

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:08,860

2

00:00:08,860 --> 00:00:11,470

This is a continuation of
the United States Holocaust

3

00:00:11,470 --> 00:00:15,010

Memorial Museum interview
with George Arnstein.

4

00:00:15,010 --> 00:00:18,250

This is track number two.

5

00:00:18,250 --> 00:00:22,870

And we were talking about your
leaving for the United States.

6

00:00:22,870 --> 00:00:29,080

And what boat did you go on,
and where did you go from?

7

00:00:29,080 --> 00:00:33,540

It was-- the port of
embarkation what Cherbourg.

8

00:00:33,540 --> 00:00:38,670

The name of the ship was
Franconia of the Cunard Line.

9

00:00:38,670 --> 00:00:43,330

And it was very--

10

00:00:43,330 --> 00:00:48,100

well, it was my first
look at the Atlantic,

11

00:00:48,100 --> 00:00:54,120

and it was a winter
not-very-smooth passage.

12

00:00:54,120 --> 00:00:56,420

I think we got seasick
but not terribly so.

13

00:00:56,420 --> 00:00:58,410

What was your date of leaving?

14

00:00:58,410 --> 00:01:04,860

Christmas Eve, 24th
of December, 1938.

15

00:01:04,860 --> 00:01:11,580

And we landed in New York
on the 2nd of January, 1939.

16

00:01:11,580 --> 00:01:19,130

The crossing was-- there was
one thing worth mentioning,

17

00:01:19,130 --> 00:01:21,560

in my opinion.

18

00:01:21,560 --> 00:01:27,890

There were lots of other
German and Austrian refugees,

19

00:01:27,890 --> 00:01:37,250

and I think at age 14 I
mildly flirted with a girl.

20

00:01:37,250 --> 00:01:42,140

And I remember my parents'
displeasure because she was not

21

00:01:42,140 --> 00:01:43,490

of the proper class.

22

00:01:43,490 --> 00:01:46,100

23

00:01:46,100 --> 00:01:50,330

It's trivial, and I
don't mean to suggest

24
00:01:50,330 --> 00:01:53,510
that they, in any way,
said, oh, you may not speak

25
00:01:53,510 --> 00:01:54,930
to her or anything like that.

26
00:01:54,930 --> 00:01:59,040
I just felt a slight--

27
00:01:59,040 --> 00:02:00,450
were these Jewish refugees?

28
00:02:00,450 --> 00:02:00,950
Yes.

29
00:02:00,950 --> 00:02:02,320
These were Jewish refugees.

30
00:02:02,320 --> 00:02:02,980
But Austrian.

31
00:02:02,980 --> 00:02:05,690

32
00:02:05,690 --> 00:02:07,490
There were both
German and Austria,

33
00:02:07,490 --> 00:02:10,009
but this particular girl--

34
00:02:10,009 --> 00:02:12,560
Did you feel Jewish
at that point?

35
00:02:12,560 --> 00:02:17,410
No, or marginally.

36
00:02:17,410 --> 00:02:21,090

But following on
that question, we

37
00:02:21,090 --> 00:02:25,260
were hung up in New York
for six weeks because

38
00:02:25,260 --> 00:02:30,000
of an idiosyncrasy of the
German currency regulations.

39
00:02:30,000 --> 00:02:36,030
You could prepay your voyage to
San Francisco in German marks,

40
00:02:36,030 --> 00:02:38,850
provided it was by ship.

41
00:02:38,850 --> 00:02:42,210
You could not go by rail.

42
00:02:42,210 --> 00:02:46,440
We were prepaid
to San Francisco,

43
00:02:46,440 --> 00:02:52,270
and then the American company
would not recognize the ticket.

44
00:02:52,270 --> 00:02:54,660
And so we spent six
weeks in New York.

45
00:02:54,660 --> 00:03:00,810
And then we left it on
a winter luxury cruise

46
00:03:00,810 --> 00:03:04,830
that was not sold out
from New York to Havana

47
00:03:04,830 --> 00:03:09,630
to Panama to Acapulco to Los

Angeles to San Francisco.

48

00:03:09,630 --> 00:03:12,290

49

00:03:12,290 --> 00:03:15,740

We were in a third-class
cabin, but these cruises

50

00:03:15,740 --> 00:03:17,570

give you the run of the ship.

51

00:03:17,570 --> 00:03:22,760

And it was an
unlikely beginning.

52

00:03:22,760 --> 00:03:27,750

And I remember-- it did
not have an outer approval.

53

00:03:27,750 --> 00:03:29,650

It had an indoor pool.

54

00:03:29,650 --> 00:03:33,130

They built an outdoor
pool by throwing together

55

00:03:33,130 --> 00:03:37,395

some wooden frame and
lining it with a canvas.

56

00:03:37,395 --> 00:03:41,620

And to this day, I remember
crossing the Panama Canal,

57

00:03:41,620 --> 00:03:45,880

floating in this outdoor
pool, and saying, if I ever

58

00:03:45,880 --> 00:03:50,650

amount to something, I
would like to do this again,

59

00:03:50,650 --> 00:03:55,480

which my wife and I did
some 25 years ago, not

60

00:03:55,480 --> 00:03:56,950

in a canvas-covered pool.

61

00:03:56,950 --> 00:03:59,200

Not in a canvas-covered pool.

62

00:03:59,200 --> 00:04:00,430

Sorry, that's a detour.

63

00:04:00,430 --> 00:04:06,190

But, hung up in New
York, I actually

64

00:04:06,190 --> 00:04:09,880

enrolled in Public
School Number 1, 2, 3, 4,

65

00:04:09,880 --> 00:04:13,540

5 in the eighth grade,
which I flunked because I

66

00:04:13,540 --> 00:04:15,940

didn't know enough English.

67

00:04:15,940 --> 00:04:21,310

I was farmed out to
some relatives who had

68

00:04:21,310 --> 00:04:24,390

emigrated earlier than we did.

69

00:04:24,390 --> 00:04:26,800

I lived in-- not
in Jackson Heights,

70

00:04:26,800 --> 00:04:32,758

in the part of Manhattan that--

71

00:04:32,758 --> 00:04:33,550

Washington Heights?

72

00:04:33,550 --> 00:04:36,650

Washington Heights, thank
you, also known as "Frankfurt

73

00:04:36,650 --> 00:04:37,380

on the Hudson."

74

00:04:37,380 --> 00:04:42,930

75

00:04:42,930 --> 00:04:44,970

First of all, I
learned some English,

76

00:04:44,970 --> 00:04:48,400

and they were very helpful.

77

00:04:48,400 --> 00:04:52,560

They had been my parents
bridge partners in Stuttgart.

78

00:04:52,560 --> 00:04:54,810

This was a close relationship.

79

00:04:54,810 --> 00:04:59,370

80

00:04:59,370 --> 00:05:02,100

The thing I remember more
vividly than anything

81

00:05:02,100 --> 00:05:07,100

else my first exposure to
the A&P and self-service.

82

00:05:07,100 --> 00:05:10,790

83

00:05:10,790 --> 00:05:14,060

At the end of six weeks,
we left and sailed to--

84

00:05:14,060 --> 00:05:17,438

What did America mean
to you at that point

85

00:05:17,438 --> 00:05:19,970
as a young German immigrant?

86

00:05:19,970 --> 00:05:28,890

A place of refuge, a place
where my great-grandfather had

87

00:05:28,890 --> 00:05:32,580
migrated to during the Gold Rush
and where my grandmother was

88

00:05:32,580 --> 00:05:35,910
born, in San Francisco, which
is why we were headed to San

89

00:05:35,910 --> 00:05:43,170
Francisco, which, thus,
in a way, was part of my--

90

00:05:43,170 --> 00:05:43,670
--DNA.

91

00:05:43,670 --> 00:05:46,280
--memory.

92

00:05:46,280 --> 00:05:49,730
I identified with it
easily and readily,

93

00:05:49,730 --> 00:05:53,960
more than with
America in general.

94

00:05:53,960 --> 00:05:55,220
That was an abstraction.

95
00:05:55,220 --> 00:05:58,790
San Francisco was
something specific.

96
00:05:58,790 --> 00:06:01,831
Were your parents very
emotional when you arrived

97
00:06:01,831 --> 00:06:04,100
in the United States?

98
00:06:04,100 --> 00:06:05,180
I have no idea.

99
00:06:05,180 --> 00:06:06,770
You don't remember that moment.

100
00:06:06,770 --> 00:06:10,160
But speaking of
emotions, I do remember--

101
00:06:10,160 --> 00:06:14,720
I wasn't there, but my
mother told me the story.

102
00:06:14,720 --> 00:06:18,410
When they traveled
from Stuttgart to Paris

103
00:06:18,410 --> 00:06:29,390
by train on or about the 21st of
December on The Orient Express,

104
00:06:29,390 --> 00:06:34,570
as they crossed the Rhine
from Kehl to Strasbourg,

105
00:06:34,570 --> 00:06:37,780
my father got up
and spit in Rhine

106

00:06:37,780 --> 00:06:43,250
or did something symbolic that--

107
00:06:43,250 --> 00:06:46,490
I don't remember the details,
but my mother proudly

108
00:06:46,490 --> 00:06:51,830
told the story of that
symbolic crossing.

109
00:06:51,830 --> 00:06:57,060
And parenthetically,
in their passports,

110
00:06:57,060 --> 00:07:02,010
the exit from Germany is
on the 20th of December.

111
00:07:02,010 --> 00:07:05,400
The entry stamp for
France is on the 21st.

112
00:07:05,400 --> 00:07:08,130
It was that close to midnight.

113
00:07:08,130 --> 00:07:10,320
I may have the dates
off by a day or so,

114
00:07:10,320 --> 00:07:13,200
but the one-day
difference I do know.

115
00:07:13,200 --> 00:07:16,030

116
00:07:16,030 --> 00:07:21,320
So now you're a student in New
York for six weeks, and then?

117
00:07:21,320 --> 00:07:24,470
That was sobering.

118
00:07:24,470 --> 00:07:28,280
The discipline--
you had to line-up

119
00:07:28,280 --> 00:07:31,400
to walk from one
classroom to the other,

120
00:07:31,400 --> 00:07:34,220
and that's about all I remember.

121
00:07:34,220 --> 00:07:36,140
And of course, I flunked.

