

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:08,300

2

00:00:08,300 --> 00:00:11,000

This is the United States  
Holocaust Memorial Museum

3

00:00:11,000 --> 00:00:15,140

volunteer collection interview  
with Marianne Roberts,

4

00:00:15,140 --> 00:00:23,810

conducted by Gail Schwartz in  
Washington D.C. on April 11th,

5

00:00:23,810 --> 00:00:26,540

2012.

6

00:00:26,540 --> 00:00:30,950

This is track number one.

7

00:00:30,950 --> 00:00:33,470

What is your full name?

8

00:00:33,470 --> 00:00:36,530

Marianne Roberts.

9

00:00:36,530 --> 00:00:43,130

Marianne is spelled  
M-A-R-I-A-N-N-E.

10

00:00:43,130 --> 00:00:46,730

And what is your maiden name?

11

00:00:46,730 --> 00:00:47,470

Cohn.

12

00:00:47,470 --> 00:00:52,740

C-O-H-N. A good [NON-ENGLISH].

13

00:00:52,740 --> 00:00:53,240  
Right.

14  
00:00:53,240 --> 00:00:55,290  
And where were you born?

15  
00:00:55,290 --> 00:00:59,640  
In Ludwigshafen am  
Rhine, in Germany.

16  
00:00:59,640 --> 00:01:02,000  
And when were you born?

17  
00:01:02,000 --> 00:01:05,660  
1920, June the 30th.

18  
00:01:05,660 --> 00:01:07,500  
I think I remember that.

19  
00:01:07,500 --> 00:01:08,570  
[LAUGHS]

20  
00:01:08,570 --> 00:01:12,210  
And let's now talk a little  
bit about your family.

21  
00:01:12,210 --> 00:01:14,580  
How long had they  
been in Germany?

22  
00:01:14,580 --> 00:01:15,590  
Do you know?

23  
00:01:15,590 --> 00:01:18,140  
They were born in  
Germany, my parents.

24  
00:01:18,140 --> 00:01:18,950  
Yes.

25  
00:01:18,950 --> 00:01:20,015  
Your parents' names?

26  
00:01:20,015 --> 00:01:22,970

27  
00:01:22,970 --> 00:01:26,120  
Ida Solomon.

28  
00:01:26,120 --> 00:01:27,500  
Do I need to spell anything?

29  
00:01:27,500 --> 00:01:28,550  
No, that's OK.

30  
00:01:28,550 --> 00:01:35,930  
Ida Solomon, and my father's  
name was Marcus Cohn.

31  
00:01:35,930 --> 00:01:40,130  
C-O-H-N. God bless you.

32  
00:01:40,130 --> 00:01:44,390  
And do you have, or did  
you have, any siblings?

33  
00:01:44,390 --> 00:01:46,440  
Yes, one sister.

34  
00:01:46,440 --> 00:01:51,020  
L-O-T-T-I-E, Lottie, but  
unfortunately she passed away

35  
00:01:51,020 --> 00:01:52,400  
a number of years ago.

36  
00:01:52,400 --> 00:01:53,817  
Was she older or  
younger than you?

37  
00:01:53,817 --> 00:01:57,770  
She was 3 and 1/2 years  
older than I. Yes.

38

00:01:57,770 --> 00:02:01,350

And what kind of work  
did your father do?

39

00:02:01,350 --> 00:02:04,500

My father was an entrepreneur.

40

00:02:04,500 --> 00:02:17,090

He built homes, and  
he built movie houses.

41

00:02:17,090 --> 00:02:20,900

And we ran this one  
movie house in particular

42

00:02:20,900 --> 00:02:25,190

which was very, very  
successful, and was so elegant,

43

00:02:25,190 --> 00:02:30,080

even though Ludwigshafen was  
an industrial city because

44

00:02:30,080 --> 00:02:32,900

of the IG Farben that  
was housed there.

45

00:02:32,900 --> 00:02:45,890

However, my father was able to  
create businesses and homes,

46

00:02:45,890 --> 00:02:49,940

and then the movie house was  
the important thing, of course.

47

00:02:49,940 --> 00:02:51,860

Yeah.

48

00:02:51,860 --> 00:02:53,690

Did your mother work also?

49

00:02:53,690 --> 00:02:57,150

No, she was always  
helping my father.

50  
00:02:57,150 --> 00:02:59,400  
You know, they've  
always worked together.

51  
00:02:59,400 --> 00:03:02,150  
So she worked with your  
father in his business?

52  
00:03:02,150 --> 00:03:03,080  
Yes, yes, yes.

53  
00:03:03,080 --> 00:03:03,980  
OK.

54  
00:03:03,980 --> 00:03:09,050  
And what kind of  
neighborhood did you live in?

55  
00:03:09,050 --> 00:03:11,460  
Was it a Jewish neighborhood  
or a mixed neighborhood?

56  
00:03:11,460 --> 00:03:14,210  
No, it was not a  
Jewish neighborhood.

57  
00:03:14,210 --> 00:03:16,820  
It was in Ludwigshafen  
am Rhine, where

58  
00:03:16,820 --> 00:03:22,700  
there was the IG Farben, which  
is a chemical factory that made

59  
00:03:22,700 --> 00:03:24,960  
bombs during the war, you know.

60  
00:03:24,960 --> 00:03:28,550  
And after the war, I was  
able to come and inspect it,

61  
00:03:28,550 --> 00:03:35,360  
and they were very  
bad kind of a firm.

62  
00:03:35,360 --> 00:03:40,010  
But they were industrial,  
and everybody in Germany

63  
00:03:40,010 --> 00:03:41,530  
adored them, you know.

64  
00:03:41,530 --> 00:03:42,230  
Yeah.

65  
00:03:42,230 --> 00:03:45,618  
So you lived in a Jewish  
neighborhood or a mixed

66  
00:03:45,618 --> 00:03:46,160  
neighborhood?

67  
00:03:46,160 --> 00:03:49,010  
No, it was just a  
mixed neighborhood.

68  
00:03:49,010 --> 00:03:54,650  
There were, on our street, there  
were two other Jewish families,

69  
00:03:54,650 --> 00:03:55,820  
by the way.

70  
00:03:55,820 --> 00:04:00,200  
And we always went to  
synagogue together.

71  
00:04:00,200 --> 00:04:04,250  
But there were not an  
overabundance of Jewish people

72  
00:04:04,250 --> 00:04:05,660

there.

73

00:04:05,660 --> 00:04:07,220

What about extended family?

74

00:04:07,220 --> 00:04:09,680

Grandparents, aunts,  
uncles, cousins?

75

00:04:09,680 --> 00:04:13,370

I have never met  
my grandparents.

76

00:04:13,370 --> 00:04:17,839

I did meet some distant cousins.

77

00:04:17,839 --> 00:04:20,040

So they didn't live  
in the town with you?

78

00:04:20,040 --> 00:04:21,860

Yes, they did.

79

00:04:21,860 --> 00:04:27,680

They did, and they always  
relied very much financially

80

00:04:27,680 --> 00:04:32,000

particularly upon my  
parents helping them.

81

00:04:32,000 --> 00:04:32,600

Yeah.

82

00:04:32,600 --> 00:04:36,050

But we were very closely knit.

83

00:04:36,050 --> 00:04:37,310

So you did see them?

84

00:04:37,310 --> 00:04:40,220

Yes, yes, by all means.

85  
00:04:40,220 --> 00:04:42,520  
OK.

86  
00:04:42,520 --> 00:04:45,230  
You mentioned about  
going to the synagogue.

87  
00:04:45,230 --> 00:04:47,480  
How religious was your  
family, were your parents?

88  
00:04:47,480 --> 00:04:49,610  
Well, let's put it this way.

89  
00:04:49,610 --> 00:04:54,680

90  
00:04:54,680 --> 00:04:58,550  
There was a German  
Jewish synagogue

91  
00:04:58,550 --> 00:05:01,310  
which was very  
formal, and then there

92  
00:05:01,310 --> 00:05:07,040  
was a synagogue that originated  
in Russia and in Poland.

93  
00:05:07,040 --> 00:05:14,150  
And so my father visited  
both, but he particularly

94  
00:05:14,150 --> 00:05:19,760  
visited the Polish  
and Russian temples.

95  
00:05:19,760 --> 00:05:26,840  
Because to please relatives,  
and possibly even my mother,

96



00:05:26,840 --> 00:05:33,500  
because her family died at  
a very young age, actually.

97  
00:05:33,500 --> 00:05:35,000  
So.

98  
00:05:35,000 --> 00:05:37,850  
But did your grandparents  
come from other countries?

99  
00:05:37,850 --> 00:05:39,980  
Or they also were  
born in Germany?

100  
00:05:39,980 --> 00:05:41,495  
They were born in Germany.

