

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:08,029

2
00:00:08,029 --> 00:00:10,940
This is the United States
Holocaust Memorial Museum

3
00:00:10,940 --> 00:00:14,870
Volunteer Collection interview
with Guenter Lewy conducted

4
00:00:14,870 --> 00:00:24,090
by Gail Schwartz on March
18, 2013 in Washington DC.

5
00:00:24,090 --> 00:00:28,120
This is track number one.

6
00:00:28,120 --> 00:00:30,310
What is your full name?

7
00:00:30,310 --> 00:00:32,320
Guenter Lewy.

8
00:00:32,320 --> 00:00:34,180
And that is the name
you were born with?

9
00:00:34,180 --> 00:00:35,070
Right.

10
00:00:35,070 --> 00:00:35,620
OK.

11
00:00:35,620 --> 00:00:37,940
And when were you born
and where were you born?

12
00:00:37,940 --> 00:00:43,360
I was born on August 22,
1923, in a town at the time

13

00:00:43,360 --> 00:00:46,870

called Breslau, the capital
of Silesia in Germany.

14

00:00:46,870 --> 00:00:50,840

Now it's called Wroclaw,
and it's part of Poland.

15

00:00:50,840 --> 00:00:53,130

Let's talk a little
bit about your family,

16

00:00:53,130 --> 00:00:56,640

about your parents, who
they were and their names.

17

00:00:56,640 --> 00:01:00,830

My father, Henry,
was born in Memel,

18

00:01:00,830 --> 00:01:05,780

which is near East Prussia.

19

00:01:05,780 --> 00:01:11,630

It's now a military base
of Russia, I believe.

20

00:01:11,630 --> 00:01:13,340

And he moved to
Silesia at some point,

21

00:01:13,340 --> 00:01:17,490

I don't know exactly when, and
eventually landed in Breslau

22

00:01:17,490 --> 00:01:20,750

where he was in business.

23

00:01:20,750 --> 00:01:26,000

His name was Henry because his
father had been an Anglophile,

24

00:01:26,000 --> 00:01:28,160
and that led to all
kinds of complications

25

00:01:28,160 --> 00:01:31,130
to which we can return
perhaps, after Kristallnacht.

26

00:01:31,130 --> 00:01:32,630
Would you like me
to talk about now?

27

00:01:32,630 --> 00:01:33,700
Let's talk about it later.

28

00:01:33,700 --> 00:01:34,200
Later.

29

00:01:34,200 --> 00:01:34,880
Yeah.

30

00:01:34,880 --> 00:01:38,270
My mother, Rosal
[? Leipziger ?],,

31

00:01:38,270 --> 00:01:42,920
her maiden name, was born
in a small town in Silesia

32

00:01:42,920 --> 00:01:46,040
called Schlichtingsheim.

33

00:01:46,040 --> 00:01:48,860
At some point, she must
also have moved to Breslau,

34

00:01:48,860 --> 00:01:52,760
and my father and
she got married.

35

00:01:52,760 --> 00:01:56,660
I don't know the exact date.

36
00:01:56,660 --> 00:01:59,460
And what kind of work
did your father do?

37
00:01:59,460 --> 00:02:02,300
My father was a
small businessman.

38
00:02:02,300 --> 00:02:04,710
I don't think he
was very successful.

39
00:02:04,710 --> 00:02:08,479
I'm not sure exactly why that
was so because of the times,

40
00:02:08,479 --> 00:02:12,290
he was a Jew, and it was
getting difficult to do

41
00:02:12,290 --> 00:02:15,320
business in Germany, obviously
during the Nazi period

42
00:02:15,320 --> 00:02:17,150
in particular.

43
00:02:17,150 --> 00:02:22,400
He had a wholesale store
for stockings and socks.

44
00:02:22,400 --> 00:02:24,410
And your mother, did she work?

45
00:02:24,410 --> 00:02:26,540
No, she did not.

46
00:02:26,540 --> 00:02:28,220
We were two children.

47
00:02:28,220 --> 00:02:30,800

I had a small brother
who unfortunately died

48
00:02:30,800 --> 00:02:32,670
in an accident at an early age.

49
00:02:32,670 --> 00:02:34,550
I think he was eight.

50
00:02:34,550 --> 00:02:38,690
So I was the only child,
but my mother did not work.

51
00:02:38,690 --> 00:02:40,490
Your brother's name was?

52
00:02:40,490 --> 00:02:42,710
Frans.

53
00:02:42,710 --> 00:02:47,240
And what kind of
neighborhood did you live in?

54
00:02:47,240 --> 00:02:49,735
Was it a Jewish and
non-Jewish mixed neighborhood

55
00:02:49,735 --> 00:02:51,290
or was it predominantly Jewish?

56
00:02:51,290 --> 00:02:54,440
I really don't think they were
Jewish neighborhoods in Breslau

57
00:02:54,440 --> 00:02:55,670
at the time.

58
00:02:55,670 --> 00:02:57,140
Things were very
intermixed, which

59
00:02:57,140 --> 00:03:00,350

is quite typical, of course, for
German Jewry who, as you know,

60
00:03:00,350 --> 00:03:03,410
were well assimilated
by and large.

61
00:03:03,410 --> 00:03:04,910
We lived in two locations.

62
00:03:04,910 --> 00:03:07,910
I went back to
[NON-ENGLISH SPEECH] some 15

63
00:03:07,910 --> 00:03:09,200
years ago.

64
00:03:09,200 --> 00:03:12,860
The first neighborhood where we
had lived didn't exist anymore,

65
00:03:12,860 --> 00:03:16,010
and the second one
hardly at all either.

66
00:03:16,010 --> 00:03:17,450
We lived in two locations.

67
00:03:17,450 --> 00:03:22,100
We had an apartment,
and we had a maid,

68
00:03:22,100 --> 00:03:26,780
which was kind of expected for
any middle class Jewish family.

69
00:03:26,780 --> 00:03:29,180
Even though my father could
hardly afford it, but he did

70
00:03:29,180 --> 00:03:32,000
have one.

71

00:03:32,000 --> 00:03:33,920

And so your
neighborhood was made up

72

00:03:33,920 --> 00:03:35,880

of Jewish and
non-Jewish children whom

73

00:03:35,880 --> 00:03:36,930

you played with I assume?

74

00:03:36,930 --> 00:03:37,430

Yeah.

75

00:03:37,430 --> 00:03:41,870

I went to a regular
German public school.

76

00:03:41,870 --> 00:03:45,117

Whether there were any other
Jewish children in that class,

77

00:03:45,117 --> 00:03:45,825

I can't remember.

78

00:03:45,825 --> 00:03:48,500

79

00:03:48,500 --> 00:03:49,970

Possibly not.

80

00:03:49,970 --> 00:03:53,570

Certainly in the
elementary school.

81

00:03:53,570 --> 00:03:59,930

Later on, I transferred to
a gymnasium, a high school,

82

00:03:59,930 --> 00:04:05,880

and there probably were other
Jewish children in that class.

83
00:04:05,880 --> 00:04:11,850
Now, I think I was allowed to
stay in this German high school

84
00:04:11,850 --> 00:04:15,810
because my father had
been what they called

85
00:04:15,810 --> 00:04:19,950
a [NON-ENGLISH SPEECH],, somebody
who had fought in combat

86
00:04:19,950 --> 00:04:21,120
in World War One.

87
00:04:21,120 --> 00:04:27,600
And Jews who had that status
had, at the beginning,

88
00:04:27,600 --> 00:04:28,830
certain privileges.

89
00:04:28,830 --> 00:04:32,040
One of them was that while
other Jewish children had

90
00:04:32,040 --> 00:04:34,050
to leave the German
schools, I was

91
00:04:34,050 --> 00:04:37,020
allowed to stay in that
gymnasium for a little longer.

92
00:04:37,020 --> 00:04:39,600
But eventually, we all
had to leave anyway,

93
00:04:39,600 --> 00:04:42,990
and I transferred to
a Jewish gymnasium.

94

00:04:42,990 --> 00:04:48,621

And I went to that
school until 1938.

95

00:04:48,621 --> 00:04:51,090

Do you remember when you
transferred to the Jewish--

96

00:04:51,090 --> 00:04:52,673

what year it was
when you transferred?

97

00:04:52,673 --> 00:04:53,430

I am not sure.

98

00:04:53,430 --> 00:04:55,980

It I would think it
probably was '37.

99

00:04:55,980 --> 00:04:56,640

'37.

100

00:04:56,640 --> 00:04:58,132

Something like that.

101

00:04:58,132 --> 00:05:00,090

Let's talk a little bit
more about your family.

102

00:05:00,090 --> 00:05:02,220

Were they very assimilated?

103

00:05:02,220 --> 00:05:03,900

Quite, yes.

104

00:05:03,900 --> 00:05:10,650

My parents did go to
synagogue on high holidays.

105

00:05:10,650 --> 00:05:16,250

I think the synagogue,
the largest in Breslau,

106
00:05:16,250 --> 00:05:20,610
was probably conservative.

107
00:05:20,610 --> 00:05:22,800
There was [NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]
in our family,

108
00:05:22,800 --> 00:05:25,320
which my father
could not conduct,

109
00:05:25,320 --> 00:05:30,240
but we had an uncle who
did know the ritual.

110
00:05:30,240 --> 00:05:32,160
And he usually
conducted the Seder.

111
00:05:32,160 --> 00:05:36,970
And there was a large gathering,
I would think perhaps about 12,

112
00:05:36,970 --> 00:05:39,690
14 people at that time.

113
00:05:39,690 --> 00:05:42,920
But that was about it.

114
00:05:42,920 --> 00:05:46,260
I was bar mitzvah, but
that was kind of expected.

115
00:05:46,260 --> 00:05:47,790
It was a socially
expected thing.

116
00:05:47,790 --> 00:05:50,760
It was more of a social
ritual than a religious one.

117

00:05:50,760 --> 00:05:53,370

I certainly had no strong
religious feelings one

118

00:05:53,370 --> 00:05:54,120

way or the other.

119

00:05:54,120 --> 00:05:55,140

I like the bar mitzvah.

120

00:05:55,140 --> 00:05:58,380

I got lots of presents.

121

00:05:58,380 --> 00:06:03,900

So basically, our family
was yes, assimilated.

122

00:06:03,900 --> 00:06:07,170

My father belonged to
an organization called

123

00:06:07,170 --> 00:06:11,700

[NON-ENGLISH SPEECH],, that
meant the National Organization

124

00:06:11,700 --> 00:06:14,350

of Jewish Combat Soldiers
in World War One.

125

00:06:14,350 --> 00:06:17,430

I was very proud of that.

126

00:06:17,430 --> 00:06:20,130

And again, that was a
fairly typical attitude

127

00:06:20,130 --> 00:06:24,480

on the part of German
Jews at that time.

128

00:06:24,480 --> 00:06:27,390

What language did
you speak at home?

129
00:06:27,390 --> 00:06:28,380
What did you expect?

130
00:06:28,380 --> 00:06:29,890
German.

131
00:06:29,890 --> 00:06:31,140
Yeah.

132
00:06:31,140 --> 00:06:34,330
And let's talk also now
about your extended family.

133
00:06:34,330 --> 00:06:36,990
You mentioned about your uncle
helping to conduct the Seder.

134
00:06:36,990 --> 00:06:38,532
Did you have a large
extended family?

135
00:06:38,532 --> 00:06:40,690
We had a large family, yes.

136
00:06:40,690 --> 00:06:42,250
On both sides?

137
00:06:42,250 --> 00:06:43,930
On both sides.

138
00:06:43,930 --> 00:06:47,620
Very large family,
including grandparents.

139
00:06:47,620 --> 00:06:49,240
I enjoyed visiting my--

140
00:06:49,240 --> 00:06:53,410
one of my grandparents lived in
a town near where my mother had

141

00:06:53,410 --> 00:06:54,840
been born, also in Silesia.

142

00:06:54,840 --> 00:06:56,450
I enjoyed visiting there.

143

00:06:56,450 --> 00:06:58,510
I had some friends there.

144

00:06:58,510 --> 00:07:03,560
The most successful in our
family was my mother's brother.

145

00:07:03,560 --> 00:07:06,490
He had a business,
wholesale business, in wood,

146

00:07:06,490 --> 00:07:08,020
and was very successful.

147

00:07:08,020 --> 00:07:14,220
He was really quite rich, and
he had been also an officer

148

00:07:14,220 --> 00:07:15,310
in World War One.

149

00:07:15,310 --> 00:07:18,210
He was altogether very
stately German appearance,

150

00:07:18,210 --> 00:07:20,640
tall, straight.

151

00:07:20,640 --> 00:07:23,130
There's an interesting story
connected to him, which

152

00:07:23,130 --> 00:07:26,610
I think would be of interest.

