

1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:04,450

2  
00:00:04,450 --> 00:00:07,780  
This is the United States  
Holocaust Memorial Museum

3  
00:00:07,780 --> 00:00:12,400  
volunteer collection interview  
with Hans Ziegler conducted

4  
00:00:12,400 --> 00:00:20,170  
by Gail Schwartz on December  
21, 2012, in Washington, DC.

5  
00:00:20,170 --> 00:00:25,410  
This interview is being  
conducted over the telephone.

6  
00:00:25,410 --> 00:00:29,430  
What is your full name?

7  
00:00:29,430 --> 00:00:31,430  
My first name is Hans.

8  
00:00:31,430 --> 00:00:33,470  
And your last name?

9  
00:00:33,470 --> 00:00:37,940  
My last name is  
Ziegler, Z-I-E-G-L-E-R.

10  
00:00:37,940 --> 00:00:42,330  
And when were you born,  
and where were you born?

11  
00:00:42,330 --> 00:00:51,230  
I am born on the 12th  
of June, 1925 in Brno.

12  
00:00:51,230 --> 00:00:53,450

It was the former  
Czechoslovakia.

13  
00:00:53,450 --> 00:00:54,485  
Yes.

14  
00:00:54,485 --> 00:00:57,155  
But let's talk a little  
bit about your family.

15  
00:00:57,155 --> 00:01:00,060

16  
00:01:00,060 --> 00:01:01,460  
Tell me about your parents.

17  
00:01:01,460 --> 00:01:04,849  
How long had they lived in Brno?

18  
00:01:04,849 --> 00:01:11,505  
My father, Alfred Ziegler,  
had lived in Brno from--

19  
00:01:11,505 --> 00:01:14,180

20  
00:01:14,180 --> 00:01:22,700  
I think he was born  
1886 86 to 1942 when

21  
00:01:22,700 --> 00:01:25,190  
he was taken to the Holocaust.

22  
00:01:25,190 --> 00:01:25,730  
Yeah.

23  
00:01:25,730 --> 00:01:27,960  
And your mother?

24  
00:01:27,960 --> 00:01:39,950  
My mother is born on the 24th  
of November, 1997 in Ostrava.

25  
00:01:39,950 --> 00:01:42,500  
1897.

26  
00:01:42,500 --> 00:01:44,105  
Yes, of course, 1897.

27  
00:01:44,105 --> 00:01:49,490  
You're right, 1897  
in Ostrava, which

28  
00:01:49,490 --> 00:01:53,030  
was former Czechoslovakia.

29  
00:01:53,030 --> 00:01:58,880  
But at the age of two years  
she was taken by her family

30  
00:01:58,880 --> 00:02:01,750  
to Vienna.

31  
00:02:01,750 --> 00:02:04,000  
OK.

32  
00:02:04,000 --> 00:02:05,990  
Tell me a little bit  
more about your father.

33  
00:02:05,990 --> 00:02:07,580  
What did he do?

34  
00:02:07,580 --> 00:02:10,419  
What kind of work did he do?

35  
00:02:10,419 --> 00:02:19,150  
My mother, actually, was most  
of her time in just the family,

36  
00:02:19,150 --> 00:02:22,240  
and then the war started.

37

00:02:22,240 --> 00:02:29,770  
Then she took several jobs  
just to make any money

38  
00:02:29,770 --> 00:02:32,630  
because she lost her husband.

39  
00:02:32,630 --> 00:02:33,130  
Yeah.

40  
00:02:33,130 --> 00:02:35,080  
We'll talk about  
that in a minute.

41  
00:02:35,080 --> 00:02:39,190  
I want to do a little bit  
about the pre-war story

42  
00:02:39,190 --> 00:02:40,270  
of your family.

43  
00:02:40,270 --> 00:02:43,490  
What did your father do?

44  
00:02:43,490 --> 00:02:56,890  
My father was actually the owner  
of a factory for a textile.

45  
00:02:56,890 --> 00:02:58,090  
Oh, OK.

46  
00:02:58,090 --> 00:03:02,890  
And did you have any siblings,  
any brothers or sisters?

47  
00:03:02,890 --> 00:03:06,550  
I do not have any  
brothers or sisters.

48  
00:03:06,550 --> 00:03:14,960  
And my father was, beside of  
that, the Consul of Uruguay,

49

00:03:14,960 --> 00:03:18,100  
of the Republic of Uruguay.

50

00:03:18,100 --> 00:03:19,550  
Your father?

51

00:03:19,550 --> 00:03:22,240  
Yes.

52

00:03:22,240 --> 00:03:22,960  
So what did he--

53

00:03:22,960 --> 00:03:25,480

54

00:03:25,480 --> 00:03:28,220  
He was the owner of  
the textile fabric,

55

00:03:28,220 --> 00:03:35,080  
but he was actually  
also a consul

56

00:03:35,080 --> 00:03:37,600  
of the Republic of Uruguay.

57

00:03:37,600 --> 00:03:38,650  
How did that happen?

58

00:03:38,650 --> 00:03:40,630  
What was that about?

59

00:03:40,630 --> 00:03:44,560  
He just applied for  
it, and he got the job.

60

00:03:44,560 --> 00:03:48,450  
And did he go there at all?

61

00:03:48,450 --> 00:03:48,950  
Pardon?

62  
00:03:48,950 --> 00:03:51,740  
Did he go to Uruguay at all?

63  
00:03:51,740 --> 00:03:53,470  
No, he was never there.

64  
00:03:53,470 --> 00:03:56,116  
He was just a--

65  
00:03:56,116 --> 00:03:57,940  
A representative?

66  
00:03:57,940 --> 00:03:59,500  
--a representative, yes.

67  
00:03:59,500 --> 00:04:02,380

68  
00:04:02,380 --> 00:04:04,490  
For textiles or for everything?

69  
00:04:04,490 --> 00:04:05,860  
No, no, no, no, no.

70  
00:04:05,860 --> 00:04:15,300  
The textile business is not  
dependent on his consul.

71  
00:04:15,300 --> 00:04:23,080  
The consul actually  
is a diplomatic job.

72  
00:04:23,080 --> 00:04:26,650  
This is a honored consul, yes.

73  
00:04:26,650 --> 00:04:27,430  
I see.

74  
00:04:27,430 --> 00:04:32,350  
And did he spend-- did he spend

a lot of time doing this work

75

00:04:32,350 --> 00:04:33,830  
for Uruguay?

76

00:04:33,830 --> 00:04:36,530  
Oh, of course, he did, yes.

77

00:04:36,530 --> 00:04:42,730  
It actually was-- the  
consulate was in Brno,

78

00:04:42,730 --> 00:04:48,070  
and actually the main  
office was in Prague.

79

00:04:48,070 --> 00:04:50,740  
What religion was your father?

80

00:04:50,740 --> 00:04:51,940  
He was Jewish.

81

00:04:51,940 --> 00:04:54,340  
Yeah, and your mother?

82

00:04:54,340 --> 00:04:55,840  
She was a Christian.

83

00:04:55,840 --> 00:04:58,060  
She was Christian, yeah.

84

00:04:58,060 --> 00:05:03,440  
And growing up, you went  
to elementary school?

85

00:05:03,440 --> 00:05:09,440  
I went to-- yes, I did.

86

00:05:09,440 --> 00:05:11,580  
Yes.

87

00:05:11,580 --> 00:05:15,850

I was at elementary  
school for five years,

88

00:05:15,850 --> 00:05:22,750

and then I was in what we call  
a gymnasium here in Europe, yes.

89

00:05:22,750 --> 00:05:27,160

And at the gymnasium  
I was for four years,

90

00:05:27,160 --> 00:05:33,700

and then I continued at,  
actually, a chemistry school--

91

00:05:33,700 --> 00:05:36,850

it was called a higher  
chemistry school--

92

00:05:36,850 --> 00:05:37,880

for four years.

93

00:05:37,880 --> 00:05:45,730

So actually I attended school  
for 18 and a half or something

94

00:05:45,730 --> 00:05:47,020

years.

95

00:05:47,020 --> 00:05:49,120

Now, when you were  
growing up, did

96

00:05:49,120 --> 00:05:50,920

you consider yourself Jewish?

97

00:05:50,920 --> 00:05:54,290

Where you raised that way  
or raised a different--

98

00:05:54,290 --> 00:05:55,870

No, no.



99

00:05:55,870 --> 00:06:00,070

Actually, I was  
raised more Christian

100

00:06:00,070 --> 00:06:08,260

because, actually, my  
father and my mother

101

00:06:08,260 --> 00:06:15,250

got, at 1934, divorced, yeah.

102

00:06:15,250 --> 00:06:20,590

And then I lived-- from 1934  
I lived just with my mother.

103

00:06:20,590 --> 00:06:23,610

It was my Christian mother.

104

00:06:23,610 --> 00:06:30,820

And so actually I was educated  
more in the Christian way.

105

00:06:30,820 --> 00:06:31,630

I see.

106

00:06:31,630 --> 00:06:34,950

Did your father  
have a big family?

107

00:06:34,950 --> 00:06:37,930

Oh, yes, my father  
had a very big family.

108

00:06:37,930 --> 00:06:41,030

Yeah, so did you  
know these relatives?

109

00:06:41,030 --> 00:06:43,030

Yeah, of course I know the--

110

00:06:43,030 --> 00:06:47,200

do you want his father and  
his mother, my grandfather

111  
00:06:47,200 --> 00:06:48,490  
and my grandmother?

112  
00:06:48,490 --> 00:06:49,570  
You mean the names?

113  
00:06:49,570 --> 00:06:51,140  
That's fine, yeah.

114  
00:06:51,140 --> 00:06:52,360  
Yes, what are their names?

115  
00:06:52,360 --> 00:06:55,690  
My grandfather  
was David Ziegler,

116  
00:06:55,690 --> 00:07:01,384  
and David Ziegler was actually  
the owner of the textile--

117  
00:07:01,384 --> 00:07:02,186  
--factory.

118  
00:07:02,186 --> 00:07:04,360  
--factory, yes.

119  
00:07:04,360 --> 00:07:10,585  
And my grandmother was  
Caroline, Karoline Ziegler.

120  
00:07:10,585 --> 00:07:13,090

121  
00:07:13,090 --> 00:07:16,720  
Both of them were Jewish.

122  
00:07:16,720 --> 00:07:20,020  
Were they practicing?

123

00:07:20,020 --> 00:07:23,890

Did they live openly as Jews?

124

00:07:23,890 --> 00:07:27,220

My grandmother yes,  
but my grandfather--

125

00:07:27,220 --> 00:07:30,250

I don't think so.

126

00:07:30,250 --> 00:07:34,180

And so your father  
was raised as a Jew?

127

00:07:34,180 --> 00:07:34,750

Yes.

128

00:07:34,750 --> 00:07:35,290

Yeah.

129

00:07:35,290 --> 00:07:37,960

Was he observant at all?

130

00:07:37,960 --> 00:07:40,000

Do you remember when  
you were living with him

131

00:07:40,000 --> 00:07:43,270

if he did any of the  
holidays or things

132

00:07:43,270 --> 00:07:45,290

like that, Jewish holidays?

133

00:07:45,290 --> 00:07:49,705

He sometimes took me to the--

134

00:07:49,705 --> 00:07:51,850

--synagogue?

135

00:07:51,850 --> 00:07:58,450

Yes, and even to the  
cemetery and to the--

136  
00:07:58,450 --> 00:08:03,300

137  
00:08:03,300 --> 00:08:04,800  
to the synagogue?

138  
00:08:04,800 --> 00:08:05,970  
Yeah, yeah.

139  
00:08:05,970 --> 00:08:10,050  
And so you didn't--

140  
00:08:10,050 --> 00:08:11,910  
you didn't go to Jewish  
religious school.

141  
00:08:11,910 --> 00:08:14,730  
You said you were  
raised as a Christian.

142  
00:08:14,730 --> 00:08:17,445  
How did your parents meet?

143  
00:08:17,445 --> 00:08:19,100  
How did they find each other?

144  
00:08:19,100 --> 00:08:21,870

145  
00:08:21,870 --> 00:08:30,260  
My mother was adopted,  
actually, by her aunt, yes.

146  
00:08:30,260 --> 00:08:33,470

147  
00:08:33,470 --> 00:08:38,120  
It was a sister, actually,  
from my grandmother if you

148  
00:08:38,120 --> 00:08:40,549  
understand what I am meaning.

149  
00:08:40,549 --> 00:08:45,410  
And the sister of  
my grandmother was

150  
00:08:45,410 --> 00:08:52,910  
living in Brno, and she was  
actually married to a man named

151  
00:08:52,910 --> 00:08:56,420  
[? Liebl, ?] which was Jewish.

152  
00:08:56,420 --> 00:09:04,550  
And this was actually  
a friend of my father,

153  
00:09:04,550 --> 00:09:13,980  
and so actually my father  
met my mother in this family.

154  
00:09:13,980 --> 00:09:15,350  
You understand what I'm meaning?

155  
00:09:15,350 --> 00:09:15,740  
Yeah, yeah.

156  
00:09:15,740 --> 00:09:16,240  
No, I do.

157  
00:09:16,240 --> 00:09:17,540  
I do.

158  
00:09:17,540 --> 00:09:18,410  
Yeah.

159  
00:09:18,410 --> 00:09:22,090  
It is a little bit complicated.

160

00:09:22,090 --> 00:09:24,120  
That's OK.

161  
00:09:24,120 --> 00:09:26,450  
OK, so you went to school.

162  
00:09:26,450 --> 00:09:30,460  
Did your friends know  
you were half Jewish?

163  
00:09:30,460 --> 00:09:32,680  
Your school friends--  
did they know

164  
00:09:32,680 --> 00:09:35,560  
that your father was Jewish?

165  
00:09:35,560 --> 00:09:40,210  
I think so, yes, because  
actually I attended a school--

166  
00:09:40,210 --> 00:09:45,100  
the first school I attended  
was a German school and just

167  
00:09:45,100 --> 00:09:51,160  
for four years, and there were  
not only half-Jewish people

168  
00:09:51,160 --> 00:09:54,430  
like me but even Jewish  
people and Christian people,

169  
00:09:54,430 --> 00:09:55,090  
all together.

170  
00:09:55,090 --> 00:09:57,700

171  
00:09:57,700 --> 00:10:00,130  
Did anybody make fun of  
you when you were young

172

00:10:00,130 --> 00:10:03,580  
because you were part Jewish?

173

00:10:03,580 --> 00:10:05,720  
Any of the other children make--

174

00:10:05,720 --> 00:10:09,440  
I don't think that at the time  
when I attended the school--

175

00:10:09,440 --> 00:10:12,040  
it was in the early 30s--

176

00:10:12,040 --> 00:10:17,710  
the children were caring  
about who is Jewish

177

00:10:17,710 --> 00:10:18,620  
or who's Christian.

178

00:10:18,620 --> 00:10:20,110  
Right, right.

179

00:10:20,110 --> 00:10:23,150  
OK, well, let's move  
on a little bit.

180

00:10:23,150 --> 00:10:25,150  
So you were going to school.

181

00:10:25,150 --> 00:10:28,120  
And when did things  
start to change?

182

00:10:28,120 --> 00:10:31,250  
When did conditions  
start to change?

183

00:10:31,250 --> 00:10:33,850  
Actually, the conditions  
start to change

184

00:10:33,850 --> 00:10:39,640  
when my parents divorced  
because my mother took

185

00:10:39,640 --> 00:10:47,140  
her flat in Brno as well,  
but apart of my father.

186

00:10:47,140 --> 00:10:51,910  
And then I started actually to  
see my father only once a week.

187

00:10:51,910 --> 00:10:55,000

188

00:10:55,000 --> 00:10:58,750  
Now, they got divorced  
in 1934, you said.

189

00:10:58,750 --> 00:11:00,910  
Yes, 1934, yeah.

190

00:11:00,910 --> 00:11:04,940  
You were eight  
years old in 1933.

191

00:11:04,940 --> 00:11:09,878  
Had you heard of a man  
named Hitler at that point?

192

00:11:09,878 --> 00:11:11,170  
Say it again, the name, please.

193

00:11:11,170 --> 00:11:13,420  
In 1933, when--

194

00:11:13,420 --> 00:11:13,960  
The name.

195

00:11:13,960 --> 00:11:18,490  
--when Hitler came  
into power, did you



196

00:11:18,490 --> 00:11:22,225  
hear about him when you were a  
little boy of eight years old?

197

00:11:22,225 --> 00:11:23,650  
No, no, no.

198

00:11:23,650 --> 00:11:24,190  
You didn't?

199

00:11:24,190 --> 00:11:24,690  
OK.

200

00:11:24,690 --> 00:11:26,410  
I did not.

201

00:11:26,410 --> 00:11:29,260  
I didn't know of that  
because this was a time--

202

00:11:29,260 --> 00:11:32,350  
I was too small to  
understand what is going on,

203

00:11:32,350 --> 00:11:35,710  
and nobody talked about it.