101  
00:05:41,495 --> 00:05:42,620  
But even your grandparents?

102  
00:05:42,620 --> 00:05:44,750  
The grandparents, but  
I've never met them.

103  
00:05:44,750 --> 00:05:48,750  
One time only I had the pleasure  
of meeting a grandfather,

104  
00:05:48,750 --> 00:05:50,870  
my mother's father, here.

105  
00:05:50,870 --> 00:05:54,800  
And then you were born in  
1920, so you started school?

106  
00:05:54,800 --> 00:05:55,370  
Yes.

107  
00:05:55,370 --> 00:05:58,730  
And were your friends  
Jewish or non-Jewish

108

00:05:58,730 --> 00:06:00,830  
or both when you were young?

109

00:06:00,830 --> 00:06:07,610  
When I was young, there was  
always rampant anti-Semitism.

110

00:06:07,610 --> 00:06:11,390  
And the other children  
would come and stick

111

00:06:11,390 --> 00:06:17,780  
their finger into my chest and  
say, you killed Jesus Christ.

112

00:06:17,780 --> 00:06:22,040  
So under those circumstances, I  
didn't have a chance, you know.

113

00:06:22,040 --> 00:06:24,650  
You killed Jesus Christ.

114

00:06:24,650 --> 00:06:27,390  
So I personally  
did that, you know.

115

00:06:27,390 --> 00:06:29,210  
So.

116

00:06:29,210 --> 00:06:32,070  
So you went to a public  
school with Jewish children

117

00:06:32,070 --> 00:06:33,950  
and non-Jewish children?

118

00:06:33,950 --> 00:06:37,490  
I went to public school where  
I was the only Jewish child

119

00:06:37,490 --> 00:06:38,630  
in the whole school.

120  
00:06:38,630 --> 00:06:39,560  
Oh my.

121  
00:06:39,560 --> 00:06:40,280  
Yeah.

122  
00:06:40,280 --> 00:06:44,870  
And eventually, when  
Hitler came to power,

123  
00:06:44,870 --> 00:06:47,540  
both my sister and I  
were thrown out of school

124  
00:06:47,540 --> 00:06:49,580  
because we were Jewish.

125  
00:06:49,580 --> 00:06:52,010  
So when Adolf Hitler  
came to power--

126  
00:06:52,010 --> 00:06:54,920  
I'm sure you've heard of him--

127  
00:06:54,920 --> 00:06:56,870  
all the fun was gone.

128  
00:06:56,870 --> 00:07:00,650  
And the teachers, there was  
a professor particularly,

129  
00:07:00,650 --> 00:07:02,880  
he always came to  
visit my parents,

130  
00:07:02,880 --> 00:07:05,000  
and he was so nice to me.

131  
00:07:05,000 --> 00:07:11,510  
Well, in order to  
exist in his position,

132

00:07:11,510 --> 00:07:16,490  
these people had to abide with  
Hitler's ruling, and to make

133

00:07:16,490 --> 00:07:20,120  
believe that they were  
friendly to Hitler.

134

00:07:20,120 --> 00:07:25,610  
So the relationship  
didn't any longer

135

00:07:25,610 --> 00:07:28,140  
last the way it  
should have, yeah.

136

00:07:28,140 --> 00:07:32,120  
Let's stay a little bit in  
the time up to Hitler first.

137

00:07:32,120 --> 00:07:36,020  
Up to 1933.

138

00:07:36,020 --> 00:07:38,240  
How would you describe  
yourself at that time?

139

00:07:38,240 --> 00:07:40,820  
Were you an independent  
child, or very

140

00:07:40,820 --> 00:07:42,140  
attached to your parents?

141

00:07:42,140 --> 00:07:46,830  
Well, my sister was far more  
independent than I. She was 3

142

00:07:46,830 --> 00:07:48,350  
and 1/2 years older.

143

00:07:48,350 --> 00:07:49,385  
She liked the boys.

144  
00:07:49,385 --> 00:07:50,990  
[LAUGHS] Yeah.

145  
00:07:50,990 --> 00:07:54,320  
And I was more or less  
clinging to my mother's skirts.

146  
00:07:54,320 --> 00:07:58,030

147  
00:07:58,030 --> 00:07:59,440  
Did you have any interests?

148  
00:07:59,440 --> 00:08:02,620  
Were you interested in  
sports, or music, or reading?

149  
00:08:02,620 --> 00:08:04,480  
Music, particularly.

150  
00:08:04,480 --> 00:08:12,400  
And also, we got a grand piano  
and we took piano lessons.

151  
00:08:12,400 --> 00:08:15,730  
But unfortunately, being  
I was the younger one,

152  
00:08:15,730 --> 00:08:19,210  
I followed my  
sister's suggestions.

153  
00:08:19,210 --> 00:08:23,440  
And she wanted no  
part of piano lessons,

154  
00:08:23,440 --> 00:08:26,710  
and she said, this is  
not for me, I've had it.

155

00:08:26,710 --> 00:08:28,330

And I was a little girl.

156

00:08:28,330 --> 00:08:30,280

I said, yeah, for me too.

157

00:08:30,280 --> 00:08:30,950

Yeah.

158

00:08:30,950 --> 00:08:34,960

And to this day, I'm the  
saddest person in the world.

159

00:08:34,960 --> 00:08:36,174

You can still do it.

160

00:08:36,174 --> 00:08:36,700

[LAUGHS]

161

00:08:36,700 --> 00:08:43,000

Well, I'm just a little bit  
older than the average student,

162

00:08:43,000 --> 00:08:43,510

you know.

163

00:08:43,510 --> 00:08:44,169

Yeah.

164

00:08:44,169 --> 00:08:46,870

You know I'm an old lady.

165

00:08:46,870 --> 00:08:51,950

And the other day, someone  
said Marianne, how old are you?

166

00:08:51,950 --> 00:08:53,470

I said 61.

167

00:08:53,470 --> 00:08:55,720

Then I took two steps and

I turned around and said,

168  
00:08:55,720 --> 00:08:57,665  
no, no, no, not 61, 91.

169  
00:08:57,665 --> 00:08:58,540  
It's almost the same.

170  
00:08:58,540 --> 00:09:02,510  
There's some little bit of  
difference between the two.

171  
00:09:02,510 --> 00:09:06,053  
So it sounds like you your  
family was quite upper class.

172  
00:09:06,053 --> 00:09:06,970  
You had music lessons.

173  
00:09:06,970 --> 00:09:08,960  
They certainly were, yes.

174  
00:09:08,960 --> 00:09:09,460  
Yes.

175  
00:09:09,460 --> 00:09:11,330  
Did your mother  
have household help?

176  
00:09:11,330 --> 00:09:11,830  
Yes.

177  
00:09:11,830 --> 00:09:12,530  
Oh, yes.

178  
00:09:12,530 --> 00:09:14,230  
Non-Jewish household help?

179  
00:09:14,230 --> 00:09:16,300  
Non-Jewish household help.

180

00:09:16,300 --> 00:09:20,260

The Jewish girls didn't  
want to become, yeah.

181

00:09:20,260 --> 00:09:24,070

And the relationship between the  
non-Jewish help and your family

182

00:09:24,070 --> 00:09:26,485

was good up till '33?

183

00:09:26,485 --> 00:09:28,040

Yes, excellent, excellent.

184

00:09:28,040 --> 00:09:28,540

No problems.

185

00:09:28,540 --> 00:09:29,260

Yeah.

186

00:09:29,260 --> 00:09:30,250

Yeah.

187

00:09:30,250 --> 00:09:32,500

And did you do sports?

188

00:09:32,500 --> 00:09:34,150

Any sports?

189

00:09:34,150 --> 00:09:39,250

My sister moreso than I. And

I was quite young, you see.

190

00:09:39,250 --> 00:09:40,930

This is many a moon ago.

191

00:09:40,930 --> 00:09:43,520

Right.

192

00:09:43,520 --> 00:09:44,800

Oh, and how religious?



193

00:09:44,800 --> 00:09:46,990

You said your father  
did go to Sunday--

194

00:09:46,990 --> 00:09:48,640

did you go to Hebrew school?

195

00:09:48,640 --> 00:09:49,360

Yes.

196

00:09:49,360 --> 00:09:54,680

We called it religious school,  
but it's like Hebrew school.

197

00:09:54,680 --> 00:09:55,390

Yeah.

198

00:09:55,390 --> 00:09:56,950

Yes.

199

00:09:56,950 --> 00:10:00,490

And did your family celebrate  
Passover, or the Sabbath?

200

00:10:00,490 --> 00:10:02,060

Yes, we did.

201

00:10:02,060 --> 00:10:04,840

They were not  
Orthodox by any means.

202

00:10:04,840 --> 00:10:08,920

However, we did celebrate  
all the Jewish holidays.

203

00:10:08,920 --> 00:10:09,550

Yes.