153

00:07:26,610 --> 00:07:27,400
His name?

154
00:07:27,400 --> 00:07:29,940
His name was Friedl
[? Leipziger ?]..

155
00:07:29,940 --> 00:07:33,300
[? Leipziger ?] was my
mother's maiden name.

156
00:07:33,300 --> 00:07:35,460
He considered himself
even more German

157
00:07:35,460 --> 00:07:39,180
than anyone else in our family
because of his background.

158
00:07:39,180 --> 00:07:42,420
And I remember a
family gathering must

159
00:07:42,420 --> 00:07:47,310
have been around 1936,
and I being all of 13,

160
00:07:47,310 --> 00:07:49,560
they had to say I was
in a youth movement.

161
00:07:49,560 --> 00:07:51,210
I come back to that later.

162
00:07:51,210 --> 00:07:54,220
I dare to say that perhaps one
should think of emigrating,

163
00:07:54,220 --> 00:07:58,230
and this was '36, three
years into the Nazi regime.

164
00:07:58,230 --> 00:08:00,393

And my uncle took
me by the scruff,

165
00:08:00,393 --> 00:08:01,560
and shook me back and forth.

166
00:08:01,560 --> 00:08:05,550
He said, what do you
understand about such things?

167
00:08:05,550 --> 00:08:10,860
OK, that was in 1936.

168
00:08:10,860 --> 00:08:13,950
Very soon, however, begin
to have second thoughts.

169
00:08:13,950 --> 00:08:17,010
So to be on the safe side,
he started to ship out money

170
00:08:17,010 --> 00:08:18,820
illegally, of course.

171
00:08:18,820 --> 00:08:26,490
And one of the couriers who
had my uncle's money was caught

172
00:08:26,490 --> 00:08:28,350
and he had a list of names.

173
00:08:28,350 --> 00:08:31,320
So one afternoon, my
uncle got a telephone call

174
00:08:31,320 --> 00:08:35,580
from the police chief of
Breslau, and I remind you,

175
00:08:35,580 --> 00:08:38,250
Breslau was a city
of 600,000 people.

176

00:08:38,250 --> 00:08:40,559

So the police chief
was quite somebody.

177

00:08:40,559 --> 00:08:44,760

It so happened that he was
a war comrade of my uncle,

178

00:08:44,760 --> 00:08:48,120

and he said, Friedl,
this has happened.

179

00:08:48,120 --> 00:08:49,320

I give you three hours.

180

00:08:49,320 --> 00:08:50,460

You must get out of town.

181

00:08:50,460 --> 00:08:52,590

Otherwise, I'll
come to arrest you.

182

00:08:52,590 --> 00:08:56,280

So my uncle took his family,
his wife and daughter,

183

00:08:56,280 --> 00:08:58,980

and got on a train
and left for Paris.

184

00:08:58,980 --> 00:09:01,230

So that was the end
of my uncle, who

185

00:09:01,230 --> 00:09:07,410

had thought that it was
stupid to think of emigrating.

186

00:09:07,410 --> 00:09:12,840

He then, from France,
got to Brazil,

187

00:09:12,840 --> 00:09:15,900
where he again opened a
highly successful wood

188
00:09:15,900 --> 00:09:18,450
business, which was very
appropriate for Brazil.

189
00:09:18,450 --> 00:09:21,120
And he became perhaps
even richer than before.

190
00:09:21,120 --> 00:09:23,720

191
00:09:23,720 --> 00:09:30,740
Let's talk a little bit about
your life from 1923 to 1933,

192
00:09:30,740 --> 00:09:32,930
until Hitler came into power.

193
00:09:32,930 --> 00:09:34,640
What memories do--

194
00:09:34,640 --> 00:09:35,790
I know you were a child.

195
00:09:35,790 --> 00:09:36,770
You only 10 years old.

196
00:09:36,770 --> 00:09:38,690
I have memories.

197
00:09:38,690 --> 00:09:40,640
Talk about some
of those memories.

198
00:09:40,640 --> 00:09:43,250
Well, for one thing, I
belonged to a youth movement.

199

00:09:43,250 --> 00:09:44,460

And that is important--

200

00:09:44,460 --> 00:09:45,260

At that young age?

201

00:09:45,260 --> 00:09:45,770

Yes.

202

00:09:45,770 --> 00:09:52,120

I must have joined perhaps when

I was eight, nine, very early.

203

00:09:52,120 --> 00:10:01,535

This was a youth movement which
called itself German Jewish Boy

204

00:10:01,535 --> 00:10:06,695

Scouts, and German Jewish--

205

00:10:06,695 --> 00:10:10,500

it was more German
than it was Jewish.

206

00:10:10,500 --> 00:10:15,000

We sang German songs, and we
had little uniforms and flags,

207

00:10:15,000 --> 00:10:18,720

and we would parade up and
down, and go on hikes, and so

208

00:10:18,720 --> 00:10:21,910

forth and so on.

209

00:10:21,910 --> 00:10:24,930

It also was kind of romantic.

210

00:10:24,930 --> 00:10:28,020

The German youth movement
has been described

211

00:10:28,020 --> 00:10:30,210
by writers like Walter
Laqueur and others,

212
00:10:30,210 --> 00:10:35,550
and it had this
romantic flavor to it.

213
00:10:35,550 --> 00:10:37,440
You were opposed
to the Philistines,

214
00:10:37,440 --> 00:10:42,000
and you dreamt of
some wonderful future

215
00:10:42,000 --> 00:10:47,910
in which you would be important,
intellectually, perhaps.

216
00:10:47,910 --> 00:10:51,960
And so this, I
think, in many ways,

217
00:10:51,960 --> 00:10:56,740
was very important for my
own thinking and future life.

218
00:10:56,740 --> 00:11:00,720
It shaped me quite
significantly, I believe.

219
00:11:00,720 --> 00:11:04,950
Then came Hitler in '33, and we
were forbidden to use uniforms.

220
00:11:04,950 --> 00:11:08,310
And then, we were also
forbidden to go on hikes.

221
00:11:08,310 --> 00:11:10,500
And on the last hike
that we had staged,

222

00:11:10,500 --> 00:11:13,710

we were attacked in
the middle of the night

223

00:11:13,710 --> 00:11:16,875

and had to leave and go home.

224

00:11:16,875 --> 00:11:18,840

Attacked because you
were a Jewish group?

225

00:11:18,840 --> 00:11:22,470

Because we were a
Jewish group hiking,

226

00:11:22,470 --> 00:11:26,340

which we weren't-- and having a,
camp which we are not supposed

227

00:11:26,340 --> 00:11:27,690

to have anymore.

228

00:11:27,690 --> 00:11:29,520

But they hadn't informed
us that formally,

229

00:11:29,520 --> 00:11:31,420

so we still were doing it.

230

00:11:31,420 --> 00:11:33,690

So that was the
end of hiking and--

231

00:11:33,690 --> 00:11:37,140

Who was the leader of your
group, the adult leader?

232

00:11:37,140 --> 00:11:38,910

The leader of my
group was someone

233

00:11:38,910 --> 00:11:44,670

called Walter Laqueur who is quite known as a historian.

234

00:11:44,670 --> 00:11:47,700

He was all of two years older than we were in the school,

235

00:11:47,700 --> 00:11:49,870

but he was our leader.

236

00:11:49,870 --> 00:11:51,660

That's how he was known.

237

00:11:51,660 --> 00:11:56,460

And we would get together several times a month

238

00:11:56,460 --> 00:12:00,180

and read things and discuss it or listen to classical music

239

00:12:00,180 --> 00:12:02,880

and so forth and so on.

240

00:12:02,880 --> 00:12:07,650

Then about 1934, it must have been perhaps

241

00:12:07,650 --> 00:12:15,270

'35, our organization merged with a Zionist organization

242

00:12:15,270 --> 00:12:17,850

called [NON-ENGLISH SPEECH].

243

00:12:17,850 --> 00:12:21,510

And that organization, in turn, eventually became part

244

00:12:21,510 --> 00:12:22,915

of [NON-ENGLISH SPEECH].

245

00:12:22,915 --> 00:12:25,290

And the [NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]
is something that eventually

246

00:12:25,290 --> 00:12:27,290

became known in Israel
as [NON-ENGLISH SPEECH],,

247

00:12:27,290 --> 00:12:28,980

as you probably know.

248

00:12:28,980 --> 00:12:34,410

So the character of our
life changed in many ways.

249

00:12:34,410 --> 00:12:38,250

We all of a sudden started
to sing Jewish songs

250

00:12:38,250 --> 00:12:41,370

and learn something about our
Jewish background of which we

251

00:12:41,370 --> 00:12:45,750

were frightfully
ignorant until then.

252

00:12:45,750 --> 00:12:50,220

And we became kind of
Zionist, gradually,

253

00:12:50,220 --> 00:12:56,590

and this went on
for a few years.

254

00:12:56,590 --> 00:13:03,200

And then came Kristallnacht
in November of 1938.

255

00:13:03,200 --> 00:13:06,260

Now shortly before
that, I had gone

256

00:13:06,260 --> 00:13:10,760
to a farm in southern Germany
in preparation for going

257
00:13:10,760 --> 00:13:13,113
to what was then Palestine.

258
00:13:13,113 --> 00:13:14,780
And it was called
[NON-ENGLISH SPEECH],,

259
00:13:14,780 --> 00:13:17,600
if that term means
something for you.

260
00:13:17,600 --> 00:13:20,030
And we were there,
about 30 Jewish kids,

261
00:13:20,030 --> 00:13:22,350
and we were learning
agriculture.

262
00:13:22,350 --> 00:13:27,610
And on Kristallnacht,
the first thing we--

263
00:13:27,610 --> 00:13:33,360
we heard things about the radio,
and it was too late to leave.

264
00:13:33,360 --> 00:13:36,360
So we sort of
barricaded ourselves,

265
00:13:36,360 --> 00:13:38,070
and hoped for the best.

266
00:13:38,070 --> 00:13:42,570
But sure enough, a large
group of stormtroopers

267
00:13:42,570 --> 00:13:46,410

eventually appeared and attacked
and beat us up rather badly,

268
00:13:46,410 --> 00:13:48,850
and some people were hurt.

269
00:13:48,850 --> 00:13:51,630
And we then dispersed,
and everyone went home.

270
00:13:51,630 --> 00:13:54,690
When I came home, my father had
been arrested like all German

271
00:13:54,690 --> 00:13:57,990
Jews at the time,
all-male German Jews,

272
00:13:57,990 --> 00:13:59,740
and taken to a
concentration camp.

273
00:13:59,740 --> 00:14:02,670
He was taken to Buchenwald.

274
00:14:02,670 --> 00:14:08,100
And now I come back to
Henry, my father's name.

275
00:14:08,100 --> 00:14:10,545
As I said, his father
had been an Anglophile

276
00:14:10,545 --> 00:14:12,180
and been called Henry.

277
00:14:12,180 --> 00:14:14,310
Came World War
One, and my father

278
00:14:14,310 --> 00:14:16,320
volunteered for military
service to fight

279

00:14:16,320 --> 00:14:19,890
against the perfidious Albion,
you could not be called Henry.

280

00:14:19,890 --> 00:14:21,900
So they changed his
name to Heinrich.

281

00:14:21,900 --> 00:14:24,670
So some of his papers were
Heinrich and some of his papers

282

00:14:24,670 --> 00:14:25,560
were Henry.

283

00:14:25,560 --> 00:14:28,560
And of course that became
a [? cause cÃ©lÃ©bre ?]

284

00:14:28,560 --> 00:14:30,850
for the German
bureaucracy in the camp.

285

00:14:30,850 --> 00:14:32,740
They didn't know
what to make of it.

286

00:14:32,740 --> 00:14:35,790
And he therefore was one
of the last to get out.

287

00:14:35,790 --> 00:14:39,030
The procedure was that
they would let people out

288

00:14:39,030 --> 00:14:43,560
from the camp if they had
a place to go, to emigrate.

289

00:14:43,560 --> 00:14:49,740
One of the main purposes of
the arrest of the male Jews

290

00:14:49,740 --> 00:14:53,650
was to put pressure on them to
leave the country at that time.

291

00:14:53,650 --> 00:14:58,920
And that is also confirmed by
written documents that we have.

292

00:14:58,920 --> 00:15:02,740
The main idea was to push the
Jews out, get rid of them.

293

00:15:02,740 --> 00:15:05,370
And so if you had a
place to emigrate to,

294

00:15:05,370 --> 00:15:06,330
they would release you.

295

00:15:06,330 --> 00:15:09,510
But because of my father,
with this mix up of names,

296

00:15:09,510 --> 00:15:15,240
he was one of the last to
get out, even though we

297

00:15:15,240 --> 00:15:16,830
had a possibility to leave.

