

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:07,270

2

00:00:07,270 --> 00:00:10,300

This is the United States
Holocaust Memorial Museum

3

00:00:10,300 --> 00:00:14,290

volunteer collection interview
with Marianne Friedenthal

4

00:00:14,290 --> 00:00:22,060

Milkman, conducted by Gail
Schwartz, on August 12th, 2011.

5

00:00:22,060 --> 00:00:25,180

This is track number one.

6

00:00:25,180 --> 00:00:28,480

What is your full name?

7

00:00:28,480 --> 00:00:34,360

Just as you read it, it's
Marianne Friedenthal Milkman.

8

00:00:34,360 --> 00:00:37,370

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

9

00:00:37,370 --> 00:00:46,390

I was born in Berlin,
Germany, on May 13th, 1931.

10

00:00:46,390 --> 00:00:50,510

Let's talk a little bit about
the generations of your family.

11

00:00:50,510 --> 00:00:56,440

How far back does your
family go in Berlin?

12

00:00:56,440 --> 00:00:59,260
Not very far at all.

13
00:00:59,260 --> 00:01:05,230
My sister, my older
sister, was born in Weimar,

14
00:01:05,230 --> 00:01:10,030
and my parents lived
and grew up in Breslau--

15
00:01:10,030 --> 00:01:13,360
what was then Breslau.

16
00:01:13,360 --> 00:01:18,700
Now, I don't know how you
pronounce it, Wroclaw, I think.

17
00:01:18,700 --> 00:01:22,360
So their family-- that's where
both their families came from.

18
00:01:22,360 --> 00:01:24,950
Tell me your parents' names.

19
00:01:24,950 --> 00:01:31,600
My father was Ernst Friedenthal,
and my mother was originally

20
00:01:31,600 --> 00:01:35,530
Margarita Goldschmidt.

21
00:01:35,530 --> 00:01:38,120
And was always called Marga--

22
00:01:38,120 --> 00:01:41,510
so we knew her--

23
00:01:41,510 --> 00:01:43,610
I mean, we knew her as mutti.

24
00:01:43,610 --> 00:01:44,290

[LAUGHS]

25

00:01:44,290 --> 00:01:47,620

Do you know what years
when they were born?

26

00:01:47,620 --> 00:01:51,940

I do-- I don't know whether
I can remember right now.

27

00:01:51,940 --> 00:01:59,020

Yeah, my mother was born
in 1900, September 30th.

28

00:01:59,020 --> 00:02:06,910

And my father was born
in 1987, November 7--

29

00:02:06,910 --> 00:02:08,060

Not 1987.

30

00:02:08,060 --> 00:02:08,560

[LAUGHTER]

31

00:02:08,560 --> 00:02:11,720

Sorry, 1887, yes, exactly.

32

00:02:11,720 --> 00:02:12,280

Thank you.

33

00:02:12,280 --> 00:02:13,540

Yeah, right.

34

00:02:13,540 --> 00:02:18,140

And what kind of work
did your father do?

35

00:02:18,140 --> 00:02:23,530

He had a law degree and he was
a bank director on the board

36

00:02:23,530 --> 00:02:25,240

of a number of banks.

37

00:02:25,240 --> 00:02:28,930

And one of the
interesting aspects

38

00:02:28,930 --> 00:02:32,020

that I will talk
more about later,

39

00:02:32,020 --> 00:02:40,330

is that when we left
Germany and went to England,

40

00:02:40,330 --> 00:02:43,630

the circumstances were
very bad, financially,

41

00:02:43,630 --> 00:02:46,030

as far as my parents
were concerned.

42

00:02:46,030 --> 00:02:51,280

And he, in 1948,
went back to Germany,

43

00:02:51,280 --> 00:02:55,570

because he wanted to help
build up the country again.

44

00:02:55,570 --> 00:02:59,070

And so, he went back.

45

00:02:59,070 --> 00:03:02,410

This bank asked
him to come back.

46

00:03:02,410 --> 00:03:06,610

And he worked there till he
retired, and was very happy.

47

00:03:06,610 --> 00:03:10,480

My mother was not

as happy, but--

48
00:03:10,480 --> 00:03:14,380
so, and that's a
very unusual thing.

49
00:03:14,380 --> 00:03:19,090
My sister and I swore we
would never go back there.

50
00:03:19,090 --> 00:03:20,260
But--

51
00:03:20,260 --> 00:03:21,860
We can talk about
that later, yeah.

52
00:03:21,860 --> 00:03:22,510
Right, yeah.

53
00:03:22,510 --> 00:03:25,180
And tell me about
your other siblings.

54
00:03:25,180 --> 00:03:28,780

55
00:03:28,780 --> 00:03:36,010
My older sister, Renata,
Julia Renata Friedenthal,

56
00:03:36,010 --> 00:03:39,000
is four years older than I am.

57
00:03:39,000 --> 00:03:41,980
She was born in 1927.

58
00:03:41,980 --> 00:03:49,690
And I had another sister
called Ruth, Ruth, who

59
00:03:49,690 --> 00:03:54,530

was two years younger
than my oldest sister,

60
00:03:54,530 --> 00:03:58,360
and two years older than I was.

61
00:03:58,360 --> 00:04:01,150
She died at a very
young age, when

62
00:04:01,150 --> 00:04:07,690
she was four, in
Berlin, of, I think,

63
00:04:07,690 --> 00:04:14,260
septicemia, which there was
no drugs for it or anything.

64
00:04:14,260 --> 00:04:19,255
Yeah, so I don't
remember her very well.

65
00:04:19,255 --> 00:04:20,920
What really I know
about her is more

66
00:04:20,920 --> 00:04:23,740
from what my sisters told me.

67
00:04:23,740 --> 00:04:31,915
And my sister lives in
Scotland, and has children

68
00:04:31,915 --> 00:04:33,700
and grandchildren there.

69
00:04:33,700 --> 00:04:37,510
So she comes and
visits me occasionally,

70
00:04:37,510 --> 00:04:40,060
and I go and visit her.

71

00:04:40,060 --> 00:04:43,840

Did you live right in
the city of Berlin?

72

00:04:43,840 --> 00:04:49,660

No, we lived-- well we lived
in Schmargendorf, which is,

73

00:04:49,660 --> 00:04:50,710

I think, east--

74

00:04:50,710 --> 00:04:53,950

no, I mean, it's not east,
but it's West Berlin.

75

00:04:53,950 --> 00:04:57,790

But one of the
things I want to do

76

00:04:57,790 --> 00:05:02,260

is go and visit
Berlin next year.

77

00:05:02,260 --> 00:05:09,190

My husband never wanted to go,
so I haven't been back since.

78

00:05:09,190 --> 00:05:11,860

And for a long time,
I didn't particularly

79

00:05:11,860 --> 00:05:12,980

want to go, either.

80

00:05:12,980 --> 00:05:18,220

But now, I feel that it's time
to just go back and check out,

81

00:05:18,220 --> 00:05:22,750

you know, where I
was born, and so on.

82

00:05:22,750 --> 00:05:29,380

It was-- let's see,
I remember Wansee,

83

00:05:29,380 --> 00:05:34,270

that we would go there on a
Sunday afternoon, or something,

84

00:05:34,270 --> 00:05:37,940

to walk in the park, and so on.

85

00:05:37,940 --> 00:05:40,270

So that's the area
of Berlin it was in.

86

00:05:40,270 --> 00:05:43,300

I really don't know
anything more about it.

87

00:05:43,300 --> 00:05:47,830

88

00:05:47,830 --> 00:05:51,895

Well, let's talk about the
religious life of your family.

89

00:05:51,895 --> 00:05:53,020

How would you explain that?

90

00:05:53,020 --> 00:05:55,960

Yeah, well, this
is very strange,

91

00:05:55,960 --> 00:05:59,740

because both my families--

92

00:05:59,740 --> 00:06:05,140

both my parents'
families were Jewish.

93

00:06:05,140 --> 00:06:09,640

And in both cases, they knew
each other for a long time.

94
00:06:09,640 --> 00:06:14,470
There was quite a sizable
Jewish community in Breslau

95
00:06:14,470 --> 00:06:15,880
when they were growing up.

96
00:06:15,880 --> 00:06:22,540
And they were quite close
to their cousins, and--

97
00:06:22,540 --> 00:06:27,580
though they're not
related directly.

98
00:06:27,580 --> 00:06:36,130
But their parents, who were
both lawyers, their fathers who

99
00:06:36,130 --> 00:06:42,040
were both lawyers, decided
that they, themselves--

100
00:06:42,040 --> 00:06:44,320
no, that's wrong-- that
they would bring up

101
00:06:44,320 --> 00:06:47,800
the children as Christians.

102
00:06:47,800 --> 00:06:51,070
Because they wanted them
to have the opportunities

103
00:06:51,070 --> 00:06:52,870
that everybody else had.

104
00:06:52,870 --> 00:06:58,420
And they, themselves,
they felt really suffered

105

00:06:58,420 --> 00:07:01,870
because they were very
bright, smart people, they

106
00:07:01,870 --> 00:07:06,250
could never rise in
the legal profession

107
00:07:06,250 --> 00:07:07,910
beyond a certain level.

108
00:07:07,910 --> 00:07:10,450
They could never be judges.

109
00:07:10,450 --> 00:07:15,670
And they felt that
really hampered them.

110
00:07:15,670 --> 00:07:19,700

111
00:07:19,700 --> 00:07:26,750
So both my parents
grew up as Christians.

112
00:07:26,750 --> 00:07:33,140
And in both cases, no
cousins did, but they did.

113
00:07:33,140 --> 00:07:34,310
And in fact--

114
00:07:34,310 --> 00:07:36,500
When you say, no cousins,
what do you mean?

115
00:07:36,500 --> 00:07:41,420
Well, none of the really other
related families that were

116
00:07:41,420 --> 00:07:43,970
in Breslau became Christian.

117

00:07:43,970 --> 00:07:47,510

At least that I know of.

118

00:07:47,510 --> 00:07:55,820

And so we were raised
as Christians, also.

119

00:07:55,820 --> 00:08:03,290

I had one aunt who became
very attached to the church,

120

00:08:03,290 --> 00:08:10,040

and in fact, was in Berlin
and worked with Niemoller

121

00:08:10,040 --> 00:08:18,440

and did some wonderful things
in getting people out of Berlin.

122

00:08:18,440 --> 00:08:20,810

She, herself, didn't
get out until--

123

00:08:20,810 --> 00:08:24,260

I think it was 1941.

124

00:08:24,260 --> 00:08:26,210

This is Pastor Niemoller?

125

00:08:26,210 --> 00:08:27,940

Yeah, Pastor Niemoller.

126

00:08:27,940 --> 00:08:30,530

127

00:08:30,530 --> 00:08:37,370

And my father, I think
more than my mother,

128

00:08:37,370 --> 00:08:45,380

also became really quite an
active Protestant Lutheran

129
00:08:45,380 --> 00:08:48,860
when we were in Berlin.