204

00:11:35,710 --> 00:11:38,640  
Did you speak German?

205

00:11:38,640 --> 00:11:43,250  
Yes, I speak-- actually, I  
spoke both, German and Czech.

206

00:11:43,250 --> 00:11:44,480  
Yeah, Yeah.

207

00:11:44,480 --> 00:11:47,120  
OK, so then you're  
living with your mother,

208

00:11:47,120 --> 00:11:48,270  
and then what happened?

209

00:11:48,270 --> 00:11:52,040  
When did the next thing--

210

00:11:52,040 --> 00:12:02,300  
Things actually changed very  
late, and this was because of--

211

00:12:02,300 --> 00:12:11,030  
the factory actually got  
out of business in 1937.

212

00:12:11,030 --> 00:12:14,060  
This was the time before Hitler.

213

00:12:14,060 --> 00:12:21,020  
And so my father actually was  
only the Consul of Uruguay,

214

00:12:21,020 --> 00:12:26,610  
and this was his job for the  
time that Hitler came in.

215

00:12:26,610 --> 00:12:27,890  
OK.

216

00:12:27,890 --> 00:12:32,860  
And so actually my father,  
because of his job--

217

00:12:32,860 --> 00:12:37,640  
it was actually a  
higher job, and so

218

00:12:37,640 --> 00:12:39,590  
actually he got  
to the Holocaust,

219

00:12:39,590 --> 00:12:47,000  
I think, just a little

bit later, just in '42.

220  
00:12:47,000 --> 00:12:51,830  
But let's say in the  
1930s for the moment.

221  
00:12:51,830 --> 00:13:00,680  
Now, were you aware of the  
September 1938 Munich Agreement

222  
00:13:00,680 --> 00:13:02,090  
with Chamberlain and so forth?

223  
00:13:02,090 --> 00:13:03,750  
Oh, of course, I were.

224  
00:13:03,750 --> 00:13:04,490  
Yes, I was.

225  
00:13:04,490 --> 00:13:06,200  
You were 13 years old.

226  
00:13:06,200 --> 00:13:07,430  
Yes, I was.

227  
00:13:07,430 --> 00:13:09,160  
But I was aware of that, yes.

228  
00:13:09,160 --> 00:13:10,700  
Yeah, and do you  
remember talking

229  
00:13:10,700 --> 00:13:14,480  
about it with your parents  
or what your feelings were?

230  
00:13:14,480 --> 00:13:17,330  
Actually, I did not  
have the opportunity

231  
00:13:17,330 --> 00:13:19,730  
to talk to my father

about this because I

232

00:13:19,730 --> 00:13:25,330  
think my father was trying  
to hold me out of the saying.

233

00:13:25,330 --> 00:13:31,250  
So actually, I talked about  
this just with my mother,

234

00:13:31,250 --> 00:13:38,210  
and my mother was, I  
think, not the right person

235

00:13:38,210 --> 00:13:41,540  
to explain all  
these things to me.

236

00:13:41,540 --> 00:13:46,610  
So actually, I  
got my information

237

00:13:46,610 --> 00:13:52,790  
just from other people,  
and what I actually

238

00:13:52,790 --> 00:13:59,510  
find out at this time--

239

00:13:59,510 --> 00:14:05,550  
by the newspaper  
or by the radio.

240

00:14:05,550 --> 00:14:07,350  
What were your thoughts?

241

00:14:07,350 --> 00:14:10,130  
Do you remember what  
your-- were you frightened?

242

00:14:10,130 --> 00:14:11,300  
What kind of--

243

00:14:11,300 --> 00:14:13,160

No, I was never frightened.

244

00:14:13,160 --> 00:14:13,670

You weren't?

245

00:14:13,670 --> 00:14:14,970

I was never frightened.

246

00:14:14,970 --> 00:14:24,380

I was just getting aware of  
that with my father will be--

247

00:14:24,380 --> 00:14:28,250

in the future something happen.

248

00:14:28,250 --> 00:14:36,380

And actually, it happened  
then, yes, but I could not--

249

00:14:36,380 --> 00:14:40,340

I was too young, actually,  
to make a decision

250

00:14:40,340 --> 00:14:47,840

or to tell my father it  
would be better to stay out

251

00:14:47,840 --> 00:14:50,750

of the country or go away.

252

00:14:50,750 --> 00:14:59,150

And my father was still  
very, I think, sure that,

253

00:14:59,150 --> 00:15:02,570

because he's a consul,  
nothing can happen to him.

254

00:15:02,570 --> 00:15:04,280

But he was staying--

255

00:15:04,280 --> 00:15:06,020  
he was staying in Brno still?

256

00:15:06,020 --> 00:15:07,890  
He was still staying in Brno.

257

00:15:07,890 --> 00:15:10,600  
This was a mistake.

258

00:15:10,600 --> 00:15:12,230  
Yeah, yeah.

259

00:15:12,230 --> 00:15:15,890  
And what did-- at  
the time, in 1938,

260

00:15:15,890 --> 00:15:18,980  
what did Hitler mean to  
you as a 13-year-old boy?

261

00:15:18,980 --> 00:15:21,770

262

00:15:21,770 --> 00:15:28,850  
Actually, he meant very much  
to me because at the time

263

00:15:28,850 --> 00:15:31,070  
then the Germans came in.

264

00:15:31,070 --> 00:15:39,380  
So actually, immediately,  
because of my appearance,

265

00:15:39,380 --> 00:15:43,050  
yes they could think  
that I'm Jewish.

266

00:15:43,050 --> 00:15:44,090  
Oh, really?

267

00:15:44,090 --> 00:15:47,510

So when I met some  
of the soldiers,

268

00:15:47,510 --> 00:15:52,550

for example, in the streets  
or outside of my home--

269

00:15:52,550 --> 00:15:56,720

so they started to  
ask me about that.

270

00:15:56,720 --> 00:16:01,130

So I was very well-aware  
what's going on

271

00:16:01,130 --> 00:16:04,910

and what can happen  
in the future.

272

00:16:04,910 --> 00:16:07,280

How-- I mean you  
were a young boy.

273

00:16:07,280 --> 00:16:09,630

You're talking about  
the spring of 1939,

274

00:16:09,630 --> 00:16:10,710

when the Germans came in?

275

00:16:10,710 --> 00:16:11,620

Yes, Yes.

276

00:16:11,620 --> 00:16:12,905

That was the time.

277

00:16:12,905 --> 00:16:13,460

OK.

278

00:16:13,460 --> 00:16:14,600

And so--

279

00:16:14,600 --> 00:16:17,150

Because this was  
actually the time

280

00:16:17,150 --> 00:16:22,320

that I could understand  
what's going on.

281

00:16:22,320 --> 00:16:28,820

I was, at that time, 14 or  
15 years old, and at that age

282

00:16:28,820 --> 00:16:30,680

you can understand  
what's going on.

283

00:16:30,680 --> 00:16:31,190

Could you--

284

00:16:31,190 --> 00:16:35,210

And the second thing was that--

285

00:16:35,210 --> 00:16:35,810

yes?

286

00:16:35,810 --> 00:16:37,340

What was your--

287

00:16:37,340 --> 00:16:40,710

Could you understand  
Hitler's speeches?

288

00:16:40,710 --> 00:16:43,560

Did you ever hear any  
of Hitler's speeches?

289

00:16:43,560 --> 00:16:45,480

Oh, yes, I heard it.

290

00:16:45,480 --> 00:16:48,660

I heard very much  
of the speeches



291  
00:16:48,660 --> 00:16:51,210  
because my mother  
was listening to it.

292  
00:16:51,210 --> 00:16:56,340  
And we could understand  
it very well,

293  
00:16:56,340 --> 00:17:00,120  
and we were aware  
of what it going on.

294  
00:17:00,120 --> 00:17:06,450  
Did you talk these things over  
with your other school friends?

295  
00:17:06,450 --> 00:17:07,530  
No, never.

296  
00:17:07,530 --> 00:17:09,839  
Why not?

297  
00:17:09,839 --> 00:17:14,160  
Because, at the time, I  
was in a Czech school,

298  
00:17:14,160 --> 00:17:18,430  
and in the Czech  
school there where--

299  
00:17:18,430 --> 00:17:30,810  
the political talking,  
yes, amongst the pupils,

300  
00:17:30,810 --> 00:17:37,260  
the students, yes, was  
actually not common.

301  
00:17:37,260 --> 00:17:41,310  
Yeah, yeah.

302

00:17:41,310 --> 00:17:45,990  
Do you remember spending  
time with non-Jewish children

303  
00:17:45,990 --> 00:17:46,650  
your age?

304  
00:17:46,650 --> 00:17:51,030  
Did you do sports  
or things like that?

305  
00:17:51,030 --> 00:17:52,050  
Not Jewish?

306  
00:17:52,050 --> 00:17:55,860  
Yeah, your friends  
who were not Jewish.

307  
00:17:55,860 --> 00:17:58,410  
Did you have non-Jewish friends?

308  
00:17:58,410 --> 00:18:00,270  
Of course I had  
non-Jewish friends,

309  
00:18:00,270 --> 00:18:07,890  
but I had even Jewish friends  
because at that time, when

310  
00:18:07,890 --> 00:18:10,470  
I started to go  
to the gymnasium,

311  
00:18:10,470 --> 00:18:13,050  
this was the late 30s.

312  
00:18:13,050 --> 00:18:14,610  
So I had Jewish friends.

313  
00:18:14,610 --> 00:18:17,520  
Later, I did not.

314

00:18:17,520 --> 00:18:21,360  
I think from 1940,  
when I changed

315  
00:18:21,360 --> 00:18:25,500  
from the gymnasium to  
the chemical school, yes,

316  
00:18:25,500 --> 00:18:28,210  
at the age of 15--

317  
00:18:28,210 --> 00:18:34,050  
so I actually had no  
Jewish friends anymore

318  
00:18:34,050 --> 00:18:37,770  
because at that time  
no Jewish people

319  
00:18:37,770 --> 00:18:40,170  
were in the class with me.

320  
00:18:40,170 --> 00:18:42,360  
Yes, yeah.

321  
00:18:42,360 --> 00:18:45,220  
Were you interested in sports?

322  
00:18:45,220 --> 00:18:50,410  
Oh, yes, I am interested  
in sports from my very--

323  
00:18:50,410 --> 00:18:54,700  
So what did you do when  
you were that age in sports

324  
00:18:54,700 --> 00:18:58,150  
with the non-Jewish students?

325  
00:18:58,150 --> 00:19:03,370  
These are not Jewish-- actually,  
I started doing some athletics,

326

00:19:03,370 --> 00:19:08,650  
and from 1940 I started to swim.

327

00:19:08,650 --> 00:19:10,960  
Oh, OK.

328

00:19:10,960 --> 00:19:13,720  
So let's get to 1940.

329

00:19:13,720 --> 00:19:15,370  
So now you're in a new--

330

00:19:15,370 --> 00:19:17,380  
you said you're in  
a chemical school?

331

00:19:17,380 --> 00:19:19,170  
Yes.

332

00:19:19,170 --> 00:19:24,310  
I can't tell you why because,  
at that time, at 1940,

333

00:19:24,310 --> 00:19:35,620  
it was forbidden for  
people with a Jewish parent

334

00:19:35,620 --> 00:19:39,700  
to go to the gymnasium,  
to the higher classes.

335

00:19:39,700 --> 00:19:44,140  
It was allowed only to  
go to a chemical school

336

00:19:44,140 --> 00:19:51,460  
or to what they  
called actually--

337

00:19:51,460 --> 00:19:53,120  
not a gymnasium, yes.

338

00:19:53,120 --> 00:19:58,820

339

00:19:58,820 --> 00:20:01,340

I don't have the right  
expression for it now.

340

00:20:01,340 --> 00:20:02,010

That's OK.

341

00:20:02,010 --> 00:20:06,350

342

00:20:06,350 --> 00:20:09,230

Well, what were your thoughts--  
what were your thoughts when

343

00:20:09,230 --> 00:20:11,000

you couldn't go to  
the-- they told you

344

00:20:11,000 --> 00:20:14,900

you couldn't go to  
the gymnasium anymore?

345

00:20:14,900 --> 00:20:21,830

No, actually, it was not bad  
because I decided at that time

346

00:20:21,830 --> 00:20:25,250

I want to be a chemist.

347

00:20:25,250 --> 00:20:31,790

So this actually  
was not actually

348

00:20:31,790 --> 00:20:34,100

something I didn't like  
or something like that.

349

00:20:34,100 --> 00:20:36,050

I wanted to be a chemist.

350  
00:20:36,050 --> 00:20:37,820  
Yeah.

351  
00:20:37,820 --> 00:20:42,410  
Did other Jewish students go  
with you, switch, go over?

352  
00:20:42,410 --> 00:20:43,180  
No.

353  
00:20:43,180 --> 00:20:46,314  
No Jewish people in  
my classes anymore.

354  
00:20:46,314 --> 00:20:46,814  
Oh, right.

355  
00:20:46,814 --> 00:20:49,710  
You said they were not in  
class anymore, yeah, yeah.

356  
00:20:49,710 --> 00:20:54,020  
But there were other half-Jewish  
students still in the class?

357  
00:20:54,020 --> 00:20:56,250  
No, not in there.

358  
00:20:56,250 --> 00:20:59,590

359  
00:20:59,590 --> 00:21:01,960  
You were the only one?

360  
00:21:01,960 --> 00:21:03,400  
I was the only one, yeah.

361  
00:21:03,400 --> 00:21:04,090  
Oh, OK.

362

00:21:04,090 --> 00:21:10,280  
So now it's 1940, and you  
started the new school.

363  
00:21:10,280 --> 00:21:13,400  
And then what happened?

364  
00:21:13,400 --> 00:21:20,015  
Well, first I went--

365  
00:21:20,015 --> 00:21:23,240  
maybe the moment was--

366  
00:21:23,240 --> 00:21:29,425  
yes, I got three years without  
actually anything happened.

367  
00:21:29,425 --> 00:21:31,970

368  
00:21:31,970 --> 00:21:35,660  
Did you know what was happening  
in the rest of Europe, what

369  
00:21:35,660 --> 00:21:39,080  
Hitler, what the Germans were  
doing in the rest of Europe?

370  
00:21:39,080 --> 00:21:42,000  
Of course I know, yes.

371  
00:21:42,000 --> 00:21:45,140  
I knew about it because  
my father actually

372  
00:21:45,140 --> 00:21:52,310  
was taken to the  
Holocaust in 1942 and--

373  
00:21:52,310 --> 00:21:53,540  
Where was he taken?

374

00:21:53,540 --> 00:21:55,520  
Where was he taken?

375  
00:21:55,520 --> 00:22:05,230  
He was taken to Terezin,  
to Theresienstadt, Terezin

376  
00:22:05,230 --> 00:22:10,480  
and not only my father, but  
my aunt and my grandmother

377  
00:22:10,480 --> 00:22:12,010  
as well.

378  
00:22:12,010 --> 00:22:14,800  
Were you able to  
say goodbye to him?

379  
00:22:14,800 --> 00:22:15,760  
Yes.

380  
00:22:15,760 --> 00:22:21,220  
I was able to say goodbye  
to him, but I actually

381  
00:22:21,220 --> 00:22:22,480  
did not know--

382  
00:22:22,480 --> 00:22:27,970  
I just thought that  
he will not return,

383  
00:22:27,970 --> 00:22:32,970  
but of course I  
didn't know it by sure

384  
00:22:32,970 --> 00:22:34,650  
if you know what I mean.

385  
00:22:34,650 --> 00:22:35,150  
Yes.

386



00:22:35,150 --> 00:22:36,630  
So what was it like to--

387  
00:22:36,630 --> 00:22:40,090  
Because there was still  
a hope that something

388  
00:22:40,090 --> 00:22:44,710  
will happen in the meantime,  
so my father can return.

389  
00:22:44,710 --> 00:22:50,560  
And so nobody was sure about it.

390  
00:22:50,560 --> 00:22:53,965  
Did he say anything special  
to you when you said goodbye?

391  
00:22:53,965 --> 00:22:56,650

392  
00:22:56,650 --> 00:22:58,810  
He did not.

393  
00:22:58,810 --> 00:23:03,250  
Actually, he did not,  
and I actually was--

394  
00:23:03,250 --> 00:23:07,270

395  
00:23:07,270 --> 00:23:15,790  
I didn't talk to him so open  
how I should and how he could.

396  
00:23:15,790 --> 00:23:17,590  
And we were aware--

397  
00:23:17,590 --> 00:23:24,850  
I thought that, actually,  
he is holding back something

398

00:23:24,850 --> 00:23:29,410  
to be open to me because I was  
at the age of 16 at the time,

399  
00:23:29,410 --> 00:23:35,350  
and I think he was  
not of the opinion

400  
00:23:35,350 --> 00:23:41,470  
that I can understand the  
whole thing and that I--

401  
00:23:41,470 --> 00:23:45,440  
he wanted probably  
to hold me out of it.

