

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:06,430

2

00:00:06,430 --> 00:00:09,370

This is a United States  
Holocaust Memorial Museum

3

00:00:09,370 --> 00:00:12,880

volunteer collection interview  
with Trudy Schonberger

4

00:00:12,880 --> 00:00:19,420

conducted by Gail Schwartz  
on January 16, 2014

5

00:00:19,420 --> 00:00:22,010

in Silver Spring, Maryland.

6

00:00:22,010 --> 00:00:25,850

This is track number one.

7

00:00:25,850 --> 00:00:28,280

What is your full name?

8

00:00:28,280 --> 00:00:30,980

Trudy Schonberger,  
no middle name.

9

00:00:30,980 --> 00:00:31,730

No middle name.

10

00:00:31,730 --> 00:00:33,950

And what was your name at birth?

11

00:00:33,950 --> 00:00:37,710

Trudy Wellisch.

12

00:00:37,710 --> 00:00:39,225

Wellisch is your--

13

00:00:39,225 --> 00:00:40,140  
The maiden name.

14  
00:00:40,140 --> 00:00:41,140  
--your maiden name?

15  
00:00:41,140 --> 00:00:41,670  
Yes.

16  
00:00:41,670 --> 00:00:43,720  
And where were you born?

17  
00:00:43,720 --> 00:00:46,530  
I was born in Vienna, Austria.

18  
00:00:46,530 --> 00:00:52,770  
And when were you  
born May 20, 1926.

19  
00:00:52,770 --> 00:00:56,400  
Let's talk a little bit  
about your family now.

20  
00:00:56,400 --> 00:00:58,450  
Your parents' names?

21  
00:00:58,450 --> 00:01:04,290  
My mother's name was  
Irene Kohn, K-O-H-N,

22  
00:01:04,290 --> 00:01:09,570  
which translated to  
American Cohen, C-O-H-E-N,

23  
00:01:09,570 --> 00:01:17,160  
but hers was K-O-H-N. And  
my father was Hugo Wellisch.

24  
00:01:17,160 --> 00:01:20,085  
And how far back can  
you trace your family

25

00:01:20,085 --> 00:01:24,270  
in Vienna, or how far back  
can you trace your family?

26  
00:01:24,270 --> 00:01:28,020  
Well, as far as grand  
parents, I did not

27  
00:01:28,020 --> 00:01:34,600  
know my mother's parents,  
but I did know my grandmother

28  
00:01:34,600 --> 00:01:36,130  
on my father's side.

29  
00:01:36,130 --> 00:01:43,060  
And her name was Rosa Wellisch,  
and she lived with us.

30  
00:01:43,060 --> 00:01:45,943  
I didn't know her  
husband, my grandfather.

31  
00:01:45,943 --> 00:01:47,110  
So you knew one grandparent.

32  
00:01:47,110 --> 00:01:49,375  
So I knew one grandparent.

33  
00:01:49,375 --> 00:01:52,180  
How far back in Vienna  
did the family go?

34  
00:01:52,180 --> 00:01:53,170  
Do you know?

35  
00:01:53,170 --> 00:01:54,730  
Well, I don't know.

36  
00:01:54,730 --> 00:01:56,620  
This is about as--

37

00:01:56,620 --> 00:01:57,560  
--much?

38  
00:01:57,560 --> 00:02:02,170  
I knew my aunts and uncles.

39  
00:02:02,170 --> 00:02:04,750  
--who lived in Vienna?

40  
00:02:04,750 --> 00:02:09,610  
Some lived in Vienna, and  
some lived in other towns

41  
00:02:09,610 --> 00:02:11,662  
outside of Vienna.

42  
00:02:11,662 --> 00:02:13,270  
You mean in surrounding towns?

43  
00:02:13,270 --> 00:02:18,700  
Surrounding-- well, we  
lived in a small town

44  
00:02:18,700 --> 00:02:22,900  
called Wiesenfeld,  
where my father had

45  
00:02:22,900 --> 00:02:25,480  
kind of a big business.

46  
00:02:25,480 --> 00:02:26,540  
What kind of business?

47  
00:02:26,540 --> 00:02:28,810  
It was like a--

48  
00:02:28,810 --> 00:02:33,070  
you might call a general  
store or a department store

49  
00:02:33,070 --> 00:02:36,580  
because he sold everything.

50  
00:02:36,580 --> 00:02:42,910  
Besides selling groceries,  
and materials for clothing,

51  
00:02:42,910 --> 00:02:49,330  
and shoes, et cetera, he also  
had a wholesale lumber business

52  
00:02:49,330 --> 00:02:52,510  
and grain, like corn and--

53  
00:02:52,510 --> 00:02:54,190  
I don't remember what else.

54  
00:02:54,190 --> 00:02:57,350  
I just remember that quite well.

55  
00:02:57,350 --> 00:03:01,840  
And he catered to all  
the people in the area,

56  
00:03:01,840 --> 00:03:04,960  
and this small  
town of Wiesenfeld

57  
00:03:04,960 --> 00:03:09,700  
was about an hour's  
drive from Vienna.

58  
00:03:09,700 --> 00:03:12,280  
I don't know whether  
it was east or west.

59  
00:03:12,280 --> 00:03:16,280  
Best not ask me  
directions because--

60  
00:03:16,280 --> 00:03:19,150  
so it was about an hour's drive.

61  
00:03:19,150 --> 00:03:20,620

But you were born in Vienna.

62

00:03:20,620 --> 00:03:24,970

I was born in Vienna, yes.

63

00:03:24,970 --> 00:03:27,580

My parents were  
born in the country.

64

00:03:27,580 --> 00:03:32,950

My mother was born in a town  
next to mine, to Wiesenfeld,

65

00:03:32,950 --> 00:03:42,100

called Traisen, and that's  
spelled T-R-A-I-S-E-N.

66

00:03:42,100 --> 00:03:44,080

And my father was born--

67

00:03:44,080 --> 00:03:46,690

I believe he was  
born in Wiesenfeld

68

00:03:46,690 --> 00:03:53,260

because the house we lived in  
was my grandparents' house.

69

00:03:53,260 --> 00:03:55,630

How religious were your parents?

70

00:03:55,630 --> 00:04:01,900

We were not religious, but we  
were well-aware and made sure

71

00:04:01,900 --> 00:04:04,390

that we observed  
all the holidays.

72

00:04:04,390 --> 00:04:06,950

73

00:04:06,950 --> 00:04:09,290  
I had to learn Hebrew.

74  
00:04:09,290 --> 00:04:13,550  
My brother was bar mitzvahed,  
but that was in another city,

75  
00:04:13,550 --> 00:04:18,589  
not in Vienna but in a  
city called Sankt Polten,

76  
00:04:18,589 --> 00:04:20,810  
and they had a synagogue there.

77  
00:04:20,810 --> 00:04:25,460  
That's spelled  
capital S-T, period,

78  
00:04:25,460 --> 00:04:33,440  
and then capital P-O  
with an umlaut, L-T-E-N.

79  
00:04:33,440 --> 00:04:37,010  
That had a synagogue, and  
bigger schools, and all that.

80  
00:04:37,010 --> 00:04:40,297  
So you had-- obviously, you  
said you had your brother.

81  
00:04:40,297 --> 00:04:41,630  
Did you have any other siblings?

82  
00:04:41,630 --> 00:04:42,200  
No.

83  
00:04:42,200 --> 00:04:43,380  
And your brother's name?

84  
00:04:43,380 --> 00:04:44,180  
Eric.

85

00:04:44,180 --> 00:04:45,950  
And how much older?

86  
00:04:45,950 --> 00:04:47,330  
He's six years older.

87  
00:04:47,330 --> 00:04:49,190  
Six years older, OK.

88  
00:04:49,190 --> 00:04:52,970  
And he's living in  
North Carolina now.

89  
00:04:52,970 --> 00:04:54,350  
Wonderful, wonderful.

90  
00:04:54,350 --> 00:04:57,890  
So let's again talk  
about your life.

91  
00:04:57,890 --> 00:05:00,560  
So your parents were  
not overly religious.

92  
00:05:00,560 --> 00:05:02,740  
Not overly.

93  
00:05:02,740 --> 00:05:05,150  
Did you observe Shabbat  
and things like that?

94  
00:05:05,150 --> 00:05:06,120  
Not really.

95  
00:05:06,120 --> 00:05:07,910  
No, but just the big holidays?

96  
00:05:07,910 --> 00:05:09,230  
The big holidays.

97  
00:05:09,230 --> 00:05:11,240  
What kind of neighborhood



did you live in?

98

00:05:11,240 --> 00:05:14,216

Was it a mixed neighborhood  
of Jews and non-Jews?

99

00:05:14,216 --> 00:05:14,930

No Jews.

100

00:05:14,930 --> 00:05:20,870

We were the only Jews because  
it was a very small village.

101

00:05:20,870 --> 00:05:28,340

It was in the foothills of  
the Alps, beautiful area.

102

00:05:28,340 --> 00:05:32,330

But we were the only  
Jews in that town.

103

00:05:32,330 --> 00:05:36,260

The rest was mostly  
farmers, peasants,

104

00:05:36,260 --> 00:05:39,620

and that's where my father  
catered, to all these people,

105

00:05:39,620 --> 00:05:41,930

and further out, even.

106

00:05:41,930 --> 00:05:45,950

He had a big surrounding  
area that he catered to.

107

00:05:45,950 --> 00:05:47,700

What language did  
you speak at home?

108

00:05:47,700 --> 00:05:48,200

German.

109

00:05:48,200 --> 00:05:50,210

German.

110

00:05:50,210 --> 00:05:51,380

No Yiddish or anything?

111

00:05:51,380 --> 00:05:53,300

No Yiddish, no, no, no.

112

00:05:53,300 --> 00:05:54,770

OK.

113

00:05:54,770 --> 00:05:59,840

So obviously, you went  
to a regular school.

114

00:05:59,840 --> 00:06:01,770

What kind of school  
did you go to,

115

00:06:01,770 --> 00:06:03,350

starting from when you young?

116

00:06:03,350 --> 00:06:07,700

There was no school  
in Wiesenfeld.

117

00:06:07,700 --> 00:06:09,770

There was nothing in Wiesenfeld.

118

00:06:09,770 --> 00:06:13,940

What do they say, if you blink,  
you're gone, or you're done?

119

00:06:13,940 --> 00:06:21,540

So I had to start school in  
a village called Sankt Veit.

120

00:06:21,540 --> 00:06:29,780

That's spelled capital S-T  
and then capital V-E-I-T.

121

00:06:29,780 --> 00:06:37,460

And I started first grade to  
probably third grade, maybe,

122

00:06:37,460 --> 00:06:38,420

fourth grade.

123

00:06:38,420 --> 00:06:39,990

I don't quite recall.

124

00:06:39,990 --> 00:06:45,710

And we walked, and it was  
about maybe from half a mile

125

00:06:45,710 --> 00:06:47,900

to a mile.

126

00:06:47,900 --> 00:06:51,930

And then I transferred  
to the other town

127

00:06:51,930 --> 00:06:59,350

that I mentioned, Traisen,  
which had a school that

128

00:06:59,350 --> 00:07:02,770

went to seventh grade or--

129

00:07:02,770 --> 00:07:08,560

I don't recall, but I went  
there with my cousin, Lilly,

130

00:07:08,560 --> 00:07:10,270

who lived in Traisen.

131

00:07:10,270 --> 00:07:13,300

And they had more  
Jews there, not many,

132

00:07:13,300 --> 00:07:16,450

but a couple of families.

133

00:07:16,450 --> 00:07:24,170

So I went to Traisen  
until I was 11 years old.

134

00:07:24,170 --> 00:07:29,160

And then I was sent to  
Vienna, to the gymnasium,

135

00:07:29,160 --> 00:07:35,390

which is like our high schools  
but a lot tougher, very tough.

136

00:07:35,390 --> 00:07:39,680

I had to pass an  
entrance exam to get in,

137

00:07:39,680 --> 00:07:44,840

and I was very tempted to cheat.

138

00:07:44,840 --> 00:07:49,640

But not for the good but  
so I didn't have to go.

139

00:07:49,640 --> 00:07:55,280

But I passed it, and I lived  
with friends of my parents

140

00:07:55,280 --> 00:07:56,120

in Vienna.

141

00:07:56,120 --> 00:07:57,780

I really didn't want to go.