130
00:08:48,860 --> 00:08:51,890
I'm not sure that they
went to church that very

131
00:08:51,890 --> 00:08:58,160
much at that point, but
they brought us up that way,

132
00:08:58,160 --> 00:09:03,060
they heard our prayers when
we went to bed, and so on.

133
00:09:03,060 --> 00:09:05,450
Or my mother did, anyhow.

134
00:09:05,450 --> 00:09:07,280
Were you christened?

135
00:09:07,280 --> 00:09:10,550
Yes, I was christened--
we were all christened.

136
00:09:10,550 --> 00:09:14,660
And I think I have
the paper that

137
00:09:14,660 --> 00:09:17,120
says that I was christened.

138
00:09:17,120 --> 00:09:23,220
And both my sister and
I continued, actually--

139
00:09:23,220 --> 00:09:26,720
I mean, she, first,
she became very active

140
00:09:26,720 --> 00:09:32,090

in the student Christian
movement, which was in college.

141

00:09:32,090 --> 00:09:38,630

And I did, also, when
I was at university.

142

00:09:38,630 --> 00:09:46,420

And you know, we felt, because
we were in England then,

143

00:09:46,420 --> 00:09:47,950

it was not a big deal.

144

00:09:47,950 --> 00:09:51,370

Because it was
the state church--

145

00:09:51,370 --> 00:09:53,140

the Church of England.

146

00:09:53,140 --> 00:09:57,470

And a lot of things
went along with that.

147

00:09:57,470 --> 00:09:57,970

148

00:09:57,970 --> 00:09:59,360

Let's go back to Berlin.

149

00:09:59,360 --> 00:10:02,370

Yeah, that's right, we
haven't spent much time

150

00:10:02,370 --> 00:10:03,370

in Berlin at this point.

151

00:10:03,370 --> 00:10:05,740

So you were born in 1931.

152

00:10:05,740 --> 00:10:07,255

So what are your first memories?

153

00:10:07,255 --> 00:10:09,920

154

00:10:09,920 --> 00:10:18,730

I think my earliest memories
are of playing in our apartment,

155

00:10:18,730 --> 00:10:23,560

and of a nanny we had,
who looked after us.

156

00:10:23,560 --> 00:10:27,280

We didn't see a lot of
our parents, actually.

157

00:10:27,280 --> 00:10:28,600

Did your mother work?

158

00:10:28,600 --> 00:10:32,860

No, mothers-- no.

159

00:10:32,860 --> 00:10:36,610

Both were from well-to-do
families, basically.

160

00:10:36,610 --> 00:10:41,950

My father made enough money
that she didn't have to work.

161

00:10:41,950 --> 00:10:51,220

And you know, she
ran the household.

162

00:10:51,220 --> 00:10:55,300

Well, we had a nanny, and I
think we had a cook and a maid,

163

00:10:55,300 --> 00:10:59,440

also, initially.

164

00:10:59,440 --> 00:11:03,160
Was that a mixed neighborhood?

165
00:11:03,160 --> 00:11:04,300
Christians and Jews?

166
00:11:04,300 --> 00:11:07,240
Or was it mostly Christians?

167
00:11:07,240 --> 00:11:10,120
You know, I can't tell you that.

168
00:11:10,120 --> 00:11:13,990
I'm assuming it was a mixture.

169
00:11:13,990 --> 00:11:18,280
My parents used to have
parties, give parties.

170
00:11:18,280 --> 00:11:23,035
And were careful to mix
Christian and Jews together.

171
00:11:23,035 --> 00:11:26,300

172
00:11:26,300 --> 00:11:30,800
And we sort of peeked at what
was going on at the parties

173
00:11:30,800 --> 00:11:32,720
sometimes.

174
00:11:32,720 --> 00:11:39,470
We had some close relatives,
who played a large part

175
00:11:39,470 --> 00:11:44,130
in the future of our family.

176
00:11:44,130 --> 00:11:51,290
The name was Pariser,

P-A-R-I-S-E-R.

177

00:11:51,290 --> 00:11:55,035

My cousin and Hannah Pariser--

178

00:11:55,035 --> 00:11:58,880

179

00:11:58,880 --> 00:12:04,190

sorry, my father and Hannah

Pariser were first cousins.

180

00:12:04,190 --> 00:12:08,660

They were from the Milsch

family, M-I-L-S-C-H--

181

00:12:08,660 --> 00:12:10,766

sort of funny that

I married a Milkman.

182

00:12:10,766 --> 00:12:13,400

183

00:12:13,400 --> 00:12:21,420

And so they kept in

touch with them a lot--

184

00:12:21,420 --> 00:12:24,750

they lived in another

part of Berlin.

185

00:12:24,750 --> 00:12:29,250

And Franz Pariser was--

186

00:12:29,250 --> 00:12:35,770

I think he was the president

of the textile organization,

187

00:12:35,770 --> 00:12:37,560

whatever it was.

188

00:12:37,560 --> 00:12:40,080

And they had a textile factory.

189

00:12:40,080 --> 00:12:43,360

190

00:12:43,360 --> 00:12:45,960

So I'll talk about
them later, also.

191

00:12:45,960 --> 00:12:50,270

Other things that I remember,
I remember we had a garden.

192

00:12:50,270 --> 00:12:55,110

I remember that I was
very active, much more

193

00:12:55,110 --> 00:12:58,590

so than my older sister.

194

00:12:58,590 --> 00:13:02,940

And I liked to do
gymnastics, and so on.

195

00:13:02,940 --> 00:13:06,000

And there was a
swing in a doorway,

196

00:13:06,000 --> 00:13:09,480

hung in the doorway,
which I used a lot.

197

00:13:09,480 --> 00:13:13,320

And at one point,
I do remember this,

198

00:13:13,320 --> 00:13:16,620

I fell off it and
split open my chin--

199

00:13:16,620 --> 00:13:22,060

I still have the scar [LAUGHS]
after all these years.

200
00:13:22,060 --> 00:13:27,090
But that's sort of one of
the memories that I have.

201
00:13:27,090 --> 00:13:35,910
And then, my memory of my first
day in school when I was six.

202
00:13:35,910 --> 00:13:37,960
Can you tell us about that?

203
00:13:37,960 --> 00:13:42,840
Well, you know big excitement
is that on your first day

204
00:13:42,840 --> 00:13:46,920
at school, you get
this great big--

205
00:13:46,920 --> 00:13:51,090
it's sort of a
cornucopia of candy.

206
00:13:51,090 --> 00:13:52,870
You probably know about that.

207
00:13:52,870 --> 00:13:57,520
And so that's the
most exciting thing

208
00:13:57,520 --> 00:13:58,770
about the first day of school.

209
00:13:58,770 --> 00:14:00,300
What kind of school
did you go to?

210
00:14:00,300 --> 00:14:01,450
Public school.

211
00:14:01,450 --> 00:14:02,640

It was a public school--

212
00:14:02,640 --> 00:14:04,590
boys and girls?

213
00:14:04,590 --> 00:14:05,315
Both religions?

214
00:14:05,315 --> 00:14:07,770
Yes, I think so.

215
00:14:07,770 --> 00:14:11,820
Yes, but you have to
realize that I didn't know I

216
00:14:11,820 --> 00:14:14,280
was Jewish, nor did my sister.

217
00:14:14,280 --> 00:14:15,660
Right, right.

218
00:14:15,660 --> 00:14:17,190
You thought you were Lutheran?

219
00:14:17,190 --> 00:14:18,750
So, yeah, yeah.

220
00:14:18,750 --> 00:14:22,350
And-- OK.

221
00:14:22,350 --> 00:14:24,590
So I just thought I was
like everybody else.

222
00:14:24,590 --> 00:14:25,090
Right.

223
00:14:25,090 --> 00:14:29,220
And it was fine.

224
00:14:29,220 --> 00:14:34,020

You know, I had friends,
and made friends.

225
00:14:34,020 --> 00:14:40,720
I remember going roller skating
on the street with them.

226
00:14:40,720 --> 00:14:43,550
So those are really among
your earliest memories?

227
00:14:43,550 --> 00:14:44,700
Yeah, right.

228
00:14:44,700 --> 00:14:47,310
Now, Hitler came
into power '33--

229
00:14:47,310 --> 00:14:51,210
when were you
first aware of him?

230
00:14:51,210 --> 00:14:54,090
Or had heard of
him, or anything?

231
00:14:54,090 --> 00:14:55,960
Well, I think I heard his name.

232
00:14:55,960 --> 00:14:59,100
I heard talk about him.

233
00:14:59,100 --> 00:15:05,400
You know, in retrospect,
there were discussions

234
00:15:05,400 --> 00:15:08,280
that went on in the
house with other people

235
00:15:08,280 --> 00:15:11,550
that we weren't supposed
to hear, anyhow.

236
00:15:11,550 --> 00:15:13,800
And I didn't really
know what they meant,

237
00:15:13,800 --> 00:15:18,480
I think my sister knew much
more, realized much more.

238
00:15:18,480 --> 00:15:21,690
But she did not know that
she was a Jew, either.

239
00:15:21,690 --> 00:15:24,450
And it wasn't until--

240
00:15:24,450 --> 00:15:26,700
and I'm not sure
of the exact time,

241
00:15:26,700 --> 00:15:32,040
but it must have
been early 1938--

242
00:15:32,040 --> 00:15:40,440
when there was an edict that
that Jewish children could

243
00:15:40,440 --> 00:15:43,200
no longer go to
public schools, and we

244
00:15:43,200 --> 00:15:47,880
had to go to a special
school just for Jews.

245
00:15:47,880 --> 00:15:54,270
And that was the point at
which our parents told us

246
00:15:54,270 --> 00:15:55,290
that we were--

247

00:15:55,290 --> 00:15:57,660

No, they didn't even
tell us we were Jews.

248

00:15:57,660 --> 00:16:00,000

That came later.

249

00:16:00,000 --> 00:16:03,000

No, they just told us
we had to move schools.

250

00:16:03,000 --> 00:16:06,690

But how did the
authorities know?

251

00:16:06,690 --> 00:16:09,600

I just [? want to know ?] if you
ever asked your parents later.

252

00:16:09,600 --> 00:16:16,220

Why they then considered you
Jewish in the sense of they

253

00:16:16,220 --> 00:16:19,220

didn't bring you up that
way, you were christened.

254

00:16:19,220 --> 00:16:22,880

Why did they follow that
edict, if you were Christian?

255

00:16:22,880 --> 00:16:24,800

They had no choice.

256

00:16:24,800 --> 00:16:26,330

Do you know how they--

257

00:16:26,330 --> 00:16:31,760

I know this is their
telling you the story,

258

00:16:31,760 --> 00:16:34,070

but how did they
say that they knew

259
00:16:34,070 --> 00:16:36,120
that they didn't have a choice?