122
00:07:36,140 --> 00:07:38,510
By the time we arrived
in San Francisco--

123
00:07:38,510 --> 00:07:41,570
and that's a story
worth telling--

124
00:07:41,570 --> 00:07:43,580
we still thought our
furniture would come,

125
00:07:43,580 --> 00:07:48,080
so we stayed in a hotel
for three or four days.

126
00:07:48,080 --> 00:07:56,550
And then Cousin Fanny, a
third-generation American,

127
00:07:56,550 --> 00:08:04,500
came by and found us a furnished
apartment, where upon my father

128
00:08:04,500 --> 00:08:06,660
went to see the manager
and said, where's

129

00:08:06,660 --> 00:08:07,710
the nearest high school?

130

00:08:07,710 --> 00:08:09,470
I want my son to
start in the morning?

131

00:08:09,470 --> 00:08:12,730
Where is the nearest
elementary school?

132

00:08:12,730 --> 00:08:18,970
And when Cousin Fanny
and Manny, her husband--

133

00:08:18,970 --> 00:08:22,060
Fanny wore the pants
in the family--

134

00:08:22,060 --> 00:08:24,850
came by, my father
proudly announced,

135

00:08:24,850 --> 00:08:27,430
oh, George is going
to start Galileo High

136

00:08:27,430 --> 00:08:31,930
School in the morning,
whereupon Cousin Fanny said,

137

00:08:31,930 --> 00:08:36,280
no member of our family
has ever gone to Galileo.

138

00:08:36,280 --> 00:08:38,770
I will take George
to Lowell High School

139

00:08:38,770 --> 00:08:44,200
and introduce him to the
principal, which she did.

140

00:08:44,200 --> 00:08:52,530

And that is how I wound up in a
very much academically elitist

141

00:08:52,530 --> 00:08:56,130

public high school in
San Francisco, which

142

00:08:56,130 --> 00:08:59,160

had a college graduation--

143

00:08:59,160 --> 00:09:02,441

I mean college--

144

00:09:02,441 --> 00:09:05,615

--curriculum.

145

00:09:05,615 --> 00:09:06,615

College prep curriculum.

146

00:09:06,615 --> 00:09:07,470

--prep.

147

00:09:07,470 --> 00:09:09,030

It had no shop.

148

00:09:09,030 --> 00:09:13,170

It did have shorthand
and typing for the girls.

149

00:09:13,170 --> 00:09:14,670

I took typing.

150

00:09:14,670 --> 00:09:15,750

Good thing I did.

151

00:09:15,750 --> 00:09:19,630

But it was completely
academically-oriented.

152

00:09:19,630 --> 00:09:23,070

And even before the war,
it graduated something

153
00:09:23,070 --> 00:09:27,090
like 92% who went on to college.

154
00:09:27,090 --> 00:09:29,280
So did the other
students ask you

155
00:09:29,280 --> 00:09:31,580
about your background
and your experience?

156
00:09:31,580 --> 00:09:34,380

157
00:09:34,380 --> 00:09:34,970
No.

158
00:09:34,970 --> 00:09:35,470
No?

159
00:09:35,470 --> 00:09:38,090

160
00:09:38,090 --> 00:09:45,080
Because I had begun
Lowell in late January,

161
00:09:45,080 --> 00:09:49,190
I guess, and the change
of semester occurred,

162
00:09:49,190 --> 00:09:52,280
let's say, on the
10th of February.

163
00:09:52,280 --> 00:09:54,160
There were quite a
few junior high school

164

00:09:54,160 --> 00:09:58,640
students who transferred
into Lowell as sophomores,

165
00:09:58,640 --> 00:10:00,550
and I became a sophomore.

166
00:10:00,550 --> 00:10:03,890
But I was already established
as a Lowell student

167
00:10:03,890 --> 00:10:05,762
by virtue of two weeks
or whatever it was.

168
00:10:05,762 --> 00:10:06,970
But it was obvious you were--

169
00:10:06,970 --> 00:10:10,180
I was almost elected
Room Representative,

170
00:10:10,180 --> 00:10:14,620
but I didn't know what a
Room Representative was.

171
00:10:14,620 --> 00:10:16,330
Obviously, you
weren't a Californian,

172
00:10:16,330 --> 00:10:18,640
so you were different
than the other students.

173
00:10:18,640 --> 00:10:21,190
Did they not
question or ask you--

174
00:10:21,190 --> 00:10:24,190
What I now know and
did not know them

175
00:10:24,190 --> 00:10:29,885

is that Lowell High School
was disproportionately Jewish.

176
00:10:29,885 --> 00:10:33,330

177
00:10:33,330 --> 00:10:36,300
To what extent I don't
know because I didn't think

178
00:10:36,300 --> 00:10:41,040
in those terms, but I
will cite as an example

179
00:10:41,040 --> 00:10:45,270
that Supreme Court Justice
Breyer is a Lowell alumnus.

180
00:10:45,270 --> 00:10:51,740

181
00:10:51,740 --> 00:10:54,220
So they didn't ask you
about life in Germany,

182
00:10:54,220 --> 00:10:56,292
or Hitler, or
anything like that?

183
00:10:56,292 --> 00:10:57,250
You didn't talk about--

184
00:10:57,250 --> 00:10:58,120
Not that I recall.

185
00:10:58,120 --> 00:10:58,900
You didn't.

186
00:10:58,900 --> 00:11:01,360
Well, no, there
was an exception.

187

00:11:01,360 --> 00:11:02,350
Or the teachers?

188
00:11:02,350 --> 00:11:11,400
There was a classmate named
Sidney Brown who clearly

189
00:11:11,400 --> 00:11:16,140
was fascinated by the idea
of having a friend who

190
00:11:16,140 --> 00:11:19,170
had escaped from the jaws of--

191
00:11:19,170 --> 00:11:22,830
and introduced me
to his parents.

192
00:11:22,830 --> 00:11:29,640
I was not sufficiently with it
to realize what was going on,

193
00:11:29,640 --> 00:11:40,190
and Sidney died I think before
graduation of natural causes.

194
00:11:40,190 --> 00:11:44,550
And I didn't have enough
sense to visit the parents

195
00:11:44,550 --> 00:11:50,448
or whatever I was
supposed to do,

196
00:11:50,448 --> 00:11:51,990
which would have
been to my advantage

197
00:11:51,990 --> 00:11:55,770
with hindsight because they
would have quasi-adopted me.

198
00:11:55,770 --> 00:11:57,720

He was an only child.

199
00:11:57,720 --> 00:11:59,730
I don't want to sound
mercenary, but--

200
00:11:59,730 --> 00:12:02,940
No, I know what you mean, yeah.

201
00:12:02,940 --> 00:12:05,080
So there is an exception.

202
00:12:05,080 --> 00:12:09,870
I know for sure that
Sidney, with hindsight,

203
00:12:09,870 --> 00:12:13,110
almost certainly of
Eastern Jewish origin--

204
00:12:13,110 --> 00:12:17,220
sorry to make these
distinctions, but they matter.

205
00:12:17,220 --> 00:12:18,810
Did the teachers
ask you anything

206
00:12:18,810 --> 00:12:21,465
about your experiences?

207
00:12:21,465 --> 00:12:22,260
They did not?

208
00:12:22,260 --> 00:12:24,130
Not that I recall.

209
00:12:24,130 --> 00:12:30,150
Now, I took French,
where, of course,

210
00:12:30,150 --> 00:12:35,580

I was a stellar student
and skipped 4, 5, 6,

211
00:12:35,580 --> 00:12:37,770
until I got to French
8, by which time

212
00:12:37,770 --> 00:12:40,920
my French had declined.

213
00:12:40,920 --> 00:12:42,150
I still did well.

214
00:12:42,150 --> 00:12:45,780

215
00:12:45,780 --> 00:12:50,370
And of course, in French,
it was predominantly girls,

216
00:12:50,370 --> 00:12:54,420
or, again, I was--

217
00:12:54,420 --> 00:12:58,090
I don't want to say I
was treated as a pet,

218
00:12:58,090 --> 00:13:04,590
but I was a little bit
different because I knew so much

219
00:13:04,590 --> 00:13:07,710
more than they did, with
the exception of Lucille,

220
00:13:07,710 --> 00:13:11,250
who had a French mother.

221
00:13:11,250 --> 00:13:14,330
But you picked up
English quickly.

222

00:13:14,330 --> 00:13:15,070
I must have.

223
00:13:15,070 --> 00:13:18,810

224
00:13:18,810 --> 00:13:33,160
I probably lost all accent by
the time I went to the army,

225
00:13:33,160 --> 00:13:35,830
and of course,
re-acquired an accent

226
00:13:35,830 --> 00:13:39,310
by virtue of having served
in the European Theater,

227
00:13:39,310 --> 00:13:40,510
where I had to speak German.

228
00:13:40,510 --> 00:13:44,740

229
00:13:44,740 --> 00:13:47,560
I can't be certain of that.

230
00:13:47,560 --> 00:13:50,790
Tell me about your
parents' adjustment.

231
00:13:50,790 --> 00:13:51,920
Your mother?

232
00:13:51,920 --> 00:13:54,580
My mother did a lot
better than my father.

233
00:13:54,580 --> 00:13:58,540
My father never adjusted.

234
00:13:58,540 --> 00:14:02,400

He couldn't find a decent job.

235

00:14:02,400 --> 00:14:06,360

He died on the 25th
of November, two weeks

236

00:14:06,360 --> 00:14:10,440

before Pearl Harbor,
which meant, of course,

237

00:14:10,440 --> 00:14:13,950

full employment came
right after that.

238

00:14:13,950 --> 00:14:18,170

239

00:14:18,170 --> 00:14:26,350

The relatives in San Francisco
were conscientious, helpful,

240

00:14:26,350 --> 00:14:29,380

but they were all retired,
and they had warned him,

241

00:14:29,380 --> 00:14:33,850

we're not going to be very
helpful in getting you

242

00:14:33,850 --> 00:14:38,360

settled in a job or occupation.

243

00:14:38,360 --> 00:14:42,850

So financially how did
your family manage?

244

00:14:42,850 --> 00:14:46,750

There my father was reasonably
provident, reasonably,

245

00:14:46,750 --> 00:14:50,770

within the limits
of the restrictions.

246
00:14:50,770 --> 00:14:55,780
On one of my trips to
Switzerland-- maybe

247
00:14:55,780 --> 00:14:56,860
it was the final one.