142

00:07:57,780 --> 00:08:02,060

I was kind of a homebody,  
and these people I lived with

143

00:08:02,060 --> 00:08:03,210

were very nice.

144

00:08:03,210 --> 00:08:05,010

They were not Jewish.

145  
00:08:05,010 --> 00:08:09,540  
They had a daughter a little  
bit older than myself,

146  
00:08:09,540 --> 00:08:12,740  
and we both went  
to that gymnasium.

147  
00:08:12,740 --> 00:08:15,418  
How did your parents  
know this family

148  
00:08:15,418 --> 00:08:16,460  
or make the arrangements?

149  
00:08:16,460 --> 00:08:19,490  
Oh, they had been  
friends for many years

150  
00:08:19,490 --> 00:08:26,690  
through a sibling of theirs,  
either the husband or the wife,

151  
00:08:26,690 --> 00:08:28,940  
who lived in Traisen.

152  
00:08:28,940 --> 00:08:31,550  
And my parents had  
been friends with them,

153  
00:08:31,550 --> 00:08:34,250  
and that's how they  
got to know each other.

154  
00:08:34,250 --> 00:08:36,945  
And they were very nice to me.

155  
00:08:36,945 --> 00:08:38,070  
Let's go back a little bit.

156  
00:08:38,070 --> 00:08:40,159

So when you were growing  
up in your village,

157  
00:08:40,159 --> 00:08:42,679  
was there-- do you remember--  
and you were, of course, quite

158  
00:08:42,679 --> 00:08:44,780  
young-- any experiences  
of anti-Semitism?

159  
00:08:44,780 --> 00:08:45,623  
No, I don't.

160  
00:08:45,623 --> 00:08:47,540  
--since you were the  
only Jewish family there.

161  
00:08:47,540 --> 00:08:48,800  
Yeah, yeah.

162  
00:08:48,800 --> 00:08:50,790  
No, nothing as far as--

163  
00:08:50,790 --> 00:08:52,460  
And you played with  
the other children?

164  
00:08:52,460 --> 00:08:55,700  
Oh, I had a good friend  
right across the street,

165  
00:08:55,700 --> 00:08:58,710  
very, very poor.

166  
00:08:58,710 --> 00:09:02,780  
And she was my best friend, and  
I would share my toys with her.

167  
00:09:02,780 --> 00:09:07,290  
And my mother would give her  
clothing and things like that.

168

00:09:07,290 --> 00:09:10,460

So there was no-- and with  
the teachers, no expressions

169

00:09:10,460 --> 00:09:11,630

of anti-Semitism?

170

00:09:11,630 --> 00:09:13,580

Not yet.

171

00:09:13,580 --> 00:09:14,510

It's coming.

172

00:09:14,510 --> 00:09:16,550

Yeah, yeah, yeah.

173

00:09:16,550 --> 00:09:19,850

Yeah, so is that school  
you didn't experience--

174

00:09:19,850 --> 00:09:20,670

No, no.

175

00:09:20,670 --> 00:09:21,170

Not yet, no.

176

00:09:21,170 --> 00:09:24,770

Where you were a  
very athletic child?

177

00:09:24,770 --> 00:09:29,360

I was not, not in the gym.

178

00:09:29,360 --> 00:09:31,640

Did you like sports in any way?

179

00:09:31,640 --> 00:09:36,260

Skiing, and skating,  
and sleigh riding.

180

00:09:36,260 --> 00:09:37,010

We did that.

181  
00:09:37,010 --> 00:09:41,180  
And skiing was  
relatively simple for us

182  
00:09:41,180 --> 00:09:44,150  
because all I had to  
do was put on my skis

183  
00:09:44,150 --> 00:09:46,550  
and walk up the hill,  
go across the road

184  
00:09:46,550 --> 00:09:49,850  
and walk up on a mountain.

185  
00:09:49,850 --> 00:09:50,750  
Yeah.

186  
00:09:50,750 --> 00:09:52,580  
Did you like to read?

187  
00:09:52,580 --> 00:09:55,070  
I did like to read, and  
when I was very little,

188  
00:09:55,070 --> 00:09:58,580  
I recall my mother reading  
me beautiful stories.

189  
00:09:58,580 --> 00:09:59,660  
You know.

190  
00:09:59,660 --> 00:10:04,160  
Would you call yourself  
an independent child?

191  
00:10:04,160 --> 00:10:04,707  
Not really.

192  
00:10:04,707 --> 00:10:06,290



You were very attached  
to your family.

193  
00:10:06,290 --> 00:10:11,060  
Not really, I was very  
attached to my parents.

194  
00:10:11,060 --> 00:10:13,290  
But then when I had  
to go to Vienna,

195  
00:10:13,290 --> 00:10:14,550  
which was a good thing--

196  
00:10:14,550 --> 00:10:15,260  
Yeah.

197  
00:10:15,260 --> 00:10:20,270  
OK, so now you're in Vienna  
and memories of that.

198  
00:10:20,270 --> 00:10:24,980  
You said you went when you  
were 11, so that was 1937.

199  
00:10:24,980 --> 00:10:26,060  
Exactly.

200  
00:10:26,060 --> 00:10:28,310  
And I went there  
in August to get

201  
00:10:28,310 --> 00:10:33,410  
ready for the opening  
of school in September,

202  
00:10:33,410 --> 00:10:38,710  
and when I started  
this gymnasium,

203  
00:10:38,710 --> 00:10:41,470  
I hated it immediately.

204

00:10:41,470 --> 00:10:45,970

The teachers were so  
strict, and I was--

205

00:10:45,970 --> 00:10:47,770

This was a coed?

206

00:10:47,770 --> 00:10:51,500

This was girls-only, girls-only.

207

00:10:51,500 --> 00:10:54,630

But anyway, I made it.

208

00:10:54,630 --> 00:10:55,850

And now--

209

00:10:55,850 --> 00:11:01,350

Before that or up to that  
point, Hitler had been in power.

210

00:11:01,350 --> 00:11:02,910

Again, you were  
young, of course.

211

00:11:02,910 --> 00:11:08,280

Do you have any memories of  
this man, Hitler, in '35, '36,

212

00:11:08,280 --> 00:11:09,000

'37, 1937?

213

00:11:09,000 --> 00:11:11,800

Not that because  
that was Germany.

214

00:11:11,800 --> 00:11:12,360

No, I know.

215

00:11:12,360 --> 00:11:12,860

I know.

216

00:11:12,860 --> 00:11:14,670

But you spoke German,  
and did your parents

217

00:11:14,670 --> 00:11:16,267

hear him speak over the radio.

218

00:11:16,267 --> 00:11:17,100

That's what I meant.

219

00:11:17,100 --> 00:11:19,335

I was not aware of any of that.

220

00:11:19,335 --> 00:11:21,240

--of what was  
happening in Germany?

221

00:11:21,240 --> 00:11:23,520

Nothing, no, no, didn't.

222

00:11:23,520 --> 00:11:26,980

If they talked about  
among themselves--

223

00:11:26,980 --> 00:11:27,480

Yeah.

224

00:11:27,480 --> 00:11:28,813

They didn't say anything to you?

225

00:11:28,813 --> 00:11:32,190

I don't recall that, no.

226

00:11:32,190 --> 00:11:35,430

The only thing I do remember  
was the chancellor--

227

00:11:35,430 --> 00:11:37,920

his name was Dollfuss--

228

00:11:37,920 --> 00:11:40,860

during '35 or '36.

229  
00:11:40,860 --> 00:11:44,700  
He was assassinated,  
and I heard that then

230  
00:11:44,700 --> 00:11:47,550  
because they were talking  
about it in school.

231  
00:11:47,550 --> 00:11:50,910  
But I thought, oh,  
that's too bad, but meh.

232  
00:11:50,910 --> 00:11:53,694

233  
00:11:53,694 --> 00:11:55,110  
OK, so now you're in gymnasium.

234  
00:11:55,110 --> 00:11:58,050  
Now I'm in gymnasium, and  
I'm hating every minute.

235  
00:11:58,050 --> 00:12:00,960  
Right, and it's 1937, right.

236  
00:12:00,960 --> 00:12:10,020  
So I get through it, and now  
comes the month of March 1938.

237  
00:12:10,020 --> 00:12:14,310  
And I'm at home with the family,  
I think, ready to go to school

238  
00:12:14,310 --> 00:12:17,240  
or whatever the date was.

239  
00:12:17,240 --> 00:12:17,770  
In Vienna?

240  
00:12:17,770 --> 00:12:18,270  
In Vienna.

241  
00:12:18,270 --> 00:12:20,460  
The other family,  
not your family.

242  
00:12:20,460 --> 00:12:23,520  
No, the foster family,  
let's call them.

243  
00:12:23,520 --> 00:12:25,080  
What were their names?

244  
00:12:25,080 --> 00:12:27,990  
Do you remember?

245  
00:12:27,990 --> 00:12:29,160  
It's OK.

246  
00:12:29,160 --> 00:12:35,444  
Her name was [? Gisi, ?]  
Gisil, and Hans.

247  
00:12:35,444 --> 00:12:36,300  
That's OK.

248  
00:12:36,300 --> 00:12:37,175  
Yeah.

249  
00:12:37,175 --> 00:12:37,800  
It's all right.

250  
00:12:37,800 --> 00:12:40,110  
OK, so you're with them.

251  
00:12:40,110 --> 00:12:45,570  
I'm with them, and there  
is a fantastic commotion,

252  
00:12:45,570 --> 00:12:50,010  
and noises, and yelling, and  
screaming, and airplanes.

253

00:12:50,010 --> 00:12:53,280

And we are running  
to the window,

254

00:12:53,280 --> 00:12:58,890

and I don't know if it was the  
Luftwaffe or a German aircraft

255

00:12:58,890 --> 00:13:03,600

throwing down pamphlets  
and propaganda.

256

00:13:03,600 --> 00:13:07,500

And later on we ran  
outside to pick it up,

257

00:13:07,500 --> 00:13:15,630

but it was the Anschluss, the  
annexation of Austria, right

258

00:13:15,630 --> 00:13:18,660

then and there, poof.

259

00:13:18,660 --> 00:13:23,550

And shortly thereafter,  
Chancellor Schuschnigg

260

00:13:23,550 --> 00:13:28,980

went on the air and  
saying goodbye to Austria,

261

00:13:28,980 --> 00:13:32,250

Austria is no more.

262

00:13:32,250 --> 00:13:34,500

Had you heard of Hitler?

263

00:13:34,500 --> 00:13:37,140

When did you first  
hear of Adolf Hitler?

264

00:13:37,140 --> 00:13:43,000

Well, this was all right  
now at that moment.

265  
00:13:43,000 --> 00:13:44,310  
So this was your introduction?

266  
00:13:44,310 --> 00:13:46,710  
This was the introduction,  
and I don't even

267  
00:13:46,710 --> 00:13:50,550  
know whether Hitler's  
name came up, but Germany.

268  
00:13:50,550 --> 00:13:51,620  
What is this?

269  
00:13:51,620 --> 00:13:53,290  
I'm 11 years old.

270  
00:13:53,290 --> 00:13:57,010  
I have no idea what is going on.

271  
00:13:57,010 --> 00:14:02,880  
Anyway, my foster mom said, when  
things started to come down,

272  
00:14:02,880 --> 00:14:05,790  
time to go to school  
or whatever it was.

273  
00:14:05,790 --> 00:14:08,016  
I went back to school.

274  
00:14:08,016 --> 00:14:11,340  
I had to go to school.

275  
00:14:11,340 --> 00:14:14,430  
And things went on  
sort of normally.

276  
00:14:14,430 --> 00:14:17,750

One week passed by.

277

00:14:17,750 --> 00:14:22,820

The principal came into  
the classroom and said,

278

00:14:22,820 --> 00:14:27,530

all Jewish girls,  
out into the hall.

279

00:14:27,530 --> 00:14:31,430

And at least I knew  
enough I was Jewish.

280

00:14:31,430 --> 00:14:34,910

I went out into the hall, and  
there were other Jewish girls

281

00:14:34,910 --> 00:14:36,860

already out there.

282

00:14:36,860 --> 00:14:42,800

And the principal said, pack  
up your books and whatever

283

00:14:42,800 --> 00:14:46,220

belongs to you, and get out.

284

00:14:46,220 --> 00:14:47,750

Do not come back.

