

1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:04,850

2  
00:00:04,850 --> 00:00:07,400  
This is a continuation of  
the United States Holocaust

3  
00:00:07,400 --> 00:00:09,350  
Memorial Museum  
volunteer collection

4  
00:00:09,350 --> 00:00:11,450  
interview with Edith Langer.

5  
00:00:11,450 --> 00:00:15,320  
This is track number two.

6  
00:00:15,320 --> 00:00:18,380  
When you were here  
in the United States

7  
00:00:18,380 --> 00:00:22,190  
and people asked you about  
where you came from or did

8  
00:00:22,190 --> 00:00:24,320  
many people ask you  
and did they discuss

9  
00:00:24,320 --> 00:00:27,620  
about Hitler or about the  
Nazis or about the Jews?

10  
00:00:27,620 --> 00:00:31,460  
Did people bring those topics up  
when you came to United States?

11  
00:00:31,460 --> 00:00:32,450  
Yeah.

12  
00:00:32,450 --> 00:00:33,455

And how did you respond?

13  
00:00:33,455 --> 00:00:37,910

14  
00:00:37,910 --> 00:00:41,920  
I told him how it really was.

15  
00:00:41,920 --> 00:00:46,200  
Many people did not  
knew that Hitler

16  
00:00:46,200 --> 00:00:50,460  
went after small families--

17  
00:00:50,460 --> 00:00:53,510  
like after families like me.

18  
00:00:53,510 --> 00:00:56,050  
And they said Hitler  
couldn't be that bad.

19  
00:00:56,050 --> 00:00:58,830

20  
00:00:58,830 --> 00:01:07,440  
But I told them then, and  
then the history books

21  
00:01:07,440 --> 00:01:12,300  
were only saying that  
he killed many Jews

22  
00:01:12,300 --> 00:01:17,980  
and put them in  
concentration camps.

23  
00:01:17,980 --> 00:01:23,660  
And I knew that.

24  
00:01:23,660 --> 00:01:26,690  
But then I told them my story.

25  
00:01:26,690 --> 00:01:28,955  
And I have told to  
many people my story.

26  
00:01:28,955 --> 00:01:32,330

27  
00:01:32,330 --> 00:01:37,720  
They all say, ah, but horrible.

28  
00:01:37,720 --> 00:01:44,700  
Because I told it in  
churches, my story.

29  
00:01:44,700 --> 00:01:48,020  
I told it to youth groups.

30  
00:01:48,020 --> 00:01:56,090  
I went all over telling the  
story of Hitler really was.

31  
00:01:56,090 --> 00:01:59,150  
And it wasn't--

32  
00:01:59,150 --> 00:02:05,000  
I still think in my heart  
it wasn't Hitler's doing,

33  
00:02:05,000 --> 00:02:09,250  
it was the Nazi's doing.

34  
00:02:09,250 --> 00:02:09,970  
You know?

35  
00:02:09,970 --> 00:02:13,380  
What do you mean it  
wasn't Hitler's doing?

36  
00:02:13,380 --> 00:02:19,520  
Hitler did not kill  
anybody in my book.

37  
00:02:19,520 --> 00:02:21,940  
But he gave the orders to kill.

38  
00:02:21,940 --> 00:02:23,690  
He didn't do the actual  
physical killing--

39  
00:02:23,690 --> 00:02:24,050  
No.

40  
00:02:24,050 --> 00:02:24,500  
--is what you're saying.

41  
00:02:24,500 --> 00:02:26,013  
He gave the orders to do it.

42  
00:02:26,013 --> 00:02:27,000  
Yeah.

43  
00:02:27,000 --> 00:02:30,270  
He gave the orders  
because the Nazis

44  
00:02:30,270 --> 00:02:37,380  
had the orders to  
kill people who said

45  
00:02:37,380 --> 00:02:40,320  
something bad about Hitler or--

46  
00:02:40,320 --> 00:02:44,350

47  
00:02:44,350 --> 00:02:50,020  
I have heard people saying  
that Hitler is no good.

48  
00:02:50,020 --> 00:02:55,320  
Next day they found  
them dead, you know.

49

00:02:55,320 --> 00:03:01,490

And that doesn't work.

50

00:03:01,490 --> 00:03:08,690

So I told the stories to  
churches, Methodist church

51

00:03:08,690 --> 00:03:14,390

in Newark, I spoke  
many times there.

52

00:03:14,390 --> 00:03:17,280

I had a youth group there.

53

00:03:17,280 --> 00:03:21,480

I was a choir director  
for a long time.

54

00:03:21,480 --> 00:03:27,660

And I told them where  
I was coming from.

55

00:03:27,660 --> 00:03:30,810

Did you meet many Jewish  
people, after the war,

56

00:03:30,810 --> 00:03:32,310

in the United States?

57

00:03:32,310 --> 00:03:34,640

Did you have Jewish  
customers or Jewish friends?

58

00:03:34,640 --> 00:03:37,490

59

00:03:37,490 --> 00:03:40,693

To be honest with  
you, I hated Jews.

60

00:03:40,693 --> 00:03:42,902

Oh, because--

61  
00:03:42,902 --> 00:03:54,410  
Because they were causing  
us, my dad, to be killed.

62  
00:03:54,410 --> 00:04:01,590  
If we wouldn't had hidden  
them, he would still live.

63  
00:04:01,590 --> 00:04:03,910  
So I had to get over that.

64  
00:04:03,910 --> 00:04:07,560  
I've went to counseling for it.

65  
00:04:07,560 --> 00:04:12,640  
And the counselor has  
straightened me out.

66  
00:04:12,640 --> 00:04:17,769  
There would have been another  
family who would get them.

67  
00:04:17,769 --> 00:04:24,150  
So but whatever  
happened happened.

68  
00:04:24,150 --> 00:04:26,790  
The counseling was done  
in the United States?

69  
00:04:26,790 --> 00:04:27,600  
No, in Germany.

70  
00:04:27,600 --> 00:04:28,650  
In Germany.

71  
00:04:28,650 --> 00:04:30,726  
In Germany.

72  
00:04:30,726 --> 00:04:31,610  
That's interesting.

