

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:10,240

2
00:00:10,240 --> 00:00:13,210
This is a continuation of
the United States Holocaust

3
00:00:13,210 --> 00:00:16,059
Memorial Museum volunteer
collection interview

4
00:00:16,059 --> 00:00:19,690
with Ursula Guttstadt McKinney.

5
00:00:19,690 --> 00:00:23,770
This is track number three.

6
00:00:23,770 --> 00:00:32,049
OK, so you were saying
before that a few years ago,

7
00:00:32,049 --> 00:00:35,170
you wouldn't have been willing
to be interviewed or talk

8
00:00:35,170 --> 00:00:36,250
about your experiences.

9
00:00:36,250 --> 00:00:42,150
What do you think has changed
in these last few years?

10
00:00:42,150 --> 00:00:45,920
Well, in the beginning,
it was just too painful.

11
00:00:45,920 --> 00:00:46,580
Yeah.

12
00:00:46,580 --> 00:00:49,430
One time somebody

asked me about things,

13
00:00:49,430 --> 00:00:52,580
and about what
happened and so on.

14
00:00:52,580 --> 00:00:55,220
And afterwards when
I went back to work,

15
00:00:55,220 --> 00:00:58,550
I had the telephone
the wrong side around

16
00:00:58,550 --> 00:01:02,840
because I couldn't
function anymore.

17
00:01:02,840 --> 00:01:06,080
And I would just
break down and cry.

18
00:01:06,080 --> 00:01:09,830
And it was just too painful.

19
00:01:09,830 --> 00:01:14,150
And by now I think, number
one, it is longer ago.

20
00:01:14,150 --> 00:01:17,420
And number two,
it's I also think

21
00:01:17,420 --> 00:01:22,190
that if my generation dies off,
there is nobody really anymore

22
00:01:22,190 --> 00:01:24,570
who can talk about it.

23
00:01:24,570 --> 00:01:29,770
And so we should just overcome
that and just do talk about it.

24
00:01:29,770 --> 00:01:30,330
Right.

25
00:01:30,330 --> 00:01:33,130
It's important that you
tell us what it was like.

26
00:01:33,130 --> 00:01:34,730
Yeah, yeah.

27
00:01:34,730 --> 00:01:38,630
And so on, but it's
something that will haunt you

28
00:01:38,630 --> 00:01:40,740
for the rest of your life.

29
00:01:40,740 --> 00:01:48,280
And it's nothing which is
easy to overcome anywhere.

30
00:01:48,280 --> 00:01:52,060
That's one reason is that I'm
surprised that people could

31
00:01:52,060 --> 00:01:53,590
put children in the world.

32
00:01:53,590 --> 00:01:55,570
I couldn't.

33
00:01:55,570 --> 00:01:58,360
I thought I was too--

34
00:01:58,360 --> 00:02:02,680
too damaging, was too bad.

35
00:02:02,680 --> 00:02:05,710
And yeah, and you
know when politi--

36

00:02:05,710 --> 00:02:08,680
and people are not aware of it.

37

00:02:08,680 --> 00:02:13,840
That is the danger, is always
that people say, oh, political,

38

00:02:13,840 --> 00:02:15,270
it isn't so bad yet.

39

00:02:15,270 --> 00:02:18,980
Maybe we still can
take that and so on.

40

00:02:18,980 --> 00:02:22,240
And by the time they realize
that I can't take it anymore,

41

00:02:22,240 --> 00:02:24,820
very often people are
trapped, and then they really

42

00:02:24,820 --> 00:02:26,830
can't do anything anymore.

43

00:02:26,830 --> 00:02:28,980
Yeah.

44

00:02:28,980 --> 00:02:32,970
But you know, with Germany,
too, it's talking about Germany.

45

00:02:32,970 --> 00:02:35,550
When I worked--
when I was studying

46

00:02:35,550 --> 00:02:40,410
physical therapy in Frankfurt
at University of Frankfurt am

47

00:02:40,410 --> 00:02:44,220
Main, we also had to go

into different hospitals.

48
00:02:44,220 --> 00:02:47,760
And there was this
psychiatric ward

49
00:02:47,760 --> 00:02:51,870
where they had locked
us in, the therapists.

50
00:02:51,870 --> 00:02:54,870
And we played ball with
these men and so on.

51
00:02:54,870 --> 00:02:56,880
And there was also
a women's ward.

52
00:02:56,880 --> 00:03:02,440
And one time I came there,
and they were very excited.

53
00:03:02,440 --> 00:03:05,310
And I said, "what's the matter?"

54
00:03:05,310 --> 00:03:09,110
And I said, "oh, a Jew
comes back from Germany,

55
00:03:09,110 --> 00:03:11,640
one from the United States."

56
00:03:11,640 --> 00:03:14,010
And I said, "so?"

57
00:03:14,010 --> 00:03:15,820
"We don't want a Jew."

58
00:03:15,820 --> 00:03:18,720
I said, "well, he
might be very nice."

59

00:03:18,720 --> 00:03:20,340
"We don't want a Jew."

60
00:03:20,340 --> 00:03:24,540
I said, "well, how
many Jews do you know?"

61
00:03:24,540 --> 00:03:26,650
"None."

62
00:03:26,650 --> 00:03:30,890
I said, "Oh, how can you say
that you don't want him?"

63
00:03:30,890 --> 00:03:33,610
And when he came,
he was very nice.

64
00:03:33,610 --> 00:03:35,410
And you know, people came back.

65
00:03:35,410 --> 00:03:39,070
They were not-- not
everybody made it.

66
00:03:39,070 --> 00:03:41,360
And the German government
gave them money.

67
00:03:41,360 --> 00:03:43,840
So he came back, and
he got insurance,

68
00:03:43,840 --> 00:03:45,010
and they paid for him.

69
00:03:45,010 --> 00:03:48,340
And he was a very
quiet, calm man.

70
00:03:48,340 --> 00:03:50,620
You know, somewhere
somebody who was

71
00:03:50,620 --> 00:03:53,500
not very assertive and so on.

72
00:03:53,500 --> 00:03:56,120
Because-- and he hadn't made
it in the United States.

73
00:03:56,120 --> 00:03:59,770
So he was very depressed
and had problems,

74
00:03:59,770 --> 00:04:02,100
and everybody loved him.

75
00:04:02,100 --> 00:04:04,890
And I said, "oh."

76
00:04:04,890 --> 00:04:06,960
But then they didn't
want to hear anymore

77
00:04:06,960 --> 00:04:11,010
that they once told me that
they couldn't stand having one.

78
00:04:11,010 --> 00:04:15,900
But you know, then these
people believed, you know,

79
00:04:15,900 --> 00:04:18,259
whatever the government fed
them, because they really

80
00:04:18,259 --> 00:04:20,430
didn't know better.

81
00:04:20,430 --> 00:04:24,510
And then, sure, shortages
didn't help either,

82
00:04:24,510 --> 00:04:26,130

in anything either.

83
00:04:26,130 --> 00:04:30,900
So it's always
difficult, you know.

84
00:04:30,900 --> 00:04:34,620
I guess in the name
of Jesus more people

85
00:04:34,620 --> 00:04:38,380
were killed than saved.

86
00:04:38,380 --> 00:04:40,670
If someone asked you
today are you German,

87
00:04:40,670 --> 00:04:42,640
what would you answer?

88
00:04:42,640 --> 00:04:46,540
I said-- when people
ask me, formerly.

89
00:04:46,540 --> 00:04:48,070
I was formerly German.

90
00:04:48,070 --> 00:04:49,890
I'm an American.

91
00:04:49,890 --> 00:04:50,800
Yeah.

92
00:04:50,800 --> 00:04:52,090
Oh, yeah.

93
00:04:52,090 --> 00:04:52,960
No, no.

94
00:04:52,960 --> 00:04:54,190
No, I don't--

95

00:04:54,190 --> 00:04:56,720

96

00:04:56,720 --> 00:04:58,090

I don't feel German.

97

00:04:58,090 --> 00:04:58,805

And I don't--

98

00:04:58,805 --> 00:05:02,460

99

00:05:02,460 --> 00:05:07,200

I don't want to be
considered to be a German.

100

00:05:07,200 --> 00:05:10,230

And so it's not--

101

00:05:10,230 --> 00:05:13,030

102

00:05:13,030 --> 00:05:15,430

it's not good.

103

00:05:15,430 --> 00:05:19,120

When you give those tours, you
said the German speaking tours

104

00:05:19,120 --> 00:05:24,260

at the National Gallery,
and the tourists ask you,

105

00:05:24,260 --> 00:05:27,050

do they ask you something
about your knowledge of German

106

00:05:27,050 --> 00:05:28,660

or are you from Germany?

107

00:05:28,660 --> 00:05:29,410

No, they usually--

108
00:05:29,410 --> 00:05:32,350
They ask you or
they don't ask you?

109
00:05:32,350 --> 00:05:34,085
You know, they ask
me where I'm from.

110
00:05:34,085 --> 00:05:35,540
I say from Berlin.

111
00:05:35,540 --> 00:05:37,330
Oh, from Berlin.

112
00:05:37,330 --> 00:05:41,870
And-- yeah, I know Frankfurt
Oder, more or less Berlin.

113
00:05:41,870 --> 00:05:43,700
Frankfurt Oder they
don't know in any case.

114
00:05:43,700 --> 00:05:48,090
But they-- they don't--

115
00:05:48,090 --> 00:05:51,500
these are all younger
people, really, then.

116
00:05:51,500 --> 00:05:53,000
No, they don't ask me anything.

117
00:05:53,000 --> 00:05:53,660
Anymore than--

118
00:05:53,660 --> 00:05:56,060
No, they don't.

119
00:05:56,060 --> 00:05:59,510
Right after the wall

fell, I got lots--

120

00:05:59,510 --> 00:06:03,800

there came people over from East
Germany, formerly East Germany.

121

00:06:03,800 --> 00:06:06,650

And one of the women
one time said to me,

122

00:06:06,650 --> 00:06:11,880

you know, when people
realize that we are German,

123

00:06:11,880 --> 00:06:15,850

it's like a curtain goes down.

124

00:06:15,850 --> 00:06:19,440

There are a lot of
Americans who are still

125

00:06:19,440 --> 00:06:21,540

very much anti-German.

126

00:06:21,540 --> 00:06:24,420

And you can see it
on our collection.

127

00:06:24,420 --> 00:06:27,060

If you go to the German
Collection, it's awful.

128

00:06:27,060 --> 00:06:28,770

We have some DÃ¼rers and so on.

129

00:06:28,770 --> 00:06:32,870

But don't tell me there are
any good DÃ¼rers and so on!

130

00:06:32,870 --> 00:06:36,300

Yeah, so the people who
collect it at this point,

131

00:06:36,300 --> 00:06:40,530

they also didn't want
to collect German art.

132

00:06:40,530 --> 00:06:42,690

Do you remember
the Eichmann trial?

133

00:06:42,690 --> 00:06:43,200

Sure.

134

00:06:43,200 --> 00:06:46,350

What were some of your
thoughts at that time?

135

00:06:46,350 --> 00:06:49,710

136

00:06:49,710 --> 00:06:55,710

Naja, one of the things is,
I guess for many people that

137

00:06:55,710 --> 00:06:56,530

is a relief.

138

00:06:56,530 --> 00:07:00,720

For me, neither my mother
nor my sister nor I

139

00:07:00,720 --> 00:07:06,360

ever have tried to find the
Gestapo people who hunted us.

140

00:07:06,360 --> 00:07:08,540

My father was killed.

141

00:07:08,540 --> 00:07:12,300

They ruined my life
to a certain extent.

142

00:07:12,300 --> 00:07:16,990

Chasing down these people

wouldn't do anything for me.

143
00:07:16,990 --> 00:07:20,100
I always thought,
if I would have

144
00:07:20,100 --> 00:07:23,370
to have gotten these
people on a trial--

145
00:07:23,370 --> 00:07:25,890
maybe somebody else
did, I don't know--

146
00:07:25,890 --> 00:07:29,940
but it would be more
horrifying for me

147
00:07:29,940 --> 00:07:32,610
to have sit through
that trial than it

148
00:07:32,610 --> 00:07:34,770
would have done me any good.

149
00:07:34,770 --> 00:07:38,850
Because the damage was done.

150
00:07:38,850 --> 00:07:44,490
And so Eichmann, I mean,
he was a horrible guy,

151
00:07:44,490 --> 00:07:47,790
and I guess justice was done.

152
00:07:47,790 --> 00:07:52,690
But it's the people.