298

00:15:16,830 --> 00:15:20,460
Now this here, this
involves the following.

299

00:15:20,460 --> 00:15:24,600
My father's brother
and sister had

300

00:15:24,600 --> 00:15:27,990
been early Zionists that
belonged to a German Zionist

301

00:15:27,990 --> 00:15:31,980

organization called

Blau-Weiss, very well known.

302

00:15:31,980 --> 00:15:35,370

And they left for Palestine

in the '20s already,

303

00:15:35,370 --> 00:15:38,340

and had become

well-established in Palestine.

304

00:15:38,340 --> 00:15:41,940

My aunt, my father's

sister, was a librarian

305

00:15:41,940 --> 00:15:44,520

at Hebrew University.

306

00:15:44,520 --> 00:15:49,800

His brother was a well-known

architect in Jerusalem.

307

00:15:49,800 --> 00:15:53,430

And they tried to get

permission for my parents

308

00:15:53,430 --> 00:15:55,380

to come to Palestine, but--

309

00:15:55,380 --> 00:15:57,310

Their names?

310

00:15:57,310 --> 00:16:01,500

Bruno [? Levy ?] and

Alma [PERSONAL NAME]..

311

00:16:01,500 --> 00:16:05,400

She married a man who became

quite well-known after World

312

00:16:05,400 --> 00:16:08,370

War Two, Alex [PERSONAL NAME],,
because he was sent

313
00:16:08,370 --> 00:16:10,300
by the [? Yishuv ?] to Europe--

314
00:16:10,300 --> 00:16:11,730
he was a librarian as well--

315
00:16:11,730 --> 00:16:14,730
to recover stolen German books,
and he became quite well-known

316
00:16:14,730 --> 00:16:16,130
in that capacity.

317
00:16:16,130 --> 00:16:17,640
He was very successful.

318
00:16:17,640 --> 00:16:19,950
He got a Jeep and an
American chauffeur,

319
00:16:19,950 --> 00:16:21,480
and he was able
to move all around

320
00:16:21,480 --> 00:16:24,170
and recover German books
by the thousands, stolen

321
00:16:24,170 --> 00:16:26,100
Jewish books by the thousands.

322
00:16:26,100 --> 00:16:30,600
Anyway, that was
my aunt's husband.

323
00:16:30,600 --> 00:16:32,490
They tried to get
permission for my parents

324

00:16:32,490 --> 00:16:34,500
to come to Palestine,
but the British

325
00:16:34,500 --> 00:16:35,950
did not let any adults in.

326
00:16:35,950 --> 00:16:39,540
They let young people
in, but not adults.

327
00:16:39,540 --> 00:16:41,670
Was your father a Zionist?

328
00:16:41,670 --> 00:16:42,600
No, not at all.

329
00:16:42,600 --> 00:16:44,648
But by that time,
he had realized--

330
00:16:44,648 --> 00:16:46,440
I mean, after Kristallnacht
in particular--

331
00:16:46,440 --> 00:16:49,050
But preceding that,
he had not been.

332
00:16:49,050 --> 00:16:51,150
They may have been
thinking about emigrating,

333
00:16:51,150 --> 00:16:52,800
but nothing concrete
had happened.

334
00:16:52,800 --> 00:16:54,657
The problem, as
you probably know,

335
00:16:54,657 --> 00:16:55,990
was to find a place to take you.

336
00:16:55,990 --> 00:16:57,887
The problem was not
to get out of Germany,

337
00:16:57,887 --> 00:16:59,220
but to find a place to take you.

338
00:16:59,220 --> 00:17:03,690
There was legal emigration out
of Germany in October 1941,

339
00:17:03,690 --> 00:17:07,266
so the problem was to find
a place, not to get out, get

340
00:17:07,266 --> 00:17:08,099
permission to leave.

341
00:17:08,099 --> 00:17:12,030
In the country, the Nazis
were pushing the Jews out.

342
00:17:12,030 --> 00:17:15,930
So he had no place, but
my uncle in Jerusalem

343
00:17:15,930 --> 00:17:19,599
worked very hard on this,
and it didn't move forward.

344
00:17:19,599 --> 00:17:24,119
So as an interim measure, they
came up with the following.

345
00:17:24,119 --> 00:17:27,630
My uncle's wife was from
Vienna, and her brother was

346
00:17:27,630 --> 00:17:32,850
[NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]
Luxembourg, so the chief rabbi

347

00:17:32,850 --> 00:17:34,080
of Luxembourg.

348

00:17:34,080 --> 00:17:38,700
So they arranged for a
permit for my parents

349

00:17:38,700 --> 00:17:42,390
to go to Luxembourg,
and so I left

350

00:17:42,390 --> 00:17:46,530
in March of '39 for
Palestine with Youth Aliyah

351

00:17:46,530 --> 00:17:49,530
because I wanted to
be in the kibbutz,

352

00:17:49,530 --> 00:17:53,480
and my parents shortly
thereafter left for Luxembourg.

353

00:17:53,480 --> 00:17:59,420
So I came to Palestine in March
of 1939, and went to a kibbutz.

354

00:17:59,420 --> 00:18:00,170
We'll get to that.

355

00:18:00,170 --> 00:18:00,680
Yeah.

356

00:18:00,680 --> 00:18:02,420
OK.

357

00:18:02,420 --> 00:18:06,342
How did your parents feel about
your desire to go to Palestine?

358

00:18:06,342 --> 00:18:07,550
They were not crazy about it.

359
00:18:07,550 --> 00:18:09,717
They would have preferred
if I had stayed with them,

360
00:18:09,717 --> 00:18:12,890
but they respected my
wishes and accepted it.

361
00:18:12,890 --> 00:18:14,360
And you were 16?

362
00:18:14,360 --> 00:18:15,330
I was 15.

363
00:18:15,330 --> 00:18:17,990
15, yeah.

364
00:18:17,990 --> 00:18:21,380
Let's go back in
time a little bit.

365
00:18:21,380 --> 00:18:23,650
You were 10 years old when
Hitler came into power.

366
00:18:23,650 --> 00:18:25,410
Right.

367
00:18:25,410 --> 00:18:28,890
What did he mean to
a 10-year-old boy?

368
00:18:28,890 --> 00:18:30,420
Do you remember any--

369
00:18:30,420 --> 00:18:32,100
Yes, what I do remember--

370
00:18:32,100 --> 00:18:33,150
Speeches he made?

371

00:18:33,150 --> 00:18:34,560

I remember speeches.

372

00:18:34,560 --> 00:18:39,000

I attended the Olympic games
in 1936 where Hitler spoke.

373

00:18:39,000 --> 00:18:42,010

I had relatives in Berlin.

374

00:18:42,010 --> 00:18:44,280

I was interested in
seeing the Olympics.

375

00:18:44,280 --> 00:18:45,840

But let's start in '33.

376

00:18:45,840 --> 00:18:46,650

In '33?

377

00:18:46,650 --> 00:18:48,300

Did he mean anything to you?

378

00:18:48,300 --> 00:18:51,030

Well, it probably took a
little while for things

379

00:18:51,030 --> 00:18:54,060

to become clear, and
very soon, of course,

380

00:18:54,060 --> 00:18:57,240

the anti-Semitism was known
but the concrete manifestations

381

00:18:57,240 --> 00:18:58,290

became clear.

382

00:18:58,290 --> 00:19:02,200

I mentioned the problem
of staying in the school.

383

00:19:02,200 --> 00:19:04,470

My father started to have
even more difficulties

384

00:19:04,470 --> 00:19:07,710

in this business than before.

385

00:19:07,710 --> 00:19:10,740

Was it something you talked
over with your parents?

386

00:19:10,740 --> 00:19:11,970

The anti-Semitic--

387

00:19:11,970 --> 00:19:14,190

Probably.

388

00:19:14,190 --> 00:19:17,430

Do you know how they handled
it with you as a child?

389

00:19:17,430 --> 00:19:18,000

I'm sorry?

390

00:19:18,000 --> 00:19:21,070

Do you know how they explained
it to you as you were a child?

391

00:19:21,070 --> 00:19:23,190

I don't think it required--

392

00:19:23,190 --> 00:19:25,300

we matured rather
early in those years.

393

00:19:25,300 --> 00:19:26,250

I mean, in those days.

394

00:19:26,250 --> 00:19:28,420

One didn't require
any great explanation.

395

00:19:28,420 --> 00:19:29,610

It was probably clear.

396

00:19:29,610 --> 00:19:32,070

The Nazis would march
through the streets

397

00:19:32,070 --> 00:19:35,280

and have their
songs that meant--

398

00:19:35,280 --> 00:19:36,930

And how did you feel--

399

00:19:36,930 --> 00:19:39,830

Well, one felt a
little helpless.

400

00:19:39,830 --> 00:19:40,830

Was it frightening?

401

00:19:40,830 --> 00:19:42,300

A little bit, probably.

402

00:19:42,300 --> 00:19:43,380

Not terribly so.

403

00:19:43,380 --> 00:19:44,310

I don't know.

404

00:19:44,310 --> 00:19:45,810

It didn't seem to--

405

00:19:45,810 --> 00:19:48,998

I mean, I think it led more to
a relatively quick recognition

406

00:19:48,998 --> 00:19:50,790

that there was no future
for us in Germany,

407

00:19:50,790 --> 00:19:53,277
and that I should get out
more than anything else.

408
00:19:53,277 --> 00:19:55,110
I don't think I was
particularly frightened.

409
00:19:55,110 --> 00:19:57,540
Was it something you talked
over with your friends?

410
00:19:57,540 --> 00:19:58,800
Probably, I'm sure.

411
00:19:58,800 --> 00:20:00,780
Yes, yes.

412
00:20:00,780 --> 00:20:02,640
That's why I became
a Zionist and wanted

413
00:20:02,640 --> 00:20:05,910
to go to Palestine like
most of my other friends.

414
00:20:05,910 --> 00:20:09,720
What did Palestine mean
to you as a youngster?

415
00:20:09,720 --> 00:20:11,353
Not terribly much,
really, because I

416
00:20:11,353 --> 00:20:12,270
didn't know very much.

417
00:20:12,270 --> 00:20:15,520
It was history, but I mean,
I had some general education.

418
00:20:15,520 --> 00:20:21,350
So I basically

just started there.

419
00:20:21,350 --> 00:20:28,000
My Zionist conversion,
it was sincere, I think.

420
00:20:28,000 --> 00:20:30,620
It was not terribly
powerful probably.

421
00:20:30,620 --> 00:20:32,745
There may have been mixed
in it something about one

422
00:20:32,745 --> 00:20:34,495
had to get out of
Germany, and that seemed

423
00:20:34,495 --> 00:20:35,600
to be the next best, but--

424
00:20:35,600 --> 00:20:38,210

425
00:20:38,210 --> 00:20:40,963
to a certain extent, I guess
I consider myself a Zionist,

426
00:20:40,963 --> 00:20:42,380
and I wanted to
live in a kibbutz,

427
00:20:42,380 --> 00:20:44,450
and I thought that would
be a nice thing to do,

428
00:20:44,450 --> 00:20:45,440
something worthwhile.

429
00:20:45,440 --> 00:20:49,280
Again, this is in line with
what I mentioned earlier,

430

00:20:49,280 --> 00:20:51,350

the ideal of the youth
movement, that one should

431

00:20:51,350 --> 00:20:54,170

lead one's life with some
meaning and some significance

432

00:20:54,170 --> 00:20:57,090

and do something positive
for mankind as it were.

433

00:20:57,090 --> 00:20:59,900

So living in a kibbutz probably
looked pretty attractive

434

00:20:59,900 --> 00:21:01,490

in that light.

435

00:21:01,490 --> 00:21:04,820

You must have been a
very independent young--

436

00:21:04,820 --> 00:21:05,570

We all were.

437

00:21:05,570 --> 00:21:09,110

Teenager to be able to leave
your parents at the age of 16.

438

00:21:09,110 --> 00:21:10,520

But we are-- 15.

439

00:21:10,520 --> 00:21:11,120

15.

440

00:21:11,120 --> 00:21:11,870

We all were.

441

00:21:11,870 --> 00:21:17,190

I mean, we were very
independent, and I mean,

442
00:21:17,190 --> 00:21:23,720
I remember reading Marxist
literature in my teens,

443
00:21:23,720 --> 00:21:26,120
I mean, in this
youth group, that

444
00:21:26,120 --> 00:21:28,730
was one of the
things we would read.

445
00:21:28,730 --> 00:21:33,680
I remember one day
Walter Laqueur gave me

446
00:21:33,680 --> 00:21:35,520
a travel book on Africa.

447
00:21:35,520 --> 00:21:37,270
So I take it home and
read it, and I said,

448
00:21:37,270 --> 00:21:38,600
I don't want to
read about Africa.

449
00:21:38,600 --> 00:21:39,392
I'm not interested.