73  
00:04:31,610 --> 00:04:37,655  
Because at the beginning,  
I didn't want no--

74  
00:04:37,655 --> 00:04:41,220

75  
00:04:41,220 --> 00:04:45,840  
I didn't even wanted to  
talk to a Jewish person.

76  
00:04:45,840 --> 00:04:47,155  
And then I came around.

77  
00:04:47,155 --> 00:04:51,890

78  
00:04:51,890 --> 00:04:55,340  
Now, they're one of me.

79  
00:04:55,340 --> 00:04:58,610  
Did any of the Jews who  
had left Hamm come back

80  
00:04:58,610 --> 00:05:00,920  
to Hamm after the war?

81  
00:05:00,920 --> 00:05:01,650  
I don't know.

82  
00:05:01,650 --> 00:05:02,570  
You don't know.

83  
00:05:02,570 --> 00:05:03,950  
Our house was gone.

84  
00:05:03,950 --> 00:05:05,030  
Yeah.

85  
00:05:05,030 --> 00:05:06,170

We had to live.

86

00:05:06,170 --> 00:05:09,370

We moved to Heessen.

87

00:05:09,370 --> 00:05:10,090

Is that--

88

00:05:10,090 --> 00:05:17,700

Heessen is a small  
town next to Hamm.

89

00:05:17,700 --> 00:05:21,750

H-E-E-S-S-E-N, Heessen.

90

00:05:21,750 --> 00:05:22,680

OK.

91

00:05:22,680 --> 00:05:29,746

And we live there  
in an apartment.

92

00:05:29,746 --> 00:05:35,060

We had to buy furniture  
again because we

93

00:05:35,060 --> 00:05:37,350

didn't have anything.

94

00:05:37,350 --> 00:05:44,120

And I worked in a  
factory for a while.

95

00:05:44,120 --> 00:05:46,010

That's where I lost my finger.

96

00:05:46,010 --> 00:05:48,270

Oh.

97

00:05:48,270 --> 00:05:55,440

And to get some money  
together, I took a man's job.



98  
00:05:55,440 --> 00:05:59,070  
What kind of factory was it?

99  
00:05:59,070 --> 00:06:00,120  
Umbrellas they made.

100  
00:06:00,120 --> 00:06:00,870  
Umbrellas.

101  
00:06:00,870 --> 00:06:04,080  
Umbrellas and blinds.

102  
00:06:04,080 --> 00:06:05,700  
Yeah.

103  
00:06:05,700 --> 00:06:07,770  
As far as your  
sister is concerned,

104  
00:06:07,770 --> 00:06:09,480  
the one who was  
in the classroom,

105  
00:06:09,480 --> 00:06:10,950  
which sister was that?

106  
00:06:10,950 --> 00:06:12,150  
What was her name?

107  
00:06:12,150 --> 00:06:12,870  
Mariana.

108  
00:06:12,870 --> 00:06:14,070  
Mariana.

109  
00:06:14,070 --> 00:06:16,500  
Did you talk about  
what happened-- again,

110  
00:06:16,500 --> 00:06:17,790

after the war--

111  
00:06:17,790 --> 00:06:21,150  
did she talk about,  
again, what she--

112  
00:06:21,150 --> 00:06:24,930  
her thoughts and her feelings  
did she let them known to you?

113  
00:06:24,930 --> 00:06:27,960  
She never said  
anything afterwards.

114  
00:06:27,960 --> 00:06:28,980  
Afterwards.

115  
00:06:28,980 --> 00:06:31,750  
I got her over here to States.

116  
00:06:31,750 --> 00:06:33,000  
She came to the United States?

117  
00:06:33,000 --> 00:06:36,510  
She came over to  
the United States.

118  
00:06:36,510 --> 00:06:39,330  
Do you feel she felt  
guilty for years or?

119  
00:06:39,330 --> 00:06:43,930

120  
00:06:43,930 --> 00:06:45,700  
I think she did.

121  
00:06:45,700 --> 00:06:47,020  
Yeah.

122  
00:06:47,020 --> 00:06:49,270  
I think she did.

123  
00:06:49,270 --> 00:07:01,150  
But she became a nurse, a cancer  
nurse in the cancer hospital.

124  
00:07:01,150 --> 00:07:05,280  
And she's dead now.

125  
00:07:05,280 --> 00:07:08,940  
Because she was five  
years older than I am.

126  
00:07:08,940 --> 00:07:09,440  
And--

127  
00:07:09,440 --> 00:07:11,848

128  
00:07:11,848 --> 00:07:14,140  
So that was not something  
you never talked about after.

129  
00:07:14,140 --> 00:07:16,040  
No.

130  
00:07:16,040 --> 00:07:18,340  
Have you been back to Germany?

131  
00:07:18,340 --> 00:07:19,300  
Once.

132  
00:07:19,300 --> 00:07:20,800  
When was that?

133  
00:07:20,800 --> 00:07:22,540  
10 years ago.

134  
00:07:22,540 --> 00:07:25,460  
And what are your  
thoughts about Germany?

135

00:07:25,460 --> 00:07:28,780  
Germany I did not recognize.

136  
00:07:28,780 --> 00:07:32,940  
I didn't recognize  
the city Hamm.

137  
00:07:32,940 --> 00:07:36,450  
Hamm was totally bombed out.

138  
00:07:36,450 --> 00:07:43,885  
And they build everything,  
rebuilt. And I was told--

139  
00:07:43,885 --> 00:07:46,600

140  
00:07:46,600 --> 00:07:49,570  
I don't know whether  
it's true or not--

141  
00:07:49,570 --> 00:07:55,560  
but I was told that  
the army or the navy--

142  
00:07:55,560 --> 00:08:01,910  
the navy, the army-- all  
the soldiers, their money

143  
00:08:01,910 --> 00:08:03,110  
built city up.

144  
00:08:03,110 --> 00:08:05,700

145  
00:08:05,700 --> 00:08:08,520  
The German army and  
the German navy?

146  
00:08:08,520 --> 00:08:09,088  
No.

147

00:08:09,088 --> 00:08:09,630  
The American.

148  
00:08:09,630 --> 00:08:11,960  
Americans built the city back?

149  
00:08:11,960 --> 00:08:13,850  
Yeah.