153
00:07:52,690 --> 00:07:56,380
You can't undo
anything with revenge.

154

00:07:56,380 --> 00:08:00,220
When the people talk about
9/11, that was awful,

155
00:08:00,220 --> 00:08:02,530
but trying to-- now
they say, oh, they

156
00:08:02,530 --> 00:08:04,750
should give us so
much money for this

157
00:08:04,750 --> 00:08:08,200
and so on, that doesn't bring
you the loved ones back.

158
00:08:08,200 --> 00:08:10,330
I mean, if you are
left as a widow

159
00:08:10,330 --> 00:08:12,760
and have small children,
for God's sake, sure,

160
00:08:12,760 --> 00:08:15,020
give them a pension
and give the kids

161
00:08:15,020 --> 00:08:17,410
that they can go to
school and so on.

162
00:08:17,410 --> 00:08:21,940
But revenge kills yourself.

163
00:08:21,940 --> 00:08:25,470
And so I think--

164
00:08:25,470 --> 00:08:27,360
[PHONE RINGING]

165
00:08:27,360 --> 00:08:29,870
For many people, it's a relief.

166
00:08:29,870 --> 00:08:33,409
But for me, I don't know.

167
00:08:33,409 --> 00:08:37,780

168
00:08:37,780 --> 00:08:41,679
Are you more comfortable
being with people

169
00:08:41,679 --> 00:08:44,770
who survived the war than
those who didn't even live

170
00:08:44,770 --> 00:08:45,270
through it?

171
00:08:45,270 --> 00:08:56,430

172
00:08:56,430 --> 00:09:01,500
In the beginning, John and
I, we saw every war movie.

173
00:09:01,500 --> 00:09:04,350
I saw every movie on
the concentration camps.

174
00:09:04,350 --> 00:09:08,960

175
00:09:08,960 --> 00:09:12,150
We felt people who
didn't go through that

176
00:09:12,150 --> 00:09:15,800
lived in different
worlds than we did.

177
00:09:15,800 --> 00:09:20,180
But by now, it's the whole

generation, the younger ones,

178

00:09:20,180 --> 00:09:22,925
they never experienced
anything like this.

179

00:09:22,925 --> 00:09:28,120

180

00:09:28,120 --> 00:09:31,270
I mean, I think I
personally would never

181

00:09:31,270 --> 00:09:33,160
serve in the armed services.

182

00:09:33,160 --> 00:09:37,330
I would never shoot
against anybody.

183

00:09:37,330 --> 00:09:43,870
But I would-- it's
certainly in some ways

184

00:09:43,870 --> 00:09:49,150
easier to be with people
who have similar experience

185

00:09:49,150 --> 00:09:53,290
than I do than with
people who don't

186

00:09:53,290 --> 00:09:56,960
have any idea of what went on.

187

00:09:56,960 --> 00:10:03,830
But the majority of the people
I meet, you know, they don't.

188

00:10:03,830 --> 00:10:05,450
They read it in books.

189

00:10:05,450 --> 00:10:07,500
Yeah.

190
00:10:07,500 --> 00:10:10,320
Would you-- do you
think you would

191
00:10:10,320 --> 00:10:13,320
have been a different
person today if you

192
00:10:13,320 --> 00:10:14,520
hadn't gone through?

193
00:10:14,520 --> 00:10:15,650
I'm sure I would.

194
00:10:15,650 --> 00:10:16,400
In what way?

195
00:10:16,400 --> 00:10:21,930

196
00:10:21,930 --> 00:10:26,790
Naja, one of the things is, you
know, not so easy to immigrate,

197
00:10:26,790 --> 00:10:30,690
even if you are glad
to leave your country.

198
00:10:30,690 --> 00:10:34,713
Somewhere I feel like I
started off on the first floor

199
00:10:34,713 --> 00:10:35,880
and I don't have a basement.

200
00:10:35,880 --> 00:10:39,030

201
00:10:39,030 --> 00:10:42,790

You know, I've never been
to elementary school here.

202

00:10:42,790 --> 00:10:46,710
Things were very different when
I lived here in Alexandria.

203

00:10:46,710 --> 00:10:51,360
It was so different to anything
I had experienced or ever seen

204

00:10:51,360 --> 00:10:53,070
in my life.

205

00:10:53,070 --> 00:10:58,980
It's not easy to live--

206

00:10:58,980 --> 00:11:00,250
to leave your country.

207

00:11:00,250 --> 00:11:05,020
So in some ways, if I would
have stayed in Germany,

208

00:11:05,020 --> 00:11:07,830
no war, no Nazis,
no nothing, I would

209

00:11:07,830 --> 00:11:10,230
have had a very
nice house, I would

210

00:11:10,230 --> 00:11:11,970
have gone to the university.

211

00:11:11,970 --> 00:11:13,680
I would have studied.

212

00:11:13,680 --> 00:11:16,740
In Germany at this point, I
could have become an engineer,

213

00:11:16,740 --> 00:11:18,090
even as a woman.

214
00:11:18,090 --> 00:11:19,410
I would have studied.

215
00:11:19,410 --> 00:11:21,930
I would have become a
professional person.

216
00:11:21,930 --> 00:11:26,620
And then I would have traveled,
and I would have a good life.

217
00:11:26,620 --> 00:11:30,690
We had enough money, too, so
I could have had a good life.

218
00:11:30,690 --> 00:11:32,750
And it would have
been much easier.

219
00:11:32,750 --> 00:11:35,810

220
00:11:35,810 --> 00:11:43,410
So but-- I mean, to
immigrate is hard.

221
00:11:43,410 --> 00:11:46,440
To move into a
different country.

222
00:11:46,440 --> 00:11:52,080
And Americans are
very nice, so long

223
00:11:52,080 --> 00:11:54,570
as you don't compete with them.

224
00:11:54,570 --> 00:12:00,480
When I went to EU, one
time I went to the English.

225
00:12:00,480 --> 00:12:02,730
You know, I had
to take English 1.

226
00:12:02,730 --> 00:12:03,900
I was then--

227
00:12:03,900 --> 00:12:07,080
I didn't have to take English
2, but I went and talked

228
00:12:07,080 --> 00:12:09,150
to the English professor.

229
00:12:09,150 --> 00:12:12,930
And she said, naja,
people like you became--

230
00:12:12,930 --> 00:12:15,600
she was not against me,
but she told me, she said,

231
00:12:15,600 --> 00:12:18,300
people like you, we can't
discriminate against.

232
00:12:18,300 --> 00:12:20,850
We can't discriminate
against the Blacks.

233
00:12:20,850 --> 00:12:22,560
They're all up in arms.

234
00:12:22,560 --> 00:12:24,240
We can't discriminate.

235
00:12:24,240 --> 00:12:27,180
But people like you, you don't
have anybody to fight for you.

236
00:12:27,180 --> 00:12:31,890

237
00:12:31,890 --> 00:12:33,710
It's true.

238
00:12:33,710 --> 00:12:34,490
And Americans--

239
00:12:34,490 --> 00:12:35,448
You mean immigrants.

240
00:12:35,448 --> 00:12:36,740
She's talking about immigrants.

241
00:12:36,740 --> 00:12:39,560
Yeah, yeah, yeah.

242
00:12:39,560 --> 00:12:42,300
And you know, and
then in this case,

243
00:12:42,300 --> 00:12:45,740
the Jewish community would
have helped the Jews,

244
00:12:45,740 --> 00:12:49,630
but I was separate, and so on.

245
00:12:49,630 --> 00:12:56,900
So Catholic
University, I said OK.

246
00:12:56,900 --> 00:12:59,690
We had-- before
the comprehensives,

247
00:12:59,690 --> 00:13:00,920
I said I'm doomed.

248
00:13:00,920 --> 00:13:02,900
And I went out and cried.

249

00:13:02,900 --> 00:13:04,805

And they said, why you?

250

00:13:04,805 --> 00:13:05,990

You can't flunk.

251

00:13:05,990 --> 00:13:07,250

You have so good grades.

252

00:13:07,250 --> 00:13:08,900

And I said, huh?

253

00:13:08,900 --> 00:13:10,850

One semester, they
flunked a nun,

254

00:13:10,850 --> 00:13:14,780

because they can't
see the forest because

255

00:13:14,780 --> 00:13:16,820

of the individual trees.

256

00:13:16,820 --> 00:13:19,520

The next semester, they
flunk an immigrant.

257

00:13:19,520 --> 00:13:22,540

In my class, there is no nun.

258

00:13:22,540 --> 00:13:23,700

So I'm the victim.

259

00:13:23,700 --> 00:13:27,120

260

00:13:27,120 --> 00:13:29,350

That was in the '70s.

261

00:13:29,350 --> 00:13:30,305

And what happened?

262
00:13:30,305 --> 00:13:31,930
Well, I didn't flunk.

263
00:13:31,930 --> 00:13:33,850
[LAUGHTER]

264
00:13:33,850 --> 00:13:35,470
Naja, they couldn't flunk me.

265
00:13:35,470 --> 00:13:36,700
I had too good grades.

266
00:13:36,700 --> 00:13:38,590
You know, I was
too good a student.

267
00:13:38,590 --> 00:13:43,050
But-- so it keeps on going.

268
00:13:43,050 --> 00:13:46,260
I applied for a job as
a physical therapist,

269
00:13:46,260 --> 00:13:48,540
for the visiting nurses.

270
00:13:48,540 --> 00:13:51,420
And there was-- they
had to interview me.

271
00:13:51,420 --> 00:13:56,970
It was a nurse who was a
spinster, who was not married.

272
00:13:56,970 --> 00:13:59,350
And so on, and so on.

273
00:13:59,350 --> 00:14:02,040
So then, when I came home,
I said, "John, that's a job

274
00:14:02,040 --> 00:14:03,210
I don't get."

275
00:14:03,210 --> 00:14:04,510
He said, "why not?"

276
00:14:04,510 --> 00:14:07,020
And I said, "well,
one thing she told me.

277
00:14:07,020 --> 00:14:10,770
There you are, our
American boys go overseas

278
00:14:10,770 --> 00:14:12,690
and marry all these foreigners.

279
00:14:12,690 --> 00:14:15,330
And then the American
girls can't find husbands."

280
00:14:15,330 --> 00:14:22,500

281
00:14:22,500 --> 00:14:25,040
So discrimination
goes on and on and on.

282
00:14:25,040 --> 00:14:30,050

283
00:14:30,050 --> 00:14:31,280
Have you been to Israel?

284
00:14:31,280 --> 00:14:32,450
Oh, yeah.

285
00:14:32,450 --> 00:14:35,840
What is your-- what are
your thoughts about Israel

286

00:14:35,840 --> 00:14:37,640
and how you feel
when you're there?

287
00:14:37,640 --> 00:14:39,740
Oh, naja, I mean, I love Israel.

288
00:14:39,740 --> 00:14:44,040
You know, I mean, for a while
I really wanted to go there.

289
00:14:44,040 --> 00:14:48,030
In the meantime, it's another
war, I don't want to go.

290
00:14:48,030 --> 00:14:49,160
Naja, no.

291
00:14:49,160 --> 00:14:54,170
But yeah, naja, like all, when
Israel became independent,

292
00:14:54,170 --> 00:14:56,720
you know, I was so elated.

293
00:14:56,720 --> 00:15:00,020
Yeah, I was so elated
that they finally made it,

294
00:15:00,020 --> 00:15:03,147
and they have a home
country and so on.

295
00:15:03,147 --> 00:15:05,105
Now, you know, things
are unfortunately so bad,

296
00:15:05,105 --> 00:15:07,940
you know, with all the
fighting and all that.

297
00:15:07,940 --> 00:15:13,850
But you know, that Israel, that

the Jews had to go somewhere.

298

00:15:13,850 --> 00:15:17,870

And it was the most logical
thing to go to Israel.

299

00:15:17,870 --> 00:15:23,880

And Israel was founded
on idealism, and so on.

300

00:15:23,880 --> 00:15:25,940

So you know, it was--

301

00:15:25,940 --> 00:15:29,630

I mean, it was a wonderful,
wonderful event when Israel

302

00:15:29,630 --> 00:15:32,630

became Israel, and so on.

303

00:15:32,630 --> 00:15:34,070

Oh, yeah, and I was there.

304

00:15:34,070 --> 00:15:38,340

And I was very,
very happy there.

305

00:15:38,340 --> 00:15:39,610

And--

306

00:15:39,610 --> 00:15:41,360

Do you know people
who live there?

307

00:15:41,360 --> 00:15:42,888

Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

308

00:15:42,888 --> 00:15:43,430

Have friends?