260
00:16:36,120 --> 00:16:42,620
Well, I think my
father in his job

261
00:16:42,620 --> 00:16:46,280
was well-known known as a Jew.

262
00:16:46,280 --> 00:16:50,640
With a name like Friedenthal,
he couldn't be anything else.

263
00:16:50,640 --> 00:16:55,760
And so, no, I mean,
it was known they

264
00:16:55,760 --> 00:16:58,730
were Jewish by many people.

265
00:16:58,730 --> 00:17:01,130
Openly?

266
00:17:01,130 --> 00:17:03,950
Yeah, I don't think
it was talked about.

267
00:17:03,950 --> 00:17:08,630
And my father had this view,
which I only learned later,

268
00:17:08,630 --> 00:17:15,359
but because he had fought
in the First World War,

269
00:17:15,359 --> 00:17:18,630
he had gotten the what--

270

00:17:18,630 --> 00:17:20,220
Iron Cross?

271
00:17:20,220 --> 00:17:27,750
And he had a high position
in a well-known bank,

272
00:17:27,750 --> 00:17:32,700
and that nothing
would happen to him.

273
00:17:32,700 --> 00:17:36,690
And of course,
initially, nothing did.

274
00:17:36,690 --> 00:17:38,640
And that was partly because--

275
00:17:38,640 --> 00:17:43,960
I don't know who the interior
minister was at the time,

276
00:17:43,960 --> 00:17:46,590
but again, this is something
I had learned later,

277
00:17:46,590 --> 00:17:54,750
was that he told Hitler that
if he rounded up all the Jews

278
00:17:54,750 --> 00:17:59,100
in Berlin at once, the economy
of the city would collapse.

279
00:17:59,100 --> 00:18:03,470
And so he'd better do it slowly.

280
00:18:03,470 --> 00:18:04,020
Do it slowly.

281
00:18:04,020 --> 00:18:05,460
Yeah, right.

282

00:18:05,460 --> 00:18:10,260

And I think that gave my
father a false sense of safety.

283

00:18:10,260 --> 00:18:12,840

284

00:18:12,840 --> 00:18:18,030

Just before we get to when
you had to leave school,

285

00:18:18,030 --> 00:18:20,830

did you have a lot of religious
training up to that time?

286

00:18:20,830 --> 00:18:21,330

No.

287

00:18:21,330 --> 00:18:21,830

No.

288

00:18:21,830 --> 00:18:22,730

No, not--

289

00:18:22,730 --> 00:18:24,910

You didn't go to Sunday
school, or things like that.

290

00:18:24,910 --> 00:18:27,450

Did you go to church services?

291

00:18:27,450 --> 00:18:27,970

No.

292

00:18:27,970 --> 00:18:29,610

No it was just--
it was on paper.

293

00:18:29,610 --> 00:18:30,960

It was just, yeah--

294

00:18:30,960 --> 00:18:34,050
and we would, at
Christmas, my father

295
00:18:34,050 --> 00:18:39,390
would read the Christmas
story from Saint Luke.

296
00:18:39,390 --> 00:18:43,710
And we were taught to
say the Lord's Prayer,

297
00:18:43,710 --> 00:18:51,710
and really, though, given
very little instruction.

298
00:18:51,710 --> 00:18:53,770
Do you remember
having Jewish friends,

299
00:18:53,770 --> 00:18:56,470
and not knowing that
you were Jewish?

300
00:18:56,470 --> 00:18:58,190
No, I have no idea--

301
00:18:58,190 --> 00:18:59,440
If your friends were Jewish?

302
00:18:59,440 --> 00:19:00,160
Right.

303
00:19:00,160 --> 00:19:04,630
And my sister has
told me a story

304
00:19:04,630 --> 00:19:08,350
that when she was in
school, that one day--

305
00:19:08,350 --> 00:19:13,360
must have been shortly

before we switched schools--

306
00:19:13,360 --> 00:19:18,190
one day, one of the girls
in her class said to her,

307
00:19:18,190 --> 00:19:20,980
your father's a Jew.

308
00:19:20,980 --> 00:19:24,040
And she said, no, he's a banker.

309
00:19:24,040 --> 00:19:25,720
She had no idea what--

310
00:19:25,720 --> 00:19:29,470
I mean, that shows you
how totally isolated

311
00:19:29,470 --> 00:19:33,490
we were from that whole idea.

312
00:19:33,490 --> 00:19:37,180
And then, I guess the other
thing came when we left--

313
00:19:37,180 --> 00:19:40,660

314
00:19:40,660 --> 00:19:46,660
when we left Germany
in January of 1939,

315
00:19:46,660 --> 00:19:51,220
and my mother showed us our--

316
00:19:51,220 --> 00:19:54,163
we didn't have passports,
or anything, we just had--

317
00:19:54,163 --> 00:19:55,330
I forget what it was called.

318
00:19:55,330 --> 00:19:56,630
The ID papers?

319
00:19:56,630 --> 00:19:58,300
Yeah, the ID paper.

320
00:19:58,300 --> 00:20:03,520
And you know, she
showed us our names.

321
00:20:03,520 --> 00:20:09,220
And of course, they had Sara,
Sara, added in the middle

322
00:20:09,220 --> 00:20:10,510
to them.

323
00:20:10,510 --> 00:20:15,760
And she told us that
every Jew had that.

324
00:20:15,760 --> 00:20:19,450
Yeah, were you--

325
00:20:19,450 --> 00:20:22,270
I just want to finish a little
bit with your young childhood.

326
00:20:22,270 --> 00:20:23,470
Did you have any hobbies?

327
00:20:23,470 --> 00:20:25,570
You were athletic, you said.

328
00:20:25,570 --> 00:20:26,680
I was athletic.

329
00:20:26,680 --> 00:20:28,330
We did a lot of--

330

00:20:28,330 --> 00:20:33,040
well, we learned to play the
recorder, which I enjoyed.

331
00:20:33,040 --> 00:20:36,310
And so did my sister.

332
00:20:36,310 --> 00:20:38,872
Yeah, we did a lot
of craft things.

333
00:20:38,872 --> 00:20:40,330
I'm talking about
as a young child,

334
00:20:40,330 --> 00:20:41,740
before you left for England.

335
00:20:41,740 --> 00:20:46,330
Yeah, right, and we always
made things for Christmas--

336
00:20:46,330 --> 00:20:51,520
some little thing
that we could manage.

337
00:20:51,520 --> 00:20:56,890
Were you an independent
child, or a fearful child?

338
00:20:56,890 --> 00:20:58,270
No, I was very--

339
00:20:58,270 --> 00:21:00,740
I lived a very protected life.

340
00:21:00,740 --> 00:21:01,240
You did.

341
00:21:01,240 --> 00:21:03,670
Really very protected.

342

00:21:03,670 --> 00:21:14,350

And you know, I had very
few friends at that time.

343

00:21:14,350 --> 00:21:22,480

And, you know, I had cousins
that I played with sometimes,

344

00:21:22,480 --> 00:21:25,390

but otherwise, my
memories of being

345

00:21:25,390 --> 00:21:28,360

very much just in the house.

346

00:21:28,360 --> 00:21:33,510

And we had my mother's sister,
who was a schoolteacher,

347

00:21:33,510 --> 00:21:36,400

and lived in Berlin, also,
and she'd come sometimes.

348

00:21:36,400 --> 00:21:41,840

And she played games with us,
and show us how to do things,

349

00:21:41,840 --> 00:21:42,370

and so on.

350

00:21:42,370 --> 00:21:46,990

She was great.

351

00:21:46,990 --> 00:21:49,480

So when you were very
young, as I said,

352

00:21:49,480 --> 00:21:54,650

before you left for England, at
a time, let's say, of Passover,

353

00:21:54,650 --> 00:21:56,860

or something, that was

never acknowledged?

354

00:21:56,860 --> 00:21:58,120

No, didn't know it existed.

355

00:21:58,120 --> 00:22:00,130

You didn't even know it existed?

356

00:22:00,130 --> 00:22:01,000

No.

357

00:22:01,000 --> 00:22:03,070

I mean, it was just
nothing, you know.

358

00:22:03,070 --> 00:22:05,320

It was totally kept away from--

359

00:22:05,320 --> 00:22:06,260

Under the rug.

360

00:22:06,260 --> 00:22:07,510

Under the rug, right.

361

00:22:07,510 --> 00:22:11,080

Well, my parents hadn't
had a lot of that, either.

362

00:22:11,080 --> 00:22:13,540

And so--

363

00:22:13,540 --> 00:22:15,700

Was there a large
extended family--

364

00:22:15,700 --> 00:22:17,440

aunts, uncles,
cousins, in Berlin?

365

00:22:17,440 --> 00:22:21,100

366

00:22:21,100 --> 00:22:22,060

No.

367

00:22:22,060 --> 00:22:25,810

Well, not in Berlin.

368

00:22:25,810 --> 00:22:36,650

My father had two sisters,
one of whom lived in Berlin.

369

00:22:36,650 --> 00:22:39,020

Her name was Lotte Friedenthal.

370

00:22:39,020 --> 00:22:42,500

And she was the one who
helped other people escape.

371

00:22:42,500 --> 00:22:45,350

And there have been
stories written

372

00:22:45,350 --> 00:22:47,460

about her and her activities.

373

00:22:47,460 --> 00:22:49,460

This is the one who worked
for Pastor Niemoller?

374

00:22:49,460 --> 00:22:57,350

Yeah, and was very much
associated with the [GERMAN]----

375

00:22:57,350 --> 00:22:57,870

sorry.

376

00:22:57,870 --> 00:23:09,680

[LAUGHS] And then his other
sister had married another Jew,

377

00:23:09,680 --> 00:23:11,870

who--

378

00:23:11,870 --> 00:23:16,100
out of another Jewish
family called Brega.

379

00:23:16,100 --> 00:23:24,870
And her husband was a doctor,
and they left for England,

380

00:23:24,870 --> 00:23:31,700
I think, in 1935,
long before we did.

381

00:23:31,700 --> 00:23:40,570
And also, his cousin,
Hannah Pariser,

382

00:23:40,570 --> 00:23:46,000
and her husband, the
husband had some contacts

383

00:23:46,000 --> 00:23:48,420
in the Nazi government.

384

00:23:48,420 --> 00:23:50,920
He knew somebody
who would keep him

385

00:23:50,920 --> 00:23:53,660
appraised of what was going on.

386

00:23:53,660 --> 00:23:59,020
And I think in 1932, he was
told to get his children out

387

00:23:59,020 --> 00:24:00,170
of the country.

388

00:24:00,170 --> 00:24:06,220
And I think the rest of
the family followed in '35.

389

00:24:06,220 --> 00:24:08,050

And they went to
Switzerland, because they

390
00:24:08,050 --> 00:24:12,660
had relatives in Switzerland.

