

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:08,210

2
00:00:08,210 --> 00:00:10,880
This is the United States
Holocaust Memorial Museum

3
00:00:10,880 --> 00:00:14,630
volunteer collection interview
with Harry Markowicz, conducted

4
00:00:14,630 --> 00:00:23,720
by Gail Schwartz on May 16,
2012 in Silver Spring, Maryland.

5
00:00:23,720 --> 00:00:25,970
This interview is part
of the museum's project

6
00:00:25,970 --> 00:00:29,270
to interview Holocaust survivors
and witnesses who are also

7
00:00:29,270 --> 00:00:30,905
volunteers with the museum.

8
00:00:30,905 --> 00:00:34,700

9
00:00:34,700 --> 00:00:39,410
You have been interviewed before
by the Steven Spielberg Shoah

10
00:00:39,410 --> 00:00:40,190
Foundation.

11
00:00:40,190 --> 00:00:44,330
But just to put this
interview in a framework,

12
00:00:44,330 --> 00:00:46,820

I'm going to summarize where
you were during the war

13
00:00:46,820 --> 00:00:52,420
and then we will focus on your
post-Holocaust experience.

14
00:00:52,420 --> 00:00:57,190
You were born August
9, 1937 in Berlin.

15
00:00:57,190 --> 00:00:59,290
Your parents were
originally from Poland.

16
00:00:59,290 --> 00:01:03,909
And you have an older brother,
Manny, and a sister, Rosa,

17
00:01:03,909 --> 00:01:07,690
who were eight and nine
years older than you.

18
00:01:07,690 --> 00:01:12,010
Your family went to
Antwerp, Belgium in 1938.

19
00:01:12,010 --> 00:01:18,760
And then in May, 1940, you
went to the French border.

20
00:01:18,760 --> 00:01:22,030
But you were stateless,
because your parents

21
00:01:22,030 --> 00:01:24,430
had been from Poland.

22
00:01:24,430 --> 00:01:27,130
You went back to Antwerp.

23
00:01:27,130 --> 00:01:29,780
And your father

was called to work.

24

00:01:29,780 --> 00:01:33,100

So your family left Antwerp.

25

00:01:33,100 --> 00:01:39,190

And suddenly went

to Brussels in 1941.

26

00:01:39,190 --> 00:01:44,000

In the summer of 1942,

you went into hiding.

27

00:01:44,000 --> 00:01:47,890

You three children were

placed with a family,

28

00:01:47,890 --> 00:01:51,820

a non-Jewish family whose

name was [PERSONAL NAME]..

29

00:01:51,820 --> 00:01:55,570

And then later,

you and your sister

30

00:01:55,570 --> 00:02:00,010

went to the outskirts of the

city to a children's home.

31

00:02:00,010 --> 00:02:03,580

And then after that, your

mother came and got you

32

00:02:03,580 --> 00:02:10,139

and placed you with another

family, the Vanderlindens.

33

00:02:10,139 --> 00:02:17,110

And then you joined

your parents again.

34

00:02:17,110 --> 00:02:19,080

And you went to Brussels.

35

00:02:19,080 --> 00:02:25,860
And your mother came and got
you from the Vanderlindens right

36

00:02:25,860 --> 00:02:29,730
before liberation.

37

00:02:29,730 --> 00:02:33,510
So we are now up to
the time of liberation.

38

00:02:33,510 --> 00:02:35,490
Before we go on
though, I just wanted

39

00:02:35,490 --> 00:02:41,900
to ask you if you had any
early, early memories.

40

00:02:41,900 --> 00:02:46,010
Because you were so young,
born in the summer of '37.

41

00:02:46,010 --> 00:02:48,950
For instance, about what
happened at Dunkirk.

42

00:02:48,950 --> 00:02:51,620
Can you tell us a
little bit about that?

43

00:02:51,620 --> 00:02:52,280
Yes.

44

00:02:52,280 --> 00:02:54,530
That's my very,
very first memory.

45

00:02:54,530 --> 00:02:59,600
It happened at the border
or near the border.

46

00:02:59,600 --> 00:03:04,610

We had been refused
entry into France

47

00:03:04,610 --> 00:03:06,530

because we were stateless.

48

00:03:06,530 --> 00:03:10,790

And my memory is
of being in a ditch

49

00:03:10,790 --> 00:03:13,130

with my mother and other people.

50

00:03:13,130 --> 00:03:14,690

You are three years old now?

51

00:03:14,690 --> 00:03:15,410

Almost.

52

00:03:15,410 --> 00:03:16,520

Almost three, right.

53

00:03:16,520 --> 00:03:17,360

Yes.

54

00:03:17,360 --> 00:03:23,850

And on the road
next to me, there

55

00:03:23,850 --> 00:03:27,840

was a, what I learned later,
was a British soldier,

56

00:03:27,840 --> 00:03:31,950

part of the British
Expeditionary Forces

57

00:03:31,950 --> 00:03:36,300

that were stationed
in France and Belgium

58

00:03:36,300 --> 00:03:38,760
before the war started.

59

00:03:38,760 --> 00:03:45,210
And the officer was looking
up in the sky with binoculars.

60

00:03:45,210 --> 00:03:47,190
And I fell asleep.

61

00:03:47,190 --> 00:03:50,370
When I woke up, he was gone.

62

00:03:50,370 --> 00:03:53,880
And I asked my mother
where was this soldier.

63

00:03:53,880 --> 00:03:58,920
And she told me that
the soldiers were gone.

64

00:03:58,920 --> 00:04:06,300
And she seemed to be
afraid at this point.

65

00:04:06,300 --> 00:04:10,890
Later, I learned that the
British soldiers were evacuated

66

00:04:10,890 --> 00:04:16,120
from Dunkirk, which was just
over the border of Belgium

67

00:04:16,120 --> 00:04:16,620
and France.

68

00:04:16,620 --> 00:04:19,740

69

00:04:19,740 --> 00:04:20,240
All right.

70

00:04:20,240 --> 00:04:23,990

Let's move ahead then to
right before liberation.

71

00:04:23,990 --> 00:04:26,870

You said your mother came
and got you from the family.

72

00:04:26,870 --> 00:04:29,900

And do you remember that?

73

00:04:29,900 --> 00:04:31,370

Yes, I remember.

74

00:04:31,370 --> 00:04:36,290

Because by this time I was very
attached to the Vanderlinden,

75

00:04:36,290 --> 00:04:37,910

especially Mrs. Vanderlinden.

76

00:04:37,910 --> 00:04:39,680

And she was very attached to me.

77

00:04:39,680 --> 00:04:42,470

She treated me like a son.

78

00:04:42,470 --> 00:04:45,740

And my mother showed up.

79

00:04:45,740 --> 00:04:50,740

She came and visited
me occasionally.

80

00:04:50,740 --> 00:04:54,040

This time she came
and she wanted

81

00:04:54,040 --> 00:04:57,850

to bring me to my parents'
hiding place, which

82

00:04:57,850 --> 00:05:00,820

was an apartment
that looked like it

83

00:05:00,820 --> 00:05:03,250

was in a vacant building.

84

00:05:03,250 --> 00:05:10,570

And I didn't know why she
wanted to come and pick me up.

85

00:05:10,570 --> 00:05:16,180

I know I was a little upset,
and Mrs. Vanderlinden also.

86

00:05:16,180 --> 00:05:23,700

But my mother said that I could
come back after the liberation.

87

00:05:23,700 --> 00:05:26,980

So I went with my mother.

88

00:05:26,980 --> 00:05:29,160

We took the street car.

89

00:05:29,160 --> 00:05:33,690

And at some point
at a stop, there

90

00:05:33,690 --> 00:05:37,950

was a German truck came by.

91

00:05:37,950 --> 00:05:40,860

Was being pulled by a horse.

92

00:05:40,860 --> 00:05:43,290

Apparently, it had
run out of gas.

93

00:05:43,290 --> 00:05:46,800

And there was also
a soldier lying

94
00:05:46,800 --> 00:05:51,360
on top of the truck with
a heavy machine gun.

95
00:05:51,360 --> 00:05:53,850
But he looked very insecure.

96
00:05:53,850 --> 00:05:59,740
He kept looking around, like
expecting maybe to be shot at.

97
00:05:59,740 --> 00:06:03,840
Which was the case,
but I didn't know that.

98
00:06:03,840 --> 00:06:10,420
And then my mother said,
pointing to that scene,

99
00:06:10,420 --> 00:06:13,000
she said, always remember this.

100
00:06:13,000 --> 00:06:14,920
Don't forget.

101
00:06:14,920 --> 00:06:18,830
And you still have
remembered it very vividly.

102
00:06:18,830 --> 00:06:19,330
Right.

103
00:06:19,330 --> 00:06:20,380
I have not forgotten it.

104
00:06:20,380 --> 00:06:23,050

105
00:06:23,050 --> 00:06:25,690
So then we went--

106

00:06:25,690 --> 00:06:28,532

I thought we were
going to the apartment

107

00:06:28,532 --> 00:06:29,740

where my parents were hidden.

108

00:06:29,740 --> 00:06:32,800

But in fact, we went
around the corner

109

00:06:32,800 --> 00:06:37,120

where there was a beauty parlor.

110

00:06:37,120 --> 00:06:43,520

And I didn't know this
before, but one day my mother

111

00:06:43,520 --> 00:06:47,120

had been walking on the
street around the corner

112

00:06:47,120 --> 00:06:50,990

and some German soldiers came
in the opposite direction

113

00:06:50,990 --> 00:06:52,670

on the same sidewalk.

114

00:06:52,670 --> 00:06:55,370

So she got a little
panicky and she

115

00:06:55,370 --> 00:06:58,260

went into the beauty parlor.

116

00:06:58,260 --> 00:07:01,320

And once she was inside,
she was just standing there.

117

00:07:01,320 --> 00:07:06,330

And the woman who ran

this beauty parlor

118
00:07:06,330 --> 00:07:09,900
told her to come in the back.

119
00:07:09,900 --> 00:07:15,000
In many stores there was a
living area behind the store

120
00:07:15,000 --> 00:07:17,460
and above the store.

121
00:07:17,460 --> 00:07:21,210
My mother hesitated
to go in the back.

122
00:07:21,210 --> 00:07:22,590
She was afraid.

123
00:07:22,590 --> 00:07:33,010
So the woman said that
her husband was Jewish,

124
00:07:33,010 --> 00:07:34,580
which was the case.

125
00:07:34,580 --> 00:07:38,560
And so they became friends.

126
00:07:38,560 --> 00:07:43,390
And their backyards were
connected because they were

127
00:07:43,390 --> 00:07:44,800
at right angles to each other.

128
00:07:44,800 --> 00:07:47,090
And there was a wall
separating them.

129
00:07:47,090 --> 00:07:51,520
But they made

arrangements to go over

130
00:07:51,520 --> 00:07:57,580
the wall in case
some danger would

131
00:07:57,580 --> 00:07:59,770
happen to one or the other.

132
00:07:59,770 --> 00:08:03,640
In several cases, my
parents went over the wall.

133
00:08:03,640 --> 00:08:06,610
I don't remember
these people's names.

134
00:08:06,610 --> 00:08:08,020
They went over the wall.

135
00:08:08,020 --> 00:08:10,150
One time, I know it's
because the Germans came

136
00:08:10,150 --> 00:08:14,020
to pick up the Jewish family
living in the house next door.

137
00:08:14,020 --> 00:08:16,590

138
00:08:16,590 --> 00:08:21,040
So they didn't know
that it wasn't for them,

139
00:08:21,040 --> 00:08:22,630
so they went over the wall.

140
00:08:22,630 --> 00:08:26,940
And as it was getting
close to liberation,

141

00:08:26,940 --> 00:08:29,460
my parents moved in
with this couple.