285

00:14:47,750 --> 00:14:48,860

No Jews allowed.

286

00:14:48,860 --> 00:14:51,770

287

00:14:51,770 --> 00:14:58,168

So the comprehension  
wasn't there yet.

288

00:14:58,168 --> 00:14:59,960



What's going on?

289

00:14:59,960 --> 00:15:03,880

So I took my books, and my  
coat, and whatever we had.

290

00:15:03,880 --> 00:15:08,530

And I took the streetcar,  
and I went home

291

00:15:08,530 --> 00:15:11,490

to the foster parents.

292

00:15:11,490 --> 00:15:15,930

And she said, are you all right?

293

00:15:15,930 --> 00:15:18,460

What's happening?

294

00:15:18,460 --> 00:15:22,360

I said, I'm OK, but I  
got kicked out of school.

295

00:15:22,360 --> 00:15:25,970

She said, what did you do?

296

00:15:25,970 --> 00:15:27,970

I said, I don't know.

297

00:15:27,970 --> 00:15:32,510

So I'm proceeding to tell  
her, the principal said,

298

00:15:32,510 --> 00:15:33,800

don't come back.

299

00:15:33,800 --> 00:15:35,140

They don't want Jews.

300

00:15:35,140 --> 00:15:39,070

And she-- I remember this  
like it was yesterday--

301  
00:15:39,070 --> 00:15:44,000  
she sat in the chair,  
and she said, oh my God.

302  
00:15:44,000 --> 00:15:47,840  
I guess we have to  
call your parents.

303  
00:15:47,840 --> 00:15:52,110  
And she immediately went  
and called my parents,

304  
00:15:52,110 --> 00:15:54,400  
and it was either my  
mother my father--

305  
00:15:54,400 --> 00:15:57,680  
I don't recall-- said, I  
guess we'll come and get her.

306  
00:15:57,680 --> 00:16:01,910  
So I was there another day,  
and they came immediately

307  
00:16:01,910 --> 00:16:03,110  
and brought me home.

308  
00:16:03,110 --> 00:16:05,360  
And you know what I thought?

309  
00:16:05,360 --> 00:16:08,250  
I thought, you know  
what, this isn't so bad.

310  
00:16:08,250 --> 00:16:15,090  
I hate this place anyway, not  
realizing yet what was to come.

311  
00:16:15,090 --> 00:16:18,000  
So you weren't  
frightened at that point?

312

00:16:18,000 --> 00:16:23,270

I didn't have sense enough  
to be frightened, really.

313

00:16:23,270 --> 00:16:24,717

I did sense--

314

00:16:24,717 --> 00:16:25,550

--something wasn't--

315

00:16:25,550 --> 00:16:26,910

--something.

316

00:16:26,910 --> 00:16:32,750

My parents, and the foster  
parents, and that excitement,

317

00:16:32,750 --> 00:16:35,160

not good excitement,  
not happy excitement--

318

00:16:35,160 --> 00:16:35,660

Tension?

319

00:16:35,660 --> 00:16:37,580

Tension.

320

00:16:37,580 --> 00:16:40,650

So I went home.

321

00:16:40,650 --> 00:16:43,870

Now, you can't just sit home.

322

00:16:43,870 --> 00:16:46,170

What are we going to do now?

323

00:16:46,170 --> 00:16:50,850

OK, my mother called  
the school in Traisen,

324

00:16:50,850 --> 00:16:55,960

where my cousin lived, and they  
asked if they would take me

325  
00:16:55,960 --> 00:16:59,920  
in school, and they said yes.

326  
00:16:59,920 --> 00:17:04,819  
So that wasn't so bad because  
my cousin, Lilly, my age--

327  
00:17:04,819 --> 00:17:10,210  
we were like sisters, and she  
had two brothers, Oscar, older,

328  
00:17:10,210 --> 00:17:13,079  
and Otto, younger.

329  
00:17:13,079 --> 00:17:17,099  
And so we were kind of  
together, and the school

330  
00:17:17,099 --> 00:17:19,859  
was right across from her house.

331  
00:17:19,859 --> 00:17:23,140  
So we would go to  
lunch at my aunt's--

332  
00:17:23,140 --> 00:17:29,400  
Tante Olga was her name, Lilly's  
mom, and her dad, Isidore.

333  
00:17:29,400 --> 00:17:33,530  
Isidore was my mother's brother.

334  
00:17:33,530 --> 00:17:37,850  
And so things were not too bad.

335  
00:17:37,850 --> 00:17:40,912  
This is now April already.

336  
00:17:40,912 --> 00:17:46,290

It took a while to get me in and  
the details of all this stuff.

337  
00:17:46,290 --> 00:17:50,280  
Were there any banners  
or any symbols around?

338  
00:17:50,280 --> 00:17:50,850  
The swastika.

339  
00:17:50,850 --> 00:17:54,180  
--was up by then in the town?

340  
00:17:54,180 --> 00:17:57,930  
Everybody had the  
swastika, everybody.

341  
00:17:57,930 --> 00:18:01,655  
I don't know where it  
came from so quickly.

342  
00:18:01,655 --> 00:18:03,405  
What did that mean to  
an 11-year-old girl?

343  
00:18:03,405 --> 00:18:06,300

344  
00:18:06,300 --> 00:18:08,220  
Just, what's happening?

345  
00:18:08,220 --> 00:18:10,710  
What is happening?

346  
00:18:10,710 --> 00:18:12,840  
And then you find out.

347  
00:18:12,840 --> 00:18:15,665  
This is how I found out how  
things are getting worse.

348  
00:18:15,665 --> 00:18:16,290

Now it's April.

349

00:18:16,290 --> 00:18:17,220

Now we're finding out.

350

00:18:17,220 --> 00:18:18,840

It's April.

351

00:18:18,840 --> 00:18:24,060

A very nice teacher came in  
one morning to the classroom,

352

00:18:24,060 --> 00:18:29,330

and all the kids jumped up,  
"heil Hitler," with the arms.

353

00:18:29,330 --> 00:18:31,830

That was the law.

354

00:18:31,830 --> 00:18:34,770

And Lilly and I jumped up, too.

355

00:18:34,770 --> 00:18:37,500

We thought, it has  
to be this way.

356

00:18:37,500 --> 00:18:44,160

And the teacher said, Trudy and  
Lilly, you say "good morning."

357

00:18:44,160 --> 00:18:46,320

You do not say "heil Hitler."

358

00:18:46,320 --> 00:18:48,450

Or he said, you  
don't have to say--

359

00:18:48,450 --> 00:18:53,500

so we thought, OK,  
"guten morgen."

360

00:18:53,500 --> 00:18:57,300

We never saw the teacher again.

361

00:18:57,300 --> 00:18:59,130

It was the last time.

362

00:18:59,130 --> 00:19:03,750

He just disappeared,  
never knew what happened.

363

00:19:03,750 --> 00:19:06,050

I would think some  
of the kids went

364

00:19:06,050 --> 00:19:09,120

home, told mommy and daddy--

365

00:19:09,120 --> 00:19:11,620

away.

366

00:19:11,620 --> 00:19:15,790

OK, life goes on.

367

00:19:15,790 --> 00:19:20,650

About a month later, another  
teacher said to the class--

368

00:19:20,650 --> 00:19:22,930

he was our math teacher.

369

00:19:22,930 --> 00:19:24,250

His name was Richter.

370

00:19:24,250 --> 00:19:26,600

I remember that.

371

00:19:26,600 --> 00:19:30,840

Well, I guess you'll  
see why I remember him.

372

00:19:30,840 --> 00:19:34,560

He said, I have good  
news for you, children.

373  
00:19:34,560 --> 00:19:42,840  
We are going on a field trip  
to Linz, big city in Austria.

374  
00:19:42,840 --> 00:19:46,770  
So I am handing out the forms,  
and you get your parents

375  
00:19:46,770 --> 00:19:48,030  
to sign it.

376  
00:19:48,030 --> 00:19:49,950  
And Lilly and I were--

377  
00:19:49,950 --> 00:19:50,620  
that's great.

378  
00:19:50,620 --> 00:19:53,880  
So we went home and  
showed it to Papa,

379  
00:19:53,880 --> 00:19:56,220  
and he said, I guess it's OK.

380  
00:19:56,220 --> 00:20:00,030  
He had a little thinking, but  
I thought, well, that's Papa.

381  
00:20:00,030 --> 00:20:02,040  
He worries about everything.

382  
00:20:02,040 --> 00:20:04,950  
And Lilly went home,  
and she got permission.

383  
00:20:04,950 --> 00:20:09,510  
And we brought the forms  
back, and the teacher takes

384  
00:20:09,510 --> 00:20:15,650  
the forms, looks at them,



tears them up, and says,

385

00:20:15,650 --> 00:20:19,300

Lilly and Trudy, you cannot go.

386

00:20:19,300 --> 00:20:23,140

We do not take Jews.

387

00:20:23,140 --> 00:20:26,540

Then this is now--

388

00:20:26,540 --> 00:20:28,510

we cried.

389

00:20:28,510 --> 00:20:29,200

Why?

390

00:20:29,200 --> 00:20:31,060

What did we do?

391

00:20:31,060 --> 00:20:33,760

Now it's beginning to sink in.

392

00:20:33,760 --> 00:20:37,750

Something is with the  
Jews that they don't like.

393

00:20:37,750 --> 00:20:40,420

And he wasn't all  
nasty about it.

394

00:20:40,420 --> 00:20:44,630

He said, I'm so sorry.

395

00:20:44,630 --> 00:20:45,950

And that was it.

396

00:20:45,950 --> 00:20:47,730

We couldn't go.

397

00:20:47,730 --> 00:20:53,060

So now this is beginning to  
sink in, what is happening.

398  
00:20:53,060 --> 00:20:55,970  
At that time, did any of  
the Christian children

399  
00:20:55,970 --> 00:20:57,620  
say anything to you about that?

400  
00:20:57,620 --> 00:20:59,540  
No, I don't recall that.

401  
00:20:59,540 --> 00:21:02,480  
I think if it had  
been anything nasty

402  
00:21:02,480 --> 00:21:07,090  
or mean I would remember it, but  
there was nothing pro or con.

403  
00:21:07,090 --> 00:21:07,700  
Neither way?

404  
00:21:07,700 --> 00:21:10,820  
Neither way, no.

405  
00:21:10,820 --> 00:21:14,300  
So it was beginning  
to be quite painful.

406  
00:21:14,300 --> 00:21:21,970  
Well, then came the summertime,  
and there was no school.

407  
00:21:21,970 --> 00:21:24,460  
And Lilly and I  
spent a lot of time

408  
00:21:24,460 --> 00:21:29,530  
together because  
our Gentile friends

409

00:21:29,530 --> 00:21:32,350  
were no longer our friends.

410

00:21:32,350 --> 00:21:36,910  
They weren't allowed  
to play with us.

411

00:21:36,910 --> 00:21:40,960  
So we spent time together  
and did what we could.

412

00:21:40,960 --> 00:21:42,310  
We visited each other.

413

00:21:42,310 --> 00:21:44,080  
We couldn't go to many places.

414

00:21:44,080 --> 00:21:46,120  
You're not allowed  
to do anything.

415

00:21:46,120 --> 00:21:47,960  
In the meantime--

416

00:21:47,960 --> 00:21:50,770  
What weren't you  
allowed to do then?

417

00:21:50,770 --> 00:21:54,910  
Well, really, my  
parents and her parents

418

00:21:54,910 --> 00:21:58,540  
did not allow us to  
run around and to--

419

00:21:58,540 --> 00:22:01,900  
because it was  
getting dangerous.

420

00:22:01,900 --> 00:22:06,700  
My brother, for example,

was in a gymnasium

421

00:22:06,700 --> 00:22:11,380  
in Sankt Polten, which I  
think I mentioned to you,

422

00:22:11,380 --> 00:22:14,890  
and he had just  
finished gymnasium.

423

00:22:14,890 --> 00:22:18,000  
He was 17.

424

00:22:18,000 --> 00:22:21,850  
And he was valedictorian.

425

00:22:21,850 --> 00:22:25,570  
And the principal or the  
superintendent called him

426

00:22:25,570 --> 00:22:32,750  
into the office because they are  
graduating now and said, Eric,

427

00:22:32,750 --> 00:22:37,520  
we will give you your  
diploma, but you cannot come

428

00:22:37,520 --> 00:22:38,540  
to graduation.