450
00:21:39,392 --> 00:21:40,940
Take it home and look at it.

451
00:21:40,940 --> 00:21:41,690
I took it home.

452
00:21:41,690 --> 00:21:45,260
I opened it up, and filed
into it, thrown into it,

453
00:21:45,260 --> 00:21:47,510

was the Communist Manifesto.

454

00:21:47,510 --> 00:21:49,940

So we were early--

455

00:21:49,940 --> 00:21:51,050

we matured early.

456

00:21:51,050 --> 00:21:54,288

We were interested in
serious matters earlier,

457

00:21:54,288 --> 00:21:56,330

perhaps, than otherwise
would have been the case.

458

00:21:56,330 --> 00:22:01,220

459

00:22:01,220 --> 00:22:03,770

So, yeah.

460

00:22:03,770 --> 00:22:06,650

You ask me how did I
react to the Nazis?

461

00:22:06,650 --> 00:22:10,460

I do remember in addition to the
one occasion, which I mentioned

462

00:22:10,460 --> 00:22:12,148

before where our
camp was attacked,

463

00:22:12,148 --> 00:22:13,940

the youth movement camp
and we had to leave

464

00:22:13,940 --> 00:22:15,065

in the middle of the night.

465

00:22:15,065 --> 00:22:18,170

I also remember some
other cases where

466
00:22:18,170 --> 00:22:22,980
we would bicycle, I with
several friends, one or two.

467
00:22:22,980 --> 00:22:31,630
And Hitler Youth would
stop us and call us names

468
00:22:31,630 --> 00:22:33,580
and try to beat us up
and so forth and so on.

469
00:22:33,580 --> 00:22:36,020
There were several
incidents of that sort.

470
00:22:36,020 --> 00:22:38,680
So I think it really became
quite clear at that point

471
00:22:38,680 --> 00:22:41,800
that one had to get out,
that was there was no future.

472
00:22:41,800 --> 00:22:43,300
So you wouldn't
describe yourself

473
00:22:43,300 --> 00:22:46,690
as an especially
fearful type of person?

474
00:22:46,690 --> 00:22:49,990
I don't remember fear
as one of the sensations

475
00:22:49,990 --> 00:22:52,220
of the period, no.

476
00:22:52,220 --> 00:22:55,550

And to hear Hitler
speeches over the air?

477
00:22:55,550 --> 00:22:56,810
Sure, one heard that.

478
00:22:56,810 --> 00:22:59,660
I heard him in Berlin
at the Olympics.

479
00:22:59,660 --> 00:23:00,410
Sure.

480
00:23:00,410 --> 00:23:03,050
Talk about the
Olympics a little more.

481
00:23:03,050 --> 00:23:05,420
Well I was interested in
sport, especially in soccer,

482
00:23:05,420 --> 00:23:06,830
and I have relatives in Berlin.

483
00:23:06,830 --> 00:23:10,220
So I traveled to Berlin in '36.

484
00:23:10,220 --> 00:23:12,320
I was 13 years old, I guess.

485
00:23:12,320 --> 00:23:13,190
With your parents?

486
00:23:13,190 --> 00:23:14,190
No, no, no, alone.

487
00:23:14,190 --> 00:23:14,690
Alone?

488
00:23:14,690 --> 00:23:17,840
I stayed with relatives there,
and I went to the Olympics.

489
00:23:17,840 --> 00:23:18,500
I got a ticket.

490
00:23:18,500 --> 00:23:20,600
I don't know who paid for it.

491
00:23:20,600 --> 00:23:23,120
And I happened to
be at an occasion

492
00:23:23,120 --> 00:23:24,740
when Hitler was there, and--

493
00:23:24,740 --> 00:23:26,540
forgot what the sport was.

494
00:23:26,540 --> 00:23:29,540

495
00:23:29,540 --> 00:23:30,320
Well it was--

496
00:23:30,320 --> 00:23:33,900
When you saw him, did you
have any visceral reaction?

497
00:23:33,900 --> 00:23:35,720
I don't think so, no.

498
00:23:35,720 --> 00:23:38,780
I don't think so.

499
00:23:38,780 --> 00:23:41,750
When you see him now, especially
when you hear speeches,

500
00:23:41,750 --> 00:23:44,300
you ask yourself, well,
how could this man ever

501

00:23:44,300 --> 00:23:47,030
be taken seriously and
that style of speaking

502
00:23:47,030 --> 00:23:48,590
is so strange.

503
00:23:48,590 --> 00:23:55,410
And while charismatic, he wasn't
perceived that way at the time.

504
00:23:55,410 --> 00:23:59,330
And I think that maybe one of
the reasons why no one really

505
00:23:59,330 --> 00:24:01,580
expected what eventually
happened, he seemed

506
00:24:01,580 --> 00:24:03,230
like pretty much an--

507
00:24:03,230 --> 00:24:05,390
not perhaps the most
ordinary politician,

508
00:24:05,390 --> 00:24:07,670
but a German politician.

509
00:24:07,670 --> 00:24:09,950
A bit more aggressive,
a bit more belligerent,

510
00:24:09,950 --> 00:24:13,550
but not all that different
from anyone else, perhaps.

511
00:24:13,550 --> 00:24:16,640
Did you feel very German when
you were at the Olympics?

512
00:24:16,640 --> 00:24:19,940
At that time, probably

yes, I mean, as I say,

513
00:24:19,940 --> 00:24:22,280
our youth movement
was German Jewish,

514
00:24:22,280 --> 00:24:23,390
but basically was German.

515
00:24:23,390 --> 00:24:24,870
The Jewish was kind of added.

516
00:24:24,870 --> 00:24:27,050
So you were still proud
of being a German?

517
00:24:27,050 --> 00:24:27,750
At the Olympics?

518
00:24:27,750 --> 00:24:31,070
I am not sure that I was
proud to be a German in '36,

519
00:24:31,070 --> 00:24:32,240
possibly not.

520
00:24:32,240 --> 00:24:36,200
But I still considered myself
basically German, probably.

521
00:24:36,200 --> 00:24:37,970
But as I said this
was the time when

522
00:24:37,970 --> 00:24:42,320
I was beginning to move
into the Zionist thinking.

523
00:24:42,320 --> 00:24:47,720
OK, so now let's move along
a little bit, '38, '39.

524

00:24:47,720 --> 00:24:50,960

Well, I mentioned
Kristallnacht before.

525

00:24:50,960 --> 00:24:54,920

And arrangement had been made
that I would leave in March

526

00:24:54,920 --> 00:24:56,640

'39, and my parents agreed.

527

00:24:56,640 --> 00:24:57,920

And so I left with a--

528

00:24:57,920 --> 00:25:00,670

529

00:25:00,670 --> 00:25:04,090

You came back, obviously, after
Kristallnacht, to your house.

530

00:25:04,090 --> 00:25:07,010

Right, my father was not there.

531

00:25:07,010 --> 00:25:09,560

We were waiting for him to
come back, and as I said,

532

00:25:09,560 --> 00:25:10,830

he came back very late.

533

00:25:10,830 --> 00:25:14,360

He must have been in Buchenwald
for two or three months,

534

00:25:14,360 --> 00:25:17,660

and was a rather bad
shape when he came back.

535

00:25:17,660 --> 00:25:18,860

What did he say to you?

536

00:25:18,860 --> 00:25:22,820

Well, he had been instructed
of course not to talk about it,

537

00:25:22,820 --> 00:25:24,948

but that was a
standard procedure.

538

00:25:24,948 --> 00:25:26,240

They were not supposed to talk.

539

00:25:26,240 --> 00:25:27,770

But, of course, one knew.

540

00:25:27,770 --> 00:25:31,580

And one just had to look at
them to realize that treatment

541

00:25:31,580 --> 00:25:33,080

hadn't been very good.

542

00:25:33,080 --> 00:25:35,810

When they arrived, they were
in the middle of the night,

543

00:25:35,810 --> 00:25:39,140

the transport was given
herring and no water,

544

00:25:39,140 --> 00:25:44,480

and living conditions were very
difficult. There were beatings.

545

00:25:44,480 --> 00:25:48,530

There was no clear problem
of killing, of course,

546

00:25:48,530 --> 00:25:51,320

at that time, but it was rough.

547

00:25:51,320 --> 00:25:57,880

And a number of people
died in the camp.

548
00:25:57,880 --> 00:26:00,400
My father survived, but
he was in rather bad shape

549
00:26:00,400 --> 00:26:01,180
when he came back.

550
00:26:01,180 --> 00:26:02,540
He had lost weight--

551
00:26:02,540 --> 00:26:05,090
What was your mother's
reaction when she saw him?

552
00:26:05,090 --> 00:26:06,820
I don't recall, specifically.

553
00:26:06,820 --> 00:26:09,610
I'm sure she was appalled.

554
00:26:09,610 --> 00:26:12,050
I mean, he looked very bad.

555
00:26:12,050 --> 00:26:14,475
But of course, at that
point then, preparation

556
00:26:14,475 --> 00:26:16,600
started to get out of
Germany as quick as possible.

557
00:26:16,600 --> 00:26:18,490
And I think that's
when my uncle arranged

558
00:26:18,490 --> 00:26:23,380
for us to go to-- for my
parents to go to Luxembourg.

559
00:26:23,380 --> 00:26:27,070
OK, so then.

560

00:26:27,070 --> 00:26:30,820

And what about the damage to
the town from Kristallnacht?

561

00:26:30,820 --> 00:26:34,090

The synagogue, which was a
beautiful large building,

562

00:26:34,090 --> 00:26:39,190

had been burned like all
synagogues in Germany.

563

00:26:39,190 --> 00:26:41,830

Again, as a teenager,
what is your reaction?

564

00:26:41,830 --> 00:26:44,650

Well, and my
father's business had

565

00:26:44,650 --> 00:26:48,670

been smashed to smithereens.

566

00:26:48,670 --> 00:26:51,580

And I saw that.

567

00:26:51,580 --> 00:26:54,430

We saw that, and I
mean, I don't remember

568

00:26:54,430 --> 00:26:56,860

any particular
specific reactions,

569

00:26:56,860 --> 00:27:01,407

but I'm sure it just emphasized
again that the time had

570

00:27:01,407 --> 00:27:01,990

come to leave.

571

00:27:01,990 --> 00:27:04,930
One had to get out.

572
00:27:04,930 --> 00:27:06,820
Very few people
still had illusions

573
00:27:06,820 --> 00:27:11,680
at that point about what would
happen if they didn't leave,

574
00:27:11,680 --> 00:27:17,380
so I left in March of '39 with
a Youth Aliyah to Palestine

575
00:27:17,380 --> 00:27:19,390
with a group of youngsters.

576
00:27:19,390 --> 00:27:24,460
Well, it was March, and Hitler
had just marched into and take

577
00:27:24,460 --> 00:27:26,470
the rest of Czechoslovakia.

578
00:27:26,470 --> 00:27:29,230
And our train was held up at
the border for several hours.

579
00:27:29,230 --> 00:27:31,810
It was not clear whether they
would allow us to leave or not,

580
00:27:31,810 --> 00:27:33,490
but eventually the train left.

581
00:27:33,490 --> 00:27:34,700
These were all teenagers?

582
00:27:34,700 --> 00:27:36,705
Yeah, we were all
15 years or 15, 16,

583

00:27:36,705 --> 00:27:37,330

Boys and girls?

584

00:27:37,330 --> 00:27:40,300

Boys and girls, yeah,
and it was a large group.

585

00:27:40,300 --> 00:27:44,470

And we were on a
train to Trieste,

586

00:27:44,470 --> 00:27:47,710

and in Trieste, we got
a boat, a ship, and--

587

00:27:47,710 --> 00:27:49,390

What was it like
to leave Germany?

588

00:27:49,390 --> 00:27:51,280

After all, here you
are, German and you're

589

00:27:51,280 --> 00:27:52,690

leaving your home country.

590

00:27:52,690 --> 00:27:56,140

Well, by that time, as I said,
we had very few illusions.

591

00:27:56,140 --> 00:28:00,260

I mean, I'd been badly beaten up
at Kristallnacht on that farm,

592

00:28:00,260 --> 00:28:03,580

so I don't think I had any
great strong positive feelings

593

00:28:03,580 --> 00:28:05,050

about Germany anymore.

594

00:28:05,050 --> 00:28:08,290

Did you fight back when
you were beaten up or did--

595
00:28:08,290 --> 00:28:10,700
I don't believe so.

596
00:28:10,700 --> 00:28:13,480
I don't-- I think we
tried to cover ourselves,

597
00:28:13,480 --> 00:28:16,330
but I know we did
not fight back.

598
00:28:16,330 --> 00:28:19,870
I mean, we were kids and
these were stormtroopers.

599
00:28:19,870 --> 00:28:21,670
I mean, there was little chance.

