

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:08,290

2
00:00:08,290 --> 00:00:11,800
This is the United States
Holocaust Memorial Museum

3
00:00:11,800 --> 00:00:16,480
Volunteer Collection interview
with Ruth Rappaport, conducted

4
00:00:16,480 --> 00:00:22,240
by Gail Schwartz on
October 14th, 2010,

5
00:00:22,240 --> 00:00:27,370
in Washington, D.C.
What is your full name?

6
00:00:27,370 --> 00:00:29,920
Ruth Rappaport.

7
00:00:29,920 --> 00:00:31,705
And is that the name
you were born with?

8
00:00:31,705 --> 00:00:32,205
Yes.

9
00:00:32,205 --> 00:00:32,710
Yes.

10
00:00:32,710 --> 00:00:34,310
And where were you born?

11
00:00:34,310 --> 00:00:36,050
In Leipzig, Germany.

12
00:00:36,050 --> 00:00:37,120
And when were you born?

13
00:00:37,120 --> 00:00:42,400
May 27th, 1923.

14
00:00:42,400 --> 00:00:44,380
Let's talk a little
bit about your family.

15
00:00:44,380 --> 00:00:46,990

16
00:00:46,990 --> 00:00:48,310
Your father's name was--

17
00:00:48,310 --> 00:00:51,190
Mendel Rappaport.

18
00:00:51,190 --> 00:00:54,940
And he was a Romanian
subject living in Leipzig.

19
00:00:54,940 --> 00:00:56,650
Was he born in Romania?

20
00:00:56,650 --> 00:00:57,742
Yes.

21
00:00:57,742 --> 00:01:01,490
And he could pass for Ukraine.

22
00:01:01,490 --> 00:01:03,610
And do you know what
town he was born in.

23
00:01:03,610 --> 00:01:06,170
Yes, Wistocki.

24
00:01:06,170 --> 00:01:08,180
And do you know
when he was born?

25
00:01:08,180 --> 00:01:09,460

It's OK if you don't.

26
00:01:09,460 --> 00:01:10,048
Not really.

27
00:01:10,048 --> 00:01:12,710

28
00:01:12,710 --> 00:01:15,250
Except that he got
married in 1910.

29
00:01:15,250 --> 00:01:18,060
Uh-huh, OK.

30
00:01:18,060 --> 00:01:19,910
If that's kind of
an earmark date.

31
00:01:19,910 --> 00:01:21,730
OK, in Romania?

32
00:01:21,730 --> 00:01:22,270
Yeah.

33
00:01:22,270 --> 00:01:22,930
Yeah.

34
00:01:22,930 --> 00:01:26,600
And your mother's name?

35
00:01:26,600 --> 00:01:29,560
Helene Rubinstein.

36
00:01:29,560 --> 00:01:33,160
And she was a first cousin
to Helena Rubinstein.

37
00:01:33,160 --> 00:01:34,120
Oh, my.

38

00:01:34,120 --> 00:01:36,030
So that's the family background.

39
00:01:36,030 --> 00:01:36,940
I see.

40
00:01:36,940 --> 00:01:40,400
And was your mother also born in
the same town your father was?

41
00:01:40,400 --> 00:01:42,250
No, no, no, no.

42
00:01:42,250 --> 00:01:46,100
My mother was-- well,
these Jewish birth

43
00:01:46,100 --> 00:01:47,490
places, they kind of change.

44
00:01:47,490 --> 00:01:48,250
Right.

45
00:01:48,250 --> 00:01:52,810
Because the Rubinsteins
were all born in a little,

46
00:01:52,810 --> 00:01:55,210
itty-bitty village
called Mielec,

47
00:01:55,210 --> 00:01:59,290
which nobody acknowledges,
which is a suburb of Tarnobrzeg,

48
00:01:59,290 --> 00:02:04,930
which nobody acknowledges,
which is a suburb of Krakow,

49
00:02:04,930 --> 00:02:06,610
which everybody acknowledges.

50

00:02:06,610 --> 00:02:09,460

51

00:02:09,460 --> 00:02:12,340

Do you know when
she was born or not?

52

00:02:12,340 --> 00:02:12,910

Not.

53

00:02:12,910 --> 00:02:14,940

OK.

54

00:02:14,940 --> 00:02:16,960

OK, did you have--

55

00:02:16,960 --> 00:02:17,826

Well, wait a minute.

56

00:02:17,826 --> 00:02:18,520

Yeah.

57

00:02:18,520 --> 00:02:23,770

Her older brother was 40--

58

00:02:23,770 --> 00:02:30,260

her older brother died
in 1947 and was 65,

59

00:02:30,260 --> 00:02:31,910

and she was maybe
three years older.

60

00:02:31,910 --> 00:02:32,530

OK, OK.

61

00:02:32,530 --> 00:02:35,540

62

00:02:35,540 --> 00:02:39,920

And so did your parents
meet in Romania or meet--

63
00:02:39,920 --> 00:02:42,380
where did they meet?

64
00:02:42,380 --> 00:02:43,240
Well--

65
00:02:43,240 --> 00:02:45,310
They got married there?

66
00:02:45,310 --> 00:02:47,140
Well, see it wasn't
Romania then.

67
00:02:47,140 --> 00:02:50,200
It was the
Austrian-Hungarian Empire.

68
00:02:50,200 --> 00:02:53,150
They were both living
under Kaiser Franz Joseph.

69
00:02:53,150 --> 00:02:54,220
OK.

70
00:02:54,220 --> 00:03:00,580
And remember, the
historical connections--

71
00:03:00,580 --> 00:03:02,000
Yeah, yeah.

72
00:03:02,000 --> 00:03:09,770
--is what-- whatever you
call the certification.

73
00:03:09,770 --> 00:03:13,700
So do you have or did you
have any brothers or sisters?

74
00:03:13,700 --> 00:03:14,990
I had two half sisters.

75
00:03:14,990 --> 00:03:16,055
Two half sisters.

76
00:03:16,055 --> 00:03:16,990
Yes.

77
00:03:16,990 --> 00:03:20,590
Because one of your parents
had been married before?

78
00:03:20,590 --> 00:03:26,215
My father's first wife
died in childbirth.

79
00:03:26,215 --> 00:03:28,010
Oh.

80
00:03:28,010 --> 00:03:31,240
You know, back in the
olden days, when--

81
00:03:31,240 --> 00:03:34,415
and so I had that half sister.

82
00:03:34,415 --> 00:03:36,130
Yeah.

83
00:03:36,130 --> 00:03:41,453
And then my mother--

84
00:03:41,453 --> 00:03:43,120
well, anyway, then
there was another one

85
00:03:43,120 --> 00:03:44,078
and then there came me.

86
00:03:44,078 --> 00:03:46,470
Yeah, OK.

87

00:03:46,470 --> 00:03:48,620
So there were
three half sisters.

88
00:03:48,620 --> 00:03:50,660
And what kind of work
did your father do?

89
00:03:50,660 --> 00:03:51,520
He was a furrier.

90
00:03:51,520 --> 00:03:53,230
Uh-huh.

91
00:03:53,230 --> 00:03:55,780
In Leipzig, Germany
everybody was a furrier.

92
00:03:55,780 --> 00:03:58,360
What brought them to Leipzig?

93
00:03:58,360 --> 00:04:00,320
Actually, it was interesting.

94
00:04:00,320 --> 00:04:05,050
My father initially was sent
to Leipzig from Romania,

95
00:04:05,050 --> 00:04:10,510
a city called Wistocki, where
the family owned wooded--

96
00:04:10,510 --> 00:04:13,930
many forests and a sawmill.

97
00:04:13,930 --> 00:04:19,575
And he was sent to Germany to
sell the lumber and stayed.

98
00:04:19,575 --> 00:04:21,010
Ah, OK.

99

00:04:21,010 --> 00:04:23,020
And then because
everybody in Leipzig

100
00:04:23,020 --> 00:04:25,390
had something to
do with fur, he'd

101
00:04:25,390 --> 00:04:29,020
lifted into the fur business.

102
00:04:29,020 --> 00:04:30,440
And was he successful?

103
00:04:30,440 --> 00:04:31,010
Fair.

104
00:04:31,010 --> 00:04:32,230
Fair, yeah.

105
00:04:32,230 --> 00:04:36,220
I mean, considering that most
of this was the Depression.

106
00:04:36,220 --> 00:04:37,630
Right, that's true.

107
00:04:37,630 --> 00:04:40,790
Nobody was that-- but OK.

108
00:04:40,790 --> 00:04:41,890
Yeah.

109
00:04:41,890 --> 00:04:45,490
Were your parents
very religious?

110
00:04:45,490 --> 00:04:48,160
Modern Orthodox.

111
00:04:48,160 --> 00:04:49,870
In fact, you might have even--

112
00:04:49,870 --> 00:04:51,820
you might even
have heard of this.

113
00:04:51,820 --> 00:04:55,180
Leipzig had a really
famous rabbinical family,

114
00:04:55,180 --> 00:04:56,710
the Carlebachs.

115
00:04:56,710 --> 00:04:57,443
Yes, of course.

116
00:04:57,443 --> 00:04:58,735
You've probably heard a Shlomo.

117
00:04:58,735 --> 00:05:00,560
Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach, right.

118
00:05:00,560 --> 00:05:04,690
Well, Carlebach was
my school principal.

119
00:05:04,690 --> 00:05:08,920
I went to Carlebach's
private school.

120
00:05:08,920 --> 00:05:10,375
And he was my school principal.

121
00:05:10,375 --> 00:05:11,710
Really.

122
00:05:11,710 --> 00:05:14,320
And one of my classmates
was Shlomo's cousin.

123
00:05:14,320 --> 00:05:15,520
Uh-huh.

124

00:05:15,520 --> 00:05:18,730

And I was very close to
the Carlebach children.

125

00:05:18,730 --> 00:05:20,950

What was the first
name of the principal?

126

00:05:20,950 --> 00:05:22,080

Do you know?

127

00:05:22,080 --> 00:05:24,490

Mr.-- that's OK.

128

00:05:24,490 --> 00:05:26,680

It's been a long time.

129

00:05:26,680 --> 00:05:29,650

Just a few years.

130

00:05:29,650 --> 00:05:31,610

So you said your parents
were Modern Orthodox.

131

00:05:31,610 --> 00:05:32,140

Yes.

132

00:05:32,140 --> 00:05:35,710

You went to this Jewish
school, the Carlebach school.

133

00:05:35,710 --> 00:05:37,810

Yes, and Carlebach
was our family rabbi.

134

00:05:37,810 --> 00:05:40,120

Uh-huh.

135

00:05:40,120 --> 00:05:45,100

He had the Modern Orthodox
synagogue in Leipzig, the big--

136

00:05:45,100 --> 00:05:45,960

It was a big one?

137

00:05:45,960 --> 00:05:47,140

Oh, yes.

138

00:05:47,140 --> 00:05:50,210

Do you remember the name of it.

139

00:05:50,210 --> 00:05:53,370

I think we just referred to
it as the Carlebach shul.

140

00:05:53,370 --> 00:05:56,340

OK, that's good.

141

00:05:56,340 --> 00:06:00,520

Were your parents
Zionists at the time?

142

00:06:00,520 --> 00:06:01,450

My father was.

143

00:06:01,450 --> 00:06:04,690

My mother was not.

144

00:06:04,690 --> 00:06:05,600

Figure that one out.