391
00:24:12,660 --> 00:24:17,870
And you know, my father was
helping various other more

392
00:24:17,870 --> 00:24:21,440
distant relatives.

393
00:24:21,440 --> 00:24:27,050
My aunt Elizabeth,
my mother's sister,

394
00:24:27,050 --> 00:24:30,860
she did not leave until--

395
00:24:30,860 --> 00:24:35,990
I think she was helped
to get out in 1940.

396
00:24:35,990 --> 00:24:40,370
And she-- it wasn't
ever clear to us

397
00:24:40,370 --> 00:24:47,000
whether she walked or swam
across the presumably Rhine

398
00:24:47,000 --> 00:24:48,950
into Switzerland.

399
00:24:48,950 --> 00:24:50,690
But anyhow, she got there.

400
00:24:50,690 --> 00:25:01,790
And then, the aunt that worked
with Niemoller and his group,

401

00:25:01,790 --> 00:25:07,040
she, also, in 1941, they decided
that it was too dangerous

402
00:25:07,040 --> 00:25:10,460
for her to continue
working there.

403
00:25:10,460 --> 00:25:12,600
And so--

404
00:25:12,600 --> 00:25:16,160
She was-- she looked
like a very mousy person.

405
00:25:16,160 --> 00:25:22,910
And she was very
humble, and you know,

406
00:25:22,910 --> 00:25:24,860
wouldn't speak out or anything.

407
00:25:24,860 --> 00:25:35,210
But that was all
not her true self.

408
00:25:35,210 --> 00:25:42,170
But she did get out,
masquerading as a spy

409
00:25:42,170 --> 00:25:43,310
into Switzerland.

410
00:25:43,310 --> 00:25:44,780
So she left by train.

411
00:25:44,780 --> 00:25:47,690
Do you know when that was?

412
00:25:47,690 --> 00:25:50,280
I think that was in 1941.

413

00:25:50,280 --> 00:25:52,610

Yeah, but there is--

414

00:25:52,610 --> 00:25:55,970

I have to ask my
sister, somebody

415

00:25:55,970 --> 00:25:59,730

has written a lot about
her, and I don't know--

416

00:25:59,730 --> 00:26:03,320

it's a German book.

417

00:26:03,320 --> 00:26:05,930

And I've seen it, but
I don't have a copy.

418

00:26:05,930 --> 00:26:08,740

419

00:26:08,740 --> 00:26:12,140

Let's now talk about-- you said
you had to leave your school.

420

00:26:12,140 --> 00:26:17,240

And how did your parents present
that to you and your sister?

421

00:26:17,240 --> 00:26:18,800

What did they say?

422

00:26:18,800 --> 00:26:22,730

They just said, you know,
you can't stay in the school

423

00:26:22,730 --> 00:26:23,280

anymore.

424

00:26:23,280 --> 00:26:25,600

We want you to go to
a different school.

425

00:26:25,600 --> 00:26:27,390

Did you have any idea why?

426

00:26:27,390 --> 00:26:27,890

No?

427

00:26:27,890 --> 00:26:31,280

No, but you have to
understand that in many ways,

428

00:26:31,280 --> 00:26:36,350

we were brought up in the
children should be seen

429

00:26:36,350 --> 00:26:37,925

and not heard system.

430

00:26:37,925 --> 00:26:40,460

431

00:26:40,460 --> 00:26:46,580

We were taught that you
obeyed authority always.

432

00:26:46,580 --> 00:26:52,880

And if you didn't,
it wasn't great.

433

00:26:52,880 --> 00:26:54,530

I mean, we got spanked.

434

00:26:54,530 --> 00:27:02,750

And so one of my
problems, and even now

435

00:27:02,750 --> 00:27:05,330

in trying to write
a memoir, and so on,

436

00:27:05,330 --> 00:27:10,220

is that we never asked
our parents about things.

437
00:27:10,220 --> 00:27:14,900
We never knew our parents
that well until later, but not

438
00:27:14,900 --> 00:27:16,130
even then.

439
00:27:16,130 --> 00:27:21,470
And then, it wasn't that we
were so much afraid of asking

440
00:27:21,470 --> 00:27:25,070
questions, but we thought
that they wouldn't want

441
00:27:25,070 --> 00:27:27,500
to answer them, and so on--

442
00:27:27,500 --> 00:27:29,960
especially my father.

443
00:27:29,960 --> 00:27:34,690
So no, I mean, it's a
very weird situation.

444
00:27:34,690 --> 00:27:37,250

445
00:27:37,250 --> 00:27:40,480
Were you unhappy
to change schools?

446
00:27:40,480 --> 00:27:44,285
Yes, yeah, I mean, I was
used to the other school.

447
00:27:44,285 --> 00:27:48,690
Were there any other children
in your class leaving with you?

448
00:27:48,690 --> 00:27:50,360

No, not that I remember.

449

00:27:50,360 --> 00:27:54,200

So you were the only one
in your class to leave?

450

00:27:54,200 --> 00:27:55,430

That's what I remember.

451

00:27:55,430 --> 00:27:59,420

I would have to ask my sister
whether she would remember.

452

00:27:59,420 --> 00:28:02,930

And what kind of school
did you then go to?

453

00:28:02,930 --> 00:28:06,410

Well, we went to the
Goldschmidt Schule,

454

00:28:06,410 --> 00:28:09,680

which was a very good school.

455

00:28:09,680 --> 00:28:13,490

We continued with classes.

456

00:28:13,490 --> 00:28:17,570

And in fact, I have
my final report

457

00:28:17,570 --> 00:28:21,740

when we left from the school,
of what all the things

458

00:28:21,740 --> 00:28:23,240

that the classes that I took?

459

00:28:23,240 --> 00:28:24,560

When did you start that school?

460

00:28:24,560 --> 00:28:26,690

When did you go?

461

00:28:26,690 --> 00:28:34,830

I think it was either late 1937
or early 1938, I'm not sure.

462

00:28:34,830 --> 00:28:36,740

And did your sister
go to the same school?

463

00:28:36,740 --> 00:28:38,900

Yeah, she went to
the same school.

464

00:28:38,900 --> 00:28:44,930

And the thing that annoyed me,
I remember this very clearly,

465

00:28:44,930 --> 00:28:48,500

is that school normally
started at 8:00,

466

00:28:48,500 --> 00:28:54,950

but because we did not go to
the Jewish religion classes,

467

00:28:54,950 --> 00:28:58,640

but went to special
classes for the Christian--

468

00:28:58,640 --> 00:29:02,930

there were other
Christian children there--

469

00:29:02,930 --> 00:29:06,050

we had, twice a week, I
think it was, had to be there

470

00:29:06,050 --> 00:29:08,510

at 7:00 in the morning.

471

00:29:08,510 --> 00:29:12,920

Because that was a special class

that not very many kids took.

472

00:29:12,920 --> 00:29:15,500

So these other students
were the other, quote,

473

00:29:15,500 --> 00:29:17,600

Jewish Christian children?

474

00:29:17,600 --> 00:29:19,310

Or were they--

475

00:29:19,310 --> 00:29:20,270

Who were in that class?

476

00:29:20,270 --> 00:29:22,190

Who were in-- yeah.

477

00:29:22,190 --> 00:29:24,530

Who had to go to the
special religion class.

478

00:29:24,530 --> 00:29:26,690

They were actually
Jewish heritage,

479

00:29:26,690 --> 00:29:28,310

but brought up as Christians?

480

00:29:28,310 --> 00:29:29,990

Christians, right.

481

00:29:29,990 --> 00:29:33,380

Everybody there was
definitely 100% Jewish.

482

00:29:33,380 --> 00:29:35,520

Jewish-- that's what
I was saying, yeah.

483

00:29:35,520 --> 00:29:36,020

Right.

484
00:29:36,020 --> 00:29:38,570
Did that mean anything to you?

485
00:29:38,570 --> 00:29:41,665
At what, seven, eight years old?

486
00:29:41,665 --> 00:29:43,730
Seven years old?

487
00:29:43,730 --> 00:29:45,550
Seven, or-- if it's--

488
00:29:45,550 --> 00:29:47,345
yeah, seven, probably.

489
00:29:47,345 --> 00:29:50,240
Did it have any meaning
for you at that young age?

490
00:29:50,240 --> 00:29:53,310
No, I just was
annoyed, because I

491
00:29:53,310 --> 00:29:54,920
didn't like getting
up that early

492
00:29:54,920 --> 00:29:56,840
and getting to
school that early.

493
00:29:56,840 --> 00:29:59,870
And that I couldn't be
with everybody else.

494
00:29:59,870 --> 00:30:03,320
That was, I think,
my main thing.

495
00:30:03,320 --> 00:30:08,960
Did you feel that Jews

were different than you?

496

00:30:08,960 --> 00:30:10,355

The Jewish students?

497

00:30:10,355 --> 00:30:12,380

You know, I don't think--

498

00:30:12,380 --> 00:30:14,660

it still didn't mean much to me.

499

00:30:14,660 --> 00:30:16,010

You were so young, yeah.

500

00:30:16,010 --> 00:30:20,090

It just, OK, so that's
what we were called now.

501

00:30:20,090 --> 00:30:22,280

And so be it.

502

00:30:22,280 --> 00:30:23,150

I mean, that's--

503

00:30:23,150 --> 00:30:26,000

When you were that young, did
you see swastikas and flags?

504

00:30:26,000 --> 00:30:26,840

Yes, yes.

505

00:30:26,840 --> 00:30:28,760

What did that mean
to you, as a child?

506

00:30:28,760 --> 00:30:38,870

Actually, I sort of picked up
that that was bad, you know.

507

00:30:38,870 --> 00:30:43,340

I had thought-- and I think
you told me that I was wrong,

508
00:30:43,340 --> 00:30:45,680
that we had to wear swastikas--

509
00:30:45,680 --> 00:30:49,040
no, Jewish stars on our coats.

510
00:30:49,040 --> 00:30:53,750
But I told somebody
else, and she said, no,

511
00:30:53,750 --> 00:30:56,260
that wasn't required
until later.

512
00:30:56,260 --> 00:31:00,920
So somebody must have
told you that [INAUDIBLE]..

513
00:31:00,920 --> 00:31:07,920
But I did-- one experience I
remember very well, actually,

514
00:31:07,920 --> 00:31:11,280
and I don't remember
what year it was, 1936,

515
00:31:11,280 --> 00:31:13,520
the Olympics were in Berlin.

516
00:31:13,520 --> 00:31:14,020
Right.

517
00:31:14,020 --> 00:31:20,010
And my father had
tickets to the Olympics.

518
00:31:20,010 --> 00:31:25,680
And he took me to
the opening ceremony.

519
00:31:25,680 --> 00:31:32,610

And that was the only
time I saw Hitler.

520
00:31:32,610 --> 00:31:37,950
And I mean, I was,
you know, at school.