150  
00:08:13,850 --> 00:08:16,340  
I don't know whether  
it was true or not.

151  
00:08:16,340 --> 00:08:19,200

152  
00:08:19,200 --> 00:08:22,400  
But Hamm was totally new.

153  
00:08:22,400 --> 00:08:25,770  
You didn't know the  
streets anymore.

154  
00:08:25,770 --> 00:08:30,810  
I had to find out  
which street I'm in.

155  
00:08:30,810 --> 00:08:35,190  
Do you consider yourself German  
or American or German American?

156  
00:08:35,190 --> 00:08:35,940  
American.

157  
00:08:35,940 --> 00:08:38,159  
You consider yourself American.

158  
00:08:38,159 --> 00:08:39,409  
When did you become a citizen?

159  
00:08:39,409 --> 00:08:42,820

160  
00:08:42,820 --> 00:08:43,940  
'61.

161  
00:08:43,940 --> 00:08:47,290  
What was that like?

162  
00:08:47,290 --> 00:08:50,910  
It was good.

163  
00:08:50,910 --> 00:08:52,261  
It was proud.

164  
00:08:52,261 --> 00:08:54,850

165  
00:08:54,850 --> 00:09:01,550  
I learned more about the  
history as the kids in school.

166  
00:09:01,550 --> 00:09:02,833  
You had to learn it.

167  
00:09:02,833 --> 00:09:06,150

168  
00:09:06,150 --> 00:09:09,500  
And I had a good time.

169  
00:09:09,500 --> 00:09:12,150

170  
00:09:12,150 --> 00:09:15,910  
I was still in  
business, being a baker.

171  
00:09:15,910 --> 00:09:19,400

172  
00:09:19,400 --> 00:09:23,990  
So your thoughts-- do you

feel German in any way?

173  
00:09:23,990 --> 00:09:25,970  
Not really any more.

174  
00:09:25,970 --> 00:09:27,530  
I've been here 50 years.

175  
00:09:27,530 --> 00:09:31,410

176  
00:09:31,410 --> 00:09:34,950  
Do you keep up with  
what's going on there?

177  
00:09:34,950 --> 00:09:36,020  
Yeah, I do.

178  
00:09:36,020 --> 00:09:38,530

179  
00:09:38,530 --> 00:09:43,450  
One of my sisters write to  
me, and that's how I keep up.

180  
00:09:43,450 --> 00:09:45,340  
Yeah.

181  
00:09:45,340 --> 00:09:47,680  
Do you have any  
feelings about how

182  
00:09:47,680 --> 00:09:51,790  
they're handling the history  
lessons to the young people

183  
00:09:51,790 --> 00:09:54,820  
in Germany in the schools,  
whether they're teaching it

184  
00:09:54,820 --> 00:09:57,970  
correctly, or they're doing

enough, or not enough?

185  
00:09:57,970 --> 00:10:00,960  
I don't think it's done enough.

186  
00:10:00,960 --> 00:10:04,090

187  
00:10:04,090 --> 00:10:09,460  
Like my own story has  
never been told in Germany.

188  
00:10:09,460 --> 00:10:12,270

189  
00:10:12,270 --> 00:10:19,430  
And the people should  
have known that.

190  
00:10:19,430 --> 00:10:29,590  
And I think the SS  
should have been

191  
00:10:29,590 --> 00:10:31,360  
accountable for what they did.

192  
00:10:31,360 --> 00:10:35,600

193  
00:10:35,600 --> 00:10:40,840  
They had all the number  
on their shoulder,

194  
00:10:40,840 --> 00:10:44,480  
so that should catch them all.

195  
00:10:44,480 --> 00:10:47,630  
You're talking about the  
members of the Nazi party--

196  
00:10:47,630 --> 00:10:48,560  
Yeah.



197  
00:10:48,560 --> 00:10:52,360  
--should have all been held  
accountable for what they did.

198  
00:10:52,360 --> 00:10:54,040  
But they were--

199  
00:10:54,040 --> 00:10:58,330  
When they killed my  
father nobody got the guy.

200  
00:10:58,330 --> 00:11:00,380  
Yeah.

201  
00:11:00,380 --> 00:11:04,070  
You know, he was going free.

202  
00:11:04,070 --> 00:11:08,630  
Today you killed somebody  
you get arrested for it.

203  
00:11:08,630 --> 00:11:10,700  
Do you know if,  
when that happened,

204  
00:11:10,700 --> 00:11:12,770  
it was recorded in the town--

205  
00:11:12,770 --> 00:11:13,880  
No, it wasn't

206  
00:11:13,880 --> 00:11:15,650  
--files in the city--

207  
00:11:15,650 --> 00:11:17,170  
It wasn't

208  
00:11:17,170 --> 00:11:18,940  
--that your house  
was burned down,

209

00:11:18,940 --> 00:11:20,300  
and your father was killed?

210

00:11:20,300 --> 00:11:20,800  
It wasn't.

211

00:11:20,800 --> 00:11:21,760  
No records?

212

00:11:21,760 --> 00:11:24,360  
No records.

213

00:11:24,360 --> 00:11:26,910  
So the soldiers just did that  
on their own do you think?

214

00:11:26,910 --> 00:11:28,190  
Yeah, I think so.

215

00:11:28,190 --> 00:11:31,072

216

00:11:31,072 --> 00:11:31,905  
I didn't know they--

217

00:11:31,905 --> 00:11:34,770  
The local Nazis who were  
assigned to your town--

218

00:11:34,770 --> 00:11:38,430  
I didn't know whether they  
got the [? staff for it ?]

219

00:11:38,430 --> 00:11:39,030  
or whatever.

220

00:11:39,030 --> 00:11:39,650  
I don't know.

221

00:11:39,650 --> 00:11:42,230

222  
00:11:42,230 --> 00:11:48,180  
But they did that on their own.

223  
00:11:48,180 --> 00:11:51,660  
They were really brain washed.

224  
00:11:51,660 --> 00:11:54,070  
They were only 18,  
19-year-old kids.

225  
00:11:54,070 --> 00:11:57,070  
Were these soldiers from the  
town or from other places?