309

00:15:43,430 --> 00:15:44,070

Oh, yeah.

310
00:15:44,070 --> 00:15:46,770
Yeah, I know many people
who live in Israel.

311
00:15:46,770 --> 00:15:48,610
Yeah, yeah.

312
00:15:48,610 --> 00:15:50,210
I also know people who lived--

313
00:15:50,210 --> 00:15:52,686
emigrated to Israel and then
came to the United States.

314
00:15:52,686 --> 00:15:55,310

315
00:15:55,310 --> 00:16:00,830
Yeah, we have right now somebody
here who was born in Hamburg,

316
00:16:00,830 --> 00:16:05,330
and then her parents, everybody
went, immigrated to Israel.

317
00:16:05,330 --> 00:16:07,790
And she went.

318
00:16:07,790 --> 00:16:08,540
She got married.

319
00:16:08,540 --> 00:16:12,830
So her oldest daughter got born
there, and then her husband,

320
00:16:12,830 --> 00:16:15,470
they're all Jews and
now were Israelis.

321
00:16:15,470 --> 00:16:17,360
And then they went to Venezuela.

322
00:16:17,360 --> 00:16:19,220
He got a job offer there.

323
00:16:19,220 --> 00:16:20,690
And she came here now.

324
00:16:20,690 --> 00:16:24,950
She said Venezuela is
awful, another dictatorship.

325
00:16:24,950 --> 00:16:28,020
You lost something.

326
00:16:28,020 --> 00:16:28,520
Yeah.

327
00:16:28,520 --> 00:16:31,820

328
00:16:31,820 --> 00:16:37,785
Before we finish, I
just wanted to ask you,

329
00:16:37,785 --> 00:16:40,470
I know what the word
"Mischling" means,

330
00:16:40,470 --> 00:16:42,795
but what does it mean
to you viscerally?

331
00:16:42,795 --> 00:16:43,800
Do you know what I mean?

332
00:16:43,800 --> 00:16:45,300
Emotionally.

333
00:16:45,300 --> 00:16:47,750
Naja, Mischling is
really, in many ways,

334

00:16:47,750 --> 00:16:51,450

you know, you're a mixture
between a Jew and a Christian.

335

00:16:51,450 --> 00:16:55,110

And it's mulattos.

336

00:16:55,110 --> 00:16:57,450

You know, Obama is a Mischling.

337

00:16:57,450 --> 00:16:59,550

Only he is between
Black and White.

338

00:16:59,550 --> 00:17:03,000

339

00:17:03,000 --> 00:17:04,099

But--

340

00:17:04,099 --> 00:17:07,460

Do you consider it derogatory?

341

00:17:07,460 --> 00:17:10,099

I don't feel it
derogatorily, but it feels

342

00:17:10,099 --> 00:17:12,809

like you don't belong anywhere.

343

00:17:12,809 --> 00:17:17,609

344

00:17:17,609 --> 00:17:19,900

The one camp says you're Jewish.

345

00:17:19,900 --> 00:17:22,170

The other camps says,
no, you're a Christian.

346

00:17:22,170 --> 00:17:23,589

So you are in the middle.

347
00:17:23,589 --> 00:17:27,460
You don't belong anywhere.

348
00:17:27,460 --> 00:17:32,740
And so I-- you know, it's
these days, you know,

349
00:17:32,740 --> 00:17:36,010
there's so many mixed marriages
between Black and White

350
00:17:36,010 --> 00:17:36,650
and so on.

351
00:17:36,650 --> 00:17:38,610
And I always feel so
sorry for the kids.

352
00:17:38,610 --> 00:17:41,560
I always think, I
wonder how they feel,

353
00:17:41,560 --> 00:17:44,380
if they always feel, like I
do, that you stand somewhere

354
00:17:44,380 --> 00:17:46,980
between them.

355
00:17:46,980 --> 00:17:50,160
Yeah, and my grandmother,
Mommy's mother,

356
00:17:50,160 --> 00:17:51,660
you know when she said--

357
00:17:51,660 --> 00:17:54,540
one time she said
to us, oh, you know,

358

00:17:54,540 --> 00:17:56,610
you always protect your father.

359
00:17:56,610 --> 00:17:57,930
What about your mother?

360
00:17:57,930 --> 00:18:01,770
And our answer was, but
nobody attacks Mommy,

361
00:18:01,770 --> 00:18:05,250
but everybody attacks Vati.

362
00:18:05,250 --> 00:18:10,030
Wasn't her life in danger,
being married to a Jew?

363
00:18:10,030 --> 00:18:12,100
No, I don't think so.

364
00:18:12,100 --> 00:18:15,040
They're tied to, as
I said, many of them,

365
00:18:15,040 --> 00:18:18,730
they got divorced
because it was--

366
00:18:18,730 --> 00:18:21,760
I don't think they would have
done anything to my mother.

367
00:18:21,760 --> 00:18:24,330
No.

368
00:18:24,330 --> 00:18:25,050
No.

369
00:18:25,050 --> 00:18:26,680
Even though she'd been married?

370
00:18:26,680 --> 00:18:27,180

Mm-hmm.

371

00:18:27,180 --> 00:18:29,950

They told her her blood is--

372

00:18:29,950 --> 00:18:32,370

Oh, her blood is OK.

373

00:18:32,370 --> 00:18:36,000

No, her blood is--

374

00:18:36,000 --> 00:18:37,650

how do you say that?

375

00:18:37,650 --> 00:18:38,190

Pure?

376

00:18:38,190 --> 00:18:40,320

No, it's not pure anymore.

377

00:18:40,320 --> 00:18:41,230

It's impure.

378

00:18:41,230 --> 00:18:41,730

Yeah.

379

00:18:41,730 --> 00:18:42,900

Yeah.

380

00:18:42,900 --> 00:18:47,670

You know, but I don't think
that Mommy was really in danger.

381

00:18:47,670 --> 00:18:51,540

They would have taken my sister
and me, but not my mother.

382

00:18:51,540 --> 00:18:55,710

But we were-- you see, Hitler
in comparison to the Jewish law,

383

00:18:55,710 --> 00:18:59,070
you know, where your mother's
religion is more important,

384
00:18:59,070 --> 00:19:02,640
under Hitler it was more
important what your father is.

385
00:19:02,640 --> 00:19:04,910
Oh.

386
00:19:04,910 --> 00:19:10,370
It was-- so my sister had one
classmate in her class, who

387
00:19:10,370 --> 00:19:11,570
was a Mischling.

388
00:19:11,570 --> 00:19:14,930
You know, half-Jewish,
but her mother was Jewish.

389
00:19:14,930 --> 00:19:18,370
She was never taken.

390
00:19:18,370 --> 00:19:21,160
Her husband was the one.

391
00:19:21,160 --> 00:19:23,380
It was worse to
have a Jewish father

392
00:19:23,380 --> 00:19:26,830
than to have a Jewish mother.

393
00:19:26,830 --> 00:19:29,680
And you were what they called a
Mischling of the first degree?

394
00:19:29,680 --> 00:19:30,650
Yeah, yeah.

395

00:19:30,650 --> 00:19:31,850
The first degree.

396
00:19:31,850 --> 00:19:32,350
Yeah.

397
00:19:32,350 --> 00:19:34,150
And did you ever
have any papers that

398
00:19:34,150 --> 00:19:36,273
said that you were a Mischling?

399
00:19:36,273 --> 00:19:37,690
Was there nothing
ever in writing?

400
00:19:37,690 --> 00:19:40,870

401
00:19:40,870 --> 00:19:43,530
Naja, they told me-- yeah,
I have to look for it.

402
00:19:43,530 --> 00:19:48,300
They told me when they kicked me
out of school that I couldn't--

403
00:19:48,300 --> 00:19:48,930
Verbally?

404
00:19:48,930 --> 00:19:49,680
No, no, no, no.

405
00:19:49,680 --> 00:19:50,610
I got it in paper.

406
00:19:50,610 --> 00:19:51,527
You got it on a paper.

407
00:19:51,527 --> 00:19:53,963
Oh, you got everything on

paper from the Germans.

408
00:19:53,963 --> 00:19:56,440
They were very democr--

409
00:19:56,440 --> 00:19:57,930
very bureaucratic.

410
00:19:57,930 --> 00:20:01,530
I mean, like we got a death
certificate for my father.

411
00:20:01,530 --> 00:20:02,650
Yeah, yeah.

412
00:20:02,650 --> 00:20:06,790
You know, but the--

413
00:20:06,790 --> 00:20:09,160
yeah, and you see,
there was also--

414
00:20:09,160 --> 00:20:13,360
it always depended, if you
had four Jewish grandparents,

415
00:20:13,360 --> 00:20:14,350
you were Jewish.

416
00:20:14,350 --> 00:20:14,860
Right.

417
00:20:14,860 --> 00:20:17,470
If you had two, you
were half-Jewish.

418
00:20:17,470 --> 00:20:20,110
But now, if I had two
Jewish grandparents,

419
00:20:20,110 --> 00:20:23,170
if I marry another

half-Jew, then

420
00:20:23,170 --> 00:20:26,200
my kids would have four
Jewish grandparents.

421
00:20:26,200 --> 00:20:27,550
They would be Jewish again.

422
00:20:27,550 --> 00:20:29,490
Right, right, right.

423
00:20:29,490 --> 00:20:33,770

424
00:20:33,770 --> 00:20:36,020
So actually, though,
from what I understand

425
00:20:36,020 --> 00:20:41,960
when you were growing up, you
did not know other Mischlings.

426
00:20:41,960 --> 00:20:43,010
Oh, yeah, for sure.

427
00:20:43,010 --> 00:20:43,640
You did?

428
00:20:43,640 --> 00:20:45,050
Oh, yeah.

429
00:20:45,050 --> 00:20:46,400
Oh, yeah.

430
00:20:46,400 --> 00:20:47,000
Yeah.

431
00:20:47,000 --> 00:20:49,130
There was another,
one of my classmates

432

00:20:49,130 --> 00:20:53,900
who was her mother was Jewish,
and she was of Jewish religion,

433

00:20:53,900 --> 00:20:55,640
but her father wasn't Jewish.

434

00:20:55,640 --> 00:21:01,010
And they-- but then she
went to Berlin and so on.

435

00:21:01,010 --> 00:21:06,030
And then my cousins were
like my sister and me.

436

00:21:06,030 --> 00:21:06,530
You know.

437

00:21:06,530 --> 00:21:07,470
Oh, right.

438

00:21:07,470 --> 00:21:11,360
[? Albert and Gerhard ?]
And then my sister's friend,

439

00:21:11,360 --> 00:21:13,490
you know, she was a Mischling.

440

00:21:13,490 --> 00:21:15,650
And oh, yeah, there were
lots of them around.

441

00:21:15,650 --> 00:21:16,310
OK.

442

00:21:16,310 --> 00:21:20,616
And we knew other people
in Frankfurt Oder,

443

00:21:20,616 --> 00:21:24,680
where the mother
finally broke down,

444

00:21:24,680 --> 00:21:27,380
the woman walked down and got
divorced from her husband.

445

00:21:27,380 --> 00:21:31,550
Husband was deported the
next day, and she was OK.

446

00:21:31,550 --> 00:21:35,180
But her daughter went with
the children's transport

447

00:21:35,180 --> 00:21:36,330
to England.

448

00:21:36,330 --> 00:21:39,270
So she wasn't even in
the country anymore.

449

00:21:39,270 --> 00:21:41,150
No, I don't know how she would--

450

00:21:41,150 --> 00:21:43,500
how she reacted towards that.

451

00:21:43,500 --> 00:21:48,880
And then we had-- you know,
my father had other people--

452

00:21:48,880 --> 00:21:51,090
I mean, I knew quite
a lot of Mischlings.

453

00:21:51,090 --> 00:21:53,210
Yeah, quite a lot.

454

00:21:53,210 --> 00:21:58,670
When you see that
word written in 2010,

455

00:21:58,670 --> 00:22:01,260

do you have any kind
of reaction to it?

456
00:22:01,260 --> 00:22:01,977
Mischling?

457
00:22:01,977 --> 00:22:03,560
Suppose you picked
up something and it

458
00:22:03,560 --> 00:22:07,660
had that word on the page?

459
00:22:07,660 --> 00:22:08,860
Huh?

460
00:22:08,860 --> 00:22:10,606
Then I would say that's me.

461
00:22:10,606 --> 00:22:12,550
[LAUGHTER]

462
00:22:12,550 --> 00:22:14,230
At this point, no.