145

00:06:05,600 --> 00:06:07,160

OK.

146

00:06:07,160 --> 00:06:09,715

So how did it manifest with him?

147

00:06:09,715 --> 00:06:12,710

Did he just speak about Zionism.

148

00:06:12,710 --> 00:06:15,510

Well, I guess he always
wanted to go to Israel

149
00:06:15,510 --> 00:06:17,380
and never did, or Palestine.

150
00:06:17,380 --> 00:06:18,316
Palestine.

151
00:06:18,316 --> 00:06:21,130

152
00:06:21,130 --> 00:06:25,120
And my mother always had her
eyes set on the United States.

153
00:06:25,120 --> 00:06:26,920
She never made it.

154
00:06:26,920 --> 00:06:31,420
But she had three brothers
in Seattle, Washington.

155
00:06:31,420 --> 00:06:34,160
Oh.

156
00:06:34,160 --> 00:06:37,330
And if it hadn't been--

157
00:06:37,330 --> 00:06:40,750

158
00:06:40,750 --> 00:06:42,720
December 7th killed it all.

159
00:06:42,720 --> 00:06:43,263
Yeah.

160
00:06:43,263 --> 00:06:43,930
You know, they--

161
00:06:43,930 --> 00:06:45,520
Once we went to

war, you mean, yeah.

162
00:06:45,520 --> 00:06:49,720
They had papers to
go to Cuba, legal--

163
00:06:49,720 --> 00:06:50,620
I mean, valid papers.

164
00:06:50,620 --> 00:06:53,800
They were purchased,
but they were for real.

165
00:06:53,800 --> 00:06:54,520
Mm-hmm.

166
00:06:54,520 --> 00:06:58,360
And if December 7th
hadn't happened--

167
00:06:58,360 --> 00:07:04,000
OK, because of the American
immigration quota system,

168
00:07:04,000 --> 00:07:09,790
my father was number 34 on the
list to come to the States.

169
00:07:09,790 --> 00:07:12,490
There's only one
thing nobody told you.

170
00:07:12,490 --> 00:07:18,410
The Romanian-- Romania
only got two visas a year.

171
00:07:18,410 --> 00:07:21,300
So being number 34
meant a 17 year wait.

172
00:07:21,300 --> 00:07:24,310

173

00:07:24,310 --> 00:07:26,310

So he was still
considered Romanian

174

00:07:26,310 --> 00:07:27,908

even though he lived in Leipzig.

175

00:07:27,908 --> 00:07:28,450

That's right.

176

00:07:28,450 --> 00:07:29,630

OK.

177

00:07:29,630 --> 00:07:31,770

And your mother also
was considered Romanian?

178

00:07:31,770 --> 00:07:32,702

Yeah, because she--

179

00:07:32,702 --> 00:07:33,410

Even though she--

180

00:07:33,410 --> 00:07:36,120

Well, the family passport
was a Romanian passport.

181

00:07:36,120 --> 00:07:40,270

OK, even though you were
living in Germany, OK.

182

00:07:40,270 --> 00:07:42,220

Let's talk about as
a young child now.

183

00:07:42,220 --> 00:07:42,720

Yeah.

184

00:07:42,720 --> 00:07:44,800

Now that we've talked
about your family.

185
00:07:44,800 --> 00:07:46,710
OK.

186
00:07:46,710 --> 00:07:48,370
I was very precocious.

187
00:07:48,370 --> 00:07:49,840
Of course.

188
00:07:49,840 --> 00:07:55,510
I was a snot-nosed
kid, but I was bright.

189
00:07:55,510 --> 00:08:00,530
In fact, it's kind
of interesting,

190
00:08:00,530 --> 00:08:02,890
because when I
was six years old,

191
00:08:02,890 --> 00:08:06,410
somebody took me to
some Zionist meeting.

192
00:08:06,410 --> 00:08:09,280
There was sort of a
commemoration of somebody

193
00:08:09,280 --> 00:08:11,350
who was a hero--

194
00:08:11,350 --> 00:08:15,520
Joseph Trumpeldor, who
died, and da, da, da, da.

195
00:08:15,520 --> 00:08:17,110
And here's this
little six-year-old,

196
00:08:17,110 --> 00:08:20,140
and he says, well, what's

so great about dying

197
00:08:20,140 --> 00:08:21,070
for your country?

198
00:08:21,070 --> 00:08:24,236
Isn't it more important
to live for it?

199
00:08:24,236 --> 00:08:26,590
And I thought that was
a pretty astute comment

200
00:08:26,590 --> 00:08:27,980
from a six-year-old.

201
00:08:27,980 --> 00:08:28,480
You.

202
00:08:28,480 --> 00:08:30,360
Me.

203
00:08:30,360 --> 00:08:31,716
Yes.

204
00:08:31,716 --> 00:08:33,461
And how did the
teacher answer that?

205
00:08:33,461 --> 00:08:34,419
There wasn't a teacher.

206
00:08:34,419 --> 00:08:35,419
It was a youth group.

207
00:08:35,419 --> 00:08:37,190
Oh.

208
00:08:37,190 --> 00:08:39,830
Very-- they were
quite impressed.

209

00:08:39,830 --> 00:08:40,970

I would say.

210

00:08:40,970 --> 00:08:46,120

As I say, I was kind of
a bright, snot-nosed kid.

211

00:08:46,120 --> 00:08:48,370

I don't think I was quite
as smart as I thought I was,

212

00:08:48,370 --> 00:08:51,640

but I was fairly bright,
which has stood me

213

00:08:51,640 --> 00:08:54,560

in good stead over the years.

214

00:08:54,560 --> 00:08:59,150

In fact, I guess
growing up when I did,

215

00:08:59,150 --> 00:09:04,900

I grew up sort of
confrontational.

216

00:09:04,900 --> 00:09:06,850

And I think it stood
me well in my life.

217

00:09:06,850 --> 00:09:09,410

218

00:09:09,410 --> 00:09:12,190

I like to say, I've
never been aggressive,

219

00:09:12,190 --> 00:09:14,860

but I've always been assertive.

220

00:09:14,860 --> 00:09:20,260

Fine distinction,

but a good one.

221

00:09:20,260 --> 00:09:22,700

What's the distinction?

222

00:09:22,700 --> 00:09:27,550

That when you're aggressive,
you hold things--

223

00:09:27,550 --> 00:09:30,130

you have boundaries.

224

00:09:30,130 --> 00:09:33,820

It's not all free floating,
whereas aggression

225

00:09:33,820 --> 00:09:36,060

can fly in every direction.

226

00:09:36,060 --> 00:09:38,496

It sort of missed this focused.

227

00:09:38,496 --> 00:09:40,952

At least, to me, that
was a distinction.

228

00:09:40,952 --> 00:09:41,452

Mm-hmm.

229

00:09:41,452 --> 00:09:46,540

230

00:09:46,540 --> 00:09:48,780

So you went to school.

231

00:09:48,780 --> 00:09:51,630

Did you live in a
Jewish neighborhood?

232

00:09:51,630 --> 00:09:53,760

Was your house in a Jewish
neighborhood in Leipzig?

233
00:09:53,760 --> 00:09:55,467
No, it was a mixed neighborhood.

234
00:09:55,467 --> 00:09:57,300
So did you have friends
who were not Jewish?

235
00:09:57,300 --> 00:09:57,960
Yes.

236
00:09:57,960 --> 00:09:58,630
You did?

237
00:09:58,630 --> 00:09:59,940
Yes, we did.

238
00:09:59,940 --> 00:10:03,320
Actually, you probably
wouldn't know about this,

239
00:10:03,320 --> 00:10:06,390
but there used to be a very
famous German encyclopedia

240
00:10:06,390 --> 00:10:08,826
called Brockhaus.

241
00:10:08,826 --> 00:10:10,560
Well, you know, it's--

242
00:10:10,560 --> 00:10:11,400
take my word for it.

243
00:10:11,400 --> 00:10:11,780
Yes.

244
00:10:11,780 --> 00:10:11,900
Oh, I'm sure.

245
00:10:11,900 --> 00:10:13,610

It was [BOTH TALKING] standard.

246

00:10:13,610 --> 00:10:17,520

And the Brockhaus family lived
across the street from us.

247

00:10:17,520 --> 00:10:20,940

And Leipzig, of course,
was a publishing city.

248

00:10:20,940 --> 00:10:22,350

And very few people know that.

249

00:10:22,350 --> 00:10:30,690

But not pocket books, but
paperbacks, quality paperbacks,

250

00:10:30,690 --> 00:10:36,870

were published in Leipzig long
before the names were coined.

251

00:10:36,870 --> 00:10:42,240

Because we had these
publishing houses in Leipzig.

252

00:10:42,240 --> 00:10:47,810

And boy, I had a whole
collection of English novels

253

00:10:47,810 --> 00:10:49,740

by the time I was 10 years old.

254

00:10:49,740 --> 00:10:52,125

So you were-- you
were able to speak--

255

00:10:52,125 --> 00:10:53,250

were able to speak English?

256

00:10:53,250 --> 00:10:54,210

Yeah.

257

00:10:54,210 --> 00:10:55,230
How did you learn that?

258
00:10:55,230 --> 00:10:56,110
In school?

259
00:10:56,110 --> 00:11:02,010
No, Leipzig, being a
city that had fairs,

260
00:11:02,010 --> 00:11:06,210
also had language institutes,
where they trained

261
00:11:06,210 --> 00:11:08,730
translators and interpreters.

262
00:11:08,730 --> 00:11:12,390
And it was a three-month course.

263
00:11:12,390 --> 00:11:14,172
And you can live--

264
00:11:14,172 --> 00:11:15,630
I didn't have to
live at the school

265
00:11:15,630 --> 00:11:19,260
because I was from Leipzig,
but most students lived there.

266
00:11:19,260 --> 00:11:23,310
And it was immersion study.

267
00:11:23,310 --> 00:11:25,560
You had breakfast
with your teachers.

268
00:11:25,560 --> 00:11:27,720
You went for a walk.

269
00:11:27,720 --> 00:11:30,570

You couldn't-- you couldn't
use anything but English.

270
00:11:30,570 --> 00:11:33,190
If you couldn't say it in
English, you couldn't say it.

271
00:11:33,190 --> 00:11:36,300
It was agony while it lasted.

272
00:11:36,300 --> 00:11:41,250
However, when I came to
the States as an immigrant,

273
00:11:41,250 --> 00:11:45,990
I didn't have to take a single
required English college

274
00:11:45,990 --> 00:11:48,120
course.

275
00:11:48,120 --> 00:11:52,440
I passed every single college
course, high school and college

276
00:11:52,440 --> 00:11:56,160
entrance, by exam.

277
00:11:56,160 --> 00:11:59,920
The only thing I couldn't
pass was Shakespeare.

278
00:11:59,920 --> 00:12:02,040
So what other languages
did you speak?

279
00:12:02,040 --> 00:12:05,520
Did you know, besides
German and English?

280
00:12:05,520 --> 00:12:06,780
Well, I spoke a little Hebrew.

281

00:12:06,780 --> 00:12:07,980

You spoke a little Hebrew.

282

00:12:07,980 --> 00:12:11,230

And English and French--

283

00:12:11,230 --> 00:12:12,240

Oh, OK.

284

00:12:12,240 --> 00:12:12,900

--from school.

285

00:12:12,900 --> 00:12:14,730

From school, right.