226  
00:11:57,070 --> 00:11:58,367  
No, they were from the town.

227  
00:11:58,367 --> 00:11:58,950  
Oh, they were.

228  
00:11:58,950 --> 00:12:02,070  
So you recognize-- people  
recognized who they were.

229  
00:12:02,070 --> 00:12:06,150  
We didn't knew them because  
they were 19 years old.

230  
00:12:06,150 --> 00:12:07,690  
I never saw them.

231  
00:12:07,690 --> 00:12:08,970  
But they were local Hamm--

232  
00:12:08,970 --> 00:12:09,803  
Yeah.

233  
00:12:09,803 --> 00:12:10,690  
--the men.

234

00:12:10,690 --> 00:12:13,150  
They were local there.

235  
00:12:13,150 --> 00:12:21,306  
But they should have all been  
either killed or do something.

236  
00:12:21,306 --> 00:12:24,540  
How often do you think  
about that time in your life

237  
00:12:24,540 --> 00:12:26,250  
and what happened?

238  
00:12:26,250 --> 00:12:29,500  
I never forget it.

239  
00:12:29,500 --> 00:12:30,580  
I never forget it.

240  
00:12:30,580 --> 00:12:31,780  
But I--

241  
00:12:31,780 --> 00:12:34,350  
Do you think about it every day?

242  
00:12:34,350 --> 00:12:36,312  
Almost, yeah.

243  
00:12:36,312 --> 00:12:38,020  
Do you find that you're  
thinking about it

244  
00:12:38,020 --> 00:12:40,490  
more since you've gotten older?

245  
00:12:40,490 --> 00:12:40,990  
Yeah.

246  
00:12:40,990 --> 00:12:44,350

247

00:12:44,350 --> 00:12:54,260

Because you're seeing the end  
of your life is almost here,

248

00:12:54,260 --> 00:12:55,970

you know.

249

00:12:55,970 --> 00:13:01,100

And what did you do with  
your life, you know.

250

00:13:01,100 --> 00:13:05,020

I lived an exciting life  
really, when you look at it.

251

00:13:05,020 --> 00:13:08,165

252

00:13:08,165 --> 00:13:12,205

From youth on-- I  
didn't have a youth.

253

00:13:12,205 --> 00:13:13,600

Right.

254

00:13:13,600 --> 00:13:15,861

You did lose your youth.

255

00:13:15,861 --> 00:13:18,670

Do you think it's something you  
could have gotten back or not?

256

00:13:18,670 --> 00:13:20,434

You did lose it, you're right.

257

00:13:20,434 --> 00:13:23,090

258

00:13:23,090 --> 00:13:31,680

I went one time to  
California, Lake Tahoe,

259

00:13:31,680 --> 00:13:33,710  
and I've been to a  
surviving course.

260

00:13:33,710 --> 00:13:36,320

261

00:13:36,320 --> 00:13:42,590  
You had to survive one  
week in the mountains.

262

00:13:42,590 --> 00:13:48,240  
And that is how I  
found myself really.

263

00:13:48,240 --> 00:13:53,320  
Because I had to rappel from  
one mountain to another.

264

00:13:53,320 --> 00:13:55,900  
And I have to do--

265

00:13:55,900 --> 00:14:00,870  
I was the captain  
of a group doing it.

266

00:14:00,870 --> 00:14:05,560  
And to me it was fun.

267

00:14:05,560 --> 00:14:09,970  
But then we had to-- at night,  
we had sessions was EST,

268

00:14:09,970 --> 00:14:17,680  
called E-S-T, EST. I took  
the whole course there.

269

00:14:17,680 --> 00:14:23,760  
And the first course,  
we had nuns in there.

270

00:14:23,760 --> 00:14:27,570

And you couldn't swear, sworn.

271

00:14:27,570 --> 00:14:30,330

You couldn't say F you.

272

00:14:30,330 --> 00:14:34,120

And I hit the trainer once.

273

00:14:34,120 --> 00:14:36,220

He made me so mad.

274

00:14:36,220 --> 00:14:38,540

He went on a--

275

00:14:38,540 --> 00:14:43,360

he went and said well,  
to get angry picture

276

00:14:43,360 --> 00:14:46,930

a dog brushing your teeth with--

277

00:14:46,930 --> 00:14:50,920

brushing his teeth  
with your toothbrush.

278

00:14:50,920 --> 00:14:51,850

OK.

279

00:14:51,850 --> 00:14:54,000

What would you do?

280

00:14:54,000 --> 00:14:59,940

And he said say this,  
don't let me ever,

281

00:14:59,940 --> 00:15:05,430

ever catch you with my  
brush brushing your teeth.

282

00:15:05,430 --> 00:15:09,850

And we had to say  
it, we're angry.

283  
00:15:09,850 --> 00:15:14,060  
And I thought that was stupid.

284  
00:15:14,060 --> 00:15:16,580  
I really thought  
that was stupid.

285  
00:15:16,580 --> 00:15:19,160  
There was 300  
people in the room.

286  
00:15:19,160 --> 00:15:21,050  
I sit down.

287  
00:15:21,050 --> 00:15:23,760  
I wouldn't do it.

288  
00:15:23,760 --> 00:15:28,450  
And then after they were  
all finished, he said,

289  
00:15:28,450 --> 00:15:30,850  
hey you come up here.

290  
00:15:30,850 --> 00:15:33,460  
I went up on the podium.

291  
00:15:33,460 --> 00:15:39,200  
And he pushed me.

292  
00:15:39,200 --> 00:15:42,070  
I said, don't push me.

293  
00:15:42,070 --> 00:15:45,740  
You don't know how will act.

294  
00:15:45,740 --> 00:15:47,900  
So he pushed me again.

295  
00:15:47,900 --> 00:15:52,840



And I lifted my hand and  
I slapped him in the face.

296  
00:15:52,840 --> 00:15:55,671  
He said, I can't do  
anything with you, sit down.

297  
00:15:55,671 --> 00:16:00,220

298  
00:16:00,220 --> 00:16:03,800  
And everybody was  
clapping because they all

299  
00:16:03,800 --> 00:16:04,730  
hated that guy.