142
00:08:29,460 --> 00:08:34,919
And that's where my
mother took me also.

143
00:08:34,919 --> 00:08:38,080
By this time, or maybe
a day or two later,

144
00:08:38,080 --> 00:08:42,130
you could hear the cannon
fire in the distance.

145
00:08:42,130 --> 00:08:51,240
And so we knew that liberation
was very, very soon to come.

146
00:08:51,240 --> 00:08:57,630
I remember once I was standing
in the entrance of the beauty

147
00:08:57,630 --> 00:09:04,920
parlor and on the corner I saw
a group of men wearing khaki.

148
00:09:04,920 --> 00:09:06,240
But they weren't soldiers.

149
00:09:06,240 --> 00:09:08,070
I didn't know who they were.

150
00:09:08,070 --> 00:09:13,100
And they were carrying
cases, like wooden cases.

151
00:09:13,100 --> 00:09:17,230
And they opened them up.

152
00:09:17,230 --> 00:09:22,990
And they were

distributing rifles

153
00:09:22,990 --> 00:09:25,640
to other men that came along.

154
00:09:25,640 --> 00:09:27,570
So I went back in
the beauty parlor

155
00:09:27,570 --> 00:09:29,690
and I asked, what's going on?

156
00:09:29,690 --> 00:09:32,420
Who are these people?

157
00:09:32,420 --> 00:09:36,520
They were actually
Belgians who were

158
00:09:36,520 --> 00:09:39,700
getting ready to join the
fight against the Germans.

159
00:09:39,700 --> 00:09:42,870

160
00:09:42,870 --> 00:09:46,440
Then, again,
shortly after that--

161
00:09:46,440 --> 00:09:49,860
I don't know how
many days went by.

162
00:09:49,860 --> 00:09:51,960
It was maybe one day or so.

163
00:09:51,960 --> 00:09:56,190

164
00:09:56,190 --> 00:09:59,220
One morning, my

mother took me and she

165
00:09:59,220 --> 00:10:01,760
said we're going to go to--

166
00:10:01,760 --> 00:10:02,430
it was a park.

167
00:10:02,430 --> 00:10:06,390
I didn't know exactly
why we were going there.

168
00:10:06,390 --> 00:10:12,160
And she said, the
English are there.

169
00:10:12,160 --> 00:10:13,930
I'm not sure what
she said, actually.

170
00:10:13,930 --> 00:10:15,310
If she said the English--

171
00:10:15,310 --> 00:10:19,130
she probably did, but I'm not
sure I knew what that meant.

172
00:10:19,130 --> 00:10:21,400
And so we started going.

173
00:10:21,400 --> 00:10:24,880
And I asked my mother, why
isn't my father coming?

174
00:10:24,880 --> 00:10:28,970

175
00:10:28,970 --> 00:10:33,350
She tried to explain that
he hadn't been outside

176
00:10:33,350 --> 00:10:39,020

except to go to the beauty
parlor for two years,

177
00:10:39,020 --> 00:10:42,880
and he was not ready
to face people.

178
00:10:42,880 --> 00:10:46,630
So we were walking along.

179
00:10:46,630 --> 00:10:48,970
My mother was kind
of in a hurry.

180
00:10:48,970 --> 00:10:50,830
We were on one street.

181
00:10:50,830 --> 00:10:57,280
And we passed a tank
that was burning.

182
00:10:57,280 --> 00:10:59,170
And I was fascinated.

183
00:10:59,170 --> 00:11:01,030
I don't know if it was--

184
00:11:01,030 --> 00:11:03,920
I assume it was a German
tank, now looking back at it.

185
00:11:03,920 --> 00:11:08,080
And probably a Molotov
cocktail had been thrown at it.

186
00:11:08,080 --> 00:11:09,850
It was burning on top.

187
00:11:09,850 --> 00:11:14,110
And I didn't see any
soldiers, just fire.

188

00:11:14,110 --> 00:11:17,000
So I stopped to look.

189
00:11:17,000 --> 00:11:20,490
My mother said, let's go,
and grabbed me, my hand

190
00:11:20,490 --> 00:11:24,810
and continued with a
lot of other people.

191
00:11:24,810 --> 00:11:27,750
Everybody was
rushing to this park.

192
00:11:27,750 --> 00:11:35,640
And when we arrived there,
there were tanks lined up

193
00:11:35,640 --> 00:11:37,450
in all the lanes.

194
00:11:37,450 --> 00:11:38,980
And it was all very strange.

195
00:11:38,980 --> 00:11:43,070
There were a lot of
civilians around the tanks.

196
00:11:43,070 --> 00:11:44,840
And everybody was
happy and cheering.

197
00:11:44,840 --> 00:11:47,470

198
00:11:47,470 --> 00:11:51,420
And my mother took
me towards a tank.

199
00:11:51,420 --> 00:11:52,910
There was a soldier
standing on it.

200
00:11:52,910 --> 00:11:57,190

201
00:11:57,190 --> 00:12:01,810
And we looked at each other
and we looked at the soldier.

202
00:12:01,810 --> 00:12:02,710
He looked at us.

203
00:12:02,710 --> 00:12:07,020
And then he put out
his arms downward.

204
00:12:07,020 --> 00:12:11,370
And my mother lifted me
up, and he grabbed me.

205
00:12:11,370 --> 00:12:23,378
And he pulled me up and
he held me in his arms.

206
00:12:23,378 --> 00:12:30,210

207
00:12:30,210 --> 00:12:33,600
I looked at my mother and
she said, give him a kiss,

208
00:12:33,600 --> 00:12:38,770
because we didn't have any way
of communicating with them.

209
00:12:38,770 --> 00:12:39,470
So I did.

210
00:12:39,470 --> 00:12:43,280
And then I looked back
down and she was crying.

211
00:12:43,280 --> 00:12:47,054

So I couldn't understand--

212
00:12:47,054 --> 00:12:49,870

213
00:12:49,870 --> 00:12:52,810
I was a little distraught
that my mother was crying.

214
00:12:52,810 --> 00:12:55,910
And she said, it's all right.

215
00:12:55,910 --> 00:13:01,270
And I remember, the soldier
kept smiling as if it was OK.

216
00:13:01,270 --> 00:13:05,680

217
00:13:05,680 --> 00:13:08,920
After that, I don't
remember all the details.

218
00:13:08,920 --> 00:13:12,910
But my mother took me
back to the Vanderlindens

219
00:13:12,910 --> 00:13:14,170
like she had promised to do.

220
00:13:14,170 --> 00:13:16,030
But there was another reason.

221
00:13:16,030 --> 00:13:17,800
My brother and
sister, by then, they

222
00:13:17,800 --> 00:13:20,500
were living in the Ardennes.

223
00:13:20,500 --> 00:13:24,500
And my parents wanted

to pick them up.

224

00:13:24,500 --> 00:13:27,160

Which wasn't easy
because you had

225

00:13:27,160 --> 00:13:33,230

to go there by train or
municipal trams, maybe.

226

00:13:33,230 --> 00:13:34,880

But they weren't running.

227

00:13:34,880 --> 00:13:37,610

228

00:13:37,610 --> 00:13:40,730

And there was no communication.

229

00:13:40,730 --> 00:13:44,630

So anyway, I went back
to the Vanderlindens.

230

00:13:44,630 --> 00:13:51,210

And I didn't really know
how long I stayed there.

231

00:13:51,210 --> 00:13:54,300

I only figured out
a few years ago

232

00:13:54,300 --> 00:13:57,580

when I went back to
the Vanderlindens,

233

00:13:57,580 --> 00:14:06,250

every house on the street had
a huge flag of the Allies--

234

00:14:06,250 --> 00:14:10,030

American, British,
French, Belgian.

235

00:14:10,030 --> 00:14:12,580

There was even a red flag.

236

00:14:12,580 --> 00:14:16,330

And on these flags, I
know how people made them.

237

00:14:16,330 --> 00:14:20,467

They were the size of
double sheets hanging down

238

00:14:20,467 --> 00:14:21,425

in front of the houses.

239

00:14:21,425 --> 00:14:24,760

240

00:14:24,760 --> 00:14:32,710

Then one day I went outside
to play as I usually did,

241

00:14:32,710 --> 00:14:38,580

but I quickly noticed that there
were no flags on the houses.

242

00:14:38,580 --> 00:14:43,810

So I went in and asked
Mrs. Vanderlinden.

243

00:14:43,810 --> 00:14:47,500

She ran a store, sort
of a hardware store.

244

00:14:47,500 --> 00:14:55,260

And she said that the
Germans might be coming back.

245

00:14:55,260 --> 00:14:58,070

And she seemed very anxious.

246

00:14:58,070 --> 00:15:00,350

Because I didn't know

this at the time.

247

00:15:00,350 --> 00:15:02,870

It was many years later
that I figured out

248

00:15:02,870 --> 00:15:04,385

this was the Battle
of the Bulge.

249

00:15:04,385 --> 00:15:08,380

250

00:15:08,380 --> 00:15:13,780

So this is the way I know
that I spent much more time

251

00:15:13,780 --> 00:15:15,940

with the Vanderlindens
after the liberation

252

00:15:15,940 --> 00:15:18,850

than I originally thought.

253

00:15:18,850 --> 00:15:22,840

Because the Battle of the
Bulge was in December.

254

00:15:22,840 --> 00:15:25,930

The liberation was in September.

255

00:15:25,930 --> 00:15:29,760

And so I was still
with the Vanderlindens

256

00:15:29,760 --> 00:15:32,640

at the time of the Battle
of the Bulge, several months

257

00:15:32,640 --> 00:15:36,310

after the liberation.

258

00:15:36,310 --> 00:15:41,830
Then, probably a short
time of that, I'm not sure,

259
00:15:41,830 --> 00:15:45,430
my parents had rented a house.

260
00:15:45,430 --> 00:15:48,490
And the apartment
where they lived

261
00:15:48,490 --> 00:15:52,580
was much too small
for the whole family.

262
00:15:52,580 --> 00:15:56,800
So then they rented a
house, a nice little house.

263
00:15:56,800 --> 00:16:01,480
And my brother and
sister and I were there.

264
00:16:01,480 --> 00:16:06,460
But also my cousin,
[? Lottie. ?]

265
00:16:06,460 --> 00:16:10,250
Her father was my
mother's brother.

266
00:16:10,250 --> 00:16:20,138
And her parents had been
deported on the last transport

267
00:16:20,138 --> 00:16:20,680
from Belgium.

268
00:16:20,680 --> 00:16:24,670

269
00:16:24,670 --> 00:16:28,320
It was transport number 26.

270

00:16:28,320 --> 00:16:32,820

They also had a son who had
the same name as my brother,

271

00:16:32,820 --> 00:16:36,200

Manfred or Manny.

272

00:16:36,200 --> 00:16:39,050

And they were together.

273

00:16:39,050 --> 00:16:41,270

At some point, they
were hidden together

274

00:16:41,270 --> 00:16:48,590

by a priest who was well-known
for having saved a lot of,

275

00:16:48,590 --> 00:16:50,210

hundreds of Jewish children.

276

00:16:50,210 --> 00:16:56,500

It's Father Joseph Andr ©, who
has been recognized by Yad

277

00:16:56,500 --> 00:17:00,490

Vashem and many
other organizations.

278

00:17:00,490 --> 00:17:06,910

He placed the kids in
convents or orphanages

279

00:17:06,910 --> 00:17:08,619

or in private families.

280

00:17:08,619 --> 00:17:11,480

But until he found the
places, they stayed with him.

281

00:17:11,480 --> 00:17:15,490

And both my cousin
and my brother

282
00:17:15,490 --> 00:17:21,250
were with him when the
Germans started watching him,

283
00:17:21,250 --> 00:17:24,940
suspecting that he was also
involved in the underground.