600
00:28:21,670 --> 00:28:24,220

601
00:28:24,220 --> 00:28:25,240
So you're on the train.

602
00:28:25,240 --> 00:28:27,250
Did you take anything
specific with you

603
00:28:27,250 --> 00:28:30,580
from home, special something
that had special meaning?

604
00:28:30,580 --> 00:28:32,230
What did you bring with you?

605
00:28:32,230 --> 00:28:34,120
Hardly anything.

606
00:28:34,120 --> 00:28:37,120

A fountain pen and a
wristwatch, which I then

607
00:28:37,120 --> 00:28:40,120
had to surrender in the
kibbutz because in the kibbutz,

608
00:28:40,120 --> 00:28:43,220
there was no private
property and such things.

609
00:28:43,220 --> 00:28:46,150
So it was given to
those who needed it.

610
00:28:46,150 --> 00:28:49,180
No, I did not take anything
in particular with me.

611
00:28:49,180 --> 00:28:52,360
What about saying
goodbye to your parents?

612
00:28:52,360 --> 00:28:55,230
I have no particular
recollection.

613
00:28:55,230 --> 00:28:57,990
Didn't leave any large imprint.

614
00:28:57,990 --> 00:29:01,650
I guess we had talks
to meet very soon.

615
00:29:01,650 --> 00:29:02,400
As it turned out--

616
00:29:02,400 --> 00:29:03,817
That they would
come to Palestine?

617
00:29:03,817 --> 00:29:05,370
Well, they would

come to Palestine

618
00:29:05,370 --> 00:29:07,500
or I would meet them
somewhere, yeah.

619
00:29:07,500 --> 00:29:09,000
The expectation
still was that they

620
00:29:09,000 --> 00:29:10,708
would be able to come
to Palestine, yeah.

621
00:29:10,708 --> 00:29:14,550
They never did, and I'll come
back to that later, perhaps.

622
00:29:14,550 --> 00:29:15,970
OK so you're on the train.

623
00:29:15,970 --> 00:29:16,830
So we're on a train.

624
00:29:16,830 --> 00:29:18,960
How big a group was
it of teenagers?

625
00:29:18,960 --> 00:29:19,770
I don't remember.

626
00:29:19,770 --> 00:29:20,417
A large group.

627
00:29:20,417 --> 00:29:21,000
A large group.

628
00:29:21,000 --> 00:29:22,470
A large group, yeah.

629
00:29:22,470 --> 00:29:25,540
And we came to Trieste,

and we were put on a boat,

630

00:29:25,540 --> 00:29:29,130

and we got off in Haifa.

631

00:29:29,130 --> 00:29:32,665

And there, my uncle and my
aunt greeted me in addition

632

00:29:32,665 --> 00:29:34,290

to, of course, the
Youth Aliyah people.

633

00:29:34,290 --> 00:29:35,610

And I was very glad.

634

00:29:35,610 --> 00:29:36,610

I never met them before.

635

00:29:36,610 --> 00:29:37,443

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

636

00:29:37,443 --> 00:29:39,540

They came from Jerusalem
to Haifa to greet me,

637

00:29:39,540 --> 00:29:44,370

and I, after that, frequently
visited them in Jerusalem.

638

00:29:44,370 --> 00:29:46,980

It was always a very nice
thing to do because they

639

00:29:46,980 --> 00:29:51,600

had a real house and food,
and the kibbutz in those days

640

00:29:51,600 --> 00:29:55,860

was not very fancy.

641

00:29:55,860 --> 00:29:59,500

In my uncle's house, I
saw the first toaster.

642
00:29:59,500 --> 00:30:01,740
I'd never seen anything
like this to toast bread.

643
00:30:01,740 --> 00:30:04,930
That made quite an
impression on me.

644
00:30:04,930 --> 00:30:07,700
You had not seen
toasters in Germany?

645
00:30:07,700 --> 00:30:08,950
There was no toast in Germany.

646
00:30:08,950 --> 00:30:15,105
You had what we would call here,
rye bread or six grain bread,

647
00:30:15,105 --> 00:30:15,730
but there was--

648
00:30:15,730 --> 00:30:16,240
No toasters.

649
00:30:16,240 --> 00:30:17,800
No, no.

650
00:30:17,800 --> 00:30:19,240
But yeah, so my first toaster.

651
00:30:19,240 --> 00:30:20,200
I was very impressed.

652
00:30:20,200 --> 00:30:23,840
And all together, he had a
villa, a house in Jerusalem.

653
00:30:23,840 --> 00:30:27,040

He was quite successful
as a garden architect,

654
00:30:27,040 --> 00:30:29,560
and I would visit them.

655
00:30:29,560 --> 00:30:31,103
His wife also was a librarian.

656
00:30:31,103 --> 00:30:32,770
They were very nice
people, and I always

657
00:30:32,770 --> 00:30:34,870
had a very pleasant visit there.

658
00:30:34,870 --> 00:30:37,030
So we were taken then--

659
00:30:37,030 --> 00:30:38,680
What kibbutz were you--

660
00:30:38,680 --> 00:30:42,070
To Tzarad, which is in the
[NON-ENGLISH SPEECH] kibbutz

661
00:30:42,070 --> 00:30:45,280
because I had been in
[NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]..

662
00:30:45,280 --> 00:30:47,620
[NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]

663
00:30:47,620 --> 00:30:50,110
Did all the kids go
with you to the kibbutz?

664
00:30:50,110 --> 00:30:51,110
I don't recall.

665
00:30:51,110 --> 00:30:53,860
It's very possible that they

also went to other kibbutzim.

666
00:30:53,860 --> 00:30:55,210
I don't recall.

667
00:30:55,210 --> 00:31:00,310
But we were a group of about,
I don't know, 15 perhaps,

668
00:31:00,310 --> 00:31:03,370
maybe 20, who were
[NON-ENGLISH SPEECH] people

669
00:31:03,370 --> 00:31:04,650
from various parts of Germany.

670
00:31:04,650 --> 00:31:07,690

671
00:31:07,690 --> 00:31:10,330
We went to Kibbutz
Tzarad, and we were there

672
00:31:10,330 --> 00:31:11,890
as a youth group for two years.

673
00:31:11,890 --> 00:31:16,480
Now that meant working in
the morning and schooling

674
00:31:16,480 --> 00:31:17,650
in the afternoon.

675
00:31:17,650 --> 00:31:21,860
Hebrew, Jewish
history, and so forth.

676
00:31:21,860 --> 00:31:25,910
Now, most of us, I think,
practically all of us

677
00:31:25,910 --> 00:31:31,130

probably had no knowledge of
Hebrew at all at that point,

678

00:31:31,130 --> 00:31:35,030
but it came quickly because we
were in the Hebrew environment,

679

00:31:35,030 --> 00:31:37,280
and we were 15, and
one learns the language

680

00:31:37,280 --> 00:31:38,930
relatively quickly.

681

00:31:38,930 --> 00:31:40,448
I do remember that
at the beginning,

682

00:31:40,448 --> 00:31:42,740
they would have something
called [NON-ENGLISH SPEECH],,

683

00:31:42,740 --> 00:31:45,530
that means Jewish day, when
we were supposed to talk only

684

00:31:45,530 --> 00:31:48,710
Hebrew, but that would become
superfluous because we were

685

00:31:48,710 --> 00:31:50,450
talking Hebrew anyway.

686

00:31:50,450 --> 00:31:59,510
So we learned Hebrew,
Jewish history.

687

00:31:59,510 --> 00:32:02,660
I don't think of any other
subjects, just those two,

688

00:32:02,660 --> 00:32:05,240
I believe, in the afternoon.

689
00:32:05,240 --> 00:32:09,490
And you slept in
a dormitory type?

690
00:32:09,490 --> 00:32:15,920
No, we slept in tents of two
or three, I believe, yeah.

691
00:32:15,920 --> 00:32:17,150
Yeah.

692
00:32:17,150 --> 00:32:20,780
And we worked half
a day, and we were

693
00:32:20,780 --> 00:32:23,030
able to choose where
we wanted to work.

694
00:32:23,030 --> 00:32:28,430
And I chose to be a
shepherd, and that

695
00:32:28,430 --> 00:32:32,900
meant getting up at half
past 3:00 in the morning

696
00:32:32,900 --> 00:32:38,920
and taking a large
flock of sheep--

697
00:32:38,920 --> 00:32:40,620
at first with somebody
else, with one

698
00:32:40,620 --> 00:32:42,370
of the more senior
members of the kibbutz,

699
00:32:42,370 --> 00:32:44,170
but eventually by myself--

700

00:32:44,170 --> 00:32:47,530
about 300 sheep and goats.

701

00:32:47,530 --> 00:32:49,810
Quite a responsibility.

702

00:32:49,810 --> 00:32:52,000
And I learned how to do that.

703

00:32:52,000 --> 00:32:54,910
We had no dogs, so it meant
a lot of running around

704

00:32:54,910 --> 00:32:56,470
to keep things under control.

705

00:32:56,470 --> 00:32:59,120
It's not easy.

706

00:32:59,120 --> 00:33:03,430
I do remember one instance
when out in the field

707

00:33:03,430 --> 00:33:06,820
the herd was attacked
by wolves, and there

708

00:33:06,820 --> 00:33:07,913
was nothing I could do.

709

00:33:07,913 --> 00:33:08,830
I had no gun, nothing.

710

00:33:08,830 --> 00:33:09,790
I had a staff.

711

00:33:09,790 --> 00:33:10,410
That's all.

712

00:33:10,410 --> 00:33:12,280
I ran home, tried to get help.

713
00:33:12,280 --> 00:33:13,990
By the time we came
back, the wolves

714
00:33:13,990 --> 00:33:16,180
had killed and
eaten several sheep.

715
00:33:16,180 --> 00:33:20,370

716
00:33:20,370 --> 00:33:24,150
I had a flute, very romantic.

717
00:33:24,150 --> 00:33:27,990
When I had time to sit,
I would play the flute.

718
00:33:27,990 --> 00:33:31,770
And I was a shepherd
for two years.

719
00:33:31,770 --> 00:33:34,110
And then normally what would--

720
00:33:34,110 --> 00:33:35,940
Were you in contact
with your parents?

721
00:33:35,940 --> 00:33:37,140
No, not at that point.

722
00:33:37,140 --> 00:33:38,878
No, no, there was
no contact possibly

723
00:33:38,878 --> 00:33:40,170
because the war had broken out.

724
00:33:40,170 --> 00:33:41,045
There was no contact.

725
00:33:41,045 --> 00:33:42,400
I didn't know where they were.

726
00:33:42,400 --> 00:33:46,170
I mean, I'd known that they
had gone to Luxembourg,

727
00:33:46,170 --> 00:33:47,310
and that's the last I--

728
00:33:47,310 --> 00:33:51,178
at some point, I don't know
when, we got into contact again

729
00:33:51,178 --> 00:33:52,470
after they had come to America.

730
00:33:52,470 --> 00:33:55,290
They came to America in '41.

731
00:33:55,290 --> 00:33:58,020
What happened was that when
the Germans invaded Luxembourg

732
00:33:58,020 --> 00:34:00,810
in May of 1940, my
parents, together

733
00:34:00,810 --> 00:34:02,430
with all the other
refugees there,

734
00:34:02,430 --> 00:34:04,800
fled through France,
Spain to Portugal.

735
00:34:04,800 --> 00:34:06,540
And from Portugal,
my parents were

736
00:34:06,540 --> 00:34:08,219

able to come to this country.

737

00:34:08,219 --> 00:34:11,820

And they were given what was called an affidavit, right,

738

00:34:11,820 --> 00:34:19,639

to come to America by a Catholic noblemen in America

739

00:34:19,639 --> 00:34:22,340

of German origin, who was very charitable

740

00:34:22,340 --> 00:34:27,020

and provided a lot of help for Jewish refugees.

741

00:34:27,020 --> 00:34:32,780

Yes, it's rather interesting because my first big book which

742

00:34:32,780 --> 00:34:35,000

I wrote was The Catholic Church and Nazi Germany,

743

00:34:35,000 --> 00:34:38,270

and I had to deal with all the different Catholics who

744

00:34:38,270 --> 00:34:41,750

stayed in Germany, of course, and who became Nazis.

745

00:34:41,750 --> 00:34:43,880

But he was a very fine man, apparently,

746

00:34:43,880 --> 00:34:47,690

and provided a large number of affidavits for Jewish refugees,

747

00:34:47,690 --> 00:34:49,820

and my parents were one
of the beneficiaries.

748
00:34:49,820 --> 00:34:51,020
His name?

749
00:34:51,020 --> 00:34:54,199
I have his name somewhere,
possibly, I don't remember now.