286

00:12:14,730 --> 00:12:17,670

Still speak a little French.

287

00:12:17,670 --> 00:12:20,820

What were your other
interests as a child?

288

00:12:20,820 --> 00:12:21,810

Mostly reading.

289

00:12:21,810 --> 00:12:22,310

Sports?

290

00:12:22,310 --> 00:12:23,160

Oh, mostly reading.

291

00:12:23,160 --> 00:12:23,660

Mostly.

292

00:12:23,660 --> 00:12:25,410

No, I wasn't too
much into sports

293

00:12:25,410 --> 00:12:28,090

because I was very
nearsighted as a kid.

294
00:12:28,090 --> 00:12:31,830
And in those days, we
didn't have plastic glasses.

295
00:12:31,830 --> 00:12:34,230
So I couldn't go in for sports.

296
00:12:34,230 --> 00:12:35,490
Because they would break.

297
00:12:35,490 --> 00:12:39,330
Because my glasses would--
yeah, a tennis ball and pair

298
00:12:39,330 --> 00:12:40,800
of eyeglasses can be fatal.

299
00:12:40,800 --> 00:12:41,670
Right.

300
00:12:41,670 --> 00:12:46,110
So I kind of was a little
bit removed from sports

301
00:12:46,110 --> 00:12:47,340
and tended towards books.

302
00:12:47,340 --> 00:12:49,950
Mm-hmm.

303
00:12:49,950 --> 00:12:52,200
Were you very close
to your parents?

304
00:12:52,200 --> 00:12:54,460
What kind of relationship
did you have with--

305
00:12:54,460 --> 00:12:59,360

306

00:12:59,360 --> 00:13:01,120

I was much closer to my mother.

307

00:13:01,120 --> 00:13:04,800

308

00:13:04,800 --> 00:13:07,890

Yeah, I had-- we had
a good relationship.

309

00:13:07,890 --> 00:13:11,640

310

00:13:11,640 --> 00:13:14,760

I think my dad was a little
bit of a control freak.

311

00:13:14,760 --> 00:13:17,030

But then I guess most
parents were in those days.

312

00:13:17,030 --> 00:13:17,900

Uh-huh.

313

00:13:17,900 --> 00:13:20,350

And your two sisters,
what were their names?

314

00:13:20,350 --> 00:13:21,025

One was Clara.

315

00:13:21,025 --> 00:13:21,810

Clara.

316

00:13:21,810 --> 00:13:22,890

And one was Miriam.

317

00:13:22,890 --> 00:13:24,253

Yeah, were you close to them?

318

00:13:24,253 --> 00:13:25,920

Well, no, because
they were much older--

319
00:13:25,920 --> 00:13:27,660
they were close to each other.

320
00:13:27,660 --> 00:13:28,920
Yeah.

321
00:13:28,920 --> 00:13:30,900
Well, one of them I
was fairly close to.

322
00:13:30,900 --> 00:13:36,100
And in fact, the one that
ended her life in Israel,

323
00:13:36,100 --> 00:13:39,100
I actually went and
spent six months was her

324
00:13:39,100 --> 00:13:41,950
in Beersheba before she died.

325
00:13:41,950 --> 00:13:46,140
She was quite-- well, she--

326
00:13:46,140 --> 00:13:48,280
she ended up has Alzheimer's.

327
00:13:48,280 --> 00:13:49,350
But that's all right.

328
00:13:49,350 --> 00:13:51,570
I mean, she was a nice person.

329
00:13:51,570 --> 00:13:55,020
And she had-- she had good--

330
00:13:55,020 --> 00:13:58,570
she had a good husband-- had
had a good husband and family.

331
00:13:58,570 --> 00:14:00,640
So she was well taken care of.

332
00:14:00,640 --> 00:14:03,410
And I spent six
months helping her.

333
00:14:03,410 --> 00:14:05,230
And things worked out OK.

334
00:14:05,230 --> 00:14:05,730
Good.

335
00:14:05,730 --> 00:14:07,350
So to get back to
your childhood,

336
00:14:07,350 --> 00:14:08,808
you said you were
very independent.

337
00:14:08,808 --> 00:14:10,810
It sounds like you
were very independent.

338
00:14:10,810 --> 00:14:11,310
Yes.

339
00:14:11,310 --> 00:14:14,310
And doing what you thought
you should be doing.

340
00:14:14,310 --> 00:14:17,290
Well, yeah, because one of--
part of the independent bit

341
00:14:17,290 --> 00:14:23,340
was, as kids we belonged
to the Jewish youth groups.

342
00:14:23,340 --> 00:14:25,570

And parents were not
really that much--

343

00:14:25,570 --> 00:14:31,003
you know, it was a double-edged
sword for the parents.

344

00:14:31,003 --> 00:14:32,670
Do you remember the
names of the groups?

345

00:14:32,670 --> 00:14:33,376
The Habonim.

346

00:14:33,376 --> 00:14:34,950
The Habonim.

347

00:14:34,950 --> 00:14:38,340
Oh, yes, I was a very
upright Habonim member.

348

00:14:38,340 --> 00:14:39,840
And then when I
went to Switzerland,

349

00:14:39,840 --> 00:14:41,650
they didn't have a Habonim.

350

00:14:41,650 --> 00:14:46,320
It suddenly became Hashomer
Hatzair as the next substitute.

351

00:14:46,320 --> 00:14:49,650
Right, right.

352

00:14:49,650 --> 00:14:53,010
And so you had non-- but you
also had non-Jewish friends

353

00:14:53,010 --> 00:14:53,580
that you--

354

00:14:53,580 --> 00:14:53,910
Yes.

355
00:14:53,910 --> 00:14:55,125
--played with when
you were a youngster.

356
00:14:55,125 --> 00:14:56,010
Mm-hmm.

357
00:14:56,010 --> 00:14:57,600
Yeah.

358
00:14:57,600 --> 00:15:02,070
And then, when did you
know that conditions

359
00:15:02,070 --> 00:15:03,960
were starting to change?

360
00:15:03,960 --> 00:15:06,750
You were born in 1923.

361
00:15:06,750 --> 00:15:09,940
Did you-- when did you ever
hear of a man named Hitler?

362
00:15:09,940 --> 00:15:11,850
Do you remember the first--

363
00:15:11,850 --> 00:15:13,290
1933.

364
00:15:13,290 --> 00:15:14,790
You heard, OK, you
were 10 years--

365
00:15:14,790 --> 00:15:17,525
I think I heard about him
the day I was 10 years old.

366
00:15:17,525 --> 00:15:18,400

The day you were 10--

367

00:15:18,400 --> 00:15:19,980

OK, what did you hear about him?

368

00:15:19,980 --> 00:15:22,660

Do you remember what
your impressions were?

369

00:15:22,660 --> 00:15:25,260

Terrible things were
going to happen.

370

00:15:25,260 --> 00:15:25,830

Who told you?

371

00:15:25,830 --> 00:15:27,150

Your parents?

372

00:15:27,150 --> 00:15:29,250

The neighbors, the parents.

373

00:15:29,250 --> 00:15:31,180

It was in the air.

374

00:15:31,180 --> 00:15:31,932

OK.

375

00:15:31,932 --> 00:15:32,640

There was unrest.

376

00:15:32,640 --> 00:15:35,150

377

00:15:35,150 --> 00:15:37,140

There was really
turmoil in the air.

378

00:15:37,140 --> 00:15:38,830

And a 10-year-old
child sense it.

379

00:15:38,830 --> 00:15:40,900

You picked-- you
picked that up, yes.

380

00:15:40,900 --> 00:15:42,090

Mm-hmm.

381

00:15:42,090 --> 00:15:46,010

It was-- you could
kind of cut it.

382

00:15:46,010 --> 00:15:48,450

Were there any
outward manifestations

383

00:15:48,450 --> 00:15:53,145

right then on the street,
or signs, or banners?

384

00:15:53,145 --> 00:15:56,470

385

00:15:56,470 --> 00:16:02,510

Well, my strongest recollection
is the week of Kristallnacht.

386

00:16:02,510 --> 00:16:03,660

Yeah, that's later.

387

00:16:03,660 --> 00:16:04,410

We'll get to that.

388

00:16:04,410 --> 00:16:05,188

We'll get to that.

389

00:16:05,188 --> 00:16:05,980

I'm talking about--

390

00:16:05,980 --> 00:16:07,220

Yeah.

391

00:16:07,220 --> 00:16:09,550
--a little earlier.

392
00:16:09,550 --> 00:16:10,990
You're talking about '33.

393
00:16:10,990 --> 00:16:12,860
And you heard that
a man named Hitler--

394
00:16:12,860 --> 00:16:13,586
Yeah.

395
00:16:13,586 --> 00:16:15,287
--is now in control.

396
00:16:15,287 --> 00:16:15,870
Did you talk--

397
00:16:15,870 --> 00:16:18,970
Well, we heard news about
Hitler and Hindenburg together.

398
00:16:18,970 --> 00:16:19,507
Yes, yeah.

399
00:16:19,507 --> 00:16:20,340
Right, at that time.

400
00:16:20,340 --> 00:16:24,780
You know, as a 10-year-old,
you didn't separate that much.

401
00:16:24,780 --> 00:16:29,400
Did you-- is it something you
talked over with your family?

402
00:16:29,400 --> 00:16:31,480
Mostly in the Habonim group.

403
00:16:31,480 --> 00:16:32,506
Mostly with your--

404
00:16:32,506 --> 00:16:33,300
OK.

405
00:16:33,300 --> 00:16:34,680
Mostly with your contemporaries.

406
00:16:34,680 --> 00:16:35,490
Yeah.

407
00:16:35,490 --> 00:16:38,730
Did you hear any speeches
over the radio by Hitler?

408
00:16:38,730 --> 00:16:39,580
Yes.

409
00:16:39,580 --> 00:16:40,420
You did.

410
00:16:40,420 --> 00:16:40,920
And again--

411
00:16:40,920 --> 00:16:43,830
And not only that,
but not wanting

412
00:16:43,830 --> 00:16:49,650
to, but without being able to
help it, I actually saw him.

413
00:16:49,650 --> 00:16:57,000
I was-- I was crossing a major
street in Leipzig when his

414
00:16:57,000 --> 00:16:58,210
car--

415
00:16:58,210 --> 00:17:02,220
you know, he was heil-ing-- sieg
heil-ing in his open vehicle,

416
00:17:02,220 --> 00:17:03,400
driving along--

417
00:17:03,400 --> 00:17:04,470
The motorcade, you mean.

418
00:17:04,470 --> 00:17:05,160
The motorcade.

419
00:17:05,160 --> 00:17:06,447
And I was at the curb.

420
00:17:06,447 --> 00:17:08,280
And I couldn't help it,
I had a look at him.

421
00:17:08,280 --> 00:17:10,849

422
00:17:10,849 --> 00:17:12,760
And you knew exactly who he was.

423
00:17:12,760 --> 00:17:15,589
Of course, I mean, sieg heil.

424
00:17:15,589 --> 00:17:16,410
Yeah.

425
00:17:16,410 --> 00:17:17,970
I mean, everybody
knew who he was.

426
00:17:17,970 --> 00:17:20,460
Uh-huh.

427
00:17:20,460 --> 00:17:24,030
Were you-- I assume you
did not do the salute.

428
00:17:24,030 --> 00:17:24,930
Of course not.