284
00:17:24,940 --> 00:17:28,420
So he had to go in hiding
himself, the priest.

285
00:17:28,420 --> 00:17:39,590
And my brother went to live with
a family that was not related,

286
00:17:39,590 --> 00:17:42,590
but were friends of the
family my sister was

287
00:17:42,590 --> 00:17:44,480
staying with in the Ardennes.

288
00:17:44,480 --> 00:17:48,120
But my cousin didn't
have any place to go.

289
00:17:48,120 --> 00:17:52,130
And so he went back to
his parents' apartment.

290
00:17:52,130 --> 00:17:54,530
And they were denounced.

291
00:17:54,530 --> 00:17:57,650
There were seen
during an air raid,

292
00:17:57,650 --> 00:17:59,120
probably going to the shelter.

293
00:17:59,120 --> 00:18:02,870
And they were deported.

294
00:18:02,870 --> 00:18:06,660
My aunt is the only
one who came back.

295
00:18:06,660 --> 00:18:10,330
But they had a daughter,
[? Lottie, ?] who was hidden

296
00:18:10,330 --> 00:18:12,430
someplace else.

297
00:18:12,430 --> 00:18:15,920
So my parents took
in [? Lottie ?]

298
00:18:15,920 --> 00:18:19,510
and she was living with us.

299
00:18:19,510 --> 00:18:25,960
We still didn't know the
fate of my mother's brother

300
00:18:25,960 --> 00:18:26,800
and his wife.

301
00:18:26,800 --> 00:18:29,640

302
00:18:29,640 --> 00:18:35,110
One day, his wife
came to the house.

303
00:18:35,110 --> 00:18:38,980
I happened to be there
alone one afternoon.

304
00:18:38,980 --> 00:18:41,710
The doorbell rang and

I opened the door.

305

00:18:41,710 --> 00:18:47,300

And there was this strange woman, somebody I didn't know.

306

00:18:47,300 --> 00:18:50,660

And she also looked strange, a little bit.

307

00:18:50,660 --> 00:18:54,000

And she didn't say anything for a long time.

308

00:18:54,000 --> 00:18:56,670

And I didn't know what to do.

309

00:18:56,670 --> 00:18:59,440

I knew I wasn't supposed to let in strangers in the house.

310

00:18:59,440 --> 00:19:00,960

And she didn't say anything.

311

00:19:00,960 --> 00:19:10,914

And finally, she said I'm your aunt, Tante [PERSONAL NAME]..

312

00:19:10,914 --> 00:19:14,288

313

00:19:14,288 --> 00:19:16,398

And I didn't recognize her.

314

00:19:16,398 --> 00:19:18,940

Of course, two years had gone by since we had gone in hiding.

315

00:19:18,940 --> 00:19:21,400

But also she had been in Auschwitz during that time

316

00:19:21,400 --> 00:19:22,570
and on a death march.

317
00:19:22,570 --> 00:19:25,780

318
00:19:25,780 --> 00:19:30,220
So when she told me
her name, I let her.

319
00:19:30,220 --> 00:19:32,160
And then my parents came home.

320
00:19:32,160 --> 00:19:40,410
That evening after dinner, my
aunt kind of spilled her guts,

321
00:19:40,410 --> 00:19:44,370
told the whole story
from beginning to end.

322
00:19:44,370 --> 00:19:49,920
And we were all very, very
quiet listening to her.

323
00:19:49,920 --> 00:19:52,665
I remember also at some point
she pulled up her sleeve.

324
00:19:52,665 --> 00:19:56,690

325
00:19:56,690 --> 00:20:03,260
We all kind of leaned over
to see what was on her arm.

326
00:20:03,260 --> 00:20:06,955
It was a number
tattooed on her arm.

327
00:20:06,955 --> 00:20:18,130

328

00:20:18,130 --> 00:20:19,990

I had started going
back to school.

329

00:20:19,990 --> 00:20:23,425

330

00:20:23,425 --> 00:20:25,050

Actually, I was going
to school already

331

00:20:25,050 --> 00:20:27,335

when I was living with
the Vanderlindens.

332

00:20:27,335 --> 00:20:29,460

At first, when they were
living out in the country,

333

00:20:29,460 --> 00:20:31,080

it was a Flemish area.

334

00:20:31,080 --> 00:20:37,230

And the school was a Catholic
school that was Flemish,

335

00:20:37,230 --> 00:20:39,010

which I didn't know.

336

00:20:39,010 --> 00:20:40,570

So that didn't
help me very much.

337

00:20:40,570 --> 00:20:43,930

Then later when they
moved into the city

338

00:20:43,930 --> 00:20:47,080

I went to a
French-speaking school.

339

00:20:47,080 --> 00:20:48,950

But there were some gaps there.

340
00:20:48,950 --> 00:20:53,960
So when I moved in with my
parents again, I started school

341
00:20:53,960 --> 00:20:57,740
but I was a year behind.

342
00:20:57,740 --> 00:21:05,130
And later I caught up.

343
00:21:05,130 --> 00:21:08,230
It was a very small
neighborhood school.

344
00:21:08,230 --> 00:21:14,170
And the fourth, fifth, and sixth
grade were in the same room.

345
00:21:14,170 --> 00:21:20,020
So I could hear and see
what this class ahead of me

346
00:21:20,020 --> 00:21:21,370
was doing.

347
00:21:21,370 --> 00:21:25,710
So by the end of the
fifth year of school,

348
00:21:25,710 --> 00:21:29,560
the teacher said I could
go on to seventh grade.

349
00:21:29,560 --> 00:21:37,330
Which is in-- what
do they call it here?

350
00:21:37,330 --> 00:21:39,980
--junior high school.

351

00:21:39,980 --> 00:21:43,300
So I caught up there.

352
00:21:43,300 --> 00:21:51,220
In '49, my brother got his
visa to come to the States.

353
00:21:51,220 --> 00:21:56,920
Since my brother and sister
and I were born in Germany

354
00:21:56,920 --> 00:22:00,610
but our parents were born
in Poland, we, the kids,

355
00:22:00,610 --> 00:22:06,880
got visas earlier because the
quota was shorter for Germans

356
00:22:06,880 --> 00:22:07,960
than it was for Poles.

357
00:22:07,960 --> 00:22:10,520

358
00:22:10,520 --> 00:22:14,000
So my brother got
his visa first.

359
00:22:14,000 --> 00:22:16,310
My parents were not that
interested in moving

360
00:22:16,310 --> 00:22:17,030
to the States.

361
00:22:17,030 --> 00:22:20,450
They got established
again in Belgium.

362
00:22:20,450 --> 00:22:23,030
They were happy there.

363

00:22:23,030 --> 00:22:26,360

But my brother wanted
to go to the States.

364

00:22:26,360 --> 00:22:28,620

And shortly after that--

365

00:22:28,620 --> 00:22:30,710

that was in 1949.

366

00:22:30,710 --> 00:22:33,830

Shortly after that,
my sister got her visa

367

00:22:33,830 --> 00:22:36,990

and she joined him.

368

00:22:36,990 --> 00:22:40,310

They went to
Seattle, Washington.

369

00:22:40,310 --> 00:22:48,500

And then in 1951, my
parents got their visas.

370

00:22:48,500 --> 00:22:50,480

I guess I could have gone
to the States before,

371

00:22:50,480 --> 00:22:53,600

but I was only 11
when my brother left.

372

00:22:53,600 --> 00:22:57,660

So they didn't want
me to go without them.

373

00:22:57,660 --> 00:23:01,760

So we came to the
States, arrived

374

00:23:01,760 --> 00:23:04,310

in New York on the Queen Mary.

375
00:23:04,310 --> 00:23:07,550
And then--

376
00:23:07,550 --> 00:23:10,350
Yeah, before-- we'll
come to that in a minute.

377
00:23:10,350 --> 00:23:13,320
I just wanted to ask you
some questions though.

378
00:23:13,320 --> 00:23:15,440
Was your family a
very religious family?

379
00:23:15,440 --> 00:23:16,590
Not at all.

380
00:23:16,590 --> 00:23:19,430
They assimilated or secular?

381
00:23:19,430 --> 00:23:20,570
They were secular.

382
00:23:20,570 --> 00:23:24,470
We observed the High Holidays.

383
00:23:24,470 --> 00:23:29,410
I didn't have-- well, I had
my bar mitzvah and I had--

384
00:23:29,410 --> 00:23:30,400
Well, that was later.

385
00:23:30,400 --> 00:23:32,900
No, I was talking about while
you were still in Europe.

386
00:23:32,900 --> 00:23:33,400
Yeah.

387
00:23:33,400 --> 00:23:35,570
Well, I had my bar
mitzvah in Europe.

388
00:23:35,570 --> 00:23:36,070
I was 15.

389
00:23:36,070 --> 00:23:36,640
Just before.

390
00:23:36,640 --> 00:23:39,160

391
00:23:39,160 --> 00:23:39,790
No.

392
00:23:39,790 --> 00:23:47,410
I mean, I would say they were a
little religious, but not very.

393
00:23:47,410 --> 00:23:48,740
My mother didn't keep kosher.

394
00:23:48,740 --> 00:23:51,850
What was before, I don't know.

395
00:23:51,850 --> 00:23:54,670
My brother thinks that
when they were in Germany,

396
00:23:54,670 --> 00:24:00,490
they were a little more,
maybe a little more religious.

397
00:24:00,490 --> 00:24:02,600
What kind of work
did your father do?

398
00:24:02,600 --> 00:24:05,740
He was in a tanning business.

399

00:24:05,740 --> 00:24:07,210

A leather and hides?

400

00:24:07,210 --> 00:24:08,260

Leather and hides, yes.

401

00:24:08,260 --> 00:24:10,310

Exactly.

402

00:24:10,310 --> 00:24:13,000

And then you talked about
your aunt and uncle.

403

00:24:13,000 --> 00:24:16,870

Did you know or did
your parents know

404

00:24:16,870 --> 00:24:21,160

or did they talk about what
was happening during the 1940s

405

00:24:21,160 --> 00:24:22,570

to the Jews in Europe?

406

00:24:22,570 --> 00:24:24,670

Did they have any idea?

407

00:24:24,670 --> 00:24:27,260

And did they share
that with you?

408

00:24:27,260 --> 00:24:28,060

We never--

409

00:24:28,060 --> 00:24:29,170

At the time.

410

00:24:29,170 --> 00:24:30,170

At the time itself?

411

00:24:30,170 --> 00:24:30,670

Yeah.

412
00:24:30,670 --> 00:24:33,190

413
00:24:33,190 --> 00:24:34,970
They didn't talk to me about it.

414
00:24:34,970 --> 00:24:36,690
I don't know what they knew.

415
00:24:36,690 --> 00:24:42,160
So what did you know as
a young child about--

416
00:24:42,160 --> 00:24:43,516
you knew you were Jewish?

417
00:24:43,516 --> 00:24:44,016
Yes.

418
00:24:44,016 --> 00:24:45,800
Did you know why
you were hiding?

419
00:24:45,800 --> 00:24:52,090

420
00:24:52,090 --> 00:24:59,930
I sort of knew that
we were being--

421
00:24:59,930 --> 00:25:06,290
that the Germans were looking
for us, and that something--

422
00:25:06,290 --> 00:25:09,410
I don't know if they ever
said what would happen.

423
00:25:09,410 --> 00:25:11,030
Maybe they didn't know at first.

424
00:25:11,030 --> 00:25:13,580
But it was not a good thing.

425
00:25:13,580 --> 00:25:15,350
Yeah.

426
00:25:15,350 --> 00:25:17,540
Was it something that you
talked, as a young child,

427
00:25:17,540 --> 00:25:21,420
over with either the
Vanderlindens or your parents?

428
00:25:21,420 --> 00:25:22,100
No.