750
00:34:54,199 --> 00:34:57,900
And so my parents came to the
United States in '41, late '41,

751
00:34:57,900 --> 00:34:58,400
I believe.

752
00:34:58,400 --> 00:35:00,442
And it must have been
shortly thereafter probably

753
00:35:00,442 --> 00:35:03,050
that we got into contact again.

754
00:35:03,050 --> 00:35:08,140
There was mail then from
Palestine to America.

755
00:35:08,140 --> 00:35:08,640
Yeah.

756
00:35:08,640 --> 00:35:11,490
So after two years,
our youth group--

757
00:35:11,490 --> 00:35:14,100
the procedure was
that after two years--

758
00:35:14,100 --> 00:35:16,560
Youth Aliyah meant two years.

759

00:35:16,560 --> 00:35:18,520
You were together as
a group for two years.

760
00:35:18,520 --> 00:35:21,120
And after that, what
normally happened

761
00:35:21,120 --> 00:35:25,080
was that the group would
stay in the same kibbutz

762
00:35:25,080 --> 00:35:27,510
and become part of the
community in which they

763
00:35:27,510 --> 00:35:31,140
had been for two years as
regular members of the kibbutz.

764
00:35:31,140 --> 00:35:34,830
In our case, I don't
know why, but our group

765
00:35:34,830 --> 00:35:37,200
did not cohere well.

766
00:35:37,200 --> 00:35:39,970
We didn't get along too
well with each other.

767
00:35:39,970 --> 00:35:41,530
The group dissolved.

768
00:35:41,530 --> 00:35:45,570
So we did not stay
there, and people

769
00:35:45,570 --> 00:35:48,060
went to different kibbutzim.

770
00:35:48,060 --> 00:35:52,290
And I and some others

went to a kibbutz

771

00:35:52,290 --> 00:35:55,470

in the [NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]
called Tel Amal.

772

00:35:55,470 --> 00:35:59,980

And we must have been there
for relatively short time.

773

00:35:59,980 --> 00:36:05,190

And then from there, I
switched to another kibbutz,

774

00:36:05,190 --> 00:36:09,690

Ma'barot, which is near
[PLACE NAME] in the center

775

00:36:09,690 --> 00:36:11,250

of the country.

776

00:36:11,250 --> 00:36:16,800

And I was there perhaps
for half a year.

777

00:36:16,800 --> 00:36:23,430

And that was the time, must have
been early '42, when Rommel--

778

00:36:23,430 --> 00:36:24,640

perhaps a bit later--

779

00:36:24,640 --> 00:36:27,330

Rommel stood at the
gates of Alexandria.

780

00:36:27,330 --> 00:36:28,720

Things looked rather ominous.

781

00:36:28,720 --> 00:36:29,805

The Nazis were in Iraq.

782

00:36:29,805 --> 00:36:33,550

783

00:36:33,550 --> 00:36:36,360

Large numbers of us volunteered
for the British army,

784

00:36:36,360 --> 00:36:39,160

and I did too.

785

00:36:39,160 --> 00:36:45,210

So I joined the British
army, and the unit was first

786

00:36:45,210 --> 00:36:47,370

called Palestine Regiment.

787

00:36:47,370 --> 00:36:50,910

There were several Jewish
companies and one Arab company,

788

00:36:50,910 --> 00:36:53,550

and we were together, made
up the Palestine Regiment.

789

00:36:53,550 --> 00:36:57,870

And we were used for
guard duty in Palestine,

790

00:36:57,870 --> 00:37:00,240

in Lebanon, on
convoys and so forth,

791

00:37:00,240 --> 00:37:02,520

not a terribly interesting time.

792

00:37:02,520 --> 00:37:05,010

And we wanted to get
into combat, of course,

793

00:37:05,010 --> 00:37:09,090

to fight the Nazis,
but the Brits opposed.

794
00:37:09,090 --> 00:37:11,340
It was the same situation
as in World War One.

795
00:37:11,340 --> 00:37:14,100
They did not want to give
the Jews political capital

796
00:37:14,100 --> 00:37:16,290
by accepting them as combatants.

797
00:37:16,290 --> 00:37:18,010
So time dragged on.

798
00:37:18,010 --> 00:37:25,360
But eventually as a result of
various endeavors in England,

799
00:37:25,360 --> 00:37:28,240
the Jewish brigade
was formed out

800
00:37:28,240 --> 00:37:31,870
of the units, companies
from the Palestine regiment

801
00:37:31,870 --> 00:37:35,740
and several other companies,
Jewish engineering

802
00:37:35,740 --> 00:37:36,730
companies and so forth.

803
00:37:36,730 --> 00:37:39,070
That became the
Jewish brigade, and we

804
00:37:39,070 --> 00:37:42,730
were taken to Egypt for
our last combat training,

805

00:37:42,730 --> 00:37:45,400
and then transferred to
Italy where we became

806
00:37:45,400 --> 00:37:47,170
part of Montgomery's army.

807
00:37:47,170 --> 00:37:50,800
And we participated
in the final push.

808
00:37:50,800 --> 00:37:57,120
That must have been
late '44, early '45.

809
00:37:57,120 --> 00:37:59,520
So that was my time in military.

810
00:37:59,520 --> 00:38:02,810
Altogether, it
came to four years

811
00:38:02,810 --> 00:38:08,870
because when the war ended in
April '45, we were in Italy.

812
00:38:08,870 --> 00:38:10,760
And at that point,
the Jewish brigade

813
00:38:10,760 --> 00:38:15,500
was transferred to Holland to
guard German prisoners of war

814
00:38:15,500 --> 00:38:17,840
who were clearing mines.

815
00:38:17,840 --> 00:38:22,010
I didn't think that was
terribly interesting.

816
00:38:22,010 --> 00:38:23,900
Can we back up a little bit?

817
00:38:23,900 --> 00:38:26,225
About those four years.

818
00:38:26,225 --> 00:38:29,570
Did you what was happening
in Europe at the time?

819
00:38:29,570 --> 00:38:32,510
We started to find out really--

820
00:38:32,510 --> 00:38:33,570
one heard rumors.

821
00:38:33,570 --> 00:38:35,000
One heard stories.

822
00:38:35,000 --> 00:38:37,670
We found out, of course,
once the war ended.

823
00:38:37,670 --> 00:38:39,510
But I meant before--

824
00:38:39,510 --> 00:38:41,840
Before that, nothing precise.

825
00:38:41,840 --> 00:38:44,130
I mean, one heard
all kinds of things.

826
00:38:44,130 --> 00:38:46,130
But I don't think
the information

827
00:38:46,130 --> 00:38:48,800
was very precise, no.

828
00:38:48,800 --> 00:38:50,780
One knew that things
were bad for the Jews,

829

00:38:50,780 --> 00:38:53,630

but I don't think we
knew about gas chambers.

830

00:38:53,630 --> 00:38:54,870

At least, I don't recall.

831

00:38:54,870 --> 00:38:55,620

I don't remember.

832

00:38:55,620 --> 00:38:58,640

I don't think so.

833

00:38:58,640 --> 00:39:01,020

One of our favorite
pastimes was what

834

00:39:01,020 --> 00:39:04,140

we would do if we could
get ahold of Hitler,

835

00:39:04,140 --> 00:39:06,480

and how we would
treat him, and what

836

00:39:06,480 --> 00:39:08,290

we would do to him to
make up for things.

837

00:39:08,290 --> 00:39:12,450

But other than that, one
felt rather impotent.

838

00:39:12,450 --> 00:39:14,010

There was nothing one could do.

839

00:39:14,010 --> 00:39:17,320

When the war ended, of
course, on the other hand,

840

00:39:17,320 --> 00:39:19,980

we started to see the

first displaced people,

841
00:39:19,980 --> 00:39:22,560
displaced persons,
survivors of the camps.

842
00:39:22,560 --> 00:39:24,570
And the brigade, as
you probably know,

843
00:39:24,570 --> 00:39:26,070
this is all a matter
of record, was

844
00:39:26,070 --> 00:39:32,640
instrumental in organizing the
illegal migration of survivors

845
00:39:32,640 --> 00:39:33,840
to Palestine.

846
00:39:33,840 --> 00:39:35,880
And we were involved in that.

847
00:39:35,880 --> 00:39:39,630
And there, I can tell a
very interesting story.

848
00:39:39,630 --> 00:39:45,540
We were at that point I think
in Austria in some small--

849
00:39:45,540 --> 00:39:47,340
To back up before
you tell the story,

850
00:39:47,340 --> 00:39:50,720
what was your reaction
at time of liberation?

851
00:39:50,720 --> 00:39:54,130

852

00:39:54,130 --> 00:39:56,630

Well, we did not
experience liberation

853

00:39:56,630 --> 00:39:58,900

in any clear sense of the date.

854

00:39:58,900 --> 00:39:59,740

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

855

00:39:59,740 --> 00:40:01,750

When the war ended,
we started to see

856

00:40:01,750 --> 00:40:05,800

displaced persons, survivors.

857

00:40:05,800 --> 00:40:07,830

And at that point, one began--

858

00:40:07,830 --> 00:40:09,880

we start to hear
more precise stories

859

00:40:09,880 --> 00:40:14,030

of survivors, who I was told
about the camps and so forth.

860

00:40:14,030 --> 00:40:18,310

Some of them we saw in
their original clothing,

861

00:40:18,310 --> 00:40:23,300

the striped clothing, and large
numbers of them came across

862

00:40:23,300 --> 00:40:24,090

and they--

863

00:40:24,090 --> 00:40:27,430

Do you remember any emotional
reaction you had at the time?

864
00:40:27,430 --> 00:40:30,320
You were in your early 20s.

865
00:40:30,320 --> 00:40:33,500
I don't recall a particular
reaction, other than what

866
00:40:33,500 --> 00:40:37,310
I said before, one felt very--

867
00:40:37,310 --> 00:40:41,420
had strong feelings about
Hitler, about Germany.

868
00:40:41,420 --> 00:40:44,870
In fact when the
brigade was moved,

869
00:40:44,870 --> 00:40:51,350
we moved with our own trucks
from Austria to Holland.

870
00:40:51,350 --> 00:40:52,970
Some of the drivers
amused themselves

871
00:40:52,970 --> 00:40:54,905
by hunting down
Germans on the highway.

872
00:40:54,905 --> 00:40:58,490

873
00:40:58,490 --> 00:41:01,020
We probably thought
that was OK at the time.

874
00:41:01,020 --> 00:41:03,110
I feel bad about it now.

875
00:41:03,110 --> 00:41:09,720

I don't enjoy that memory,
but I know it happened.

876
00:41:09,720 --> 00:41:12,920
And it was a natural reaction
because of what we had seen,

877
00:41:12,920 --> 00:41:15,650
what we had heard, and
what we had encountered

878
00:41:15,650 --> 00:41:18,380
I should say a little about
something else, namely

879
00:41:18,380 --> 00:41:22,510
our participation in combat
as part of Montgomery's army.

880
00:41:22,510 --> 00:41:26,630

881
00:41:26,630 --> 00:41:29,960
We occupied a segment off the
front, and right next to us

882
00:41:29,960 --> 00:41:32,330
was a Polish unit.

883
00:41:32,330 --> 00:41:36,410
These were the
Anders soldiers who

884
00:41:36,410 --> 00:41:40,160
had left Russia and
come to the Middle East

885
00:41:40,160 --> 00:41:43,040
and who also then became
part of the British army.

886
00:41:43,040 --> 00:41:47,240
And they, hearing that there

were Jews next to them,

887

00:41:47,240 --> 00:41:52,220

amused themselves by cutting our
telephone wires occasionally.

888

00:41:52,220 --> 00:41:55,130

So there were no good
feelings between us

889

00:41:55,130 --> 00:41:59,090

even though we were
fighting the same enemy.

890

00:41:59,090 --> 00:42:03,470

It so happened that I
was on a patrol that

891

00:42:03,470 --> 00:42:06,510

took the first German
prisoners, and that

892

00:42:06,510 --> 00:42:09,540

came about kind of
fortuitously, without design.

893

00:42:09,540 --> 00:42:12,870

We went out on a combat patrol
towards the German lines,

894

00:42:12,870 --> 00:42:15,540

and went a little further.

895

00:42:15,540 --> 00:42:20,830

We were about-- the squadrons
of eight with an officer.

896

00:42:20,830 --> 00:42:25,750

And we moved a little further
ahead without intending to,

897

00:42:25,750 --> 00:42:29,230

perhaps, and all of a

sudden found ourselves

898
00:42:29,230 --> 00:42:34,270
in the German line and there
was a German shelter, a dugout,

899
00:42:34,270 --> 00:42:36,070
and we heard voices inside.

900
00:42:36,070 --> 00:42:38,500
And I was the only
German speaking one,

901
00:42:38,500 --> 00:42:41,287
and I shouted down, Raus!