429

00:22:38,540 --> 00:22:41,120

430

00:22:41,120 --> 00:22:44,110  
So then I knew this.

431

00:22:44,110 --> 00:22:46,720  
Eric was talking  
about it, and he said,

432

00:22:46,720 --> 00:22:50,050

I can't go to graduation,  
but at least I graduated.

433  
00:22:50,050 --> 00:22:53,440  
Eric always had a sense  
of humor about everything,

434  
00:22:53,440 --> 00:22:54,595  
and he took things--

435  
00:22:54,595 --> 00:22:57,340

436  
00:22:57,340 --> 00:22:59,720  
I will get to that  
a little bit later,

437  
00:22:59,720 --> 00:23:04,120  
but now we are coming  
back from summer vacation

438  
00:23:04,120 --> 00:23:05,920  
and back to school.

439  
00:23:05,920 --> 00:23:09,130  
Was it frightening  
seeing German soldiers?

440  
00:23:09,130 --> 00:23:11,080  
I wasn't that frightened.

441  
00:23:11,080 --> 00:23:14,950  
I kind of liked seeing  
them, their marching.

442  
00:23:14,950 --> 00:23:17,860  
Maybe we were dumb or something.

443  
00:23:17,860 --> 00:23:18,630  
I don't know.

444  
00:23:18,630 --> 00:23:20,880

Or kids love to see marching.

445

00:23:20,880 --> 00:23:24,460

We weren't aware that  
the soldiers were going--

446

00:23:24,460 --> 00:23:25,750

there was going to be a war.

447

00:23:25,750 --> 00:23:29,170

That was not-- but they  
marched right by my house--

448

00:23:29,170 --> 00:23:34,480

I remember that-- and waving  
to them and-- you know.

449

00:23:34,480 --> 00:23:37,990

It didn't last, believe me.

450

00:23:37,990 --> 00:23:39,760

But now comes September.

451

00:23:39,760 --> 00:23:40,930

We're back in school.

452

00:23:40,930 --> 00:23:42,850

This is September '38?

453

00:23:42,850 --> 00:23:48,640

Exactly, '38, and nothing  
much is happening.

454

00:23:48,640 --> 00:23:52,795

And I would go right  
through until November 10.

455

00:23:52,795 --> 00:23:56,430

456

00:23:56,430 --> 00:24:00,210

And we are in school,

and we went, as I said,

457

00:24:00,210 --> 00:24:08,000

home to lunch every day  
to Aunt Olga, Lilly's mom.

458

00:24:08,000 --> 00:24:13,320

And we're going to lunch,  
and it is very cold.

459

00:24:13,320 --> 00:24:17,310

And we're getting there,  
and the door is open.

460

00:24:17,310 --> 00:24:20,190

And a window is open.

461

00:24:20,190 --> 00:24:24,090

Sometimes she used to open  
a window to air it out

462

00:24:24,090 --> 00:24:26,730

but always closed and all that.

463

00:24:26,730 --> 00:24:31,410

And we walked in, and  
Lilly calls, Mama?

464

00:24:31,410 --> 00:24:33,600

No answer.

465

00:24:33,600 --> 00:24:36,570

Again, we're running  
through the house.

466

00:24:36,570 --> 00:24:37,240

Mama?

467

00:24:37,240 --> 00:24:38,760

Mama?

468

00:24:38,760 --> 00:24:40,810

Nobody there.

469

00:24:40,810 --> 00:24:43,720

And I'm yelling, Tante  
Olga, where are you?

470

00:24:43,720 --> 00:24:45,460

We are home for lunch.

471

00:24:45,460 --> 00:24:47,740

We only have half an hour.

472

00:24:47,740 --> 00:24:49,400

No answer.

473

00:24:49,400 --> 00:24:52,430

Lilly and I look at each other.

474

00:24:52,430 --> 00:24:55,100

Something's not right.

475

00:24:55,100 --> 00:24:56,480

I said, what do we do?

476

00:24:56,480 --> 00:25:01,040

She said, I know the  
[? Tischler ?] family here

477

00:25:01,040 --> 00:25:04,400

in town, another Jewish family.

478

00:25:04,400 --> 00:25:06,200

Why don't we go there?

479

00:25:06,200 --> 00:25:08,300

Something's happened.

480

00:25:08,300 --> 00:25:14,980

So OK, we start going down the  
street when, all of a sudden,

481



00:25:14,980 --> 00:25:19,360  
across from us-- we're  
walking straight,

482  
00:25:19,360 --> 00:25:25,720  
and perpendicular comes what  
we call the Green Henry.

483  
00:25:25,720 --> 00:25:33,680  
It was a green police wagon,  
and in it is her father.

484  
00:25:33,680 --> 00:25:38,780  
And we see this, and  
my uncle just waved.

485  
00:25:38,780 --> 00:25:40,420  
Goodbye.

486  
00:25:40,420 --> 00:25:47,690  
And then we just were so  
scared, and we started running.

487  
00:25:47,690 --> 00:25:50,270  
And we get to the  
[? Tischler ?] house,

488  
00:25:50,270 --> 00:25:57,380  
and they're all women, no  
men, gathered in that house.

489  
00:25:57,380 --> 00:26:02,210  
And we said to my aunt--  
and she said, what happened?

490  
00:26:02,210 --> 00:26:04,640  
We didn't know were you were.

491  
00:26:04,640 --> 00:26:07,250  
She said, I didn't have time.

492  
00:26:07,250 --> 00:26:10,490  
They came and chased me out.

493  
00:26:10,490 --> 00:26:13,760  
They wouldn't even let me  
leave a note or go get you.

494  
00:26:13,760 --> 00:26:17,900

495  
00:26:17,900 --> 00:26:21,470  
What is going on?

496  
00:26:21,470 --> 00:26:24,770  
Well, nobody told us anything.

497  
00:26:24,770 --> 00:26:28,280  
The women were there,  
and they were very upset,

498  
00:26:28,280 --> 00:26:31,730  
an old woman, who was--

499  
00:26:31,730 --> 00:26:33,080  
and babies.

500  
00:26:33,080 --> 00:26:37,160  
I mean, that must have  
been 10 or 12 people.

501  
00:26:37,160 --> 00:26:39,320  
Where's my mother?

502  
00:26:39,320 --> 00:26:41,740  
We don't know.

503  
00:26:41,740 --> 00:26:44,290  
So I said, I'm going home.

504  
00:26:44,290 --> 00:26:45,740  
Oh, you can't go alone.

505  
00:26:45,740 --> 00:26:50,170

So Lilly said, I'll go  
with you, because I will--

506  
00:26:50,170 --> 00:26:51,850  
you can't stop me now.

507  
00:26:51,850 --> 00:26:55,690  
Now I'm getting independent.

508  
00:26:55,690 --> 00:27:01,100  
So Lilly and I start  
walking, and the distance

509  
00:27:01,100 --> 00:27:07,790  
was maybe a mile from where we  
were to my home in Wiesenfeld.

510  
00:27:07,790 --> 00:27:09,500  
We get about halfway.

511  
00:27:09,500 --> 00:27:13,490  
I see a bicyclist  
coming towards us.

512  
00:27:13,490 --> 00:27:16,190  
There was minimal  
traffic at that time.

513  
00:27:16,190 --> 00:27:19,360  
Nobody had a car.

514  
00:27:19,360 --> 00:27:23,590  
So here comes a bicycle ride--  
even that was a big deal--

515  
00:27:23,590 --> 00:27:24,500  
come closer.

516  
00:27:24,500 --> 00:27:25,300  
Who is it?

517  
00:27:25,300 --> 00:27:28,430

My mother.

518

00:27:28,430 --> 00:27:33,390

She said, Papa is in jail.

519

00:27:33,390 --> 00:27:34,680

Where's Eric?

520

00:27:34,680 --> 00:27:36,450

He's in jail.

521

00:27:36,450 --> 00:27:41,070

Oh God, and uncle Isidore--  
we just saw him go by.

522

00:27:41,070 --> 00:27:44,560

They must have  
taken him to jail.

523

00:27:44,560 --> 00:27:47,160

What happened?

524

00:27:47,160 --> 00:27:53,510

A Jewish kid-- my mother is  
saying, come on, let's go.

525

00:27:53,510 --> 00:27:55,840

I'm going to take you back  
to the [? Tischler. ?]

526

00:27:55,840 --> 00:27:59,700

We're all going to be together.

527

00:27:59,700 --> 00:28:04,320

The story was-- and everybody  
has heard this story.

528

00:28:04,320 --> 00:28:10,980

A Jewish kid killed a Nazi  
official, and we're all paying.

529

00:28:10,980 --> 00:28:14,730

Everybody paid-- I don't  
know how many marks--

530  
00:28:14,730 --> 00:28:18,130  
plus being imprisoned.

531  
00:28:18,130 --> 00:28:22,240  
So that's what that  
day was, Crystal Night.

532  
00:28:22,240 --> 00:28:27,700  
They took my father into  
a jail in some other town

533  
00:28:27,700 --> 00:28:31,000  
and my brother, and  
they were sitting there.

534  
00:28:31,000 --> 00:28:37,930  
And my mother-- they were taking  
my mother, too, but my mother--

535  
00:28:37,930 --> 00:28:40,930  
if you want to know  
somebody feisty, she was.

536  
00:28:40,930 --> 00:28:42,940  
She said, you're not keeping me.

537  
00:28:42,940 --> 00:28:44,950  
You can shoot me first.

538  
00:28:44,950 --> 00:28:46,600  
You're not keeping me here.

539  
00:28:46,600 --> 00:28:48,880  
I got to go get my daughter.

540  
00:28:48,880 --> 00:28:50,320  
She didn't do anything.

541  
00:28:50,320 --> 00:28:52,870

She's 11 years old.

542

00:28:52,870 --> 00:28:54,830

And they said, OK, go, go, go.

543

00:28:54,830 --> 00:28:58,210

So that's how she got out.

544

00:28:58,210 --> 00:29:02,020

So we went back to the  
house, and all the women--

545

00:29:02,020 --> 00:29:04,330

what are we going to do,  
and kvetching, and crying.

546

00:29:04,330 --> 00:29:08,860

My mother said, you know what,  
we don't have time for this.

547

00:29:08,860 --> 00:29:14,040

We better sit down here  
and think about what to do.

548

00:29:14,040 --> 00:29:16,170

So perhaps we could find--

549

00:29:16,170 --> 00:29:19,920

she just made things  
up to keep them busy,

550

00:29:19,920 --> 00:29:24,150

to get some clothes together  
or get whatever we need,

551

00:29:24,150 --> 00:29:29,280

get some suitcases maybe,  
do whatever we have to do.

552

00:29:29,280 --> 00:29:31,950

Even if the suitcase  
empty, just--

553

00:29:31,950 --> 00:29:34,480

you never know  
what we have to do.

554

00:29:34,480 --> 00:29:35,710

And they said, OK.

555

00:29:35,710 --> 00:29:39,160

And I don't know what they  
did, but by that time,

556

00:29:39,160 --> 00:29:42,750

things were coming  
towards suppertime.

557

00:29:42,750 --> 00:29:47,370

And my mother said, now maybe  
we could find something to eat,

558

00:29:47,370 --> 00:29:52,050

could make a sandwich,  
have some fruit.

559

00:29:52,050 --> 00:29:54,660

And so we all did that.

560

00:29:54,660 --> 00:29:55,650

They did that.

561

00:29:55,650 --> 00:30:00,900

And now it's getting  
later and later,

562

00:30:00,900 --> 00:30:05,220

and now there is a  
banging on the door.

563

00:30:05,220 --> 00:30:07,945

It must've been eight  
8:00, 9:00 at night.

564

00:30:07,945 --> 00:30:10,880

565  
00:30:10,880 --> 00:30:12,320  
Open.

566  
00:30:12,320 --> 00:30:13,700  
Open up.

567  
00:30:13,700 --> 00:30:17,050  
It's the Gestapo.

568  
00:30:17,050 --> 00:30:19,870  
So everybody's cowering.

569  
00:30:19,870 --> 00:30:22,420  
My mom goes to the  
door, and she said, yes?

570  
00:30:22,420 --> 00:30:24,790  
And he said, how many  
of you are there?