204

00:10:09,550 --> 00:10:12,970

Do you have any special  
memories of a Passover Seder?

205

00:10:12,970 --> 00:10:15,640

This is, again, before  
Hitler when you were younger.

206

00:10:15,640 --> 00:10:18,370

Any special memories?

207

00:10:18,370 --> 00:10:20,110

I really don't know--

208

00:10:20,110 --> 00:10:22,480

Family coming over,  
or anything like that?

209

00:10:22,480 --> 00:10:23,170

--any special.

210

00:10:23,170 --> 00:10:25,730

211

00:10:25,730 --> 00:10:29,900

I'm trying to remember,  
but I really cannot.

212

00:10:29,900 --> 00:10:31,370

I was quite young.

213

00:10:31,370 --> 00:10:34,130

You always liked making challah.

214

00:10:34,130 --> 00:10:37,270

Oh yes, I was helping my  
mother making challah.

215

00:10:37,270 --> 00:10:38,940

Yeah, that's true.

216

00:10:38,940 --> 00:10:41,410

Yeah, yeah.

217

00:10:41,410 --> 00:10:43,210

Oh, I'm sorry.

218  
00:10:43,210 --> 00:10:44,320  
That's OK.

219  
00:10:44,320 --> 00:10:45,356  
No problem.

220  
00:10:45,356 --> 00:10:49,040  
You see how important you are?

221  
00:10:49,040 --> 00:10:49,540  
OK.

222  
00:10:49,540 --> 00:10:54,370  
Let's move up ahead now to 1933.

223  
00:10:54,370 --> 00:10:57,310  
What is your first  
memory of Hitler?

224  
00:10:57,310 --> 00:11:00,010  
Or do you know when you  
first heard about him?

225  
00:11:00,010 --> 00:11:03,400  
I heard that he was  
speaking in a big park.

226  
00:11:03,400 --> 00:11:07,840  
And I went, like a good  
little girl, to the big park.

227  
00:11:07,840 --> 00:11:11,290  
And this guy was  
making a speech.

228  
00:11:11,290 --> 00:11:17,050  
He was not making a speech, he  
was screaming like an idiot.

229  
00:11:17,050 --> 00:11:18,550

He was screaming.

230

00:11:18,550 --> 00:11:21,970

And I lost my taste  
for him immediately,

231

00:11:21,970 --> 00:11:23,680

and then when I  
found out what he

232

00:11:23,680 --> 00:11:27,340

was going to do to us,  
to the Jewish people,

233

00:11:27,340 --> 00:11:30,430

it was goodbye Charlie.

234

00:11:30,430 --> 00:11:32,500

What language did  
you speak at home?

235

00:11:32,500 --> 00:11:33,730

At home, German.

236

00:11:33,730 --> 00:11:35,080

Did you speak Yiddish at all?

237

00:11:35,080 --> 00:11:35,920

No.

238

00:11:35,920 --> 00:11:38,770

The German Jews  
don't speak Yiddish.

239

00:11:38,770 --> 00:11:39,670

Yeah

240

00:11:39,670 --> 00:11:44,530

OK, so and as you said  
before, the teacher at school,

241

00:11:44,530 --> 00:11:47,400

once Hitler came into power,  
changed his relationship

242  
00:11:47,400 --> 00:11:47,900  
with you.

243  
00:11:47,900 --> 00:11:51,640  
There was this professor  
who taught us German.

244  
00:11:51,640 --> 00:11:54,640  
I mean it was in Germany,  
a German language.

245  
00:11:54,640 --> 00:11:58,690  
Like here, if a professor  
teaches us English, you know?

246  
00:11:58,690 --> 00:12:01,720  
So that's how he was  
teaching us German,

247  
00:12:01,720 --> 00:12:07,660  
even though we lived in Germany  
and he was a German professor.

248  
00:12:07,660 --> 00:12:10,690  
But there was no slang involved.

249  
00:12:10,690 --> 00:12:13,450  
My father would have never  
allowed slang anywhere.

250  
00:12:13,450 --> 00:12:16,900  
He was a believer  
in the language

251  
00:12:16,900 --> 00:12:20,080  
as it's supposed  
to be, you know.

252  
00:12:20,080 --> 00:12:24,130  
Had your father

fought in World War I?

253

00:12:24,130 --> 00:12:32,170

In fact, not only World War

I. In the Second World War,

254

00:12:32,170 --> 00:12:34,070

he was shot in the lungs.

255

00:12:34,070 --> 00:12:35,260

In the First World War.

256

00:12:35,260 --> 00:12:36,370

In the First World War.

257

00:12:36,370 --> 00:12:37,690

Thank you Joanie.

258

00:12:37,690 --> 00:12:42,520

He was shot in the

lungs, and therefore,

259

00:12:42,520 --> 00:12:47,380

he spent many a moon in

Switzerland in the sanatorium,

260

00:12:47,380 --> 00:12:48,010

you know.

261

00:12:48,010 --> 00:12:53,020

262

00:12:53,020 --> 00:12:55,060

When Hitler first

came into power

263

00:12:55,060 --> 00:12:58,090

and people realized

what he was going to do,

264

00:12:58,090 --> 00:13:01,750

did your parents talk this

over with you and your sister?

265

00:13:01,750 --> 00:13:03,070

Or just your sister?

266

00:13:03,070 --> 00:13:08,200

My father died the day

Hitler came into power.

267

00:13:08,200 --> 00:13:13,690

And I must tell you that

things change overnight.

268

00:13:13,690 --> 00:13:15,610

There was a projectionist.

269

00:13:15,610 --> 00:13:18,970

We had two projectionists

in our movie,

270

00:13:18,970 --> 00:13:27,100

so they were upstairs on the

roof in the projection room.

271

00:13:27,100 --> 00:13:31,240

And the day Hitler

came to power,

272

00:13:31,240 --> 00:13:36,070

whereas before, my father

was no longer here.

273

00:13:36,070 --> 00:13:41,800

So my mother always ran

the movies and whatever,

274

00:13:41,800 --> 00:13:43,400

and the businesses.

275

00:13:43,400 --> 00:13:46,660

And so the younger

projectionist came down,

276

00:13:46,660 --> 00:13:49,060

and he sat down in  
our kitchen, and he

277

00:13:49,060 --> 00:13:52,750

was so fresh to my  
mother for the first time

278

00:13:52,750 --> 00:13:55,930

because the Hitler gave  
him the power to do this

279

00:13:55,930 --> 00:13:58,270

to this Jewish woman, you see.

280

00:13:58,270 --> 00:14:01,510

You were dirt if you  
were Jewish, you know.

281

00:14:01,510 --> 00:14:04,840

Did your father die  
suddenly, or had he been ill?

282

00:14:04,840 --> 00:14:07,180

No he had been ill.

283

00:14:07,180 --> 00:14:14,590

Due to the First World War,  
he contracted tuberculosis

284

00:14:14,590 --> 00:14:17,020

from being shot in the lungs.

285

00:14:17,020 --> 00:14:17,800

Yeah.

286

00:14:17,800 --> 00:14:22,690

So he was sick for a  
long time, and we always

287

00:14:22,690 --> 00:14:27,730

came to visit him in



Switzerland in the high up--

288

00:14:27,730 --> 00:14:28,840

In the Alps?

289

00:14:28,840 --> 00:14:29,560

Yeah.

290

00:14:29,560 --> 00:14:33,350

And then again, he  
spent time at home too.

291

00:14:33,350 --> 00:14:35,625

But such is life, yeah.

292

00:14:35,625 --> 00:14:37,750

So your mother took an  
active role in the business?

293

00:14:37,750 --> 00:14:38,770

Oh yes, she did.

294

00:14:38,770 --> 00:14:40,540

She had to, yeah.

295

00:14:40,540 --> 00:14:45,070

So now Hitler is in power  
and you're still at school.

296

00:14:45,070 --> 00:14:46,600

Yeah, until he threw us out.

297

00:14:46,600 --> 00:14:48,290

You're 13 years old.

298

00:14:48,290 --> 00:14:48,790

Yep.

299

00:14:48,790 --> 00:14:52,180

Until the first thing was, he  
threw all the Jewish kids out

300  
00:14:52,180 --> 00:14:53,180  
of school.

301  
00:14:53,180 --> 00:14:57,670  
So my sister and I  
were without schools.

302  
00:14:57,670 --> 00:14:59,560  
Do you remember what  
your feelings were?

303  
00:14:59,560 --> 00:15:02,350  
What is it like to a child  
to be thrown out of school?

304  
00:15:02,350 --> 00:15:07,180  
I mean to say, we felt,  
in a sense, like dirt.

305  
00:15:07,180 --> 00:15:11,530  
And certainly felt no  
love for Hitler, because--

306  
00:15:11,530 --> 00:15:14,650  
And you said you were the only  
Jewish children in the school?