902
00:42:41,287 --> 00:42:42,880
Juden sind da.

903
00:42:42,880 --> 00:42:45,730
And that became a big
story because this

904
00:42:45,730 --> 00:42:47,650
was the first time that
the brigade had taken

905
00:42:47,650 --> 00:42:50,590
German prisoners,
and my shouting Raus,

906
00:42:50,590 --> 00:42:52,752
Juden sind da made all
the newspapers and--

907
00:42:52,752 --> 00:42:53,710
Which translates into--

908
00:42:53,710 --> 00:42:56,230

909
00:42:56,230 --> 00:42:59,500

Out, out, the Jews are here.

910
00:42:59,500 --> 00:43:02,650
And they came out,
about 10 of them,

911
00:43:02,650 --> 00:43:06,210
scared when they heard that
they would be captured by Jews.

912
00:43:06,210 --> 00:43:07,210
Right.

913
00:43:07,210 --> 00:43:10,390
We took them back to
our lines, and they were

914
00:43:10,390 --> 00:43:12,670
then interrogated, I presume.

915
00:43:12,670 --> 00:43:14,920
And that became a big story
because the first time

916
00:43:14,920 --> 00:43:16,610
that the brigade
had taken prisoners.

917
00:43:16,610 --> 00:43:20,380
And it was a big write up in
the newspapers and the pictures,

918
00:43:20,380 --> 00:43:25,090
and my cousins, my uncle and--

919
00:43:25,090 --> 00:43:27,700
I have two cousins there who
were children of my uncle

920
00:43:27,700 --> 00:43:30,250
and my aunt in Jerusalem.

921

00:43:30,250 --> 00:43:32,710
They were very proud, of
course, about their cousin who

922
00:43:32,710 --> 00:43:35,470
all of a sudden was
supposed to be a big hero.

923
00:43:35,470 --> 00:43:37,660
It was a heroism
that, as I said,

924
00:43:37,660 --> 00:43:41,260
came about fortuitously because
we really hadn't anticipated

925
00:43:41,260 --> 00:43:43,070
to get that far, but we did.

926
00:43:43,070 --> 00:43:44,660
And it worked out well.

927
00:43:44,660 --> 00:43:47,410
They shot on us on the
way back, but we all

928
00:43:47,410 --> 00:43:49,610
got back it was no problem.

929
00:43:49,610 --> 00:43:52,010
So that was that.

930
00:43:52,010 --> 00:43:57,640
And other than that,
there was no close combat.

931
00:43:57,640 --> 00:44:00,640
The lines kind of
moved gradually.

932
00:44:00,640 --> 00:44:02,380
They moved back,
we moved forward

933
00:44:02,380 --> 00:44:04,360
without any clear contact.

934
00:44:04,360 --> 00:44:06,400
There was artillery
shelling on and off.

935
00:44:06,400 --> 00:44:09,270

936
00:44:09,270 --> 00:44:14,190
One other thing, which
is kind of interesting.

937
00:44:14,190 --> 00:44:20,160
We were living in an abandoned
farmhouse for a time,

938
00:44:20,160 --> 00:44:23,670
on straw, that's how we slept.

939
00:44:23,670 --> 00:44:27,680
Perhaps 10 of us.

940
00:44:27,680 --> 00:44:36,810
And one day, there was
a call to send one of us

941
00:44:36,810 --> 00:44:40,050
to a course for some
further training.

942
00:44:40,050 --> 00:44:41,700
I don't know what it was.

943
00:44:41,700 --> 00:44:43,720
And they chose me,
and I was sent back.

944
00:44:43,720 --> 00:44:45,280
So I was not there anymore.

945
00:44:45,280 --> 00:44:49,510
And apparently that same
night, somebody smoked,

946
00:44:49,510 --> 00:44:51,810
and the thing went up in flames.

947
00:44:51,810 --> 00:44:55,020
The straw went up in
flames, and everyone died.

948
00:44:55,020 --> 00:44:59,080
So if I hadn't been
sent to that course,

949
00:44:59,080 --> 00:45:00,777
I wouldn't be
sitting here today.

950
00:45:00,777 --> 00:45:02,610
But that's one of those
things that happens.

951
00:45:02,610 --> 00:45:07,330

952
00:45:07,330 --> 00:45:09,640
The war then ended,
as I said, and we

953
00:45:09,640 --> 00:45:14,080
were removed up to Holland.

954
00:45:14,080 --> 00:45:15,040
And I--

955
00:45:15,040 --> 00:45:17,950
Were there any celebrations
at the end of the war?

956
00:45:17,950 --> 00:45:20,200

I don't recall.

957

00:45:20,200 --> 00:45:23,500

I do recall one other thing
and that is interesting.

958

00:45:23,500 --> 00:45:29,320

When we were billeted in the
small Austrian town for a time,

959

00:45:29,320 --> 00:45:36,350

the illegal migration
required quite a bit of money.

960

00:45:36,350 --> 00:45:37,580

One had to bribe.

961

00:45:37,580 --> 00:45:39,410

One had to get ships.

962

00:45:39,410 --> 00:45:42,640

They used our own trucks, I
mean, it's an amazing thing.

963

00:45:42,640 --> 00:45:47,300

There's a tape about
the Jewish brigade which

964

00:45:47,300 --> 00:45:48,680

describes this with pictures.

965

00:45:48,680 --> 00:45:49,500

It was amazing.

966

00:45:49,500 --> 00:45:51,740

We used our official trucks
to transport these people

967

00:45:51,740 --> 00:45:52,760

to Italy.

968

00:45:52,760 --> 00:45:54,410

How we got away with it--

969

00:45:54,410 --> 00:45:56,998

we had our own military
police, that's why.

970

00:45:56,998 --> 00:45:58,290

We had our own military police.

971

00:45:58,290 --> 00:46:00,530

There was no one
who could stop us.

972

00:46:00,530 --> 00:46:04,520

So that was done, but it
required money, a lot of money.

973

00:46:04,520 --> 00:46:06,478

And we all contributed
as best we could.

974

00:46:06,478 --> 00:46:07,770

We didn't have very much money.

975

00:46:07,770 --> 00:46:11,480

But one day, three of us
in this small Austrian town

976

00:46:11,480 --> 00:46:13,580

thought, well, maybe
we can liberate

977

00:46:13,580 --> 00:46:15,540

some money for the good cause.

978

00:46:15,540 --> 00:46:19,340

So we went to the town, and we
came to some very fancy house,

979

00:46:19,340 --> 00:46:20,840

and we went in.

980

00:46:20,840 --> 00:46:25,040
And right in the living room
was a big picture of an SS man

981
00:46:25,040 --> 00:46:28,710
and a woman was his
wife and daughter.

982
00:46:28,710 --> 00:46:31,010
And we searched the
house and we found

983
00:46:31,010 --> 00:46:35,150
a large sum of money, which
we confiscated and liberated

984
00:46:35,150 --> 00:46:37,490
and handed over to the
captain in our unit who was

985
00:46:37,490 --> 00:46:39,860
in charge of collecting money.

986
00:46:39,860 --> 00:46:44,968
Well, the woman went first
to the mayor of the town,

987
00:46:44,968 --> 00:46:47,510
and then the mayor of the town
came to the company commander,

988
00:46:47,510 --> 00:46:50,900
and said three
soldiers had robbed

989
00:46:50,900 --> 00:46:54,080
this woman of all her money,
and that is unacceptable.

990
00:46:54,080 --> 00:46:58,730
And the commander had to
agree, yes, it's unacceptable.

991

00:46:58,730 --> 00:47:02,600

So it was decided that next morning, the company would

992

00:47:02,600 --> 00:47:05,240

be lined up on the town square, and the woman would

993

00:47:05,240 --> 00:47:07,550

try to identify the culprits.

994

00:47:07,550 --> 00:47:13,850

Well, our commander, of course, had heard what had happened

995

00:47:13,850 --> 00:47:15,990

and why with the money.

996

00:47:15,990 --> 00:47:18,530

So when the company lined up on the village square,

997

00:47:18,530 --> 00:47:20,565

the three of us were not part of the lineup.

998

00:47:20,565 --> 00:47:22,940

We were allowed to go up into the mountains a little bit,

999

00:47:22,940 --> 00:47:26,060

and we watched the whole procedure from top.

1000

00:47:26,060 --> 00:47:28,530

That is described also in a book called The Brigade.

1001

00:47:28,530 --> 00:47:30,260

There's a book called The Brigade where

1002

00:47:30,260 --> 00:47:31,700

that incident is described.

1003
00:47:31,700 --> 00:47:33,860
It was kind of was kind
of fun to look down,

1004
00:47:33,860 --> 00:47:36,420
how she went around and tried
to find us, and of course,

1005
00:47:36,420 --> 00:47:36,920
we weren't.

1006
00:47:36,920 --> 00:47:38,660
In the lineup.

1007
00:47:38,660 --> 00:47:40,980
So she didn't falsely
accused anyone else?

1008
00:47:40,980 --> 00:47:41,480
I'm sorry?

1009
00:47:41,480 --> 00:47:41,660
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

1010
00:47:41,660 --> 00:47:42,270
She did not.

1011
00:47:42,270 --> 00:47:42,770
No, no.

1012
00:47:42,770 --> 00:47:43,360
She did not.

1013
00:47:43,360 --> 00:47:43,860
No.

1014
00:47:43,860 --> 00:47:46,160

1015

00:47:46,160 --> 00:47:49,250

OK so to come back
we were in Holland,

1016

00:47:49,250 --> 00:47:50,570

the brigade was in Holland.

1017

00:47:50,570 --> 00:47:54,350

And I found guarding these
German prisoners when

1018

00:47:54,350 --> 00:47:57,410

they were clearing mines not
a very interesting occupation,

1019

00:47:57,410 --> 00:47:58,460

boring.

1020

00:47:58,460 --> 00:48:01,080

And I thought it would be
nice to get to Germany.

1021

00:48:01,080 --> 00:48:06,135

So I went AWOL, A-W-O-L,
that meant leave without

1022

00:48:06,135 --> 00:48:06,635

permission--

1023

00:48:06,635 --> 00:48:07,427

Away without leave.

1024

00:48:07,427 --> 00:48:12,500

And I hitchhiked to
Berlin, to the headquarters

1025

00:48:12,500 --> 00:48:16,170

of the British occupation,
and presented myself and said,

1026

00:48:16,170 --> 00:48:16,670

here I am.

1027

00:48:16,670 --> 00:48:19,160

I know German, and

I think I could be

1028

00:48:19,160 --> 00:48:22,190

more useful in this capacity.

1029

00:48:22,190 --> 00:48:24,080

They said, yes, sounds good.

1030

00:48:24,080 --> 00:48:26,600

So I was transferred

to a military police

1031

00:48:26,600 --> 00:48:30,990

unit in Wuppertal in the

Ruhr as an interpreter.

1032

00:48:30,990 --> 00:48:32,990

And I must have done this

for about half a year.

1033

00:48:32,990 --> 00:48:34,572

It was much more interesting.

1034

00:48:34,572 --> 00:48:40,580

1035

00:48:40,580 --> 00:48:42,980

We would occasionally

pick up some people,

1036

00:48:42,980 --> 00:48:45,020

and so forth and so on.

1037

00:48:45,020 --> 00:48:47,150

It was a much more

interesting time.

1038

00:48:47,150 --> 00:48:49,020

But then came the mobilization--

1039

00:48:49,020 --> 00:48:51,595

What was your gut feeling
talking to these Germans?

1040

00:48:51,595 --> 00:48:53,240

Where these German soldiers?

1041

00:48:53,240 --> 00:48:55,050

No, no, no, no, no.

1042

00:48:55,050 --> 00:48:56,690

Civilians.

1043

00:48:56,690 --> 00:49:00,170

What was your gut feeling
in talking to them as a Jew?

1044

00:49:00,170 --> 00:49:04,848

1045

00:49:04,848 --> 00:49:05,390

I don't know.

1046

00:49:05,390 --> 00:49:07,160

I just found it
interesting to be there.

1047

00:49:07,160 --> 00:49:09,830

I don't recall any--

1048

00:49:09,830 --> 00:49:11,960

I mean, as I had
mentioned before,

1049

00:49:11,960 --> 00:49:15,110

when first we encountered
the survivors,

1050

00:49:15,110 --> 00:49:16,550

we had rather the
strong feelings.

1051

00:49:16,550 --> 00:49:21,770

But Germany was smashed.

1052

00:49:21,770 --> 00:49:25,310

The town in which we found
ourselves Wuppertal, probably

1053

00:49:25,310 --> 00:49:27,170

wasn't a house standing.