429
00:25:22,100 --> 00:25:24,480
The one thing that
my parents told me--

430
00:25:24,480 --> 00:25:29,330
I remember the scene, even.

431
00:25:29,330 --> 00:25:33,260
They said that I should
be very careful not

432
00:25:33,260 --> 00:25:40,340
to urinate in front of
anybody in school or outside,

433
00:25:40,340 --> 00:25:41,660
not to show my penis.

434
00:25:41,660 --> 00:25:44,060
And I said, why?

435
00:25:44,060 --> 00:25:46,430
It was very strange.

436

00:25:46,430 --> 00:25:51,830

And they told me, well, it's
because the penis is different

437

00:25:51,830 --> 00:25:54,150

because you were Jewish.

438

00:25:54,150 --> 00:25:55,580

Did you know what that meant?

439

00:25:55,580 --> 00:25:57,080

No, I didn't know
what Jewish meant.

440

00:25:57,080 --> 00:25:59,790

But I knew it was
different from others.

441

00:25:59,790 --> 00:26:03,110

442

00:26:03,110 --> 00:26:05,870

And as far as the
other extended family,

443

00:26:05,870 --> 00:26:07,560

do you know what
happened to them?

444

00:26:07,560 --> 00:26:08,840

And if so, what it was?

445

00:26:08,840 --> 00:26:11,210

You talked about
your aunt and uncle.

446

00:26:11,210 --> 00:26:13,160

They were in Belgium.

447

00:26:13,160 --> 00:26:15,860

Any other extended family?

448

00:26:15,860 --> 00:26:22,460

Yes, there was-- on
my father's side,

449

00:26:22,460 --> 00:26:26,810

his two brothers
had left Poland too.

450

00:26:26,810 --> 00:26:30,320

One was in Paris with his wife.

451

00:26:30,320 --> 00:26:32,930

And he joined the
French Foreign Legion

452

00:26:32,930 --> 00:26:37,520

and was sent to North Africa.

453

00:26:37,520 --> 00:26:44,180

And his other brother went
to Tangier with his family,

454

00:26:44,180 --> 00:26:45,980

with his wife.

455

00:26:45,980 --> 00:26:51,770

And there was another sister
who was also living in Paris

456

00:26:51,770 --> 00:26:55,560

with her husband and children.

457

00:26:55,560 --> 00:26:59,530

Their daughter's the
same age and I am.

458

00:26:59,530 --> 00:27:04,060

And after the war started, they
were able to get out of France.

459

00:27:04,060 --> 00:27:07,700

Go to Spain and, I

guess, maybe Portugal.

460
00:27:07,700 --> 00:27:09,340
And they caught this ship.

461
00:27:09,340 --> 00:27:11,080
They didn't have
visas for any country.

462
00:27:11,080 --> 00:27:12,580
But when they got
to Venezuela, they

463
00:27:12,580 --> 00:27:16,280
were allowed to
get off the ship.

464
00:27:16,280 --> 00:27:18,190
So they are the
ones that survived.

465
00:27:18,190 --> 00:27:20,200
They survived.

466
00:27:20,200 --> 00:27:24,100
My father two or three--

467
00:27:24,100 --> 00:27:29,260
I don't know-- other sisters
and his parents, they perished.

468
00:27:29,260 --> 00:27:30,460
They didn't survive.

469
00:27:30,460 --> 00:27:32,020
They were in Poland.

470
00:27:32,020 --> 00:27:35,190
On my mother's side,
there were 11 children.

471
00:27:35,190 --> 00:27:37,480

She had 10 siblings.

472

00:27:37,480 --> 00:27:41,740

Her father had died before
the war, of natural causes.

473

00:27:41,740 --> 00:27:45,725

So there's her
grandmother and all

474

00:27:45,725 --> 00:27:48,090

her siblings that
were still in Poland.

475

00:27:48,090 --> 00:27:52,980

And of those-- no, I shouldn't
say they were all in Poland.

476

00:27:52,980 --> 00:27:58,140

One aunt and husband,
they were in Hungary.

477

00:27:58,140 --> 00:28:00,840

And then from Hungary,
they got to England.

478

00:28:00,840 --> 00:28:03,240

He was a [INAUDIBLE].

479

00:28:03,240 --> 00:28:05,542

And so he got a job in--

480

00:28:05,542 --> 00:28:08,760

not in England,
in Ireland first.

481

00:28:08,760 --> 00:28:12,330

And so they were safe.

482

00:28:12,330 --> 00:28:20,710

And my mother's youngest
brother, he and his wife

483

00:28:20,710 --> 00:28:21,700
went east.

484

00:28:21,700 --> 00:28:27,970
When Germany invaded the
Russian part of Poland,

485

00:28:27,970 --> 00:28:29,680
they went that way.

486

00:28:29,680 --> 00:28:33,310
And they ended up in Siberia.

487

00:28:33,310 --> 00:28:40,450
And then later, after
Germany attacked Russia,

488

00:28:40,450 --> 00:28:44,180
the conditions got better.

489

00:28:44,180 --> 00:28:47,770
And there were many
other Polish Jews

490

00:28:47,770 --> 00:28:54,010
were allowed to join the Polish
division in the Russian army.

491

00:28:54,010 --> 00:28:59,890
And they were sent to Iran,
Persia for the oil fields.

492

00:28:59,890 --> 00:29:03,760
But on the way, they deserted
and went to Palestine,

493

00:29:03,760 --> 00:29:07,870
along with many others,
including the former President

494

00:29:07,870 --> 00:29:11,260
of Israel, Begin.

495

00:29:11,260 --> 00:29:18,020

When you were staying at the Vanderlindens as a young child,

496

00:29:18,020 --> 00:29:22,280

were you able to lead any kind of a normal life?

497

00:29:22,280 --> 00:29:25,560

And do you remember it as being a particularly fearful time?

498

00:29:25,560 --> 00:29:26,060

No.

499

00:29:26,060 --> 00:29:32,450

Living with the Vanderlindens was a normal life.

500

00:29:32,450 --> 00:29:34,290

I went out with them.

501

00:29:34,290 --> 00:29:35,720

You know, we went to movies.

502

00:29:35,720 --> 00:29:40,940

We occasionally had an ice cream in the park or something.

503

00:29:40,940 --> 00:29:43,150

And as I said, I went to school.

504

00:29:43,150 --> 00:29:48,440

When you saw a German soldier, did that elicit any responses?

505

00:29:48,440 --> 00:29:54,050

Well, I think were kind of told--

506

00:29:54,050 --> 00:29:56,660

I have sort of the back
of my mind something

507
00:29:56,660 --> 00:29:59,450
like, don't look up.

508
00:29:59,450 --> 00:30:01,165
Don't draw attention.

509
00:30:01,165 --> 00:30:05,260

510
00:30:05,260 --> 00:30:07,804
Just keep walking, yeah.

511
00:30:07,804 --> 00:30:12,020

512
00:30:12,020 --> 00:30:17,290
I'd seen German soldiers in
the street, but you know.

513
00:30:17,290 --> 00:30:19,190
But you had freedom
of movement and you

514
00:30:19,190 --> 00:30:20,820
were able to play
with other children.

515
00:30:20,820 --> 00:30:21,320
Yes.

516
00:30:21,320 --> 00:30:22,362
You were speaking French.

517
00:30:22,362 --> 00:30:24,230
Yes, I spoke French.

518
00:30:24,230 --> 00:30:27,560
I was not supposed to
speak German, which I knew,

519
00:30:27,560 --> 00:30:29,555
because I spoke it
with my parents.

520
00:30:29,555 --> 00:30:31,560
Oh, you spoke German
with your parents.

521
00:30:31,560 --> 00:30:32,180
Yes.

522
00:30:32,180 --> 00:30:37,150
Since they didn't
even know French.

523
00:30:37,150 --> 00:30:40,230
They had lived in
Germany for 20 years.

524
00:30:40,230 --> 00:30:43,240

525
00:30:43,240 --> 00:30:47,980
So the language is
an important thing.

526
00:30:47,980 --> 00:30:50,395
There were some secrets
that I was able to keep.

527
00:30:50,395 --> 00:30:53,070

528
00:30:53,070 --> 00:30:55,990
And did you take the
Vanderlindens' last name?

529
00:30:55,990 --> 00:30:56,940
Yes.

530
00:30:56,940 --> 00:30:58,470

Actually, I had a new name.

531
00:30:58,470 --> 00:30:59,850
What was your name?

532
00:30:59,850 --> 00:31:04,020
[INAUDIBLE] Harry is not
only British or American,

533
00:31:04,020 --> 00:31:05,130
it's also a German name.

534
00:31:05,130 --> 00:31:07,800
But it's definitely
not Belgian or French.

535
00:31:07,800 --> 00:31:10,830
So I was Henry Vanderlinden.

536
00:31:10,830 --> 00:31:12,570
--Was your name.

537
00:31:12,570 --> 00:31:15,610
And I had a whole new identity.

538
00:31:15,610 --> 00:31:25,140
I was this little
Belgian boy, son of Adele

539
00:31:25,140 --> 00:31:28,170
and [? Adolphe ?] Vanderlinden.

540
00:31:28,170 --> 00:31:30,075
And I had an older
sister named Florence.

541
00:31:30,075 --> 00:31:32,730

542
00:31:32,730 --> 00:31:38,640
They were not religious at all.

543

00:31:38,640 --> 00:31:45,290

And so that was not
an issue at all.

544

00:31:45,290 --> 00:31:47,450

Why do you think I took you in?

545

00:31:47,450 --> 00:31:48,890

Well, you know, I never asked.

546

00:31:48,890 --> 00:31:55,820

But when I went to live in
France to work, actually

547

00:31:55,820 --> 00:32:00,600

in 1976, I went to see them.

548

00:32:00,600 --> 00:32:06,060

And my then girlfriend, American
girlfriend who's now my wife,

549

00:32:06,060 --> 00:32:07,600

came to visit me.

550

00:32:07,600 --> 00:32:11,400

And we went to Brussels
to see the Vanderlindens.

551

00:32:11,400 --> 00:32:16,100

By this time, I think her
husband had died already.

552

00:32:16,100 --> 00:32:22,300

And Arlene, my wife,
asked why she took us in--

553

00:32:22,300 --> 00:32:25,830

my sister and I. And
that was the first time.

554

00:32:25,830 --> 00:32:30,370

I don't know why it never

occurred to me to ask.

555

00:32:30,370 --> 00:32:33,490

What she said was that
somebody knocked at the door

556

00:32:33,490 --> 00:32:39,610

and asked if she would be
willing to take in a child.

557

00:32:39,610 --> 00:32:41,440

She didn't say Jewish.

558

00:32:41,440 --> 00:32:44,140

She wasn't told that
it was a Jewish child.

559

00:32:44,140 --> 00:32:48,040

And it wasn't-- obviously,
it wasn't my sister and I.

560

00:32:48,040 --> 00:32:53,020

It was a young teenage girl.

561

00:32:53,020 --> 00:32:54,670

And she stayed with
them for a while.

562

00:32:54,670 --> 00:33:01,300

And then they became concerned
because she had a boyfriend

563

00:33:01,300 --> 00:33:04,390

and they were not very careful.

564

00:33:04,390 --> 00:33:10,450

They wrote to each
other and revealed

565

00:33:10,450 --> 00:33:15,640

a lot of things which probably
would have endangered them all

566

00:33:15,640 --> 00:33:18,250
if somebody had looked into it.

567

00:33:18,250 --> 00:33:20,170
There was censorship of mail.

568

00:33:20,170 --> 00:33:24,370
But so they asked
the organization

569

00:33:24,370 --> 00:33:27,850
to take the girl back.

570

00:33:27,850 --> 00:33:31,540
And so my sister
and I were traded.