300  
00:16:04,730 --> 00:16:07,510

301  
00:16:07,510 --> 00:16:11,820  
What were your thoughts  
during the Eichmann trial--

302  
00:16:11,820 --> 00:16:14,700  
when Eichmann was  
tried in Israel?

303  
00:16:14,700 --> 00:16:16,830  
Do you remember that--

304  
00:16:16,830 --> 00:16:18,600  
when he had his trial?

305  
00:16:18,600 --> 00:16:20,580  
I was hoping they  
would catch more.

306  
00:16:20,580 --> 00:16:24,635

307  
00:16:24,635 --> 00:16:28,180

I was still so  
young when it was.

308  
00:16:28,180 --> 00:16:30,620  
Yeah.

309  
00:16:30,620 --> 00:16:37,800  
But my thing was I hope  
that guy got killed too,

310  
00:16:37,800 --> 00:16:40,600  
who shot my father.

311  
00:16:40,600 --> 00:16:43,370  
That was my hope.

312  
00:16:43,370 --> 00:16:51,510  
And but I didn't know where he  
was so I couldn't turn them in.

313  
00:16:51,510 --> 00:16:53,160  
But I would have liked to.

314  
00:16:53,160 --> 00:16:53,855  
I'm sorry.

315  
00:16:53,855 --> 00:16:57,926

316  
00:16:57,926 --> 00:17:03,460  
When you see historical  
photographs of the war

317  
00:17:03,460 --> 00:17:09,480  
and Hitler and Nazi  
soldiers and victims,

318  
00:17:09,480 --> 00:17:13,030  
does that trigger  
things in your--

319  
00:17:13,030 --> 00:17:14,022

I watch them.

320  
00:17:14,022 --> 00:17:14,980  
--mind and your memory?

321  
00:17:14,980 --> 00:17:16,089  
Do you do [INAUDIBLE]?

322  
00:17:16,089 --> 00:17:16,839  
I watch them.

323  
00:17:16,839 --> 00:17:17,619  
You do.

324  
00:17:17,619 --> 00:17:18,369  
Why?

325  
00:17:18,369 --> 00:17:20,980  
Channel 22 has a lot of them.

326  
00:17:20,980 --> 00:17:22,940  
Why do you watch them?

327  
00:17:22,940 --> 00:17:27,230  
I want to see what  
really happened.

328  
00:17:27,230 --> 00:17:29,900  
Because I never  
really knew the truth.

329  
00:17:29,900 --> 00:17:33,950

330  
00:17:33,950 --> 00:17:37,910  
And this is all film  
that's all made up,

331  
00:17:37,910 --> 00:17:40,520  
but I'd like to see it.

332

00:17:40,520 --> 00:17:46,200

333

00:17:46,200 --> 00:17:47,640

When you say film  
is all made up,

334

00:17:47,640 --> 00:17:49,620

I meant the historical  
documentaries.

335

00:17:49,620 --> 00:17:53,820

I didn't mean the fictional.

336

00:17:53,820 --> 00:17:56,470

No, those I didn't see.

337

00:17:56,470 --> 00:17:58,980

But the films I watch.

338

00:17:58,980 --> 00:18:04,140

339

00:18:04,140 --> 00:18:08,295

Have you heard other people  
making antisemitic remarks?

340

00:18:08,295 --> 00:18:11,790

341

00:18:11,790 --> 00:18:12,760

Not really.

342

00:18:12,760 --> 00:18:14,130

No.

343

00:18:14,130 --> 00:18:16,725

You've never-- I was just  
asking in case you had,

344

00:18:16,725 --> 00:18:19,370

if you had ever come

to the defense--

345  
00:18:19,370 --> 00:18:19,870  
No.

346  
00:18:19,870 --> 00:18:25,520

347  
00:18:25,520 --> 00:18:30,070  
When I had the  
business, a bakery,

348  
00:18:30,070 --> 00:18:32,200  
we had Jewish people in town.

349  
00:18:32,200 --> 00:18:34,970

350  
00:18:34,970 --> 00:18:37,028  
But they all had businesses.

351  
00:18:37,028 --> 00:18:39,070  
You're talking about  
customers, Jewish customers.

352  
00:18:39,070 --> 00:18:40,210  
Yeah.

353  
00:18:40,210 --> 00:18:42,520  
They all had businesses.

354  
00:18:42,520 --> 00:18:50,490  
And I defend Jewish  
people very much so.

355  
00:18:50,490 --> 00:19:00,150  
Because we had one guy,  
he had a hardware store.

356  
00:19:00,150 --> 00:19:02,370  
He was Jewish.

357

00:19:02,370 --> 00:19:06,130

And he came in my store.

358

00:19:06,130 --> 00:19:10,390

And whenever you  
wanted something--

359

00:19:10,390 --> 00:19:15,910

you wanted a special  
nail or a special thing--

360

00:19:15,910 --> 00:19:18,480

he would get it for you.

361

00:19:18,480 --> 00:19:21,690

He would go out of his  
way and get it for you.

362

00:19:21,690 --> 00:19:23,850

And that's what I tell people.

363

00:19:23,850 --> 00:19:26,040

Go to a Jewish place.

364

00:19:26,040 --> 00:19:29,790

They will get what you want.

365

00:19:29,790 --> 00:19:37,580

And that's really my story.

366

00:19:37,580 --> 00:19:40,070

I go to a Jewish place any time.

367

00:19:40,070 --> 00:19:41,340

Are you very religious?

368

00:19:41,340 --> 00:19:41,840

Have you--

369

00:19:41,840 --> 00:19:42,170

Yeah.

370  
00:19:42,170 --> 00:19:43,790  
--kept up your  
mother's commitment?

371  
00:19:43,790 --> 00:19:44,290  
Yeah.

372  
00:19:44,290 --> 00:19:46,660

373  
00:19:46,660 --> 00:19:53,070  
I belong 18 years to a  
Methodist Church in Newark.

374  
00:19:53,070 --> 00:19:54,250  
Not Lutheran.

375  
00:19:54,250 --> 00:19:56,980  
No.

376  
00:19:56,980 --> 00:19:59,560  
I've went to Methodist.

377  
00:19:59,560 --> 00:20:06,060  
And I was a choir  
director there.