429
00:17:24,930 --> 00:17:27,030
And did people give you
a hard-- did other people

430
00:17:27,030 --> 00:17:27,655
on the street--

431
00:17:27,655 --> 00:17:29,080
I don't think people noticed me.

432
00:17:29,080 --> 00:17:29,580
OK.

433
00:17:29,580 --> 00:17:31,440
Everybody was focused on him.

434
00:17:31,440 --> 00:17:33,680
OK, so they did not
notice that you-- yeah.

435
00:17:33,680 --> 00:17:34,680
I mean, I was a little--

436
00:17:34,680 --> 00:17:36,670
I was-- I was small.

437
00:17:36,670 --> 00:17:37,170
Oh, OK.

438
00:17:37,170 --> 00:17:38,310
I wasn't that visible.

439
00:17:38,310 --> 00:17:39,810
Really?

440
00:17:39,810 --> 00:17:41,250
I'm still only five feet.

441
00:17:41,250 --> 00:17:42,910
Oh, I didn't-- OK.

442
00:17:42,910 --> 00:17:44,950
OK.

443
00:17:44,950 --> 00:17:46,740
OK, yeah.

444
00:17:46,740 --> 00:17:51,610
And then, again, when did
conditions start to change?

445
00:17:51,610 --> 00:17:53,460
It was '33, '34--

446
00:17:53,460 --> 00:17:57,960
do you remember any progression,
any signs, or treatment

447
00:17:57,960 --> 00:17:58,980
by neighbors?

448
00:17:58,980 --> 00:18:02,030
Non-Jewish neighbors,
did they ever

449
00:18:02,030 --> 00:18:04,860
say anything negative
or positive to you?

450
00:18:04,860 --> 00:18:09,060
Oddly enough,
believe it or not, we

451
00:18:09,060 --> 00:18:12,010
had very good
non-Jewish neighbors,

452
00:18:12,010 --> 00:18:14,260
who were very friendly.

453
00:18:14,260 --> 00:18:17,500
And like the night--

454

00:18:17,500 --> 00:18:21,370
just before Kristallnacht, they
came and warned us and told us

455

00:18:21,370 --> 00:18:25,330
not to go out the next morning,
that the party had sent out

456

00:18:25,330 --> 00:18:30,680
word that all members had
to show up, and Mufti,

457

00:18:30,680 --> 00:18:32,870
and start shooting and looting.

458

00:18:32,870 --> 00:18:35,540

459

00:18:35,540 --> 00:18:37,670
And it was-- Kristallnacht
was planned down

460

00:18:37,670 --> 00:18:40,310
to the last detail.

461

00:18:40,310 --> 00:18:44,060
And I knew all about
it before it happened.

462

00:18:44,060 --> 00:18:48,530
I was told the night
before to stay home and be

463

00:18:48,530 --> 00:18:53,280
careful by non-Jewish neighbors.

464

00:18:53,280 --> 00:18:54,905
What were their names,
do you remember?

465

00:18:54,905 --> 00:18:55,775

No.

466
00:18:55,775 --> 00:18:57,080
You don't.

467
00:18:57,080 --> 00:19:07,040
But I guess, Leipzig was a
stronghold for communism.

468
00:19:07,040 --> 00:19:11,070
And I think our neighbors
might have been communists.

469
00:19:11,070 --> 00:19:14,530
And that might have been
the warning connection.

470
00:19:14,530 --> 00:19:16,070
I didn't think of
it at the time,

471
00:19:16,070 --> 00:19:19,225
but in retrospect
it would make sense.

472
00:19:19,225 --> 00:19:20,530
Yeah.

473
00:19:20,530 --> 00:19:25,455
So up till Kristallnacht, did
life go on for you as a child,

474
00:19:25,455 --> 00:19:30,680
as a 10, 11, 12,
13-year-old, normally--

475
00:19:30,680 --> 00:19:31,180
Yeah.

476
00:19:31,180 --> 00:19:31,805
--did it go on?

477

00:19:31,805 --> 00:19:33,910

You don't remember
any restrictions?

478

00:19:33,910 --> 00:19:36,160

No, I went to my
private Jewish school.

479

00:19:36,160 --> 00:19:38,230

OK, and that was still
functioning all the way

480

00:19:38,230 --> 00:19:39,220

till Kristallnacht.

481

00:19:39,220 --> 00:19:39,730

Yeah.

482

00:19:39,730 --> 00:19:41,440

It was not closed or
anything like that?

483

00:19:41,440 --> 00:19:41,940

No.

484

00:19:41,940 --> 00:19:45,090

And any restrictions on
your father's business

485

00:19:45,090 --> 00:19:47,690

that you know of?

486

00:19:47,690 --> 00:19:51,400

Well, I think between
the economic situation

487

00:19:51,400 --> 00:19:53,860

and being Jewish, it
wasn't going too well.

488

00:19:53,860 --> 00:19:55,940

Isn't wasn't going well,
but it wasn't taken over

489
00:19:55,940 --> 00:19:56,930
or closed down?

490
00:19:56,930 --> 00:19:59,657
I don't think he was closed--
he wasn't shut down or anything.

491
00:19:59,657 --> 00:20:00,740
Anything like that, right.

492
00:20:00,740 --> 00:20:02,620
It was just Depression and--

493
00:20:02,620 --> 00:20:03,360
Right.

494
00:20:03,360 --> 00:20:04,780
And your non-Jewish--

495
00:20:04,780 --> 00:20:09,130
Actually, I think it's kind
of funny, looking back.

496
00:20:09,130 --> 00:20:11,560
I don't know if there was
a middle class Jewish trait

497
00:20:11,560 --> 00:20:13,900
or not, but Jews
were never poor,

498
00:20:13,900 --> 00:20:17,570
they just had cash
flow problems.

499
00:20:17,570 --> 00:20:19,560
That's wonderful.

500
00:20:19,560 --> 00:20:21,160
That's wonderful, yeah.

501

00:20:21,160 --> 00:20:24,610

And I don't think my parents
would have ever admitted

502

00:20:24,610 --> 00:20:27,390

to not being well off.

503

00:20:27,390 --> 00:20:28,750

Did you have household help?

504

00:20:28,750 --> 00:20:29,420

Yeah.

505

00:20:29,420 --> 00:20:31,090

Oh, you did.

506

00:20:31,090 --> 00:20:33,160

Did you have a car?

507

00:20:33,160 --> 00:20:34,660

No.

508

00:20:34,660 --> 00:20:39,500

My uncle had a Rolls
Royce and we used it.

509

00:20:39,500 --> 00:20:40,230

Very impressive.

510

00:20:40,230 --> 00:20:41,630

Yep.

511

00:20:41,630 --> 00:20:44,135

Speaking about your uncle,
so you had an extended family

512

00:20:44,135 --> 00:20:44,760

that you were--

513

00:20:44,760 --> 00:20:47,440

Yeah, my mother had two--

514
00:20:47,440 --> 00:20:49,310
That you were close to?

515
00:20:49,310 --> 00:20:52,670
She had a younger
brother in Leipzig.

516
00:20:52,670 --> 00:20:53,835
And we were all very close.

517
00:20:53,835 --> 00:20:55,100
Uh-huh.

518
00:20:55,100 --> 00:20:56,870
And did you get
together on holidays?

519
00:20:56,870 --> 00:20:57,380
Yes.

520
00:20:57,380 --> 00:20:57,880
Yeah.

521
00:20:57,880 --> 00:21:00,260
Do you have any certain
memories of any of the holidays?

522
00:21:00,260 --> 00:21:02,060
Anything special?

523
00:21:02,060 --> 00:21:05,690
Actually, this is kind of weird.

524
00:21:05,690 --> 00:21:09,650
My first memory of
Passover is we were always

525
00:21:09,650 --> 00:21:13,040
invited to the same
family for Passover seder.

526
00:21:13,040 --> 00:21:15,010
And I couldn't stand
their silverware.

527
00:21:15,010 --> 00:21:17,960

528
00:21:17,960 --> 00:21:19,980
That's important.

529
00:21:19,980 --> 00:21:23,250
No, it was cheap metal.

530
00:21:23,250 --> 00:21:24,650
And it had a taste.

531
00:21:24,650 --> 00:21:25,640
Oh, I see.

532
00:21:25,640 --> 00:21:28,430
And my parents had a real
problem understanding

533
00:21:28,430 --> 00:21:32,160
why I would go visit
to seder and not eat.

534
00:21:32,160 --> 00:21:33,200
Oh, OK.

535
00:21:33,200 --> 00:21:34,760
That was one of the--

536
00:21:34,760 --> 00:21:38,360
Did you celebrate the Sabbath
in your own home, Shabbat?

537
00:21:38,360 --> 00:21:39,855
Did you light candles?

538
00:21:39,855 --> 00:21:40,355

Yes.

539

00:21:40,355 --> 00:21:41,647

Or your father make a blessing?

540

00:21:41,647 --> 00:21:43,940

No, my mother lit the candles.

541

00:21:43,940 --> 00:21:48,200

And we always had challah and gefilte fish, or regular fish,

542

00:21:48,200 --> 00:21:52,640

or matzo ball soup
or noodle soup.

543

00:21:52,640 --> 00:21:53,990

No, we had the traditional--

544

00:21:53,990 --> 00:21:55,310

Traditional home.

545

00:21:55,310 --> 00:21:58,640

Did you keep kosher?

546

00:21:58,640 --> 00:21:59,500

Yes and no.

547

00:21:59,500 --> 00:22:00,710

OK.

548

00:22:00,710 --> 00:22:03,160

My mother kept
kosher for my father.

549

00:22:03,160 --> 00:22:04,430

Yeah.

550

00:22:04,430 --> 00:22:07,470

So we had a kosher kitchen.

551

00:22:07,470 --> 00:22:11,526
But when we traveled,
she and I ate trayf.

552
00:22:11,526 --> 00:22:12,460
Right.

553
00:22:12,460 --> 00:22:15,830
And actually, with
my father's blessing.

554
00:22:15,830 --> 00:22:18,035
He just said he was
raised Orthodox.

555
00:22:18,035 --> 00:22:18,950
Yeah.

556
00:22:18,950 --> 00:22:22,680
He couldn't get
himself to change.

557
00:22:22,680 --> 00:22:26,600
But he was very-- he was sort
of a accepting liberal kind

558
00:22:26,600 --> 00:22:28,310
of guy.

559
00:22:28,310 --> 00:22:32,680
And like if I was sick in
bed and needed a treat,

560
00:22:32,680 --> 00:22:40,340
he'd come home and bring me a
package of ham for sandwiches.

561
00:22:40,340 --> 00:22:43,445
So, you know, it was a
tradition, not religion.

562
00:22:43,445 --> 00:22:44,850
Yeah.

563

00:22:44,850 --> 00:22:46,850

You said you were a big
reader, what were some--

564

00:22:46,850 --> 00:22:49,760

who were your favorite authors?

565

00:22:49,760 --> 00:22:53,660

All the forbidden--
everybody who was forbidden.

566

00:22:53,660 --> 00:23:00,230

Leon Feuchtwanger, and
Max Brod, Leon Trotsky.

567

00:23:00,230 --> 00:23:02,510

This is while you
were growing up

568

00:23:02,510 --> 00:23:06,440

and it was forbidden for
people to read those.

569

00:23:06,440 --> 00:23:08,810

And actually, what
we did was, we

570

00:23:08,810 --> 00:23:11,240

passed around the paperbacks.