248
00:14:56,860 --> 00:15:07,410
I don't remember-- they handed
me a box cigar box-size wrapped

249
00:15:07,410 --> 00:15:12,470
as a gift, told me to
put it under the seat,

250
00:15:12,470 --> 00:15:16,370
not tell anybody, and
retrieve it afterwards.

251
00:15:16,370 --> 00:15:19,770
And that is how a good deal
of jewelry was smuggled out.

252
00:15:19,770 --> 00:15:27,120

253
00:15:27,120 --> 00:15:30,210
I don't know all those details
because children are not

254
00:15:30,210 --> 00:15:32,130
initiated into
financial affairs,

255
00:15:32,130 --> 00:15:36,105
but he used various devices to--

256
00:15:36,105 --> 00:15:36,855
--support you all.

257
00:15:36,855 --> 00:15:39,070

--accumulate some money.

258

00:15:39,070 --> 00:15:42,630

There was another
fortunate thing.

259

00:15:42,630 --> 00:15:47,010

The provider of the
affidavit, a first cousin

260

00:15:47,010 --> 00:15:53,070

of my grandmother's, obviously
an old lady because she

261

00:15:53,070 --> 00:15:56,580

was turned down, being
too old for the affidavit,

262

00:15:56,580 --> 00:16:02,530

died within half a year
after we got there.

263

00:16:02,530 --> 00:16:05,790

And my father was in
her will to the tune

264

00:16:05,790 --> 00:16:09,090

of 1/2 of 1% or
some ridiculous sum

265

00:16:09,090 --> 00:16:14,560

like that, which turned
out to be \$4,000.

266

00:16:14,560 --> 00:16:16,760

I used the word ridiculous.

267

00:16:16,760 --> 00:16:17,720

Obviously, I--

268

00:16:17,720 --> 00:16:22,130

269

00:16:22,130 --> 00:16:23,990

There were things like that.

270

00:16:23,990 --> 00:16:32,530

And another cousin helped
my mother invest the money,

271

00:16:32,530 --> 00:16:37,000

or he borrowed some
money from my mother

272

00:16:37,000 --> 00:16:40,600

at a high rate of interest and--

273

00:16:40,600 --> 00:16:42,310

they did various things to help.

274

00:16:42,310 --> 00:16:44,900

275

00:16:44,900 --> 00:16:46,910

There was another
fall-out, which

276

00:16:46,910 --> 00:16:50,540

I consider very fortunate.

277

00:16:50,540 --> 00:16:53,780

Not only did I go to
a good high school.

278

00:16:53,780 --> 00:16:59,440

279

00:16:59,440 --> 00:17:02,390

A cousin lived within
four blocks of home

280

00:17:02,390 --> 00:17:04,230

in a very elegant district.

281

00:17:04,230 --> 00:17:06,210
We didn't.

282
00:17:06,210 --> 00:17:10,859
They had season tickets to
the San Francisco Symphony.

283
00:17:10,859 --> 00:17:14,619
When they couldn't go,
we got the tickets.

284
00:17:14,619 --> 00:17:19,530
So I kind of grew up with Pierre
Monteux and the San Francisco

285
00:17:19,530 --> 00:17:25,230
Symphony, and I swear by
Pierre Monteux to this day.

286
00:17:25,230 --> 00:17:28,240

287
00:17:28,240 --> 00:17:30,600
These are the kinds
of things that I

288
00:17:30,600 --> 00:17:33,090
think you were looking for.

289
00:17:33,090 --> 00:17:37,680
One other thing that fits
in with your questions--

290
00:17:37,680 --> 00:17:44,190
in New York, a cousin
on my mother's side,

291
00:17:44,190 --> 00:17:46,560
who I've since found out
was born in Switzerland--

292
00:17:46,560 --> 00:17:49,350
but I thought he was native-born

American because he was

293

00:17:49,350 --> 00:17:55,140
a genuine American and had
married a genuine American--

294

00:17:55,140 --> 00:17:59,150
told my mother,
oh, of course you

295

00:17:59,150 --> 00:18:05,230
are coming this Saturday or
Sunday to Temple Emanu-El.

296

00:18:05,230 --> 00:18:07,660
Literally the first
time in my life

297

00:18:07,660 --> 00:18:12,650
that I had been to a synagogue,
of which I remember essentially

298

00:18:12,650 --> 00:18:14,630
nothing, except
that it was not that

299

00:18:14,630 --> 00:18:17,840
different from the
Protestant services I'd

300

00:18:17,840 --> 00:18:23,350
gone to occasionally with
one of the maids or--

301

00:18:23,350 --> 00:18:26,710
there was organ music, and
there was, I think, a choir.

302

00:18:26,710 --> 00:18:30,030

303

00:18:30,030 --> 00:18:34,360
But significant in terms

of this interview, I think,

304

00:18:34,360 --> 00:18:37,480

is, literally the
first time in my life

305

00:18:37,480 --> 00:18:41,710

that I set foot in a synagogue.

306

00:18:41,710 --> 00:18:45,085

How Jewish did you
feel in San Francisco?

307

00:18:45,085 --> 00:18:45,870

Not at all.

308

00:18:45,870 --> 00:18:47,960

Still nothing?

309

00:18:47,960 --> 00:18:53,120

We lived within five
blocks of Temple Emanu-El,

310

00:18:53,120 --> 00:18:57,030

to which some relatives
belonged, and it was there.

311

00:18:57,030 --> 00:19:01,820

And, oh, I got a gift membership
in the Jewish Community Center,

312

00:19:01,820 --> 00:19:08,420

which had a pool and a
library of comic books, which

313

00:19:08,420 --> 00:19:10,160

helped my Americanization.

314

00:19:10,160 --> 00:19:14,930

315

00:19:14,930 --> 00:19:16,700

That's about it.

316
00:19:16,700 --> 00:19:21,440
Oh, no, one other
significant thing--

317
00:19:21,440 --> 00:19:24,760
after Pearl Harbor,
you may recall,

318
00:19:24,760 --> 00:19:33,150
there were enacted a series
of laws or regulations,

319
00:19:33,150 --> 00:19:35,910
the evacuation of
the Japanese, which

320
00:19:35,910 --> 00:19:41,670
meant that native-born
Americans of Japanese descent,

321
00:19:41,670 --> 00:19:47,870
including my classmate,
Toshio, were evacuated.

322
00:19:47,870 --> 00:19:50,630
We, technically
enemy aliens, were

323
00:19:50,630 --> 00:19:54,270
merely subject to a curfew.

324
00:19:54,270 --> 00:19:56,960
We could not travel more
than 5 miles from home

325
00:19:56,960 --> 00:20:01,490
unless we were going directly
to or from school or work,

326
00:20:01,490 --> 00:20:07,970
and we had to be home by 8:00,

which means that I could not

327

00:20:07,970 --> 00:20:11,960
attend my own high school
graduation in the San Francisco

328

00:20:11,960 --> 00:20:15,490
Opera House, which
was held at 8:00.

329

00:20:15,490 --> 00:20:25,240
And because German law-observing
tradition, my mother said--

330

00:20:25,240 --> 00:20:27,820
my father was dead by then--

331

00:20:27,820 --> 00:20:30,400
you can't go, and I didn't go.

332

00:20:30,400 --> 00:20:33,250

333

00:20:33,250 --> 00:20:35,632
There are 27 people who
have told me since then,

334

00:20:35,632 --> 00:20:36,715
but you could have passed.

335

00:20:36,715 --> 00:20:41,650

336

00:20:41,650 --> 00:20:43,840
It was no great
deprivation for me,

337

00:20:43,840 --> 00:20:47,290
but it answers your question
of, did I feel Jewish?

338

00:20:47,290 --> 00:20:54,910

Well, this also meant that we
couldn't go out Saturday night

339
00:20:54,910 --> 00:20:59,980
like other adolescents, so
there were three or four of us

340
00:20:59,980 --> 00:21:02,710
who got together
on Sunday afternoon

341
00:21:02,710 --> 00:21:06,490
because that's the best
we could do on weekends.

342
00:21:06,490 --> 00:21:08,570
This is because you were German?

343
00:21:08,570 --> 00:21:11,320
Exactly, because we
were enemy aliens.

344
00:21:11,320 --> 00:21:13,600
You became an enemy
alien after Pearl Harbor?

345
00:21:13,600 --> 00:21:14,780
Is that what that was--

346
00:21:14,780 --> 00:21:15,280
Yeah.

347
00:21:15,280 --> 00:21:19,120

348
00:21:19,120 --> 00:21:24,340
Let me continue with enemy
alien because that has--

349
00:21:24,340 --> 00:21:35,350
when I was inducted in the US
Army in May or June of 1943,

350

00:21:35,350 --> 00:21:39,400

I was sent to the Presidio
of Monterey, and I said,

351

00:21:39,400 --> 00:21:41,260

where do I go to
get naturalized?

352

00:21:41,260 --> 00:21:44,140

Because I knew that, as soon
as you were in the military,

353

00:21:44,140 --> 00:21:45,350

you were eligible.

354

00:21:45,350 --> 00:21:48,790

You didn't have to wait
the full five years.

355

00:21:48,790 --> 00:21:49,720

Oh, no, no, no.

356

00:21:49,720 --> 00:21:53,140

That will happen when you
take your basic training.

357

00:21:53,140 --> 00:22:00,010

So I was sent to Fort Riley,
Kansas, the cavalry school,

358

00:22:00,010 --> 00:22:05,770

and took my basic training,
and the mounted cavalry, horse

359

00:22:05,770 --> 00:22:08,740

cavalry, where I
asked where do I

360

00:22:08,740 --> 00:22:11,470

go to get naturalized-- oh,
you're just trying to get out

361

00:22:11,470 --> 00:22:13,900
of the obstacle course.

362
00:22:13,900 --> 00:22:15,100
Not now, not here.

363
00:22:15,100 --> 00:22:17,730

364
00:22:17,730 --> 00:22:22,360
At the end of 16 weeks
of basic training,

365
00:22:22,360 --> 00:22:31,250
horse cavalry, mounted
radio operator,

366
00:22:31,250 --> 00:22:36,060
I got my orders, a week delay
en route, as it was called,

367
00:22:36,060 --> 00:22:38,820
which means, basically,
annual leave.

368
00:22:38,820 --> 00:22:46,500
And then you have to report
to the port of embarkation.