463
00:22:14,230 --> 00:22:15,490
I think--

464
00:22:15,490 --> 00:22:22,000
Has it lost its
negative connotation?

465
00:22:22,000 --> 00:22:24,790
To be a Mischling didn't
really bother me so much.

466
00:22:24,790 --> 00:22:28,640
What bothered me most is the
reaction of the two parties,

467
00:22:28,640 --> 00:22:33,532
that they always thought

that I'm neither nor.

468
00:22:33,532 --> 00:22:35,140
Yeah, yeah.

469
00:22:35,140 --> 00:22:36,430
That I was otherwise.

470
00:22:36,430 --> 00:22:37,840
You know, that I
was a Mischling,

471
00:22:37,840 --> 00:22:41,120
that didn't-- my father, I loved
my father, loved my mother.

472
00:22:41,120 --> 00:22:43,840
That was all very nice,
and it didn't bother me.

473
00:22:43,840 --> 00:22:49,505
But each camp really thought
I don't belong there,

474
00:22:49,505 --> 00:22:51,880
you don't belong there, but
there, you don't belong there

475
00:22:51,880 --> 00:22:53,410
either, You belong there.

476
00:22:53,410 --> 00:22:54,940
So we didn't belong anywhere.

477
00:22:54,940 --> 00:22:57,860
Did your mother's family
fully accept your father?

478
00:22:57,860 --> 00:22:58,360
No.

479
00:22:58,360 --> 00:23:01,480

480
00:23:01,480 --> 00:23:03,750
Because of the religious--

481
00:23:03,750 --> 00:23:04,620
Yeah.

482
00:23:04,620 --> 00:23:07,665
Yeah, my grandparents,
my mommy's parents did.

483
00:23:07,665 --> 00:23:09,100
Did accept.

484
00:23:09,100 --> 00:23:09,600
Mm-hmm.

485
00:23:09,600 --> 00:23:10,710
Yeah.

486
00:23:10,710 --> 00:23:12,525
But her relatives did not?

487
00:23:12,525 --> 00:23:14,545
Not really, no.

488
00:23:14,545 --> 00:23:16,160
No.

489
00:23:16,160 --> 00:23:18,560
Was that very upsetting
to your mother?

490
00:23:18,560 --> 00:23:20,050
Yeah.

491
00:23:20,050 --> 00:23:23,940
But it wasn't really that--

492
00:23:23,940 --> 00:23:26,860

I mean, they didn't vocalize
it, really, that much.

493
00:23:26,860 --> 00:23:28,170
We lived in Frankfurt.

494
00:23:28,170 --> 00:23:29,700
They lived in Erfurt.

495
00:23:29,700 --> 00:23:35,040
And I think if Mommy's parents
would have been against Mommy,

496
00:23:35,040 --> 00:23:37,020
that would have been very hard.

497
00:23:37,020 --> 00:23:39,990
But Omi always was
very supportive for us.

498
00:23:39,990 --> 00:23:42,930
And she helped us
financially and everything.

499
00:23:42,930 --> 00:23:51,270
And so-- and my father, you
see, went to my grandfather

500
00:23:51,270 --> 00:23:54,570
and asked, you know,
for the hand of mommy.

501
00:23:54,570 --> 00:23:56,190
And said--

502
00:23:56,190 --> 00:23:59,800
But they knew each
other as children.

503
00:23:59,800 --> 00:24:03,160
There was a
playground in Berlin.

504

00:24:03,160 --> 00:24:08,830

And my parents, both
parents, were members of it.

505

00:24:08,830 --> 00:24:11,950

And the Guttstadts
were on the board.

506

00:24:11,950 --> 00:24:17,260

And so my mother
played with my father

507

00:24:17,260 --> 00:24:20,400

when they were kids and so on.

508

00:24:20,400 --> 00:24:21,880

And then they lost contact.

509

00:24:21,880 --> 00:24:23,340

And there was
another family, the

510

00:24:23,340 --> 00:24:25,500

[? Karls, ?] who
were also Jewish.

511

00:24:25,500 --> 00:24:30,540

And they kept in
contact with both sides.

512

00:24:30,540 --> 00:24:33,630

So they thought that
my father and my mother

513

00:24:33,630 --> 00:24:35,040

should meet again.

514

00:24:35,040 --> 00:24:37,230

And so they invited
them together.

515

00:24:37,230 --> 00:24:39,850

So they really got
them together again.

516
00:24:39,850 --> 00:24:42,420
But they knew each
other as kids.

517
00:24:42,420 --> 00:24:46,470
Yeah, they played on the
same playground and so on.

518
00:24:46,470 --> 00:24:48,690
And then my mother was
very good in tennis.

519
00:24:48,690 --> 00:24:51,480
And my father, I don't,
think played tennis.

520
00:24:51,480 --> 00:24:55,210
But my father could run
and do all these things.

521
00:24:55,210 --> 00:24:56,880
And my mother tells us about it.

522
00:24:56,880 --> 00:25:00,870
When Uncle Fritz and
Vati were brothers,

523
00:25:00,870 --> 00:25:03,000
took her in the middle
and ran with her,

524
00:25:03,000 --> 00:25:05,520
and she never got two
feet on the ground.

525
00:25:05,520 --> 00:25:08,330
[LAUGHTER]

526
00:25:08,330 --> 00:25:08,975
And so on.

527
00:25:08,975 --> 00:25:09,975
So they knew each other.

528
00:25:09,975 --> 00:25:11,640
So the family knew each other.

529
00:25:11,640 --> 00:25:15,100

530
00:25:15,100 --> 00:25:17,440
How do you feel about having
the United States Holocaust

531
00:25:17,440 --> 00:25:22,800
Museum being built
in the United States?

532
00:25:22,800 --> 00:25:26,688
Naja, I'm a founding member.

533
00:25:26,688 --> 00:25:27,960
[LAUGHTER]

534
00:25:27,960 --> 00:25:32,940
I have very mixed feelings
about the Holocaust Museum.

535
00:25:32,940 --> 00:25:37,160
Because you know,
I can go there.

536
00:25:37,160 --> 00:25:39,320
I went there with my--

537
00:25:39,320 --> 00:25:40,700
right after the opening--

538
00:25:40,700 --> 00:25:42,890
naja, my sister and I
went there when it opened.

539

00:25:42,890 --> 00:25:46,860

You know, we lit a candle
for my father and so on.

540

00:25:46,860 --> 00:25:50,450

But then the second time around,
we went with our two cousins.

541

00:25:50,450 --> 00:25:52,025

They're really once removed.

542

00:25:52,025 --> 00:25:53,430

They're from New York.

543

00:25:53,430 --> 00:25:54,560

And we all went.

544

00:25:54,560 --> 00:25:56,570

And then we saw
all the pictures.

545

00:25:56,570 --> 00:25:59,487

And that was funny, because
then [? Loni ?] and her,

546

00:25:59,487 --> 00:26:01,040

they all were in
Berlin, and said,

547

00:26:01,040 --> 00:26:02,960

"Oh, yeah, that's the
synagogue I went to.

548

00:26:02,960 --> 00:26:04,242

That's the school."

549

00:26:04,242 --> 00:26:04,742

Oh, my.

550

00:26:04,742 --> 00:26:06,110

Oh, my.

551

00:26:06,110 --> 00:26:10,080

So it was, you know-- and
then I wasn't upset at all.

552

00:26:10,080 --> 00:26:11,870

And one of my cousins
was [INAUDIBLE]..

553

00:26:11,870 --> 00:26:16,510

So I pushed her in the
wheelchair and so on.

554

00:26:16,510 --> 00:26:19,040

And then I went with
John certainly, too.

555

00:26:19,040 --> 00:26:20,630

But one time I went.

556

00:26:20,630 --> 00:26:22,730

I had visitors.

557

00:26:22,730 --> 00:26:26,960

My classmate who finally
came to us, her two daughters

558

00:26:26,960 --> 00:26:28,380

came over here.

559

00:26:28,380 --> 00:26:30,740

And I took them to
the Holocaust Museum.

560

00:26:30,740 --> 00:26:32,100

And then I spoke German.

561

00:26:32,100 --> 00:26:33,350

And then I couldn't.

562

00:26:33,350 --> 00:26:36,140

I said you go, and I sit down.

563

00:26:36,140 --> 00:26:37,520

And I cried.

564

00:26:37,520 --> 00:26:40,340

Oh, you're speaking
German to them.

565

00:26:40,340 --> 00:26:42,260

Yeah, then I couldn't.

566

00:26:42,260 --> 00:26:45,140

I can go through with Americans.

567

00:26:45,140 --> 00:26:47,240

I go with John's family.

568

00:26:47,240 --> 00:26:49,410

Some of John's family
came, and they said,

569

00:26:49,410 --> 00:26:50,690

can't you go with us?

570

00:26:50,690 --> 00:26:51,950

I said OK.

571

00:26:51,950 --> 00:26:53,330

I can do that.

572

00:26:53,330 --> 00:26:55,700

But when I get the
Germans, then it's out.

573

00:26:55,700 --> 00:26:56,990

Then I can't.

574

00:26:56,990 --> 00:27:00,610

Germans, I can't go.

575

00:27:00,610 --> 00:27:01,510

Then I can't.

576
00:27:01,510 --> 00:27:04,150

577
00:27:04,150 --> 00:27:06,940
Well, it's OK.

578
00:27:06,940 --> 00:27:09,970
I think there are too
many by now almost.

579
00:27:09,970 --> 00:27:13,180
You know, the trouble is, too,
is whether you give anything

580
00:27:13,180 --> 00:27:15,610
to it, you know?

581
00:27:15,610 --> 00:27:19,480
My sister is a member
of the Beck Institute.

582
00:27:19,480 --> 00:27:23,500
And you know, we
looked up some of the--

583
00:27:23,500 --> 00:27:26,410
where some of our
relatives ended up,

584
00:27:26,410 --> 00:27:32,480
who went to
Theresienstadt and out.

585
00:27:32,480 --> 00:27:38,090
Because Theresienstadt
didn't have any gas chambers.

586
00:27:38,090 --> 00:27:39,770
So they all went
to other places.

587

00:27:39,770 --> 00:27:48,430

588

00:27:48,430 --> 00:27:51,340

The way how the people died
in Mauthausen is awful.

589

00:27:51,340 --> 00:28:01,940

590

00:28:01,940 --> 00:28:05,780

Did you purposely
want to learn that?

591

00:28:05,780 --> 00:28:07,310

Because your father was there?

592

00:28:07,310 --> 00:28:11,000

I promised my mother
never to go to Mauthausen.

593

00:28:11,000 --> 00:28:14,390

So I will never go there.

594

00:28:14,390 --> 00:28:16,630

But yeah.

595

00:28:16,630 --> 00:28:21,110

Yeah, I wanted--
you know, so it's--

596

00:28:21,110 --> 00:28:21,610

yeah.

597

00:28:21,610 --> 00:28:24,470

598

00:28:24,470 --> 00:28:30,080

And yeah, the SS-Staat--

599

00:28:30,080 --> 00:28:31,730

this is in English.

600

00:28:31,730 --> 00:28:34,025

I mean, he wrote it
in German, but he

601

00:28:34,025 --> 00:28:37,190

wrote about all the different
ways they died in the camps,

602

00:28:37,190 --> 00:28:37,730

too.

603

00:28:37,730 --> 00:28:40,400

Not everybody died, you
know, in the gas chambers.

604

00:28:40,400 --> 00:28:45,020

They had other ways to kill
people, too, and so on.

605

00:28:45,020 --> 00:28:47,950

So I don't 100% know
how my father died,

606

00:28:47,950 --> 00:28:51,520

but I have a pretty good idea.

607

00:28:51,520 --> 00:28:54,160

Yeah.

608

00:28:54,160 --> 00:28:55,930

But yeah, so it's--

609

00:28:55,930 --> 00:29:00,100

610

00:29:00,100 --> 00:29:04,720

But it's-- that people can--
and that people could--

611

00:29:04,720 --> 00:29:10,030

many of these SS people

who were in camps,

612
00:29:10,030 --> 00:29:11,800
they went home to
their families.

613
00:29:11,800 --> 00:29:13,660
They were good family fathers.

614
00:29:13,660 --> 00:29:16,000
They had dogs and kids.

615
00:29:16,000 --> 00:29:18,115
And then they turned
around and did that.

616
00:29:18,115 --> 00:29:24,210

617
00:29:24,210 --> 00:29:28,740
I assume it's what some of our
soldiers did in Iraq, right?

618
00:29:28,740 --> 00:29:32,260
And what did we do to
some of the people?