571

00:33:31,540 --> 00:33:34,710

572

00:33:34,710 --> 00:33:37,310
All right, let's
move to after the war

573

00:33:37,310 --> 00:33:43,943
before the '45 to 1951 era.

574

00:33:43,943 --> 00:33:45,110
You said you went to school.

575

00:33:45,110 --> 00:33:48,410
Was this a joyous time for you?

576

00:33:48,410 --> 00:33:53,460
You were eight years old
at the end of the war

577

00:33:53,460 --> 00:33:56,740
and, as you said, going to
junior high and so forth.

578

00:33:56,740 --> 00:33:59,960
I was not unhappy, I know that.

579
00:33:59,960 --> 00:34:02,940
But did you talk to your parents
about the previous years?

580
00:34:02,940 --> 00:34:03,440
No.

581
00:34:03,440 --> 00:34:04,160
We never talked.

582
00:34:04,160 --> 00:34:05,775
They never talked, yeah.

583
00:34:05,775 --> 00:34:10,460
And your father was able to
start his business again?

584
00:34:10,460 --> 00:34:11,909
Yes.

585
00:34:11,909 --> 00:34:12,719
Yes, he was.

586
00:34:12,719 --> 00:34:16,139

587
00:34:16,139 --> 00:34:19,880
But no, we never talked.

588
00:34:19,880 --> 00:34:21,840
Did you talk with
other friends about it?

589
00:34:21,840 --> 00:34:23,400
We never-- no.

590
00:34:23,400 --> 00:34:25,175
It's amazing.

591

00:34:25,175 --> 00:34:27,050

Where we lived was not
a Jewish neighborhood.

592

00:34:27,050 --> 00:34:29,730

So in the neighborhood,
I had no Jewish friends.

593

00:34:29,730 --> 00:34:34,020

But then when I went to junior
high, there was a Jewish boy.

594

00:34:34,020 --> 00:34:39,659

And it happened that his parents
and my parents were friends.

595

00:34:39,659 --> 00:34:42,210

But it was like, when the war--

596

00:34:42,210 --> 00:34:44,580

no, when we were liberated
and we all got together again

597

00:34:44,580 --> 00:34:48,310

as a family, I remember
very distinctly my sister

598

00:34:48,310 --> 00:34:50,850

saying nothing happened to us.

599

00:34:50,850 --> 00:34:54,104

We were not caught
and we didn't starve.

600

00:34:54,104 --> 00:34:56,699

601

00:34:56,699 --> 00:35:01,530

So whatever we went through
was the same as everybody else,

602

00:35:01,530 --> 00:35:06,060

except we were Jewish so there were some more complication.

603

00:35:06,060 --> 00:35:12,810

But we never-- even though the word survivor didn't exist,

604

00:35:12,810 --> 00:35:15,150

wasn't used like it is now.

605

00:35:15,150 --> 00:35:20,100

But you would consider people who were in concentration camps

606

00:35:20,100 --> 00:35:22,920

to have survived something.

607

00:35:22,920 --> 00:35:24,240

We didn't survive anything.

608

00:35:24,240 --> 00:35:26,250

We're just nothing.

609

00:35:26,250 --> 00:35:28,050

So we never talked about it.

610

00:35:28,050 --> 00:35:30,750

We never inquired about us.

611

00:35:30,750 --> 00:35:35,900

But after a while, my mother learned that other siblings

612

00:35:35,900 --> 00:35:38,410

and grandmother--

613

00:35:38,410 --> 00:35:41,450

I'm sorry, and her mother were dead.

614

00:35:41,450 --> 00:35:43,940

And the same with my father.

615
00:35:43,940 --> 00:35:47,610
I don't remember them ever
talking about it or crying.

616
00:35:47,610 --> 00:35:48,110
With you?

617
00:35:48,110 --> 00:35:48,620
With me.

618
00:35:48,620 --> 00:35:52,370
Or showing anything.

619
00:35:52,370 --> 00:35:55,610
I was even a little
surprised, maybe.

620
00:35:55,610 --> 00:35:58,190
How come-- I don't
know when I started

621
00:35:58,190 --> 00:36:01,280
feeling that it was strange
that they never talked about

622
00:36:01,280 --> 00:36:03,650
or showed emotions about it.

623
00:36:03,650 --> 00:36:08,430
Like, they didn't even cry.

624
00:36:08,430 --> 00:36:11,040
What did America mean
to you at that point,

625
00:36:11,040 --> 00:36:15,450
now you were going to be
going to the United States?

626
00:36:15,450 --> 00:36:17,370
Did America of any

meaning for you?

627

00:36:17,370 --> 00:36:18,210

Well, yes.

628

00:36:18,210 --> 00:36:18,780

As a child?

629

00:36:18,780 --> 00:36:19,740

As a child.

630

00:36:19,740 --> 00:36:22,590

As I said, we were
liberated by British.

631

00:36:22,590 --> 00:36:25,710

But then, soon
American troops came.

632

00:36:25,710 --> 00:36:26,760

And--

633

00:36:26,760 --> 00:36:28,080

Did you know any English?

634

00:36:28,080 --> 00:36:29,340

I didn't.

635

00:36:29,340 --> 00:36:32,950

My brother knew some English
and he'd like to practice it.

636

00:36:32,950 --> 00:36:35,610

And so he'd hang
around with soldiers.

637

00:36:35,610 --> 00:36:40,560

And when he met
Jewish soldiers, he'd

638

00:36:40,560 --> 00:36:42,280

invited them home for dinner.

639

00:36:42,280 --> 00:36:45,370

I didn't-- I only learned
this maybe a year ago,

640

00:36:45,370 --> 00:36:51,720

so I thought it was my
father who would invite them.

641

00:36:51,720 --> 00:36:53,980

But it was my brother.

642

00:36:53,980 --> 00:36:55,375

And so we had a lot of soldiers.

643

00:36:55,375 --> 00:36:58,030

644

00:36:58,030 --> 00:37:08,720

And also, my mother had a cousin
who was in the Jewish Brigade.

645

00:37:08,720 --> 00:37:11,600

He would come to our
house with a British truck

646

00:37:11,600 --> 00:37:12,630

and give me a ride.

647

00:37:12,630 --> 00:37:16,100

I remember there
was a round sunroof

648

00:37:16,100 --> 00:37:18,290

and I would stand
up on the seat.

649

00:37:18,290 --> 00:37:23,660

And I didn't know then, of
course, that he was using--

650

00:37:23,660 --> 00:37:27,485

the truck was used for
bringing refugees to,

651
00:37:27,485 --> 00:37:33,740
I think, Italy from where
they departed for Palestine.

652
00:37:33,740 --> 00:37:43,900
And then, even
before the war ended,

653
00:37:43,900 --> 00:37:46,270
an American came into our lives.

654
00:37:46,270 --> 00:37:54,780
It was my cousin in
Ireland had married

655
00:37:54,780 --> 00:37:58,530
an American officer, a dentist.

656
00:37:58,530 --> 00:37:59,880
Her brother was a dentist too.

657
00:37:59,880 --> 00:38:02,880
So they met in the same way.

658
00:38:02,880 --> 00:38:11,150
Her father had invited this
young American officer, whose

659
00:38:11,150 --> 00:38:15,020
father was a rabbi, for dinner.

660
00:38:15,020 --> 00:38:16,790
And they got married.

661
00:38:16,790 --> 00:38:21,140
And then he was sent to Belgium.

662
00:38:21,140 --> 00:38:26,210
He worked in a field

hospital in Liege, which

663
00:38:26,210 --> 00:38:28,100
is quite close to Brussels.

664
00:38:28,100 --> 00:38:29,960
Belgium is very small.

665
00:38:29,960 --> 00:38:34,970
And he started coming to
our house every weekend

666
00:38:34,970 --> 00:38:36,890
or whenever he was off.

667
00:38:36,890 --> 00:38:40,640
And he was able to do
everything, like fix things.

668
00:38:40,640 --> 00:38:43,820
Things that my father
would never be able to do.

669
00:38:43,820 --> 00:38:50,020
And so I was always
happy to be around him.

670
00:38:50,020 --> 00:38:52,850

671
00:38:52,850 --> 00:38:59,860
One thing, he used to
be a great storyteller.

672
00:38:59,860 --> 00:39:02,580
But he also had a
very loud voice.

673
00:39:02,580 --> 00:39:08,250
So we spoke German because
we didn't know English.

674

00:39:08,250 --> 00:39:13,080

And he knew-- he had
learned German in school.

675

00:39:13,080 --> 00:39:14,860

At least, [INAUDIBLE] in school.

676

00:39:14,860 --> 00:39:15,870

I don't know where else.

677

00:39:15,870 --> 00:39:17,580

He spoke it quite well.

678

00:39:17,580 --> 00:39:21,330

And sometimes we'd
go out in public,

679

00:39:21,330 --> 00:39:23,850

like to a restaurant or a cafe.

680

00:39:23,850 --> 00:39:28,440

And he would talk.

681

00:39:28,440 --> 00:39:32,110

But it was always in this
booming voice in German.

682

00:39:32,110 --> 00:39:35,100

683

00:39:35,100 --> 00:39:35,600

Oh, dear.

684

00:39:35,600 --> 00:39:38,601

I didn't know where to hide.

685

00:39:38,601 --> 00:39:42,590

I'd keep my distance because
everybody would start staring.

686

00:39:42,590 --> 00:39:44,940

Right.

687
00:39:44,940 --> 00:39:49,140
So did you feel very
Belgian at that time?

688
00:39:49,140 --> 00:39:50,080
No, I didn't feel--

689
00:39:50,080 --> 00:39:52,170
I always felt like an outsider.

690
00:39:52,170 --> 00:39:53,970
But I still do.

691
00:39:53,970 --> 00:39:56,520
Anywhere I am, almost.

692
00:39:56,520 --> 00:39:59,550
So when your folks said you
were going to the United States?

693
00:39:59,550 --> 00:40:00,810
I was happy.

694
00:40:00,810 --> 00:40:01,680
You were happy.

695
00:40:01,680 --> 00:40:02,635
Why?

696
00:40:02,635 --> 00:40:03,135
Well--

697
00:40:03,135 --> 00:40:07,188

698
00:40:07,188 --> 00:40:09,420
You're a teenager now.

699
00:40:09,420 --> 00:40:10,830
Yeah, pre-teenager.

700
00:40:10,830 --> 00:40:14,760
I'd say 12 or 13 when we came.

701
00:40:14,760 --> 00:40:16,150
So I don't know.

702
00:40:16,150 --> 00:40:17,610
My brother was already here.

703
00:40:17,610 --> 00:40:20,220
And also, I guess--

704
00:40:20,220 --> 00:40:23,970
I know that with
my friends, we had

705
00:40:23,970 --> 00:40:25,750
arguments who were,
like, for example,

706
00:40:25,750 --> 00:40:27,270
who was the best soldier?

707
00:40:27,270 --> 00:40:30,390
Well, first of all, the
Germans were the best soldiers.

708
00:40:30,390 --> 00:40:32,670
Then the British were next.

709
00:40:32,670 --> 00:40:35,250
And I mean, that was
my friends' arguments.

710
00:40:35,250 --> 00:40:39,060
And then, then came
the American soldiers.

711
00:40:39,060 --> 00:40:43,040
But like, one of
my friends said--

712
00:40:43,040 --> 00:40:45,380
his family was communist--

713
00:40:45,380 --> 00:40:47,960
General Motors won the war.

714
00:40:47,960 --> 00:40:50,156
I had no idea what
General Motors was.

715
00:40:50,156 --> 00:40:51,560
[LAUGHS]

716
00:40:51,560 --> 00:40:52,863
Who he was, right.

717
00:40:52,863 --> 00:40:53,780
Who is General Motors?

718
00:40:53,780 --> 00:40:57,340

719
00:40:57,340 --> 00:40:59,370
And since then, I have.