402  
00:23:45,440 --> 00:23:47,350  
Yes, yeah.

403  
00:23:47,350 --> 00:23:52,570  
So did you have any contact  
with him after he left?

404  
00:23:52,570 --> 00:23:54,220  
No, I did not have.

405  
00:23:54,220 --> 00:24:02,860  
I only got two postcards,  
and there, of course,

406  
00:24:02,860 --> 00:24:10,340  
was nothing important because  
this was everything censored.

407  
00:24:10,340 --> 00:24:14,890  
And he couldn't actually be  
open or tell me something.

408  
00:24:14,890 --> 00:24:18,730  
Then how long was he in Terezin?

409  
00:24:18,730 --> 00:24:20,290  
Just a short time.

410  
00:24:20,290 --> 00:24:23,170  
I don't know actually  
how long but I

411  
00:24:23,170 --> 00:24:26,380  
think not longer than  
a couple of weeks.

412  
00:24:26,380 --> 00:24:28,510  
And then what happened?

413  
00:24:28,510 --> 00:24:34,390  
Then he was transported  
to other areas,

414  
00:24:34,390 --> 00:24:42,240  
and actually, I don't know  
where because I have more--

415  
00:24:42,240 --> 00:24:46,540  
when I investigated about  
that, so I got more answers,

416  
00:24:46,540 --> 00:24:50,914  
so actually, I don't know for  
sure what happened to him.

417  
00:24:50,914 --> 00:24:53,490

418  
00:24:53,490 --> 00:24:55,630  
So he did not survive?

419  
00:24:55,630 --> 00:24:56,650  
No, no, no, no.

420  
00:24:56,650 --> 00:24:57,760  
He did not survive.

421  
00:24:57,760 --> 00:25:00,880  
He did not survive, OK, yeah.

422

00:25:00,880 --> 00:25:02,620  
So now you're with your mother.

423

00:25:02,620 --> 00:25:08,020  
And it's, as you said, 1942,  
and you're going to school.

424

00:25:08,020 --> 00:25:13,780  
And did you talk about the  
war with your other friends?

425

00:25:13,780 --> 00:25:18,190  
Or did you talk about the  
Germans among the other--

426

00:25:18,190 --> 00:25:20,320  
Oh, yes, for sure  
we talked about it

427

00:25:20,320 --> 00:25:23,290  
because I can tell  
you something.

428

00:25:23,290 --> 00:25:28,180  
In our school, which  
was a Czech school,

429

00:25:28,180 --> 00:25:41,770  
at the beginning of the fourth  
class, which was in 1933,

430

00:25:41,770 --> 00:25:47,650  
the Germans came in the  
school and took out of--

431

00:25:47,650 --> 00:25:49,840  
You mean 1943?

432

00:25:49,840 --> 00:25:53,200  
1943, yes.

433

00:25:53,200 --> 00:25:54,550  
Did I say something else?

434  
00:25:54,550 --> 00:25:56,450  
You said 1933.

435  
00:25:56,450 --> 00:25:58,400  
No, no, no, 1943.

436  
00:25:58,400 --> 00:26:01,870  
1943, the Germans  
came to your school?

437  
00:26:01,870 --> 00:26:07,000  
The Germans came to  
the school and took

438  
00:26:07,000 --> 00:26:15,380  
the most part of the class to  
Berlin for some forced work.

439  
00:26:15,380 --> 00:26:19,420

440  
00:26:19,420 --> 00:26:27,260  
We were, at that time, in our  
class a number of 39 people.

441  
00:26:27,260 --> 00:26:32,440  
From this the 39  
people were five girls,

442  
00:26:32,440 --> 00:26:34,900  
and the other were boys, yes.

443  
00:26:34,900 --> 00:26:43,180  
And they took from  
the class 23 of us,

444  
00:26:43,180 --> 00:26:48,370  
and we went to Berlin  
for forced work.

445

00:26:48,370 --> 00:26:51,790

446

00:26:51,790 --> 00:27:01,090

Forced work means we  
just were taken for help

447

00:27:01,090 --> 00:27:08,470

after the bombing,  
and actually, we

448

00:27:08,470 --> 00:27:16,600

took the people who  
actually died by the bombing

449

00:27:16,600 --> 00:27:19,950

and took them into the--

450

00:27:19,950 --> 00:27:26,800

so there couldn't, for  
example, happen something

451

00:27:26,800 --> 00:27:31,060

with [INAUDIBLE] or something  
like this with the corpse.

452

00:27:31,060 --> 00:27:36,790

Would be a longer time  
in the bombed area.

453

00:27:36,790 --> 00:27:37,290

Yes.

454

00:27:37,290 --> 00:27:40,360

455

00:27:40,360 --> 00:27:44,500

Yeah, so you were 18  
years old by this time?

456

00:27:44,500 --> 00:27:45,520

No, no.

457  
00:27:45,520 --> 00:27:47,230  
I was younger than that.

458  
00:27:47,230 --> 00:27:49,660  
I was 16.

459  
00:27:49,660 --> 00:27:52,300  
Oh, I thought you  
said it was 1943.

460  
00:27:52,300 --> 00:27:58,570  
Yes, but at 1943 I was--

461  
00:27:58,570 --> 00:27:59,560  
oh, yes, excuse me.

462  
00:27:59,560 --> 00:28:00,250  
I was 18.

463  
00:28:00,250 --> 00:28:02,290  
Yes, yes, of course.

464  
00:28:02,290 --> 00:28:04,930  
What did your mother say to  
you when you had to leave?

465  
00:28:04,930 --> 00:28:09,430

466  
00:28:09,430 --> 00:28:12,700  
My mother actually  
was so surprised

467  
00:28:12,700 --> 00:28:15,220  
that she said  
nothing because she

468  
00:28:15,220 --> 00:28:22,390  
didn't know what to say because  
this was something this never

469

00:28:22,390 --> 00:28:23,860  
happened before.

470

00:28:23,860 --> 00:28:25,210  
This was not before--

471

00:28:25,210 --> 00:28:27,040  
because I was a half-Jew.

472

00:28:27,040 --> 00:28:31,150  
This was because I was  
actually in a Czech school,

473

00:28:31,150 --> 00:28:35,020  
and even the Christian-- all  
the people were taken to Berlin.

474

00:28:35,020 --> 00:28:37,540  
Yes, yeah, yeah.

475

00:28:37,540 --> 00:28:41,800  
And how long did  
you stay in Berlin?

476

00:28:41,800 --> 00:28:43,360  
Half a year.

477

00:28:43,360 --> 00:28:44,956  
And then?

478

00:28:44,956 --> 00:28:50,500  
Then I returned to school,  
and in a short time

479

00:28:50,500 --> 00:28:53,800  
I made my examination.

480

00:28:53,800 --> 00:28:58,960  
And after that, I went to--

481

00:28:58,960 --> 00:29:00,400



I got a job.

482

00:29:00,400 --> 00:29:05,440

In the job, I actually was just  
one or one and a half months,

483

00:29:05,440 --> 00:29:09,450

and they took me because  
I was half-Jewish.

484

00:29:09,450 --> 00:29:10,990

How did they come and take you?

485

00:29:10,990 --> 00:29:13,770

Can you describe that?

486

00:29:13,770 --> 00:29:15,700

They didn't take anything.

487

00:29:15,700 --> 00:29:16,920

They just sent the letter.

488

00:29:16,920 --> 00:29:21,420

I had to come to  
a certain place,

489

00:29:21,420 --> 00:29:29,760

and there I was told that  
I will be taken to a camp.

490

00:29:29,760 --> 00:29:31,725

Do you remember where  
the place in Brno was?

491

00:29:31,725 --> 00:29:34,260

492

00:29:34,260 --> 00:29:36,730

I'm afraid not.

493

00:29:36,730 --> 00:29:40,620

So were there other

students, other young men

494

00:29:40,620 --> 00:29:44,460

with you that day that  
you had to report?

495

00:29:44,460 --> 00:29:46,810

Where there other boys?

496

00:29:46,810 --> 00:29:50,260

I had, of course, to  
report with other people,

497

00:29:50,260 --> 00:29:53,590

but I didn't know  
them at that time.

498

00:29:53,590 --> 00:29:59,940

And so did you take  
anything special with you?

499

00:29:59,940 --> 00:30:01,620

No, I don't think so.

500

00:30:01,620 --> 00:30:12,290

I just took what I had on me  
and some very, very few things,

501

00:30:12,290 --> 00:30:13,190

almost nothing.

502

00:30:13,190 --> 00:30:15,437

Yeah.

503

00:30:15,437 --> 00:30:17,270

Did you say anything  
special to your mother?

504

00:30:17,270 --> 00:30:21,130

505

00:30:21,130 --> 00:30:25,290

I said my mother she  
should not be afraid

506  
00:30:25,290 --> 00:30:30,060  
because I'm young enough  
to-- if I will be able,

507  
00:30:30,060 --> 00:30:31,650  
so I will come back.

508  
00:30:31,650 --> 00:30:32,970  
Yeah.

509  
00:30:32,970 --> 00:30:34,470  
Were you very religious?

510  
00:30:34,470 --> 00:30:36,510  
Was your mother a  
religious Christian?

511  
00:30:36,510 --> 00:30:39,390

512  
00:30:39,390 --> 00:30:45,450  
She was not very much religious,  
but she went to church

513  
00:30:45,450 --> 00:30:46,350  
sometimes.

514  
00:30:46,350 --> 00:30:56,560  
And she prayed, but she was  
not actually a religious woman.

515  
00:30:56,560 --> 00:30:57,330  
She was not.

516  
00:30:57,330 --> 00:30:58,860  
Did you go to church with her?

517  
00:30:58,860 --> 00:31:01,410

518

00:31:01,410 --> 00:31:04,710  
Just sometimes at Christmastime  
or something like that.

519

00:31:04,710 --> 00:31:05,490  
Yeah.

520

00:31:05,490 --> 00:31:11,870  
So now you're reporting  
to be sent away in--

521

00:31:11,870 --> 00:31:13,330  
what month in 1943?

522

00:31:13,330 --> 00:31:16,710  
Do you remember?

523

00:31:16,710 --> 00:31:21,240  
It was September.

524

00:31:21,240 --> 00:31:24,510  
This is '43, you said?

525

00:31:24,510 --> 00:31:27,090  
Is it 1943 or--

526

00:31:27,090 --> 00:31:28,170  
It was '44.

527

00:31:28,170 --> 00:31:30,690  
'44, oh, OK, right.

528

00:31:30,690 --> 00:31:32,550  
So September-- and  
where did you go?

529

00:31:32,550 --> 00:31:34,710  
Where did they send you to?

530

00:31:34,710 --> 00:31:40,560

They sent me first  
to Prague, to a place

531  
00:31:40,560 --> 00:31:45,820  
where all these people  
were collected together

532  
00:31:45,820 --> 00:31:50,550  
so they could do further  
things with them.

533  
00:31:50,550 --> 00:31:53,100  
But at that time,  
we didn't know what

534  
00:31:53,100 --> 00:31:56,490  
actually will be done with us.

535  
00:31:56,490 --> 00:31:58,650  
We just there collected.

536  
00:31:58,650 --> 00:32:04,950  
It was a former school building,  
and at the school building,

537  
00:32:04,950 --> 00:32:09,540  
actually, we met  
with other people.

538  
00:32:09,540 --> 00:32:16,050  
And then they transported  
us to the camp.

539  
00:32:16,050 --> 00:32:18,930  
Which camp?

540  
00:32:18,930 --> 00:32:22,510  
The camp was-- the  
name was Postelberg.

541  
00:32:22,510 --> 00:32:25,710

542

00:32:25,710 --> 00:32:28,290  
And what kind of a camp was it?

543

00:32:28,290 --> 00:32:38,130  
Actually, it was a camp  
for half-Jewish people

544

00:32:38,130 --> 00:32:47,970  
and Christian people who  
were married to Jewish women.

545

00:32:47,970 --> 00:32:50,010  
And where was it near?

546

00:32:50,010 --> 00:32:51,720  
Where was it located?

547

00:32:51,720 --> 00:32:53,445  
It was located by--

548

00:32:53,445 --> 00:33:00,800

549

00:33:00,800 --> 00:33:05,630  
it was already on the  
area which was occupied.

550

00:33:05,630 --> 00:33:07,180  
It's a German area.

551

00:33:07,180 --> 00:33:16,080  
It was not anymore in Bohemia  
if you know what I mean.

552

00:33:16,080 --> 00:33:22,370  
It was behind the  
border of the Republic.

553

00:33:22,370 --> 00:33:23,870  
How do you spell that?

554

00:33:23,870 --> 00:33:26,210  
How do you spell Postelberg?

555  
00:33:26,210 --> 00:33:42,300  
P-O-S-T-E-L-B-E-R-G, Postelberg.

556  
00:33:42,300 --> 00:33:44,090  
Yeah, yeah.

557  
00:33:44,090 --> 00:33:50,870  
And so you went there, and can  
you describe the camp to me?

558  
00:33:50,870 --> 00:33:58,700  
The camp were actually situated  
in a wooded area, which

559  
00:33:58,700 --> 00:34:06,260  
was, from one side,  
bordered by a small river,

560  
00:34:06,260 --> 00:34:09,270  
from the other side,  
by a rail track.

561  
00:34:09,270 --> 00:34:11,989

562  
00:34:11,989 --> 00:34:19,429  
And so it could be very  
well-watched by few people

563  
00:34:19,429 --> 00:34:22,489  
because they watch the rail  
track and they watch the river.

564  
00:34:22,489 --> 00:34:24,440  
So we actually could--

565  
00:34:24,440 --> 00:34:27,050  
nobody could actually  
go out of the camp.

566

00:34:27,050 --> 00:34:30,360

567

00:34:30,360 --> 00:34:35,340

And what was the living arrangements like?

568

00:34:35,340 --> 00:34:38,159

The living arrangement was very poor.

569

00:34:38,159 --> 00:34:42,210

It was actually barracks, yes.

570

00:34:42,210 --> 00:34:46,830

You know the barracks, which are in concentration

571

00:34:46,830 --> 00:34:53,219

camps, so wooden buildings.

572

00:34:53,219 --> 00:34:54,239

It was a building.

573

00:34:54,239 --> 00:34:58,320

It's just a small area, yes.

574

00:34:58,320 --> 00:35:05,310

And we were actually situated with about 10 people

575

00:35:05,310 --> 00:35:09,990

in one room, and actually, what we did--

576

00:35:09,990 --> 00:35:18,450

we were jobbing, actually, for a construction company

577

00:35:18,450 --> 00:35:29,910

which built in the outside area from Postoloprty an airport.



578  
00:35:29,910 --> 00:35:33,630  
Actually, it was an  
underground airport

579  
00:35:33,630 --> 00:35:39,420  
for planes which were  
able, when they landed,

580  
00:35:39,420 --> 00:35:47,320  
to go into the ground, actually,  
to be hidden before everything,

581  
00:35:47,320 --> 00:35:49,050  
yes.

582  
00:35:49,050 --> 00:35:52,050  
There was just an  
area for landing,

583  
00:35:52,050 --> 00:35:58,560  
and actually, the  
planes were underground.

584  
00:35:58,560 --> 00:36:04,320  
But actually this was actually  
what they wanted to build.

585  
00:36:04,320 --> 00:36:06,630  
We just started  
here on the field,

586  
00:36:06,630 --> 00:36:09,000  
and we never finished it.

587  
00:36:09,000 --> 00:36:11,850  
Was it all young men?

588  
00:36:11,850 --> 00:36:13,140  
Or were there women there?

589  
00:36:13,140 --> 00:36:16,110

590

00:36:16,110 --> 00:36:22,100

No, because there were  
even older men because they

591

00:36:22,100 --> 00:36:25,410

were, for example,  
married to Jewish women,

592

00:36:25,410 --> 00:36:28,590

and they refused to divorce.

593

00:36:28,590 --> 00:36:31,590

So they were taken to this camp.

594

00:36:31,590 --> 00:36:36,660

This was a-- actually, there  
were people of all age.

595

00:36:36,660 --> 00:36:38,200

But all men?

596

00:36:38,200 --> 00:36:39,930

All men?

597

00:36:39,930 --> 00:36:40,530

Just men.

598

00:36:40,530 --> 00:36:41,850

Just men, yeah.

599

00:36:41,850 --> 00:36:46,830

And what about-- did they  
give you enough food to eat?

600

00:36:46,830 --> 00:36:47,880

Excuse me?

601

00:36:47,880 --> 00:36:52,170

Did they give you  
enough food to eat?

602

00:36:52,170 --> 00:36:56,040

The food was actually very poor.