307  
00:15:14,650 --> 00:15:16,510  
Yes, that's true.

308  
00:15:16,510 --> 00:15:17,140  
Yeah.

309  
00:15:17,140 --> 00:15:20,410  
But there may have been  
other schools where they also

310  
00:15:20,410 --> 00:15:23,570  
had Jewish children.

311  
00:15:23,570 --> 00:15:24,560  
So then what happened?

312  
00:15:24,560 --> 00:15:27,305  
How did you get your  
education from that point on?

313  
00:15:27,305 --> 00:15:27,805  
Well.

314  
00:15:27,805 --> 00:15:30,720

315  
00:15:30,720 --> 00:15:32,370  
It was just your mother?

316  
00:15:32,370 --> 00:15:35,030

317  
00:15:35,030 --> 00:15:44,970  
My mother, and also there  
was a Jewish professor

318  
00:15:44,970 --> 00:15:49,820  
with a very high level title.

319  
00:15:49,820 --> 00:15:54,390  
And the Herr [NON-ENGLISH]  
[? Wetzler, ?] yeah.

320  
00:15:54,390 --> 00:15:59,290  
So from him, we got  
most of our education.

321  
00:15:59,290 --> 00:16:02,655  
So you had a private  
education with this professor?

322  
00:16:02,655 --> 00:16:03,780  
It was you and your sister.

323  
00:16:03,780 --> 00:16:08,250  
Were there other Jewish children  
in the town who joined you?

324  
00:16:08,250 --> 00:16:10,440  
Just a handful, very few.

325  
00:16:10,440 --> 00:16:11,922  
And where did you meet?

326  
00:16:11,922 --> 00:16:13,130  
In your house?

327  
00:16:13,130 --> 00:16:15,610  
We met, no, no.

328  
00:16:15,610 --> 00:16:21,070  
We met in the synagogue  
until the Nazis came and got

329  
00:16:21,070 --> 00:16:22,960  
a hold of the  
rabbi and threw him

330  
00:16:22,960 --> 00:16:28,130  
onto the floor in the street  
and lit a fire under him.

331  
00:16:28,130 --> 00:16:35,428  
And so things became very  
bad after that, you know.

332  
00:16:35,428 --> 00:16:38,420

333  
00:16:38,420 --> 00:16:40,140  
You have heard of  
the 10th of November?

334  
00:16:40,140 --> 00:16:40,640  
Yes.

335  
00:16:40,640 --> 00:16:41,270  
Yeah.

336

00:16:41,270 --> 00:16:43,260

So we witnessed that.

337

00:16:43,260 --> 00:16:44,330

And, yeah.

338

00:16:44,330 --> 00:16:45,230

We'll get to that.

339

00:16:45,230 --> 00:16:45,730

Yeah.

340

00:16:45,730 --> 00:16:49,000

I just wanted to do the early  
part of Hitler's ascension

341

00:16:49,000 --> 00:16:50,540

to office.

342

00:16:50,540 --> 00:16:54,560

So school was  
closed, and studied

343

00:16:54,560 --> 00:16:56,900

with this private professor.

344

00:16:56,900 --> 00:16:59,300

And what about when you  
walked out on the street

345

00:16:59,300 --> 00:17:02,930

and you saw friends,  
non-Jewish former friends?

346

00:17:02,930 --> 00:17:06,980

There had come a  
point very early on,

347

00:17:06,980 --> 00:17:14,250

when those people would have  
said hello, Marianne, would

348

00:17:14,250 --> 00:17:17,910

have been thrown  
into jail, and no one

349

00:17:17,910 --> 00:17:22,319

was allowed to contact us.

350

00:17:22,319 --> 00:17:26,859

And in fact, we were having  
a problem even getting food.

351

00:17:26,859 --> 00:17:31,560

There was a little boy who was  
somehow able to get food to us.

352

00:17:31,560 --> 00:17:36,690

And then we stayed for a while  
with Russian Jewish people,

353

00:17:36,690 --> 00:17:39,930

because my sister kind of  
was engaged to the son.

354

00:17:39,930 --> 00:17:43,100

355

00:17:43,100 --> 00:17:48,680

Tell the story of going to  
eat cake in the little cafe

356

00:17:48,680 --> 00:17:51,680

and you had you had  
to leave your table

357

00:17:51,680 --> 00:17:54,380

because you were Jewish  
and other people needed

358

00:17:54,380 --> 00:17:56,100

to sit down.

359

00:17:56,100 --> 00:17:57,576

I don't remember that.

360  
00:17:57,576 --> 00:17:58,890  
Oh, OK.

361  
00:17:58,890 --> 00:17:59,610  
OK.

362  
00:17:59,610 --> 00:18:02,850  
So it was your mother  
and you and your sister

363  
00:18:02,850 --> 00:18:04,260  
and a few other Jewish children.

364  
00:18:04,260 --> 00:18:06,780  
Did you live near this theater?

365  
00:18:06,780 --> 00:18:07,930  
Was your house near the--

366  
00:18:07,930 --> 00:18:10,470  
Yes, because my father  
built the whole thing.

367  
00:18:10,470 --> 00:18:12,803  
The house, and other  
houses, and he was an--

368  
00:18:12,803 --> 00:18:14,970  
So you lived in the same  
area where the theater was?

369  
00:18:14,970 --> 00:18:15,650  
Oh yes.

370  
00:18:15,650 --> 00:18:19,350  
Did you live in a private  
home, or an apartment?

371  
00:18:19,350 --> 00:18:25,430  
It was actually both private.

372  
00:18:25,430 --> 00:18:31,860  
It was a private area  
actually, but it was.

373  
00:18:31,860 --> 00:18:32,640  
Yeah.

374  
00:18:32,640 --> 00:18:38,340  
And when the Nazis came, there  
were some other Jewish people

375  
00:18:38,340 --> 00:18:44,900  
living there in that  
area, and they came

376  
00:18:44,900 --> 00:18:50,600  
and they had hidden their  
moneys in the rain pipe.

377  
00:18:50,600 --> 00:18:51,650  
Oh my.

378  
00:18:51,650 --> 00:18:53,630  
Drain pipe, rain pipe.

379  
00:18:53,630 --> 00:18:57,290  
And so the Nazis  
came, and they somehow

380  
00:18:57,290 --> 00:18:59,660  
knew where to find  
all the money.

381  
00:18:59,660 --> 00:19:03,470  
This man did have a good  
deal of money, so I hear.

382  
00:19:03,470 --> 00:19:06,680  
And they took the parents  
away and left the kids--

383



00:19:06,680 --> 00:19:10,730  
little kiddies, three of them,  
maybe starting three years--

384  
00:19:10,730 --> 00:19:12,320  
let them just sit there.

385  
00:19:12,320 --> 00:19:14,870  
So then my sister  
and I went upstairs,

386  
00:19:14,870 --> 00:19:20,150  
and we took the children and  
then the regular police in town

387  
00:19:20,150 --> 00:19:22,730  
came and took them,  
and I don't know

388  
00:19:22,730 --> 00:19:25,400  
what ever happened to them.

389  
00:19:25,400 --> 00:19:27,650  
What was the name of  
the street you lived on?

390  
00:19:27,650 --> 00:19:29,450  
Prizregentenstrasse.

391  
00:19:29,450 --> 00:19:31,972  
Prince Regent Street.

392  
00:19:31,972 --> 00:19:32,930  
Do you know the number?

393  
00:19:32,930 --> 00:19:34,260  
Prince Regent, you know.

394  
00:19:34,260 --> 00:19:37,210  
Do you remember the number?

395  
00:19:37,210 --> 00:19:40,160

FÃ¼nfundvierzig, 45.

396  
00:19:40,160 --> 00:19:40,910  
Yeah.

397  
00:19:40,910 --> 00:19:42,380  
Amazing.

398  
00:19:42,380 --> 00:19:47,390  
Now what is it like for a  
13, 14, 15-year-old girl

399  
00:19:47,390 --> 00:19:52,370  
to see Nazi soldiers in uniforms  
marching down the street?

400  
00:19:52,370 --> 00:19:53,660  
What does it feel like?

401  
00:19:53,660 --> 00:19:56,330  
Believe me, it ain't funny.

402  
00:19:56,330 --> 00:19:58,340  
Believe me.

403  
00:19:58,340 --> 00:20:01,100  
What is it like for  
a girl this age?

404  
00:20:01,100 --> 00:20:02,750  
Being scared to death.

405  
00:20:02,750 --> 00:20:12,560  
And many times, the Nazis in  
the office of the mayor, what

406  
00:20:12,560 --> 00:20:16,610  
my older sister called  
in and questioned her,

407  
00:20:16,610 --> 00:20:19,520  
and she came back and

she said it was awful.