521
00:31:37,950 --> 00:31:41,850
Well, that was different,
too, once we went to the--

522
00:31:41,850 --> 00:31:47,070
but it just occurs
to me now, you know--

523
00:31:47,070 --> 00:31:50,940
at the public school, we
always had to say Heil Hitler.

524
00:31:50,940 --> 00:31:55,510
And it was, as far
as I was concerned,

525
00:31:55,510 --> 00:31:58,050
so that was just
something you did.

526
00:31:58,050 --> 00:32:04,920
And I think one of the
things that is really

527
00:32:04,920 --> 00:32:10,830
terrible with this, never--

528
00:32:10,830 --> 00:32:13,620
always obeying what
you're told to do.

529
00:32:13,620 --> 00:32:20,940
Is that you don't learn that you
don't have to do that, maybe,

530
00:32:20,940 --> 00:32:22,560

at times.

531

00:32:22,560 --> 00:32:29,280

But I loved the whole
spectacle of the opening day.

532

00:32:29,280 --> 00:32:30,130

Opening ceremony.

533

00:32:30,130 --> 00:32:31,410

Yeah, right.

534

00:32:31,410 --> 00:32:37,590

And then I think my sister went
to watch something there, too.

535

00:32:37,590 --> 00:32:42,840

But I think my father felt that
this was a very German thing,

536

00:32:42,840 --> 00:32:46,830

you know-- was very important
for Germany to have it.

537

00:32:46,830 --> 00:32:52,340

And so he took us.

538

00:32:52,340 --> 00:32:56,980

539

00:32:56,980 --> 00:33:02,240

The other thing I remember
that I found very exciting--

540

00:33:02,240 --> 00:33:06,340

my father played
tennis quite regularly

541

00:33:06,340 --> 00:33:10,750

and when it was finally
deemed I was old enough

542

00:33:10,750 --> 00:33:15,880
to be able a ball girl
for their tennis games.

543
00:33:15,880 --> 00:33:18,970
I loved that, because I could
run around the court picking up

544
00:33:18,970 --> 00:33:20,440
balls, and so on.

545
00:33:20,440 --> 00:33:25,500

546
00:33:25,500 --> 00:33:29,070
I have one other memory,
like these funny things

547
00:33:29,070 --> 00:33:30,690
that stick in your mind.

548
00:33:30,690 --> 00:33:35,280
Which I don't think I ever told
anybody about in my family,

549
00:33:35,280 --> 00:33:40,980
and it was that we were not
allowed to buy from vendors,

550
00:33:40,980 --> 00:33:44,940
street vendors, you know.

551
00:33:44,940 --> 00:33:48,800
But I loved hot dogs dearly.

552
00:33:48,800 --> 00:33:52,860
And you know, whenever we
went downtown or anything,

553
00:33:52,860 --> 00:33:57,970
and went by a hot dog stand, I
always wanted to buy a hot dog.

554

00:33:57,970 --> 00:33:59,700

And I was never allowed.

555

00:33:59,700 --> 00:34:06,570

Well, one day, somebody
came by with a cart

556

00:34:06,570 --> 00:34:09,840

and stopped outside the
house we were living in--

557

00:34:09,840 --> 00:34:13,469

I have to tell you
about that, too--

558

00:34:13,469 --> 00:34:15,360

and so I saw him.

559

00:34:15,360 --> 00:34:19,659

And everybody was
doing something else.

560

00:34:19,659 --> 00:34:23,909

And so I took some money
out of my piggy bank

561

00:34:23,909 --> 00:34:27,659

and went outside and
bought myself a hot dog.

562

00:34:27,659 --> 00:34:31,590

And then hid it
somewhere to eat it.

563

00:34:31,590 --> 00:34:34,800

And then went back in.

564

00:34:34,800 --> 00:34:37,667

And I felt so guilty.

565

00:34:37,667 --> 00:34:40,530

[LAUGHS] I just

remember this, you

566

00:34:40,530 --> 00:34:43,739

know, that I've done
this terrible thing.

567

00:34:43,739 --> 00:34:45,610

And nobody knew about it.

568

00:34:45,610 --> 00:34:51,340

But the other thing that
happened-- and again,

569

00:34:51,340 --> 00:34:54,630

I don't know whether
it was 1937 or '38--

570

00:34:54,630 --> 00:34:59,640

we could no longer stay in
the very nice first-floor--

571

00:34:59,640 --> 00:35:06,420

well, ground floor apartment on
the Augusta Victoria Strasse.

572

00:35:06,420 --> 00:35:08,820

We had to move to a
smaller apartment.

573

00:35:08,820 --> 00:35:14,400

We could no longer have a
cook and a maid and a nanny.

574

00:35:14,400 --> 00:35:17,890

I think we were--

575

00:35:17,890 --> 00:35:21,280

oh, we were allowed
to have somebody who

576

00:35:21,280 --> 00:35:25,130

was over 65 could work for us.

577

00:35:25,130 --> 00:35:27,730

So that all changed.

578

00:35:27,730 --> 00:35:33,220

And instead of a nanny,
we then had a woman

579

00:35:33,220 --> 00:35:37,150

who came and taught
us languages, I think,

580

00:35:37,150 --> 00:35:42,880

taught us French and English.

581

00:35:42,880 --> 00:35:45,640

No, not English and
French, it was--

582

00:35:45,640 --> 00:35:48,670

583

00:35:48,670 --> 00:35:52,360

whom I remember, and
who was very nice.

584

00:35:52,360 --> 00:35:54,640

This is a German
Christian woman?

585

00:35:54,640 --> 00:35:56,500

Well, she was actually
South African.

586

00:35:56,500 --> 00:36:00,160

[LAUGHS] Who was there.

587

00:36:00,160 --> 00:36:05,230

And again, do you remember how
your parents presented this

588

00:36:05,230 --> 00:36:09,158

to you, why you had to

move to a smaller place?

589

00:36:09,158 --> 00:36:10,450

Why you couldn't have the help?

590

00:36:10,450 --> 00:36:12,490

No, you know, that was a fact.

591

00:36:12,490 --> 00:36:13,550

We're just going to move.

592

00:36:13,550 --> 00:36:15,040

We're just going to move.

593

00:36:15,040 --> 00:36:19,870

And move, we did.

594

00:36:19,870 --> 00:36:22,550

Now, so this was not a
fearful time for you,

595

00:36:22,550 --> 00:36:24,520

even though Hitler was in power.

596

00:36:24,520 --> 00:36:25,180

Right.

597

00:36:25,180 --> 00:36:28,328

Did you ever just hear any
of his speeches over the air?

598

00:36:28,328 --> 00:36:29,620

I don't mean-- if you remember.

599

00:36:29,620 --> 00:36:30,010

No.

600

00:36:30,010 --> 00:36:30,520

No.

601

00:36:30,520 --> 00:36:33,880

And when you saw German
soldiers in the street,

602
00:36:33,880 --> 00:36:35,130
was that upsetting?

603
00:36:35,130 --> 00:36:36,620
No, no.

604
00:36:36,620 --> 00:36:38,950
No, so you don't remember
it as a fearful--

605
00:36:38,950 --> 00:36:41,100
We were kept away from
those sites, overall.

606
00:36:41,100 --> 00:36:41,600
Were you?

607
00:36:41,600 --> 00:36:44,620
Yeah, I mean, I think
it was surprising

608
00:36:44,620 --> 00:36:47,180
that we were taken to
the Olympics, in fact.

609
00:36:47,180 --> 00:36:48,880
Yeah.

610
00:36:48,880 --> 00:36:52,570
But I think my father
felt he had to do that.

611
00:36:52,570 --> 00:36:55,150

612
00:36:55,150 --> 00:36:57,280
He had to put on a show?

613
00:36:57,280 --> 00:37:00,100

Or because he really wanted to?

614
00:37:00,100 --> 00:37:01,270
Oh, to put on a show.

615
00:37:01,270 --> 00:37:03,070
To put on a show,
that he was a good--

616
00:37:03,070 --> 00:37:03,580
I don't think he
really wanted to.

617
00:37:03,580 --> 00:37:05,260
That he was a good
German, I see.

618
00:37:05,260 --> 00:37:07,980
Yeah, but that he
was a good German.

619
00:37:07,980 --> 00:37:08,830
Yeah, right.

620
00:37:08,830 --> 00:37:11,560
Again, I never asked
him about that.

621
00:37:11,560 --> 00:37:13,090
I didn't know.

622
00:37:13,090 --> 00:37:14,080
But then, in--

623
00:37:14,080 --> 00:37:17,680

624
00:37:17,680 --> 00:37:19,720
I have to get my
years right, here.

625
00:37:19,720 --> 00:37:25,960

In 1938, I think it was--

626
00:37:25,960 --> 00:37:28,970
it may have been late
'37, I don't know,

627
00:37:28,970 --> 00:37:35,000
I think it was in 1938, and
I think it was in May again,

628
00:37:35,000 --> 00:37:35,740
I'm not sure--

629
00:37:35,740 --> 00:37:38,290

630
00:37:38,290 --> 00:37:40,930
my father was--

631
00:37:40,930 --> 00:37:44,680
I was suddenly
told one day that I

632
00:37:44,680 --> 00:37:49,510
was going to go and stay
with my godmother, who

633
00:37:49,510 --> 00:37:53,920
didn't live too far away,
and had two very young kids.

634
00:37:53,920 --> 00:37:57,790
And was going to
go there to help

635
00:37:57,790 --> 00:38:00,760
her play with the children.

636
00:38:00,760 --> 00:38:07,420
And it turned out my sister
stayed with my mother,

637

00:38:07,420 --> 00:38:12,400
but that was when my father
was taken to Sachsenhausen

638
00:38:12,400 --> 00:38:14,170
concentration camp.

639
00:38:14,170 --> 00:38:17,420
Which again, I knew
nothing about at all.

640
00:38:17,420 --> 00:38:18,670
I didn't know he wasn't there.

641
00:38:18,670 --> 00:38:19,510

642
00:38:19,510 --> 00:38:21,880
OK, so you were not home
when he was taken away.

643
00:38:21,880 --> 00:38:24,220
No, I was not home
when he was taken away.

644
00:38:24,220 --> 00:38:26,050
I was not at home
when he came back.

645
00:38:26,050 --> 00:38:28,870

646
00:38:28,870 --> 00:38:31,540
But so far-- and I don't
know how long it was,

647
00:38:31,540 --> 00:38:32,920
it seemed like forever.

648
00:38:32,920 --> 00:38:36,350
I didn't like being aware, I
didn't like the two little kids

649

00:38:36,350 --> 00:38:36,860

very much.

650

00:38:36,860 --> 00:38:39,310

Did you have contact with
your mother and your sister?

651

00:38:39,310 --> 00:38:41,185

Some, but not much.