378  
00:20:06,060 --> 00:20:08,850  
I was a youth leader there.

379  
00:20:08,850 --> 00:20:10,860  
Do you think because of  
what you went through

380  
00:20:10,860 --> 00:20:13,830  
it has made you more  
religious do you think?

381  
00:20:13,830 --> 00:20:18,270  
Or did it have anything to do  
with your being so committed?

382  
00:20:18,270 --> 00:20:19,050  
Not really.

383  
00:20:19,050 --> 00:20:22,540

384  
00:20:22,540 --> 00:20:23,515  
I believe in God.

385  
00:20:23,515 --> 00:20:26,140

386  
00:20:26,140 --> 00:20:28,215  
And God is everywhere.

387  
00:20:28,215 --> 00:20:30,340  
Even though your father  
was killed in front of you,

388  
00:20:30,340 --> 00:20:30,840  
you still--

389  
00:20:30,840 --> 00:20:32,380  
Yeah.

390  
00:20:32,380 --> 00:20:33,220  
He didn't kill.

391  
00:20:33,220 --> 00:20:35,840

392  
00:20:35,840 --> 00:20:37,475  
The Nazis killed him.

393  
00:20:37,475 --> 00:20:40,260

394  
00:20:40,260 --> 00:20:42,240  
Do you think there could  
be a rise of Nazism



395  
00:20:42,240 --> 00:20:45,560  
in Germany in today's world?

396  
00:20:45,560 --> 00:20:49,080  
There are the skinheads  
that you read about.

397  
00:20:49,080 --> 00:20:55,050  
There was a rise here  
in the States even.

398  
00:20:55,050 --> 00:20:59,340  
That's how I marched.

399  
00:20:59,340 --> 00:21:03,890  
I marched from Philadelphia  
to New York with Quakers

400  
00:21:03,890 --> 00:21:05,540  
against Nazis.

401  
00:21:05,540 --> 00:21:07,170  
Against American Nazi party?

402  
00:21:07,170 --> 00:21:09,230  
Yeah.

403  
00:21:09,230 --> 00:21:14,220  
Because we didn't  
want them to rise up.

404  
00:21:14,220 --> 00:21:17,930  
What are your gut feelings  
when you read about that

405  
00:21:17,930 --> 00:21:21,310  
or see American  
Nazi party people?

406  
00:21:21,310 --> 00:21:24,760  
That should not come back up.

407  
00:21:24,760 --> 00:21:30,200  
I would do anything to  
not to let them live.

408  
00:21:30,200 --> 00:21:36,490

409  
00:21:36,490 --> 00:21:37,960  
Because they were doing no good.

410  
00:21:37,960 --> 00:21:41,930

411  
00:21:41,930 --> 00:21:43,520  
Do you feel Germany  
has recovered

412  
00:21:43,520 --> 00:21:46,160  
from that part of her history?

413  
00:21:46,160 --> 00:21:49,000  
I think so, right now.

414  
00:21:49,000 --> 00:21:53,860

415  
00:21:53,860 --> 00:21:57,220  
Germany's got bigger.

416  
00:21:57,220 --> 00:22:00,070  
They got their own army back.

417  
00:22:00,070 --> 00:22:03,520  
They weren't allowed  
to have their own army.

418  
00:22:03,520 --> 00:22:08,890  
And they were afraid  
of them, really.

419

00:22:08,890 --> 00:22:12,770  
But they take him back.

420  
00:22:12,770 --> 00:22:15,640  
Are you proud to have  
come from Germany?

421  
00:22:15,640 --> 00:22:16,140  
Yeah.

422  
00:22:16,140 --> 00:22:18,720

423  
00:22:18,720 --> 00:22:22,650  
I tell everybody I'm German.

424  
00:22:22,650 --> 00:22:24,150  
And what are people--

425  
00:22:24,150 --> 00:22:27,690  
what are non-Jew reactions  
and Jewish reactions?

426  
00:22:27,690 --> 00:22:30,860  
Is there a difference?

427  
00:22:30,860 --> 00:22:32,510  
Yeah.

428  
00:22:32,510 --> 00:22:37,580  
I got one Jew here,  
Ernie, he loves me--

429  
00:22:37,580 --> 00:22:41,720

430  
00:22:41,720 --> 00:22:45,590  
visit together every  
meal now and talk.

431  
00:22:45,590 --> 00:22:49,390

432  
00:22:49,390 --> 00:22:52,240  
Do you find that when  
you meet new people,

433  
00:22:52,240 --> 00:22:54,440  
you tell them the story  
of what you went through--

434  
00:22:54,440 --> 00:22:54,940  
No.

435  
00:22:54,940 --> 00:22:55,640  
--as a child?

436  
00:22:55,640 --> 00:22:56,140  
You don't?

437  
00:22:56,140 --> 00:22:57,910  
No.

438  
00:22:57,910 --> 00:23:02,290  
I normally don't like  
to talk about it.

439  
00:23:02,290 --> 00:23:03,790  
Because it's too painful?

440  
00:23:03,790 --> 00:23:06,280  
It's painful, yeah.

441  
00:23:06,280 --> 00:23:14,510  
I don't-- I tell people my  
dad got killed by the Nazis.

442  
00:23:14,510 --> 00:23:18,100  
But that's it.

443  
00:23:18,100 --> 00:23:20,870  
That's how far I go.

444

00:23:20,870 --> 00:23:26,150

I told the story in here  
because you were coming,

445

00:23:26,150 --> 00:23:29,870

and they wanted to  
know why you coming.

446

00:23:29,870 --> 00:23:32,640

You mean other  
residents wanted to Know

447

00:23:32,640 --> 00:23:33,630

Yeah.

448

00:23:33,630 --> 00:23:37,030

What were their reactions?

449

00:23:37,030 --> 00:23:38,810

It's too bad that happened.

450

00:23:38,810 --> 00:23:39,310

Yeah.

451

00:23:39,310 --> 00:23:39,810

You know.

452

00:23:39,810 --> 00:23:42,230

Yeah.

453

00:23:42,230 --> 00:23:46,150

And you have a story  
you should write a book.

454

00:23:46,150 --> 00:23:48,420

That's what they say.