1054

00:49:27,170 --> 00:49:31,878

And it was kind of hard to have
any strong negative feelings

1055

00:49:31,878 --> 00:49:33,920

to these people who are
scratching around, trying

1056

00:49:33,920 --> 00:49:38,120

to find enough to eat, and who
were obviously in miserable

1057

00:49:38,120 --> 00:49:40,040

shape at that point.

1058

00:49:40,040 --> 00:49:42,680

I don't think we had any
particularly strong feelings

1059

00:49:42,680 --> 00:49:45,590

at that point.

1060

00:49:45,590 --> 00:49:48,830

Then came demobilization,
that is to say,

1061

00:49:48,830 --> 00:49:53,050

what came from the brigade, that
my turn had come to go back.

1062

00:49:53,050 --> 00:49:57,080

We were all being sent back to

Palestine for demobilization.

1063

00:49:57,080 --> 00:50:00,890

I was sent back, and
the demobilization camp

1064

00:50:00,890 --> 00:50:04,730

was in a small town called
Rehovot which is near Tel Aviv.

1065

00:50:04,730 --> 00:50:07,010

When you were in
Germany, did you

1066

00:50:07,010 --> 00:50:08,780

feel like you were back home?

1067

00:50:08,780 --> 00:50:11,150

No, I don't think I felt
like being back home,

1068

00:50:11,150 --> 00:50:14,308

but as I say, I
don't that I don't

1069

00:50:14,308 --> 00:50:16,850

recall any particularly strong
feelings one way or the other.

1070

00:50:16,850 --> 00:50:18,950

It was an interesting
time and a good time.

1071

00:50:18,950 --> 00:50:23,750

I mean, I was well paid, and
I had my own room in contrast

1072

00:50:23,750 --> 00:50:26,510

to before.

1073

00:50:26,510 --> 00:50:32,660

I actually, I forgot to mention,
I was promoted to corporal.

1074
00:50:32,660 --> 00:50:35,630

1075
00:50:35,630 --> 00:50:38,870
In fact, we were
still in Palestine.

1076
00:50:38,870 --> 00:50:43,580
But again, I, one day,
decided to go to Jerusalem

1077
00:50:43,580 --> 00:50:46,610
to visit my family, and
I had a girlfriend there.

1078
00:50:46,610 --> 00:50:49,730
And the bus on which
I was traveling

1079
00:50:49,730 --> 00:50:51,470
was stopped by
military police, and I

1080
00:50:51,470 --> 00:50:53,660
was caught without a pass.

1081
00:50:53,660 --> 00:50:55,460
And I ended up
overnight in jail,

1082
00:50:55,460 --> 00:50:58,190
and the next morning, I
lost my stripes as corporal

1083
00:50:58,190 --> 00:51:00,240
and I was a private again.

1084
00:51:00,240 --> 00:51:05,450
But when we were in the
brigade after that episode

1085

00:51:05,450 --> 00:51:08,810
of the capturing the
German prisoners,

1086
00:51:08,810 --> 00:51:10,940
I was promoted and
eventually became a Sergeant.

1087
00:51:10,940 --> 00:51:15,150

1088
00:51:15,150 --> 00:51:19,620
Now being a Sergeant in the
British army is nothing great.

1089
00:51:19,620 --> 00:51:21,730
I mean, you're a
non-commissioned officer.

1090
00:51:21,730 --> 00:51:26,280
But it's no great
fanciful existence.

1091
00:51:26,280 --> 00:51:28,050
I remember in Italy,
particular, food

1092
00:51:28,050 --> 00:51:30,510
was very bad and never enough.

1093
00:51:30,510 --> 00:51:32,940
We would sometimes smuggle
ourselves into the mess hall

1094
00:51:32,940 --> 00:51:35,178
twice even though it was
risky because we just

1095
00:51:35,178 --> 00:51:35,970
didn't have enough.

1096
00:51:35,970 --> 00:51:38,760
And word had it

that our cooks were

1097
00:51:38,760 --> 00:51:41,160
selling the food on the
black market in Italy

1098
00:51:41,160 --> 00:51:42,080
and making a fortune.

1099
00:51:42,080 --> 00:51:47,760

1100
00:51:47,760 --> 00:51:49,190
Yeah, I was a Sergeant.

1101
00:51:49,190 --> 00:51:53,250
And as a Sergeant, and I was
the interpreter in Germany,

1102
00:51:53,250 --> 00:51:57,417
and that was a rather good
existence at [INAUDIBLE]..

1103
00:51:57,417 --> 00:52:00,830

1104
00:52:00,830 --> 00:52:02,720
Eventually got
back to Palestine.

1105
00:52:02,720 --> 00:52:06,370
The demobilization
camp was in Rehovot.

1106
00:52:06,370 --> 00:52:10,810
And I remember that there
was a young girl from Rehovot

1107
00:52:10,810 --> 00:52:12,880
had been in the kibbutz
and the first kibbutz

1108

00:52:12,880 --> 00:52:15,340
where we had been in
Tzarad during the summer.

1109
00:52:15,340 --> 00:52:17,740
She had been part of
the shmita in Rehovot

1110
00:52:17,740 --> 00:52:22,330
and the youth group from shmita
went for the summer to Tzarad

1111
00:52:22,330 --> 00:52:24,670
where we were for
the whole two years.

1112
00:52:24,670 --> 00:52:26,980
And I had not become
particularly friendly

1113
00:52:26,980 --> 00:52:28,900
with them, but I remembered her.

1114
00:52:28,900 --> 00:52:31,860
And I remember that she
had been from Rehovot

1115
00:52:31,860 --> 00:52:35,080
and I made some inquiries,
I looked her up.

1116
00:52:35,080 --> 00:52:36,580
And she eventually
became my wife.

1117
00:52:36,580 --> 00:52:39,100

1118
00:52:39,100 --> 00:52:43,390
We became engaged
several months later.

1119
00:52:43,390 --> 00:52:47,290

And she had been
studying medicine.

1120
00:52:47,290 --> 00:52:50,320
Since there was no anatomy
in the study of medicine

1121
00:52:50,320 --> 00:52:52,750
at the Hebrew
University at that time,

1122
00:52:52,750 --> 00:52:55,240
she had studied at the
American University in Beirut.

1123
00:52:55,240 --> 00:52:57,670
There was a medical
school there.

1124
00:52:57,670 --> 00:53:02,800
But then when the war broke out
and after the end of World War

1125
00:53:02,800 --> 00:53:06,280
Two, all the Israeli
students had to leave.

1126
00:53:06,280 --> 00:53:08,320
And she went to
Geneva, Switzerland,

1127
00:53:08,320 --> 00:53:15,370
where she completed her M.D. And
we became engaged before that.

1128
00:53:15,370 --> 00:53:16,220
Let's see.

1129
00:53:16,220 --> 00:53:18,570
Where do we go from here?

1130
00:53:18,570 --> 00:53:25,370
I was demobilized in '46,

and I decided at that point

1131

00:53:25,370 --> 00:53:30,200
to visit my parents because I
hadn't seen them since 1939.

1132

00:53:30,200 --> 00:53:36,080
And I eventually got a visa.

1133

00:53:36,080 --> 00:53:39,800
Yes, one other thing I can
relate, two things, actually.

1134

00:53:39,800 --> 00:53:44,000
While I was still
in uniform, I would

1135

00:53:44,000 --> 00:53:46,567
be able to leave the
demobilization camp.

1136

00:53:46,567 --> 00:53:48,650
The procedure was rather
lengthy and bureaucratic,

1137

00:53:48,650 --> 00:53:51,160
I don't know why, but
it took a long time.

1138

00:53:51,160 --> 00:53:54,180
So we were allowed to go back
to our places where we had left.

1139

00:53:54,180 --> 00:53:57,290
I went back to the kibbutz,
kibbutz Ma'barot, and I

1140

00:53:57,290 --> 00:54:02,030
remember one early morning
the kibbutz was surrounded

1141

00:54:02,030 --> 00:54:03,170
by British troops.

1142
00:54:03,170 --> 00:54:06,500
And they searched
the kibbutz for arms

1143
00:54:06,500 --> 00:54:09,290
because it was known of
course the Haganah had arms,

1144
00:54:09,290 --> 00:54:11,270
and they were confiscating
arms at the time.

1145
00:54:11,270 --> 00:54:17,570
And I protested against being
held in a kind of stockade

1146
00:54:17,570 --> 00:54:19,250
because I was in uniform.

1147
00:54:19,250 --> 00:54:22,350
But it didn't make any
difference to them.

1148
00:54:22,350 --> 00:54:23,900
One other thing.

1149
00:54:23,900 --> 00:54:30,110
I was in Jerusalem visiting
Walter Laqueur, actually,

1150
00:54:30,110 --> 00:54:32,960
and we were together
walking in the street

1151
00:54:32,960 --> 00:54:35,900
not far from the
hotel King David.

1152
00:54:35,900 --> 00:54:38,090
And all of a sudden,
there was a big explosion,

1153

00:54:38,090 --> 00:54:39,420
and the King David blew up.

1154

00:54:39,420 --> 00:54:43,670
And we were maybe 3 and 1/2
meters away from there, just

1155

00:54:43,670 --> 00:54:45,960
by chance.

1156

00:54:45,960 --> 00:54:48,950
That's another recollection
I have of that time.

1157

00:54:48,950 --> 00:54:52,440
That must have been late '46.

1158

00:54:52,440 --> 00:54:53,790
Yeah, must have been.

1159

00:54:53,790 --> 00:54:56,480
Yeah.

1160

00:54:56,480 --> 00:54:59,850
Well so I got permission
to go to America.

1161

00:54:59,850 --> 00:55:04,870
And I arrived in New
York in late '46,

1162

00:55:04,870 --> 00:55:07,840
and my parents welcomed me.

1163

00:55:07,840 --> 00:55:13,570
My parents had come to New York.

1164

00:55:13,570 --> 00:55:18,430
They first worked as orderlies
in the hospital, both of them,

1165

00:55:18,430 --> 00:55:25,670
saved some money, and
eventually my father

1166
00:55:25,670 --> 00:55:27,650
learned to cut diamonds.

1167
00:55:27,650 --> 00:55:31,430
And apparently it was quite
remunerative did well.

1168
00:55:31,430 --> 00:55:33,980
He got himself an apartment
on Central Park West,

1169
00:55:33,980 --> 00:55:38,180
and had done well, saved
money, and eventually they

1170
00:55:38,180 --> 00:55:41,170
bought a small hotel
in Atlantic City.

1171
00:55:41,170 --> 00:55:43,240
So by the time I
came, they already

1172
00:55:43,240 --> 00:55:46,280
had this hotel in Atlantic City.

1173
00:55:46,280 --> 00:55:50,540
Small hotel, maybe
20 room, 25 rooms,

1174
00:55:50,540 --> 00:55:54,300
catering mostly to
German Jews, who

1175
00:55:54,300 --> 00:55:55,890
were very happy
to come to a place

1176
00:55:55,890 --> 00:55:59,460

where they were together
and could speak German

1177
00:55:59,460 --> 00:56:00,060
and so forth.

1178
00:56:00,060 --> 00:56:04,100

1179
00:56:04,100 --> 00:56:16,350
I did not like the idea of
sitting in Atlantic City,

1180
00:56:16,350 --> 00:56:18,970
and my father wanted me
to help in the hotel,

1181
00:56:18,970 --> 00:56:21,170
and I didn't like that either.

1182
00:56:21,170 --> 00:56:25,300
So I went back to New
York, and some friends

1183
00:56:25,300 --> 00:56:29,848
explained to me, well,
they said, why don't you--

1184
00:56:29,848 --> 00:56:32,140
there were some people from
Breslau who in the meantime

1185
00:56:32,140 --> 00:56:34,660
had come to America
from the youth movement.

1186
00:56:34,660 --> 00:56:37,273
I met them, and we
had a nice reunion.

1187
00:56:37,273 --> 00:56:39,190
And they said, well, you
should go to college.

1188
00:56:39,190 --> 00:56:40,690
You should study.

1189
00:56:40,690 --> 00:56:42,700
I had no idea what
college meant.

1190
00:56:42,700 --> 00:56:45,340
I mean, my horizons
in Breslau did not

1191
00:56:45,340 --> 00:56:47,410
extend to university study.

1192
00:56:47,410 --> 00:56:49,600
I may have known that
are universities,

1193
00:56:49,600 --> 00:56:53,440
but it never became
anything personal.

1194
00:56:53,440 --> 00:56:55,930
And of course, I had not
completed high school, anyway.

1195
00:56:55,930 --> 00:56:57,340
I had no diploma.

1196
00:56:57,340 --> 00:56:59,890
Oh, they said, that's no
problem now with veterans,

1197
00:56:59,890 --> 00:57:02,440
and they make all kinds
of special arrangements.

1198
00:57:02,440 --> 00:57:06,090
You can enroll at City
College, and it will work fine.

1199

00:57:06,090 --> 00:57:08,000