571  
00:30:24,790 --> 00:30:27,340  
And my mother said,  
I don't know, 10.

572  
00:30:27,340 --> 00:30:29,280  
Get out.

573  
00:30:29,280 --> 00:30:32,520  
So my mother said, what  
do you mean "get out"?

574  
00:30:32,520 --> 00:30:37,050  
You get out in the  
street, all of you, now.

575  
00:30:37,050 --> 00:30:41,170  
You can grab what  
you can and go.

576  
00:30:41,170 --> 00:30:45,220



And so people who had been  
futzing around and looking

577  
00:30:45,220 --> 00:30:47,350  
for clothes, they  
had stuff, and they

578  
00:30:47,350 --> 00:30:50,020  
had a coat and whatever we had.

579  
00:30:50,020 --> 00:30:54,460  
And we were on the street now.

580  
00:30:54,460 --> 00:30:59,280  
It's cold, quite cold.

581  
00:30:59,280 --> 00:31:04,440  
My mother says, what are  
you going to do with us?

582  
00:31:04,440 --> 00:31:07,610  
We decided-- there  
were three of them--

583  
00:31:07,610 --> 00:31:12,530  
you are going into that  
factory that's a few streets--

584  
00:31:12,530 --> 00:31:14,720  
I don't recall where exactly.

585  
00:31:14,720 --> 00:31:17,510  
It was an empty  
factory, and they

586  
00:31:17,510 --> 00:31:20,400  
were going to put us in there.

587  
00:31:20,400 --> 00:31:22,260  
And we were to stay there.

588  
00:31:22,260 --> 00:31:27,890

And this was a cement  
floor and nothing else.

589  
00:31:27,890 --> 00:31:34,070  
So we get there, and all of  
a sudden, my mother stops.

590  
00:31:34,070 --> 00:31:40,210  
And she said to  
them, excuse me, sir.

591  
00:31:40,210 --> 00:31:42,490  
I want to tell you something.

592  
00:31:42,490 --> 00:31:43,450  
And he said, yes?

593  
00:31:43,450 --> 00:31:46,310  
What do you want?

594  
00:31:46,310 --> 00:31:52,220  
She said, when we were young  
and I lived in that house

595  
00:31:52,220 --> 00:31:55,070  
where Lilly lives  
now and my aunt--

596  
00:31:55,070 --> 00:32:01,460  
I used to live here, and you  
used to come to the back door

597  
00:32:01,460 --> 00:32:03,380  
and ask for me.

598  
00:32:03,380 --> 00:32:08,360  
And when I came out,  
you tried to kiss me.

599  
00:32:08,360 --> 00:32:11,290  
And he said to her, shut up.

600

00:32:11,290 --> 00:32:13,740  
She said, but you did.

601  
00:32:13,740 --> 00:32:21,030  
What if I spoke very  
loud, and everybody

602  
00:32:21,030 --> 00:32:28,500  
would know that you, a Nazi  
officer, kissed a Jewish girl?

603  
00:32:28,500 --> 00:32:30,420  
And he said, if  
you don't shut up,

604  
00:32:30,420 --> 00:32:35,130  
I'm going to send you and the  
kid to Dachau, meaning me.

605  
00:32:35,130 --> 00:32:38,040  
She said, that's  
very good, officer.

606  
00:32:38,040 --> 00:32:43,200  
You can send me and my  
kid, but before you do,

607  
00:32:43,200 --> 00:32:46,530  
I'm going to scream  
it all over this town

608  
00:32:46,530 --> 00:32:50,810  
that you tried to  
kiss a Jewish girl.

609  
00:32:50,810 --> 00:32:53,720  
He said, what the  
hell do you want?

610  
00:32:53,720 --> 00:32:58,820  
She said, all I want is to  
take these people, instead

611

00:32:58,820 --> 00:33:04,700  
of putting us into the factory,  
to my home in Wiesenfeld.

612  
00:33:04,700 --> 00:33:09,050  
I have a big house,  
and we can stay there.

613  
00:33:09,050 --> 00:33:12,950  
And of course, they argued  
that they can't do that,

614  
00:33:12,950 --> 00:33:14,840  
and who do you think you are?

615  
00:33:14,840 --> 00:33:19,910  
And she said, OK, it's your  
choice, but I can scream.

616  
00:33:19,910 --> 00:33:21,860  
And I thought he'd  
shoot her right there.

617  
00:33:21,860 --> 00:33:25,110

618  
00:33:25,110 --> 00:33:26,460  
Go ahead, he says.

619  
00:33:26,460 --> 00:33:29,720  
Take them and go.

620  
00:33:29,720 --> 00:33:31,515  
I have to laugh at her.

621  
00:33:31,515 --> 00:33:35,730  
And she said, but it's so cold.

622  
00:33:35,730 --> 00:33:37,200  
We can't just walk.

623  
00:33:37,200 --> 00:33:41,890

We got this old lady and a baby.

624

00:33:41,890 --> 00:33:46,630

And he just-- he was  
getting crazy, this man.

625

00:33:46,630 --> 00:33:48,160

And the other officials--

626

00:33:48,160 --> 00:33:51,160

I heard them say,  
what does she want?

627

00:33:51,160 --> 00:33:52,570

She can't walk.

628

00:33:52,570 --> 00:33:56,230

She says, I want a truck.

629

00:33:56,230 --> 00:33:58,890

And they said, get  
her a damn truck.

630

00:33:58,890 --> 00:34:00,150

They got a truck.

631

00:34:00,150 --> 00:34:01,950

They loaded us on.

632

00:34:01,950 --> 00:34:05,670

They got us a driver, and  
they got us a bodyguard

633

00:34:05,670 --> 00:34:07,680

with a machine gun or whatever.

634

00:34:07,680 --> 00:34:12,350

And they drove us to  
my parents' house.

635

00:34:12,350 --> 00:34:15,770

So she saved the day.

636  
00:34:15,770 --> 00:34:19,790  
Now, it took some  
time to find out

637  
00:34:19,790 --> 00:34:23,750  
what happened to  
my aunts and uncles

638  
00:34:23,750 --> 00:34:29,969  
and for my father to be  
released, and in the meantime,

639  
00:34:29,969 --> 00:34:34,560  
while we were all mulling  
around in my big house,

640  
00:34:34,560 --> 00:34:39,030  
my mother sent a  
telegram to a cousin

641  
00:34:39,030 --> 00:34:43,310  
we had here in the  
United States, my cousin.

642  
00:34:43,310 --> 00:34:52,300  
It was my mother's niece, who  
married an American physician,

643  
00:34:52,300 --> 00:34:57,170  
and this physician had  
gone to Vienna years

644  
00:34:57,170 --> 00:35:02,690  
before, in the 20s, to study  
at the University of Vienna.

645  
00:35:02,690 --> 00:35:07,210

646  
00:35:07,210 --> 00:35:09,890  
So you'll continue?

647

00:35:09,890 --> 00:35:13,280

Well, he went to study  
postgraduate work

648

00:35:13,280 --> 00:35:18,460

at the University of Vienna,  
and he met my cousin.

649

00:35:18,460 --> 00:35:21,020

And they dated  
while he was there,

650

00:35:21,020 --> 00:35:24,970

and he was there  
about a year or so,

651

00:35:24,970 --> 00:35:27,520

and came back to  
the United States,

652

00:35:27,520 --> 00:35:32,730

and sent her a telegram,  
will you marry me?

653

00:35:32,730 --> 00:35:35,790

And she sent back yes.

654

00:35:35,790 --> 00:35:39,310

So he came back again,  
and they were married.

655

00:35:39,310 --> 00:35:43,470

So lucky for us, now  
she's in America.

656

00:35:43,470 --> 00:35:48,630

He's an American citizen, and  
my mother sent them a telegram,

657

00:35:48,630 --> 00:35:52,290

can you send us an affidavit?

658

00:35:52,290 --> 00:35:57,300

We got to have something  
because Hugo is in jail,

659

00:35:57,300 --> 00:35:59,160

and Eric is in jail.

660

00:35:59,160 --> 00:36:04,190

And they sent an  
affidavit to Eric

661

00:36:04,190 --> 00:36:07,190

to get him out  
first, my brother,

662

00:36:07,190 --> 00:36:12,460

because they were really  
after the young men.

663

00:36:12,460 --> 00:36:18,640

So they sent Eric an affidavit,  
and to make a long story short,

664

00:36:18,640 --> 00:36:21,110

they let Eric out.

665

00:36:21,110 --> 00:36:24,620

And this was maybe December now.

666

00:36:24,620 --> 00:36:28,220

Crystal Night was  
November, so December.

667

00:36:28,220 --> 00:36:33,320

And he was able to get  
a visa and a passport

668

00:36:33,320 --> 00:36:37,820

to come to the United  
States, and he came alone.

669

00:36:37,820 --> 00:36:41,660

And my cousins-- they picked



them up, and they took him in.

670

00:36:41,660 --> 00:36:43,960

And they took care of him.

671

00:36:43,960 --> 00:36:46,480

672

00:36:46,480 --> 00:36:51,940

Was there any destruction on  
Kristallnacht in your town

673

00:36:51,940 --> 00:36:53,410

or in your father's store?

674

00:36:53,410 --> 00:36:54,970

Not in my father's store.

675

00:36:54,970 --> 00:36:55,700

No destruction?

676

00:36:55,700 --> 00:36:56,890

No.

677

00:36:56,890 --> 00:37:00,190

I think he was a  
very well-known man,

678

00:37:00,190 --> 00:37:03,760

and he helped a lot of  
people, not that it'd make

679

00:37:03,760 --> 00:37:06,460

any difference to some of them.

680

00:37:06,460 --> 00:37:07,900

But it did help.

681

00:37:07,900 --> 00:37:09,260

I'm sure.

682

00:37:09,260 --> 00:37:12,670

Do you did not see  
any destruction?

683

00:37:12,670 --> 00:37:13,840

I would recall it.

684

00:37:13,840 --> 00:37:15,910

But no destruction, no.

685

00:37:15,910 --> 00:37:20,290

I think there were a couple  
of people who came to our door

686

00:37:20,290 --> 00:37:24,390

at midnight to see  
if they could help,

687

00:37:24,390 --> 00:37:28,100

good people, solid people.

688

00:37:28,100 --> 00:37:31,190

One woman was my  
mother's washerwoman,

689

00:37:31,190 --> 00:37:35,720

and she risked her life to come  
to do whatever she could do.

690

00:37:35,720 --> 00:37:36,980

She even brought bread.

691

00:37:36,980 --> 00:37:39,710

She thought we were starving.

692

00:37:39,710 --> 00:37:46,340

But before that, I forgot to put  
this very important element in.

693

00:37:46,340 --> 00:37:50,990

Right after the  
Anschluss, not much time

694

00:37:50,990 --> 00:38:00,960

passed when a Nazi  
officer came to my house.

695

00:38:00,960 --> 00:38:05,080

And I happened to be--  
it was a two-story house,

696

00:38:05,080 --> 00:38:09,760

and downstairs was the kitchen,  
and a dining room, my father's

697

00:38:09,760 --> 00:38:12,430

office, his business.

698

00:38:12,430 --> 00:38:17,500

Upstairs were bedrooms  
and a music room,

699

00:38:17,500 --> 00:38:25,480

and I had a Baby Grand piano  
and an old-fashioned bathroom.

700

00:38:25,480 --> 00:38:27,730

We did not have running water.

701

00:38:27,730 --> 00:38:32,080

We had a beautiful home, but  
there was no running water yet.

702

00:38:32,080 --> 00:38:35,140

My mother wanted  
to institute that,

703

00:38:35,140 --> 00:38:38,230

and they hadn't gotten around  
to it, blah, blah, blah.

704

00:38:38,230 --> 00:38:46,980

So this Nazi officer came  
to the door and said--

705

00:38:46,980 --> 00:38:50,850

I was alone--  
where's your mother?

706

00:38:50,850 --> 00:38:53,220

I said, she's upstairs.

707

00:38:53,220 --> 00:38:55,590

Take me.

708

00:38:55,590 --> 00:38:59,400

So I take him, and I called her.

709

00:38:59,400 --> 00:39:02,250

And I said, [INAUDIBLE],,  
somebody to see you.

710

00:39:02,250 --> 00:39:03,120

She comes out.

711

00:39:03,120 --> 00:39:06,570

He says to her,  
where's your piano?