369
00:22:46,500 --> 00:22:51,750
I made it this far as the
train station in Junction City,

370
00:22:51,750 --> 00:22:52,900
alias Junk Town.

371
00:22:52,900 --> 00:22:55,410

372
00:22:55,410 --> 00:22:59,110
My name was not called.

373

00:22:59,110 --> 00:22:59,680
Why?

374
00:22:59,680 --> 00:23:00,340
Nobody knew.

375
00:23:00,340 --> 00:23:03,450
Go back to Fort Riley.

376
00:23:03,450 --> 00:23:07,460
So I did, where I found
out the following morning

377
00:23:07,460 --> 00:23:11,150
I could not be shipped
overseas because I was not yet

378
00:23:11,150 --> 00:23:11,650
a citizen.

379
00:23:11,650 --> 00:23:14,280

380
00:23:14,280 --> 00:23:19,850
That shipment wound up
on the Anzio beachhead.

381
00:23:19,850 --> 00:23:28,930
So they didn't know what to do
with me, still not naturalized.

382
00:23:28,930 --> 00:23:31,740
So they sent me to advanced
communication school--

383
00:23:31,740 --> 00:23:33,880
I was trained as
a radio operator--

384
00:23:33,880 --> 00:23:35,700
where the instructors
were delighted

385

00:23:35,700 --> 00:23:37,200

that there were
three of us who were

386

00:23:37,200 --> 00:23:40,500

interested in cryptography,
cryptoanalysis.

387

00:23:40,500 --> 00:23:43,410

Nobody thought of the
fact that your enemy alien

388

00:23:43,410 --> 00:23:46,470

was interested in
cryptoanalysis, which I never

389

00:23:46,470 --> 00:23:49,350

used.

390

00:23:49,350 --> 00:23:56,910

And in due time I was sent
to Camp McCoy 76th Cavalry

391

00:23:56,910 --> 00:24:01,080

Reconnaissance Troop Mechanized.

392

00:24:01,080 --> 00:24:05,910

And then I was naturalized
at La Crosse, Wisconsin

393

00:24:05,910 --> 00:24:08,130

and was ready for--

394

00:24:08,130 --> 00:24:09,525

we were then sent overseas.

395

00:24:09,525 --> 00:24:12,492

396

00:24:12,492 --> 00:24:15,180

And it didn't wind up all that.

397

00:24:15,180 --> 00:24:19,200

We were committed during
the Battle of the Bulge,

398

00:24:19,200 --> 00:24:20,880

but still, it was the tail end.

399

00:24:20,880 --> 00:24:24,600

And we were not part
of the initial--

400

00:24:24,600 --> 00:24:27,066

What did it mean to you
to become a United States

401

00:24:27,066 --> 00:24:30,060

citizen, American citizen?

402

00:24:30,060 --> 00:24:30,930

Paperwork.

403

00:24:30,930 --> 00:24:31,430

[INAUDIBLE]

404

00:24:31,430 --> 00:24:35,300

But psychologically
I'd made the transition

405

00:24:35,300 --> 00:24:40,020

and was really annoyed that
I had not yet been certified,

406

00:24:40,020 --> 00:24:40,755

so to speak.

407

00:24:40,755 --> 00:24:41,255

Yeah.

408

00:24:41,255 --> 00:24:42,922

Because you felt
American at that point?

409

00:24:42,922 --> 00:24:43,800

Oh, absolutely.

410

00:24:43,800 --> 00:24:45,900

Did you think a
lot about Germany

411

00:24:45,900 --> 00:24:47,235

while you were in the army?

412

00:24:47,235 --> 00:24:49,910

413

00:24:49,910 --> 00:24:50,840

Did you feel German?

414

00:24:50,840 --> 00:24:52,620

Only in the hostile sense.

415

00:24:52,620 --> 00:24:56,420

Yes, I thought about Germany.

416

00:24:56,420 --> 00:24:59,420

We knew we were going to
be shipped to the European

417

00:24:59,420 --> 00:25:06,690

Theater, which meant that
I would probably be useful

418

00:25:06,690 --> 00:25:09,710

and turned out to be useful
in the reconnaissance outfit.

419

00:25:09,710 --> 00:25:14,910

420

00:25:14,910 --> 00:25:17,940

If we took prisoners,
we had to ship them

421

00:25:17,940 --> 00:25:23,490
back to Division Headquarters,
where there was a IPW

422
00:25:23,490 --> 00:25:27,000
team, Interrogation
of Prisoners of War,

423
00:25:27,000 --> 00:25:29,610
who had been properly trained.

424
00:25:29,610 --> 00:25:32,040
And four days later,
we might find out

425
00:25:32,040 --> 00:25:33,570
whatever we wanted to know.

426
00:25:33,570 --> 00:25:36,820
We wanted to know, being
a reconnaissance outfit,

427
00:25:36,820 --> 00:25:41,010
what was over the next hill
or in those woods ahead of us?

428
00:25:41,010 --> 00:25:44,140
And that is where I turned
out to be very useful.

429
00:25:44,140 --> 00:25:47,520
I could do unskilled
interrogation on the spot.

430
00:25:47,520 --> 00:25:52,490

431
00:25:52,490 --> 00:25:55,310
So did I think a
lot about Germany?

432
00:25:55,310 --> 00:25:57,200
Good heavens, we

confronted it daily.

433

00:25:57,200 --> 00:26:00,290

434

00:26:00,290 --> 00:26:03,260

One other incident
worth mentioning--

435

00:26:03,260 --> 00:26:09,730

we would occupy a new
village or a new site.

436

00:26:09,730 --> 00:26:13,750

It occurred to me, maybe the
phones are still working.

437

00:26:13,750 --> 00:26:16,320

438

00:26:16,320 --> 00:26:19,140

But whom would I call?

439

00:26:19,140 --> 00:26:24,120

And I was also careful enough.

440

00:26:24,120 --> 00:26:27,450

What would my fellow
troopers think?

441

00:26:27,450 --> 00:26:33,440

Would they clearly
realize that I--

442

00:26:33,440 --> 00:26:37,490

so two reasons not to
use the phone, which--

443

00:26:37,490 --> 00:26:41,070

I never found out whether
it would work or not.

444

00:26:41,070 --> 00:26:47,120
But it's by way of elucidating
or answering your question.

445
00:26:47,120 --> 00:26:48,518
Did I think about Germany?

446
00:26:48,518 --> 00:26:49,018
Yes.

447
00:26:49,018 --> 00:26:52,154

448
00:26:52,154 --> 00:26:56,690
Did you know what was happening
to the Jews during the war?

449
00:26:56,690 --> 00:26:58,730
When did you first
hear about that?

450
00:26:58,730 --> 00:26:59,350
No.

451
00:26:59,350 --> 00:27:03,250
You did not know until
the war was over?

452
00:27:03,250 --> 00:27:05,590
No, a bit earlier.

453
00:27:05,590 --> 00:27:09,790
We did run into
liberated, what were later

454
00:27:09,790 --> 00:27:12,685
called displaced,
persons, slave laborers.

455
00:27:12,685 --> 00:27:16,570

456

00:27:16,570 --> 00:27:23,690
We overran Buchenwald.

457
00:27:23,690 --> 00:27:25,640
You were in Buchenwald?

458
00:27:25,640 --> 00:27:29,390
We went through it, passed
it because we had to--

459
00:27:29,390 --> 00:27:30,140
--keep going.

460
00:27:30,140 --> 00:27:31,430
--keep going eastward.

461
00:27:31,430 --> 00:27:34,520
So that is not meaningful.

462
00:27:34,520 --> 00:27:37,400
We did visit Buchenwald
four weeks later

463
00:27:37,400 --> 00:27:43,130
when it was already
somewhat cleaned up.

464
00:27:43,130 --> 00:27:48,480
But no, we didn't know
what was going on, at least

465
00:27:48,480 --> 00:27:50,685
not in any meaningful detail.

466
00:27:50,685 --> 00:27:53,610

467
00:27:53,610 --> 00:27:56,820
Do you have any memory of
your reactions at Buchenwald?

468
00:27:56,820 --> 00:27:59,536

Do you have any memory
of your reactions

469
00:27:59,536 --> 00:28:05,780
at Buchenwald, even though
it had been cleaned up a bit?

470
00:28:05,780 --> 00:28:06,280
No.

471
00:28:06,280 --> 00:28:09,220
I've seen so many movies,
and so many documentaries,

472
00:28:09,220 --> 00:28:12,715
and read so much about it
that I can't tell reality--

473
00:28:12,715 --> 00:28:14,500
--what is the difference, yeah.

474
00:28:14,500 --> 00:28:15,550
--from then.

475
00:28:15,550 --> 00:28:19,180

476
00:28:19,180 --> 00:28:22,795
So where did you actually
serve when you were in--

477
00:28:22,795 --> 00:28:24,070
[INAUDIBLE]?

478
00:28:24,070 --> 00:28:27,760
I was part of a reconnaissance
troop which disembarked

479
00:28:27,760 --> 00:28:35,380
in Le Havre, and we crossed
France, Belgium, and Luxembourg

480

00:28:35,380 --> 00:28:39,010
fairly fast, and of course,
in France I spoke French.

481
00:28:39,010 --> 00:28:42,490
In Belgium, I spoke
French very shortly.

482
00:28:42,490 --> 00:28:44,690
In Luxembourg, they
weren't at all surprised

483
00:28:44,690 --> 00:28:47,590
that I could talk to the
natives in what Sergeant

484
00:28:47,590 --> 00:28:52,090
White described as "slop bucket
Dutch," which I didn't speak,

485
00:28:52,090 --> 00:28:55,900
but they either spoke
French or German.

486
00:28:55,900 --> 00:28:59,620
We crossed what we call
the Siegfried Line--

487
00:28:59,620 --> 00:29:02,290
and the Germans called
it Westwall via--

488
00:29:02,290 --> 00:29:06,710

489
00:29:06,710 --> 00:29:10,970
and basically crossed
all of Germany

490
00:29:10,970 --> 00:29:14,300
and advanced clear
into what later became

491

00:29:14,300 --> 00:29:17,120
the Soviet zone of the
German Democratic Republic

492
00:29:17,120 --> 00:29:20,060
because we were overachievers.

493
00:29:20,060 --> 00:29:22,880
We advanced too far.