408  
00:20:19,520 --> 00:20:21,590  
You know?

409  
00:20:21,590 --> 00:20:23,690  
What did they  
question her about?

410  
00:20:23,690 --> 00:20:24,450  
Who knows?

411  
00:20:24,450 --> 00:20:27,500  
They made some  
kind of an excuse.

412  
00:20:27,500 --> 00:20:28,775  
They made up some story.

413  
00:20:28,775 --> 00:20:32,990

414  
00:20:32,990 --> 00:20:34,040  
I don't know what.

415  
00:20:34,040 --> 00:20:37,610  
They just made up  
a story, and they

416  
00:20:37,610 --> 00:20:42,110  
tried to blame the Jews on  
things that never occurred,

417  
00:20:42,110 --> 00:20:43,220  
you know.

418  
00:20:43,220 --> 00:20:47,180  
And also to look at a flag.

419  
00:20:47,180 --> 00:20:51,230  
The red, white and black  
flag with the swastika on it.

420  
00:20:51,230 --> 00:20:53,450  
Did you have any  
physical feelings?

421  
00:20:53,450 --> 00:20:54,590  
For the flag?

422  
00:20:54,590 --> 00:20:56,200  
Yeah.

423  
00:20:56,200 --> 00:20:58,030  
Was that a frightening  
sight also?

424  
00:20:58,030 --> 00:21:00,830  
That was very despicable.

425  
00:21:00,830 --> 00:21:03,050  
That was very despicable.

426  
00:21:03,050 --> 00:21:07,070  
And there came a time when  
we were hiding in cellars.

427  
00:21:07,070 --> 00:21:07,820  
You know?

428  
00:21:07,820 --> 00:21:12,380  
And we could only take so  
much of all this nonsense.

429  
00:21:12,380 --> 00:21:14,780  
And eventually we had  
to hide in cellars,

430  
00:21:14,780 --> 00:21:18,080  
and the little boy  
occasionally brought us food

431  
00:21:18,080 --> 00:21:24,140  
and then we also, after a while,

lived with my sister's fiancée

432

00:21:24,140 --> 00:21:27,200  
who were Jews from Russia.

433

00:21:27,200 --> 00:21:29,780  
And they hadn't  
been touched yet.

434

00:21:29,780 --> 00:21:34,500  
But the Nazis would  
come in, 12:00 midnight,

435

00:21:34,500 --> 00:21:37,050  
and knock on the  
door and wake us up.

436

00:21:37,050 --> 00:21:40,140  
This is when you were still in  
your apartment, in your house?

437

00:21:40,140 --> 00:21:41,526  
No, no longer.

438

00:21:41,526 --> 00:21:44,900  
No, we had to stay  
with the Russian--

439

00:21:44,900 --> 00:21:48,140  
Do you remember when  
you left your apartment?

440

00:21:48,140 --> 00:21:50,325  
Your house?

441

00:21:50,325 --> 00:21:51,200  
Your father had died.

442

00:21:51,200 --> 00:21:52,283  
You were with your mother.

443

00:21:52,283 --> 00:21:56,080

I can tell you when we left.

444

00:21:56,080 --> 00:21:58,340

You've heard of the  
Holocaust, haven't you?

445

00:21:58,340 --> 00:21:58,840

Yes.

446

00:21:58,840 --> 00:21:59,710

Yeah.

447

00:21:59,710 --> 00:22:20,720

So one fine day, a Polish  
boy and his parents

448

00:22:20,720 --> 00:22:24,080

had been killed by the Nazis.

449

00:22:24,080 --> 00:22:29,690

And so this boy went to  
Paris, and his mission

450

00:22:29,690 --> 00:22:33,110

was to kill a visiting  
German attache.

451

00:22:33,110 --> 00:22:33,950

Oh, I see.

452

00:22:33,950 --> 00:22:35,650

Vom Rath was the guy's name.

453

00:22:35,650 --> 00:22:37,490

I thought it was  
somebody you knew.

454

00:22:37,490 --> 00:22:38,640

Yes, of course.

455

00:22:38,640 --> 00:22:41,330

And so that's what happened.

456  
00:22:41,330 --> 00:22:44,097  
He killed him, and so then--

457  
00:22:44,097 --> 00:22:44,930  
Kristallnacht, yeah.

458  
00:22:44,930 --> 00:22:51,540  
--Hitler in the next second got  
on the phone and on the radio,

459  
00:22:51,540 --> 00:22:56,400  
and he said, the Jews are  
going to pay for this.

460  
00:22:56,400 --> 00:23:00,230  
And they're going to destroy  
all the Jewish homes.

461  
00:23:00,230 --> 00:23:01,940  
That was the tenth of November.

462  
00:23:01,940 --> 00:23:04,490  
My dear, that is unforgettable.

463  
00:23:04,490 --> 00:23:09,410  
But what I was talking about  
was between 1933 and 1938,

464  
00:23:09,410 --> 00:23:10,640  
before Kristallnacht.

465  
00:23:10,640 --> 00:23:11,360  
I wanted to--

466  
00:23:11,360 --> 00:23:14,150  
Between '33 and '38?

467  
00:23:14,150 --> 00:23:15,380  
Before, yeah.

468

00:23:15,380 --> 00:23:18,200

Any other memories that  
you have of that time?

469

00:23:18,200 --> 00:23:20,100

You just stayed  
in your own home,

470

00:23:20,100 --> 00:23:22,450

and was getting schooled  
by this professor?

471

00:23:22,450 --> 00:23:28,860

No, our home was destroyed  
the 10th of November.

472

00:23:28,860 --> 00:23:29,390

But, OK.

473

00:23:29,390 --> 00:23:32,180

So you were in your home  
up to the 10th of November.

474

00:23:32,180 --> 00:23:35,990

Up until then, but then  
we went to Russian Jews,

475

00:23:35,990 --> 00:23:39,430

who was my sister was  
engaged to their son.

476

00:23:39,430 --> 00:23:39,930

Yeah.

477

00:23:39,930 --> 00:23:43,760

Mom, can I explain  
to Gail a little bit?

478

00:23:43,760 --> 00:23:44,620

Any time.

479

00:23:44,620 --> 00:23:45,180

Go ahead.



480  
00:23:45,180 --> 00:23:45,680  
OK.

481  
00:23:45,680 --> 00:23:51,090  
So in 1933, your father died.

482  
00:23:51,090 --> 00:23:53,120  
You were 12.

483  
00:23:53,120 --> 00:23:57,320  
In 1936, your mother died.

484  
00:23:57,320 --> 00:23:59,540  
You were 16.

485  
00:23:59,540 --> 00:24:04,320  
You were still living in the  
apartment next to the movies.

486  
00:24:04,320 --> 00:24:04,820  
Yeah.

487  
00:24:04,820 --> 00:24:06,860  
Until your mother died.

488  
00:24:06,860 --> 00:24:11,570  
And then you and your sister  
Lottie lived in the apartment

489  
00:24:11,570 --> 00:24:16,400  
by yourselves from '36,  
when your mother died,

490  
00:24:16,400 --> 00:24:19,430  
until Kristallnacht.

491  
00:24:19,430 --> 00:24:22,820  
Then on Kristallnacht, they  
destroyed the apartment

492

00:24:22,820 --> 00:24:24,050  
so you went into hiding.

493  
00:24:24,050 --> 00:24:24,950  
I see, OK.

494  
00:24:24,950 --> 00:24:28,250  
That's what-- God bless her.

495  
00:24:28,250 --> 00:24:29,210  
OK.

496  
00:24:29,210 --> 00:24:35,270  
So had your mother been ill,  
or did she die suddenly?

497  
00:24:35,270 --> 00:24:38,450  
She contracted an illness.

498  
00:24:38,450 --> 00:24:41,220  
She had--

499  
00:24:41,220 --> 00:24:42,420  
Pancreatic cancer.

500  
00:24:42,420 --> 00:24:45,080  
--pancreatic cancer, yeah.

501  
00:24:45,080 --> 00:24:47,490  
Now what would I do without you?

502  
00:24:47,490 --> 00:24:50,720  
And that's how she died, yeah.

503  
00:24:50,720 --> 00:24:52,940  
That was, we were  
fortunate there was still

504  
00:24:52,940 --> 00:24:55,640  
one Jewish hospital  
left in town.

505

00:24:55,640 --> 00:24:58,160

So that's where  
she went to, yeah.

506

00:24:58,160 --> 00:25:02,400

So you and your sister stayed  
in the apartment from 1936 on?

507

00:25:02,400 --> 00:25:04,010

Until Kristallnacht?

508

00:25:04,010 --> 00:25:08,350

How did you get food  
during that time?

509

00:25:08,350 --> 00:25:11,620

Well, in the beginning  
we were still

510

00:25:11,620 --> 00:25:13,810

able to go into the store.