712

00:39:06,570 --> 00:39:09,330

713

00:39:09,330 --> 00:39:11,190

Show me.

714

00:39:11,190 --> 00:39:13,940

So she shows him.

715

00:39:13,940 --> 00:39:18,340

It will be taken  
within the hour.

716

00:39:18,340 --> 00:39:23,630

And my mother said, what?

717

00:39:23,630 --> 00:39:27,200

What do you mean it'll

be taken within the hour?

718

00:39:27,200 --> 00:39:30,680

He said, don't you  
know yet, lady,

719

00:39:30,680 --> 00:39:36,490

that Jews are not allowed  
to have anything of value?

720

00:39:36,490 --> 00:39:41,310

And she's thinking  
that this is a joke.

721

00:39:41,310 --> 00:39:44,190

And he said, now, I'm  
going to give you a chance.

722

00:39:44,190 --> 00:39:46,170

Make a decision.

723

00:39:46,170 --> 00:39:50,380

It's either you or the piano.

724

00:39:50,380 --> 00:39:54,640

They were going to take either  
the piano, or they'll take her.

725

00:39:54,640 --> 00:39:55,840

Now, what do you do?

726

00:39:55,840 --> 00:39:58,990

Even when you're feisty,  
you can't stop them.

727

00:39:58,990 --> 00:40:00,310

So that was--

728

00:40:00,310 --> 00:40:01,900

I forgot all about that.

729

00:40:01,900 --> 00:40:04,840

It was at the very beginning.

730

00:40:04,840 --> 00:40:06,760

Do you remember them  
taking the piano?

731

00:40:06,760 --> 00:40:07,740

Oh God, Yes.

732

00:40:07,740 --> 00:40:08,740

What were your thoughts?

733

00:40:08,740 --> 00:40:09,610

Crying.

734

00:40:09,610 --> 00:40:11,035

You stood there crying.

735

00:40:11,035 --> 00:40:13,990

I was crying.

736

00:40:13,990 --> 00:40:19,700

But we still had the house  
until two weeks after that,

737

00:40:19,700 --> 00:40:22,410

and they came again.

738

00:40:22,410 --> 00:40:29,390

And they saw my father,  
and they said to him,

739

00:40:29,390 --> 00:40:36,600

you know that you cannot  
possess your house any longer,

740

00:40:36,600 --> 00:40:39,150

no business, no nothing.

741

00:40:39,150 --> 00:40:42,590

I want you to sign an IOU.

742

00:40:42,590 --> 00:40:46,640

And my father said, I'm  
not signing anything.

743

00:40:46,640 --> 00:40:49,700

What do you mean my house?

744

00:40:49,700 --> 00:40:55,760

We are here to take  
possession of your business

745

00:40:55,760 --> 00:40:57,940

and your house.

746

00:40:57,940 --> 00:41:00,640

And my father said, and  
what are we supposed to do?

747

00:41:00,640 --> 00:41:04,540

He said, well, we  
are not evil people.

748

00:41:04,540 --> 00:41:09,830

We will allow you  
to live upstairs.

749

00:41:09,830 --> 00:41:13,940

So it took a while to  
straighten all this out.

750

00:41:13,940 --> 00:41:15,560

It was awful.

751

00:41:15,560 --> 00:41:22,220

We had to move upstairs, and  
if we wanted to cook and eat--

752

00:41:22,220 --> 00:41:26,570

the bathroom happened to  
have a stove for heating,

753

00:41:26,570 --> 00:41:28,520

so we had to cook on that.

754

00:41:28,520 --> 00:41:30,410

There was a bathtub in their.

755

00:41:30,410 --> 00:41:33,490

Toilet was somewhere else.

756

00:41:33,490 --> 00:41:39,580

And we had to go buy  
our own groceries,

757

00:41:39,580 --> 00:41:42,610

and the house was no longer--  
he had to sign it over

758

00:41:42,610 --> 00:41:46,075

to the German regime.

759

00:41:46,075 --> 00:41:47,860

It wasn't Austria anymore.

760

00:41:47,860 --> 00:41:49,520

It was all German.

761

00:41:49,520 --> 00:41:51,715

So that's how we  
lost everything.

762

00:41:51,715 --> 00:41:54,160

What was your father's  
state of mind then?

763

00:41:54,160 --> 00:41:55,600

My father was a very--

764

00:41:55,600 --> 00:41:58,225

765

00:41:58,225 --> 00:42:02,440

he coped with everything.



766

00:42:02,440 --> 00:42:04,730

He thought things  
through, and he said,

767

00:42:04,730 --> 00:42:07,140

this is what is happening.

768

00:42:07,140 --> 00:42:11,570

Let's figure out  
what do we do now.

769

00:42:11,570 --> 00:42:17,370

And it was very difficult  
for him, of course, my God.

770

00:42:17,370 --> 00:42:21,460

So OK, now that's gone.

771

00:42:21,460 --> 00:42:26,760

Then later-- that  
was March, I think.

772

00:42:26,760 --> 00:42:32,130

Hitler took in March,  
so as the weeks went by,

773

00:42:32,130 --> 00:42:34,660

all this happened.

774

00:42:34,660 --> 00:42:36,730

So then, as I said,  
Crystal Night--

775

00:42:36,730 --> 00:42:38,150

I already explained that.

776

00:42:38,150 --> 00:42:40,930

Papa is still sitting in jail.

777

00:42:40,930 --> 00:42:43,120

At that time, you knew what  
had happened in Germany

778  
00:42:43,120 --> 00:42:44,530  
on Crystal Night?

779  
00:42:44,530 --> 00:42:48,050  
Oh, yeah, because we knew  
it happened in every--

780  
00:42:48,050 --> 00:42:51,030  
How did you know that?

781  
00:42:51,030 --> 00:42:52,680  
Do you know how your  
parents knew it?

782  
00:42:52,680 --> 00:42:53,940  
Well, we had a radio.

783  
00:42:53,940 --> 00:42:55,230  
You had a radio, OK.

784  
00:42:55,230 --> 00:42:56,610  
And we were allowed--

785  
00:42:56,610 --> 00:42:57,527  
You still had a radio.

786  
00:42:57,527 --> 00:42:58,860  
--to have the radio.

787  
00:42:58,860 --> 00:43:01,260  
And the talk going  
on-- and you can't just

788  
00:43:01,260 --> 00:43:03,990  
whisper these things anymore.

789  
00:43:03,990 --> 00:43:05,730  
It's out now.

790  
00:43:05,730 --> 00:43:08,670

And so we are now old enough  
to know what's going--

791  
00:43:08,670 --> 00:43:09,810  
I understand, yeah.

792  
00:43:09,810 --> 00:43:13,950  
And especially,  
after Crystal Night,

793  
00:43:13,950 --> 00:43:19,950  
it was totally clear for  
Lilly, and me, and her brothers

794  
00:43:19,950 --> 00:43:23,550  
that they hate the  
Jews, and God knows

795  
00:43:23,550 --> 00:43:25,840  
what's going to happen to us.

796  
00:43:25,840 --> 00:43:32,010  
So now comes the  
affidavit for Eric.

797  
00:43:32,010 --> 00:43:35,040  
Now he's allowed to go.

798  
00:43:35,040 --> 00:43:38,310  
What's going to  
happen to Papa now?

799  
00:43:38,310 --> 00:43:41,300  
What's going to happen to us?

800  
00:43:41,300 --> 00:43:45,570  
So Eric comes to  
the United States,

801  
00:43:45,570 --> 00:43:50,280  
and he's being taken care  
of by the American physician

802

00:43:50,280 --> 00:43:54,380  
and his wife.

803

00:43:54,380 --> 00:44:00,770  
And Eric is learning English,  
and he gets himself a job.

804

00:44:00,770 --> 00:44:06,500  
They lived in New York, so Eric  
is in New York now, Woodside,

805

00:44:06,500 --> 00:44:11,460  
Long Island, which is  
almost part of Manhattan.

806

00:44:11,460 --> 00:44:15,240  
And somebody from  
Europe told them

807

00:44:15,240 --> 00:44:19,320  
that there is a  
guy in New Jersey,

808

00:44:19,320 --> 00:44:21,360  
and he works in a factory.

809

00:44:21,360 --> 00:44:25,410  
And he used to know Papa,  
and Eric, why don't you

810

00:44:25,410 --> 00:44:27,090  
try to contact him?

811

00:44:27,090 --> 00:44:29,010  
And it worked.

812

00:44:29,010 --> 00:44:33,150  
He contacted this man,  
and the man got Eric a job

813

00:44:33,150 --> 00:44:34,397  
in that factory.

814  
00:44:34,397 --> 00:44:34,980  
In New Jersey?

815  
00:44:34,980 --> 00:44:35,563  
In New Jersey.

816  
00:44:35,563 --> 00:44:40,470  
It wasn't all that bad  
to travel, to commute.

817  
00:44:40,470 --> 00:44:44,070  
Who had the money to  
pay Eric to come over?

818  
00:44:44,070 --> 00:44:45,650  
My father.

819  
00:44:45,650 --> 00:44:47,820  
Do you know what ship he was on?

820  
00:44:47,820 --> 00:44:51,750  
No, I don't know what he was on.

821  
00:44:51,750 --> 00:44:54,260  
I can only tell you  
later what we were on.

822  
00:44:54,260 --> 00:44:56,910

823  
00:44:56,910 --> 00:44:58,830  
So he is offered this  
job in New Jersey.

824  
00:44:58,830 --> 00:45:03,990  
So he takes the job, and  
a man said to him, Eric,

825  
00:45:03,990 --> 00:45:06,780  
you look a little bit  
depressed all the time.

826  
00:45:06,780 --> 00:45:08,980  
What's the matter?

827  
00:45:08,980 --> 00:45:14,230  
And he said, I'm worried about  
my parents and my sister.

828  
00:45:14,230 --> 00:45:17,630  
They're still over there.

829  
00:45:17,630 --> 00:45:21,620  
And this man said to  
him, well, why don't you

830  
00:45:21,620 --> 00:45:24,740  
write to President  
Roosevelt and tell them?

831  
00:45:24,740 --> 00:45:27,950  
And Eric said, yeah, right.

832  
00:45:27,950 --> 00:45:30,110  
I can't even speak the language.

833  
00:45:30,110 --> 00:45:31,610  
I can't write, and  
I'm going to tell

834  
00:45:31,610 --> 00:45:34,430  
the President, hey-- you know.

835  
00:45:34,430 --> 00:45:37,520  
And this man said,  
well, you never know.

836  
00:45:37,520 --> 00:45:40,130  
And Eric said, no, I'm  
not going to do it.

837  
00:45:40,130 --> 00:45:42,620  
This man kept pushing.

838  
00:45:42,620 --> 00:45:45,920  
He said, Eric, you  
got to try things,

839  
00:45:45,920 --> 00:45:48,360  
and Eric finally said--  
he got disgusted.

840  
00:45:48,360 --> 00:45:50,990  
He said, OK ready.

841  
00:45:50,990 --> 00:45:52,730  
Will you help me?

842  
00:45:52,730 --> 00:45:54,950  
And the man said, I'll  
help you write the letter.

843  
00:45:54,950 --> 00:45:59,900  
So Eric writes this letter,  
Dear Mr. President, whatever,

844  
00:45:59,900 --> 00:46:02,420  
my parents, my little  
sister, I'm very worried,

845  
00:46:02,420 --> 00:46:06,980  
it's a terrible time,  
sends it, forgets about it.

846  
00:46:06,980 --> 00:46:09,860  
Two, three weeks pass by.

847  
00:46:09,860 --> 00:46:15,440  
A letter comes from the  
Office of the President,

848  
00:46:15,440 --> 00:46:19,580  
from his press secretary.

849  
00:46:19,580 --> 00:46:25,160

Dear Mr. Wellisch, the  
President has been made aware

850  
00:46:25,160 --> 00:46:28,880  
of your situation  
and has directed

851  
00:46:28,880 --> 00:46:33,230  
me to tell you  
what to do and how

852  
00:46:33,230 --> 00:46:36,460  
you can get your parents out.

853  
00:46:36,460 --> 00:46:42,550  
And it had to be a farmers  
visa because the United

854  
00:46:42,550 --> 00:46:48,150  
States had a quota,  
didn't let everybody in.

855  
00:46:48,150 --> 00:46:54,840  
But if you knew anything about  
agriculture, you had a chance.