455

00:23:48,420 --> 00:23:50,010

I never did.

456

00:23:50,010 --> 00:23:52,920

Have you been to the Holocaust

Museum in Washington?

457

00:23:52,920 --> 00:23:54,180

No.

458

00:23:54,180 --> 00:23:56,120

I never been in Washington.

459

00:23:56,120 --> 00:23:59,060

Oh, you've never  
been in Washington.

460

00:23:59,060 --> 00:24:01,660

Do you have any desire  
to go to the Museum?

461

00:24:01,660 --> 00:24:03,320

Yeah.

462

00:24:03,320 --> 00:24:06,310

But how do I get there?

463

00:24:06,310 --> 00:24:07,660

But otherwise you would go?

464

00:24:07,660 --> 00:24:09,690

Yeah.

465

00:24:09,690 --> 00:24:12,120

If there would be a bus  
going from here I would go.

466

00:24:12,120 --> 00:24:17,390

467

00:24:17,390 --> 00:24:20,670

Well, is there anything to add  
that you would like to say--

468

00:24:20,670 --> 00:24:21,170

No.

469

00:24:21,170 --> 00:24:26,490

--that we haven't talked  
about your life and--

470

00:24:26,490 --> 00:24:27,220

Not really.

471

00:24:27,220 --> 00:24:28,450

--what you've been through?

472

00:24:28,450 --> 00:24:31,070

And do you have any  
advice to give others?

473

00:24:31,070 --> 00:24:34,390

You got my whole life story.

474

00:24:34,390 --> 00:24:37,930

Do you have any advice to  
give others about coping?

475

00:24:37,930 --> 00:24:41,450

Don't let ever the  
Nazis get a hold again.

476

00:24:41,450 --> 00:24:46,190

477

00:24:46,190 --> 00:24:47,530

That's my advice.

478

00:24:47,530 --> 00:24:49,840

Yeah.

479

00:24:49,840 --> 00:24:52,990

Do anything to keep them down.

480

00:24:52,990 --> 00:24:56,240

481

00:24:56,240 --> 00:24:58,940

Do you think most  
of the Germans were

482  
00:24:58,940 --> 00:25:00,700  
against the Nazis do you feel?

483  
00:25:00,700 --> 00:25:01,200  
Yeah.

484  
00:25:01,200 --> 00:25:05,120  
Yeah, definitely.

485  
00:25:05,120 --> 00:25:08,240  
Once they knew the truth--

486  
00:25:08,240 --> 00:25:12,330  
after the war the  
truth came out--

487  
00:25:12,330 --> 00:25:14,780  
then they all hated.

488  
00:25:14,780 --> 00:25:17,480  
They hated to be Germans.

489  
00:25:17,480 --> 00:25:18,890  
I hated to be German.

490  
00:25:18,890 --> 00:25:22,110

491  
00:25:22,110 --> 00:25:29,780  
And I think here's a girl named  
Gabby, she hates to be German.

492  
00:25:29,780 --> 00:25:31,630  
She was born in Germany?

493  
00:25:31,630 --> 00:25:33,570  
Yeah.

494



00:25:33,570 --> 00:25:35,610  
She hated you to come here.

495  
00:25:35,610 --> 00:25:37,380  
Because?

496  
00:25:37,380 --> 00:25:40,860  
I told some negative  
about Germany.

497  
00:25:40,860 --> 00:25:43,010  
Oh, and she didn't  
want that recorded.

498  
00:25:43,010 --> 00:25:43,510  
Yeah.

499  
00:25:43,510 --> 00:25:46,720  
She didn't want that.

500  
00:25:46,720 --> 00:25:48,050  
She's off today.

501  
00:25:48,050 --> 00:25:52,010  
That's a good thing.

502  
00:25:52,010 --> 00:25:53,240  
Was she alive during the war?

503  
00:25:53,240 --> 00:25:57,470  
Does she have memories of  
the war or is she too young?

504  
00:25:57,470 --> 00:25:59,450  
She's younger than I am.

505  
00:25:59,450 --> 00:26:00,230  
Yeah.

506  
00:26:00,230 --> 00:26:01,820  
She might be not--

507

00:26:01,820 --> 00:26:03,720

Yeah.

508

00:26:03,720 --> 00:26:09,720

But she only had  
bits and pieces.

509

00:26:09,720 --> 00:26:10,800

She never heard--

510

00:26:10,800 --> 00:26:17,190

I never told her the whole  
story because she's German.

511

00:26:17,190 --> 00:26:24,420

And after the war it was  
said that all Germans

512

00:26:24,420 --> 00:26:25,415

killed the Jews.

513

00:26:25,415 --> 00:26:28,370

514

00:26:28,370 --> 00:26:30,510

That's everybody.

515

00:26:30,510 --> 00:26:33,960

And that's not so.

516

00:26:33,960 --> 00:26:36,490

I never killed anybody.

517

00:26:36,490 --> 00:26:39,690

And Gabby didn't kill anybody.

518

00:26:39,690 --> 00:26:46,980

So most of the Germans  
did not kill the Jews.

519

00:26:46,980 --> 00:26:56,320

There were a few  
soldiers who killed.

520  
00:26:56,320 --> 00:27:01,500  
But you can't get  
everybody in one kettle,

521  
00:27:01,500 --> 00:27:04,350  
that they all killed the Jews.

522  
00:27:04,350 --> 00:27:07,380  
Did you hear of any  
other situations

523  
00:27:07,380 --> 00:27:10,980  
where Jews were being sheltered  
like your father sheltered

524  
00:27:10,980 --> 00:27:13,038  
those four?

525  
00:27:13,038 --> 00:27:13,926  
No.

526  
00:27:13,926 --> 00:27:16,290  
As far as you know  
he was the only one.

527  
00:27:16,290 --> 00:27:18,370  
That was kept a total secret.

528  
00:27:18,370 --> 00:27:20,940  
A secret, right.

529  
00:27:20,940 --> 00:27:24,390  
When you had Jewish people,  
you were quiet about it.

530  
00:27:24,390 --> 00:27:25,425  
You were quiet.

531  
00:27:25,425 --> 00:27:27,300

Now you said your mother  
was quite religious.