511

00:25:13,810 --> 00:25:17,860

But I remember distinctly,  
I was in the store

512

00:25:17,860 --> 00:25:21,310

and I was at the head of the  
line in the grocery store,

513

00:25:21,310 --> 00:25:24,250

and I wanted  
something, and the guy

514

00:25:24,250 --> 00:25:27,970

said the Jews go on  
the back of the line.

515

00:25:27,970 --> 00:25:30,970

And he had known us  
forever and ever.

516

00:25:30,970 --> 00:25:33,400  
Such a miserable thing, yeah.

517  
00:25:33,400 --> 00:25:36,280  
Did you have to wear anything  
showing that you were Jewish?

518  
00:25:36,280 --> 00:25:38,200  
No, that was in Poland mostly.

519  
00:25:38,200 --> 00:25:39,283  
Yeah.

520  
00:25:39,283 --> 00:25:40,450  
So you didn't wear anything.

521  
00:25:40,450 --> 00:25:41,800  
Yeah, OK.

522  
00:25:41,800 --> 00:25:42,980  
So you had enough.

523  
00:25:42,980 --> 00:25:45,580  
Did your sister work at  
all during that time,

524  
00:25:45,580 --> 00:25:47,080  
from '36 to '38?

525  
00:25:47,080 --> 00:25:48,415  
Did my sister work?

526  
00:25:48,415 --> 00:25:51,870

527  
00:25:51,870 --> 00:25:53,900  
I don't think so, no.

528  
00:25:53,900 --> 00:25:54,870  
No.

529

00:25:54,870 --> 00:25:55,790  
She didn't work.

530  
00:25:55,790 --> 00:25:57,540  
So you had enough money  
to keep you going?

531  
00:25:57,540 --> 00:26:01,800  
Well, there was a sum  
set aside because we

532  
00:26:01,800 --> 00:26:03,480  
were without parents.

533  
00:26:03,480 --> 00:26:07,010  
I don't know whether my  
parents decreed this or what.

534  
00:26:07,010 --> 00:26:11,070

535  
00:26:11,070 --> 00:26:18,390  
But the Germans eventually  
said, we have two girls.

536  
00:26:18,390 --> 00:26:20,610  
You have to give us  
all of your money,

537  
00:26:20,610 --> 00:26:23,790  
because we have to  
send it to Berlin.

538  
00:26:23,790 --> 00:26:26,000  
He probably pocketed  
it, you know.

539  
00:26:26,000 --> 00:26:27,600  
Yeah.

540  
00:26:27,600 --> 00:26:28,170  
All right.

541

00:26:28,170 --> 00:26:29,890

So now let's get  
to November '38.

542

00:26:29,890 --> 00:26:32,730

You know, it's not  
exactly easy thinking back

543

00:26:32,730 --> 00:26:33,880

of those horrible things.

544

00:26:33,880 --> 00:26:35,100

Do you need to take a break?

545

00:26:35,100 --> 00:26:37,150

No, if I do, I'll tell you.

546

00:26:37,150 --> 00:26:37,650

Yeah.

547

00:26:37,650 --> 00:26:38,700

OK.

548

00:26:38,700 --> 00:26:43,020

So now it's November  
1938, and the destruction

549

00:26:43,020 --> 00:26:46,470

starts in your home.

550

00:26:46,470 --> 00:26:50,250

Were you home at the time  
when your house was damaged,

551

00:26:50,250 --> 00:26:52,810

in November '38?

552

00:26:52,810 --> 00:26:54,870

This was 5 o'clock  
in the morning,

553

00:26:54,870 --> 00:27:04,220  
because, as I've said  
before, this Jewish boy who

554  
00:27:04,220 --> 00:27:12,230  
killed the German  
attache in Paris,

555  
00:27:12,230 --> 00:27:16,010  
because the German  
Nazis had killed

556  
00:27:16,010 --> 00:27:18,720  
the boy's parents in Poland.

557  
00:27:18,720 --> 00:27:22,760  
So he took revenge  
and he killed this--

558  
00:27:22,760 --> 00:27:26,390

559  
00:27:26,390 --> 00:27:26,972  
Diplomat.

560  
00:27:26,972 --> 00:27:27,680  
--yeah, diplomat.

561  
00:27:27,680 --> 00:27:29,640  
Thank you.

562  
00:27:29,640 --> 00:27:32,270  
And--

563  
00:27:32,270 --> 00:27:34,550  
So then they took revenge,  
and you were home?

564  
00:27:34,550 --> 00:27:37,220  
It was 5 o'clock in the  
morning, and what happened?

565

00:27:37,220 --> 00:27:43,170  
So what happened was that  
the moment that boy killed

566  
00:27:43,170 --> 00:27:49,740  
this guy in Paris, Hitler  
got on the phone and he said,

567  
00:27:49,740 --> 00:27:52,810  
the Jews are going  
to pay for this.

568  
00:27:52,810 --> 00:27:57,510  
And so that same night  
and the next morning, that

569  
00:27:57,510 --> 00:28:01,230  
is called Kristallnacht.

570  
00:28:01,230 --> 00:28:04,790  
My sister and I, it was  
5 o'clock in the morning.

571  
00:28:04,790 --> 00:28:08,730  
We were sleeping alone,  
behold, we had nobody.

572  
00:28:08,730 --> 00:28:11,580  
And there was a  
knock on the door.

573  
00:28:11,580 --> 00:28:15,150  
And I started to  
argue with my sister.

574  
00:28:15,150 --> 00:28:16,380  
She was older.

575  
00:28:16,380 --> 00:28:18,150  
She always wanted  
me to do things.

576  
00:28:18,150 --> 00:28:21,180



And I said no, Lottie, this  
time you open the door.

577  
00:28:21,180 --> 00:28:24,540  
By the time we finished  
arguing, they broke down

578  
00:28:24,540 --> 00:28:30,570  
the door with hammers and  
axes, and they attacked this--

579  
00:28:30,570 --> 00:28:32,760  
what is this piano called?

580  
00:28:32,760 --> 00:28:33,330  
Steinway.

581  
00:28:33,330 --> 00:28:39,690  
Steinway, this great Steinway,  
was hammers and axes.

582  
00:28:39,690 --> 00:28:43,980  
And my sister had  
gone to open the door,

583  
00:28:43,980 --> 00:28:47,070  
so she went down  
into the basement.

584  
00:28:47,070 --> 00:28:51,250  
And I was sitting up  
in bed in my nightgown.

585  
00:28:51,250 --> 00:28:55,270  
I saw these, maybe 40, 50  
guys with hammers and axes

586  
00:28:55,270 --> 00:28:59,530  
just starting to chop,  
not looking for anything.

587  
00:28:59,530 --> 00:29:02,130  
So I said to myself, Marianne--

588  
00:29:02,130 --> 00:29:05,550  
in fact, I said Marianne,  
which was my German name--

589  
00:29:05,550 --> 00:29:07,950  
I said, now or never.

590  
00:29:07,950 --> 00:29:11,160  
So in my nightgown,  
I dashed through them

591  
00:29:11,160 --> 00:29:15,870  
and ran into the basement where  
my sister was waiting for me.

592  
00:29:15,870 --> 00:29:19,000  
And so we were down  
there without food,

593  
00:29:19,000 --> 00:29:23,310  
without drink, for several  
days until we wound up

594  
00:29:23,310 --> 00:29:30,030  
going to Lottie's fiance's  
home, the Russian Jews.

595  
00:29:30,030 --> 00:29:32,130  
And yes.

596  
00:29:32,130 --> 00:29:36,870  
So we were down in the basement  
for several days, nothing

597  
00:29:36,870 --> 00:29:40,800  
to eat, nothing to  
drink, and never knowing

598  
00:29:40,800 --> 00:29:43,650  
when they might discover us.

599

00:29:43,650 --> 00:29:47,910  
Somehow, they never followed  
us down to the basement.

600  
00:29:47,910 --> 00:29:53,250  
They were so eager, they were  
so full of anxiety to kill,

601  
00:29:53,250 --> 00:29:55,870  
you know.

602  
00:29:55,870 --> 00:29:58,000  
And--

603  
00:29:58,000 --> 00:30:02,260  
So then you got to your sister's  
fiance's family's house.

604  
00:30:02,260 --> 00:30:04,760  
Yeah, [INAUDIBLE],,  
they were Russian Jews.

605  
00:30:04,760 --> 00:30:05,260  
OK.

606  
00:30:05,260 --> 00:30:06,310  
And how long did you--

607  
00:30:06,310 --> 00:30:10,030  
We stayed there for a while  
until they came and took all

608  
00:30:10,030 --> 00:30:14,470  
the men-- the Russian  
and Polish men, Jews--

609  
00:30:14,470 --> 00:30:15,810  
to concentration camps.