494
00:29:22,880 --> 00:29:28,320
We were, for six weeks,
part of the very short-lived

495
00:29:28,320 --> 00:29:37,940
American occupation of Saxony
because, as reconnaissance, we

496
00:29:37,940 --> 00:29:39,710
were hit-and-run.

497
00:29:39,710 --> 00:29:41,450
Our job was not to fight.

498
00:29:41,450 --> 00:29:43,970
Our job was to
reconnoiter and report

499
00:29:43,970 --> 00:29:48,830
back, which made for
a very uneven life.

500
00:29:48,830 --> 00:29:50,990
But it was like the
infantry, which--

501
00:29:50,990 --> 00:29:55,500

502
00:29:55,500 --> 00:29:58,050
When you met up with
Germans, did you

503

00:29:58,050 --> 00:30:00,900

have any visceral reaction?

504

00:30:00,900 --> 00:30:03,120

Here you're standing in
your American army uniform.

505

00:30:03,120 --> 00:30:09,070

506

00:30:09,070 --> 00:30:12,980

I didn't talk to them
very much, except--

507

00:30:12,980 --> 00:30:14,050

oh, I remember one.

508

00:30:14,050 --> 00:30:16,780

We crossed over in Germany.

509

00:30:16,780 --> 00:30:24,120

The troop commander said,
oh, from now on, we're

510

00:30:24,120 --> 00:30:27,930

going to be billeted
whenever possible in homes.

511

00:30:27,930 --> 00:30:32,320

No more slit trenches,
no more camping out.

512

00:30:32,320 --> 00:30:40,070

And you-- Corporal,
George, I don't know--

513

00:30:40,070 --> 00:30:45,700

you are going to tell them they
have 30 minutes to clear out.

514

00:30:45,700 --> 00:30:46,620

I said, who, me?

515
00:30:46,620 --> 00:30:48,510
Tell them?

516
00:30:48,510 --> 00:30:51,550
Well, you get used
to it very quickly,

517
00:30:51,550 --> 00:30:55,560
and that is what we did
whenever we needed billets.

518
00:30:55,560 --> 00:31:02,440
And I amended the orders and
said, don't lock anything up

519
00:31:02,440 --> 00:31:04,980
because American--

520
00:31:04,980 --> 00:31:10,520
we had trench knives, not
bayonets, variations of--

521
00:31:10,520 --> 00:31:13,670
will only be doubly tempted
by whatever is locked,

522
00:31:13,670 --> 00:31:15,510
and you will lose--

523
00:31:15,510 --> 00:31:16,010
--more.

524
00:31:16,010 --> 00:31:19,700

525
00:31:19,700 --> 00:31:22,220
Other than that, I
didn't amend the orders.

526
00:31:22,220 --> 00:31:26,180
I also told my fellow

troopers, who--

527

00:31:26,180 --> 00:31:31,250

we very quickly discovered
ham in chimneys and eggs

528

00:31:31,250 --> 00:31:38,230

in the chicken houses.

529

00:31:38,230 --> 00:31:40,860

Yes, by all means,
but why don't you

530

00:31:40,860 --> 00:31:44,130

leave to K-ration chocolate
and a few cigarettes

531

00:31:44,130 --> 00:31:48,880

by way of paying them back,
which, as far as I know,

532

00:31:48,880 --> 00:31:50,850

they did.

533

00:31:50,850 --> 00:31:54,270

But we had no compunction
about raiding chicken coupes

534

00:31:54,270 --> 00:31:57,180

or hauling ham out of chimneys.

535

00:31:57,180 --> 00:32:00,750

536

00:32:00,750 --> 00:32:02,700

Did I talk to Germans?

537

00:32:02,700 --> 00:32:05,160

Well, obviously, to
tell them to get out.

538

00:32:05,160 --> 00:32:07,900

539

00:32:07,900 --> 00:32:11,830

There wasn't much
conversation, no.

540

00:32:11,830 --> 00:32:16,540

They stayed away from us.

541

00:32:16,540 --> 00:32:20,080

They wanted to know, could they
come back and milk the cows,

542

00:32:20,080 --> 00:32:21,160

or could they come--

543

00:32:21,160 --> 00:32:24,160

544

00:32:24,160 --> 00:32:28,930

and occasionally they would
say, I never was no Nazi, nohow.

545

00:32:28,930 --> 00:32:34,920

546

00:32:34,920 --> 00:32:38,070

There was essentially
no interaction other

547

00:32:38,070 --> 00:32:40,537

than necessary interaction.

548

00:32:40,537 --> 00:32:42,870

Did you ever let any of them
know you were from Germany?

549

00:32:42,870 --> 00:32:45,450

550

00:32:45,450 --> 00:32:47,730

I don't recall that

the question came up,

551

00:32:47,730 --> 00:32:50,410

but I certainly
didn't mention it.

552

00:32:50,410 --> 00:32:53,340

On the other hand,
some of them probably

553

00:32:53,340 --> 00:32:55,410

drew their own conclusions
when somebody spoke--

554

00:32:55,410 --> 00:32:55,910

--fluent.

555

00:32:55,910 --> 00:32:58,880

556

00:32:58,880 --> 00:33:02,900

At that point, I spoke
fluent but not adult German.

557

00:33:02,900 --> 00:33:05,510

558

00:33:05,510 --> 00:33:11,270

I acquired an adult vocabulary,
of course, during those months,

559

00:33:11,270 --> 00:33:17,240

but not only that, I spoke
with a southern dialect.

560

00:33:17,240 --> 00:33:21,690

561

00:33:21,690 --> 00:33:24,150

No, they did not interrogate me.

562

00:33:24,150 --> 00:33:27,570

Did you try to go
back to Stuttgart?

563
00:33:27,570 --> 00:33:28,260
Much later.

564
00:33:28,260 --> 00:33:31,440

565
00:33:31,440 --> 00:33:34,690
The end of hostilities
was the 9th of May,

566
00:33:34,690 --> 00:33:38,070
when we were deep in
the heart of Saxony.

567
00:33:38,070 --> 00:33:42,330
We held a victory
parade in Saxony.

568
00:33:42,330 --> 00:33:45,900
We were invited to
the Russian parade,

569
00:33:45,900 --> 00:33:50,460
which was across
the river, which

570
00:33:50,460 --> 00:33:52,020
I don't remember very clearly.

571
00:33:52,020 --> 00:33:53,580
But it happened.

572
00:33:53,580 --> 00:33:56,850

573
00:33:56,850 --> 00:34:02,610
There, during those six weeks,
quasi-peace time in the sense

574

00:34:02,610 --> 00:34:03,240
that--

575
00:34:03,240 --> 00:34:07,710
no hostilities,
there I was exposed

576
00:34:07,710 --> 00:34:13,020
to a lot of German conversation
and probably sought it out

577
00:34:13,020 --> 00:34:16,170
because I was curious to
learn what they were like

578
00:34:16,170 --> 00:34:19,170
and what they were feeling.

579
00:34:19,170 --> 00:34:29,010
We lived in German housing that
we had taken over, long detour.

580
00:34:29,010 --> 00:34:32,760
This was in Limbach,
in Saxony, where

581
00:34:32,760 --> 00:34:40,510
we had taken a corner house,
and we hung an American flag

582
00:34:40,510 --> 00:34:42,400
from the balcony.

583
00:34:42,400 --> 00:34:45,010
I still have a picture
of two GIs standing

584
00:34:45,010 --> 00:34:49,930
under the flag, not me,
but two fellow troopers.

585
00:34:49,930 --> 00:34:53,040

586
00:34:53,040 --> 00:34:58,560
Four years ago I went to Berlin
to meet a German historian who

587
00:34:58,560 --> 00:35:03,000
was also interested in
this six-week occupation

588
00:35:03,000 --> 00:35:07,530
of the later German
Democratic Republic,

589
00:35:07,530 --> 00:35:09,600
and we had exchanged emails.

590
00:35:09,600 --> 00:35:10,950
And he was fascinated.

591
00:35:10,950 --> 00:35:13,200
Some of the-- well, he
doesn't know much English,

592
00:35:13,200 --> 00:35:17,370
so he found a correspondent
who could correspond in German

593
00:35:17,370 --> 00:35:21,240
and had photographs.

594
00:35:21,240 --> 00:35:24,620
He checked up on me.

595
00:35:24,620 --> 00:35:28,100
He asked me, did
I remember where

596
00:35:28,100 --> 00:35:32,335
we were billeted in Limbach?

597
00:35:32,335 --> 00:35:36,490
I said, well, it was

across from a park,

598

00:35:36,490 --> 00:35:40,120

and I vaguely remember-- maybe
it was called Anna-Esche-Straße

599

00:35:40,120 --> 00:35:42,750

Number 15.

600

00:35:42,750 --> 00:35:44,605

Here is a photograph
of the house.

601

00:35:44,605 --> 00:35:47,960

602

00:35:47,960 --> 00:35:49,850

He went.

603

00:35:49,850 --> 00:35:54,740

It was number 13, not number
15, because he had a photograph.

604

00:35:54,740 --> 00:35:57,890

He interviewed the residents.

605

00:35:57,890 --> 00:35:59,810

And he found a woman
who said, oh, I

606

00:35:59,810 --> 00:36:01,670

was a seven-year-old
girl, and there

607

00:36:01,670 --> 00:36:04,677

was a German who spoke
with a southern accent.

608

00:36:04,677 --> 00:36:05,760

It was this American who--

609

00:36:05,760 --> 00:36:09,710

610
00:36:09,710 --> 00:36:11,030
He didn't check up on me.

611
00:36:11,030 --> 00:36:16,740
He kind of wanted
to authenticate.

612
00:36:16,740 --> 00:36:22,210
That's a lengthy detour
of your question,

613
00:36:22,210 --> 00:36:24,130
did I interact with the Germans?

614
00:36:24,130 --> 00:36:27,690
Yes, after the end of
hostilities, a whole lot.

615
00:36:27,690 --> 00:36:34,330
I found a photo shop in Limbach
which still had chemicals

616
00:36:34,330 --> 00:36:38,140
and paper, and by that
time, a lot of Americans

617
00:36:38,140 --> 00:36:46,430
had acquired cameras, liberated
cameras, and asked me,

618
00:36:46,430 --> 00:36:49,145
could I arrange to have
the film developed?

619
00:36:49,145 --> 00:36:55,070
And I had duplicates made
from my own collection,

620
00:36:55,070 --> 00:36:58,240
thus I have probably the largest
collection of photographs.