603

00:36:56,040 --> 00:37:04,260

There was, of course, a  
kitchen, which actually was--

604

00:37:04,260 --> 00:37:10,590

the cooks were out  
of the taken people,

605

00:37:10,590 --> 00:37:13,030

and the food was very poor.

606

00:37:13,030 --> 00:37:19,410

But we actually worked  
in fields, and the fields

607

00:37:19,410 --> 00:37:21,465

where we worked  
there were some--

608

00:37:21,465 --> 00:37:26,320

609

00:37:26,320 --> 00:37:27,145

--potatoes?

610

00:37:27,145 --> 00:37:30,390

611

00:37:30,390 --> 00:37:34,000

There were some food  
growing on the field,

612

00:37:34,000 --> 00:37:37,450

so I don't know how it--

613

00:37:37,450 --> 00:37:40,030

614  
00:37:40,030 --> 00:37:48,100  
it was the plant which  
the sugar made from.

615  
00:37:48,100 --> 00:37:48,640  
I'm sorry.

616  
00:37:48,640 --> 00:37:49,660  
The what?

617  
00:37:49,660 --> 00:37:50,590  
Say that again.

618  
00:37:50,590 --> 00:37:51,370  
Sugar, sugar.

619  
00:37:51,370 --> 00:37:52,690  
Oh, sugar cane.

620  
00:37:52,690 --> 00:37:53,550  
You mean beets?

621  
00:37:53,550 --> 00:37:54,310  
Yes, sugar.

622  
00:37:54,310 --> 00:37:54,940  
Beets?

623  
00:37:54,940 --> 00:37:57,070  
So actually we--

624  
00:37:57,070 --> 00:37:58,580  
Are talking about beets?

625  
00:37:58,580 --> 00:38:02,570  
We tried to dig this  
out of the ground

626  
00:38:02,570 --> 00:38:07,090  
and to eat this because we  
didn't have enough food.

627  
00:38:07,090 --> 00:38:09,670  
Did you wear a uniform?

628  
00:38:09,670 --> 00:38:11,150  
No, not a uniform.

629  
00:38:11,150 --> 00:38:16,270  
We had just what we had  
all the time from home,

630  
00:38:16,270 --> 00:38:18,460  
and it was getting--

631  
00:38:18,460 --> 00:38:21,680  
from day to day it  
was poorer and poorer,

632  
00:38:21,680 --> 00:38:30,190  
and the shoes actually were  
replaced by just wooden--

633  
00:38:30,190 --> 00:38:31,690  
--clogs.

634  
00:38:31,690 --> 00:38:32,760  
--clogs.

635  
00:38:32,760 --> 00:38:36,820  
And we had nothing there.

636  
00:38:36,820 --> 00:38:44,840  
From day to day it  
was worse and worse.

637  
00:38:44,840 --> 00:38:47,320  
So what did you talk about  
with the other young men?

638  
00:38:47,320 --> 00:38:51,406

639

00:38:51,406 --> 00:39:00,610

We actually talked only to  
men who we actually knew about

640

00:39:00,610 --> 00:39:05,380

that he is safe because nobody  
knew if there, for example, is

641

00:39:05,380 --> 00:39:11,230

somebody who is just listening  
to what people are talking

642

00:39:11,230 --> 00:39:11,820

about.

643

00:39:11,820 --> 00:39:15,250

And then so we were  
very careful about that.

644

00:39:15,250 --> 00:39:19,180

Did you talk about  
trying to escape?

645

00:39:19,180 --> 00:39:21,850

Yes, sure we did, yes.

646

00:39:21,850 --> 00:39:24,760

Sure we did it, and  
I tried to escape.

647

00:39:24,760 --> 00:39:26,620

And I did escape.

648

00:39:26,620 --> 00:39:28,040

Oh, you did?

649

00:39:28,040 --> 00:39:29,140

Yes, I did.

650

00:39:29,140 --> 00:39:30,150

Tell me about that.

651  
00:39:30,150 --> 00:39:34,330

652  
00:39:34,330 --> 00:39:35,230  
When was that?

653  
00:39:35,230 --> 00:39:36,280  
What month?

654  
00:39:36,280 --> 00:39:41,470  
This was in April '45.

655  
00:39:41,470 --> 00:39:42,460  
Oh, OK.

656  
00:39:42,460 --> 00:39:44,275  
So you were there  
from September--

657  
00:39:44,275 --> 00:39:46,725  
In April '45 I escaped.

658  
00:39:46,725 --> 00:39:49,270

659  
00:39:49,270 --> 00:39:53,970  
Of course, it was a very--

660  
00:39:53,970 --> 00:39:56,990

661  
00:39:56,990 --> 00:40:01,325  
it was a dangerous  
time, yes, to escape.

662  
00:40:01,325 --> 00:40:04,260

663  
00:40:04,260 --> 00:40:09,410  
We knew that some of the  
people who escaped before me--

664  
00:40:09,410 --> 00:40:17,090  
they just took, and then  
they came to other places,

665  
00:40:17,090 --> 00:40:19,580  
for example, to Terezin.

666  
00:40:19,580 --> 00:40:25,770  
And this was very much  
more dangerous at the time.

667  
00:40:25,770 --> 00:40:27,320  
So there were no  
Russian-- were there

668  
00:40:27,320 --> 00:40:31,490  
Russian troops around or not  
in that part of the country?

669  
00:40:31,490 --> 00:40:35,210  
No, there was-- at  
the time I escaped,

670  
00:40:35,210 --> 00:40:40,300  
April, there were no Russian  
troops, no, troops at all,

671  
00:40:40,300 --> 00:40:46,380  
not American troops and not  
Russian troops at that time

672  
00:40:46,380 --> 00:40:50,220  
because this was the  
beginning of April, yes.

673  
00:40:50,220 --> 00:40:57,010  
And in April, actually,  
at the end of April,

674  
00:40:57,010 --> 00:41:01,210  
the Russian troops came to Brno.



675

00:41:01,210 --> 00:41:05,790

And this was at the time I  
was already back at home.

676

00:41:05,790 --> 00:41:06,865

Oh, OK.

677

00:41:06,865 --> 00:41:10,710

678

00:41:10,710 --> 00:41:13,080

Can we go back in time?

679

00:41:13,080 --> 00:41:16,300

I meant to ask you--

680

00:41:16,300 --> 00:41:17,220

Yes.

681

00:41:17,220 --> 00:41:20,280

--were you aware of what  
happened when you were younger?

682

00:41:20,280 --> 00:41:23,910

Were you aware of what  
happened in Lidice?

683

00:41:23,910 --> 00:41:27,600

Am I pronouncing it  
correctly, Lidice?

684

00:41:27,600 --> 00:41:28,170

No.

685

00:41:28,170 --> 00:41:29,780

You were not aware?

686

00:41:29,780 --> 00:41:31,560

No, no, I wasn't.

687

00:41:31,560 --> 00:41:35,100

Of course of the moment, yes.

688  
00:41:35,100 --> 00:41:38,580  
When it happened, yes,  
I was aware of that

689  
00:41:38,580 --> 00:41:43,380  
because I was  
aware, for example,

690  
00:41:43,380 --> 00:41:48,180  
that Heydrich was killed.

691  
00:41:48,180 --> 00:41:53,220  
And I was aware  
that something will

692  
00:41:53,220 --> 00:41:57,810  
happen to punish the people  
and to get, actually,

693  
00:41:57,810 --> 00:42:00,700  
the responsible  
people who did that.

694  
00:42:00,700 --> 00:42:03,480  
So I was aware of that.

695  
00:42:03,480 --> 00:42:09,350  
But do you remember it as a  
very frightening time for you?

696  
00:42:09,350 --> 00:42:10,130  
Excuse me?

697  
00:42:10,130 --> 00:42:13,860  
Do you remember that as being a  
very frightening time for you?

698  
00:42:13,860 --> 00:42:17,240

699

00:42:17,240 --> 00:42:22,430  
Actually, I was never  
frightened because I

700  
00:42:22,430 --> 00:42:28,520  
was too young to be  
frightened, and then nothing

701  
00:42:28,520 --> 00:42:31,260  
happened, actually, to  
me right at the time.

702  
00:42:31,260 --> 00:42:36,230  
It was the time before  
I got to the camps

703  
00:42:36,230 --> 00:42:40,110  
and before I went to Germany.

704  
00:42:40,110 --> 00:42:44,490  
So I actually was not  
aware, so I was not--

705  
00:42:44,490 --> 00:42:46,280  
I was never afraid at the time.

706  
00:42:46,280 --> 00:42:50,120  
When you were in the labor camp  
and then in the later camp,

707  
00:42:50,120 --> 00:42:53,600  
did you have any connection  
with your mother?

708  
00:42:53,600 --> 00:42:56,600

709  
00:42:56,600 --> 00:42:58,340  
At what time do you mean?

710  
00:42:58,340 --> 00:43:00,500  
Well, when you were--

711  
00:43:00,500 --> 00:43:02,270  
When I was in Berlin--

712  
00:43:02,270 --> 00:43:07,280  
so I had because there was  
a possibility to write home

713  
00:43:07,280 --> 00:43:13,280  
and to be actually in  
connection with the home.

714  
00:43:13,280 --> 00:43:18,180  
But later, then, of course not.

715  
00:43:18,180 --> 00:43:21,020  
When I was in the  
camp, it was very bad.

716  
00:43:21,020 --> 00:43:23,570  
You had no connection  
with your mother

717  
00:43:23,570 --> 00:43:25,020  
when you were in Postelberg?

718  
00:43:25,020 --> 00:43:27,260  
No, no, no.

719  
00:43:27,260 --> 00:43:28,970  
So how did you escape?

720  
00:43:28,970 --> 00:43:31,610  
What did you do?

721  
00:43:31,610 --> 00:43:43,190  
I actually-- I told you before  
that the camp was bordered

722  
00:43:43,190 --> 00:43:51,200  
by one side by rail track, and  
under the rail track there were

723

00:43:51,200 --> 00:43:59,110

some openings for water  
to escape, yes, because--

724

00:43:59,110 --> 00:44:07,370

and through this-- actually,  
it was a tube, yes.

725

00:44:07,370 --> 00:44:10,780

You could actually  
climb through the tube

726

00:44:10,780 --> 00:44:15,940

and go on the other  
side of the rail track

727

00:44:15,940 --> 00:44:18,100

because all the area  
was in the woods.

728

00:44:18,100 --> 00:44:19,150

I told you that.

729

00:44:19,150 --> 00:44:23,200

So actually, you just  
had to go through this,

730

00:44:23,200 --> 00:44:28,085

and ended in a wood, and  
then you could escape.

731

00:44:28,085 --> 00:44:30,850

732

00:44:30,850 --> 00:44:33,480

Did you do it by yourself?

733

00:44:33,480 --> 00:44:35,250

No, we were three of us.

734

00:44:35,250 --> 00:44:37,920

Oh, OK.

735  
00:44:37,920 --> 00:44:38,820  
What, in the dark?

736  
00:44:38,820 --> 00:44:40,950  
You did it in the  
dark, at night?

737  
00:44:40,950 --> 00:44:44,280  
Yes, at night, of course.

738  
00:44:44,280 --> 00:44:56,220  
And then after that, we had to  
avoid any areas with people,

739  
00:44:56,220 --> 00:45:02,850  
and just we tried to  
find out a train which

740  
00:45:02,850 --> 00:45:09,060  
is transporting, in the  
morning, some people to work.

741  
00:45:09,060 --> 00:45:15,220  
And we actually got among  
these people going to work,

742  
00:45:15,220 --> 00:45:22,950  
and so we avoided,  
then, to go to Prague.

743  
00:45:22,950 --> 00:45:25,050  
We have to go around Prague.

744  
00:45:25,050 --> 00:45:34,650  
And so we got in, maybe,  
six or seven days to Brno.

745  
00:45:34,650 --> 00:45:36,610  
Oh, you went back to Brno?

746  
00:45:36,610 --> 00:45:37,410

Yes, of course.

747

00:45:37,410 --> 00:45:38,940

I went home.

748

00:45:38,940 --> 00:45:42,210

Were the other two young  
men from Brno also?

749

00:45:42,210 --> 00:45:47,100

Yes, we were all  
three from Brno.

750

00:45:47,100 --> 00:45:49,440

Do you remember their  
names of the other two?

751

00:45:49,440 --> 00:45:56,460

752

00:45:56,460 --> 00:45:58,860

OK, that's all right.

753

00:45:58,860 --> 00:46:02,044

Excuse me.

754

00:46:02,044 --> 00:46:07,590

One was from Prague, and  
the other was from Brno.

755

00:46:07,590 --> 00:46:08,910

I can remember.

756

00:46:08,910 --> 00:46:12,090

The name was-- I never--

757

00:46:12,090 --> 00:46:13,470

That's OK.

758

00:46:13,470 --> 00:46:18,140

I talked just one time  
to him after that.

759  
00:46:18,140 --> 00:46:19,080  
Yeah.

760  
00:46:19,080 --> 00:46:21,630  
So you get back to Brno.

761  
00:46:21,630 --> 00:46:23,430  
Do you see German--

762  
00:46:23,430 --> 00:46:27,390  
I got back with the  
train, which arrived

763  
00:46:27,390 --> 00:46:34,860  
at 6:00 in the morning  
when the war started, Brno,

764  
00:46:34,860 --> 00:46:36,570  
and then I went--

765  
00:46:36,570 --> 00:46:40,680  
because I knew very well  
the surrounding from Brno,

766  
00:46:40,680 --> 00:46:49,230  
I went to a wooded area where  
I was hidden during the day.

767  
00:46:49,230 --> 00:46:54,350  
And when the dark started,  
I went through Brno,

768  
00:46:54,350 --> 00:46:56,430  
then at home.

769  
00:46:56,430 --> 00:46:58,320  
You went back to  
your home, you said?

770  
00:46:58,320 --> 00:46:58,870  
Yes.



771  
00:46:58,870 --> 00:47:00,920  
Yeah.

772  
00:47:00,920 --> 00:47:03,000  
And your mother was there?

773  
00:47:03,000 --> 00:47:04,400  
My mother was there, yes.

774  
00:47:04,400 --> 00:47:06,140  
Oh my, oh.

775  
00:47:06,140 --> 00:47:08,180  
What was that like  
to see her again?

776  
00:47:08,180 --> 00:47:11,670

777  
00:47:11,670 --> 00:47:17,180  
I can't even tell you,  
but she was very happy

778  
00:47:17,180 --> 00:47:18,110  
that I came back.

779  
00:47:18,110 --> 00:47:19,955  
Yeah, of course, of course.

780  
00:47:19,955 --> 00:47:20,830  
You can imagine that.

781  
00:47:20,830 --> 00:47:23,600  
Yes, yes, yeah.

782  
00:47:23,600 --> 00:47:25,760  
And so then the next  
thing to happen?

783  
00:47:25,760 --> 00:47:29,000

784  
00:47:29,000 --> 00:47:37,460  
OK, then it was  
just maybe a week

785  
00:47:37,460 --> 00:47:43,700  
or 10 days before the  
Russians came into Brno,

786  
00:47:43,700 --> 00:47:46,190  
so it was not a long time.

787  
00:47:46,190 --> 00:47:49,040  
Nobody knew about this  
because I got home--

788  
00:47:49,040 --> 00:47:53,757  
it was already dark, so  
nobody could recognize me over

789  
00:47:53,757 --> 00:47:59,360  
in the street where  
was living before that.

790  
00:47:59,360 --> 00:48:02,850  
So nobody knew that I am home.

791  
00:48:02,850 --> 00:48:05,120  
Yes, yeah.

792  
00:48:05,120 --> 00:48:07,940  
Did you stay inside?

793  
00:48:07,940 --> 00:48:11,300  
Yes, I stayed inside  
and stayed inside

794  
00:48:11,300 --> 00:48:15,080  
until the Russians came to Brno.

795  
00:48:15,080 --> 00:48:18,590

What was it like to see the  
Russian troops coming in?

796  
00:48:18,590 --> 00:48:20,090  
It was awful.

797  
00:48:20,090 --> 00:48:21,680  
Awful?

798  
00:48:21,680 --> 00:48:22,280  
It was awful.

799  
00:48:22,280 --> 00:48:23,195  
Why was it awful?

800  
00:48:23,195 --> 00:48:26,600

801  
00:48:26,600 --> 00:48:28,250  
I could tell you why.

802  
00:48:28,250 --> 00:48:36,530  
Because I was living in an  
area where some cellars--

803  
00:48:36,530 --> 00:48:38,960  
wine cellars, yes.

804  
00:48:38,960 --> 00:48:44,995  
And the Russians found  
very well and easy out

805  
00:48:44,995 --> 00:48:48,230  
that there is wine  
in the kell- cellars,

806  
00:48:48,230 --> 00:48:51,310  
and they just got  
into the kellars,

807  
00:48:51,310 --> 00:48:53,348  
and all the time were drunk.