619
00:29:32,260 --> 00:29:35,320
How to torture people.

620
00:29:35,320 --> 00:29:40,270
And then they go home and
are good family people.

621
00:29:40,270 --> 00:29:41,560
It's hard to believe.

622
00:29:41,560 --> 00:29:45,004

623
00:29:45,004 --> 00:29:47,230
So as you said

before, you still feel

624
00:29:47,230 --> 00:29:53,544
that the world has really
not learned the lessons.

625
00:29:53,544 --> 00:29:56,500
Or has it?

626
00:29:56,500 --> 00:29:59,990
Now, for most people by now,
I'm afraid that the Holocaust

627
00:29:59,990 --> 00:30:00,865
is somewhere history.

628
00:30:00,865 --> 00:30:03,970

629
00:30:03,970 --> 00:30:07,030
And for most people, probably.

630
00:30:07,030 --> 00:30:08,320
I mean, you can't--

631
00:30:08,320 --> 00:30:09,980
I haven't tried it.

632
00:30:09,980 --> 00:30:15,250
But any time you would talk
to any German about it,

633
00:30:15,250 --> 00:30:17,470
then they would
immediately tell you

634
00:30:17,470 --> 00:30:21,760
how bad it was during the war
with ration cards and bombs

635
00:30:21,760 --> 00:30:23,810
falling on your

head, and all that.

636
00:30:23,810 --> 00:30:29,070
Immediately will tell you how
bad it was to shut you up.

637
00:30:29,070 --> 00:30:37,500
They also had taught in the
'50s a joke, the Volkswagen.

638
00:30:37,500 --> 00:30:39,915
How many people go
in a Volkswagen?

639
00:30:39,915 --> 00:30:42,737
Four Germans and one Jew.

640
00:30:42,737 --> 00:30:43,820
The Jew is in the ashtray.

641
00:30:43,820 --> 00:30:49,975

642
00:30:49,975 --> 00:30:54,660
One of my classmates in physical
therapy school told me that.

643
00:30:54,660 --> 00:30:56,540
But then we were, too,
from East Germany,

644
00:30:56,540 --> 00:30:59,030
and they didn't trust us either.

645
00:30:59,030 --> 00:31:00,520
They thought that we were spies.

646
00:31:00,520 --> 00:31:04,340

647
00:31:04,340 --> 00:31:12,690
So depends to whom you speak.

648
00:31:12,690 --> 00:31:15,540

649
00:31:15,540 --> 00:31:19,820
And if you don't
say anything, OK.

650
00:31:19,820 --> 00:31:24,490
But-- and it was awful.

651
00:31:24,490 --> 00:31:28,710
You know, after the war
the rats were that big.

652
00:31:28,710 --> 00:31:30,990
And the people were
lying in the streets.

653
00:31:30,990 --> 00:31:32,220
They ate on them, you know?

654
00:31:32,220 --> 00:31:33,610
I mean, there was--

655
00:31:33,610 --> 00:31:37,200
you walked along the streets
and there was a pipe coming up,

656
00:31:37,200 --> 00:31:39,180
and people were
living under earth

657
00:31:39,180 --> 00:31:43,330
because it was all destroyed.

658
00:31:43,330 --> 00:31:45,865
I mean, it was horrible.

659
00:31:45,865 --> 00:31:48,220
Yeah, we went to--

660

00:31:48,220 --> 00:31:52,760

you just stepped
over dead bodies.

661

00:31:52,760 --> 00:31:54,170

Yeah.

662

00:31:54,170 --> 00:31:57,080

We went-- my mommy and
my sister and I, that

663

00:31:57,080 --> 00:31:59,990

was before the war was over.

664

00:31:59,990 --> 00:32:04,700

You know, Potsdam was, like
Dresden, declared an open city.

665

00:32:04,700 --> 00:32:07,710

But nevertheless,
Americans bombed it.

666

00:32:07,710 --> 00:32:10,280

And so we went by train.

667

00:32:10,280 --> 00:32:13,670

We went in, and then we
had-- at last we had to walk.

668

00:32:13,670 --> 00:32:16,340

And there were all these
bodies lying there.

669

00:32:16,340 --> 00:32:17,630

And I fainted.

670

00:32:17,630 --> 00:32:19,940

I'm not very good
in seeing blood.

671

00:32:19,940 --> 00:32:22,580

But nevertheless,

there was lying a hand,

672

00:32:22,580 --> 00:32:25,580

there was something there,
and you just kept on going.

673

00:32:25,580 --> 00:32:28,760

I happened to go
there, you know?

674

00:32:28,760 --> 00:32:30,470

You just went.

675

00:32:30,470 --> 00:32:31,740

And sure, it was awful.

676

00:32:31,740 --> 00:32:34,590

677

00:32:34,590 --> 00:32:36,630

It had nothing to do
with the Holocaust.

678

00:32:36,630 --> 00:32:38,435

It was the war.

679

00:32:38,435 --> 00:32:40,990

That was awful.

680

00:32:40,990 --> 00:32:42,790

And these are
people, not soldiers.

681

00:32:42,790 --> 00:32:44,520

They were just civilians.

682

00:32:44,520 --> 00:32:46,200

You know, the train was hit.

683

00:32:46,200 --> 00:32:48,045

Which was one of
the suburban trains.

684
00:32:48,045 --> 00:32:50,790

685
00:32:50,790 --> 00:32:51,840
Yeah.

686
00:32:51,840 --> 00:32:55,410
So that's awful, yeah.

687
00:32:55,410 --> 00:32:59,070
So war, yeah, I
don't believe in war.

688
00:32:59,070 --> 00:33:02,362
I always tell people,
it's sanctified murder.

689
00:33:02,362 --> 00:33:03,570
They don't like to hear that.

690
00:33:03,570 --> 00:33:08,640

691
00:33:08,640 --> 00:33:09,970
And you know, I can unders--

692
00:33:09,970 --> 00:33:13,810
I mean, these guys here, and
they're all trigger happy,

693
00:33:13,810 --> 00:33:14,310
you know?

694
00:33:14,310 --> 00:33:19,860
I mean, either you or me,
it's better you and not me.

695
00:33:19,860 --> 00:33:21,700
Human beings want to survive.

696

00:33:21,700 --> 00:33:25,200
I mean, the people who survived
in the concentration camps

697
00:33:25,200 --> 00:33:27,050
had a very strong
will to survive.

698
00:33:27,050 --> 00:33:31,740

699
00:33:31,740 --> 00:33:33,150
Yeah.

700
00:33:33,150 --> 00:33:37,896
And so religious, the
Orthodox Jews were the best.

701
00:33:37,896 --> 00:33:39,910
And the communists.

702
00:33:39,910 --> 00:33:42,460
The murderers were
the best because they

703
00:33:42,460 --> 00:33:46,400
didn't care about heaven.

704
00:33:46,400 --> 00:33:47,460
You know, they helped.

705
00:33:47,460 --> 00:33:50,750

706
00:33:50,750 --> 00:33:54,520
The ones who caved in were
the elite, the university

707
00:33:54,520 --> 00:33:58,180
professors, the doctors
and all these people.

708

00:33:58,180 --> 00:34:00,340
They couldn't cope with that.

709
00:34:00,340 --> 00:34:03,370
They were also the
ones who informed.

710
00:34:03,370 --> 00:34:07,060
If they saw anybody, a
Jew anywhere around there,

711
00:34:07,060 --> 00:34:09,420
they were informing.

712
00:34:09,420 --> 00:34:12,060
They were frightened to
death of their own life.

713
00:34:12,060 --> 00:34:15,150
You know, the laborers
and the communists

714
00:34:15,150 --> 00:34:19,830
and so on, they were
much more helpful.

715
00:34:19,830 --> 00:34:21,659
When I was very
depressed there, I

716
00:34:21,659 --> 00:34:23,620
went to the northern
part of Berlin,

717
00:34:23,620 --> 00:34:25,600
where all the laborers
work and so on,

718
00:34:25,600 --> 00:34:27,600
and I felt much
more secure there

719
00:34:27,600 --> 00:34:31,880

than when I was in the more
fancy places in Berlin.

720
00:34:31,880 --> 00:34:37,670

721
00:34:37,670 --> 00:34:44,690
But human nature is
something, it's very strange.

722
00:34:44,690 --> 00:34:46,105
Very strange.

723
00:34:46,105 --> 00:34:50,940
Do you and your sister
talk about those years?

724
00:34:50,940 --> 00:34:53,580
Sometimes yes.

725
00:34:53,580 --> 00:34:54,230
Sometimes.

726
00:34:54,230 --> 00:34:57,590
Has she been willing
to talk about it?

727
00:34:57,590 --> 00:34:58,540
Yeah.

728
00:34:58,540 --> 00:35:02,890
Yeah, and our memories are
somewhat different, you know?

729
00:35:02,890 --> 00:35:05,260
You know, we said
something lately,

730
00:35:05,260 --> 00:35:07,970
and she said, Oh, I don't
remember that at all.

731

00:35:07,970 --> 00:35:10,000
And sometimes she says
something and I said,

732
00:35:10,000 --> 00:35:12,080
I don't remember that at all.

733
00:35:12,080 --> 00:35:13,540
And so on.

734
00:35:13,540 --> 00:35:15,810
You know, like I
said, I can't remember

735
00:35:15,810 --> 00:35:18,520
when my elementary
school teacher told us

736
00:35:18,520 --> 00:35:21,760
we have to say "Heil Hitler."

737
00:35:21,760 --> 00:35:23,110
I have no idea.

738
00:35:23,110 --> 00:35:25,570
It didn't make any
impression on me.

739
00:35:25,570 --> 00:35:28,900
And so certain things.

740
00:35:28,900 --> 00:35:33,840
And two years difference,
I guess, is a difference.

741
00:35:33,840 --> 00:35:36,900
And one time Renata
[? Chernov ?]

742
00:35:36,900 --> 00:35:39,510
and Frieda Blumenthal,
who is dead by now,

743

00:35:39,510 --> 00:35:43,170

who was older than both of us,
and I, we went to an exhibit

744

00:35:43,170 --> 00:35:43,980

together.

745

00:35:43,980 --> 00:35:46,650

And then Renata said to us--

746

00:35:46,650 --> 00:35:49,440

said Amos wanted
to go to, I think

747

00:35:49,440 --> 00:35:52,020

it was to Berlin,
to a conference.

748

00:35:52,020 --> 00:35:55,770

And she was considering
to go or not.

749

00:35:55,770 --> 00:35:57,600

And I said don't!

750

00:35:57,600 --> 00:35:59,940

And Frieda said, sure, why not?

751

00:35:59,940 --> 00:36:04,740

But then she could remember
Germany before Hitler.

752

00:36:04,740 --> 00:36:05,980

I couldn't, really.

753

00:36:05,980 --> 00:36:08,662

754

00:36:08,662 --> 00:36:10,010

Right.

755

00:36:10,010 --> 00:36:11,810
It was typical.

756
00:36:11,810 --> 00:36:14,840
Renata just looked at us both.

757
00:36:14,840 --> 00:36:17,120
Yeah, yeah.

758
00:36:17,120 --> 00:36:19,970
She could still remember
when things were different.

759
00:36:19,970 --> 00:36:22,800

760
00:36:22,800 --> 00:36:23,880
Yeah.

761
00:36:23,880 --> 00:36:30,340
So it's always-- it makes
a big difference, yeah.

762
00:36:30,340 --> 00:36:31,270
Yeah.

763
00:36:31,270 --> 00:36:34,720
But for you, it always meant
you were eight years old when

764
00:36:34,720 --> 00:36:37,210
Hitler came into power, so--

765
00:36:37,210 --> 00:36:39,370
No, I wasn't really eight yet.

766
00:36:39,370 --> 00:36:39,940
Well, almost.

767
00:36:39,940 --> 00:36:41,950
Yeah, seven.

768
00:36:41,950 --> 00:36:43,270
Seven.

769
00:36:43,270 --> 00:36:45,430
So for you, it always meant--

770
00:36:45,430 --> 00:36:48,550
Germany always meant
tension and stress.

771
00:36:48,550 --> 00:36:52,420
Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

772
00:36:52,420 --> 00:36:53,650
And we were surrounded.

773
00:36:53,650 --> 00:36:55,960
Our house was here.

774
00:36:55,960 --> 00:36:58,240
And there was
another house here.

775
00:36:58,240 --> 00:37:01,530
And this was where the SS was.

776
00:37:01,530 --> 00:37:02,030
Oh.

777
00:37:02,030 --> 00:37:03,860
So they could always watch us.