621
00:36:58,240 --> 00:37:03,080

622
00:37:03,080 --> 00:37:10,930
In a different small town, I
arranged for laundry service.

623
00:37:10,930 --> 00:37:13,360
We have to provide
the soap, of course,

624
00:37:13,360 --> 00:37:16,220
but the underwear
came back ironed.

625
00:37:16,220 --> 00:37:19,780

626
00:37:19,780 --> 00:37:22,330
All of this is by way of
answering your question,

627
00:37:22,330 --> 00:37:25,090
did I have much
interaction with Germans?

628
00:37:25,090 --> 00:37:33,070
Not during the combat period,
except when necessary.

629
00:37:33,070 --> 00:37:36,570
And of course, eternally, they
said, oh, I never was a Nazi.

630
00:37:36,570 --> 00:37:39,170
Oh, I was deserter.

631
00:37:39,170 --> 00:37:45,950
I tended to cut them off
short it got to be a litany.

632

00:37:45,950 --> 00:37:47,440
And Jewish refugees?

633
00:37:47,440 --> 00:37:50,535
You said you didn't--

634
00:37:50,535 --> 00:37:51,205
the DPs.

635
00:37:51,205 --> 00:37:54,460
We encountered all
kinds of displaced

636
00:37:54,460 --> 00:37:57,730
persons, a name then not known.

637
00:37:57,730 --> 00:38:02,440
They were called slave laborers,
even though some, we found out,

638
00:38:02,440 --> 00:38:04,660
had volunteered.

639
00:38:04,660 --> 00:38:11,460
I remember a Belgian girl young
woman who admitted clearly

640
00:38:11,460 --> 00:38:12,930
that she had volunteered.

641
00:38:12,930 --> 00:38:16,200
There was nothing to eat
at home, and by working

642
00:38:16,200 --> 00:38:20,610
she was reasonably
well taken care of,

643
00:38:20,610 --> 00:38:23,910
along with half a dozen others.

644
00:38:23,910 --> 00:38:28,830

Those were non-Jewish
volunteers.

645
00:38:28,830 --> 00:38:31,215
The displaced persons, Jewish--

646
00:38:31,215 --> 00:38:36,410

647
00:38:36,410 --> 00:38:39,200
that's where I discovered that--

648
00:38:39,200 --> 00:38:43,900
I didn't speak Yiddish,
but if they spoke slowly

649
00:38:43,900 --> 00:38:46,760
and if I repeated
everything twice in German,

650
00:38:46,760 --> 00:38:49,370
we could communicate.

651
00:38:49,370 --> 00:38:52,520
I didn't know there
was such a language.

652
00:38:52,520 --> 00:38:56,300
Well, I guess I did know that
there were Americans who spoke

653
00:38:56,300 --> 00:39:01,010
Yiddish, whoever they were.

654
00:39:01,010 --> 00:39:03,830
I have since learned
from Hans Hirsch

655
00:39:03,830 --> 00:39:10,820
that there is a variation
called Western Yiddish, which

656

00:39:10,820 --> 00:39:15,500
my German ancestors
probably spoke.

657
00:39:15,500 --> 00:39:17,890
Hans knows far more
about that than I do,

658
00:39:17,890 --> 00:39:21,320
but he has educated me.

659
00:39:21,320 --> 00:39:26,040
Did you feel any connection
to these Jewish DPs--

660
00:39:26,040 --> 00:39:26,630
No.

661
00:39:26,630 --> 00:39:27,852
I should, but I didn't.

662
00:39:27,852 --> 00:39:28,435
--at the time?

663
00:39:28,435 --> 00:39:28,935
You didn't.

664
00:39:28,935 --> 00:39:31,350
OK.

665
00:39:31,350 --> 00:39:35,630
Now, I do remember
clearly, in Jena,

666
00:39:35,630 --> 00:39:46,750
for example, a town in East
Germany, former East Germany,

667
00:39:46,750 --> 00:39:54,570
we had advanced without
military government personnel.

668

00:39:54,570 --> 00:39:59,460

There were no-- we
had advanced too far.

669

00:39:59,460 --> 00:40:02,520

There was no provision
for military government,

670

00:40:02,520 --> 00:40:05,340

and I was asked to improvise.

671

00:40:05,340 --> 00:40:08,590

And facetiously and
in quotation marks,

672

00:40:08,590 --> 00:40:14,010

I became the "Chief
of Police of Jena."

673

00:40:14,010 --> 00:40:21,710

Nobody had issued
orders for all arms

674

00:40:21,710 --> 00:40:25,760

to be turned in for example,
so I issued the order

675

00:40:25,760 --> 00:40:27,170

and sent out the town crier.

676

00:40:27,170 --> 00:40:29,720

677

00:40:29,720 --> 00:40:33,860

That is how the order got
amended by various Americans.

678

00:40:33,860 --> 00:40:38,270

Oh, all cameras had
to be turned in.

679

00:40:38,270 --> 00:40:42,260

I did not issue with that

order, but, in fact, I never

680
00:40:42,260 --> 00:40:44,270
acquired a camera.

681
00:40:44,270 --> 00:40:51,730
But at that point, I--

682
00:40:51,730 --> 00:40:56,530
your question was dealing
with the DPs or Jews.

683
00:40:56,530 --> 00:40:59,800
I very clearly
remember that we took

684
00:40:59,800 --> 00:41:07,000
over a former German
garrison as explicitly

685
00:41:07,000 --> 00:41:13,480
as quarters for the
Jewish liberated refugees,

686
00:41:13,480 --> 00:41:18,250
whatever you want to call
them, displaced persons today,

687
00:41:18,250 --> 00:41:22,900
that we tried to provide food
for them because they didn't

688
00:41:22,900 --> 00:41:25,570
have ration stamps
and things like that.

689
00:41:25,570 --> 00:41:27,730
But I was chief of
police for six days,

690
00:41:27,730 --> 00:41:32,860
so there's a limit to
what you can accomplish.

691
00:41:32,860 --> 00:41:38,620
We had to improvise
because, while there

692
00:41:38,620 --> 00:41:41,800
was quite good
American preparation

693
00:41:41,800 --> 00:41:51,910
for military government, it
had not extended that far east.

694
00:41:51,910 --> 00:41:55,410

695
00:41:55,410 --> 00:41:59,910
I have actually written an essay
about that particular episode

696
00:41:59,910 --> 00:42:03,060
because it is that unusual.

697
00:42:03,060 --> 00:42:05,950

698
00:42:05,950 --> 00:42:09,950
And I have since read
a German historian,

699
00:42:09,950 --> 00:42:13,060
and I don't quite agree
with his description

700
00:42:13,060 --> 00:42:17,900
of that six-week occupation.

701
00:42:17,900 --> 00:42:22,030
I've probably gone
too far afield.

702
00:42:22,030 --> 00:42:23,970

So there wasn't a
particular DP camp?

703
00:42:23,970 --> 00:42:25,460
You just met--

704
00:42:25,460 --> 00:42:26,890
No, this was not a camp.

705
00:42:26,890 --> 00:42:27,390
Just DPs?

706
00:42:27,390 --> 00:42:27,890
This was--

707
00:42:27,890 --> 00:42:29,520
So this was just individual DPs?

708
00:42:29,520 --> 00:42:30,815
These were refugees liberated.

709
00:42:30,815 --> 00:42:32,273
[? --refugees, individual, ?]
yeah.

710
00:42:32,273 --> 00:42:33,525
But they were individual.

711
00:42:33,525 --> 00:42:36,650
And they needed to
be taken care of,

712
00:42:36,650 --> 00:42:38,670
and I certainly
took the initiative.

713
00:42:38,670 --> 00:42:41,580

714
00:42:41,580 --> 00:42:44,670
I'm not patting
myself on the back.

715
00:42:44,670 --> 00:42:46,890
Because I spoke
German, I was expected

716
00:42:46,890 --> 00:42:48,720
to do all kinds of things.

717
00:42:48,720 --> 00:42:51,000
And how long did
you stay in Europe?

718
00:42:51,000 --> 00:42:53,380
In Europe?

719
00:42:53,380 --> 00:42:56,600
Do you know about
the point system?

720
00:42:56,600 --> 00:42:57,100
No.

721
00:42:57,100 --> 00:42:57,600
No, I don't.

722
00:42:57,600 --> 00:43:00,020
OK, I'll explain it briefly.

723
00:43:00,020 --> 00:43:03,710
To be repatriated
to the US, you had

724
00:43:03,710 --> 00:43:05,360
to have a certain
number of points

725
00:43:05,360 --> 00:43:08,630
because there were this
enormous number of Americans

726
00:43:08,630 --> 00:43:09,590
ready to go home.

727
00:43:09,590 --> 00:43:13,460

728
00:43:13,460 --> 00:43:18,840
In August, of course, the war
with Japan and against Japan

729
00:43:18,840 --> 00:43:19,340
ended.

730
00:43:19,340 --> 00:43:21,888

731
00:43:21,888 --> 00:43:22,930
You had to have a point--

732
00:43:22,930 --> 00:43:23,500
Let's back up a little bit.

733
00:43:23,500 --> 00:43:25,610
What was your reaction
when you heard Hitler died?

734
00:43:25,610 --> 00:43:27,680
Hitler.

735
00:43:27,680 --> 00:43:30,070
Do you remember that?

736
00:43:30,070 --> 00:43:32,440
I don't remember any reaction.

737
00:43:32,440 --> 00:43:35,180
The point is, we were winning.

738
00:43:35,180 --> 00:43:39,210
The war was almost over
or completely over.

739
00:43:39,210 --> 00:43:40,980

That was irrelevant.

740
00:43:40,980 --> 00:43:41,480
OK.

741
00:43:41,480 --> 00:43:43,165
All right, so now
it's August of '45 .

742
00:43:43,165 --> 00:43:47,130

743
00:43:47,130 --> 00:43:54,690
I was sent to Camp San
Francisco near Chateau-Thierry

744
00:43:54,690 --> 00:43:57,690
for reassignment because I
was not ready to go home.

745
00:43:57,690 --> 00:44:00,840
This was the so-called "repo
depot" replacement depot.

746
00:44:00,840 --> 00:44:03,790

747
00:44:03,790 --> 00:44:08,630
I managed to get to Paris
twice, illegal passes.