808  
00:48:53,348 --> 00:48:53,890  
--were drunk.

809  
00:48:53,890 --> 00:48:56,480  
It was very, very  
bad at the time.

810  
00:48:56,480 --> 00:48:59,030  
But you must have been  
very glad in the beginning

811  
00:48:59,030 --> 00:49:01,170  
to see the Russians coming?

812  
00:49:01,170 --> 00:49:01,770  
No, no.

813  
00:49:01,770 --> 00:49:05,600  
You was not very  
happy about that.

814  
00:49:05,600 --> 00:49:10,580  
Well, it meant the  
Germans were defeated.

815  
00:49:10,580 --> 00:49:12,710  
Didn't it mean that the  
Germans were defeated

816  
00:49:12,710 --> 00:49:16,430  
that the Russians were there?

817  
00:49:16,430 --> 00:49:19,190  
My mother was also German.

818  
00:49:19,190 --> 00:49:25,440  
No, I know that, but I  
meant, weren't you both happy

819  
00:49:25,440 --> 00:49:28,280  
that it was now Russians

instead of Germans?

820  
00:49:28,280 --> 00:49:33,970

821  
00:49:33,970 --> 00:49:35,020  
I don't think so.

822  
00:49:35,020 --> 00:49:35,740  
No?

823  
00:49:35,740 --> 00:49:36,240  
No.

824  
00:49:36,240 --> 00:49:39,670

825  
00:49:39,670 --> 00:49:44,740  
We just regret that  
[LAUGHS] Americans came not

826  
00:49:44,740 --> 00:49:46,970  
yet, but the Russians.

827  
00:49:46,970 --> 00:49:51,400  
It was actually the first  
time after they came,

828  
00:49:51,400 --> 00:49:58,240  
so two weeks, yes,  
were very, very bad.

829  
00:49:58,240 --> 00:50:01,270  
And then the Americans came?

830  
00:50:01,270 --> 00:50:06,070  
The Americans came just  
to the western area,

831  
00:50:06,070 --> 00:50:14,350  
to Plzeň and to  
the western area.

832  
00:50:14,350 --> 00:50:16,240  
So they did not come to Brno?

833  
00:50:16,240 --> 00:50:17,370  
No, no, no.

834  
00:50:17,370 --> 00:50:19,150  
They don't.

835  
00:50:19,150 --> 00:50:22,480  
OK, so then what happened?

836  
00:50:22,480 --> 00:50:25,110  
Yeah, then I got  
the repatriated.

837  
00:50:25,110 --> 00:50:28,150

838  
00:50:28,150 --> 00:50:32,050  
I just remember that I got--

839  
00:50:32,050 --> 00:50:35,740  
at the day I was born,  
on the 12th of June,

840  
00:50:35,740 --> 00:50:41,350  
I got my repatriation  
registration.

841  
00:50:41,350 --> 00:50:45,100  
And when I actually got the  
repatriation registration,

842  
00:50:45,100 --> 00:50:46,330  
I was able then--

843  
00:50:46,330 --> 00:50:49,020

844

00:50:49,020 --> 00:50:51,450  
because I already finished--

845  
00:50:51,450 --> 00:50:56,230  
I had finished my  
secondary school,

846  
00:50:56,230 --> 00:51:05,130  
so i tried to get the  
inscription to the university.

847  
00:51:05,130 --> 00:51:07,950  
You're now 20 years old, right?

848  
00:51:07,950 --> 00:51:09,580  
I was, right, 20, yes.

849  
00:51:09,580 --> 00:51:12,450  
Yeah, yeah.

850  
00:51:12,450 --> 00:51:16,400  
What did it mean to you  
that the war was over?

851  
00:51:16,400 --> 00:51:19,790  
I was very happy that  
the war was over,

852  
00:51:19,790 --> 00:51:25,100  
and actually, I  
could actually study

853  
00:51:25,100 --> 00:51:28,460  
chemistry, which I did then.

854  
00:51:28,460 --> 00:51:35,570  
And I just felt very  
happy that I survived it.

855  
00:51:35,570 --> 00:51:36,380  
Yes.

856

00:51:36,380 --> 00:51:38,690  
And then at the  
end of the war, did

857  
00:51:38,690 --> 00:51:41,450  
you think your father  
was still alive?

858  
00:51:41,450 --> 00:51:43,950  
No, no, no.

859  
00:51:43,950 --> 00:51:52,880  
At the end of the war I was  
99% sure that he's not alive

860  
00:51:52,880 --> 00:51:57,050  
anymore because nobody  
was actually alive,

861  
00:51:57,050 --> 00:52:02,840  
not only my father, but  
my grandmother and my aunt

862  
00:52:02,840 --> 00:52:05,130  
which stayed in Brno as well.

863  
00:52:05,130 --> 00:52:07,700  
So actually, half  
the family stayed,

864  
00:52:07,700 --> 00:52:10,550  
and half the family escaped.

865  
00:52:10,550 --> 00:52:11,690  
Where did they go to?

866  
00:52:11,690 --> 00:52:14,240  
Where did the other  
members go to?

867  
00:52:14,240 --> 00:52:19,310  
So my cousin went to  
the United States,



868  
00:52:19,310 --> 00:52:27,050  
and, yes, actually, he became  
a very famous man there.

869  
00:52:27,050 --> 00:52:32,970  
He was a very well-known  
medical doctor

870  
00:52:32,970 --> 00:52:38,170  
at the University  
of San Francisco,

871  
00:52:38,170 --> 00:52:41,180  
where they actually  
made some research work

872  
00:52:41,180 --> 00:52:45,050  
in the blood studies.

873  
00:52:45,050 --> 00:52:47,690  
What was his name?

874  
00:52:47,690 --> 00:52:49,430  
Brecher, George Brecher.

875  
00:52:49,430 --> 00:52:52,040

876  
00:52:52,040 --> 00:52:56,000  
And where did some of  
your other relatives go?

877  
00:52:56,000 --> 00:53:09,800  
The other relatives go  
to Israel, but my cousin,

878  
00:53:09,800 --> 00:53:12,260  
my other cousin--

879  
00:53:12,260 --> 00:53:14,585  
actually, two of my

cousins went to Israel.

880  
00:53:14,585 --> 00:53:18,290

881  
00:53:18,290 --> 00:53:22,280  
When did these relatives leave?

882  
00:53:22,280 --> 00:53:23,480  
Before the war.

883  
00:53:23,480 --> 00:53:26,810  
They all left  
before the war, OK.

884  
00:53:26,810 --> 00:53:28,670  
Not all, but most of them.

885  
00:53:28,670 --> 00:53:31,940  
Yeah, no, but the ones who  
did leave left before the war,

886  
00:53:31,940 --> 00:53:34,400  
yeah, yeah.

887  
00:53:34,400 --> 00:53:37,110  
And the other ones  
did not survive?

888  
00:53:37,110 --> 00:53:38,880  
No, they did not.

889  
00:53:38,880 --> 00:53:40,400  
Yeah, yeah.

890  
00:53:40,400 --> 00:53:45,650  
OK, so now you're 20 years  
old, and what do you then do?

891  
00:53:45,650 --> 00:53:47,320  
You start university?

892

00:53:47,320 --> 00:53:49,940

I started university,  
yes, of course,

893

00:53:49,940 --> 00:53:56,060

and I studied at  
university for three years.

894

00:53:56,060 --> 00:53:57,935

And then came the Russians.

895

00:53:57,935 --> 00:54:01,250

896

00:54:01,250 --> 00:54:05,600

And then came the Russians,  
and I have to leave the school.

897

00:54:05,600 --> 00:54:07,010

Oh, really?

898

00:54:07,010 --> 00:54:07,820

Yes.

899

00:54:07,820 --> 00:54:09,260

Because?

900

00:54:09,260 --> 00:54:15,480

Yeah, because of my relatives,  
because of all the things

901

00:54:15,480 --> 00:54:15,980

happened.

902

00:54:15,980 --> 00:54:21,710

My father actually  
was, they think--

903

00:54:21,710 --> 00:54:22,680

--a capitalist?

904

00:54:22,680 --> 00:54:28,760  
--a capitalist and  
actually consul

905  
00:54:28,760 --> 00:54:33,510  
of a South American country.

906  
00:54:33,510 --> 00:54:36,710  
And so I have to  
leave the school.

907  
00:54:36,710 --> 00:54:38,210  
Oh, yeah.

908  
00:54:38,210 --> 00:54:43,670  
This is, what, 1948?

909  
00:54:43,670 --> 00:54:47,800  
Actually, it's the  
beginning of 1949.

910  
00:54:47,800 --> 00:54:50,780  
I was almost done  
with the school.

911  
00:54:50,780 --> 00:54:52,280  
Yeah.

912  
00:54:52,280 --> 00:54:54,740  
And so what did you do?

913  
00:54:54,740 --> 00:55:02,720  
Well, actually, I  
went to the military

914  
00:55:02,720 --> 00:55:07,790  
because I was the age of  
20, and this was the time

915  
00:55:07,790 --> 00:55:09,530  
to go to the military.

916

00:55:09,530 --> 00:55:13,940  
So I went for two  
years to the military.

917  
00:55:13,940 --> 00:55:18,380  
What was your reaction  
when you found out--

918  
00:55:18,380 --> 00:55:20,810  
after the war was over,  
when you found out

919  
00:55:20,810 --> 00:55:25,820  
what happened to all the Jews,  
do you remember your thoughts?

920  
00:55:25,820 --> 00:55:30,170  
That this was actually,  
because of my father

921  
00:55:30,170 --> 00:55:36,830  
and because of the family, a  
very sad time because I knew

922  
00:55:36,830 --> 00:55:40,970  
that half of my  
family actually went

923  
00:55:40,970 --> 00:55:45,800  
through the Holocaust and  
the other part of the family

924  
00:55:45,800 --> 00:55:55,110  
is in Israel, which  
I had not actually

925  
00:55:55,110 --> 00:55:56,980  
any knowledge about  
what they are doing

926  
00:55:56,980 --> 00:55:59,210  
because it was interrupted.

927

00:55:59,210 --> 00:56:00,680  
Everything was interrupted.

928  
00:56:00,680 --> 00:56:02,960  
Yes, yeah yeah.

929  
00:56:02,960 --> 00:56:05,900  
So now you're in the  
military for two years?

930  
00:56:05,900 --> 00:56:07,250  
Yes.

931  
00:56:07,250 --> 00:56:10,220  
And did you just stay  
in Czechoslovakia?

932  
00:56:10,220 --> 00:56:13,220  
Did you sing Brno,  
or where were you?

933  
00:56:13,220 --> 00:56:17,030  
Yeah, because I told  
you that I started

934  
00:56:17,030 --> 00:56:24,920  
with the age of,  
actually, 15 to swim, yes,

935  
00:56:24,920 --> 00:56:29,570  
and this helped me  
even in the military

936  
00:56:29,570 --> 00:56:34,090  
because I was very  
good at the time.

937  
00:56:34,090 --> 00:56:37,450  
And actually, I was  
what they called

938  
00:56:37,450 --> 00:56:40,420  
a representative

which represented

939

00:56:40,420 --> 00:56:42,840

the country in swimming.

940

00:56:42,840 --> 00:56:46,270

So actually I got,  
even in the military,

941

00:56:46,270 --> 00:56:56,620

in a company which were just  
able to, in the main time,

942

00:56:56,620 --> 00:56:58,615

to do the sport, to  
continue the sport.

943

00:56:58,615 --> 00:57:01,270

944

00:57:01,270 --> 00:57:03,270

So you did a lot  
of swimming in--

945

00:57:03,270 --> 00:57:09,710

I did, actually, the last time  
of my military only swimming.

946

00:57:09,710 --> 00:57:10,380

Really?

947

00:57:10,380 --> 00:57:11,010

Yes.

948

00:57:11,010 --> 00:57:12,970

OK.

949

00:57:12,970 --> 00:57:14,380

Just in the country?

950

00:57:14,380 --> 00:57:15,070

In the country?

951  
00:57:15,070 --> 00:57:16,150  
Yes.

952  
00:57:16,150 --> 00:57:22,880  
This was even possible that they  
knew that my father was Jewish,

953  
00:57:22,880 --> 00:57:26,170  
and that he was a  
capitalist, and everything.

954  
00:57:26,170 --> 00:57:30,110  
So everything was pardoned, yes.

955  
00:57:30,110 --> 00:57:33,840  
And I was good in swimming,  
so do the swimming.

956  
00:57:33,840 --> 00:57:35,290  
Yeah.

957  
00:57:35,290 --> 00:57:39,130  
Then when you got out of  
the army, what did you do?

958  
00:57:39,130 --> 00:57:41,860  
Then I started to  
do my-- because I

959  
00:57:41,860 --> 00:57:45,250  
was educated in  
chemistry, so I started

960  
00:57:45,250 --> 00:57:47,860  
to do my chemistry work.

961  
00:57:47,860 --> 00:57:49,090  
In Brno?

962  
00:57:49,090 --> 00:57:50,080  
In Brno.



963  
00:57:50,080 --> 00:57:53,140  
And who did you work for?

964  
00:57:53,140 --> 00:57:58,600  
Zbrojovka Brno, which  
is actually the--

965  
00:57:58,600 --> 00:58:02,260  
zbrojovka means  
arm factory, yes.

966  
00:58:02,260 --> 00:58:04,980

967  
00:58:04,980 --> 00:58:10,900  
In the war time, they made  
guns, and rifles, and things

968  
00:58:10,900 --> 00:58:14,500  
like that, and in  
the normal time,

969  
00:58:14,500 --> 00:58:26,040  
they made some office  
equipment and hunting--

970  
00:58:26,040 --> 00:58:27,160  
--rifle.

971  
00:58:27,160 --> 00:58:29,485  
--rifles and  
something like that.

972  
00:58:29,485 --> 00:58:31,570  
And so you worked there?

973  
00:58:31,570 --> 00:58:35,320  
Yes, I worked there as a  
chemist in the laboratory.

974  
00:58:35,320 --> 00:58:37,900

And you lived with your mother?

975

00:58:37,900 --> 00:58:39,740

I lived there with  
my mother, yeah.

976

00:58:39,740 --> 00:58:40,620

Yeah.

977

00:58:40,620 --> 00:58:43,015

And then how long did you  
work for that factory?

978

00:58:43,015 --> 00:58:46,390

979

00:58:46,390 --> 00:58:51,700

For that factory I  
worked, actually--

980

00:58:51,700 --> 00:58:54,320

let me see-- many years.

981

00:58:54,320 --> 00:58:54,820

OK.

982

00:58:54,820 --> 00:58:57,410

983

00:58:57,410 --> 00:58:57,910

Yeah.

984

00:58:57,910 --> 00:59:01,570

And what was it like under  
the rule of the Russians,

985

00:59:01,570 --> 00:59:03,040

under the communist rule?

986

00:59:03,040 --> 00:59:06,180

987

00:59:06,180 --> 00:59:10,770

Under the communist rule it  
was everything very bad still.

988

00:59:10,770 --> 00:59:17,650

In the 60s then  
there started a time

989

00:59:17,650 --> 00:59:21,300

which was called the Prague--

990

00:59:21,300 --> 00:59:23,580

--Spring?

991

00:59:23,580 --> 00:59:30,960

--Spring time, and this actually  
helped me to get a better job,

992

00:59:30,960 --> 00:59:37,510

and because I was  
speaking some languages,

993

00:59:37,510 --> 00:59:40,840

I actually got even  
out of the country.

994

00:59:40,840 --> 00:59:41,460

Oh.

995

00:59:41,460 --> 00:59:43,800

Where did you go?

996

00:59:43,800 --> 00:59:45,900

First I went to Egypt.

997

00:59:45,900 --> 00:59:46,860

Egypt?

998

00:59:46,860 --> 00:59:47,430

Yes.

999

00:59:47,430 --> 00:59:48,240  
Oh, my.

1000  
00:59:48,240 --> 00:59:50,560  
OK.

1001  
00:59:50,560 --> 00:59:53,320  
To do what?

1002  
00:59:53,320 --> 00:59:56,140  
To do work for  
zbrojovka Brno, which

1003  
00:59:56,140 --> 01:00:05,290  
actually was delivering some  
military equipment to Egypt.

1004  
01:00:05,290 --> 01:00:07,910  
Oh, OK.

1005  
01:00:07,910 --> 01:00:10,160  
And then where did  
you go after that?

1006  
01:00:10,160 --> 01:00:13,130  
Then I went to Afghanistan.

1007  
01:00:13,130 --> 01:00:14,330  
Oh.

1008  
01:00:14,330 --> 01:00:16,790  
Oh my.

1009  
01:00:16,790 --> 01:00:18,465  
And what did you do there?

1010  
01:00:18,465 --> 01:00:19,090  
The same thing.