652

00:38:41,185 --> 00:38:43,940

653

00:38:43,940 --> 00:38:49,930

And I mean, I liked my godmother
all right, but she was--

654

00:38:49,930 --> 00:38:56,590

her husband, he must have
been around still at the time,

655

00:38:56,590 --> 00:38:59,130

he was in the army.

656

00:38:59,130 --> 00:39:01,240

But there was no war, yet.

657

00:39:01,240 --> 00:39:07,630

658

00:39:07,630 --> 00:39:10,180

And I mean, she was not Jewish.

659

00:39:10,180 --> 00:39:13,270

660

00:39:13,270 --> 00:39:15,250

So your father was taken away--

661

00:39:15,250 --> 00:39:17,110

did your mother ever

tell you later any

662
00:39:17,110 --> 00:39:19,600
of the details about
when he was taken away?

663
00:39:19,600 --> 00:39:20,100
No.

664
00:39:20,100 --> 00:39:21,350
So you don't know any of that.

665
00:39:21,350 --> 00:39:25,210
No, no, I don't.

666
00:39:25,210 --> 00:39:33,970
I think we still have a card
that he sent at one point

667
00:39:33,970 --> 00:39:36,940
from the concentration camp.

668
00:39:36,940 --> 00:39:39,530

669
00:39:39,530 --> 00:39:45,560
I know from my sister that, when
he came back, he had pneumonia,

670
00:39:45,560 --> 00:39:46,150
I think.

671
00:39:46,150 --> 00:39:52,030
And also he had--

672
00:39:52,030 --> 00:39:54,790
he didn't have any fingernails.

673
00:39:54,790 --> 00:39:57,220
That's what she told me.

674

00:39:57,220 --> 00:40:02,020

But this was many years
later that she told me that.

675

00:40:02,020 --> 00:40:05,530

And so I never saw my
father, because he, as soon

676

00:40:05,530 --> 00:40:10,143

as he was able to travel,
had to leave the country.

677

00:40:10,143 --> 00:40:10,810

While you were--

678

00:40:10,810 --> 00:40:11,930

That was the condition of his--

679

00:40:11,930 --> 00:40:14,450

In other words, while you were
staying with your godmother,

680

00:40:14,450 --> 00:40:15,820

he left the country?

681

00:40:15,820 --> 00:40:18,340

Right, so, I mean--

682

00:40:18,340 --> 00:40:21,490

683

00:40:21,490 --> 00:40:23,440

and--

684

00:40:23,440 --> 00:40:26,650

Again, did you
know generally what

685

00:40:26,650 --> 00:40:28,330

was happening in the country?

686

00:40:28,330 --> 00:40:31,780

Or why any of these terrible things were happening?

687
00:40:31,780 --> 00:40:33,450
No, I knew that things--

688
00:40:33,450 --> 00:40:35,260
And again, you
were a young child.

689
00:40:35,260 --> 00:40:41,380
I knew that things were
not good, you know.

690
00:40:41,380 --> 00:40:51,940
Well, because before my father
was taken to Sachsenhausen,

691
00:40:51,940 --> 00:40:53,660
he had lost his job.

692
00:40:53,660 --> 00:40:56,350
He wasn't allowed to
work anymore at the bank.

693
00:40:56,350 --> 00:41:01,520
And at that time, what
happened was that he decided,

694
00:41:01,520 --> 00:41:03,190
OK, he was going to be home--

695
00:41:03,190 --> 00:41:06,430
I mean, he still actually
worked for the bank,

696
00:41:06,430 --> 00:41:10,660
I think, from home in part.

697
00:41:10,660 --> 00:41:13,990
But he decided he'd
learn to drive.

698

00:41:13,990 --> 00:41:19,120

And I remember that very
first time on a Sunday,

699

00:41:19,120 --> 00:41:29,140

he took his, the whole family,
out in Volkswagen to somewhere.

700

00:41:29,140 --> 00:41:32,480

[LAUGHS] I don't remember
where, that was very exciting.

701

00:41:32,480 --> 00:41:36,940

And he felt that at least
here he was doing something

702

00:41:36,940 --> 00:41:38,965

for his family, I think.

703

00:41:38,965 --> 00:41:41,950

704

00:41:41,950 --> 00:41:46,720

And there were a
few times like that.

705

00:41:46,720 --> 00:41:50,890

When you lived with the other
family, did you go to school?

706

00:41:50,890 --> 00:41:54,070

707

00:41:54,070 --> 00:41:55,190

I don't remember.

708

00:41:55,190 --> 00:41:56,480

I don't think so.

709

00:41:56,480 --> 00:42:00,190

I think it was
summer in part, yeah.

710
00:42:00,190 --> 00:42:01,210
No.

711
00:42:01,210 --> 00:42:03,940
Now, Kristallnacht
was November, '38.

712
00:42:03,940 --> 00:42:04,510
Yeah.

713
00:42:04,510 --> 00:42:07,670
Do you have any memory of that?

714
00:42:07,670 --> 00:42:08,510
No.

715
00:42:08,510 --> 00:42:10,100
You don't?

716
00:42:10,100 --> 00:42:12,740
I don't.

717
00:42:12,740 --> 00:42:14,920
I mean, it just shows you
how intensely sheltered--

718
00:42:14,920 --> 00:42:16,910
You were also a child, yeah.

719
00:42:16,910 --> 00:42:18,035
--sheltered I was.

720
00:42:18,035 --> 00:42:21,840

721
00:42:21,840 --> 00:42:23,160
No, I didn't--

722
00:42:23,160 --> 00:42:28,140

723
00:42:28,140 --> 00:42:30,270
I didn't know anything about it.

724
00:42:30,270 --> 00:42:33,720
And it was also
right around the time

725
00:42:33,720 --> 00:42:40,370
when my father came back,
and then left immediately

726
00:42:40,370 --> 00:42:46,020
and went to Switzerland,
and stayed with his cousin--

727
00:42:46,020 --> 00:42:49,900
the Parisers who had
a house by that time.

728
00:42:49,900 --> 00:42:52,440
So then your mother
had you come back?

729
00:42:52,440 --> 00:42:54,170
Yeah, then I came back.

730
00:42:54,170 --> 00:42:57,030
After your father left, because
you said you didn't see him.

731
00:42:57,030 --> 00:42:58,020
Right.

732
00:42:58,020 --> 00:42:59,220
And you come back home?

733
00:42:59,220 --> 00:43:01,080
Then I come back home.

734
00:43:01,080 --> 00:43:08,700
And I am told that we're

going to be moving, too.

735
00:43:08,700 --> 00:43:13,830
And we're going to be
going, in a month or two,

736
00:43:13,830 --> 00:43:18,660
to Switzerland,
where my father was.

737
00:43:18,660 --> 00:43:23,640
And so we went on--

738
00:43:23,640 --> 00:43:25,890
I don't think we went to school.

739
00:43:25,890 --> 00:43:29,070
I'm trying to remember.

740
00:43:29,070 --> 00:43:35,700
But we had this person who
had been teaching us French

741
00:43:35,700 --> 00:43:39,450
who got more intensive
with that, since we

742
00:43:39,450 --> 00:43:41,130
were going to the
French-speaking part

743
00:43:41,130 --> 00:43:43,420
of Switzerland.

744
00:43:43,420 --> 00:43:49,980
And I think she was
there all day, every day,

745
00:43:49,980 --> 00:43:56,400
and taught us math,
whatever, French, German.

746

00:43:56,400 --> 00:43:59,430

747

00:43:59,430 --> 00:44:01,560

But I don't have
much of a memory.

748

00:44:01,560 --> 00:44:08,190

I do have a memory of
the trip to Switzerland.

749

00:44:08,190 --> 00:44:10,390

Can you describe some of that?

750

00:44:10,390 --> 00:44:10,890

What?

751

00:44:10,890 --> 00:44:12,250

Can you describe some of that?

752

00:44:12,250 --> 00:44:16,967

Yeah, I mean, we went by train.

753

00:44:16,967 --> 00:44:18,300

Were you sorry to leave Germany?

754

00:44:18,300 --> 00:44:21,420

755

00:44:21,420 --> 00:44:26,340

I was excited about going
somewhere different, I think.

756

00:44:26,340 --> 00:44:28,073

What month was this?

757

00:44:28,073 --> 00:44:28,740

Do you remember?

758

00:44:28,740 --> 00:44:35,850

This was January 1939
when we finally left.

759
00:44:35,850 --> 00:44:45,040
And there was
something else that--

760
00:44:45,040 --> 00:44:48,600
but anyhow, I'll go
with the journey.

761
00:44:48,600 --> 00:44:52,800
And it was entirely by train.

762
00:44:52,800 --> 00:44:54,570
And when we--

763
00:44:54,570 --> 00:44:56,880
Were you able to take
everything that you wanted?

764
00:44:56,880 --> 00:44:58,650
Toys and books?

765
00:44:58,650 --> 00:45:00,880
We took a certain
amount of stuff.

766
00:45:00,880 --> 00:45:07,890
And then a lot of it got packed
up, and stored for the time

767
00:45:07,890 --> 00:45:10,110
being, our furniture and so on.

768
00:45:10,110 --> 00:45:11,220
Stored in Berlin?

769
00:45:11,220 --> 00:45:14,460
In Berlin, initially.

770
00:45:14,460 --> 00:45:16,800
And my father was
already trying to find

771
00:45:16,800 --> 00:45:19,440
a job in another country.

772
00:45:19,440 --> 00:45:24,380

773
00:45:24,380 --> 00:45:27,140
And also trying to
figure out what country

774
00:45:27,140 --> 00:45:30,920
would take us, because the
Swiss gave you a six months

775
00:45:30,920 --> 00:45:32,930
visa to stay.

776
00:45:32,930 --> 00:45:36,650
And after that, you were out.

777
00:45:36,650 --> 00:45:39,140
Now, is this the time that
you found out you were Jewish?

778
00:45:39,140 --> 00:45:40,490

779
00:45:40,490 --> 00:45:41,900
Well, I found out--

780
00:45:41,900 --> 00:45:46,730
I mean, it was brought
home more completely to me

781
00:45:46,730 --> 00:45:52,097
in that, because there
was this funny name, Sara.

782
00:45:52,097 --> 00:45:53,930
On the papers that you
had to leave Germany?

783
00:45:53,930 --> 00:45:56,650
On the papers that we
had to leave Germany.

784
00:45:56,650 --> 00:45:59,840
Yeah, so that's when
you really found out?

785
00:45:59,840 --> 00:46:02,610
Yeah, right.

786
00:46:02,610 --> 00:46:05,660
Any memory of your
reaction, or was it--

787
00:46:05,660 --> 00:46:08,900
I just-- well it
was very negative.

788
00:46:08,900 --> 00:46:10,895
I didn't want to
be a Jew, you know.

789
00:46:10,895 --> 00:46:11,960
Why not?