720
00:40:59,370 --> 00:41:00,915
But in a way, that's
been confirmed.

721
00:41:00,915 --> 00:41:02,540
I mean, the fact that
the United States

722
00:41:02,540 --> 00:41:06,530
had such an output
of material that

723
00:41:06,530 --> 00:41:13,370
was able to continue while
the Germans couldn't produce.

724

00:41:13,370 --> 00:41:17,840

So anyway, I was always
liked the Americans better

725

00:41:17,840 --> 00:41:19,620

than the others.

726

00:41:19,620 --> 00:41:21,950

And so I was prepared
to come here.

727

00:41:21,950 --> 00:41:23,050

I was happy to come here.

728

00:41:23,050 --> 00:41:24,650

I liked American things.

729

00:41:24,650 --> 00:41:25,190

You did?

730

00:41:25,190 --> 00:41:26,607

Well, my friends
probably did too.

731

00:41:26,607 --> 00:41:28,153

But there was a--

732

00:41:28,153 --> 00:41:30,320

By the time you came here,
did you know any English?

733

00:41:30,320 --> 00:41:32,660

I knew a little.

734

00:41:32,660 --> 00:41:37,640

In the eighth grade, we started
learning English in school.

735

00:41:37,640 --> 00:41:40,740

The teacher had
a British accent.

736

00:41:40,740 --> 00:41:45,540

And for maybe the
last six months--

737

00:41:45,540 --> 00:41:47,730

or after my parents
got the visa,

738

00:41:47,730 --> 00:41:50,130

there was a period of
time before we came.

739

00:41:50,130 --> 00:41:53,670

During that period,
they hired a tutor.

740

00:41:53,670 --> 00:41:56,700

But in reality, I
knew very little.

741

00:41:56,700 --> 00:41:59,820

I remember we arrived in London.

742

00:41:59,820 --> 00:42:03,450

We went to visit my uncle
and aunt who lived in London.

743

00:42:03,450 --> 00:42:09,410

And crossed on the ship.

744

00:42:09,410 --> 00:42:11,630

And then we took the train.

745

00:42:11,630 --> 00:42:14,210

And we're at the train station.

746

00:42:14,210 --> 00:42:18,620

And we didn't know where
we were or where to go.

747

00:42:18,620 --> 00:42:23,740

So this man came up to us

and asked if we could help.

748

00:42:23,740 --> 00:42:27,730

All I could think of
saying was, no, thank you.

749

00:42:27,730 --> 00:42:33,490

[LAUGHS] In fact, we
could have used help.

750

00:42:33,490 --> 00:42:35,320

Now, you said you
took the Queen Mary.

751

00:42:35,320 --> 00:42:35,950

Yes.

752

00:42:35,950 --> 00:42:38,300

How did that come about?

753

00:42:38,300 --> 00:42:39,670

Well, my parents had money.

754

00:42:39,670 --> 00:42:44,470

And we traveled second
class, unfortunately for me.

755

00:42:44,470 --> 00:42:45,850

I mean, they always used to--

756

00:42:45,850 --> 00:42:49,110

757

00:42:49,110 --> 00:42:52,640

when we travel-- every summer,
we went to the coast in Belgium

758

00:42:52,640 --> 00:42:58,450

and we stayed in nice
hotels or rented villas.

759

00:42:58,450 --> 00:43:00,060

So my parents were well-off.

760
00:43:00,060 --> 00:43:01,110
[INAUDIBLE] Not me.

761
00:43:01,110 --> 00:43:02,940
Not wealthy, but well-off.

762
00:43:02,940 --> 00:43:09,110
And so then, let's
say, they felt

763
00:43:09,110 --> 00:43:12,050
it didn't suit them to go
third class, tourist class.

764
00:43:12,050 --> 00:43:15,980
So we went second class
on the Queen Mary.

765
00:43:15,980 --> 00:43:19,940
The front of the
ship is first class.

766
00:43:19,940 --> 00:43:24,650
And the back of the ship
is the tourist class.

767
00:43:24,650 --> 00:43:28,040
And second class is the whole
length of this huge ship.

768
00:43:28,040 --> 00:43:30,770
But there were very, very few
passengers in second class.

769
00:43:30,770 --> 00:43:33,350
If you can afford it,
you go first class.

770
00:43:33,350 --> 00:43:34,940
And there were no children.

771
00:43:34,940 --> 00:43:36,570
I was all by myself.

772
00:43:36,570 --> 00:43:40,915
I did meet a reporter for
the Saturday Evening Post.

773
00:43:40,915 --> 00:43:42,290
Of course, he
didn't speak French

774
00:43:42,290 --> 00:43:43,760
and I didn't speak English.

775
00:43:43,760 --> 00:43:47,010
And he-- I don't know if it
was his girlfriend or what.

776
00:43:47,010 --> 00:43:49,130
There was a Chinese woman.

777
00:43:49,130 --> 00:43:52,400
And by coincidence,
his sister had

778
00:43:52,400 --> 00:43:54,680
lived for some time
on the same street

779
00:43:54,680 --> 00:43:56,750
where we lived in Brussels.

780
00:43:56,750 --> 00:44:03,740
And so they took me around
and sort of entertained me.

781
00:44:03,740 --> 00:44:07,640
When you docked in New York,
was that anything special?

782
00:44:07,640 --> 00:44:09,150
Do you have memories of that?

783
00:44:09,150 --> 00:44:09,650
Yes.

784
00:44:09,650 --> 00:44:11,780
Because this is
even embarrassing.

785
00:44:11,780 --> 00:44:14,830
I didn't know much, I guess.

786
00:44:14,830 --> 00:44:16,580
I didn't know about
the Statue of Liberty,

787
00:44:16,580 --> 00:44:18,420
or I didn't know it
was such a big deal.

788
00:44:18,420 --> 00:44:25,670
So one morning, the reporter
came and knocked on our cabin.

789
00:44:25,670 --> 00:44:28,310
And said, we're going to go
by the Statue of Liberty.

790
00:44:28,310 --> 00:44:29,360
We're arriving.

791
00:44:29,360 --> 00:44:33,060
And at first I
didn't know what it

792
00:44:33,060 --> 00:44:34,670
was that we were going to see.

793
00:44:34,670 --> 00:44:41,070
But I went with him,
and with a lot of people

794
00:44:41,070 --> 00:44:44,250

on the side of the ship looking
towards the Statue of Liberty.

795
00:44:44,250 --> 00:44:49,500
And he said to me,
aren't you excited?

796
00:44:49,500 --> 00:44:54,760
And I got embarrassed because
the French word excited

797
00:44:54,760 --> 00:44:56,260
is sexual.

798
00:44:56,260 --> 00:44:56,760
[LAUGHS]

799
00:44:56,760 --> 00:44:58,120
Oh, OK.

800
00:44:58,120 --> 00:45:00,100
Sexually excited.

801
00:45:00,100 --> 00:45:02,690
So I didn't know--

802
00:45:02,690 --> 00:45:04,043
How to answer.

803
00:45:04,043 --> 00:45:07,200
[LAUGHS]

804
00:45:07,200 --> 00:45:13,320
So I was looking forward
to arriving in New York.

805
00:45:13,320 --> 00:45:18,792
And we were met by
friends of my parents.

806
00:45:18,792 --> 00:45:20,240
They took us to a hotel.

807
00:45:20,240 --> 00:45:23,110

808
00:45:23,110 --> 00:45:25,540
But I was really
disappointed by New York.

809
00:45:25,540 --> 00:45:29,210
It was so noisy, so dirty.

810
00:45:29,210 --> 00:45:31,030
I remember the first
morning or very

811
00:45:31,030 --> 00:45:33,100
early in the
morning, the garbage

812
00:45:33,100 --> 00:45:37,680
trucks picking up garbage cans,
and the smell on the subway.

813
00:45:37,680 --> 00:45:42,112
It was all very unpleasant.

814
00:45:42,112 --> 00:45:44,070
Of course, not knowing
any English didn't help.

815
00:45:44,070 --> 00:45:45,090
Right, right.

816
00:45:45,090 --> 00:45:47,040
And then how long
did it take to get--

817
00:45:47,040 --> 00:45:48,730
did you go directly to Seattle?

818
00:45:48,730 --> 00:45:50,970
We spent a few days.

819
00:45:50,970 --> 00:45:53,280
There were other friends
that my parents-- they were

820
00:45:53,280 --> 00:45:55,490
planning to live in New York.

821
00:45:55,490 --> 00:45:58,540
We were just going to see
my brother and sister.

822
00:45:58,540 --> 00:45:59,040
Oh, I see.

823
00:45:59,040 --> 00:46:00,450
To visit, yeah.

824
00:46:00,450 --> 00:46:07,260
And we went to LA
because my parents

825
00:46:07,260 --> 00:46:09,240
had some friends there too.

826
00:46:09,240 --> 00:46:14,760
And they had round-- we bought
round trip tickets, flying.

827
00:46:14,760 --> 00:46:17,340
And when we arrived
in Seattle, we

828
00:46:17,340 --> 00:46:21,780
found out that my brother
was being drafted.

829
00:46:21,780 --> 00:46:24,925
The process had started
with the Korean War.

830
00:46:24,925 --> 00:46:25,425

And--

831
00:46:25,425 --> 00:46:28,160

832
00:46:28,160 --> 00:46:30,440
You're now 14?

833
00:46:30,440 --> 00:46:31,700
No, I'm still 13.

834
00:46:31,700 --> 00:46:32,960
It was March.

835
00:46:32,960 --> 00:46:33,890
Oh, it was March.

836
00:46:33,890 --> 00:46:35,590
'51, so I was still 13.

837
00:46:35,590 --> 00:46:38,420
You're 13.

838
00:46:38,420 --> 00:46:40,280
You had mentioned
about a bar mitzvah.

839
00:46:40,280 --> 00:46:40,920
Did you--

840
00:46:40,920 --> 00:46:43,610
I had my bar
mitzvah in Brussels.

841
00:46:43,610 --> 00:46:46,350
What was that like?

842
00:46:46,350 --> 00:46:48,380
Well, I didn't like
the whole process.

843

00:46:48,380 --> 00:46:54,260
How I had the tutor also
who came to the house.

844
00:46:54,260 --> 00:46:56,930
First, it was a young
woman, a pretty young woman.

845
00:46:56,930 --> 00:46:59,480
But for some reason, after
a while, it was a man.

846
00:46:59,480 --> 00:47:03,380
And in either
case, I didn't like

847
00:47:03,380 --> 00:47:09,920
having to learn to read
Hebrew and prepare for the bar

848
00:47:09,920 --> 00:47:11,330
mitzvah.

849
00:47:11,330 --> 00:47:14,630
It was all quite
strange to me because we

850
00:47:14,630 --> 00:47:17,390
didn't live in [INAUDIBLE].

851
00:47:17,390 --> 00:47:21,695
So it was a relatively
small bar mitzvah.

852
00:47:21,695 --> 00:47:26,660

853
00:47:26,660 --> 00:47:31,790
My parents invited
their friends.

854
00:47:31,790 --> 00:47:32,930
Oh, we did have relatives.

855
00:47:32,930 --> 00:47:37,070
Yes, we had cousins
who then lived in--

856
00:47:37,070 --> 00:47:38,330
they're still in Los Angeles.

857
00:47:38,330 --> 00:47:42,310
But he has Alzheimer's now.

858
00:47:42,310 --> 00:47:46,160
And there was only one friend.

859
00:47:46,160 --> 00:47:49,880
One friend, the boy
who was in my class

860
00:47:49,880 --> 00:47:51,920
when I started junior high.

861
00:47:51,920 --> 00:47:54,770
And my cousin.

862
00:47:54,770 --> 00:47:58,520
A cousin from who
came from Paris.