778
00:37:03,860 --> 00:37:06,920
And then right over
there was a house,

779
00:37:06,920 --> 00:37:09,980
and there was a
Lutheran pastor living.

780
00:37:09,980 --> 00:37:11,960

But you know, there
were two branches.

781
00:37:11,960 --> 00:37:16,580
One was the Deutsche Christen,
the German Christians

782
00:37:16,580 --> 00:37:17,810
who were Nazis.

783
00:37:17,810 --> 00:37:20,360
And the other one was
the Confessing Church,

784
00:37:20,360 --> 00:37:21,465
which we are not.

785
00:37:21,465 --> 00:37:24,110
Niemoller [INAUDIBLE]
in Confessing.

786
00:37:24,110 --> 00:37:26,120
But this guy was a
Deutscher Christ.

787
00:37:26,120 --> 00:37:28,920
So there he was, and
there was the SS.

788
00:37:28,920 --> 00:37:31,080
And they were so good together.

789
00:37:31,080 --> 00:37:33,930
Yeah, yeah.

790
00:37:33,930 --> 00:37:40,130
But when I was--

791
00:37:40,130 --> 00:37:41,690
and my teacher was very nice.

792
00:37:41,690 --> 00:37:42,820

I wrote to my teacher.

793

00:37:42,820 --> 00:37:46,310

The last thing I sent was my wedding announcement, which

794

00:37:46,310 --> 00:37:48,530

came because that she had died.

795

00:37:48,530 --> 00:37:54,050

But she was very nice, and she was very good to me.

796

00:37:54,050 --> 00:37:59,690

But-- and in the beginning, I really acted--

797

00:37:59,690 --> 00:38:04,400

I had somebody across from us, was somebody living

798

00:38:04,400 --> 00:38:05,470

who was very poor.

799

00:38:05,470 --> 00:38:08,600

It was a very old house, and it was a poor house.

800

00:38:08,600 --> 00:38:14,590

And she is a-- we had to pay to go to Gymnasium.

801

00:38:14,590 --> 00:38:16,550

Not very much, but we had to pay.

802

00:38:16,550 --> 00:38:18,540

And also to the middle school.

803

00:38:18,540 --> 00:38:20,960

So she was a good student, and she

804

00:38:20,960 --> 00:38:23,990

had to keep on going
to elementary school

805

00:38:23,990 --> 00:38:25,950

because her parents
couldn't afford it.

806

00:38:25,950 --> 00:38:27,890

So I went to the
teacher, and I said

807

00:38:27,890 --> 00:38:31,520

you have to see that
she get a fellowship.

808

00:38:31,520 --> 00:38:33,440

And she did get one.

809

00:38:33,440 --> 00:38:34,940

But this was '36.

810

00:38:34,940 --> 00:38:40,130

By then, you know, things were
already difficult and so on.

811

00:38:40,130 --> 00:38:42,980

But I didn't hesitate
then to do that.

812

00:38:42,980 --> 00:38:45,990

I didn't feel like
I couldn't do that.

813

00:38:45,990 --> 00:38:48,460

And she did get her fellowship.

814

00:38:48,460 --> 00:38:50,656

I was very happy about that.

815

00:38:50,656 --> 00:38:52,390

[LAUGHTER]

816
00:38:52,390 --> 00:38:55,600
What-- when you would see
the flag with the swastika

817
00:38:55,600 --> 00:39:01,210
or the men in their boots and
their uniforms as a child,

818
00:39:01,210 --> 00:39:04,570
is that frightening also?

819
00:39:04,570 --> 00:39:08,345
Naja, we really, in many
ways, we didn't-- naja,

820
00:39:08,345 --> 00:39:09,880
the swastika you saw.

821
00:39:09,880 --> 00:39:12,010
You saw that my mother
was always upset,

822
00:39:12,010 --> 00:39:14,470
because Hitler's birthday
on the 20th of April

823
00:39:14,470 --> 00:39:16,210
and she on the 21st.

824
00:39:16,210 --> 00:39:20,828
And on the 21st, they hadn't
taken down these flags.

825
00:39:20,828 --> 00:39:22,130
Oh!

826
00:39:22,130 --> 00:39:22,975
Which was awful.

827
00:39:22,975 --> 00:39:26,050

828

00:39:26,050 --> 00:39:31,090
Naja, so I mean, but the SS and
marching and boots and so on,

829

00:39:31,090 --> 00:39:34,660
we didn't really
see this so much.

830

00:39:34,660 --> 00:39:36,400
I saw military people.

831

00:39:36,400 --> 00:39:39,040
But in many ways, I saw--

832

00:39:39,040 --> 00:39:43,450
under Hitler in many ways, and
this is under a dictatorship,

833

00:39:43,450 --> 00:39:45,200
I mean, there was a curfew.

834

00:39:45,200 --> 00:39:48,100
You weren't supposed
to be out after 11:00.

835

00:39:48,100 --> 00:39:51,220
But in many ways,
it was much safer

836

00:39:51,220 --> 00:39:54,910
than under other conditions.

837

00:39:54,910 --> 00:39:56,890
Less murder and
any of those things

838

00:39:56,890 --> 00:39:59,890
of between the general public.

839

00:39:59,890 --> 00:40:02,890
And you saw less police than

you see when you go downtown

840
00:40:02,890 --> 00:40:05,630
to Washington.

841
00:40:05,630 --> 00:40:07,220
And so on.

842
00:40:07,220 --> 00:40:11,650
So you know, and I
heard Hitler talk.

843
00:40:11,650 --> 00:40:14,050
When you would hear
him talk on the radio?

844
00:40:14,050 --> 00:40:16,180
Oh, sure.

845
00:40:16,180 --> 00:40:20,050
Or on television.

846
00:40:20,050 --> 00:40:21,670
On television?

847
00:40:21,670 --> 00:40:23,410
Mm-hmm.

848
00:40:23,410 --> 00:40:25,000
Yeah, we heard him.

849
00:40:25,000 --> 00:40:26,560
I mean, we had to listen to him.

850
00:40:26,560 --> 00:40:29,980
We had to know what's going on.

851
00:40:29,980 --> 00:40:32,956
Who had an early television?

852
00:40:32,956 --> 00:40:35,600

Where did we see the television?

853

00:40:35,600 --> 00:40:37,180

Maybe I didn't see that.

854

00:40:37,180 --> 00:40:39,790

No, I think I only
heard him on the radio.

855

00:40:39,790 --> 00:40:43,060

And television, I saw
the stuff after the war.

856

00:40:43,060 --> 00:40:44,170

And there on it.

857

00:40:44,170 --> 00:40:46,750

858

00:40:46,750 --> 00:40:49,180

Or maybe in a news reel
in the movie theater?

859

00:40:49,180 --> 00:40:50,970

Yeah, the news reel.

860

00:40:50,970 --> 00:40:51,640

Yeah.

861

00:40:51,640 --> 00:40:53,530

We had always the news reels.

862

00:40:53,530 --> 00:40:54,160

Yeah.

863

00:40:54,160 --> 00:40:55,960

We had the news reels.

864

00:40:55,960 --> 00:40:58,210

Now, when you would hear him?

865

00:40:58,210 --> 00:41:00,040
I thought he was an idiot.

866
00:41:00,040 --> 00:41:00,773
You did?

867
00:41:00,773 --> 00:41:03,090
[CHUCKLING]

868
00:41:03,090 --> 00:41:05,650
I thought he was an idiot.

869
00:41:05,650 --> 00:41:08,170
And then they had a
power struggle one time.

870
00:41:08,170 --> 00:41:10,340
When was that?

871
00:41:10,340 --> 00:41:12,770
Pretty much to the
end of the war, too.

872
00:41:12,770 --> 00:41:13,890
They had a power struggle.

873
00:41:13,890 --> 00:41:17,990
He wanted to kill Goebbels.

874
00:41:17,990 --> 00:41:22,550
And Goebbels said, OK, if
you kill me, I will talk.

875
00:41:22,550 --> 00:41:27,330
So three days later,
Goebbels was in power again.

876
00:41:27,330 --> 00:41:28,830
But it's--

877
00:41:28,830 --> 00:41:39,290

878
00:41:39,290 --> 00:41:41,790
But he was-- people were--

879
00:41:41,790 --> 00:41:45,440
it was like to see--
like when Beck talked.

880
00:41:45,440 --> 00:41:50,140
People were hysterical
when they saw him.

881
00:41:50,140 --> 00:41:52,900
And then they had
this idiotic thing.

882
00:41:52,900 --> 00:41:56,680
"If the Fuhrer would know,
that wouldn't happen."

883
00:41:56,680 --> 00:41:59,435
Come on.

884
00:41:59,435 --> 00:42:01,810
Oh, if the Fuhrer would know
all the terrible things that

885
00:42:01,810 --> 00:42:04,060
happened, he wouldn't have--

886
00:42:04,060 --> 00:42:05,650
Yeah.

887
00:42:05,650 --> 00:42:07,920
Yeah.

888
00:42:07,920 --> 00:42:13,128
But the people were
hysterical when they saw him.

889
00:42:13,128 --> 00:42:13,628
You know?

890
00:42:13,628 --> 00:42:16,320

891
00:42:16,320 --> 00:42:19,950
So it was-- and the young
people, you know in Berlin

892
00:42:19,950 --> 00:42:25,210
we had the werewolf in Berlin.

893
00:42:25,210 --> 00:42:26,710
You don't know the werewolf?

894
00:42:26,710 --> 00:42:28,486
We had to the end of--

895
00:42:28,486 --> 00:42:30,760
you see, the five
story apartment

896
00:42:30,760 --> 00:42:35,350
houses and the whole
block, because of the bombs

897
00:42:35,350 --> 00:42:37,730
all the attics were connected.

898
00:42:37,730 --> 00:42:39,790
So the wall was broken down.

899
00:42:39,790 --> 00:42:42,370
In the basement, also
they had only one wall

900
00:42:42,370 --> 00:42:44,590
which you could really
hit and connect,

901
00:42:44,590 --> 00:42:48,890
so you could get out if your
house was hit and so on.

902
00:42:48,890 --> 00:42:53,260
So the young guys, the
16-year-old ones and so on,

903
00:42:53,260 --> 00:42:55,180
were fanatic Nazis.

904
00:42:55,180 --> 00:43:01,600
And they were running around
in these attics and shooting.

905
00:43:01,600 --> 00:43:04,960
And then the Russians
went in and said,

906
00:43:04,960 --> 00:43:09,280
if you don't get them down,
then you all have to go out.

907
00:43:09,280 --> 00:43:10,480
And one time they did.

908
00:43:10,480 --> 00:43:14,410
They had their tanks
set up in Pankow.

909
00:43:14,410 --> 00:43:16,480
And then they went
down in the basement

910
00:43:16,480 --> 00:43:18,790
and put the women in the front.

911
00:43:18,790 --> 00:43:22,060
And then they told the werewolf,
OK, now this is your mothers.

912
00:43:22,060 --> 00:43:23,980
Stop shooting.

913
00:43:23,980 --> 00:43:25,390

But they didn't.

914
00:43:25,390 --> 00:43:27,100
So they sent the
women down again.

915
00:43:27,100 --> 00:43:30,920

916
00:43:30,920 --> 00:43:34,235
Some of the German young
people were very fanatic.

917
00:43:34,235 --> 00:43:36,870

918
00:43:36,870 --> 00:43:42,120
And the Germans had
these flame throwers.

919
00:43:42,120 --> 00:43:50,220
So they throw-- so they
shot into the first floor.

920
00:43:50,220 --> 00:43:54,780
And then the houses started to
burn from the lower part up.

921
00:43:54,780 --> 00:43:57,000
And then the Russians
went down and said,

922
00:43:57,000 --> 00:43:58,020
your house is burning.

923
00:43:58,020 --> 00:43:59,050
You better come up.

924
00:43:59,050 --> 00:44:02,970
And so I mean, we
had the Red Armies,

925

00:44:02,970 --> 00:44:05,650
which were supposed to be
better than the others.

926
00:44:05,650 --> 00:44:07,050
They did lots of bad things.

927
00:44:07,050 --> 00:44:09,070
But nevertheless--
nevertheless, I

928
00:44:09,070 --> 00:44:12,500
know only one girl
who was raped.

929
00:44:12,500 --> 00:44:15,870
I only know one
girl who was raped.

930
00:44:15,870 --> 00:44:19,080
But in the country was
a different matter.

931
00:44:19,080 --> 00:44:21,270
But we were on the border.