790
00:46:11,960 --> 00:46:14,630
Because I didn't want
to leave, you know--

791
00:46:14,630 --> 00:46:18,430
I liked where I'd been, and I--

792
00:46:18,430 --> 00:46:20,090
It made you have
to leave Germany.

793
00:46:20,090 --> 00:46:21,320
Right, right.

794
00:46:21,320 --> 00:46:25,910

And I don't think I ever
liked change very much.

795
00:46:25,910 --> 00:46:27,330
I still don't.

796
00:46:27,330 --> 00:46:32,270
And that was probably part
of it, though, as I say,

797
00:46:32,270 --> 00:46:35,010
I was excited that we
were going to Switzerland.

798
00:46:35,010 --> 00:46:39,050
And going to be staying with
this family that I knew.

799
00:46:39,050 --> 00:46:41,750
Do you know if that's when
your sister also found out?

800
00:46:41,750 --> 00:46:44,000
Or had she found out
earlier that she was Jewish?

801
00:46:44,000 --> 00:46:44,720
Well, I think--

802
00:46:44,720 --> 00:46:45,290
Being older.

803
00:46:45,290 --> 00:46:47,000
When the change of school--

804
00:46:47,000 --> 00:46:47,825
Then she realized.

805
00:46:47,825 --> 00:46:48,820

806
00:46:48,820 --> 00:46:54,050

That had much more
of a meaning to her,

807
00:46:54,050 --> 00:46:57,530
because she's four years older.

808
00:46:57,530 --> 00:47:01,880
So I think, no, I think
she realized also.

809
00:47:01,880 --> 00:47:09,110
She knew that my father was in
a concentration camp, and so on.

810
00:47:09,110 --> 00:47:10,118
Because she stayed.

811
00:47:10,118 --> 00:47:10,910
Because she stayed.

812
00:47:10,910 --> 00:47:11,810
Yeah, right.

813
00:47:11,810 --> 00:47:14,960
Did you ever talk over with
your sister at that time, what

814
00:47:14,960 --> 00:47:15,770
was happening?

815
00:47:15,770 --> 00:47:25,040
No, and this also will come up
later is that, in fact, I mean,

816
00:47:25,040 --> 00:47:27,440
I did spend time with my
sister-- at that point,

817
00:47:27,440 --> 00:47:28,430
we were living--

818
00:47:28,430 --> 00:47:30,590

you know, and when we
went to Switzerland,

819
00:47:30,590 --> 00:47:33,210
we were living in the
same house, and so on.

820
00:47:33,210 --> 00:47:37,530
But after we got
to England, there

821
00:47:37,530 --> 00:47:41,085
was very little time we
spent together until--

822
00:47:41,085 --> 00:47:45,700

823
00:47:45,700 --> 00:47:48,320
well, until we really got
to know each other much,

824
00:47:48,320 --> 00:47:48,880
much later.

825
00:47:48,880 --> 00:47:51,520

826
00:47:51,520 --> 00:47:54,180
But this trip, OK.

827
00:47:54,180 --> 00:47:55,585
Back to the trip to Switzerland.

828
00:47:55,585 --> 00:47:58,150
The trip to
Switzerland-- my mother

829
00:47:58,150 --> 00:48:03,890
had a little cushion that she
took with her, a little pillow,

830

00:48:03,890 --> 00:48:06,790
really, that she took with
her everywhere, you know,

831
00:48:06,790 --> 00:48:10,450
when she went
traveling or anything.

832
00:48:10,450 --> 00:48:17,020
And in this case,
it was with her

833
00:48:17,020 --> 00:48:22,060
when we were going to
Switzerland on the train.

834
00:48:22,060 --> 00:48:28,960
And when we got to, I think,
the first border crossing out

835
00:48:28,960 --> 00:48:31,400
of Germany, initially--
in other words,

836
00:48:31,400 --> 00:48:35,800
the German folks would be
coming in to look at our papers,

837
00:48:35,800 --> 00:48:38,110
and so on--

838
00:48:38,110 --> 00:48:41,740
she took this pillow,
put it in a corner

839
00:48:41,740 --> 00:48:47,890
of the car, the railroad
car, sat me on it, and said,

840
00:48:47,890 --> 00:48:53,260
you're to sit on this and not
move, and not open your mouth.

841

00:48:53,260 --> 00:48:54,880
And I was a talker.

842
00:48:54,880 --> 00:48:57,850
[LAUGHTER]

843
00:48:57,850 --> 00:48:59,710
But she said it
in a tone of voice

844
00:48:59,710 --> 00:49:02,440
that I very rarely
heard from her,

845
00:49:02,440 --> 00:49:04,570
so I knew this was serious.

846
00:49:04,570 --> 00:49:07,390
She said, I'm the only one
going to do the talking.

847
00:49:07,390 --> 00:49:13,270
And anyhow, so the Germans came
in and looked at our papers,

848
00:49:13,270 --> 00:49:14,920
they were all OK.

849
00:49:14,920 --> 00:49:18,820
They asked my mother
some questions.

850
00:49:18,820 --> 00:49:22,570
And then the train
started again.

851
00:49:22,570 --> 00:49:26,800
And then this was repeated when
we crossed into Switzerland.

852
00:49:26,800 --> 00:49:29,780

853

00:49:29,780 --> 00:49:35,950

And it wasn't until years
later, when my sister and I

854

00:49:35,950 --> 00:49:37,990

were discussing--

855

00:49:37,990 --> 00:49:40,270

how did we live at all?

856

00:49:40,270 --> 00:49:47,930

Because you know, my parents
left with almost no money.

857

00:49:47,930 --> 00:49:50,630

They did have some
money in the States,

858

00:49:50,630 --> 00:49:54,470

and I do remember later
on that it was always

859

00:49:54,470 --> 00:49:59,900

a great joy when a check arrived
from a bank in the States.

860

00:49:59,900 --> 00:50:02,840

861

00:50:02,840 --> 00:50:11,210

But that, I think, what was
in that pillow was jewelry,

862

00:50:11,210 --> 00:50:15,830

and presumably some money--

863

00:50:15,830 --> 00:50:19,790

something that they could use.

864

00:50:19,790 --> 00:50:21,680

I can't think of
any other reason

865
00:50:21,680 --> 00:50:26,480
for that particular thing.

866
00:50:26,480 --> 00:50:29,120
And I mean, they
did have some money.

867
00:50:29,120 --> 00:50:31,520
And you weren't allowed
to take anything out,

868
00:50:31,520 --> 00:50:34,500
you know, nothing at all.

869
00:50:34,500 --> 00:50:36,680
In fact, I'm amazed
that the jewelry

870
00:50:36,680 --> 00:50:40,550
wasn't taken of all of that.

871
00:50:40,550 --> 00:50:45,830
But, I mean, she didn't have a
lot of jewelry left afterwards.

872
00:50:45,830 --> 00:50:49,360
So that was very much a memory.

873
00:50:49,360 --> 00:50:50,990
Yes, I can imagine.

874
00:50:50,990 --> 00:50:54,800
So the three of you arrive.

875
00:50:54,800 --> 00:50:57,590
And where did you
cross the border?

876
00:50:57,590 --> 00:50:58,860
We got across the border.

877

00:50:58,860 --> 00:51:04,180

We got to Lausanne, and
that's where the Pariser

878

00:51:04,180 --> 00:51:05,700

family had their house.

879

00:51:05,700 --> 00:51:08,570

And we stayed in their house.

880

00:51:08,570 --> 00:51:10,250

And then you saw
your father again?

881

00:51:10,250 --> 00:51:11,498

And I saw my father again.

882

00:51:11,498 --> 00:51:12,290

What was that like?

883

00:51:12,290 --> 00:51:14,390

Do you remember
that meeting at all?

884

00:51:14,390 --> 00:51:17,580

You know, I didn't ever
know my father very well.

885

00:51:17,580 --> 00:51:21,570

So it wasn't that
exciting, or anything.

886

00:51:21,570 --> 00:51:24,600

I mean, we saw him-- you know,
the way we were brought up

887

00:51:24,600 --> 00:51:27,230

was awful, I think,
in many ways.

888

00:51:27,230 --> 00:51:28,730

Well, he was more

distant, you mean?

889

00:51:28,730 --> 00:51:29,230

890

00:51:29,230 --> 00:51:30,530

Much more distant.

891

00:51:30,530 --> 00:51:33,050

We rarely got to talk to him.

892

00:51:33,050 --> 00:51:35,240

He rarely did anything
with us-- which

893

00:51:35,240 --> 00:51:38,780

is why this, when he decided
to learn to drive, and so on,

894

00:51:38,780 --> 00:51:40,070

was so exciting.

895

00:51:40,070 --> 00:51:42,740

Because finally, there we were--

896

00:51:42,740 --> 00:51:43,490

he was.

897

00:51:43,490 --> 00:51:46,580

And you know, he would ask
us questions about what

898

00:51:46,580 --> 00:51:48,354

we'd learned in school.

899

00:51:48,354 --> 00:51:50,050

[LAUGHS]

900

00:51:50,050 --> 00:51:55,220

And the thing that
I remember the most

901

00:51:55,220 --> 00:51:57,740

was that on a
Sunday morning, when

902

00:51:57,740 --> 00:52:05,900

he had an egg for breakfast,
he would cut off the top

903

00:52:05,900 --> 00:52:07,850

before he started eating it--

904

00:52:07,850 --> 00:52:09,330

a soft-boiled egg.

905

00:52:09,330 --> 00:52:14,750

And we took it in turns to be
allowed to have the egg white,

906

00:52:14,750 --> 00:52:17,773

and that little bit.

907

00:52:17,773 --> 00:52:18,440

And that was it.

908

00:52:18,440 --> 00:52:20,560

And then, I do remember other--

909

00:52:20,560 --> 00:52:23,300

it was mainly meal
times that we saw him.

910

00:52:23,300 --> 00:52:26,750

911

00:52:26,750 --> 00:52:29,510

So it's strange, really.

912

00:52:29,510 --> 00:52:32,550

913

00:52:32,550 --> 00:52:34,680

So now you're in Lausanne.

914

00:52:34,680 --> 00:52:35,813

Now we're in Lausanne.

915

00:52:35,813 --> 00:52:36,480

The four of you.

916

00:52:36,480 --> 00:52:38,310

It's winter.

917

00:52:38,310 --> 00:52:39,470

1939.

918

00:52:39,470 --> 00:52:42,840

1939, we do some--

919

00:52:42,840 --> 00:52:49,230

wait- yeah, early 1939,

right, January and February.

920

00:52:49,230 --> 00:52:50,190

We do some skiing.

921

00:52:50,190 --> 00:52:52,740

922

00:52:52,740 --> 00:52:54,840

You're all of seven and

a half at this point?

923

00:52:54,840 --> 00:52:59,040

924

00:52:59,040 --> 00:53:04,110

Yeah, seven and a

half-- little more.

925

00:53:04,110 --> 00:53:10,110

We go on learning

French and speaking it.