1011  
01:00:19,090 --> 01:00:20,330  
The same thing?

1012

01:00:20,330 --> 01:00:22,280

Yes.

1013

01:00:22,280 --> 01:00:24,330

And did you have  
a family by then?

1014

01:00:24,330 --> 01:00:26,840

Were you married or--

1015

01:00:26,840 --> 01:00:30,890

At the time I was already--

1016

01:00:30,890 --> 01:00:36,890

I had a family, of course, but  
I was already, not divorced

1017

01:00:36,890 --> 01:00:41,370

from my wife, but we lived--

1018

01:00:41,370 --> 01:00:42,544

--separate?

1019

01:00:42,544 --> 01:00:45,440

--separate, yeah.

1020

01:00:45,440 --> 01:00:47,600

Do you have children?

1021

01:00:47,600 --> 01:00:50,570

Yes, I have three children.

1022

01:00:50,570 --> 01:00:52,120

OK, so you were in Egypt.

1023

01:00:52,120 --> 01:00:53,600

Then you were in Afghanistan.

1024

01:00:53,600 --> 01:00:54,290

And then where?

1025  
01:00:54,290 --> 01:00:57,920

1026  
01:00:57,920 --> 01:01:00,290  
Then came the Russians again.

1027  
01:01:00,290 --> 01:01:05,520

1028  
01:01:05,520 --> 01:01:14,270  
Then came the Russians  
in '69, and then I

1029  
01:01:14,270 --> 01:01:17,300  
escaped again to Germany.

1030  
01:01:17,300 --> 01:01:20,390  
You got out to Germany.

1031  
01:01:20,390 --> 01:01:23,330  
And did you work in Germany?

1032  
01:01:23,330 --> 01:01:30,610  
Yeah, of course I worked  
in Germany for maybe--

1033  
01:01:30,610 --> 01:01:31,330  
wait a moment.

1034  
01:01:31,330 --> 01:01:40,240  
From '70 to '83 I  
worked in Germany.

1035  
01:01:40,240 --> 01:01:43,700  
When you said you escaped,  
how did that work?

1036  
01:01:43,700 --> 01:01:46,600  
How did you do that?

1037  
01:01:46,600 --> 01:01:49,940

At that time, I  
worked in Afghanistan,

1038  
01:01:49,940 --> 01:01:52,900  
so I just, from  
Afghanistan, didn't

1039  
01:01:52,900 --> 01:01:55,690  
return to Czechoslovakia.

1040  
01:01:55,690 --> 01:02:02,470  
I went to Austria, where--

1041  
01:02:02,470 --> 01:02:06,340  
you remember that I told you  
that my mother was actually

1042  
01:02:06,340 --> 01:02:07,030  
Viennese?

1043  
01:02:07,030 --> 01:02:07,530  
Yes.

1044  
01:02:07,530 --> 01:02:13,930  
So the other part of my  
family was living in Vienna,

1045  
01:02:13,930 --> 01:02:14,950  
in Austria.

1046  
01:02:14,950 --> 01:02:20,110  
So I actually went to this part  
of the family to join them,

1047  
01:02:20,110 --> 01:02:23,170  
and from there I  
went to Germany.

1048  
01:02:23,170 --> 01:02:24,790  
Oh, OK.

1049  
01:02:24,790 --> 01:02:27,730

And where in Germany  
did you live?

1050

01:02:27,730 --> 01:02:37,670

In Neuss, which is actually one  
town with Dusseldorf together.

1051

01:02:37,670 --> 01:02:41,060

Now, why did you go to Germany?

1052

01:02:41,060 --> 01:02:49,720

Yeah, because I was actually--  
in Germany, I was actually--

1053

01:02:49,720 --> 01:02:53,020

1054

01:02:53,020 --> 01:02:55,030

how is the right word?

1055

01:02:55,030 --> 01:02:59,860

Because my mother  
was actually a German

1056

01:02:59,860 --> 01:03:07,480

and my father was actually of  
German origin, So actually,

1057

01:03:07,480 --> 01:03:12,615

the Germans actually--

1058

01:03:12,615 --> 01:03:14,668

--accepted you?

1059

01:03:14,668 --> 01:03:20,245

--accepted that I am German  
because, actually, you

1060

01:03:20,245 --> 01:03:24,860

know that I even went some  
years to a German school,

1061



01:03:24,860 --> 01:03:30,740  
so I actually spoke very well.

1062  
01:03:30,740 --> 01:03:38,270  
And then so they actually  
granted me for German.

1063  
01:03:38,270 --> 01:03:40,870  
But how did you feel--

1064  
01:03:40,870 --> 01:03:48,880  
I didn't have any  
problems to prove

1065  
01:03:48,880 --> 01:03:50,740  
that I am of German origin.

1066  
01:03:50,740 --> 01:03:52,960  
But how did you feel  
living in Germany,

1067  
01:03:52,960 --> 01:03:57,100  
knowing that Germany was the  
one to start the war and--

1068  
01:03:57,100 --> 01:04:00,420  
Well, it was a very  
long time since that

1069  
01:04:00,420 --> 01:04:03,130  
because it was already--

1070  
01:04:03,130 --> 01:04:05,502  
you imagine that it  
was already 1970,

1071  
01:04:05,502 --> 01:04:07,870  
and it was actually 25 years--

1072  
01:04:07,870 --> 01:04:09,460  
--25 years later, yeah.

1073

01:04:09,460 --> 01:04:10,420  
--later.

1074  
01:04:10,420 --> 01:04:22,810  
So actually, these thoughts  
were a long way away,

1075  
01:04:22,810 --> 01:04:31,950  
and even the Germans,  
at that time,

1076  
01:04:31,950 --> 01:04:35,850  
tried, actually, because they  
knew where I am coming from

1077  
01:04:35,850 --> 01:04:37,440  
and who I am--

1078  
01:04:37,440 --> 01:04:39,930  
and they tried to help me.

1079  
01:04:39,930 --> 01:04:46,330  
And after 25 years, there were  
other people than the Germans,

1080  
01:04:46,330 --> 01:04:48,660  
than the Nazis.

1081  
01:04:48,660 --> 01:04:50,930  
There were no Nazis.

1082  
01:04:50,930 --> 01:04:56,880  
There were younger people  
who understood the situation

1083  
01:04:56,880 --> 01:05:02,790  
and who actually were feeling  
that the Germans at the war

1084  
01:05:02,790 --> 01:05:07,510  
times did not the right thing.

1085

01:05:07,510 --> 01:05:17,050  
And so actually I did not have  
any problems to settle there.

1086  
01:05:17,050 --> 01:05:17,970  
Yeah.

1087  
01:05:17,970 --> 01:05:22,230  
So then you stayed in Germany,  
and when did you leave?

1088  
01:05:22,230 --> 01:05:27,720  
Then I stayed in Germany  
for maybe 12 years.

1089  
01:05:27,720 --> 01:05:33,070  
And, again, who did you  
work for in Germany?

1090  
01:05:33,070 --> 01:05:34,530  
In Germany I worked for--

1091  
01:05:34,530 --> 01:05:37,920

1092  
01:05:37,920 --> 01:05:39,690  
you want the name  
of the company or--

1093  
01:05:39,690 --> 01:05:40,320  
Sure.

1094  
01:05:40,320 --> 01:05:41,790  
Do you remember the name?

1095  
01:05:41,790 --> 01:05:45,600  
The company was  
Longbine and Fundhauser.

1096  
01:05:45,600 --> 01:05:47,670  
There I worked for seven years.

1097

01:05:47,670 --> 01:05:49,920  
As a chemist?

1098  
01:05:49,920 --> 01:05:52,380  
As a chemist, yeah.

1099  
01:05:52,380 --> 01:05:57,810  
And then I worked  
for Hillyer and Knur

1100  
01:05:57,810 --> 01:06:03,510  
again as a chemist and  
the leader of the chemical

1101  
01:06:03,510 --> 01:06:05,700  
laboratory.

1102  
01:06:05,700 --> 01:06:07,890  
And then I went  
to United States.

1103  
01:06:07,890 --> 01:06:09,150  
Oh.

1104  
01:06:09,150 --> 01:06:10,110  
Where did you come?

1105  
01:06:10,110 --> 01:06:11,790  
Which city?

1106  
01:06:11,790 --> 01:06:14,100  
I came to Warren, Ohio.

1107  
01:06:14,100 --> 01:06:15,810  
Oh, OK.

1108  
01:06:15,810 --> 01:06:18,090  
And who did you work for here?

1109  
01:06:18,090 --> 01:06:20,550  
Thomas Steel.

1110  
01:06:20,550 --> 01:06:21,750  
For who?

1111  
01:06:21,750 --> 01:06:23,160  
Thomas Steel.

1112  
01:06:23,160 --> 01:06:24,900  
Oh, Thomas Steel, yeah.

1113  
01:06:24,900 --> 01:06:26,350  
Thomas Steel Company.

1114  
01:06:26,350 --> 01:06:28,500  
Yeah.

1115  
01:06:28,500 --> 01:06:31,260  
And how long did you stay  
in the United States?

1116  
01:06:31,260 --> 01:06:35,850  
I stayed in the United  
States maybe nine years.

1117  
01:06:35,850 --> 01:06:37,890  
Oh.

1118  
01:06:37,890 --> 01:06:40,410  
And you lived in  
Ohio the whole time?

1119  
01:06:40,410 --> 01:06:42,360  
At that time I  
lived in Ohio, yes.

1120  
01:06:42,360 --> 01:06:49,050  
And actually, I retired  
there because I was actually

1121  
01:06:49,050 --> 01:06:53,530  
of the opinion that I will  
stay there forever for good.

1122

01:06:53,530 --> 01:06:57,072

But what happened was that--

1123

01:06:57,072 --> 01:07:04,170

you know the situation, that,  
1990, they opened the borders

1124

01:07:04,170 --> 01:07:05,700

to the Czech Republic.

1125

01:07:05,700 --> 01:07:12,870

And so I just several times  
went to the Czech Republic

1126

01:07:12,870 --> 01:07:18,460

and met the friends there  
and the people I knew before,

1127

01:07:18,460 --> 01:07:21,240

so actually I decided  
to go back to Europe.

1128

01:07:21,240 --> 01:07:22,230

Yeah.

1129

01:07:22,230 --> 01:07:26,100

And so now you live in the  
Czech Republic and in Germany?

1130

01:07:26,100 --> 01:07:28,830

I live in Germany.

1131

01:07:28,830 --> 01:07:32,610

You don't live in the  
Czech Republic anymore?

1132

01:07:32,610 --> 01:07:37,910

You cannot say-- I have a flat  
there, but something between.

1133

01:07:37,910 --> 01:07:41,550

1134  
01:07:41,550 --> 01:07:50,010  
I pay my duties and  
my taxes in Germany,

1135  
01:07:50,010 --> 01:07:53,260  
and in the Czech Republic  
I am only to visit.

1136  
01:07:53,260 --> 01:07:54,750  
Yeah, yeah.

1137  
01:07:54,750 --> 01:07:59,100  
Tell me, do you think  
this wartime experience

1138  
01:07:59,100 --> 01:08:02,790  
made you feel more Jewish, or  
it did not have any effect?

1139  
01:08:02,790 --> 01:08:07,500

1140  
01:08:07,500 --> 01:08:12,090  
I always felt more  
Jewish and Christian--

1141  
01:08:12,090 --> 01:08:13,740  
I can tell you that--

1142  
01:08:13,740 --> 01:08:20,090  
because I even better knew  
the Jewish part of the family

1143  
01:08:20,090 --> 01:08:22,439  
than the Christian  
part of the family.

1144  
01:08:22,439 --> 01:08:29,939  
I spent a lot time with the  
Jewish people and a few times

1145

01:08:29,939 --> 01:08:33,540  
with the Christian people.

1146  
01:08:33,540 --> 01:08:35,910  
So I actually felt--

1147  
01:08:35,910 --> 01:08:41,520  
even when I was educated  
in a Christian way,

1148  
01:08:41,520 --> 01:08:46,939  
I felt more to be  
a Jewish people.

1149  
01:08:46,939 --> 01:08:47,880  
How do you feel now?

1150  
01:08:47,880 --> 01:08:50,110  
Do you still feel  
that way, or is that--

1151  
01:08:50,110 --> 01:08:53,910  
Yeah, I still feel  
that way, yes.

1152  
01:08:53,910 --> 01:08:59,670  
I was already-- last  
year I was in Israel,

1153  
01:08:59,670 --> 01:09:04,100  
and there I have a  
cousin still living.

1154  
01:09:04,100 --> 01:09:05,729  
Actually, it's not my cousin.

1155  
01:09:05,729 --> 01:09:12,930  
It's my grand cousin, the  
daughter of my cousin.

1156  
01:09:12,930 --> 01:09:14,359  
Yeah.



1157

01:09:14,359 --> 01:09:17,170

What are your  
thoughts about Israel?

1158

01:09:17,170 --> 01:09:21,330

Oh, I was just  
surprised how it changed

1159

01:09:21,330 --> 01:09:24,540

by the time I was there before.

1160

01:09:24,540 --> 01:09:27,899

When did you first go?

1161

01:09:27,899 --> 01:09:32,069

In the 90s, sometimes in  
the 90s, in the late 90s,

1162

01:09:32,069 --> 01:09:36,330

I think, '97,  
something like that.

1163

01:09:36,330 --> 01:09:41,609

And then, after 15  
years, I went again,

1164

01:09:41,609 --> 01:09:44,790

and I was just surprised  
what happened, and--

1165

01:09:44,790 --> 01:09:47,819

1166

01:09:47,819 --> 01:09:49,350

The development?

1167

01:09:49,350 --> 01:09:51,149

You mean all the development?

1168

01:09:51,149 --> 01:09:52,649

What do you mean  
you were surprised?

1169  
01:09:52,649 --> 01:09:54,630  
Yes, I mean the  
development, and I

1170  
01:09:54,630 --> 01:09:57,510  
mean the amount of the people.

1171  
01:09:57,510 --> 01:10:01,020  
There were a lot of new  
people coming there and doing

1172  
01:10:01,020 --> 01:10:04,170  
their business,  
and a lot changed.

1173  
01:10:04,170 --> 01:10:07,650

1174  
01:10:07,650 --> 01:10:13,230  
I could already see on the  
airport and on the way,

1175  
01:10:13,230 --> 01:10:21,600  
actually, to [PLACE NAME]  
where my cousin is living.

1176  
01:10:21,600 --> 01:10:28,500  
And I've met, actually, a lot of  
the family of the young people

1177  
01:10:28,500 --> 01:10:32,610  
and spent a lot  
of time with them.

1178  
01:10:32,610 --> 01:10:36,750

1179  
01:10:36,750 --> 01:10:40,290  
Do you feel that the world  
has learned any lessons

1180

01:10:40,290 --> 01:10:43,090  
from the Holocaust?

1181  
01:10:43,090 --> 01:10:47,740  
Oh, I definitely think that,  
yes, even the German people.

1182  
01:10:47,740 --> 01:10:51,070

1183  
01:10:51,070 --> 01:10:55,360  
My sons, actually--  
two of my sons

1184  
01:10:55,360 --> 01:11:04,300  
are married to German girls,  
yes, and the girls and even

1185  
01:11:04,300 --> 01:11:08,080  
the families of the  
girls, yes, are absolutely

1186  
01:11:08,080 --> 01:11:18,160  
thinking that the Hitler  
time was something

1187  
01:11:18,160 --> 01:11:21,410  
which shouldn't happen at all.

1188  
01:11:21,410 --> 01:11:25,930  
So actually they are  
very open people,

1189  
01:11:25,930 --> 01:11:29,980  
and even if they know that--

1190  
01:11:29,980 --> 01:11:39,510  
my sons are actually  
half-Jewish because my wife

1191  
01:11:39,510 --> 01:11:41,010  
is half-Jewish as well.

1192

01:11:41,010 --> 01:11:42,980

Oh, I was going to  
ask you about her.

1193

01:11:42,980 --> 01:11:43,480

Really?

1194

01:11:43,480 --> 01:11:44,980

Yes, yes.

1195

01:11:44,980 --> 01:11:47,940

Is she from Czechoslovakia?

1196

01:11:47,940 --> 01:11:48,900

Where is she--

1197

01:11:48,900 --> 01:11:50,310

Yes, but I didn't know.

1198

01:11:50,310 --> 01:11:51,480

I didn't know.

1199

01:11:51,480 --> 01:11:55,200

At the time, I actually--

1200

01:11:55,200 --> 01:12:04,290

we met the first time when we  
spent our early times together,

1201

01:12:04,290 --> 01:12:07,650

so I didn't know about that.

1202

01:12:07,650 --> 01:12:10,050

And so how did you  
raise your children?

1203

01:12:10,050 --> 01:12:14,280

Did you raise them as  
Christians or Jews?