610  
00:30:15,810 --> 00:30:19,980  
It was several months that  
you were in hiding, right?

611

00:30:19,980 --> 00:30:21,670

In their house?

612

00:30:21,670 --> 00:30:23,860

When you first came  
out on the street

613

00:30:23,860 --> 00:30:27,280

after you left your basement  
to go to this other house,

614

00:30:27,280 --> 00:30:30,800

and you saw all  
this destruction,

615

00:30:30,800 --> 00:30:34,400

you saw this destruction,  
everything being destroyed--

616

00:30:34,400 --> 00:30:37,340

We were scared to death.

617

00:30:37,340 --> 00:30:40,850

And we tried not to be  
seen in the street at all

618

00:30:40,850 --> 00:30:42,740

until such time--

619

00:30:42,740 --> 00:30:52,680

excuse me-- until such time  
that we had to go to Frankfurt

620

00:30:52,680 --> 00:30:56,940

to pick up our visas to  
come to the United States.

621

00:30:56,940 --> 00:31:00,630

That was a very  
lengthy, painful thing.

622

00:31:00,630 --> 00:31:03,960

Because when my mother  
was still alive,

623  
00:31:03,960 --> 00:31:09,630  
we needed relatives  
and friends in America

624  
00:31:09,630 --> 00:31:12,420  
to send us visas  
that would permit

625  
00:31:12,420 --> 00:31:13,695  
us to come to the States.

626  
00:31:13,695 --> 00:31:16,260

627  
00:31:16,260 --> 00:31:21,720  
So when this finally  
arrived we, at night,

628  
00:31:21,720 --> 00:31:25,380  
my sister and I ran  
through the streets

629  
00:31:25,380 --> 00:31:29,170  
to the train railroad station.

630  
00:31:29,170 --> 00:31:29,820  
Yeah.

631  
00:31:29,820 --> 00:31:35,310  
And when I came into the  
train, my cousin in Holland

632  
00:31:35,310 --> 00:31:36,690  
was somehow--

633  
00:31:36,690 --> 00:31:40,020  
I don't know now how  
he found out about it.

634

00:31:40,020 --> 00:31:42,730

We may have asked  
someone to contact him.

635

00:31:42,730 --> 00:31:43,570

I don't know.

636

00:31:43,570 --> 00:31:46,830

So this is early 1939?

637

00:31:46,830 --> 00:31:49,290

Can I explain the  
sequence there?

638

00:31:49,290 --> 00:31:51,210

Go ahead, you don't  
have to ask me.

639

00:31:51,210 --> 00:31:51,730

OK.

640

00:31:51,730 --> 00:31:58,800

So you stayed in the  
basement for a few days,

641

00:31:58,800 --> 00:32:03,480

and then you had the  
courage to run out

642

00:32:03,480 --> 00:32:09,360

to Lottie's fiance's  
aunt's house.

643

00:32:09,360 --> 00:32:16,440

And you hid in that house for  
several months, never went out,

644

00:32:16,440 --> 00:32:20,220

and it was a little boy who  
came and delivered food.

645

00:32:20,220 --> 00:32:21,930

Yes.

646  
00:32:21,930 --> 00:32:28,550  
And then you've  
somehow found out

647  
00:32:28,550 --> 00:32:33,830  
that the work that your mother  
had done to get you passage

648  
00:32:33,830 --> 00:32:37,640  
to America came through.

649  
00:32:37,640 --> 00:32:40,430  
Yes the work that  
my mother had done.

650  
00:32:40,430 --> 00:32:43,140  
Tell her about the  
Palestine cruise.

651  
00:32:43,140 --> 00:32:48,710  
Yeah, she also she had  
contacted people and relatives

652  
00:32:48,710 --> 00:32:54,560  
and friends, you know, in  
the States to give us visas.

653  
00:32:54,560 --> 00:32:59,510  
But while we were still  
working on all of this,

654  
00:32:59,510 --> 00:33:02,330  
it took three years, anyhow.

655  
00:33:02,330 --> 00:33:04,400  
Was not an easy feat.

656  
00:33:04,400 --> 00:33:11,810  
So my mother, they didn't  
want the Jews to leave

657

00:33:11,810 --> 00:33:15,950  
Germany, because they wanted  
to have all our belongings,

658  
00:33:15,950 --> 00:33:17,120  
you see.

659  
00:33:17,120 --> 00:33:25,040  
And so my mother said, girls--

660  
00:33:25,040 --> 00:33:26,840  
my sister and me--

661  
00:33:26,840 --> 00:33:34,140  
we are going to tell them  
that we are going on a cruise

662  
00:33:34,140 --> 00:33:39,960  
to what was then Palestine,  
which is now Israel.

663  
00:33:39,960 --> 00:33:44,340  
And we're going to tell them  
we're just going on a cruise

664  
00:33:44,340 --> 00:33:47,160  
to visit this exhibit, you know?

665  
00:33:47,160 --> 00:33:51,180  
And sure enough, the  
day we wanted to leave,

666  
00:33:51,180 --> 00:33:53,700  
the Nazis came,  
with the bigshots,

667  
00:33:53,700 --> 00:33:56,940  
you know, we hear Frau  
Cohn, we hear you're

668  
00:33:56,940 --> 00:33:58,680  
going to want to leave us.



669

00:33:58,680 --> 00:34:04,830  
My mother said oh no, we're just  
going to see this exhibit there

670

00:34:04,830 --> 00:34:07,500  
in Palestine.

671

00:34:07,500 --> 00:34:11,580  
They went like this, they  
said, then passport, bitte.

672

00:34:11,580 --> 00:34:12,780  
The passport.

673

00:34:12,780 --> 00:34:15,210  
So without the passport,  
you're a dead duck.

674

00:34:15,210 --> 00:34:16,500  
Yeah, yeah.

675

00:34:16,500 --> 00:34:18,239  
So that's what happened.

676

00:34:18,239 --> 00:34:20,730  
But when she realized  
things were getting

677

00:34:20,730 --> 00:34:27,000  
so bad with Hitler, since you  
couldn't escape to Palestine,

678

00:34:27,000 --> 00:34:30,120  
she knew that earlier, some  
of your distant cousins

679

00:34:30,120 --> 00:34:31,900  
had gone to America.

680

00:34:31,900 --> 00:34:36,489  
And she wrote to them to start  
the process of getting visas.

681  
00:34:36,489 --> 00:34:38,814  
So what would I do without  
you, for god's sakes?

682  
00:34:38,814 --> 00:34:42,030  
And this was in 1935 she  
started this process.

683  
00:34:42,030 --> 00:34:44,850  
Because when I come  
back to all of this,

684  
00:34:44,850 --> 00:34:46,530  
I'm like a bundle of nerves.

685  
00:34:46,530 --> 00:34:49,000  
That's why my brain  
isn't working.

686  
00:34:49,000 --> 00:34:50,820  
Yeah but that's what happened.

687  
00:34:50,820 --> 00:34:55,800  
So somehow, when you  
were in hiding in 1938,

688  
00:34:55,800 --> 00:34:59,430  
you heard that the  
visas were granted.

689  
00:34:59,430 --> 00:35:00,000  
Yes.

690  
00:35:00,000 --> 00:35:03,990  
I don't know how they  
gave us the news.

691  
00:35:03,990 --> 00:35:09,180  
And that's when you and  
Lottie had the chutzpah

692

00:35:09,180 --> 00:35:16,380  
to leave this hiding and get  
on a train to the consulate.

693  
00:35:16,380 --> 00:35:19,167  
We ran in the middle  
of the night--

694  
00:35:19,167 --> 00:35:20,250  
To the American consulate?

695  
00:35:20,250 --> 00:35:21,990  
--we ran to get the train--

696  
00:35:21,990 --> 00:35:22,740  
To get your visas?

697  
00:35:22,740 --> 00:35:29,560  
--and when we went to the train  
to get our visas, my cousin,

698  
00:35:29,560 --> 00:35:34,230  
who lived in Holland,  
somehow he had been told,

699  
00:35:34,230 --> 00:35:37,410  
so he was waiting  
in the compartment.

700  
00:35:37,410 --> 00:35:42,390  
The first thing I did was, there  
was another man sitting there.

701  
00:35:42,390 --> 00:35:44,730  
Mom, that story came  
a little bit later.

702  
00:35:44,730 --> 00:35:45,270  
OK?

703  
00:35:45,270 --> 00:35:46,320  
Right, I'd know.

704

00:35:46,320 --> 00:35:48,600

It was when you were  
actually on the train--

705

00:35:48,600 --> 00:35:50,008

On the train, yes!

706

00:35:50,008 --> 00:35:50,550

--to England.

707

00:35:50,550 --> 00:35:52,710

You had gotten  
your visas already.

708

00:35:52,710 --> 00:35:53,910

So then you came back?