856  
00:46:54,840 --> 00:46:58,980  
Luckily, my father owned a farm.

857  
00:46:58,980 --> 00:47:00,390  
I got pictures over there.

858  
00:47:00,390 --> 00:47:02,660  
I can show you later.

859  
00:47:02,660 --> 00:47:04,910  
He owned the farm  
right in Wiesenfeld.

860  
00:47:04,910 --> 00:47:06,200  
It was a big farm.

861



00:47:06,200 --> 00:47:08,750

He owned it, but  
he didn't run it.

862

00:47:08,750 --> 00:47:10,940

It was somebody else who ran it.

863

00:47:10,940 --> 00:47:14,060

But Papa was the  
kind of man who was

864

00:47:14,060 --> 00:47:16,310

well-informed about everything.

865

00:47:16,310 --> 00:47:17,210

He owned a farm.

866

00:47:17,210 --> 00:47:19,970

He knew about farming.

867

00:47:19,970 --> 00:47:24,620

He knew about lumber,  
and everything

868

00:47:24,620 --> 00:47:27,275

that he did he was  
well-informed about.

869

00:47:27,275 --> 00:47:30,410

870

00:47:30,410 --> 00:47:37,130

So my brother was able  
to communicate to Papa

871

00:47:37,130 --> 00:47:42,140

to apply for a farmer's visa.

872

00:47:42,140 --> 00:47:45,710

To make a long story  
short, he got it,

873

00:47:45,710 --> 00:47:49,490  
but it took from  
January or February

874  
00:47:49,490 --> 00:47:53,840  
until the end of August  
for us to get out.

875  
00:47:53,840 --> 00:47:57,980  
We lived under the Hitler  
regime for a long, long time,

876  
00:47:57,980 --> 00:48:00,920  
and things were getting  
harder and harder.

877  
00:48:00,920 --> 00:48:03,860  
But he did get  
the farmer's visa,

878  
00:48:03,860 --> 00:48:07,730  
and he was able to  
have enough money

879  
00:48:07,730 --> 00:48:14,780  
to have transportation for us  
to come to the United States.

880  
00:48:14,780 --> 00:48:20,760  
And the ship we were on  
was called the Volendam.

881  
00:48:20,760 --> 00:48:27,100  
So in August 28 we  
arrived in New York,

882  
00:48:27,100 --> 00:48:31,110  
and this was about  
a week before Poland

883  
00:48:31,110 --> 00:48:34,170  
was invaded, when that was it.

884

00:48:34,170 --> 00:48:36,220  
Nobody got out.

885  
00:48:36,220 --> 00:48:39,480  
We will get to that, of course.

886  
00:48:39,480 --> 00:48:42,810  
You said things got worse  
between January and August,

887  
00:48:42,810 --> 00:48:43,470  
when you left.

888  
00:48:43,470 --> 00:48:46,230  
What kind of things--  
how did your life change?

889  
00:48:46,230 --> 00:48:47,700  
What weren't you allowed to do?

890  
00:48:47,700 --> 00:48:50,850  
We weren't allowed  
to do anything.

891  
00:48:50,850 --> 00:48:52,560  
We were just sitting tight.

892  
00:48:52,560 --> 00:48:56,790  
My father was allowed to  
go to different offices

893  
00:48:56,790 --> 00:48:58,680  
to try to get the visa.

894  
00:48:58,680 --> 00:49:00,660  
He got to do that.

895  
00:49:00,660 --> 00:49:06,090  
And you have to get  
a passport, and you

896  
00:49:06,090 --> 00:49:08,230

have to get stuff together to--

897

00:49:08,230 --> 00:49:10,530

what are you  
allowed to take out?

898

00:49:10,530 --> 00:49:12,450

What are you're not  
allowed to take?

899

00:49:12,450 --> 00:49:18,120

That kind of stuff that he was  
allowed to do to go to Vienna

900

00:49:18,120 --> 00:49:20,180

and do that.

901

00:49:20,180 --> 00:49:22,810

But other than that, nothing.

902

00:49:22,810 --> 00:49:25,150

When did he get out of prison?

903

00:49:25,150 --> 00:49:28,810

Well, he must have been-- from  
Crystal Night, November 10--

904

00:49:28,810 --> 00:49:30,030

I don't know, about a month.

905

00:49:30,030 --> 00:49:31,480

A month?

906

00:49:31,480 --> 00:49:31,980

Yeah.

907

00:49:31,980 --> 00:49:33,340

Yeah.

908

00:49:33,340 --> 00:49:36,480

What other restrictions did  
you have in that January

909  
00:49:36,480 --> 00:49:38,100  
to August time span?

910  
00:49:38,100 --> 00:49:40,630

911  
00:49:40,630 --> 00:49:43,000  
Well, I couldn't  
play with anybody

912  
00:49:43,000 --> 00:49:45,700  
as far as child is concerned.

913  
00:49:45,700 --> 00:49:52,040  
I was able to go to Lilly,  
and we could be together.

914  
00:49:52,040 --> 00:49:52,540  
--together.

915  
00:49:52,540 --> 00:49:53,980  
She was with us anyway.

916  
00:49:53,980 --> 00:49:57,940  
They were in my house until--

917  
00:49:57,940 --> 00:50:00,160  
all these people that  
my mother rescued--

918  
00:50:00,160 --> 00:50:01,450  
Had brought, yeah--

919  
00:50:01,450 --> 00:50:04,510  
--kept us busy because  
there were a lot of people

920  
00:50:04,510 --> 00:50:06,190  
to feed and the bedding.

921

00:50:06,190 --> 00:50:08,620

And so they were up on  
the second floor with you?

922

00:50:08,620 --> 00:50:11,900

Yeah, in different bedrooms.

923

00:50:11,900 --> 00:50:16,160

My grandmother lived with  
us, and she had died.

924

00:50:16,160 --> 00:50:18,950

But we were able to  
use where she lived,

925

00:50:18,950 --> 00:50:22,620

and she had a kitchen and  
two or three bedrooms.

926

00:50:22,620 --> 00:50:25,520

So we were able to put  
these people in there,

927

00:50:25,520 --> 00:50:30,380

in my parents' bedroom, my  
bedroom, that lovely music

928

00:50:30,380 --> 00:50:31,250

room.

929

00:50:31,250 --> 00:50:34,670

Everything was used.

930

00:50:34,670 --> 00:50:36,800

And we left them there.

931

00:50:36,800 --> 00:50:42,870

Did you see any signs  
on the street about Jews

932

00:50:42,870 --> 00:50:44,370

not being able to  
do certain things?

933  
00:50:44,370 --> 00:50:45,970  
Not there in this town.

934  
00:50:45,970 --> 00:50:50,580  
There was nothing, except  
where my brother was

935  
00:50:50,580 --> 00:50:52,620  
in that city, in  
Sankt Polten, there

936  
00:50:52,620 --> 00:50:58,020  
were signs on the benches around  
the schools, "No Jews Allowed."

937  
00:50:58,020 --> 00:51:00,640  
They couldn't sit there.

938  
00:51:00,640 --> 00:51:05,620  
And my uncle, the one  
whom I told you we

939  
00:51:05,620 --> 00:51:08,780  
saw in the green wagon--

940  
00:51:08,780 --> 00:51:14,660  
he was taken to Vienna to scrub  
the sidewalk with a toothbrush.

941  
00:51:14,660 --> 00:51:16,290  
You've heard about those things.

942  
00:51:16,290 --> 00:51:19,760  
So he was one of  
them, but he made it.

943  
00:51:19,760 --> 00:51:26,790  
Now, the sad part is that  
after we were here already,

944  
00:51:26,790 --> 00:51:31,890

we were very concerned about the  
rest of the family, especially,

945  
00:51:31,890 --> 00:51:32,760  
and Lilly--

946  
00:51:32,760 --> 00:51:36,460  
I was worried more about Lilly.

947  
00:51:36,460 --> 00:51:43,850  
We were like sisters, and  
the edict, more or less,

948  
00:51:43,850 --> 00:51:51,540  
was that the Nazis were after  
the men and the young boys.

949  
00:51:51,540 --> 00:51:58,690  
And so my uncle and  
Lilly's older brother

950  
00:51:58,690 --> 00:52:02,650  
were able to get out through  
some Jewish organization here.

951  
00:52:02,650 --> 00:52:05,080  
I don't remember which one.

952  
00:52:05,080 --> 00:52:08,530  
And they left Austria.

953  
00:52:08,530 --> 00:52:13,830  
They left Wiesenfeld, where  
they were, in my house,

954  
00:52:13,830 --> 00:52:17,420  
and came to the United States.

955  
00:52:17,420 --> 00:52:22,760  
And my uncle thought he could  
get his wife and Lilly out

956



00:52:22,760 --> 00:52:28,490  
and never made it.

957  
00:52:28,490 --> 00:52:33,030  
So he's here with his  
son and with the guilt,

958  
00:52:33,030 --> 00:52:34,920  
why did I do this?

959  
00:52:34,920 --> 00:52:37,960  
And you know how you can--

960  
00:52:37,960 --> 00:52:43,750  
My cousin is still living in St.  
Louis, Lilly's older brother.

961  
00:52:43,750 --> 00:52:45,010  
He's OK.

962  
00:52:45,010 --> 00:52:50,110  
But there are so  
many stories attached

963  
00:52:50,110 --> 00:52:54,920  
to what I'm telling you that  
it will take me all day.

964  
00:52:54,920 --> 00:52:56,320  
Let's talk about your leaving.

965  
00:52:56,320 --> 00:52:59,470  
Why did you say to Lilly  
when it was time to leave.

966  
00:52:59,470 --> 00:53:02,530  
When it was time to  
leave, I said nothing.

967  
00:53:02,530 --> 00:53:06,820  
My father told me  
to be very quiet.

968

00:53:06,820 --> 00:53:11,650

We are leaving  
midnight on a train.

969

00:53:11,650 --> 00:53:13,640

We didn't have a  
school in Wiesenfeld,

970

00:53:13,640 --> 00:53:17,440

but we had a train station,  
which, to this day,

971

00:53:17,440 --> 00:53:19,660

doesn't make any sense.

972

00:53:19,660 --> 00:53:23,500

We were going to take  
a train to Vienna,

973

00:53:23,500 --> 00:53:28,690

and from Vienna we  
were going to Holland.

974

00:53:28,690 --> 00:53:32,890

And I'm not to say  
anything to anybody.

975

00:53:32,890 --> 00:53:34,320

It was too dangerous.

976

00:53:34,320 --> 00:53:37,000

977

00:53:37,000 --> 00:53:39,980

What did you take with you?

978

00:53:39,980 --> 00:53:44,300

We had a few things we  
were allowed to take.

979

00:53:44,300 --> 00:53:48,890

At that time, it was still

not as bad as later on.

980  
00:53:48,890 --> 00:53:51,440  
It's ridiculous  
to even mention it

981  
00:53:51,440 --> 00:53:55,040  
because nobody lived anymore.

982  
00:53:55,040 --> 00:53:59,750  
But we could take our  
clothing, and my mother

983  
00:53:59,750 --> 00:54:02,690  
had some silver spoons.

984  
00:54:02,690 --> 00:54:05,780  
And she had that in the  
suitcase, and that was OK.

985  
00:54:05,780 --> 00:54:10,490  
And this necklace-- that's hers.

986  
00:54:10,490 --> 00:54:12,130  
That was my grandmother's.

987  
00:54:12,130 --> 00:54:15,560  
Now, I don't remember  
how she got that out.

988  
00:54:15,560 --> 00:54:20,780  
But that and nothing  
else as far as jewelry

989  
00:54:20,780 --> 00:54:25,040  
is concerned because one day the  
Nazi came in and asked again,

990  
00:54:25,040 --> 00:54:28,190  
where's your mother?

991  
00:54:28,190 --> 00:54:29,340

Where's your jewelry?

992

00:54:29,340 --> 00:54:31,460

It's in the drawer, wherever.

993

00:54:31,460 --> 00:54:32,360

Open it.

994

00:54:32,360 --> 00:54:34,130

She opens it, and  
he goes through it.

995

00:54:34,130 --> 00:54:36,440

And he finds her  
engagement ring,

996

00:54:36,440 --> 00:54:40,280

which was a gorgeous ring, an  
emerald surrounded by diamonds.