863
00:47:58,520 --> 00:48:01,010
And this was post-war,
so there was no danger.

864
00:48:01,010 --> 00:48:01,850
Yes.

865
00:48:01,850 --> 00:48:03,640
So you could be relaxed.

866
00:48:03,640 --> 00:48:04,310
Yes.

867

00:48:04,310 --> 00:48:05,315
I was with my parents.

868
00:48:05,315 --> 00:48:08,580

869
00:48:08,580 --> 00:48:12,420
Later, I found
out this woman who

870
00:48:12,420 --> 00:48:18,240
made a film called As
If It Was Yesterday,

871
00:48:18,240 --> 00:48:19,840
I think it's the title.

872
00:48:19,840 --> 00:48:25,200
And it's about Belgian children
being hidden in Belgium.

873
00:48:25,200 --> 00:48:30,480
And her parents were
at my bar mitzvah.

874
00:48:30,480 --> 00:48:32,460
I never met them and
I've never met her.

875
00:48:32,460 --> 00:48:33,660
She lives in New York.

876
00:48:33,660 --> 00:48:35,385
My sister has met her, I think.

877
00:48:35,385 --> 00:48:36,690
Interesting.

878
00:48:36,690 --> 00:48:39,960
Well, now you're visiting
your family in Seattle.

879

00:48:39,960 --> 00:48:43,020

And we're going to stay
just, I don't know, 10 days

880

00:48:43,020 --> 00:48:45,520

or so and then go
back to New York.

881

00:48:45,520 --> 00:48:48,780

And so this was quite
a shock to my parents.

882

00:48:48,780 --> 00:48:53,410

883

00:48:53,410 --> 00:49:02,890

My brother, he had tried
to stay out of the army

884

00:49:02,890 --> 00:49:07,540

by saying that he was
my parents' support.

885

00:49:07,540 --> 00:49:12,340

But my parents came with
enough money that they decide,

886

00:49:12,340 --> 00:49:15,640

the draft board decided
that they didn't need

887

00:49:15,640 --> 00:49:17,590

to be supported by my brother.

888

00:49:17,590 --> 00:49:19,150

So he was drafted.

889

00:49:19,150 --> 00:49:22,780

And went to basic training.

890

00:49:22,780 --> 00:49:28,540

And then he got
ready to go to Korea.

891
00:49:28,540 --> 00:49:33,460
And this is really strange, but
my father's hair turned white,

892
00:49:33,460 --> 00:49:34,550
I think, overnight.

893
00:49:34,550 --> 00:49:36,020
I've heard that it happens.

894
00:49:36,020 --> 00:49:39,560

895
00:49:39,560 --> 00:49:42,920
So then we decided,
my parents decided

896
00:49:42,920 --> 00:49:47,330
to stay in Seattle because my
brother had a business there.

897
00:49:47,330 --> 00:49:50,100
It was the food
vending machines.

898
00:49:50,100 --> 00:49:57,610
That it's [INAUDIBLE] was the
cousin, the American cousin,

899
00:49:57,610 --> 00:49:58,920
[PERSONAL NAME] is his name.

900
00:49:58,920 --> 00:50:05,550
His brother had a business,
this vending machine business,

901
00:50:05,550 --> 00:50:07,110
in Tacoma, Washington.

902
00:50:07,110 --> 00:50:10,830
And he wanted to

expand it to Seattle.

903

00:50:10,830 --> 00:50:15,637

So my brother became a partner
with my father's money.

904

00:50:15,637 --> 00:50:16,860

[LAUGHS]

905

00:50:16,860 --> 00:50:18,330

And you went on to school.

906

00:50:18,330 --> 00:50:19,680

I started school.

907

00:50:19,680 --> 00:50:23,650

Which was strange because, as
I said, we arrived in March.

908

00:50:23,650 --> 00:50:30,360

So maybe we arrived in Seattle
at the beginning of April.

909

00:50:30,360 --> 00:50:32,460

And we're staying with
my brother and sister

910

00:50:32,460 --> 00:50:34,390

in an apartment.

911

00:50:34,390 --> 00:50:41,080

And I don't know,
it doesn't matter

912

00:50:41,080 --> 00:50:42,390

that they had an apartment.

913

00:50:42,390 --> 00:50:46,560

And after I'd been
there for a while,

914

00:50:46,560 --> 00:50:50,890

the neighbors told my
sister and my brother

915
00:50:50,890 --> 00:50:53,170
I should go to school.

916
00:50:53,170 --> 00:50:58,020
So my brother inquired where
the nearest school was.

917
00:50:58,020 --> 00:51:01,590
And it was a high school.

918
00:51:01,590 --> 00:51:06,050
And I was still in
the eighth grade.

919
00:51:06,050 --> 00:51:08,945
In this high school, they
start in ninth grade.

920
00:51:08,945 --> 00:51:10,320
We went to talk--
my brother took

921
00:51:10,320 --> 00:51:12,450
me to talk to the principal.

922
00:51:12,450 --> 00:51:16,870
And the principal asked
me what I'd studied.

923
00:51:16,870 --> 00:51:18,450
My brother translated.

924
00:51:18,450 --> 00:51:20,550
And since I had
studied many things

925
00:51:20,550 --> 00:51:27,900
that they weren't doing an
eighth grade in America,

926

00:51:27,900 --> 00:51:34,170
like studying Latin and algebra,
geometry, the principal very

927

00:51:34,170 --> 00:51:37,770
wisely said, well,
he can stay here.

928

00:51:37,770 --> 00:51:41,530
Normally, they would have had to
send me to junior high school.

929

00:51:41,530 --> 00:51:43,350
But he said, he can stay here.

930

00:51:43,350 --> 00:51:46,320
The year's almost
finished, and you'll

931

00:51:46,320 --> 00:51:49,020
use the time to learn English.

932

00:51:49,020 --> 00:51:53,430
So he put me in a French
class and a German class

933

00:51:53,430 --> 00:51:55,950
and a couple of English classes.

934

00:51:55,950 --> 00:52:00,510
And then by the fall,
I could speak English.

935

00:52:00,510 --> 00:52:01,620
You could speak English.

936

00:52:01,620 --> 00:52:02,760
With an accent.

937

00:52:02,760 --> 00:52:03,930
Right.

938

00:52:03,930 --> 00:52:07,470

And so you completed
high school in Seattle.

939

00:52:07,470 --> 00:52:07,970

Yes.

940

00:52:07,970 --> 00:52:09,780

It was a high school where
there a lot of Jewish--

941

00:52:09,780 --> 00:52:10,822

And then what did you do?

942

00:52:10,822 --> 00:52:13,050

I went to University
of Washington

943

00:52:13,050 --> 00:52:16,080

and studied there
for four years.

944

00:52:16,080 --> 00:52:17,190

So you got a degree?

945

00:52:17,190 --> 00:52:19,200

I got a degree in French.

946

00:52:19,200 --> 00:52:21,020

Did you talk about
your childhood at all?

947

00:52:21,020 --> 00:52:22,590

Did people ask you?

948

00:52:22,590 --> 00:52:24,987

No, never talked about it.

949

00:52:24,987 --> 00:52:26,070

Never talked about it, OK.

950

00:52:26,070 --> 00:52:28,170
But one thing happened.

951
00:52:28,170 --> 00:52:33,150
I was having trouble writing,
like, for English classes.

952
00:52:33,150 --> 00:52:39,270
And my advisor--
we had advisors.

953
00:52:39,270 --> 00:52:42,420
I remember his name,
Otis, Mr. Otis.

954
00:52:42,420 --> 00:52:45,990
He said, oh, in Belgium they
teach writing very well.

955
00:52:45,990 --> 00:52:47,400
I didn't know how he knew.

956
00:52:47,400 --> 00:52:51,250
So he said, well, that
shouldn't be a problem.

957
00:52:51,250 --> 00:52:56,150
And he said, why don't
you go see a counselor

958
00:52:56,150 --> 00:52:57,560
at the counseling center.

959
00:52:57,560 --> 00:52:59,990
So I did.

960
00:52:59,990 --> 00:53:02,000
And for some reason,
there were two people.

961
00:53:02,000 --> 00:53:03,980
I think they were psychologists.

962

00:53:03,980 --> 00:53:08,010

And they were sitting
across from me.

963

00:53:08,010 --> 00:53:10,070

And one of them
said, well, tell us

964

00:53:10,070 --> 00:53:12,800

about yourself, your background.

965

00:53:12,800 --> 00:53:18,240

And that was the first time I
started talking about myself.

966

00:53:18,240 --> 00:53:23,850

And I started crying.

967

00:53:23,850 --> 00:53:26,890

968

00:53:26,890 --> 00:53:28,480

Were they sympathetic?

969

00:53:28,480 --> 00:53:28,990

Yes.

970

00:53:28,990 --> 00:53:30,100

Yeah, good.

971

00:53:30,100 --> 00:53:31,690

Yes, they were sympathetic.

972

00:53:31,690 --> 00:53:37,210

They said that I
needed counseling,

973

00:53:37,210 --> 00:53:41,110

but it would be long-term and
they only offered short-term

974

00:53:41,110 --> 00:53:42,230
there.

975
00:53:42,230 --> 00:53:48,850
So they recommended
I see a psychiatrist.

976
00:53:48,850 --> 00:53:50,833
So I told my parents,
and said, why should you

977
00:53:50,833 --> 00:53:51,625
see a psychiatrist?

978
00:53:51,625 --> 00:53:52,490
You're not crazy.

979
00:53:52,490 --> 00:53:52,990
[LAUGHS]

980
00:53:52,990 --> 00:53:54,940
Right.

981
00:53:54,940 --> 00:54:00,530
So I didn't go to a psychologist
until many years later,

982
00:54:00,530 --> 00:54:02,860
in my late 20s.

983
00:54:02,860 --> 00:54:09,710
And a friend of mine said
he was seeing somebody.

984
00:54:09,710 --> 00:54:12,410
And he said it was very good.

985
00:54:12,410 --> 00:54:14,847
He was Jewish and
he was very good.

986
00:54:14,847 --> 00:54:16,430

I didn't know exactly
what that meant.

987
00:54:16,430 --> 00:54:20,450
But I kind of thought
maybe I could see him.

988
00:54:20,450 --> 00:54:22,520
So I called his office.

989
00:54:22,520 --> 00:54:25,110
And told me he is all booked up.

990
00:54:25,110 --> 00:54:26,540
He couldn't see me.

991
00:54:26,540 --> 00:54:28,460
He wasn't taking
any new patients.

992
00:54:28,460 --> 00:54:31,670
But there was somebody
in the same suite

993
00:54:31,670 --> 00:54:33,071
of offices who might.

994
00:54:33,071 --> 00:54:35,720

995
00:54:35,720 --> 00:54:37,580
And so I went.

996
00:54:37,580 --> 00:54:40,520
Made an appointment with
this other psychiatrist

997
00:54:40,520 --> 00:54:46,510
who was traditional.

998
00:54:46,510 --> 00:54:47,750
He was Freudian, I guess.

999
00:54:47,750 --> 00:54:48,580
Freudian.

1000
00:54:48,580 --> 00:54:50,270
Yes.

1001
00:54:50,270 --> 00:54:52,310
He never said anything.

1002
00:54:52,310 --> 00:54:59,480
He had me talk and
he wrote notes.

1003
00:54:59,480 --> 00:55:02,720

1004
00:55:02,720 --> 00:55:06,350
Except one time, he reacted.

1005
00:55:06,350 --> 00:55:07,790
I don't remember
what I told him.

1006
00:55:07,790 --> 00:55:10,940
It's something like, I'm lucky.

1007
00:55:10,940 --> 00:55:13,070
And I don't know what
I was referring to.

1008
00:55:13,070 --> 00:55:15,120
Maybe I met a girl or something.