571

00:23:11,240 --> 00:23:14,750

We read them and as we finished
reading, we tore up the pages

572

00:23:14,750 --> 00:23:17,450

and destroyed them so
we wouldn't get caught.

573

00:23:17,450 --> 00:23:18,763

Oh, my.

574

00:23:18,763 --> 00:23:20,180
This is through
your youth groups.

575
00:23:20,180 --> 00:23:21,330
Mm-hmm.

576
00:23:21,330 --> 00:23:22,320
Now were you aware of--

577
00:23:22,320 --> 00:23:28,490
And I-- the other thing is,
because in '33 all the German

578
00:23:28,490 --> 00:23:30,680
professors were fired--

579
00:23:30,680 --> 00:23:31,430
Right.

580
00:23:31,430 --> 00:23:33,080
--from the German universities.

581
00:23:33,080 --> 00:23:34,070
The Jewish professors.

582
00:23:34,070 --> 00:23:35,300
Yeah.

583
00:23:35,300 --> 00:23:38,270
Since I went to the Carlebach
private high school,

584
00:23:38,270 --> 00:23:41,660
every one of my high
school teachers was a--

585
00:23:41,660 --> 00:23:42,770
University professor.

586
00:23:42,770 --> 00:23:44,940
Was from whatchamacallit.

587
00:23:44,940 --> 00:23:46,580
Yeah, university.

588
00:23:46,580 --> 00:23:51,340
You know, the one outstanding--

589
00:23:51,340 --> 00:23:54,010
the one well known--

590
00:23:54,010 --> 00:23:54,800
In Leipzig?

591
00:23:54,800 --> 00:23:55,970
No, in Germany.

592
00:23:55,970 --> 00:23:56,890
Oh.

593
00:23:56,890 --> 00:23:59,140
What was the big university?

594
00:23:59,140 --> 00:23:59,860
Heidelberg.

595
00:23:59,860 --> 00:24:01,820
Heidelberg, yeah, right.

596
00:24:01,820 --> 00:24:03,800
Practically every one of
my teachers was from--

597
00:24:03,800 --> 00:24:04,520
From Heidelberg.

598
00:24:04,520 --> 00:24:05,390
--was a Heidelberg professor.

599
00:24:05,390 --> 00:24:05,690
Really?

600

00:24:05,690 --> 00:24:06,190

Yeah.

601

00:24:06,190 --> 00:24:09,440

My physics teacher,
my chemistry teacher.

602

00:24:09,440 --> 00:24:11,600

Did you know about
the book burnings?

603

00:24:11,600 --> 00:24:12,920

Yeah.

604

00:24:12,920 --> 00:24:15,140

And again, here,
you loved books,

605

00:24:15,140 --> 00:24:17,120

what-- do you remember
as a young person what

606

00:24:17,120 --> 00:24:17,912

your thoughts were?

607

00:24:17,912 --> 00:24:19,140

Actually, I remember--

608

00:24:19,140 --> 00:24:20,850

I watched them.

609

00:24:20,850 --> 00:24:21,680

In Leipzig?

610

00:24:21,680 --> 00:24:23,420

Yeah, I saw them--

611

00:24:23,420 --> 00:24:26,330

I saw the piles of
books on the streets,

612

00:24:26,330 --> 00:24:29,310
in the middle of the
road, being burned.

613
00:24:29,310 --> 00:24:30,100
And?

614
00:24:30,100 --> 00:24:30,990
And you passed by.

615
00:24:30,990 --> 00:24:32,390
You walked.

616
00:24:32,390 --> 00:24:34,598
And, you, who
loved books, what--

617
00:24:34,598 --> 00:24:36,700
What?

618
00:24:36,700 --> 00:24:38,405
You know, you kept from crying.

619
00:24:38,405 --> 00:24:41,360

620
00:24:41,360 --> 00:24:43,490
Were you frightened
by that point,

621
00:24:43,490 --> 00:24:47,900
seeing what was starting
to happen in the country?

622
00:24:47,900 --> 00:24:50,930
I'm not sure that--

623
00:24:50,930 --> 00:24:52,220
I'm not sure that that's--

624
00:24:52,220 --> 00:24:54,420
I don't know.

625
00:24:54,420 --> 00:24:57,360
I don't think I was frightened.

626
00:24:57,360 --> 00:24:58,565
I think I was unnerved.

627
00:24:58,565 --> 00:25:04,010

628
00:25:04,010 --> 00:25:06,110
No, I don't think I--

629
00:25:06,110 --> 00:25:09,290
I don't think fear was the word.

630
00:25:09,290 --> 00:25:12,340
In fact, one of
the peculiar things

631
00:25:12,340 --> 00:25:15,880
about the fact that I
was a Romanian citizen

632
00:25:15,880 --> 00:25:18,700
and my passport did not
say that I was Jewish--

633
00:25:18,700 --> 00:25:19,720
Oh.

634
00:25:19,720 --> 00:25:23,150
--I could go out
when nobody else--

635
00:25:23,150 --> 00:25:25,510
when all Jews were
restricted, I could still

636
00:25:25,510 --> 00:25:29,050
walk the streets because
my passport didn't say I

637
00:25:29,050 --> 00:25:30,950
was Jewish.

638
00:25:30,950 --> 00:25:35,230
I mean, obviously,
policemen are--

639
00:25:35,230 --> 00:25:39,400
on the street, people suspected,
but they couldn't prove it.

640
00:25:39,400 --> 00:25:41,500
And since nobody could
prove that I was Jewish,

641
00:25:41,500 --> 00:25:43,480
they couldn't keep me inside.

642
00:25:43,480 --> 00:25:47,020
So when all the curfews and
everything was going, I was--

643
00:25:47,020 --> 00:25:49,930
I was walking around freely.

644
00:25:49,930 --> 00:25:52,360
I was going ask you
about that, the curfews

645
00:25:52,360 --> 00:25:54,130
and the limitations.

646
00:25:54,130 --> 00:25:55,090
No, I moved.

647
00:25:55,090 --> 00:25:58,310

648
00:25:58,310 --> 00:25:59,660
And what did you do?

649

00:25:59,660 --> 00:26:02,960

Did you do anything special
because you were able to--

650

00:26:02,960 --> 00:26:03,950

Well, that's how I--

651

00:26:03,950 --> 00:26:07,310

652

00:26:07,310 --> 00:26:11,300

that's how all my
volunteering started.

653

00:26:11,300 --> 00:26:12,660

We had this big--

654

00:26:12,660 --> 00:26:21,040

OK, the German-- no, the
Polish government, after they--

655

00:26:21,040 --> 00:26:22,070

I forgot his name.

656

00:26:22,070 --> 00:26:24,260

There was a 17-year-old
Polish kid--

657

00:26:24,260 --> 00:26:24,860

Right.

658

00:26:24,860 --> 00:26:27,190

--who Killed the
attache in Paris.

659

00:26:27,190 --> 00:26:28,220

Yes, right.

660

00:26:28,220 --> 00:26:32,180

And the follow up to that
was the German government

661

00:26:32,180 --> 00:26:37,390

expelling all Polish Jews
in Germany back into Poland.

662

00:26:37,390 --> 00:26:38,360

Right.

663

00:26:38,360 --> 00:26:41,540

And they would all board to
the Leipzig railroad station.

664

00:26:41,540 --> 00:26:43,060

Mm-hmm.

665

00:26:43,060 --> 00:26:49,190

Because that was the biggest
railroad in Europe and it

666

00:26:49,190 --> 00:26:50,155

had all these sidings.

667

00:26:50,155 --> 00:26:52,880

668

00:26:52,880 --> 00:26:56,030

And that's where I
started volunteering.

669

00:26:56,030 --> 00:26:58,040

I decided these people--

670

00:26:58,040 --> 00:27:00,170

all these people showed
up in nightgowns.

671

00:27:00,170 --> 00:27:01,190

Mm-hmm.

672

00:27:01,190 --> 00:27:04,760

And I decided they
needed toothbrushes.

673

00:27:04,760 --> 00:27:07,550

And so I looked up a man
who had a sundry shop.

674

00:27:07,550 --> 00:27:10,690

675

00:27:10,690 --> 00:27:13,060

And I knocked on his
window at his house.

676

00:27:13,060 --> 00:27:14,770

I knocked on his door.

677

00:27:14,770 --> 00:27:17,920

And I told him about all
these Polish Jews sitting in

678

00:27:17,920 --> 00:27:20,350

the railroad siding
in their nightgowns

679

00:27:20,350 --> 00:27:22,033

and that they
needed toothbrushes.

680

00:27:22,033 --> 00:27:25,210

681

00:27:25,210 --> 00:27:28,780

And I made a toothbrush
distribution.

682

00:27:28,780 --> 00:27:30,160

Of all the crazy--

683

00:27:30,160 --> 00:27:32,530

well, I guess it was as
appropriate as anything else,

684

00:27:32,530 --> 00:27:34,750

wasn't it?

685
00:27:34,750 --> 00:27:37,402
Kind of weird in retrospect.

686
00:27:37,402 --> 00:27:38,110
Did you do this--

687
00:27:38,110 --> 00:27:39,440
did you do this by yourself?

688
00:27:39,440 --> 00:27:39,940
Yeah.

689
00:27:39,940 --> 00:27:40,760
It was your idea.

690
00:27:40,760 --> 00:27:41,260
Yeah.

691
00:27:41,260 --> 00:27:42,468
It wasn't a group of friends?

692
00:27:42,468 --> 00:27:44,300
No, no, no, no.

693
00:27:44,300 --> 00:27:45,815
And you were just a young--

694
00:27:45,815 --> 00:27:47,300
It was just me.

695
00:27:47,300 --> 00:27:47,805
Yeah.

696
00:27:47,805 --> 00:27:49,560
You were about 13 years old.

697
00:27:49,560 --> 00:27:50,290
No, 15.

698

00:27:50,290 --> 00:27:53,490
Oh, 15, right, 15, right.

699
00:27:53,490 --> 00:27:54,595
Yeah, I just--

700
00:27:54,595 --> 00:27:56,110
I knocked on the guy's door.

701
00:27:56,110 --> 00:27:58,650
And I said, you have
all these sundry items.

702
00:27:58,650 --> 00:28:00,040
And we have all
these people that

703
00:28:00,040 --> 00:28:05,140
are dislocated that are
waiting for transportation.

704
00:28:05,140 --> 00:28:06,370
And they need some--

705
00:28:06,370 --> 00:28:08,710
Did you tell your parents
you were going to do it?

706
00:28:08,710 --> 00:28:09,400
Yeah.

707
00:28:09,400 --> 00:28:10,180
And they said OK?

708
00:28:10,180 --> 00:28:11,338
Yeah.

709
00:28:11,338 --> 00:28:12,130
They said go ahead.

710
00:28:12,130 --> 00:28:15,250
Well, they knew I was

safe with my passport.

711
00:28:15,250 --> 00:28:17,350
Did you always carry
your passport with you?

712
00:28:17,350 --> 00:28:17,850
Yeah.

713
00:28:17,850 --> 00:28:20,200
OK.

714
00:28:20,200 --> 00:28:25,000
Now, the other Jews in Leipzig
at the time had restrictions.

715
00:28:25,000 --> 00:28:25,520
I guess so.

716
00:28:25,520 --> 00:28:27,437
Curfew and so forth.

717
00:28:27,437 --> 00:28:29,020
Did they have
restrictions about where

718
00:28:29,020 --> 00:28:31,270
they could go by that time?