926

00:53:10,110 --> 00:53:15,890

And then we start
learning Dutch,

927

00:53:15,890 --> 00:53:22,080

because my father
had found a job in--

928

00:53:22,080 --> 00:53:24,900

I think it was Rotterdam--

929

00:53:24,900 --> 00:53:27,060

with a bank.

930

00:53:27,060 --> 00:53:32,070

And so we were going to move
to Holland, to the Netherlands.

931

00:53:32,070 --> 00:53:35,870

932

00:53:35,870 --> 00:53:48,210

But the visas were going to run
out before they could really

933

00:53:48,210 --> 00:53:50,370

do the whole transfer.

934

00:53:50,370 --> 00:53:54,570

And so they got in touch--

935

00:53:54,570 --> 00:53:58,080

my parents got in touch
with the Kindertransport.

936

00:53:58,080 --> 00:54:06,390

And they arranged for us to
be flown out of Switzerland

937

00:54:06,390 --> 00:54:13,740

to London, where we were
met by the Brega family, who

938
00:54:13,740 --> 00:54:19,590
lived outside of Cambridge in
an old, freezing cold rectory.

939
00:54:19,590 --> 00:54:21,810
What was it-- before
we get to that,

940
00:54:21,810 --> 00:54:24,090
tell me what it was like
when they presented this

941
00:54:24,090 --> 00:54:27,780
to you as a youngster, and
what your thoughts were

942
00:54:27,780 --> 00:54:30,780
about going to another
country without your parents?

943
00:54:30,780 --> 00:54:32,880
And all of that.

944
00:54:32,880 --> 00:54:35,470
Do you have any memory of
that talk, or discussion?

945
00:54:35,470 --> 00:54:37,560
No, no, I don't.

946
00:54:37,560 --> 00:54:41,580
I mean, we were always
presented with these things,

947
00:54:41,580 --> 00:54:43,110
fait-accompl--

948
00:54:43,110 --> 00:54:45,780
you know, what is
there to talk about?

949

00:54:45,780 --> 00:54:47,790
This is what's going to happen.

950
00:54:47,790 --> 00:54:52,080
And I was with my
sister, I mean,

951
00:54:52,080 --> 00:54:56,580
so I didn't feel that bad.

952
00:54:56,580 --> 00:55:01,140
And I was excited about flying.

953
00:55:01,140 --> 00:55:04,100

954
00:55:04,100 --> 00:55:06,510
Do you know how your
folks got in touch

955
00:55:06,510 --> 00:55:07,590
with the Kindertransport?

956
00:55:07,590 --> 00:55:08,730
Do you have any idea?

957
00:55:08,730 --> 00:55:10,582
No, I have no idea.

958
00:55:10,582 --> 00:55:11,790
How did they know what to do?

959
00:55:11,790 --> 00:55:13,950
Who to call, who to contact?

960
00:55:13,950 --> 00:55:16,500
Well, they had a
lot of contacts,

961
00:55:16,500 --> 00:55:18,720
I think my father did.

962

00:55:18,720 --> 00:55:25,440

And a lot of his colleagues
helped him from the bank,

963

00:55:25,440 --> 00:55:29,820

and they probably got
in touch with someone.

964

00:55:29,820 --> 00:55:37,380

We think that he got out
of the concentration camp

965

00:55:37,380 --> 00:55:40,980

as soon as he did
that there were

966

00:55:40,980 --> 00:55:47,248

a lot of bribes provided by
his colleagues from the bank.

967

00:55:47,248 --> 00:55:49,290

How long was he in, do
you know, [? how long-- ?]

968

00:55:49,290 --> 00:55:51,915

I think it was five months.

969

00:55:51,915 --> 00:55:55,810

970

00:55:55,810 --> 00:56:02,740

So again, there's really
no records of any of that.

971

00:56:02,740 --> 00:56:07,740

But from, as I say, we
did have a card that

972

00:56:07,740 --> 00:56:12,830

stated the date of his release.

973

00:56:12,830 --> 00:56:18,890

And so-- but that's
as much as I know.

974
00:56:18,890 --> 00:56:21,230
So you're told that
you're going to be going

975
00:56:21,230 --> 00:56:23,540
to England with your sister.

976
00:56:23,540 --> 00:56:25,280
And what did you do?

977
00:56:25,280 --> 00:56:27,080
What did you plan to take?

978
00:56:27,080 --> 00:56:28,670
Or did you take with you?

979
00:56:28,670 --> 00:56:30,373
Well, I took-- yeah, I mean--

980
00:56:30,373 --> 00:56:32,040
At the ripe old age
of seven and a half.

981
00:56:32,040 --> 00:56:34,190
Ripe old age of
seven and a half.

982
00:56:34,190 --> 00:56:38,990
I was reading, I think,
a well-known book called

983
00:56:38,990 --> 00:56:42,350
[SPEAKING GERMAN]--

984
00:56:42,350 --> 00:56:45,217
Three Geese were
Flying over the Rhine.

985
00:56:45,217 --> 00:56:46,550

I don't know who the author is--

986

00:56:46,550 --> 00:56:48,920

I should look it
up at some point.

987

00:56:48,920 --> 00:56:50,780

But I was reading
that book, and I

988

00:56:50,780 --> 00:56:52,850

thought that was very
appropriate, since I

989

00:56:52,850 --> 00:56:54,980

was going to be flying, too.

990

00:56:54,980 --> 00:57:03,830

And I didn't like the idea of
being separated from my parents

991

00:57:03,830 --> 00:57:04,610

at all.

992

00:57:04,610 --> 00:57:12,495

But you know, if you're--

993

00:57:12,495 --> 00:57:15,350

994

00:57:15,350 --> 00:57:20,460

this brings me to a question
that a taxi driver put to me

995

00:57:20,460 --> 00:57:24,990

not long ago at all here, when
I was coming home in a cab,

996

00:57:24,990 --> 00:57:27,180

and we were talking,
he was a very nice guy.

997

00:57:27,180 --> 00:57:28,920
Obviously well-schooled.

998
00:57:28,920 --> 00:57:31,470

999
00:57:31,470 --> 00:57:34,950
And I don't remember
where he was from,

1000
00:57:34,950 --> 00:57:36,720
what country he was from.

1001
00:57:36,720 --> 00:57:40,890
But we had been talking about
living in different countries,

1002
00:57:40,890 --> 00:57:41,740
and so on.

1003
00:57:41,740 --> 00:57:46,150
And then there was
silence for a moment,

1004
00:57:46,150 --> 00:57:48,870
and the next question
that came out was,

1005
00:57:48,870 --> 00:57:51,626
what is your philosophy of life?

1006
00:57:51,626 --> 00:57:53,670
And I thought, whoops.

1007
00:57:53,670 --> 00:57:54,300
He asked you?

1008
00:57:54,300 --> 00:57:56,280
He asked me, yeah.

1009
00:57:56,280 --> 00:58:03,180
And I said, well, you

know, I never ascribed

1010
00:58:03,180 --> 00:58:05,350
a specific philosophy.

1011
00:58:05,350 --> 00:58:09,030
But now that you
ask me, I think I

1012
00:58:09,030 --> 00:58:11,580
have to say that over
the course of my life,

1013
00:58:11,580 --> 00:58:17,820
is it's been more or less, enjoy
the good and deal with the bad.

1014
00:58:17,820 --> 00:58:21,810
And I think that was
the way, in part,

1015
00:58:21,810 --> 00:58:23,460
that I was dealing with it.

1016
00:58:23,460 --> 00:58:26,850
I was miserable when we
were first in England.

1017
00:58:26,850 --> 00:58:27,940
When you first got there?

1018
00:58:27,940 --> 00:58:30,090
Yeah, yeah.

1019
00:58:30,090 --> 00:58:31,625
What was the flight like?

1020
00:58:31,625 --> 00:58:33,390
The flight was great.

1021
00:58:33,390 --> 00:58:35,290
Yeah, I loved it.

1022
00:58:35,290 --> 00:58:36,570
Which airlines?

1023
00:58:36,570 --> 00:58:37,950
I can't tell you.

1024
00:58:37,950 --> 00:58:40,820
And your parents take you to
the airport and say goodbye?

1025
00:58:40,820 --> 00:58:47,850
No, no, somebody came and picked
us up from Kindertransport.

1026
00:58:47,850 --> 00:58:50,670
What was it like to say
goodbye to them at home?

1027
00:58:50,670 --> 00:58:52,050
Well, that wasn't so good.

1028
00:58:52,050 --> 00:58:54,780

1029
00:58:54,780 --> 00:58:56,970
No, I mean, at that
point, I really

1030
00:58:56,970 --> 00:59:01,380
realized that
things were serious,

1031
00:59:01,380 --> 00:59:03,990
and not going to be that great.

1032
00:59:03,990 --> 00:59:06,523
And so then, we went to--

1033
00:59:06,523 --> 00:59:08,190
What were your parents--
do you remember

1034
00:59:08,190 --> 00:59:11,400
your parents' emotional state?

1035
00:59:11,400 --> 00:59:14,920
Well, you know, you
didn't show your emotions.

1036
00:59:14,920 --> 00:59:17,430
That's another
thing we were told.

1037
00:59:17,430 --> 00:59:18,270
Hold it in.

1038
00:59:18,270 --> 00:59:19,140

1039
00:59:19,140 --> 00:59:22,920
Hold it in, people don't
have to know how you feel.

1040
00:59:22,920 --> 00:59:26,040
And of course, don't
talk with your hands.

1041
00:59:26,040 --> 00:59:28,410
Don't act Jewish, you know?

1042
00:59:28,410 --> 00:59:30,420
Oh, oh, OK.

1043
00:59:30,420 --> 00:59:34,320
And all those things were
really awful, I think.

1044
00:59:34,320 --> 00:59:42,480
[LAUGHS] It's not the
way to bring up kids,

1045
00:59:42,480 --> 00:59:44,700
but those were difficult times.

1046
00:59:44,700 --> 00:59:48,270
Different times, right, right.

1047
00:59:48,270 --> 00:59:52,290
So you get on the
plane and you fly.

1048
00:59:52,290 --> 00:59:54,480
Was it frightening to
fly on an airplane?

1049
00:59:54,480 --> 00:59:56,070
Or you loved it?

1050
00:59:56,070 --> 00:59:59,290
You know, I have always been--

1051
00:59:59,290 --> 01:00:03,450
almost always, now,
I'm not quite as

1052
01:00:03,450 --> 01:00:06,270
anxious to do new
things anymore,

1053
01:00:06,270 --> 01:00:09,720
but I was always ready
to try new things.

1054
01:00:09,720 --> 01:00:13,950
And I think my sister probably--

1055
01:00:13,950 --> 01:00:17,380
I also felt protected by her.

1056
01:00:17,380 --> 01:00:22,460
So it was a fun thing.

1057
01:00:22,460 --> 01:00:24,000