1204

01:12:14,280 --> 01:12:15,630

Or how did you--

1205

01:12:15,630 --> 01:12:17,490

No, I raise them--

1206

01:12:17,490 --> 01:12:20,670

I didn't raise them religious.

1207

01:12:20,670 --> 01:12:21,990

You did?

1208

01:12:21,990 --> 01:12:24,420

I did not.

1209

01:12:24,420 --> 01:12:26,140

What about your wife's family?

1210

01:12:26,140 --> 01:12:27,460

What happened to them?

1211

01:12:27,460 --> 01:12:30,900

Did she lose any relatives?

1212

01:12:30,900 --> 01:12:33,690

Of course she lose their father.

1213

01:12:33,690 --> 01:12:35,130

She did?

1214

01:12:35,130 --> 01:12:40,560

And the mother was Christian,  
and so she survived.

1215

01:12:40,560 --> 01:12:44,090

1216

01:12:44,090 --> 01:12:47,340

When did your mother pass away?

1217

01:12:47,340 --> 01:12:48,030

My mother?

1218  
01:12:48,030 --> 01:12:49,240  
Yeah.

1219  
01:12:49,240 --> 01:12:54,480  
My mother passed away in 1976.

1220  
01:12:54,480 --> 01:12:58,170  
Yeah, yeah.

1221  
01:12:58,170 --> 01:13:04,710  
Do you know where your wife's  
Jewish relatives were taken to?

1222  
01:13:04,710 --> 01:13:07,950  
I don't know about anything.

1223  
01:13:07,950 --> 01:13:08,850  
I'm sorry about that.

1224  
01:13:08,850 --> 01:13:11,610  
Yeah, yeah.

1225  
01:13:11,610 --> 01:13:20,610  
And your children-- what are  
their thoughts about the war,

1226  
01:13:20,610 --> 01:13:22,810  
and the Holocaust,  
and everything?

1227  
01:13:22,810 --> 01:13:26,226  
They obviously knew  
what happened their--

1228  
01:13:26,226 --> 01:13:28,500  
Of course they knew, yes.

1229  
01:13:28,500 --> 01:13:31,860  
They knew, and  
actually, they are--

1230

01:13:31,860 --> 01:13:38,130

especially one is actually  
even knowing the relatives,

1231

01:13:38,130 --> 01:13:42,990

and even some  
relatives from Israel

1232

01:13:42,990 --> 01:13:50,040

was there to visit with  
our family years ago.

1233

01:13:50,040 --> 01:13:53,360

So actually, they  
know about that.

1234

01:13:53,360 --> 01:13:56,130

1235

01:13:56,130 --> 01:13:58,140

And then you said you  
have a third child.

1236

01:13:58,140 --> 01:14:00,570

Where is your third-- two  
are living in Germany,

1237

01:14:00,570 --> 01:14:01,800

and where's your third child?

1238

01:14:01,800 --> 01:14:03,630

Two are living in  
Germany, and one is

1239

01:14:03,630 --> 01:14:05,835

living in the Czech Republic.

1240

01:14:05,835 --> 01:14:08,990

1241

01:14:08,990 --> 01:14:16,500

He just refused to immigrate

because his wife didn't

1242  
01:14:16,500 --> 01:14:21,060  
want to go away from the  
parents, from her parents.

1243  
01:14:21,060 --> 01:14:24,120  
Yeah, yes, yeah, yeah.

1244  
01:14:24,120 --> 01:14:26,910  
So what do you consider  
yourself today?

1245  
01:14:26,910 --> 01:14:27,780  
Are Czech?

1246  
01:14:27,780 --> 01:14:29,620  
Are you German?

1247  
01:14:29,620 --> 01:14:31,260  
I consider myself German.

1248  
01:14:31,260 --> 01:14:33,090  
You consider  
yourself German now?

1249  
01:14:33,090 --> 01:14:33,690  
Yes.

1250  
01:14:33,690 --> 01:14:35,310  
That's very interesting.

1251  
01:14:35,310 --> 01:14:40,230  
Because I've paid my taxes in  
Germany, so I consider my--

1252  
01:14:40,230 --> 01:14:45,420  
I cannot tell you that I am  
a Czech even when I am just

1253  
01:14:45,420 --> 01:14:48,210  
living between



these two countries.

1254

01:14:48,210 --> 01:14:53,730

And sometimes I am in the Czech Republic, where I have a flat,

1255

01:14:53,730 --> 01:14:56,790

and sometimes I am here.

1256

01:14:56,790 --> 01:14:58,500

Half the family I have here.

1257

01:14:58,500 --> 01:15:04,250

The other half is in the Czech Republic, so what shall I do?

1258

01:15:04,250 --> 01:15:06,000

Right, right.

1259

01:15:06,000 --> 01:15:09,240

So you're retired now?

1260

01:15:09,240 --> 01:15:13,240

Oh, I'm retired very many years because I'm

1261

01:15:13,240 --> 01:15:15,690

a very old man already.

1262

01:15:15,690 --> 01:15:20,700

Do you think about the war often as you've gotten older?

1263

01:15:20,700 --> 01:15:26,040

Oh, yes, I think about the time, and especially the last years

1264

01:15:26,040 --> 01:15:30,360

I'm very often thinking about my father

1265

01:15:30,360 --> 01:15:36,600

and about his time, what  
could happen after the war

1266

01:15:36,600 --> 01:15:39,390  
if my father would survive.

1267

01:15:39,390 --> 01:15:40,350  
Oh.

1268

01:15:40,350 --> 01:15:41,760  
You mean what he'd be doing?

1269

01:15:41,760 --> 01:15:44,860  
Is that what you mean?

1270

01:15:44,860 --> 01:15:50,910  
Actually, yes, what  
he will be doing.

1271

01:15:50,910 --> 01:15:58,410  
And actually, I didn't actually  
get very much education

1272

01:15:58,410 --> 01:16:03,720  
of my father's side because  
you know my father was out

1273

01:16:03,720 --> 01:16:07,590  
of my life in 1934, which--

1274

01:16:07,590 --> 01:16:18,060  
I was nine years old, so he  
had very few possibilities

1275

01:16:18,060 --> 01:16:26,250  
to educate myself  
and to think what

1276

01:16:26,250 --> 01:16:30,150  
he's thinking what I  
should be in my life

1277

01:16:30,150 --> 01:16:33,480  
if you understand what I mean.

1278  
01:16:33,480 --> 01:16:35,690  
You have three sons?

1279  
01:16:35,690 --> 01:16:37,980  
Yes, I have three sons.

1280  
01:16:37,980 --> 01:16:42,660  
When those sons were  
the age that you

1281  
01:16:42,660 --> 01:16:46,860  
were when you were in the labor  
camp and in the other camp,

1282  
01:16:46,860 --> 01:16:48,700  
did it make you think of those--

1283  
01:16:48,700 --> 01:16:51,900  
when they were that  
same age that you were,

1284  
01:16:51,900 --> 01:16:54,330  
did it bring back  
memories of what

1285  
01:16:54,330 --> 01:16:58,260  
you were doing when you were  
their age, the hard life

1286  
01:16:58,260 --> 01:17:01,430  
that you had in--

1287  
01:17:01,430 --> 01:17:04,560  
I don't think that they  
are thinking about that

1288  
01:17:04,560 --> 01:17:08,190  
because, in my  
family, I actually

1289

01:17:08,190 --> 01:17:12,120

told very few things  
about my former life,

1290

01:17:12,120 --> 01:17:17,880

about the Holocaust  
and about my experience

1291

01:17:17,880 --> 01:17:23,910

in the camp in Berlin and  
the camp in the Postelberg.

1292

01:17:23,910 --> 01:17:27,120

And I don't think  
that they were very--

1293

01:17:27,120 --> 01:17:32,700

they know about it, yes, but  
they didn't question too much

1294

01:17:32,700 --> 01:17:33,575

about it.

1295

01:17:33,575 --> 01:17:38,170

1296

01:17:38,170 --> 01:17:39,600

But my-- yeah, go on.

1297

01:17:39,600 --> 01:17:44,460

Two of the sons are  
medical doctors.

1298

01:17:44,460 --> 01:17:48,900

And the third one-- because  
my wife was a medical doctor.

1299

01:17:48,900 --> 01:17:55,440

And the third one  
studied construction,

1300

01:17:55,440 --> 01:18:00,540

and he's a construction  
engineer, a building engineer.

1301  
01:18:00,540 --> 01:18:06,040  
So actually they did very well.

1302  
01:18:06,040 --> 01:18:08,740  
I am very, very  
happy with my family

1303  
01:18:08,740 --> 01:18:12,540  
and even with my sons  
because they developed

1304  
01:18:12,540 --> 01:18:19,600  
in very good and useful people,  
and I am very happy about that.

1305  
01:18:19,600 --> 01:18:21,840  
Are there any--

1306  
01:18:21,840 --> 01:18:23,880  
Pardon?

1307  
01:18:23,880 --> 01:18:28,440  
Are there any sights  
or sounds, or smells,

1308  
01:18:28,440 --> 01:18:32,580  
or something that make you  
think of the wartime years

1309  
01:18:32,580 --> 01:18:36,510  
when you were in  
Postelberg or in Berlin?

1310  
01:18:36,510 --> 01:18:41,340  
Today, is there anything that  
reminds you of that time?

1311  
01:18:41,340 --> 01:18:48,100  
Of course it does because  
about the time in Berlin

1312  
01:18:48,100 --> 01:18:51,900  
I wrote a book.

1313  
01:18:51,900 --> 01:18:56,640  
I wrote a book with  
a friend of mine

1314  
01:18:56,640 --> 01:19:02,220  
which spent the time  
in Berlin with me.

1315  
01:19:02,220 --> 01:19:06,840  
So actually I had a  
lot of possibilities

1316  
01:19:06,840 --> 01:19:12,960  
to think about the time, and I  
even visited Berlin many years

1317  
01:19:12,960 --> 01:19:23,460  
later to see about the areas  
and about the places where

1318  
01:19:23,460 --> 01:19:26,220  
I actually spent  
my time in Berlin.

1319  
01:19:26,220 --> 01:19:29,720

1320  
01:19:29,720 --> 01:19:33,500  
Tell me a little bit  
more about the book.

1321  
01:19:33,500 --> 01:19:39,740  
Well, it's actually a book  
which handles was about the time

1322  
01:19:39,740 --> 01:19:44,840  
when we were at the school,  
and how we were taken

1323

01:19:44,840 --> 01:19:48,830  
about the school,  
and what we actually

1324

01:19:48,830 --> 01:19:55,040  
thought about the  
whole thing on the trip

1325

01:19:55,040 --> 01:19:59,190  
because nobody actually  
knew where he's going.

1326

01:19:59,190 --> 01:20:02,540  
We didn't know that we  
are going to go Berlin,

1327

01:20:02,540 --> 01:20:08,450  
that they care about the dead  
people and about the ruins

1328

01:20:08,450 --> 01:20:09,510  
there.

1329

01:20:09,510 --> 01:20:12,290  
And we were actually  
astonished when

1330

01:20:12,290 --> 01:20:16,850  
we landed at Berlin,  
the capital of Germany,

1331

01:20:16,850 --> 01:20:22,410  
and had to be there almost one  
half a year and do the job.

1332

01:20:22,410 --> 01:20:25,890  
So this handles about  
the book, and then it

1333

01:20:25,890 --> 01:20:30,320  
had about, actually, the  
time when the Germans

1334

01:20:30,320 --> 01:20:36,020  
came to occupy the Czech area.

1335

01:20:36,020 --> 01:20:41,120  
And then it handles even  
about the time when the Czech

1336

01:20:41,120 --> 01:20:47,420  
Republic changed to  
the communist republic,

1337

01:20:47,420 --> 01:20:50,060  
and both of these  
things were actually,

1338

01:20:50,060 --> 01:20:53,900  
for us, a very hard  
time to survive this.

1339

01:20:53,900 --> 01:20:56,570  
So actually, the  
book handles was

1340

01:20:56,570 --> 01:21:03,980  
about the surviving both of  
these times, the German time

1341

01:21:03,980 --> 01:21:05,570  
and then the communist.

1342

01:21:05,570 --> 01:21:08,630  
What is the name of your book?

1343

01:21:08,630 --> 01:21:14,870  
The name of the book remembers  
a little bit of the Hemingway

1344

01:21:14,870 --> 01:21:23,900  
book because Hemingway wrote a  
book about the Lost Generation.

1345

01:21:23,900 --> 01:21:28,295



And our book actually  
got the name--

1346  
01:21:28,295 --> 01:21:33,380

1347  
01:21:33,380 --> 01:21:34,790  
let me translate it--

1348  
01:21:34,790 --> 01:21:38,780

1349  
01:21:38,780 --> 01:21:42,230  
The Damned Lost Generation.

1350  
01:21:42,230 --> 01:21:44,750  
Who was the other author?

1351  
01:21:44,750 --> 01:21:51,680  
The other was named  
Fisher, Josef Fisher.

1352  
01:21:51,680 --> 01:21:55,340  
Was he also half-Jewish?

1353  
01:21:55,340 --> 01:21:56,960  
No, no.

1354  
01:21:56,960 --> 01:21:57,840  
He was Christian.

1355  
01:21:57,840 --> 01:22:01,152  
He was all Christian, yeah.

1356  
01:22:01,152 --> 01:22:02,360  
Has the book been translated?

1357  
01:22:02,360 --> 01:22:07,370  
Because you  
remember, at the time

1358

01:22:07,370 --> 01:22:11,300  
we were taken from the school  
because we were half-Jewish.

1359  
01:22:11,300 --> 01:22:13,880

1360  
01:22:13,880 --> 01:22:16,070  
Has the book been translated?

1361  
01:22:16,070 --> 01:22:17,610  
No, never, no, no, no.

1362  
01:22:17,610 --> 01:22:19,490  
It's in the Czech language?

1363  
01:22:19,490 --> 01:22:22,040  
In the Czech language,  
but-- in the Czech language,

1364  
01:22:22,040 --> 01:22:27,560  
and sometimes some  
chapters are in English--

1365  
01:22:27,560 --> 01:22:28,610  
no, in German.

1366  
01:22:28,610 --> 01:22:30,200  
So-- excuse me--

1367  
01:22:30,200 --> 01:22:33,880  
some chapters are in English  
because we reproduced

1368  
01:22:33,880 --> 01:22:45,410  
some flyers which were  
coming from the Americans

1369  
01:22:45,410 --> 01:22:50,720  
and from the English from  
the planes down to Berlin.

1370

01:22:50,720 --> 01:22:53,660

1371

01:22:53,660 --> 01:22:55,610

So you say, as  
you've gotten older,

1372

01:22:55,610 --> 01:22:58,580

you think more about  
your wartime experiences?

1373

01:22:58,580 --> 01:23:01,250

1374

01:23:01,250 --> 01:23:07,340

When I actually got older,  
I thought, actually,

1375

01:23:07,340 --> 01:23:11,030

more at the time  
in Berlin because I

1376

01:23:11,030 --> 01:23:19,670

tried to forget the time in the  
camp with half-Jewish people.

1377

01:23:19,670 --> 01:23:23,270

It was something  
which I didn't like

1378

01:23:23,270 --> 01:23:30,780

and what I actually wanted  
to get out of my mind.

1379

01:23:30,780 --> 01:23:32,660

Yeah.

1380

01:23:32,660 --> 01:23:35,920

Do you have grandchildren?

1381

01:23:35,920 --> 01:23:37,530

Yes, I have two children.

1382  
01:23:37,530 --> 01:23:41,900

1383  
01:23:41,900 --> 01:23:46,730  
So you don't speak of the war  
years now with your children,

1384  
01:23:46,730 --> 01:23:48,740  
with your sons, anymore, right?

1385  
01:23:48,740 --> 01:23:52,520

1386  
01:23:52,520 --> 01:23:59,960  
When I try to speak about  
that, they tell me, father,

1387  
01:23:59,960 --> 01:24:03,320  
we don't want to speak about  
that because we already

1388  
01:24:03,320 --> 01:24:05,350  
know everything, what you told.

1389  
01:24:05,350 --> 01:24:08,780

1390  
01:24:08,780 --> 01:24:09,280  
Yeah.

1391  
01:24:09,280 --> 01:24:11,840

1392  
01:24:11,840 --> 01:24:14,870  
And what are your thoughts  
about the United States?

1393  
01:24:14,870 --> 01:24:17,228  
You said you had thought  
maybe you would retire here

1394

01:24:17,228 --> 01:24:18,770  
but then obviously  
changed your mind.

1395  
01:24:18,770 --> 01:24:20,810  
Oh, yes, I actually--  
what I wanted to do

1396  
01:24:20,810 --> 01:24:23,810  
is retire and stay  
in the United States,

1397  
01:24:23,810 --> 01:24:32,450  
and it would happen when there  
was no possibility to return

1398  
01:24:32,450 --> 01:24:35,960  
back to the Czech Republic.