719
00:28:31,270 --> 00:28:35,770
Or were they-- or did they have
freedom to go around the city?

720
00:28:35,770 --> 00:28:36,985
It seems to me--

721
00:28:36,985 --> 00:28:39,670
it seems to me they were
pretty damn restricted.

722
00:28:39,670 --> 00:28:42,270
Uh-huh.

723
00:28:42,270 --> 00:28:44,430
But one of the things
I sort of clearly

724
00:28:44,430 --> 00:28:49,200
remember, and that was kind
of a horrible, horrible--

725
00:28:49,200 --> 00:28:52,290
I've just never forgotten it.

726
00:28:52,290 --> 00:28:55,860
Leipzig had some small rivers.

727
00:28:55,860 --> 00:29:02,540
And they assembled the
elderly bearded Jews

728
00:29:02,540 --> 00:29:05,040
on the river's edge.

729
00:29:05,040 --> 00:29:10,680
Now, there was the river.

730
00:29:10,680 --> 00:29:15,410

731
00:29:15,410 --> 00:29:18,300
And, you know, there was paved--

732
00:29:18,300 --> 00:29:19,830
I mean, there was
a little riverlet.

733
00:29:19,830 --> 00:29:20,330
Right.

734
00:29:20,330 --> 00:29:21,730
And then there
was like pavement.

735

00:29:21,730 --> 00:29:22,980

And then there were the walls.

736

00:29:22,980 --> 00:29:24,660

Right.

737

00:29:24,660 --> 00:29:28,080

And what they had done was they rounded up all the Orthodox

738

00:29:28,080 --> 00:29:34,383

Jews and made them face the wall and shot into the air.

739

00:29:34,383 --> 00:29:35,300

They didn't kill them.

740

00:29:35,300 --> 00:29:38,525

They just pretended to kill them all.

741

00:29:38,525 --> 00:29:39,900

And in some ways, that was worse.

742

00:29:39,900 --> 00:29:43,140

Because you heard the shots, you opened your eyes.

743

00:29:43,140 --> 00:29:46,230

You looked and they were still standing.

744

00:29:46,230 --> 00:29:52,380

But the fear, being lined up against a river bed wall

745

00:29:52,380 --> 00:29:55,170

and hearing all these shotguns--

746

00:29:55,170 --> 00:29:57,760

I don't know if

they were guns or--

747

00:29:57,760 --> 00:29:59,490

I don't remember
what ammo they used.

748

00:29:59,490 --> 00:30:02,290

But it was pretty--

749

00:30:02,290 --> 00:30:03,900

And you actually saw this?

750

00:30:03,900 --> 00:30:05,220

Oh, yeah.

751

00:30:05,220 --> 00:30:05,790

I stood--

752

00:30:05,790 --> 00:30:06,500

By chance?

753

00:30:06,500 --> 00:30:08,458

Or did they force you
all to come out and look?

754

00:30:08,458 --> 00:30:10,620

No, I made a point of going out.

755

00:30:10,620 --> 00:30:13,050

How did you know it
was going to happen?

756

00:30:13,050 --> 00:30:16,440

I heard the neighbors talk.

757

00:30:16,440 --> 00:30:18,250

The same neighbors that--

758

00:30:18,250 --> 00:30:19,380

The communist neighbors.

759

00:30:19,380 --> 00:30:22,860
--that warned you
about Kristallnacht.

760
00:30:22,860 --> 00:30:25,030
I was in a feisty--

761
00:30:25,030 --> 00:30:26,390
Sounds like it.

762
00:30:26,390 --> 00:30:28,830
A very unusual young girl, yeah.

763
00:30:28,830 --> 00:30:32,170
No, in a peculiar way--

764
00:30:32,170 --> 00:30:34,570
I can't-- I'm not
sure I can explain it,

765
00:30:34,570 --> 00:30:40,900
but I guess I always kind of
went along feeling it's better

766
00:30:40,900 --> 00:30:44,440
to see than not to.

767
00:30:44,440 --> 00:30:49,390
I felt more in control
being able to watch.

768
00:30:49,390 --> 00:30:50,410
I wasn't so puzzled.

769
00:30:50,410 --> 00:30:53,680
I could see what was going on.

770
00:30:53,680 --> 00:30:57,030
But I just sort of
hoofed it around.

771
00:30:57,030 --> 00:30:59,470

And then you came home and
told your folks what you saw?

772
00:30:59,470 --> 00:31:00,170
Mm-hmm.

773
00:31:00,170 --> 00:31:03,460
And what were their
reactions to all this

774
00:31:03,460 --> 00:31:05,060
and what was happening?

775
00:31:05,060 --> 00:31:11,260
Horrified, scared, upset,
you know, what you expect.

776
00:31:11,260 --> 00:31:13,340
Yeah.

777
00:31:13,340 --> 00:31:16,270
And again, you have to
realize, at the time

778
00:31:16,270 --> 00:31:19,280
I wasn't quite as analytical.

779
00:31:19,280 --> 00:31:20,365
It's easier to analyze--

780
00:31:20,365 --> 00:31:21,205
Yeah.

781
00:31:21,205 --> 00:31:23,205
--looking back then--

782
00:31:23,205 --> 00:31:25,330
Uh-huh.

783
00:31:25,330 --> 00:31:29,107
Did the other Jews in
Leipzig have to wear a star?

784
00:31:29,107 --> 00:31:30,360
A yellow star?

785
00:31:30,360 --> 00:31:31,620
That came later on later.

786
00:31:31,620 --> 00:31:34,490
That came later, OK.

787
00:31:34,490 --> 00:31:38,320
So life went on, except for
these terrible, terrible

788
00:31:38,320 --> 00:31:40,270
happenings, for you.

789
00:31:40,270 --> 00:31:41,200
You went to school.

790
00:31:41,200 --> 00:31:42,430
You did a lot of reading.

791
00:31:42,430 --> 00:31:46,915
Well, particularly I went to
this English translator school.

792
00:31:46,915 --> 00:31:48,390
And then you learned English.

793
00:31:48,390 --> 00:31:50,290
Where I had all kinds
of good friends.

794
00:31:50,290 --> 00:31:53,100
Yeah.

795
00:31:53,100 --> 00:31:55,097
Now these were non-Jews?

796
00:31:55,097 --> 00:31:55,930

These were non-Jews.

797
00:31:55,930 --> 00:31:57,200
Non-Jews, OK.

798
00:31:57,200 --> 00:31:58,900
Well, these were
immersion classes.

799
00:31:58,900 --> 00:32:00,790
Yeah, right.

800
00:32:00,790 --> 00:32:02,950
And they treated you well?

801
00:32:02,950 --> 00:32:06,160
Did you ever experience any
anti-Semitism on the street

802
00:32:06,160 --> 00:32:07,680
or at that English class?

803
00:32:07,680 --> 00:32:11,155
I'm sure I did, but I
don't think it registered.

804
00:32:11,155 --> 00:32:14,080
Or if it registered,
it didn't stick.

805
00:32:14,080 --> 00:32:19,000
I mean, I'm sure I was
called names by other kids.

806
00:32:19,000 --> 00:32:20,890
I just can't remember
the specifics.

807
00:32:20,890 --> 00:32:22,420
Yeah.

808
00:32:22,420 --> 00:32:27,320

Do you ever remember being
frightened at any time?

809
00:32:27,320 --> 00:32:30,410
Not really.

810
00:32:30,410 --> 00:32:34,900
Did you know what was happening
in the rest of the world?

811
00:32:34,900 --> 00:32:36,395
Did you know about
the Anschluss,

812
00:32:36,395 --> 00:32:41,180
when that happened, and Hitler
went into Czechoslovakia?

813
00:32:41,180 --> 00:32:42,140
You did.

814
00:32:42,140 --> 00:32:43,240
Oh, yes.

815
00:32:43,240 --> 00:32:46,310
As a matter of fact, I was
politically very astute

816
00:32:46,310 --> 00:32:48,600
because of my membership
in the youth group.

817
00:32:48,600 --> 00:32:49,100
Yeah.

818
00:32:49,100 --> 00:32:52,940

819
00:32:52,940 --> 00:32:56,040
No, I mean, I think all
of us were way ahead

820

00:32:56,040 --> 00:33:02,970
in political understanding from
the rest of the population.

821
00:33:02,970 --> 00:33:07,260
And in your youth group, were
they urging you to eventually

822
00:33:07,260 --> 00:33:09,150
go to Israel, to Palestine?

823
00:33:09,150 --> 00:33:10,950
Not eventually, as
soon as possible.

824
00:33:10,950 --> 00:33:11,970
Uh-huh.

825
00:33:11,970 --> 00:33:13,673
And how did they
prepare you for that?

826
00:33:13,673 --> 00:33:14,890
Did you do anything special?

827
00:33:14,890 --> 00:33:18,780
Well, looking back,
it's all kind of weird.

828
00:33:18,780 --> 00:33:22,210
Because at the
time, they told did

829
00:33:22,210 --> 00:33:25,290
you go up and go on some
farm and learn agriculture

830
00:33:25,290 --> 00:33:26,520
to get [HEBREW].

831
00:33:26,520 --> 00:33:28,030
Right.

832

00:33:28,030 --> 00:33:33,650

And looking back, good lord,
I mean who came up with this?

833

00:33:33,650 --> 00:33:35,120

You know what I'm saying?

834

00:33:35,120 --> 00:33:37,275

But at the time, it was
a solution to a problem.

835

00:33:37,275 --> 00:33:38,900

That you learn how
to be a good farmer.

836

00:33:38,900 --> 00:33:39,960

Yep.

837

00:33:39,960 --> 00:33:42,120

What did you do?

838

00:33:42,120 --> 00:33:43,650

Did you milk cows?

839

00:33:43,650 --> 00:33:45,880

No, I dug potatoes.

840

00:33:45,880 --> 00:33:46,380

Oh, OK.

841

00:33:46,380 --> 00:33:47,760

I harvested potatoes.

842

00:33:47,760 --> 00:33:50,010

OK.

843

00:33:50,010 --> 00:33:52,290

And one of the
other strange things

844

00:33:52,290 --> 00:34:01,860

in all this mish-mash,
there were some very large

845
00:34:01,860 --> 00:34:05,510
Swiss corporations.

846
00:34:05,510 --> 00:34:08,179

847
00:34:08,179 --> 00:34:17,170
And they owned acreage
on which they grew stuff.

848
00:34:17,170 --> 00:34:19,179
And when I went
to Switzerland, we

849
00:34:19,179 --> 00:34:24,850
volunteered to dig up potatoes
for the Swiss chemical

850
00:34:24,850 --> 00:34:27,130
companies.

851
00:34:27,130 --> 00:34:32,360
These chemical companies
owned farmlands.

852
00:34:32,360 --> 00:34:35,290
And they actually
cultivated them.

853
00:34:35,290 --> 00:34:38,949
And so we volunteered and we
dug up their potatoes for them,

854
00:34:38,949 --> 00:34:43,929
in exchange for which we got
to live in a Swiss castle.

855
00:34:43,929 --> 00:34:46,510
Now this was like a summer
project or something,

856
00:34:46,510 --> 00:34:49,000
when you went to Switzerland?

857
00:34:49,000 --> 00:34:50,540
I guess so.

858
00:34:50,540 --> 00:34:51,040
Yeah.