748
00:44:08,630 --> 00:44:15,740

749
00:44:15,740 --> 00:44:19,170
And I knew I was
going to be sent back

750
00:44:19,170 --> 00:44:25,240
to Germany because,
to be repatriated,

751

00:44:25,240 --> 00:44:27,610
you had to have points.

752
00:44:27,610 --> 00:44:32,240
You earned one point for
every month of active service.

753
00:44:32,240 --> 00:44:37,210
You got a second point for
every month of overseas service,

754
00:44:37,210 --> 00:44:43,090
and you got five points for
every medal or a Purple Heart.

755
00:44:43,090 --> 00:44:45,070
Well, I didn't
have enough points.

756
00:44:45,070 --> 00:44:47,560
I had to wait my turn.

757
00:44:47,560 --> 00:44:55,240
So I was sent back and assigned
to Eisenhower's headquarters,

758
00:44:55,240 --> 00:45:00,010
US Forces European
Theater, USFET,

759
00:45:00,010 --> 00:45:05,440
where I was a clerk working
under a WAC captain,

760
00:45:05,440 --> 00:45:08,410
which I did not resent,
interesting enough.

761
00:45:08,410 --> 00:45:12,310
Some my colleagues resented it.

762
00:45:12,310 --> 00:45:16,270
And one of my duties was to

drive a Colonel to the airport

763

00:45:16,270 --> 00:45:19,420
or something like that, and
I remember the kernel said,

764

00:45:19,420 --> 00:45:22,170
and how do you like
your job, Corporal?

765

00:45:22,170 --> 00:45:25,900
And I said, frankly,
sir, I don't.

766

00:45:25,900 --> 00:45:27,130
I am bored.

767

00:45:27,130 --> 00:45:28,830
I have skills.

768

00:45:28,830 --> 00:45:33,630
I am bilingual, and
I'm not being utilized.

769

00:45:33,630 --> 00:45:35,830
Incredibly enough,
within a week,

770

00:45:35,830 --> 00:45:40,170
I was transferred to
a suburb of Frankfurt.

771

00:45:40,170 --> 00:45:43,100

772

00:45:43,100 --> 00:45:53,830
It was called the US
Information Service.

773

00:45:53,830 --> 00:45:56,710
It later became the US
Information Service.

774

00:45:56,710 --> 00:46:00,130

It was then called the
Information Service Control

775

00:46:00,130 --> 00:46:08,410

Command, where I wound up
in a fascinating assignment

776

00:46:08,410 --> 00:46:10,930

because I had a
minimum of journalism

777

00:46:10,930 --> 00:46:18,690

exposure, a daily digest of
all anti-American activities

778

00:46:18,690 --> 00:46:21,810

in the American sector.

779

00:46:21,810 --> 00:46:25,510

The Werewolves-- I don't know
if you have ever heard of them.

780

00:46:25,510 --> 00:46:28,500

There were some Nazi
fanatics up in the Alps

781

00:46:28,500 --> 00:46:33,460

who were doing terrible
things, trivial.

782

00:46:33,460 --> 00:46:35,110

I mean it never
amounted to anything,

783

00:46:35,110 --> 00:46:39,850

but there was much talk
about the Werewolves.

784

00:46:39,850 --> 00:46:47,300

And the other thing I remember
is any number of Germans

785

00:46:47,300 --> 00:46:50,300
came home and found that their
girlfriends of their wives

786

00:46:50,300 --> 00:46:53,900
had been seduced by Americans
or by American chocolate

787

00:46:53,900 --> 00:46:56,510
and cigarettes,
and thereupon they

788

00:46:56,510 --> 00:47:00,770
either cussed out the
Americans or did actually

789

00:47:00,770 --> 00:47:03,320
something anti-American.

790

00:47:03,320 --> 00:47:08,020
That was the daily compilation,
but what impressed me--

791

00:47:08,020 --> 00:47:09,470
it was for circulation.

792

00:47:09,470 --> 00:47:12,920
Only the colonels and up,
and here I was a corporal.

793

00:47:12,920 --> 00:47:15,560

794

00:47:15,560 --> 00:47:17,990
That lasted a while.

795

00:47:17,990 --> 00:47:23,400
I have since tried
to go to the archives

796

00:47:23,400 --> 00:47:26,980
and find my immortal prose.

797

00:47:26,980 --> 00:47:30,720

I haven't been able to find it,
and it's not worth the effort.

798

00:47:30,720 --> 00:47:35,870

I have not been able to find
comparable compilations either.

799

00:47:35,870 --> 00:47:38,130

You mentioned the Werewolves--
did they come down

800

00:47:38,130 --> 00:47:40,560

hunting for Jews again or no?

801

00:47:40,560 --> 00:47:42,600

You had mentioned
the Werewolves.

802

00:47:42,600 --> 00:47:46,080

Did they come down
hunting for Jews again?

803

00:47:46,080 --> 00:47:47,690

Oh, no, no, no.

804

00:47:47,690 --> 00:47:53,850

That was a continuation of
the fight against the Allies.

805

00:47:53,850 --> 00:47:57,340

Just generally the Allies.

806

00:47:57,340 --> 00:48:00,750

I'm sure they would have--

807

00:48:00,750 --> 00:48:03,910

no, it was not
explicitly antisemitic.

808

00:48:03,910 --> 00:48:06,130

It was anti-Allied.

809
00:48:06,130 --> 00:48:07,550
It didn't amount to anything.

810
00:48:07,550 --> 00:48:12,300
It was trivial,
and it was probably

811
00:48:12,300 --> 00:48:17,340
reported more thoroughly in
the media than it was in fact.

812
00:48:17,340 --> 00:48:22,720

813
00:48:22,720 --> 00:48:28,750
After a few weeks in Hamburg
editing this daily digest,

814
00:48:28,750 --> 00:48:33,030
I asked to be transferred
to the provinces,

815
00:48:33,030 --> 00:48:35,800
and I was assigned
to Regensburg, which

816
00:48:35,800 --> 00:48:37,345
is on the Danube in Bavaria.

817
00:48:37,345 --> 00:48:40,510

818
00:48:40,510 --> 00:48:45,210
The District
Information Command,

819
00:48:45,210 --> 00:48:48,970
which was doing
denazification work--

820

00:48:48,970 --> 00:48:54,230
in those days, to work on a
newly reconstituted newspaper,

821
00:48:54,230 --> 00:48:55,860
or radio--

822
00:48:55,860 --> 00:49:00,530
no television-- or even
appear on the stage,

823
00:49:00,530 --> 00:49:03,800
you had to go through a
denazification process, which

824
00:49:03,800 --> 00:49:10,650
was a questionnaire
with 101 questions.

825
00:49:10,650 --> 00:49:16,620
And there were three of us,
three Americans, in Regensburg

826
00:49:16,620 --> 00:49:20,670
who did this kind
of denazification.

827
00:49:20,670 --> 00:49:26,200
We also did what was no
longer called censorship

828
00:49:26,200 --> 00:49:31,750
of the newspaper but
post-publication scrutiny,

829
00:49:31,750 --> 00:49:33,370
which means we read
the damn thing,

830
00:49:33,370 --> 00:49:35,530
and if we found
anything objectionable

831

00:49:35,530 --> 00:49:37,742
we were supposed to object.

832
00:49:37,742 --> 00:49:38,950
It never happened.

833
00:49:38,950 --> 00:49:41,670

834
00:49:41,670 --> 00:49:43,590
I remember with
a colleague named

835
00:49:43,590 --> 00:49:47,190
Bill Clark, who knew German--

836
00:49:47,190 --> 00:49:52,840
but his German was atrocious,
and I my German, of course,

837
00:49:52,840 --> 00:49:57,660
improved daily and
became much more adult.

838
00:49:57,660 --> 00:50:01,950
We went to the nearby
town of Straubing

839
00:50:01,950 --> 00:50:06,120
because there were rumors
that the local theater had

840
00:50:06,120 --> 00:50:10,930
put on an anti-American play.

841
00:50:10,930 --> 00:50:12,460
I don't remember the author.

842
00:50:12,460 --> 00:50:14,890
I think it was
Kleist, and it dealt

843

00:50:14,890 --> 00:50:19,510
with the French Revolution
or something like that.

844
00:50:19,510 --> 00:50:22,710
We enjoyed the performance,
went back to Regensburg,

845
00:50:22,710 --> 00:50:26,190
and said, nothing.

846
00:50:26,190 --> 00:50:30,760
Straubing sticks in
my memory because I

847
00:50:30,760 --> 00:50:38,760
ran into a German Jew
and his daughter, who

848
00:50:38,760 --> 00:50:42,270
had survived the war--

849
00:50:42,270 --> 00:50:44,700
I think he was
married to a Gentile--

850
00:50:44,700 --> 00:50:47,650

851
00:50:47,650 --> 00:50:57,020
who alleged that he remembered
my ancestral factory 80

852
00:50:57,020 --> 00:50:59,570
kilometers to the north.

853
00:50:59,570 --> 00:51:03,170
I did not pursue it
in any meaningful way.

854
00:51:03,170 --> 00:51:06,130

855

00:51:06,130 --> 00:51:09,780

It was one of the few
cases where I actually

856

00:51:09,780 --> 00:51:16,490

encountered some vague link
with my patrilineal ancestry.

857

00:51:16,490 --> 00:51:21,350

858

00:51:21,350 --> 00:51:24,380

Well, in due time, at
the end of Regensburg,

859

00:51:24,380 --> 00:51:29,250

I had enough points to
be repatriated and--

860

00:51:29,250 --> 00:51:32,240

So you came back to
the United States?

861

00:51:32,240 --> 00:51:39,680

To San Francisco and promptly
enrolled at Berkeley,

862

00:51:39,680 --> 00:51:43,230

and that's it.

863

00:51:43,230 --> 00:51:44,540

Did you graduate from Berkeley?

864

00:51:44,540 --> 00:51:45,710

Yes.

865

00:51:45,710 --> 00:51:47,970

And then just generally,
what did you do?

866

00:51:47,970 --> 00:51:49,220

What kinds of jobs did you do?