1009
00:55:15,120 --> 00:55:17,360
And all of a sudden, he blew up.

1010
00:55:17,360 --> 00:55:19,640
He said, you're lucky?

1011
00:55:19,640 --> 00:55:20,600

You think you're lucky?

1012
00:55:20,600 --> 00:55:24,290
You think you're
special, don't you?

1013
00:55:24,290 --> 00:55:26,070
I couldn't respond.

1014
00:55:26,070 --> 00:55:29,600
I mean, he didn't
know anything about me

1015
00:55:29,600 --> 00:55:30,770
because he had never asked.

1016
00:55:30,770 --> 00:55:32,510
And I never talked
about my past.

1017
00:55:32,510 --> 00:55:37,650
And if he look at my early
childhood, yeah, I was lucky.

1018
00:55:37,650 --> 00:55:40,190
I had-- let's see,
in Belgium I had

1019
00:55:40,190 --> 00:55:45,090
a 50-50 chance of surviving.

1020
00:55:45,090 --> 00:55:47,310
Maybe less because
I was a child.

1021
00:55:47,310 --> 00:55:49,650
But see, if I'd been caught,
it would have been less.

1022
00:55:49,650 --> 00:55:54,450
So definitely I would
say, yes, I was lucky.

1023

00:55:54,450 --> 00:55:59,280

But for some reason
he reacted this way.

1024

00:55:59,280 --> 00:56:02,070

Shortly after that, I quit.

1025

00:56:02,070 --> 00:56:05,425

When he raises his rate, I took
the opportunity of quitting.

1026

00:56:05,425 --> 00:56:08,220

1027

00:56:08,220 --> 00:56:12,750

And this happened,
again, like when I--

1028

00:56:12,750 --> 00:56:15,270

did I say I lived in Vancouver?

1029

00:56:15,270 --> 00:56:15,930

No.

1030

00:56:15,930 --> 00:56:18,160

You did your four
years at Seattle.

1031

00:56:18,160 --> 00:56:18,840

OK.

1032

00:56:18,840 --> 00:56:21,060

Then I went to work for a year.

1033

00:56:21,060 --> 00:56:24,090

I wanted to save my money
so I could go to Paris.

1034

00:56:24,090 --> 00:56:27,030

I had read the Razor's
Edge, Somerset Maugham.

1035

00:56:27,030 --> 00:56:33,990

And [INAUDIBLE] later, when I
was with my sister when she was

1036

00:56:33,990 --> 00:56:36,040

dying and she was--

1037

00:56:36,040 --> 00:56:38,820

we had this more intimate
kind of conversation,

1038

00:56:38,820 --> 00:56:41,610

said my mother, who
by that time was dead,

1039

00:56:41,610 --> 00:56:44,020

said that that book
changed my life.

1040

00:56:44,020 --> 00:56:46,320

I didn't even know that
my mother was aware.

1041

00:56:46,320 --> 00:56:48,120

But anyway, I wanted
to go to Paris.

1042

00:56:48,120 --> 00:56:51,670

So I worked for a year and then
I went to Paris for a year.

1043

00:56:51,670 --> 00:56:53,140

What did you do in Paris?

1044

00:56:53,140 --> 00:56:55,118

I went to a school.

1045

00:56:55,118 --> 00:56:56,160

Well, it was [INAUDIBLE].

1046

00:56:56,160 --> 00:57:01,780

But it was a special institute

for teachers of French abroad.

1047

00:57:01,780 --> 00:57:04,290

And so I got a
certificate there.

1048

00:57:04,290 --> 00:57:09,120

And then I wanted to go
to Israel to a kibbutz.

1049

00:57:09,120 --> 00:57:13,340

And I had gone to a party.

1050

00:57:13,340 --> 00:57:16,020

A Jewish professor had
invited me to a party.

1051

00:57:16,020 --> 00:57:16,830

In Paris?

1052

00:57:16,830 --> 00:57:18,250

In Paris.

1053

00:57:18,250 --> 00:57:22,440

Which is sort of unusual
because professors and students,

1054

00:57:22,440 --> 00:57:24,400

at least at that
time, didn't mix.

1055

00:57:24,400 --> 00:57:27,720

But she invited another
student from the class,

1056

00:57:27,720 --> 00:57:29,070

a Jamaican girl.

1057

00:57:29,070 --> 00:57:33,450

And at that party, I met
an employee of the embassy.

1058

00:57:33,450 --> 00:57:34,600
I don't know what he did.

1059
00:57:34,600 --> 00:57:37,490
But I told them I wanted
to go to a kibbutz

1060
00:57:37,490 --> 00:57:38,990
but I didn't know
how to arrange it.

1061
00:57:38,990 --> 00:57:41,830

1062
00:57:41,830 --> 00:57:45,940
So he suggested that
I go to kibbutz,

1063
00:57:45,940 --> 00:57:49,300
which has an old [INAUDIBLE]
where they teach you Hebrew.

1064
00:57:49,300 --> 00:57:53,080
So you work half a day, and
you study Hebrew half a day.

1065
00:57:53,080 --> 00:57:56,212
And he told me about one.

1066
00:57:56,212 --> 00:57:58,840
And I just followed
what he told me.

1067
00:57:58,840 --> 00:58:01,810
And I don't remember
what steps I took.

1068
00:58:01,810 --> 00:58:06,560
But I arranged to go to a
kibbutz in a [NON-ENGLISH]..

1069
00:58:06,560 --> 00:58:10,360
And so that's what I

did after the summer.

1070
00:58:10,360 --> 00:58:13,280
So you went from
Paris to Israel.

1071
00:58:13,280 --> 00:58:13,780
Yeah.

1072
00:58:13,780 --> 00:58:16,480
I traveled in Europe,
in Greece and Turkey.

1073
00:58:16,480 --> 00:58:19,660
Did you go back to Brussels?

1074
00:58:19,660 --> 00:58:20,500
While I was--

1075
00:58:20,500 --> 00:58:21,310
In Paris.

1076
00:58:21,310 --> 00:58:23,200
Yes, I went to visit
the Vanderlindens.

1077
00:58:23,200 --> 00:58:23,700
You did?

1078
00:58:23,700 --> 00:58:24,460
Yes.

1079
00:58:24,460 --> 00:58:28,130
I was always very--

1080
00:58:28,130 --> 00:58:30,010
You kept up a
connection with them.

1081
00:58:30,010 --> 00:58:31,340
I kept, yes.

1082

00:58:31,340 --> 00:58:33,610

What I was going to stay,
in Brussels, I always

1083

00:58:33,610 --> 00:58:38,440

felt kind of sad, a
little bit depressed.

1084

00:58:38,440 --> 00:58:39,820

Everything was gray.

1085

00:58:39,820 --> 00:58:42,400

Well, did I say Paris?

1086

00:58:42,400 --> 00:58:44,230

I meant Brussels.

1087

00:58:44,230 --> 00:58:46,270

Brussels is gray.

1088

00:58:46,270 --> 00:58:53,640

And other parts of Belgium
I liked, like the coast

1089

00:58:53,640 --> 00:58:54,540

and the Ardennes.

1090

00:58:54,540 --> 00:59:00,630

But in Brussels, I always
felt, as I said, not well.

1091

00:59:00,630 --> 00:59:03,930

But I would go to see
the Vanderlindens.

1092

00:59:03,930 --> 00:59:06,810

And how long did you
stay on the kibbutz?

1093

00:59:06,810 --> 00:59:08,070

A year?

1094

00:59:08,070 --> 00:59:09,070

A half a year.

1095

00:59:09,070 --> 00:59:15,090

And then I moved to
Tel Aviv and taught

1096

00:59:15,090 --> 00:59:18,750

English in a language school.

1097

00:59:18,750 --> 00:59:25,910

Meanwhile, in the kibbutz, I
had met an Israeli-born girl

1098

00:59:25,910 --> 00:59:33,830

whose parents, her family had
moved from Israel to Turkey

1099

00:59:33,830 --> 00:59:36,050

when she was nine years old.

1100

00:59:36,050 --> 00:59:36,860

To Turkey?

1101

00:59:36,860 --> 00:59:40,940

Yeah, they had-- her
father was Austrian.

1102

00:59:40,940 --> 00:59:43,880

But his whole family
lived in Turkey.

1103

00:59:43,880 --> 00:59:48,050

And the mother was of Greek
background, Sephardic.

1104

00:59:48,050 --> 00:59:50,690

And they had lived in Istanbul.

1105

00:59:50,690 --> 00:59:53,090

And so they went back
because the father

1106
00:59:53,090 --> 00:59:57,560
had problems with his eyes
and with the light in Israel.

1107
00:59:57,560 --> 01:00:05,650
So when her mother was
16, her mother died.

1108
01:00:05,650 --> 01:00:06,650
I said that incorrectly.

1109
01:00:06,650 --> 01:00:09,710
When she was 16,
her mother died.

1110
01:00:09,710 --> 01:00:14,060
So then her aunts were
pushing her to get married.

1111
01:00:14,060 --> 01:00:19,730
And so she, to escape, she
and her younger brother

1112
01:00:19,730 --> 01:00:21,650
came to Israel.

1113
01:00:21,650 --> 01:00:22,670
She was 18.

1114
01:00:22,670 --> 01:00:24,440
He was 17.

1115
01:00:24,440 --> 01:00:26,010
And I met them.

1116
01:00:26,010 --> 01:00:27,880
They were at the kibbutz.

1117
01:00:27,880 --> 01:00:33,310
And so we started
a relationship.

1118
01:00:33,310 --> 01:00:38,080

1119
01:00:38,080 --> 01:00:43,677
After I'd been in
Israel a year, I'd

1120
01:00:43,677 --> 01:00:45,760
applied to go to graduate
school at the University

1121
01:00:45,760 --> 01:00:47,090
of Washington.

1122
01:00:47,090 --> 01:00:50,020
And so I was accepted.

1123
01:00:50,020 --> 01:00:55,880
Then since-- the
girl's name was Tilda.

1124
01:00:55,880 --> 01:00:59,100
She couldn't come
without being married.

1125
01:00:59,100 --> 01:01:02,370

1126
01:01:02,370 --> 01:01:05,200
And because we wanted
to, we got married.

1127
01:01:05,200 --> 01:01:06,040
She was 18.

1128
01:01:06,040 --> 01:01:07,420
I was 24.

1129
01:01:07,420 --> 01:01:10,008
And we went back to--
we went to Seattle.

1130
01:01:10,008 --> 01:01:11,050
She had never been there.

1131
01:01:11,050 --> 01:01:12,092
She didn't speak English.

1132
01:01:12,092 --> 01:01:13,420
She spoke five languages.

1133
01:01:13,420 --> 01:01:15,820
We spoke French with
each other because that's

1134
01:01:15,820 --> 01:01:18,910
a minority language in Turkey.

1135
01:01:18,910 --> 01:01:21,370
She had gone to
French schools also.

1136
01:01:21,370 --> 01:01:24,880
So we were married three years.

1137
01:01:24,880 --> 01:01:29,800
And then she was not happy.

1138
01:01:29,800 --> 01:01:33,400
I mean, it was a difficult
adjustment for her.

1139
01:01:33,400 --> 01:01:39,158
Meanwhile, her father
and her other brother--

1140
01:01:39,158 --> 01:01:40,450
actually, she had two brothers.

1141
01:01:40,450 --> 01:01:43,840
Two brothers came to the States.

1142

01:01:43,840 --> 01:01:45,670

And they went to
live in Los Angeles.

1143

01:01:45,670 --> 01:01:48,310

1144

01:01:48,310 --> 01:01:51,960

And then she went to
Los Angeles after we'd

1145

01:01:51,960 --> 01:01:54,080

been married three years.

1146

01:01:54,080 --> 01:01:57,000