859
00:34:51,040 --> 00:34:53,050
This is while you're
still living in Leipzig

860
00:34:53,050 --> 00:34:56,820
that you went to Switzerland?

861
00:34:56,820 --> 00:34:57,480
No.

862
00:34:57,480 --> 00:34:58,530
I'd just left--

863
00:34:58,530 --> 00:35:00,210
I'd left Leipzig for good.

864
00:35:00,210 --> 00:35:01,450
Oh, you had already left.

865
00:35:01,450 --> 00:35:02,000
OK, we'll get to that.

866
00:35:02,000 --> 00:35:02,820
And I was in Switzerland.

867
00:35:02,820 --> 00:35:04,320
Yeah, no, no, no,
we'll get to that.

868
00:35:04,320 --> 00:35:05,200
We'll get to that.

869
00:35:05,200 --> 00:35:08,790
OK, so let's get up
to Kristallnacht.

870
00:35:08,790 --> 00:35:11,280
You said that you
went to school.

871
00:35:11,280 --> 00:35:13,290
You're a member of
the youth group.

872
00:35:13,290 --> 00:35:15,510
And then one night
in November, there's

873
00:35:15,510 --> 00:35:18,546
a knock at the door by
your neighbors saying,

874
00:35:18,546 --> 00:35:20,470
don't go outside tomorrow.

875
00:35:20,470 --> 00:35:20,970
Right.

876
00:35:20,970 --> 00:35:22,460
OK, and then tell
me what happened.

877
00:35:22,460 --> 00:35:25,050
So what happened the next day.

878
00:35:25,050 --> 00:35:28,740
Well, the next day, as I said,
I took a walk through town.

879
00:35:28,740 --> 00:35:29,930
Your parents knew that--

880
00:35:29,930 --> 00:35:30,430

Yeah.

881
00:35:30,430 --> 00:35:31,950
--that you were
leaving by yourself?

882
00:35:31,950 --> 00:35:33,630
Yeah.

883
00:35:33,630 --> 00:35:37,900
I stuck my passport in
my handbag and I walked.

884
00:35:37,900 --> 00:35:38,400
Well--

885
00:35:38,400 --> 00:35:40,230
What did you see?

886
00:35:40,230 --> 00:35:43,640
I told you, I saw
old men with a--

887
00:35:43,640 --> 00:35:44,780
turned against the wall.

888
00:35:44,780 --> 00:35:45,730
Oh, that was that day?

889
00:35:45,730 --> 00:35:46,230
Yeah.

890
00:35:46,230 --> 00:35:47,430
Oh, I didn't that was the--

891
00:35:47,430 --> 00:35:48,430
That was the connection.

892
00:35:48,430 --> 00:35:50,940
--that particular day, yeah.

893

00:35:50,940 --> 00:35:51,570
Anything else?

894
00:35:51,570 --> 00:35:53,480
Did you see any burning?

895
00:35:53,480 --> 00:35:56,200
Well, I saw book burning.

896
00:35:56,200 --> 00:35:58,200
Heaps of books in the
middle of the road being--

897
00:35:58,200 --> 00:36:00,420
Did you see any
synagogues being burned?

898
00:36:00,420 --> 00:36:01,320
Yeah.

899
00:36:01,320 --> 00:36:02,290
What?

900
00:36:02,290 --> 00:36:05,680
The Carlebach synagogue
got set on fire.

901
00:36:05,680 --> 00:36:06,860
And you actually saw that?

902
00:36:06,860 --> 00:36:07,650
Oh, yeah.

903
00:36:07,650 --> 00:36:10,680
And what were the firemen doing?

904
00:36:10,680 --> 00:36:11,880
Anything?

905
00:36:11,880 --> 00:36:13,040
No.

906

00:36:13,040 --> 00:36:16,350

But the other
interesting thing--

907

00:36:16,350 --> 00:36:20,340

and oddly enough, this sort
of years later had a follow up

908

00:36:20,340 --> 00:36:25,320

right here in Washington, D.C.
The librarian from the Folger

909

00:36:25,320 --> 00:36:25,890

Theater--

910

00:36:25,890 --> 00:36:27,630

Yes.

911

00:36:27,630 --> 00:36:33,480

--his aunt and uncle owned
one of the biggest haberdasher

912

00:36:33,480 --> 00:36:35,315

firms in Leipzig.

913

00:36:35,315 --> 00:36:37,830

914

00:36:37,830 --> 00:36:43,650

And they-- they were
foreign subjects.

915

00:36:43,650 --> 00:36:46,620

And so when they set
things on fire in Leipzig

916

00:36:46,620 --> 00:36:48,570

in the Jewish stores,
when they looted

917

00:36:48,570 --> 00:36:56,640

and had everything on fire, they

protected the foreign owned--

918
00:36:56,640 --> 00:36:59,120
they actually had
the fire department

919
00:36:59,120 --> 00:37:05,730
with their hoses
sprinkle down and save

920
00:37:05,730 --> 00:37:07,380
the foreign Jewish businesses.

921
00:37:07,380 --> 00:37:08,370
Oh, OK.

922
00:37:08,370 --> 00:37:13,230
And Leipzig had one, what
they call a high rise,

923
00:37:13,230 --> 00:37:18,960
I mean a whole house,
with 10 stories.

924
00:37:18,960 --> 00:37:21,450
And it was English owned.

925
00:37:21,450 --> 00:37:25,050
The fire department
protected that.

926
00:37:25,050 --> 00:37:29,730
It could not be touched because
it was foreign property.

927
00:37:29,730 --> 00:37:31,250
A British Jewish property?

928
00:37:31,250 --> 00:37:33,016
Mm-hmm.

929
00:37:33,016 --> 00:37:35,650

But see, it became British
rather than Jewish.

930
00:37:35,650 --> 00:37:37,920
Yeah.

931
00:37:37,920 --> 00:37:39,420
Now, I know you were strong.

932
00:37:39,420 --> 00:37:40,860
I know you were independent.

933
00:37:40,860 --> 00:37:43,110
But what were your
reactions seeing

934
00:37:43,110 --> 00:37:46,110
your synagogue being burned?

935
00:37:46,110 --> 00:37:48,900
Shock, disillusion, sad.

936
00:37:48,900 --> 00:37:51,090
Any fear?

937
00:37:51,090 --> 00:37:54,390
I don't think I was afraid.

938
00:37:54,390 --> 00:37:57,165
I think what saved me
was not being afraid.

939
00:37:57,165 --> 00:38:02,260

940
00:38:02,260 --> 00:38:04,354
I think that's what
helped me get through it.

941
00:38:04,354 --> 00:38:04,854
Mm-hmm.

942

00:38:04,854 --> 00:38:07,820

943

00:38:07,820 --> 00:38:13,170

I was just sort of leading
with my chin up front.

944

00:38:13,170 --> 00:38:15,050

Maybe I was too
stupid to be afraid.

945

00:38:15,050 --> 00:38:17,310

That I don't think.

946

00:38:17,310 --> 00:38:19,340

Did you see any other
synagogues being burned

947

00:38:19,340 --> 00:38:21,500

or just the Carlebach?

948

00:38:21,500 --> 00:38:22,620

No.

949

00:38:22,620 --> 00:38:27,690

I saw them-- they set fire
to the reform temple, which

950

00:38:27,690 --> 00:38:30,160

was only about two blocks.

951

00:38:30,160 --> 00:38:32,645

And were there crowds
on the street watching?

952

00:38:32,645 --> 00:38:35,160

953

00:38:35,160 --> 00:38:38,380

I assume-- I mean,
yes, there were people.

954

00:38:38,380 --> 00:38:41,940
Just how closely they watched,
or whether they were delighted,

955

00:38:41,940 --> 00:38:44,700
or whether they were
appalled, it's been too--

956

00:38:44,700 --> 00:38:46,820
some of these
details, you don't--

957

00:38:46,820 --> 00:38:47,340
No, I know.

958

00:38:47,340 --> 00:38:49,007
So you come home to
your parents and you

959

00:38:49,007 --> 00:38:50,897
tell them what was happening.

960

00:38:50,897 --> 00:38:52,300
Mm-hmm.

961

00:38:52,300 --> 00:38:53,430
I was the reporter.

962

00:38:53,430 --> 00:38:54,390
You were a reporter.

963

00:38:54,390 --> 00:38:55,470
And their response?

964

00:38:55,470 --> 00:38:58,002
Do you remember what they said?

965

00:38:58,002 --> 00:38:59,970
OK.

966

00:38:59,970 --> 00:39:04,360

And meanwhile, they're trying to
get frantically out of Germany.

967
00:39:04,360 --> 00:39:04,860
Yeah.

968
00:39:04,860 --> 00:39:05,810
Right.

969
00:39:05,810 --> 00:39:08,690
So this is November '38,
did you go back to school

970
00:39:08,690 --> 00:39:10,980
the next day, the next?

971
00:39:10,980 --> 00:39:12,140
School was closed.

972
00:39:12,140 --> 00:39:15,560
School was then
closed permanently?

973
00:39:15,560 --> 00:39:21,480
So what was your life
like at that point?

974
00:39:21,480 --> 00:39:23,970
You still met-- were you still
able to meet with your youth

975
00:39:23,970 --> 00:39:24,520
group?

976
00:39:24,520 --> 00:39:25,020
Yeah.

977
00:39:25,020 --> 00:39:26,200
They permitted that.

978
00:39:26,200 --> 00:39:26,955
Yeah.

979
00:39:26,955 --> 00:39:28,290
That was permitted.

980
00:39:28,290 --> 00:39:32,370
In fact, anything that helped
get Jews out of Germany

981
00:39:32,370 --> 00:39:33,990
was initially permitted.

982
00:39:33,990 --> 00:39:36,000
Uh-huh.

983
00:39:36,000 --> 00:39:38,598
Because initially, Hitler wasn't
going to kill all the Jews.

984
00:39:38,598 --> 00:39:40,140
He was just going
to get rid of them.

985
00:39:40,140 --> 00:39:42,900
He just wanted to get
rid of them, right.

986
00:39:42,900 --> 00:39:45,450
So what did you spend
your time doing now

987
00:39:45,450 --> 00:39:47,220
that you couldn't go to school?

988
00:39:47,220 --> 00:39:47,905
Reading.

989
00:39:47,905 --> 00:39:48,405
Reading.

990
00:39:48,405 --> 00:39:50,980

991
00:39:50,980 --> 00:39:53,942
I did a ferocious
amount of reading.

992
00:39:53,942 --> 00:39:55,720
Yeah.

993
00:39:55,720 --> 00:39:56,220
And then--

994
00:39:56,220 --> 00:40:01,490
Oh, and visiting with friends,
including non-Jewish friends

995
00:40:01,490 --> 00:40:02,940
from the language school.

996
00:40:02,940 --> 00:40:05,410
Who were still good
to you and positive?

997
00:40:05,410 --> 00:40:08,370
Yeah, but the people that
went to these immersion--

998
00:40:08,370 --> 00:40:10,470
Were open minded, you mean?

999
00:40:10,470 --> 00:40:12,150
Most of them were foreigners.

1000
00:40:12,150 --> 00:40:13,360
Oh, I see.

1001
00:40:13,360 --> 00:40:15,325
So we were all buddy-buddies.

1002
00:40:15,325 --> 00:40:17,370
Yeah.

1003
00:40:17,370 --> 00:40:19,560

And then the next big step was?