532  
00:27:27,300 --> 00:27:29,430  
Was your dad just as  
religious as she was?

533  
00:27:29,430 --> 00:27:30,150  
No.

534  
00:27:30,150 --> 00:27:35,910  
So how do you attribute  
his bravery and his concern

535  
00:27:35,910 --> 00:27:36,810  
to what he did?

536  
00:27:36,810 --> 00:27:39,330  
Stupidity.

537  
00:27:39,330 --> 00:27:41,340  
Stupidity?

538  
00:27:41,340 --> 00:27:43,480  
Because?

539  
00:27:43,480 --> 00:27:48,760  
Why did you had to say shoot me?

540  
00:27:48,760 --> 00:27:52,760  
That wasn't brave in my eyes.

541  
00:27:52,760 --> 00:27:54,590  
That was plain stupidity.

542  
00:27:54,590 --> 00:27:57,720

543  
00:27:57,720 --> 00:28:00,130  
But what I was asking  
was before that one,

544

00:28:00,130 --> 00:28:03,180

what do you attribute the fact  
that he went to these people

545

00:28:03,180 --> 00:28:06,270

and offered them the basement?

546

00:28:06,270 --> 00:28:06,770

Kindness.

547

00:28:06,770 --> 00:28:09,530

548

00:28:09,530 --> 00:28:14,990

He must have known that  
the Jewish people got

549

00:28:14,990 --> 00:28:18,580

killed somehow.

550

00:28:18,580 --> 00:28:21,130

But do you consider that  
a brave act on his part,

551

00:28:21,130 --> 00:28:22,450

that he sheltered them?

552

00:28:22,450 --> 00:28:24,740

That was brave, yeah.

553

00:28:24,740 --> 00:28:25,870

Very brave.

554

00:28:25,870 --> 00:28:27,990

That was brave.

555

00:28:27,990 --> 00:28:33,990

But the way he confessed  
it and said shoot me,

556

00:28:33,990 --> 00:28:38,210

he should have kept  
his stupid mouth shut.

557  
00:28:38,210 --> 00:28:41,650  
Then he would still be living.

558  
00:28:41,650 --> 00:28:43,930  
I don't know if he would  
still be living, he's older.

559  
00:28:43,930 --> 00:28:47,310

560  
00:28:47,310 --> 00:28:50,475  
Do you think those Nazi soldiers  
would have let him alone

561  
00:28:50,475 --> 00:28:51,600  
if he hadn't said anything?

562  
00:28:51,600 --> 00:28:56,070  
Even though they knew the  
Jews were in his basement.

563  
00:28:56,070 --> 00:28:57,850  
They weren't ready to--

564  
00:28:57,850 --> 00:28:59,620  
he was not ready to kill.

565  
00:28:59,620 --> 00:29:02,250  
Because he dropped his gun--

566  
00:29:02,250 --> 00:29:03,570  
Yes, right, right.

567  
00:29:03,570 --> 00:29:05,920  
--by my mom.

568  
00:29:05,920 --> 00:29:08,370  
So he probably--

569

00:29:08,370 --> 00:29:10,620

He probably wouldn't have  
done anything at that point.

570

00:29:10,620 --> 00:29:13,710

--would have done anything--  
to put him on a truck,

571

00:29:13,710 --> 00:29:18,390

get him farm labor or something.

572

00:29:18,390 --> 00:29:21,420

But he did it.

573

00:29:21,420 --> 00:29:26,448

And there's nothing  
we can do about.

574

00:29:26,448 --> 00:29:28,740

Were their other neighbors  
watching when this happened?

575

00:29:28,740 --> 00:29:32,180

No, it was three  
o'clock in the morning.

576

00:29:32,180 --> 00:29:33,330

There was nobody out.

577

00:29:33,330 --> 00:29:37,420

578

00:29:37,420 --> 00:29:41,180

We wore only nightgowns,  
they put us in nightgowns

579

00:29:41,180 --> 00:29:42,100

on the truck.

580

00:29:42,100 --> 00:29:44,800

That's how you went to  
the farm in a nightgown.

581  
00:29:44,800 --> 00:29:50,420  
I had to wear boys clothes  
because that's all they had.

582  
00:29:50,420 --> 00:29:53,590

583  
00:29:53,590 --> 00:29:55,825  
Did they ever talk to you  
about what has happened,

584  
00:29:55,825 --> 00:29:56,950  
about what your father did?

585  
00:29:56,950 --> 00:29:58,690  
No, they never said anything.

586  
00:29:58,690 --> 00:29:59,450  
Did they know?

587  
00:29:59,450 --> 00:30:00,850  
Did they know?

588  
00:30:00,850 --> 00:30:03,760  
I don't know whether they knew.

589  
00:30:03,760 --> 00:30:04,742  
What were their names?

590  
00:30:04,742 --> 00:30:05,950  
Do you remember the name of--

591  
00:30:05,950 --> 00:30:07,545  
[? Woltmeier. ?]

592  
00:30:07,545 --> 00:30:08,045  
OK.

593  
00:30:08,045 --> 00:30:13,040



594  
00:30:13,040 --> 00:30:18,230  
Well, as I said before,  
anything else before we close?

595  
00:30:18,230 --> 00:30:19,160  
No.

596  
00:30:19,160 --> 00:30:20,330  
No other messages.

597  
00:30:20,330 --> 00:30:21,625  
Well, that is quite a story.

598  
00:30:21,625 --> 00:30:23,720  
And we thank you for doing this.

599  
00:30:23,720 --> 00:30:25,870  
Thank you very much.

600  
00:30:25,870 --> 00:30:28,460  
Well I can help some people.

601  
00:30:28,460 --> 00:30:29,996  
I'm sure.

602  
00:30:29,996 --> 00:30:31,175  
It's an important story.

603  
00:30:31,175 --> 00:30:33,850

604  
00:30:33,850 --> 00:30:36,970  
This concludes the United  
States Holocaust Memorial Museum

605  
00:30:36,970 --> 00:30:41,690  
interview with Edith Langer.

606  
00:30:41,690 --> 00:30:45,040  
[LAUGHS]

Contact [reference@ushmm.org](mailto:reference@ushmm.org) for further information about this collection