not a
Catholic afterwards.

1284
00:58:16,450 --> 00:58:18,320
But she collected her son.

1285
00:58:18,320 --> 00:58:18,820
Did she?

1286
00:58:18,820 --> 00:58:19,320
Yeah.

1287
00:58:19,320 --> 00:58:20,890
Do you remember her name or?

1288
00:58:20,890 --> 00:58:22,270
No, I don't.

1289
00:58:22,270 --> 00:58:25,090
And I don't remember the
little boy's name either.

1290
00:58:25,090 --> 00:58:25,990
[CHUCKLING]

1291
00:58:25,990 --> 00:58:27,070
You know?

1292
00:58:27,070 --> 00:58:28,000
And so on.

1293
00:58:28,000 --> 00:58:31,990
And so but, yeah, we went
in that sealed apartment.

1294
00:58:31,990 --> 00:58:37,110
And the Gestapo was
there, two Gestapo men.

1295
00:58:37,110 --> 00:58:40,440
And yeah.

1296
00:58:40,440 --> 00:58:42,220
And we got the clothing out.

1297
00:58:42,220 --> 00:58:42,720
Yeah.

1298
00:58:42,720 --> 00:58:47,820
And some of them
also, they went--

1299
00:58:47,820 --> 00:58:52,650
they got people out who were--

1300
00:58:52,650 --> 00:58:56,130
I don't know who was the father
of that kid, in any case.

1301
00:58:56,130 --> 00:59:02,660
But they-- you know, sometimes
people went to these assemblies

1302
00:59:02,660 --> 00:59:05,790
and got people out they knew.

1303
00:59:05,790 --> 00:59:08,640
And so on.

1304
00:59:08,640 --> 00:59:12,810
And the bad part of this was,
you know, sometimes people

1305
00:59:12,810 --> 00:59:17,670
went to the assembly and then
they were hijacking, you know,

1306
00:59:17,670 --> 00:59:21,750
some of the people, getting
them away and hiding them

1307
00:59:21,750 --> 00:59:24,310
behind rows of other
people and so on.

1308
00:59:24,310 --> 00:59:27,930
But the Germans
never called names.

1309
00:59:27,930 --> 00:59:31,060
They only count numbers.

1310
00:59:31,060 --> 00:59:36,690
So if there had to be 100 people
there, and there were only 98,

1311
00:59:36,690 --> 00:59:40,200
two were missing, they
took anybody around,

1312
00:59:40,200 --> 00:59:43,640
regardless who it was.

1313
00:59:43,640 --> 00:59:47,480
And that was another bad
thing about going and hiding.

1314
00:59:47,480 --> 00:59:49,850
You know, that you always--

1315
00:59:49,850 --> 00:59:53,720
if you could go in hiding
before you ended up on any

1316
00:59:53,720 --> 00:59:56,100
of the lists, that was fine.

1317
00:59:56,100 --> 00:59:59,780

But if you were on one of the lists, and then you didn't go,

1318
00:59:59,780 --> 01:00:02,570
you know you endangered somebody else.

1319
01:00:02,570 --> 01:00:05,000
But my sister and I didn't think about that either.

1320
01:00:05,000 --> 01:00:07,610
In Briesen, I guess, I don't know if somebody else

1321
01:00:07,610 --> 01:00:09,110
had to go for us or not.

1322
01:00:09,110 --> 01:00:11,120
I don't know.

1323
01:00:11,120 --> 01:00:13,100
But they took anybody.

1324
01:00:13,100 --> 01:00:14,480
The number had to be correct.

1325
01:00:14,480 --> 01:00:18,260

1326
01:00:18,260 --> 01:00:23,930
It was-- On the other hand, is I think

1327
01:00:23,930 --> 01:00:27,370
technology was not as advanced.

1328
01:00:27,370 --> 01:00:31,660
So it was a little bit easier to find loopholes,

1329
01:00:31,660 --> 01:00:37,660

to find ways of disappearing,
and some way of managing

1330
01:00:37,660 --> 01:00:41,380
of keeping on living.

1331
01:00:41,380 --> 01:00:46,150
Because-- and as I said, then
when so much was destroyed,

1332
01:00:46,150 --> 01:00:47,920
papers were destroyed, too.

1333
01:00:47,920 --> 01:00:49,470
Yeah.

1334
01:00:49,470 --> 01:00:52,000