1399  
01:24:35,960 --> 01:24:39,500  
And then I still thought  
that I will stay there

1400  
01:24:39,500 --> 01:24:42,740  
because I thought  
that some of my sons

1401  
01:24:42,740 --> 01:24:45,950  
will come to me,  
to United States,

1402  
01:24:45,950 --> 01:24:52,520  
and actually, it would happen  
that one will stay in Czech

1403  
01:24:52,520 --> 01:24:54,310  
Republic, the other  
one in Germany,

1404  
01:24:54,310 --> 01:24:55,940  
and the third one  
the United States,

1405

01:24:55,940 --> 01:24:58,250  
so I didn't know what to do.

1406  
01:24:58,250 --> 01:25:02,260  
Yes, it was a little  
bit complicated.

1407  
01:25:02,260 --> 01:25:05,290  
Do you still have a son  
in the United States?

1408  
01:25:05,290 --> 01:25:05,790  
No.

1409  
01:25:05,790 --> 01:25:12,470  
He then decided to go to  
Germany because there were

1410  
01:25:12,470 --> 01:25:15,660  
some difficulties with the--

1411  
01:25:15,660 --> 01:25:19,220  
when he studied  
at the university,

1412  
01:25:19,220 --> 01:25:23,240  
they didn't want to  
actually acknowledge

1413  
01:25:23,240 --> 01:25:25,910  
that he started in  
Germany the studies

1414  
01:25:25,910 --> 01:25:31,790  
and then ended in  
the United States.

1415  
01:25:31,790 --> 01:25:33,330  
There were some difficulties.

1416  
01:25:33,330 --> 01:25:38,330  
So actually, he said he  
would lose two years,

1417  
01:25:38,330 --> 01:25:40,590  
and he didn't want to  
lose the two years.

1418  
01:25:40,590 --> 01:25:43,295  
So he stayed in Germany.

1419  
01:25:43,295 --> 01:25:44,420  
You understand what I mean?

1420  
01:25:44,420 --> 01:25:45,200  
Yes, yeah.

1421  
01:25:45,200 --> 01:25:48,350  
Have you been back to the  
United States since you left?

1422  
01:25:48,350 --> 01:25:49,790  
Oh, yes, several times.

1423  
01:25:49,790 --> 01:25:50,360  
Yeah.

1424  
01:25:50,360 --> 01:25:54,490  
Have you been to the Holocaust  
Museum in Washington?

1425  
01:25:54,490 --> 01:25:58,060  
No, I have been to the  
Holocaust Museum in Jerusalem.

1426  
01:25:58,060 --> 01:26:00,320  
Ah, and what were  
your thoughts there?

1427  
01:26:00,320 --> 01:26:02,240  
Oh, this is great.

1428  
01:26:02,240 --> 01:26:03,150  
This is just great.

1429

01:26:03,150 --> 01:26:06,950

This is something  
which I didn't even

1430

01:26:06,950 --> 01:26:10,610

expect to see because  
it's actually a new one.

1431

01:26:10,610 --> 01:26:15,800

When I went to Israel the  
first time in the 90s,

1432

01:26:15,800 --> 01:26:21,960

it wasn't built  
yet, and actually it

1433

01:26:21,960 --> 01:26:25,010

is a pretty new museum.

1434

01:26:25,010 --> 01:26:27,470

I was just astonished,  
and I was very--

1435

01:26:27,470 --> 01:26:32,810

1436

01:26:32,810 --> 01:26:41,540

actually, I was very glad that I  
can see things which I actually

1437

01:26:41,540 --> 01:26:42,590

wasn't aware of.

1438

01:26:42,590 --> 01:26:45,510

1439

01:26:45,510 --> 01:26:47,510

I was very impressed about that.

1440

01:26:47,510 --> 01:26:50,330

Such as?



1441

01:26:50,330 --> 01:26:52,670

You said you learned  
some things, that you--

1442

01:26:52,670 --> 01:26:53,670

Yes, of course.

1443

01:26:53,670 --> 01:26:55,100

I learned some things.

1444

01:26:55,100 --> 01:26:55,880

I learned that--

1445

01:26:55,880 --> 01:26:58,640

Such as what?

1446

01:26:58,640 --> 01:27:07,070

Mostly about how people  
care about the time

1447

01:27:07,070 --> 01:27:13,310

and how they are able  
to reproduce things

1448

01:27:13,310 --> 01:27:18,860

which actually, I thought,  
were forgotten because nobody

1449

01:27:18,860 --> 01:27:19,910

actually--

1450

01:27:19,910 --> 01:27:26,930

right after the war, actually,  
nobody talked about this time.

1451

01:27:26,930 --> 01:27:28,940

There were other  
sorts of people,

1452

01:27:28,940 --> 01:27:34,430

and people actually tried  
to get in their lives again.

1453  
01:27:34,430 --> 01:27:37,710  
And I think they hadn't  
time to talk about this.

1454  
01:27:37,710 --> 01:27:42,410  
And when I saw, after all  
this time, this museum,

1455  
01:27:42,410 --> 01:27:46,880  
I was very impressed by the  
way how it handled things.

1456  
01:27:46,880 --> 01:27:50,780  
And even there is another  
part of the museum which

1457  
01:27:50,780 --> 01:28:05,300  
handles just children, and  
it is extremely interesting,

1458  
01:28:05,300 --> 01:28:08,810  
this part of the  
children, because how

1459  
01:28:08,810 --> 01:28:14,420  
the children survived  
and how they actually

1460  
01:28:14,420 --> 01:28:15,740  
got through this time.

1461  
01:28:15,740 --> 01:28:17,120  
Yeah.

1462  
01:28:17,120 --> 01:28:20,030  
Do you think the Holocaust  
can happen again?

1463  
01:28:20,030 --> 01:28:20,930  
No.

1464

01:28:20,930 --> 01:28:22,700  
Why not?

1465  
01:28:22,700 --> 01:28:26,480  
Yeah, because people  
are thinking--

1466  
01:28:26,480 --> 01:28:30,356  
in Germany, the people are--

1467  
01:28:30,356 --> 01:28:36,260  
there's a part of the people  
who are actually still having

1468  
01:28:36,260 --> 01:28:38,410  
in mind the Nazi area.

1469  
01:28:38,410 --> 01:28:41,000

1470  
01:28:41,000 --> 01:28:43,670  
There are very few  
people, and they do not

1471  
01:28:43,670 --> 01:28:47,540  
have any influence  
at the politics.

1472  
01:28:47,540 --> 01:28:54,200  
And I don't think that the  
people, since that time--

1473  
01:28:54,200 --> 01:29:02,510  
it's now 50 or 55 years  
right after the war.

1474  
01:29:02,510 --> 01:29:11,210  
They just changed in thinking,  
and they are not anymore

1475  
01:29:11,210 --> 01:29:12,340  
racist, I think.

1476

01:29:12,340 --> 01:29:15,090

1477

01:29:15,090 --> 01:29:21,280

Well, is there anything you'd like to add to what you said,

1478

01:29:21,280 --> 01:29:22,790

any thoughts that you have?

1479

01:29:22,790 --> 01:29:27,740

I think we almost covered everything I

1480

01:29:27,740 --> 01:29:29,510

wanted to tell you about this.

1481

01:29:29,510 --> 01:29:33,560

And any other things--

1482

01:29:33,560 --> 01:29:37,280

I am just happy that I could--

1483

01:29:37,280 --> 01:29:42,770

yes, there is something because the family

1484

01:29:42,770 --> 01:29:48,283

of my cousin I told you was a medical doctor in--

1485

01:29:48,283 --> 01:29:48,950

--San Francisco.

1486

01:29:48,950 --> 01:29:50,240

--San Francisco.

1487

01:29:50,240 --> 01:29:55,970

So actually, when I spent my time in the United States

1488

01:29:55,970 --> 01:30:01,010  
all these 10 years, I  
met this guy very often.

1489  
01:30:01,010 --> 01:30:08,300  
And we met even  
several times a year,

1490  
01:30:08,300 --> 01:30:17,420  
even when I was actually in  
Ohio and he was in California.

1491  
01:30:17,420 --> 01:30:21,890  
So we met at least twice  
or three times a year

1492  
01:30:21,890 --> 01:30:27,270  
and spent very much  
free times with him.

1493  
01:30:27,270 --> 01:30:32,000  
And this family is  
a Jewish family.

1494  
01:30:32,000 --> 01:30:41,840  
He married then a  
woman from Prague.

1495  
01:30:41,840 --> 01:30:43,910  
She's Jewish.

1496  
01:30:43,910 --> 01:30:52,160  
And he adopted, actually,  
her five children, and even

1497  
01:30:52,160 --> 01:30:54,160  
with this family--

1498  
01:30:54,160 --> 01:30:56,540  
I was very close to  
this family and spend

1499  
01:30:56,540 --> 01:30:59,330

a lot of time with this family.

1500  
01:30:59,330 --> 01:31:00,320  
Wonderful.

1501  
01:31:00,320 --> 01:31:03,260  
How do you spell his last name?

1502  
01:31:03,260 --> 01:31:16,250  
Brecher, B, like Berta,  
B-R-E-C-H-E-R, Brecher.

1503  
01:31:16,250 --> 01:31:16,750  
Yeah.

1504  
01:31:16,750 --> 01:31:18,340  
And his first name  
is George, right?

1505  
01:31:18,340 --> 01:31:19,360  
George, yeah.

1506  
01:31:19,360 --> 01:31:23,330  
Yeah, he's a very famous man.

1507  
01:31:23,330 --> 01:31:26,520  
You can find it on the  
internet and his work.

1508  
01:31:26,520 --> 01:31:30,930  
And he was all over Europe,  
and he's very famous.

1509  
01:31:30,930 --> 01:31:32,580  
Is he still alive?

1510  
01:31:32,580 --> 01:31:33,180  
No, no.

1511  
01:31:33,180 --> 01:31:38,610  
He died maybe-- he was  
12 years older than,

1512  
01:31:38,610 --> 01:31:45,360  
so actually, he died at the age  
of 92 home several years ago.

1513  
01:31:45,360 --> 01:31:47,860  
I think it's several years.

1514  
01:31:47,860 --> 01:31:50,550  
Yeah, yeah, yeah.

1515  
01:31:50,550 --> 01:31:52,380  
Well, that's wonderful.

1516  
01:31:52,380 --> 01:31:56,850  
Anything else you wanted  
to add before we--

1517  
01:31:56,850 --> 01:32:00,930  
I don't think about  
anything else, no.

1518  
01:32:00,930 --> 01:32:03,673  
Why did you want to  
do this interview?

1519  
01:32:03,673 --> 01:32:06,780

1520  
01:32:06,780 --> 01:32:10,260  
I wanted, actually, to do  
the interview because I

1521  
01:32:10,260 --> 01:32:15,630  
am very glad that people  
want to talk to me,

1522  
01:32:15,630 --> 01:32:20,820  
and actually, the  
interview was--

1523  
01:32:20,820 --> 01:32:24,690

it was a supposition  
from [? Mickey ?]

1524  
01:32:24,690 --> 01:32:27,180  
that I could do it.

1525  
01:32:27,180 --> 01:32:31,590  
And I wanted to  
talk to somebody who

1526  
01:32:31,590 --> 01:32:36,270  
can understand what I  
actually went through

1527  
01:32:36,270 --> 01:32:50,115  
and who even cared to make sure  
that it won't be forgotten.

1528  
01:32:50,115 --> 01:32:53,490

1529  
01:32:53,490 --> 01:32:54,960  
You see, my English--

1530  
01:32:54,960 --> 01:32:58,440  
since I am now 20 years--

1531  
01:32:58,440 --> 01:33:02,760  
it may be over 20 years  
I'm out of United States,

1532  
01:33:02,760 --> 01:33:06,110  
so it's a little bit rusty.

1533  
01:33:06,110 --> 01:33:08,310  
But I would live in  
the United States,

1534  
01:33:08,310 --> 01:33:13,970  
I think I would  
brush it up a little.

1535



01:33:13,970 --> 01:33:15,180  
Yeah, yeah.

1536  
01:33:15,180 --> 01:33:19,510  
Well, your English is  
wonderful, and it's wonderful--

1537  
01:33:19,510 --> 01:33:20,930  
Thank you about that.

1538  
01:33:20,930 --> 01:33:23,280  
It's not so wonderful.

1539  
01:33:23,280 --> 01:33:29,110  
Some expressions-- I'm just  
seeking some expressions which

1540  
01:33:29,110 --> 01:33:33,810  
are disappeared in the time.

1541  
01:33:33,810 --> 01:33:38,070  
When is the last time you  
came to the United States?

1542  
01:33:38,070 --> 01:33:39,990  
The last time I was there?

1543  
01:33:39,990 --> 01:33:42,450  
Yes.

1544  
01:33:42,450 --> 01:33:43,320  
Wait a moment.

1545  
01:33:43,320 --> 01:33:54,520  
The last time I was  
there in 2006, competing.

1546  
01:33:54,520 --> 01:33:55,030  
What's that?

1547  
01:33:55,030 --> 01:33:56,245  
Competing?

1548  
01:33:56,245 --> 01:33:57,080  
Competing, yes.

1549  
01:33:57,080 --> 01:33:58,750  
What do you mean?

1550  
01:33:58,750 --> 01:34:00,470  
Competing in swimming.

1551  
01:34:00,470 --> 01:34:03,786  
Oh my goodness.

1552  
01:34:03,786 --> 01:34:04,870  
There was a--

1553  
01:34:04,870 --> 01:34:07,030  
Where were you swimming?

1554  
01:34:07,030 --> 01:34:09,220  
In Palo Alto.

1555  
01:34:09,220 --> 01:34:10,930  
Oh my.

1556  
01:34:10,930 --> 01:34:12,190  
That's wonderful.

1557  
01:34:12,190 --> 01:34:13,045  
So are you--

1558  
01:34:13,045 --> 01:34:19,960  
There was the world  
championship of seniors, yes.

1559  
01:34:19,960 --> 01:34:23,340  
I go competing with the seniors.

1560  
01:34:23,340 --> 01:34:27,730  
It's called the Masters,  
the Masters Championship

1561  
01:34:27,730 --> 01:34:29,900  
of the World in swimming.

1562  
01:34:29,900 --> 01:34:30,400  
Wonderful.

1563  
01:34:30,400 --> 01:34:31,450  
And how did you--

1564  
01:34:31,450 --> 01:34:32,820  
how did you do?

1565  
01:34:32,820 --> 01:34:33,575  
Oh, I won.

1566  
01:34:33,575 --> 01:34:36,485

1567  
01:34:36,485 --> 01:34:37,900  
I won.

1568  
01:34:37,900 --> 01:34:39,670  
That's wonderful.

1569  
01:34:39,670 --> 01:34:40,650  
It's my best.

1570  
01:34:40,650 --> 01:34:41,800  
Swimming is my profession.

1571  
01:34:41,800 --> 01:34:42,490  
You know that.

1572  
01:34:42,490 --> 01:34:45,940  
What stroke you do you do?

1573  
01:34:45,940 --> 01:34:49,810  
If you want to be good, you  
have to know every stroke.

1574

01:34:49,810 --> 01:34:51,175

OK.

1575

01:34:51,175 --> 01:34:53,500

And are you still swimming?

1576

01:34:53,500 --> 01:34:56,360

Yes, I'm still swimming.

1577

01:34:56,360 --> 01:35:00,710

I am swimming three times a week  
and, in summertime, every day.

1578

01:35:00,710 --> 01:35:02,500

Oh.

1579

01:35:02,500 --> 01:35:05,230

Well, that is a very  
good note to end on,

1580

01:35:05,230 --> 01:35:08,650

unless you had anything else  
you wanted to talk about.

1581

01:35:08,650 --> 01:35:10,620

No, no, no, no.

1582

01:35:10,620 --> 01:35:11,560

I think this is all.

1583

01:35:11,560 --> 01:35:14,770

Well, we'll end on that high  
note of your swimming success.

1584

01:35:14,770 --> 01:35:17,350

That's wonderful.

1585

01:35:17,350 --> 01:35:25,540

I'm still glad that I can do it  
at my age because I am now 87,

1586

01:35:25,540 --> 01:35:30,000  
and I can still compete.

1587  
01:35:30,000 --> 01:35:33,460  
And it doesn't make  
me any problems,

1588  
01:35:33,460 --> 01:35:35,620  
so I'm happy about that.

1589  
01:35:35,620 --> 01:35:37,150  
Wonderful.

1590  
01:35:37,150 --> 01:35:39,100  
So we will stop  
the interview now.

1591  
01:35:39,100 --> 01:35:42,760  
I just wanted to say that this  
concludes the United States

1592  
01:35:42,760 --> 01:35:49,570  
Holocaust Memorial Museum  
interview with Hans Ziegler.

1593  
01:35:49,570 --> 01:35:51,360  
I thank you