867

00:51:49,220 --> 00:51:53,340
Then I was at loose ends and had
some time left on the GI Bill

868

00:51:53,340 --> 00:51:56,540
and decided to go to the
University of Geneva,

869

00:51:56,540 --> 00:52:01,330
the Graduate Institute
of International Studies,

870

00:52:01,330 --> 00:52:07,760
where I spent a semester
plus and then dropped out

871

00:52:07,760 --> 00:52:14,280
because a classmate from
Berkeley and a friend

872

00:52:14,280 --> 00:52:20,210
to this day in Washington
and I accepted jobs

873

00:52:20,210 --> 00:52:24,660
with an English-language
newspaper in, of all places,

874

00:52:24,660 --> 00:52:25,360
Stuttgart.

875

00:52:25,360 --> 00:52:28,040

876

00:52:28,040 --> 00:52:32,410
It went bankrupt at
the end of eight weeks,

877

00:52:32,410 --> 00:52:39,410
and that was my year in Europe.

878

00:52:39,410 --> 00:52:42,410
I was at loose ends.

879
00:52:42,410 --> 00:52:47,060
So I went home and enrolled
in graduate school,

880
00:52:47,060 --> 00:52:51,485
and got a teaching credential
as a fallback position,

881
00:52:51,485 --> 00:52:53,510
and got a master's,
and got a PhD,

882
00:52:53,510 --> 00:52:57,136
and the rest is
history at Berkeley.

883
00:52:57,136 --> 00:52:58,550
A PhD in?

884
00:52:58,550 --> 00:53:03,460
In history and
philosophy of education,

885
00:53:03,460 --> 00:53:06,080
a truly useless subject
which I've since

886
00:53:06,080 --> 00:53:08,533
converted into
more useful things.

887
00:53:08,533 --> 00:53:11,055
And then what kind of
professional career

888
00:53:11,055 --> 00:53:11,660
did you have?

889
00:53:11,660 --> 00:53:13,610
I did some teaching.

890
00:53:13,610 --> 00:53:15,880
I was going to teach forever.

891
00:53:15,880 --> 00:53:18,860
On a college or
high school level?

892
00:53:18,860 --> 00:53:20,030
No, at the college level.

893
00:53:20,030 --> 00:53:21,160
--college level.

894
00:53:21,160 --> 00:53:28,970
Oh, I worked at the high school
level while in graduate school.

895
00:53:28,970 --> 00:53:33,080
I was a substitute teacher
in the Oakland schools,

896
00:53:33,080 --> 00:53:35,630
mostly to make some money.

897
00:53:35,630 --> 00:53:37,100
I was married by then.

898
00:53:37,100 --> 00:53:39,700

899
00:53:39,700 --> 00:53:41,990
Your wife was
American or European?

900
00:53:41,990 --> 00:53:49,970
Very much, born in New York
of immigrant parents, Eastern.

901
00:53:49,970 --> 00:53:52,820
Her mother was born in Odessa.

902

00:53:52,820 --> 00:54:00,780
And she went to UCLA, came to
Berkeley for a summer session,

903

00:54:00,780 --> 00:54:01,682
and that was her--

904

00:54:01,682 --> 00:54:02,390
And then you met?

905

00:54:02,390 --> 00:54:02,890
--doom.

906

00:54:02,890 --> 00:54:06,060

907

00:54:06,060 --> 00:54:10,275
We were only married 45
years, successfully, happily.

908

00:54:10,275 --> 00:54:14,780

909

00:54:14,780 --> 00:54:17,270
So then you taught--
you said you taught?

910

00:54:17,270 --> 00:54:19,210
I taught--

911

00:54:19,210 --> 00:54:21,290
You after you got your
doctorate, did you teach?

912

00:54:21,290 --> 00:54:24,460

913

00:54:24,460 --> 00:54:29,350
No, I taught at the California
College of Arts and Crafts,

914

00:54:29,350 --> 00:54:35,760
where they needed somebody
to teach future art teachers,

915
00:54:35,760 --> 00:54:38,680
and I was half of the
Social Science Department.

916
00:54:38,680 --> 00:54:41,530
I never taught arts or crafts.

917
00:54:41,530 --> 00:54:46,990
I taught at San Francisco
State College for a semester.

918
00:54:46,990 --> 00:54:52,030
It's now called California
State University San Francisco.

919
00:54:52,030 --> 00:54:52,960
Cal State, yeah.

920
00:54:52,960 --> 00:54:54,550
These are inflationary times.

921
00:54:54,550 --> 00:54:58,240

922
00:54:58,240 --> 00:55:03,130
I came east because I had a
job offer from the National

923
00:55:03,130 --> 00:55:07,450
Education Association to
become assistant editor

924
00:55:07,450 --> 00:55:12,220
of the monthly
journal, which was

925
00:55:12,220 --> 00:55:21,010
quite a professional
production, circulation 600,000.

926
00:55:21,010 --> 00:55:22,690
I had a lot to learn.

927
00:55:22,690 --> 00:55:27,200
On the other hand,
I had enough--

928
00:55:27,200 --> 00:55:29,040
Oh, I left out something.

929
00:55:29,040 --> 00:55:32,400

930
00:55:32,400 --> 00:55:39,740
Somewhere along the line I
became a contributing book

931
00:55:39,740 --> 00:55:44,770
reviewer for the San
Francisco Chronicle,

932
00:55:44,770 --> 00:55:48,040
which meant I got to keep
the books, which we traded in

933
00:55:48,040 --> 00:55:51,505
at the Berkeley bookstore,
where we had a positive balance.

934
00:55:51,505 --> 00:55:54,160

935
00:55:54,160 --> 00:55:59,310
They bought them
secondhand but sold them.

936
00:55:59,310 --> 00:56:05,380
I'm sure that-- my wife was
so impressed that she said,

937
00:56:05,380 --> 00:56:08,690

oh, I could try my hand at
that, and I brought home

938
00:56:08,690 --> 00:56:09,440
a couple of books.

939
00:56:09,440 --> 00:56:16,120
She was, at that point, a deputy
juvenile probation officer,

940
00:56:16,120 --> 00:56:19,240
and there was a book on
juvenile delinquency.

941
00:56:19,240 --> 00:56:21,880
And I brought it home, and
she did a glorious review,

942
00:56:21,880 --> 00:56:25,720
which her bosses liked because
she was wove in their names

943
00:56:25,720 --> 00:56:28,180
at the Oakland
Probation Department.

944
00:56:28,180 --> 00:56:33,270

945
00:56:33,270 --> 00:56:37,440
That led to the California
Teachers Association

946
00:56:37,440 --> 00:56:40,860
journal asking me, would I do
an occasional review for them?

947
00:56:40,860 --> 00:56:43,510

948
00:56:43,510 --> 00:56:46,590
I wound up doing a couple
of articles for them,

949
00:56:46,590 --> 00:56:49,620
and that led to a referral
to the National Education

950
00:56:49,620 --> 00:56:53,400
Association, where I
became an assistant editor,

951
00:56:53,400 --> 00:56:55,390
and we moved to Washington.

952
00:56:55,390 --> 00:56:56,700
I've been here ever since.

953
00:56:56,700 --> 00:57:05,940

954
00:57:05,940 --> 00:57:09,990
I taught at Penn State
for one summer session

955
00:57:09,990 --> 00:57:15,735
while working for the NEA in
the history of education--

956
00:57:15,735 --> 00:57:18,330
I recycled my old
lecture notes--

957
00:57:18,330 --> 00:57:21,950

958
00:57:21,950 --> 00:57:30,100
but basically decided that the
academic life was not for me.

959
00:57:30,100 --> 00:57:40,600
I have since had several
research jobs and other policy

960
00:57:40,600 --> 00:57:47,160

jobs in education,
but it's a mixed bag.

961

00:57:47,160 --> 00:57:50,880

And I don't know if you want to
go into my whole career, which

962

00:57:50,880 --> 00:57:54,780

is erratic or opportunistic.

963

00:57:54,780 --> 00:57:57,120

When you were
teaching the students,

964

00:57:57,120 --> 00:57:58,770

did you ever mention
about your child

965

00:57:58,770 --> 00:58:01,665

and where you came
from, your background?

966

00:58:01,665 --> 00:58:02,790

Did you ever bring that up?

967

00:58:02,790 --> 00:58:10,960

Almost certainly not,
no, not pertinent.

968

00:58:10,960 --> 00:58:18,760

969

00:58:18,760 --> 00:58:21,500

Or talked about what your
education was in Germany?

970

00:58:21,500 --> 00:58:26,500

By way of reinforcing
that, while still

971

00:58:26,500 --> 00:58:30,950

working for the
NEA, I was invited

972
00:58:30,950 --> 00:58:34,820
to give a lecture in German.

973
00:58:34,820 --> 00:58:38,300
I was then working for the NEA
for the so-called "Automation

974
00:58:38,300 --> 00:58:42,050
Project," which dealt with
the impact of automation

975
00:58:42,050 --> 00:58:44,330
on education.

976
00:58:44,330 --> 00:58:46,730
I was invited to give
a lecture on automation

977
00:58:46,730 --> 00:58:51,620
at the Ost-Kolleg in
Cologne in German.

978
00:58:51,620 --> 00:58:54,540
OK, sounds like fun.

979
00:58:54,540 --> 00:58:59,250
I wrote the lecture very
carefully in English,

980
00:58:59,250 --> 00:59:04,260
translated it into German, sent
it to a former German classmate

981
00:59:04,260 --> 00:59:07,700
for editing, and
he cleaned it up--

982
00:59:07,700 --> 00:59:12,030
but he said it didn't
need much fixing--

983

00:59:12,030 --> 00:59:17,140
gave the lecture in
Cologne, at the end

984
00:59:17,140 --> 00:59:19,750
of which there was a question
and answer period, which

985
00:59:19,750 --> 00:59:22,550
I handled reasonably well.

986
00:59:22,550 --> 00:59:26,380
And when it was all
over, somebody asked me,

987
00:59:26,380 --> 00:59:32,380
did your parents come
from southern Germany?

988
00:59:32,380 --> 00:59:34,720
I said, yes, why do you ask?

989
00:59:34,720 --> 00:59:38,380
Well, you speak with
a southern accent.

990
00:59:38,380 --> 00:59:42,220
But they never even
entertained the idea

991
00:59:42,220 --> 00:59:45,130
that I was an immigrant or--

992
00:59:45,130 --> 00:59:49,010

993
00:59:49,010 --> 00:59:52,790
I cite the incident only
as an elaborate answer

994
00:59:52,790 --> 00:59:54,700
to your question.

995

00:59:54,700 --> 00:59:59,000