932
00:44:21,270 --> 00:44:24,930
So where we lived in,
behind us was what we called

933
00:44:24,930 --> 00:44:29,070
the [? "Stalinorgel," ?]
which is automatic cannons.

934
00:44:29,070 --> 00:44:30,360
Woo, woo!

935
00:44:30,360 --> 00:44:31,110
And so on.

936
00:44:31,110 --> 00:44:33,150
They were right behind us.

937

00:44:33,150 --> 00:44:38,440

And then before us, they
never got further there.

938

00:44:38,440 --> 00:44:42,120

The next part they
never got until Berlin

939

00:44:42,120 --> 00:44:46,070

capitulated on the 2nd of April.

940

00:44:46,070 --> 00:44:48,040

So we were under fire every day.

941

00:44:48,040 --> 00:44:52,270

And the Russians came with
their little panzer wagons.

942

00:44:52,270 --> 00:44:54,940

You know, the ones they
had from Siberia and so on?

943

00:44:54,940 --> 00:44:56,050

That's all they had.

944

00:44:56,050 --> 00:44:59,080

Otherwise, everything
was made in USA.

945

00:44:59,080 --> 00:45:02,140

The uniforms and
everything was made in USA

946

00:45:02,140 --> 00:45:03,790

when they marched into Berlin.

947

00:45:03,790 --> 00:45:08,070

948

00:45:08,070 --> 00:45:11,710

And we were frightened
to death of them.

949
00:45:11,710 --> 00:45:13,020
Yeah, I think.

950
00:45:13,020 --> 00:45:16,380
it was the Gestapo and
all this, and then you

951
00:45:16,380 --> 00:45:20,560
had the Russians
you were afraid of.

952
00:45:20,560 --> 00:45:22,480
And the American army?

953
00:45:22,480 --> 00:45:24,640
Well, they never
came where I was.

954
00:45:24,640 --> 00:45:25,450
Yeah, yeah.

955
00:45:25,450 --> 00:45:26,680
They came afterwards.

956
00:45:26,680 --> 00:45:28,780
You see, they
stopped at the Elbe.

957
00:45:28,780 --> 00:45:29,950
Right, right.

958
00:45:29,950 --> 00:45:32,573
By the time they came,
the war was over.

959
00:45:32,573 --> 00:45:33,500
The war was over.

960
00:45:33,500 --> 00:45:34,610
Yeah.

961
00:45:34,610 --> 00:45:36,440
The Russians conquered Berlin.

962
00:45:36,440 --> 00:45:36,940
Right.

963
00:45:36,940 --> 00:45:40,630

964
00:45:40,630 --> 00:45:41,930
Yeah.

965
00:45:41,930 --> 00:45:43,610
That was the capital.

966
00:45:43,610 --> 00:45:45,610
What did America mean
to you at that point?

967
00:45:45,610 --> 00:45:49,640

968
00:45:49,640 --> 00:45:54,490
Well, at this point,
I mean, I was glad

969
00:45:54,490 --> 00:45:56,200
when the Americans came.

970
00:45:56,200 --> 00:45:58,330
I was more-- would
have been more glad

971
00:45:58,330 --> 00:46:01,390
if I would have been in
the American zone and not

972
00:46:01,390 --> 00:46:03,700
in the Russian zone in Berlin.

973
00:46:03,700 --> 00:46:07,420

But you know, we--

974
00:46:07,420 --> 00:46:08,620
I meant the country itself.

975
00:46:08,620 --> 00:46:09,370
What did--

976
00:46:09,370 --> 00:46:10,570
Oh, I loved America.

977
00:46:10,570 --> 00:46:13,900
My father was here
with the Schinkelpreis.

978
00:46:13,900 --> 00:46:16,690
You know, the
architectural prize he won.

979
00:46:16,690 --> 00:46:20,590
He came to the United States
and studied the railroads here.

980
00:46:20,590 --> 00:46:24,010
And he came back, and we
had a suitcase in the attic

981
00:46:24,010 --> 00:46:26,320
full of stuff from America.

982
00:46:26,320 --> 00:46:29,320
So my father always said,
when you grow older,

983
00:46:29,320 --> 00:46:31,000
you know, we are
going to America.

984
00:46:31,000 --> 00:46:33,680
Not to emigrate,
but to visit so on.

985

00:46:33,680 --> 00:46:37,180
So my sister and I grew
up with a love to America.

986
00:46:37,180 --> 00:46:40,030
But we always thought
that is a wonderful dream.

987
00:46:40,030 --> 00:46:42,310
We will never make it.

988
00:46:42,310 --> 00:46:46,930
So when the Americans
actually came, you know, yeah.

989
00:46:46,930 --> 00:46:53,050
But on the other hand, before
I went to physical therapy

990
00:46:53,050 --> 00:46:56,950
school, I had to make a
Praktikum in a hospital.

991
00:46:56,950 --> 00:46:58,240
So I was in--

992
00:46:58,240 --> 00:47:01,060
I thought I go to
children's hospital.

993
00:47:01,060 --> 00:47:04,180
It's better to take a
visit from the children

994
00:47:04,180 --> 00:47:06,040
and not from the adults.

995
00:47:06,040 --> 00:47:07,585
So I went to a
children's hospital.

996
00:47:07,585 --> 00:47:09,040
And that was bombed out.

997
00:47:09,040 --> 00:47:10,840
So we were in the country.

998
00:47:10,840 --> 00:47:13,450
And then this was
in American zone.

999
00:47:13,450 --> 00:47:15,640
And then they had maneuvers.

1000
00:47:15,640 --> 00:47:20,020
And the Americans
had these huge tanks.

1001
00:47:20,020 --> 00:47:26,780
And the houses, the tanks were
as big as the houses were high.

1002
00:47:26,780 --> 00:47:29,690
And then on top there
were these Black soldiers.

1003
00:47:29,690 --> 00:47:30,920
Oh.

1004
00:47:30,920 --> 00:47:33,270
And I remember I had
to cross the street.

1005
00:47:33,270 --> 00:47:36,740
I had night shift, and I
had to go across the street

1006
00:47:36,740 --> 00:47:39,980
to where I was
staying, you know?

1007
00:47:39,980 --> 00:47:42,110
And I was afraid of them.

1008
00:47:42,110 --> 00:47:43,940

I was frightened
to death of them.

1009
00:47:43,940 --> 00:47:48,320
They looked awful frightening.

1010
00:47:48,320 --> 00:47:49,590
I know they would not--

1011
00:47:49,590 --> 00:47:50,570
I didn't know.

1012
00:47:50,570 --> 00:47:54,806
They were soldiers, and
so all soldiers are bad.

1013
00:47:54,806 --> 00:47:59,770
An occupation army is
no good for civilians.

1014
00:47:59,770 --> 00:48:01,870
And the Americans had a plus.

1015
00:48:01,870 --> 00:48:03,590
You know, the Russians
had no choice.

1016
00:48:03,590 --> 00:48:05,050
They had to rape women.

1017
00:48:05,050 --> 00:48:07,540
The Americans said, "hi, baby.

1018
00:48:07,540 --> 00:48:10,980
I have chocolate" and found
enough girls to go with them.

1019
00:48:10,980 --> 00:48:13,880

1020
00:48:13,880 --> 00:48:17,360
The British and the

French were different.

1021
00:48:17,360 --> 00:48:19,430
But the Americans, you know?

1022
00:48:19,430 --> 00:48:22,400
But then in Frankfurt
Main in the main streets,

1023
00:48:22,400 --> 00:48:24,860
you know, the Americans,
the young soldiers,

1024
00:48:24,860 --> 00:48:26,690
they flew out of the bars drunk.

1025
00:48:26,690 --> 00:48:29,940

1026
00:48:29,940 --> 00:48:33,330
I mean, an occupation
army is no good.

1027
00:48:33,330 --> 00:48:38,150
And you try not to get
involved with occupation army.

1028
00:48:38,150 --> 00:48:42,200
Even if I didn't try to
get involved with them.

1029
00:48:42,200 --> 00:48:45,140
When you came to the United
States, how did you get here?

1030
00:48:45,140 --> 00:48:45,810
By boat.

1031
00:48:45,810 --> 00:48:46,310
By boat.

1032
00:48:46,310 --> 00:48:47,750

Which boat?

1033
00:48:47,750 --> 00:48:49,873
United States.

1034
00:48:49,873 --> 00:48:51,040
It was called United States.

1035
00:48:51,040 --> 00:48:52,180
Oh, it was called
"The United States"?

1036
00:48:52,180 --> 00:48:52,720
Yeah.

1037
00:48:52,720 --> 00:48:54,880
They were two-- America
and The United States.

1038
00:48:54,880 --> 00:48:57,880
It was was American boats, yeah.

1039
00:48:57,880 --> 00:48:59,430
Yeah.

1040
00:48:59,430 --> 00:49:00,687
Yeah.

1041
00:49:00,687 --> 00:49:02,520
Well, is there anything
else you wanted to--

1042
00:49:02,520 --> 00:49:07,080
you would like to say
or would like to add?

1043
00:49:07,080 --> 00:49:09,434
Anything you can think of?

1044
00:49:09,434 --> 00:49:11,840
[CHUCKLING]

1045
00:49:11,840 --> 00:49:12,340

1046
00:49:12,340 --> 00:49:13,180
No.

1047
00:49:13,180 --> 00:49:15,670
It's wonderful that
you did this interview.

1048
00:49:15,670 --> 00:49:19,210
As you said, you couldn't
always have done it.

1049
00:49:19,210 --> 00:49:23,710
No, no.

1050
00:49:23,710 --> 00:49:31,830
It's-- Yeah.

1051
00:49:31,830 --> 00:49:33,940
But you know, it's--

1052
00:49:33,940 --> 00:49:36,240
it's a long time to
go, but you will--

1053
00:49:36,240 --> 00:49:40,690
at least I will never really
get attached to anything.

1054
00:49:40,690 --> 00:49:42,190
And when my husband--

1055
00:49:42,190 --> 00:49:43,890
I miss my husband very much.

1056
00:49:43,890 --> 00:49:46,300
But when he died
and they all said,

1057

00:49:46,300 --> 00:49:47,940
don't do anything
the first year.

1058
00:49:47,940 --> 00:49:52,250
And I emptied the
house, and I sold it.

1059
00:49:52,250 --> 00:49:55,100
And I told John before.

1060
00:49:55,100 --> 00:49:58,040
I said, I liked that
house, but I can walk out.

1061
00:49:58,040 --> 00:50:00,590
It doesn't mean anything to me.

1062
00:50:00,590 --> 00:50:03,950
When my sister and I, for
a long, long time, when

1063
00:50:03,950 --> 00:50:06,110
we talk about our
house-- and my sister

1064
00:50:06,110 --> 00:50:08,060
has a townhouse--
but when we talk

1065
00:50:08,060 --> 00:50:12,110
about our houses, our house
in Frankfurt Oder, even now,

1066
00:50:12,110 --> 00:50:16,430
I will never talk about
our house here or anything.

1067
00:50:16,430 --> 00:50:19,280
Our house is a house
in Frankfurt Oder,

1068
00:50:19,280 --> 00:50:23,170

and we are still
attached to that.

1069
00:50:23,170 --> 00:50:27,400
And to have to leave that,
that was very traumatic.

1070
00:50:27,400 --> 00:50:31,240
You know, accordingly is
anything else, you know,

1071
00:50:31,240 --> 00:50:33,140
and if people say
you can't afford

1072
00:50:33,140 --> 00:50:35,680
that, you have to move
in a one-room apartment,

1073
00:50:35,680 --> 00:50:37,060
OK, I'll get rid of all that.

1074
00:50:37,060 --> 00:50:41,170

1075
00:50:41,170 --> 00:50:44,170
And so, you know, people--
some people were--

1076
00:50:44,170 --> 00:50:47,020
they say, "oh, you
know we admire you."

1077
00:50:47,020 --> 00:50:52,780
They don't realize that this--
isn't nothing to be admired.

1078
00:50:52,780 --> 00:50:56,570
It's just-- it doesn't mean--

1079
00:50:56,570 --> 00:51:01,020
And also, it's people heavily
complain here about the food,

1080
00:51:01,020 --> 00:51:03,092
including me.

1081
00:51:03,092 --> 00:51:04,020
I hate it.

1082
00:51:04,020 --> 00:51:09,660
But on the other
hand, it's not--

1083
00:51:09,660 --> 00:51:13,890
so if I don't go
down, I don't eat,

1084
00:51:13,890 --> 00:51:15,440
it's not that important to me.