1004
00:40:19,560 --> 00:40:22,540

1005
00:40:22,540 --> 00:40:23,730
Leaving?

1006
00:40:23,730 --> 00:40:26,595
How did you-- how long
did you stay in Leipzig?

1007
00:40:26,595 --> 00:40:31,570

1008
00:40:31,570 --> 00:40:35,520
Well, I came to the
States in December of '39.

1009
00:40:35,520 --> 00:40:39,350
OK, tell me about how you left
Germany, and how you got out,

1010
00:40:39,350 --> 00:40:42,337
and how the
arrangements were made.

1011
00:40:42,337 --> 00:40:42,837
OK.

1012
00:40:42,837 --> 00:40:46,320

1013
00:40:46,320 --> 00:40:49,620
I started out by
being in Switzerland.

1014
00:40:49,620 --> 00:40:50,860
OK, first you're in Leipzig.

1015
00:40:50,860 --> 00:40:51,360
Yeah.

1016
00:40:51,360 --> 00:40:54,280
And then you tell your
parents you want to leave?

1017
00:40:54,280 --> 00:40:57,560
Or did the whole family
go to Switzerland.

1018
00:40:57,560 --> 00:40:59,098
Well, we all went
to Switzerland.

1019
00:40:59,098 --> 00:41:00,640
The whole family
went to Switzerland.

1020
00:41:00,640 --> 00:41:04,060
Except my parents went
back and I stayed.

1021
00:41:04,060 --> 00:41:05,820
Oh, OK, but initially--

1022
00:41:05,820 --> 00:41:09,675
Initially, the whole
family was in Switzerland.

1023
00:41:09,675 --> 00:41:11,230
OK.

1024
00:41:11,230 --> 00:41:14,730
Which was a real freak
accident, because normally

1025
00:41:14,730 --> 00:41:17,310
one person in the family
always had to stay home--

1026
00:41:17,310 --> 00:41:20,440

1027

00:41:20,440 --> 00:41:21,660
To keep an eye.

1028
00:41:21,660 --> 00:41:23,940
No, to make sure--

1029
00:41:23,940 --> 00:41:25,140
The family didn't leave.

1030
00:41:25,140 --> 00:41:25,750
Didn't leave.

1031
00:41:25,750 --> 00:41:26,760
I see, I see, yeah.

1032
00:41:26,760 --> 00:41:31,200
And so all of a
sudden, all three of us

1033
00:41:31,200 --> 00:41:32,070
were in Switzerland.

1034
00:41:32,070 --> 00:41:32,570
Uh-huh.

1035
00:41:32,570 --> 00:41:37,050

1036
00:41:37,050 --> 00:41:40,283
And I hooked up--

1037
00:41:40,283 --> 00:41:42,075
well, we had some
relatives in Switzerland.

1038
00:41:42,075 --> 00:41:43,230
OK.

1039
00:41:43,230 --> 00:41:45,230
Who were for the birds.

1040

00:41:45,230 --> 00:41:46,300
You're now 16.

1041
00:41:46,300 --> 00:41:46,800
Mm-hmm.

1042
00:41:46,800 --> 00:41:48,970
Mm-hmm.

1043
00:41:48,970 --> 00:41:50,820
Anyway, to make a
long story short--

1044
00:41:50,820 --> 00:41:53,040
No, let's make a
long story long.

1045
00:41:53,040 --> 00:41:55,460
I kind of got to be an au pair.

1046
00:41:55,460 --> 00:41:56,890
OK.

1047
00:41:56,890 --> 00:41:58,880
And I took care--

1048
00:41:58,880 --> 00:42:01,080
I lived with this young
couple in Switzerland.

1049
00:42:01,080 --> 00:42:01,920
A Jewish couple?

1050
00:42:01,920 --> 00:42:03,720
Yeah.

1051
00:42:03,720 --> 00:42:05,310
In fact, I'll never forget them.

1052
00:42:05,310 --> 00:42:08,060
Their name was Herzog.

1053

00:42:08,060 --> 00:42:10,160

And they were very nice.

1054

00:42:10,160 --> 00:42:12,480

And I guess I was their au pair.

1055

00:42:12,480 --> 00:42:14,190

And I took care of their two--

1056

00:42:14,190 --> 00:42:15,390

helped with the two kids.

1057

00:42:15,390 --> 00:42:16,710

Mm-hmm.

1058

00:42:16,710 --> 00:42:18,600

And I went to English
class every day.

1059

00:42:18,600 --> 00:42:21,110

Mm-hmm.

1060

00:42:21,110 --> 00:42:24,370

Now this-- this
is-- when was this?

1061

00:42:24,370 --> 00:42:25,720

When did you leave?

1062

00:42:25,720 --> 00:42:26,720

'39.

1063

00:42:26,720 --> 00:42:28,150

What part of '39?

1064

00:42:28,150 --> 00:42:28,730

Early in--

1065

00:42:28,730 --> 00:42:31,260

The week before Kristallnacht.

1066

00:42:31,260 --> 00:42:32,960

No, Kristallnacht was--

1067

00:42:32,960 --> 00:42:34,700

'38.

1068

00:42:34,700 --> 00:42:37,340

I'm sorry, '38.

1069

00:42:37,340 --> 00:42:40,670

It was Kristallnacht and
then you left soon after?

1070

00:42:40,670 --> 00:42:43,152

No, I left the day before--

1071

00:42:43,152 --> 00:42:46,010

I don't know, I left a
week of Kristallnacht.

1072

00:42:46,010 --> 00:42:48,970

Oh, so you all left very
quickly after Kristallnacht.

1073

00:42:48,970 --> 00:42:50,270

OK.

1074

00:42:50,270 --> 00:42:52,488

Got to Switzerland.

1075

00:42:52,488 --> 00:42:54,530

How did your parents decide
to go to Switzerland?

1076

00:42:54,530 --> 00:42:55,800

Because it was neutral?

1077

00:42:55,800 --> 00:42:56,300

Yeah.

1078

00:42:56,300 --> 00:42:56,830

Yeah.

1079
00:42:56,830 --> 00:42:57,330
OK.

1080
00:42:57,330 --> 00:43:04,380
Except-- I mean, my father
was totally unrealistic.

1081
00:43:04,380 --> 00:43:06,540
Hitler's going to last
six months and the Germans

1082
00:43:06,540 --> 00:43:08,220
will know where to bargain--

1083
00:43:08,220 --> 00:43:09,060
God, all mighty--

1084
00:43:09,060 --> 00:43:11,390
I mean-- never mind.

1085
00:43:11,390 --> 00:43:14,370
I mean, when I remember,
I still get angry.

1086
00:43:14,370 --> 00:43:19,900
Because there was no excuse for
being that much of an ostrich.

1087
00:43:19,900 --> 00:43:24,520
But anyway, I was
in Switzerland.

1088
00:43:24,520 --> 00:43:27,720
And I sort of
worked as an au pair

1089
00:43:27,720 --> 00:43:35,560
and studied English, and
made the best of things.

1090

00:43:35,560 --> 00:43:38,650

And, oh, there were
funny little things.

1091

00:43:38,650 --> 00:43:40,750

I mean, it was such
a peculiar time.

1092

00:43:40,750 --> 00:43:46,510

Like my parents
couldn't send me money.

1093

00:43:46,510 --> 00:43:50,350

You didn't get permission
to send money out

1094

00:43:50,350 --> 00:43:52,600

of Germany anymore.

1095

00:43:52,600 --> 00:44:00,440

So they would send me pounds
and pounds of nail polish, which

1096

00:44:00,440 --> 00:44:01,610

I could sell.

1097

00:44:01,610 --> 00:44:03,740

And that gave me spending money.

1098

00:44:03,740 --> 00:44:12,350

But you know, I was kind
of a 16-year-old hustler,

1099

00:44:12,350 --> 00:44:14,010

putting it in modern lingo.

1100

00:44:14,010 --> 00:44:15,950

Right.

1101

00:44:15,950 --> 00:44:17,250

But it gave me money.

1102

00:44:17,250 --> 00:44:18,410
It gave me spending money.

1103
00:44:18,410 --> 00:44:20,535
Was it hard for you to say
goodbye to your parents?

1104
00:44:20,535 --> 00:44:23,713

1105
00:44:23,713 --> 00:44:24,630
Well, I was a runaway.

1106
00:44:24,630 --> 00:44:27,590

1107
00:44:27,590 --> 00:44:29,590
They wanted you to go
back to Germany with them.

1108
00:44:29,590 --> 00:44:30,090
Yeah.

1109
00:44:30,090 --> 00:44:30,640
Oh.

1110
00:44:30,640 --> 00:44:35,980
I was on a train with my
mother going back to Germany.

1111
00:44:35,980 --> 00:44:40,480
And when the conductor said,
all aboard, I jumped off.

1112
00:44:40,480 --> 00:44:43,832
And the train didn't stop until
after it crossed the border.

1113
00:44:43,832 --> 00:44:45,290
And there was
nothing she could do.

1114

00:44:45,290 --> 00:44:48,440

1115

00:44:48,440 --> 00:44:50,210

Why did you want to do that?

1116

00:44:50,210 --> 00:44:51,870

I wasn't about to
go back to Germany.

1117

00:44:51,870 --> 00:44:53,453

You didn't want to
go back to Germany.

1118

00:44:53,453 --> 00:44:57,060

No, ten horses could
get me back there.

1119

00:44:57,060 --> 00:44:59,540

So you-- so this was
a surprise to her too?

1120

00:44:59,540 --> 00:45:00,140

Of course.

1121

00:45:00,140 --> 00:45:00,880

Yeah.

1122

00:45:00,880 --> 00:45:05,300

Well, yes and no, because
when we packed for the trip,

1123

00:45:05,300 --> 00:45:10,296

she went through my luggage
and she said, you don't need--

1124

00:45:10,296 --> 00:45:13,340

in a summer-- whatever
seasonal clothes

1125

00:45:13,340 --> 00:45:16,670

I packed was the wrong season.

1126

00:45:16,670 --> 00:45:19,220

So she knew what I was planning.

1127

00:45:19,220 --> 00:45:21,800

But there wasn't
much she could do.

1128

00:45:21,800 --> 00:45:25,520

And when I-- when I jumped
off the train and the train

1129

00:45:25,520 --> 00:45:27,530

moved on, that was it.

1130

00:45:27,530 --> 00:45:28,760

She--

1131

00:45:28,760 --> 00:45:31,730

Where were your two sisters
when you went to Switzerland?

1132

00:45:31,730 --> 00:45:33,950

They didn't come with you?

1133

00:45:33,950 --> 00:45:36,155

Well, one was in Israel
and one was in France.

1134

00:45:36,155 --> 00:45:36,770

By that time?

1135

00:45:36,770 --> 00:45:37,270

Oh, yeah.

1136

00:45:37,270 --> 00:45:38,570

Oh, I see.

1137

00:45:38,570 --> 00:45:39,760

Well, they were both older--

1138

00:45:39,760 --> 00:45:41,010

one was 12 years older.

1139

00:45:41,010 --> 00:45:43,290

Yeah, so they were not with you.

1140

00:45:43,290 --> 00:45:44,816

I got a pain.

1141

00:45:44,816 --> 00:45:48,260

Oh, well, let's take a--

1142

00:45:48,260 --> 00:45:49,730

Let me take a little break.

1143

00:45:49,730 --> 00:45:51,500

Absolutely.

1144

00:45:51,500 --> 00:45:52,000