709

00:35:53,910 --> 00:36:00,450

Came back, and you came back to  
Ludwigshafen with your visas.

710

00:36:00,450 --> 00:36:02,700

Just a minute, I'm a  
little confused here.

711

00:36:02,700 --> 00:36:10,760

All I know is this, that  
my cousin from Holland

712

00:36:10,760 --> 00:36:14,390

came to meet us in the  
train, and I went in

713

00:36:14,390 --> 00:36:16,850

and I whispered into his ear.

714

00:36:16,850 --> 00:36:23,160

I said Oscar, can I now talk  
and say anything I want?

715

00:36:23,160 --> 00:36:25,400

And there was another

man in the compartment.

716  
00:36:25,400 --> 00:36:28,820  
He said, can you  
imagine what she just--

717  
00:36:28,820 --> 00:36:29,450  
yeah.

718  
00:36:29,450 --> 00:36:30,020  
Thank you.

719  
00:36:30,020 --> 00:36:32,390  
Oh, excuse me.

720  
00:36:32,390 --> 00:36:35,540  
He said, can you imagine  
what he just asked me?

721  
00:36:35,540 --> 00:36:39,570  
Whether she now can talk  
and say anything she wants?

722  
00:36:39,570 --> 00:36:44,660  
So we came to Holland, but  
unfortunately, the same thing

723  
00:36:44,660 --> 00:36:47,390  
happened to Holland eventually.

724  
00:36:47,390 --> 00:36:50,990  
They took him and his  
wife to the camp here.

725  
00:36:50,990 --> 00:36:53,120  
So you got your visas.

726  
00:36:53,120 --> 00:36:56,480  
You came back to Ludwigshafen.

727  
00:36:56,480 --> 00:37:00,980  
And then soon after,

went to England?

728

00:37:00,980 --> 00:37:02,420

Went to England.

729

00:37:02,420 --> 00:37:05,900

And my sister wanted to remain  
in England with friends.

730

00:37:05,900 --> 00:37:08,300

What about her fiance?

731

00:37:08,300 --> 00:37:11,060

That eventually was dissolved.

732

00:37:11,060 --> 00:37:15,830

So supposedly, the main  
reason in the beginning

733

00:37:15,830 --> 00:37:21,080

for her wanting to remain in  
London was because the fiance,

734

00:37:21,080 --> 00:37:23,780

but it never materialized.

735

00:37:23,780 --> 00:37:25,910

I didn't like him anyhow.

736

00:37:25,910 --> 00:37:27,260

So.

737

00:37:27,260 --> 00:37:30,200

When you took the voyage  
across to England,

738

00:37:30,200 --> 00:37:32,180

were there other Jewish  
refugees on your boat?

739

00:37:32,180 --> 00:37:33,630

No, no, no.

740  
00:37:33,630 --> 00:37:34,130  
No.

741  
00:37:34,130 --> 00:37:36,920  
No, just my sister  
and I. And when

742  
00:37:36,920 --> 00:37:42,830  
we came to Amsterdam in  
Holland, we had no money

743  
00:37:42,830 --> 00:37:45,620  
and we needed to  
continue our journey.

744  
00:37:45,620 --> 00:37:50,750  
So there was a fabulous  
friend of my parents,

745  
00:37:50,750 --> 00:37:55,610  
my father's, and he  
was Dr. [? Seger, ?]

746  
00:37:55,610 --> 00:38:01,880  
and he was the head of a  
quinine factory in Amsterdam.

747  
00:38:01,880 --> 00:38:05,720  
And we called him and he  
came and gave us money.

748  
00:38:05,720 --> 00:38:07,630  
And he gave you  
money for passage?

749  
00:38:07,630 --> 00:38:10,520  
To continue on.

750  
00:38:10,520 --> 00:38:13,880  
We had no money, the Nazis  
took everything away.

751

00:38:13,880 --> 00:38:17,045

What did you take with  
you when you left Germany?

752

00:38:17,045 --> 00:38:18,170

What did you take with you?

753

00:38:18,170 --> 00:38:19,790

I'm glad you asked that.

754

00:38:19,790 --> 00:38:23,885

They sent in a Nazi  
with big black boots.

755

00:38:23,885 --> 00:38:27,490

756

00:38:27,490 --> 00:38:32,620

And also, there was a  
cardboard box there.

757

00:38:32,620 --> 00:38:35,050

I don't know who did that.

758

00:38:35,050 --> 00:38:39,130

And also, a plain German man.

759

00:38:39,130 --> 00:38:45,850

And the Nazi had  
a list of what we

760

00:38:45,850 --> 00:38:48,070

were allowed to take with us.

761

00:38:48,070 --> 00:38:52,690

So what they wanted us to  
take was strictly the things

762

00:38:52,690 --> 00:38:58,960

that my mother and father had  
when they were getting married.



763

00:38:58,960 --> 00:39:00,190

You hear?

764

00:39:00,190 --> 00:39:04,870

And all the garbage that  
they would allow us to take,

765

00:39:04,870 --> 00:39:07,100

it was absolutely ridiculous.

766

00:39:07,100 --> 00:39:10,960

He was standing there with  
Nazi boots and a whip.

767

00:39:10,960 --> 00:39:14,470

And if, God forbid, we  
did something wrong,

768

00:39:14,470 --> 00:39:17,290

or tried to smuggle  
something into the box,

769

00:39:17,290 --> 00:39:19,430

would have been goodbye  
Charlie, you know.

770

00:39:19,430 --> 00:39:21,970

Yeah, so.

771

00:39:21,970 --> 00:39:25,660

Do you remember what you  
actually took with you?

772

00:39:25,660 --> 00:39:26,850

Pots and pans.

773

00:39:26,850 --> 00:39:27,445

Pots and pans?

774

00:39:27,445 --> 00:39:28,360

Oh, OK.

775

00:39:28,360 --> 00:39:28,960

Nothing.

776

00:39:28,960 --> 00:39:30,550

They wouldn't allow me.

777

00:39:30,550 --> 00:39:32,500

The guy standing with a whip--

778

00:39:32,500 --> 00:39:34,330

Could you take any  
clothes with you?

779

00:39:34,330 --> 00:39:39,250

Oh, wait a minute, I smuggled  
a ring that my mother gave me.

780

00:39:39,250 --> 00:39:40,030

Yeah.

781

00:39:40,030 --> 00:39:41,950

I did smuggle a ring.

782

00:39:41,950 --> 00:39:42,880

Yeah.

783

00:39:42,880 --> 00:39:44,430

Did you take any  
clothes with you?

784

00:39:44,430 --> 00:39:48,210

785

00:39:48,210 --> 00:39:49,860

I really don't know.

786

00:39:49,860 --> 00:39:51,580

OK.

787

00:39:51,580 --> 00:39:55,580

I don't think this is going

to be very easy for me,

788  
00:39:55,580 --> 00:39:58,710  
because it's kind of difficult.

789  
00:39:58,710 --> 00:39:59,210  
Yeah.

790  
00:39:59,210 --> 00:40:01,000  
It's painful.

791  
00:40:01,000 --> 00:40:03,400  
So you get over to England.

792  
00:40:03,400 --> 00:40:07,630  
You got to England  
eventually, and where did you

793  
00:40:07,630 --> 00:40:08,560  
stay in England?

794  
00:40:08,560 --> 00:40:18,280

795  
00:40:18,280 --> 00:40:20,890  
I don't remember where  
I stayed in England.

796  
00:40:20,890 --> 00:40:25,240  
All I know is that my sister  
was busy with her friends,

797  
00:40:25,240 --> 00:40:29,830  
and we only had so and  
so much allotment of time

798  
00:40:29,830 --> 00:40:34,420  
to spend time in London  
by the English government.

799  
00:40:34,420 --> 00:40:41,690  
So I said to her, she said she

wanted to stay for a while.

800  
00:40:41,690 --> 00:40:47,060  
And so I said to  
her, don't worry.

801  
00:40:47,060 --> 00:40:50,810  
I may have been maybe  
14, 15 years old,

802  
00:40:50,810 --> 00:40:55,430  
but I spoke perfect  
English from school.

803  
00:40:55,430 --> 00:40:56,990  
Oh, you learned  
English in school?

804  
00:40:56,990 --> 00:40:59,060  
And in addition  
to that, my mother

805  
00:40:59,060 --> 00:41:04,610  
hired a woman from  
London and what's this?

806  
00:41:04,610 --> 00:41:05,580  
Apple juice.

807  
00:41:05,580 --> 00:41:07,020  
Oh, thank you.

808  
00:41:07,020 --> 00:41:07,520  
Thank you.

809  
00:41:07,520 --> 00:41:10,270

810  
00:41:10,270 --> 00:41:13,920  
You know, why don't we  
take a break at the moment?