1085
00:51:15,440 --> 00:51:18,690

1086
00:51:18,690 --> 00:51:21,090
No.

1087
00:51:21,090 --> 00:51:23,830
Yeah, but then I was a good
student and a straight A

1088
00:51:23,830 --> 00:51:24,930
student and all that.

1089
00:51:24,930 --> 00:51:28,200
That was important, because
I had to show myself

1090
00:51:28,200 --> 00:51:29,940
that I can do it, too.

1091
00:51:29,940 --> 00:51:33,570
Because Hitler always told us,
you know, no, you are no good.

1092
00:51:33,570 --> 00:51:35,575
You can't do anything.

1093
00:51:35,575 --> 00:51:36,075
No.

1094
00:51:36,075 --> 00:51:38,750

1095
00:51:38,750 --> 00:51:41,500
So in the beginning
is with the--

1096
00:51:41,500 --> 00:51:44,170
when I became a
docent in the first--

1097
00:51:44,170 --> 00:51:46,720
in the beginning when
I had to give tours,

1098
00:51:46,720 --> 00:51:49,870
you know, I was standing there
at the rotunda, I always said,

1099
00:51:49,870 --> 00:51:52,187
"Oh please, Lord,
let nobody come."

1100
00:51:52,187 --> 00:51:54,672
[CHUCKLING]

1101
00:51:54,672 --> 00:51:55,670

1102
00:51:55,670 --> 00:51:59,070
Yeah, because basically I
was frightened to death.

1103
00:51:59,070 --> 00:51:59,570
Yeah.

1104

00:51:59,570 --> 00:52:01,940

When I went for an
interview, I usually

1105

00:52:01,940 --> 00:52:03,500

was there a half
an hour too early

1106

00:52:03,500 --> 00:52:05,840

and walked the street
to get my courage up

1107

00:52:05,840 --> 00:52:07,940

to go in for an interview.

1108

00:52:07,940 --> 00:52:11,250

And this stays with you.

1109

00:52:11,250 --> 00:52:13,260

So there are lots of things.

1110

00:52:13,260 --> 00:52:15,750

And as I said after
the war, nobody ever

1111

00:52:15,750 --> 00:52:20,610

thought about that we were in
shock, that we need some help

1112

00:52:20,610 --> 00:52:21,480

or anything.

1113

00:52:21,480 --> 00:52:23,430

It's just, OK, it's over.

1114

00:52:23,430 --> 00:52:25,980

Now start again.

1115

00:52:25,980 --> 00:52:27,662

Did you ever turn to
professional help,

1116
00:52:27,662 --> 00:52:28,370
or are you just--

1117
00:52:28,370 --> 00:52:28,870
No.

1118
00:52:28,870 --> 00:52:29,785
No, you didn't.

1119
00:52:29,785 --> 00:52:31,080
You just coped on your own.

1120
00:52:31,080 --> 00:52:31,580
No.

1121
00:52:31,580 --> 00:52:33,770
But then, you know, I
thought, how can I talk

1122
00:52:33,770 --> 00:52:35,960
to any American psychiatrist?

1123
00:52:35,960 --> 00:52:37,250
They haven't experienced that.

1124
00:52:37,250 --> 00:52:39,560
I don't have anything
in common with them.

1125
00:52:39,560 --> 00:52:42,900
You know, or even a
Jewish psychiatrist.

1126
00:52:42,900 --> 00:52:45,340
I would only have--
can talk to somebody

1127
00:52:45,340 --> 00:52:46,520
who went through the same.

1128
00:52:46,520 --> 00:52:50,630

And then this person might
not want to talk to me.

1129
00:52:50,630 --> 00:52:52,774
Because I would
be too difficult.

1130
00:52:52,774 --> 00:52:54,800
Yeah.

1131
00:52:54,800 --> 00:52:55,620
Uh-huh.

1132
00:52:55,620 --> 00:52:58,500
So it's, no I never did.

1133
00:52:58,500 --> 00:53:04,620
And I think, considering all,
I think I did I quite well.

1134
00:53:04,620 --> 00:53:06,090
[LAUGHTER]

1135
00:53:06,090 --> 00:53:07,830
Absolutely.

1136
00:53:07,830 --> 00:53:11,130
Do you and your sisters
still get reparations?

1137
00:53:11,130 --> 00:53:12,840
Or did you get reparations?

1138
00:53:12,840 --> 00:53:14,630
You said your mother did.

1139
00:53:14,630 --> 00:53:16,360
Naja, we got--

1140
00:53:16,360 --> 00:53:18,080
But do you and your
sister currently?

1141
00:53:18,080 --> 00:53:18,580
No.

1142
00:53:18,580 --> 00:53:19,080
No.

1143
00:53:19,080 --> 00:53:20,580
No, no, no.

1144
00:53:20,580 --> 00:53:22,410
We don't.

1145
00:53:22,410 --> 00:53:23,340
We got money.

1146
00:53:23,340 --> 00:53:24,960
Yeah, my mother
established that.

1147
00:53:24,960 --> 00:53:27,660
She got the pension
back from my father.

1148
00:53:27,660 --> 00:53:30,340
And then we got the house back.

1149
00:53:30,340 --> 00:53:30,840
Right.

1150
00:53:30,840 --> 00:53:33,880
And you know, we divided
the money for us.

1151
00:53:33,880 --> 00:53:36,870
And in the beginning,
yes, on this one

1152
00:53:36,870 --> 00:53:39,450
you'll see that's one reason
over there I stayed that long,

1153

00:53:39,450 --> 00:53:44,550
because I took the money to go
to the university in Germany

1154

00:53:44,550 --> 00:53:46,060
and so on.

1155

00:53:46,060 --> 00:53:49,020
And paid my trip over here.

1156

00:53:49,020 --> 00:53:50,010
Right, right.

1157

00:53:50,010 --> 00:53:53,620
To come over here and
everything and so on.

1158

00:53:53,620 --> 00:53:55,890
But no, we don't get
anything from the--

1159

00:53:55,890 --> 00:53:59,910
we both get something
similar to the Social

1160

00:53:59,910 --> 00:54:04,530
Security for Germany, but this
is because I worked there.

1161

00:54:04,530 --> 00:54:08,850
And they recognize
our education.

1162

00:54:08,850 --> 00:54:13,760
So they recognize my sister's
university time and that.

1163

00:54:13,760 --> 00:54:20,130
And the time she worked during
the Nazi time for this lawyer.

1164

00:54:20,130 --> 00:54:25,320

And the daughter of this lawyer, she went to a lawyer

1165
00:54:25,320 --> 00:54:28,680
in Germany, and gave the--

1166
00:54:28,680 --> 00:54:32,430
said that, yes, my sister worked there and all that.

1167
00:54:32,430 --> 00:54:35,130
So she established that.

1168
00:54:35,130 --> 00:54:38,790
And I went, and I get-- so we both get it.

1169
00:54:38,790 --> 00:54:42,420
But it's very small, and with the exchange rate

1170
00:54:42,420 --> 00:54:43,588
it doesn't amount to much.

1171
00:54:43,588 --> 00:54:44,130
Right, right.

1172
00:54:44,130 --> 00:54:47,520
But we both get a small amount from the Social Security

1173
00:54:47,520 --> 00:54:48,960
in Germany.

1174
00:54:48,960 --> 00:54:53,050
At least that, I'm pretty sure.

1175
00:54:53,050 --> 00:54:56,200
But just so you all know, we don't get reparation

1176
00:54:56,200 --> 00:54:57,270

from the government.

1177
00:54:57,270 --> 00:54:58,990
No, no.

1178
00:54:58,990 --> 00:55:02,860
And I can't-- but I know
some people who have applied

1179
00:55:02,860 --> 00:55:06,230
for German citizenship,
Jewish people.

1180
00:55:06,230 --> 00:55:09,023
Really?

1181
00:55:09,023 --> 00:55:09,523
Because?

1182
00:55:09,523 --> 00:55:14,160

1183
00:55:14,160 --> 00:55:15,480
I think they're old.

1184
00:55:15,480 --> 00:55:19,360
Because they never officially
wanted to give it up.

1185
00:55:19,360 --> 00:55:22,070
But one is a daughter
of two immigrants,

1186
00:55:22,070 --> 00:55:23,720
so I don't know how
she feels about it.

1187
00:55:23,720 --> 00:55:26,660

1188
00:55:26,660 --> 00:55:28,210
I would never do that.

1189
00:55:28,210 --> 00:55:31,270
I would never try to
get German citizenship.

1190
00:55:31,270 --> 00:55:33,150
Why not?

1191
00:55:33,150 --> 00:55:35,790
I don't want to have
any German passport.

1192
00:55:35,790 --> 00:55:38,000
No!

1193
00:55:38,000 --> 00:55:39,790
No.

1194
00:55:39,790 --> 00:55:44,380
And as I said, it's still
somewhat difficult for me

1195
00:55:44,380 --> 00:55:46,410
to go to Germany.

1196
00:55:46,410 --> 00:55:50,520
It's-- I mean, I'm OK when I'm
with people I know and so on.

1197
00:55:50,520 --> 00:55:53,640
But when I'm in the train, I
sit there, and I can't even--

1198
00:55:53,640 --> 00:55:57,300
I can't say a word
in German and so on.

1199
00:55:57,300 --> 00:56:01,590
And I definitely don't want
my German citizenship back.

1200
00:56:01,590 --> 00:56:04,360

No.

1201
00:56:04,360 --> 00:56:06,910
I mean, if I would consider
to go back to Germany,

1202
00:56:06,910 --> 00:56:09,155
I would get better
health insurance.

1203
00:56:09,155 --> 00:56:12,480

1204
00:56:12,480 --> 00:56:16,770
But I don't think
I want to do that.

1205
00:56:16,770 --> 00:56:17,730
No.

1206
00:56:17,730 --> 00:56:20,380
You are truly an American.

1207
00:56:20,380 --> 00:56:21,500
Yeah.

1208
00:56:21,500 --> 00:56:22,170
Yeah.

1209
00:56:22,170 --> 00:56:24,720
Yeah, I can criticize the
Americans when I'm here.

1210
00:56:24,720 --> 00:56:27,240
But when I'm in Germany,
I can't criticize them.

1211
00:56:27,240 --> 00:56:28,970
[LAUGHTER]

1212
00:56:28,970 --> 00:56:31,840
No, I don't.

1213
00:56:31,840 --> 00:56:33,400
I don't.

1214
00:56:33,400 --> 00:56:36,860
And so-- but it's
remarkable, you know,

1215
00:56:36,860 --> 00:56:39,710
when you think what the
Germans did after the war,

1216
00:56:39,710 --> 00:56:43,320
and they are hardworking.

1217
00:56:43,320 --> 00:56:48,870
But then I think, half of the
American population is German.

1218
00:56:48,870 --> 00:56:50,830
Lots of them.

1219
00:56:50,830 --> 00:56:53,220
For a while there was the
question, which language they

1220
00:56:53,220 --> 00:56:56,030
would take, English or German.

1221
00:56:56,030 --> 00:56:58,288
New Amsterdam and
all this, you know?

1222
00:56:58,288 --> 00:57:01,390

1223
00:57:01,390 --> 00:57:02,320
God, no.

1224
00:57:02,320 --> 00:57:05,810
And my husband
was very American.

1225
00:57:05,810 --> 00:57:07,520
He was very much.

1226
00:57:07,520 --> 00:57:10,580
I remember when we
went over to England,

1227
00:57:10,580 --> 00:57:15,410
and we passed the Statue of
Liberty, he had to get up.

1228
00:57:15,410 --> 00:57:16,520
He had to see that.

1229
00:57:16,520 --> 00:57:18,680
Meant a lot to him.

1230
00:57:18,680 --> 00:57:20,950
And so on.

1231
00:57:20,950 --> 00:57:25,460
No, he-- and you know, he went
to the World War II Memorial

1232
00:57:25,460 --> 00:57:26,941
opening and everything.

1233
00:57:26,941 --> 00:57:27,441
Yeah.

1234
00:57:27,441 --> 00:57:34,315

1235
00:57:34,315 --> 00:57:34,820
Well.

1236
00:57:34,820 --> 00:57:35,433
OK.

1237
00:57:35,433 --> 00:57:37,850

Well, that's a good note to
end on, the Statue of Liberty.

1238
00:57:37,850 --> 00:57:40,730

1239
00:57:40,730 --> 00:57:44,690
This concludes the United
States Holocaust Memorial Museum

1240
00:57:44,690 --> 00:57:48,605
interview with Ursula
Guttstadt McKinney.

1241
00:57:48,605 --> 00:57:51,000