997

00:54:40,280 --> 00:54:44,120

Ah, OK, in the pocket.

998

00:54:44,120 --> 00:54:48,260

And I had a little  
ruby that I loved.

999

00:54:48,260 --> 00:54:50,810

Oh, is that the kid's?

1000

00:54:50,810 --> 00:54:51,980

Oh, that's mine.

1001

00:54:51,980 --> 00:54:56,750

Yes, oh, OK, that kind of thing.

1002

00:54:56,750 --> 00:54:59,690

But Papa said,  
that's not the worst.

1003

00:54:59,690 --> 00:55:00,890

We're getting out now.

1004  
00:55:00,890 --> 00:55:08,500  
So when we did get out, this was  
in the dead of night in August,

1005  
00:55:08,500 --> 00:55:10,360  
and I couldn't say anything.

1006  
00:55:10,360 --> 00:55:12,150  
And I was pretty  
upset about that.

1007  
00:55:12,150 --> 00:55:15,640

1008  
00:55:15,640 --> 00:55:20,550  
Did you take anything besides  
clothes like books or anything?

1009  
00:55:20,550 --> 00:55:21,050  
Nothing?

1010  
00:55:21,050 --> 00:55:22,610  
Yeah, we took books.

1011  
00:55:22,610 --> 00:55:25,220  
My mother had a  
beautiful library,

1012  
00:55:25,220 --> 00:55:28,670  
and she packed them  
in some kind of box.

1013  
00:55:28,670 --> 00:55:29,450  
And I don't know.

1014  
00:55:29,450 --> 00:55:35,000  
I guess-- of all things, but  
when you're in a situation like

1015  
00:55:35,000 --> 00:55:37,040  
this, you want to take

something that you--

1016

00:55:37,040 --> 00:55:39,560

Did you take any  
dolls or anything?

1017

00:55:39,560 --> 00:55:45,140

No, I couldn't take anything,  
not that, mostly clothing

1018

00:55:45,140 --> 00:55:54,660

and no linens, nothing,  
mostly clothing and a few odds

1019

00:55:54,660 --> 00:55:55,260

and ends.

1020

00:55:55,260 --> 00:55:56,410

So it was August.

1021

00:55:56,410 --> 00:55:58,740

And what port did you  
leave from when you went?

1022

00:55:58,740 --> 00:56:01,050

Well, now, this  
is another story.

1023

00:56:01,050 --> 00:56:02,940

You took the train  
to Vienna, you said.

1024

00:56:02,940 --> 00:56:08,290

Took the train to Vienna,  
and my father's aunt

1025

00:56:08,290 --> 00:56:11,230

was there at the train station.

1026

00:56:11,230 --> 00:56:13,780

And I don't remember  
much about anybody else,

1027

00:56:13,780 --> 00:56:19,680

but she was there because she  
was my very favorite aunt.

1028

00:56:19,680 --> 00:56:26,260

And she hugged me, and she  
said, you should be very happy.

1029

00:56:26,260 --> 00:56:27,720

You know why?

1030

00:56:27,720 --> 00:56:29,770

I said, why should  
I be so happy?

1031

00:56:29,770 --> 00:56:32,910

She said, not only because  
you're getting away from here

1032

00:56:32,910 --> 00:56:36,510

but because you won't have  
to go to school on Saturday

1033

00:56:36,510 --> 00:56:37,380

in America.

1034

00:56:37,380 --> 00:56:40,540

1035

00:56:40,540 --> 00:56:44,070

And we cried, and  
she said, my darling,

1036

00:56:44,070 --> 00:56:47,310

I don't think I'll  
ever see you again.

1037

00:56:47,310 --> 00:56:50,280

And I never did.

1038

00:56:50,280 --> 00:56:55,410

So we got on that train,

and we get to the border.

1039  
00:56:55,410 --> 00:57:00,380  
The Gestapo comes  
on, checking papers,

1040  
00:57:00,380 --> 00:57:05,000  
comes to Papa, papers,  
passport, takes the papers,

1041  
00:57:05,000 --> 00:57:09,900  
walks away, and brings  
another officer, and says,

1042  
00:57:09,900 --> 00:57:11,150  
there's something wrong here.

1043  
00:57:11,150 --> 00:57:14,180  
Get off the train.

1044  
00:57:14,180 --> 00:57:15,020  
Take the kid.

1045  
00:57:15,020 --> 00:57:16,040  
Take your wife.

1046  
00:57:16,040 --> 00:57:19,010  
Get off.

1047  
00:57:19,010 --> 00:57:21,380  
We had to get off.

1048  
00:57:21,380 --> 00:57:24,750  
The train goes away.

1049  
00:57:24,750 --> 00:57:26,430  
That was hell.

1050  
00:57:26,430 --> 00:57:30,240  
They took my father  
into an office,



1051

00:57:30,240 --> 00:57:34,140

and they told my mother  
and me to sit and wait.

1052

00:57:34,140 --> 00:57:37,680

And we sit, and we wait,  
and train after train

1053

00:57:37,680 --> 00:57:41,340

is coming and going,  
our train long gone.

1054

00:57:41,340 --> 00:57:43,190

No Papa.

1055

00:57:43,190 --> 00:57:44,740

Now what?

1056

00:57:44,740 --> 00:57:48,280

I said to my mother, I think  
we're going to die now.

1057

00:57:48,280 --> 00:57:52,870

And she pushed me, and she  
said, we are not dying.

1058

00:57:52,870 --> 00:57:55,180

If I have anything to  
do with these guys--

1059

00:57:55,180 --> 00:57:58,750

1060

00:57:58,750 --> 00:58:00,700

they could have killed  
her more than once.

1061

00:58:00,700 --> 00:58:01,630

She had a mouth.

1062

00:58:01,630 --> 00:58:09,690

And it was about three or four

hours later when Papa came out.

1063

00:58:09,690 --> 00:58:12,170

We can go.

1064

00:58:12,170 --> 00:58:13,610

What happened?

1065

00:58:13,610 --> 00:58:17,240

They did not believe  
that he knew anything

1066

00:58:17,240 --> 00:58:22,810

about farming because  
he was a businessman,

1067

00:58:22,810 --> 00:58:28,990

and they brought in a  
knowledgeable agricultural

1068

00:58:28,990 --> 00:58:36,010

expert who grilled him for two  
hours about cows, and milk,

1069

00:58:36,010 --> 00:58:38,380

and what have you.

1070

00:58:38,380 --> 00:58:39,910

And Papa-- thank God.

1071

00:58:39,910 --> 00:58:41,860

He knew the answers.

1072

00:58:41,860 --> 00:58:45,320

He was well-informed  
about everything,

1073

00:58:45,320 --> 00:58:47,300

and they finally had to--

1074

00:58:47,300 --> 00:58:51,220

well, they didn't have to let

him go, but they let him go.

1075

00:58:51,220 --> 00:58:55,200

So we got on the  
next train and went

1076

00:58:55,200 --> 00:59:01,740

to Rotterdam, and  
the Jewish committees

1077

00:59:01,740 --> 00:59:03,480

and even the Dutch people--

1078

00:59:03,480 --> 00:59:08,490

they met every train  
coming from Germany,

1079

00:59:08,490 --> 00:59:11,910

and they put us up  
in private homes,

1080

00:59:11,910 --> 00:59:16,050

in hotels, wherever  
there was room.

1081

00:59:16,050 --> 00:59:18,930

And we were put up--

1082

00:59:18,930 --> 00:59:20,920

at first I think it was a hotel.

1083

00:59:20,920 --> 00:59:25,200

We didn't stay long because  
the ship was leaving anyway,

1084

00:59:25,200 --> 00:59:28,230

but they treated  
us like royalty.

1085

00:59:28,230 --> 00:59:32,340

They were so kind,  
the Dutch people.

1086

00:59:32,340 --> 00:59:37,940

And when we did finally  
get on that ship,

1087

00:59:37,940 --> 00:59:43,090

it was, of course, the Volendam,  
a Dutch ship, Dutch crew.

1088

00:59:43,090 --> 00:59:48,250

And they treated the  
immigrants beautifully,

1089

00:59:48,250 --> 00:59:52,390

and I remember having  
to eat brick ice cream.

1090

00:59:52,390 --> 00:59:56,440

Three times a day, they  
brought this ice cream,

1091

00:59:56,440 --> 01:00:02,950

and to this day, if you show  
me brick ice cream, I go blech.

1092

01:00:02,950 --> 01:00:05,390

And we got here.

1093

01:00:05,390 --> 01:00:08,660

Were you sad about  
leaving Europe, leaving--

1094

01:00:08,660 --> 01:00:11,990

Well, and I was  
distracted a lot.

1095

01:00:11,990 --> 01:00:13,910

First of all, you  
get into Holland.

1096

01:00:13,910 --> 01:00:16,820

You meet another country.

1097

01:00:16,820 --> 01:00:20,960

You're going to a hotel,  
so much distraction.

1098

01:00:20,960 --> 01:00:25,070

But then it hit me  
what's happening.

1099

01:00:25,070 --> 01:00:27,630

You're leaving your home.

1100

01:00:27,630 --> 01:00:30,000

Am I ever going  
to go home again?

1101

01:00:30,000 --> 01:00:32,160

What's going to  
happen to Lilly--

1102

01:00:32,160 --> 01:00:38,230

Lilly, Lilly, Lilly-- and  
all my other relatives?

1103

01:00:38,230 --> 01:00:47,060

Lilly was killed with Otto and  
my aunts in the 40s in Sobibor

1104

01:00:47,060 --> 01:00:51,960

or someplace like that,  
shot in a mass grave.

1105

01:00:51,960 --> 01:00:58,480

And other people--  
horrible stories

1106

01:00:58,480 --> 01:01:03,290

that my family suffered,  
like so many others.

1107

01:01:03,290 --> 01:01:07,910

So anyway-- this  
is interesting--

1108

01:01:07,910 --> 01:01:10,250  
we come on the Volendam.

1109  
01:01:10,250 --> 01:01:14,480  
It took us, I think,  
almost two weeks because we

1110  
01:01:14,480 --> 01:01:20,320  
found out later from the captain  
that the ocean was mined,

1111  
01:01:20,320 --> 01:01:24,550  
and he was trying to figure  
out what the best way would

1112  
01:01:24,550 --> 01:01:27,490  
the Germans not put a mine.

1113  
01:01:27,490 --> 01:01:32,410  
So that's why-- luckily,  
we avoided that.

1114  
01:01:32,410 --> 01:01:36,460  
The Volendam went  
from New York to,

1115  
01:01:36,460 --> 01:01:41,140  
I believe, Cuba with some  
refugees, dropped them off,

1116  
01:01:41,140 --> 01:01:43,040  
went back.

1117  
01:01:43,040 --> 01:01:47,390  
And that's all I ever knew, and  
after I was here and married

1118  
01:01:47,390 --> 01:01:58,590  
already, my brother-in-law took  
us to a very fancy restaurant

1119  
01:01:58,590 --> 01:01:59,970  
in New York.

1120  
01:01:59,970 --> 01:02:02,400  
There was some kind  
of celebration,

1121  
01:02:02,400 --> 01:02:08,880  
and he took my husband and  
me and he and his wife,

1122  
01:02:08,880 --> 01:02:13,380  
and each table almost  
had their own waiter.

1123  
01:02:13,380 --> 01:02:14,580  
It was a bit much.

1124  
01:02:14,580 --> 01:02:18,390  
They'd come and put the napkin  
on your lap, and I'm not--

1125  
01:02:18,390 --> 01:02:21,000

1126  
01:02:21,000 --> 01:02:27,290  
And this one waiter  
spoke with an accent,

1127  
01:02:27,290 --> 01:02:30,290  
and he was very nice  
and very courteous.

1128  
01:02:30,290 --> 01:02:33,710  
And I said, so  
where are you from?

1129  
01:02:33,710 --> 01:02:37,410  
And he said, I'm from Holland.

1130  
01:02:37,410 --> 01:02:42,300  
And I said, you know,  
your people a wonderful.

1131

01:02:42,300 --> 01:02:46,860  
And he said, oh, madam, do you  
know anything about Holland?

1132  
01:02:46,860 --> 01:02:50,140  
And I said, well, I  
just tell you briefly,

1133  
01:02:50,140 --> 01:02:52,510  
we came from Austria  
through Germany,

1134  
01:02:52,510 --> 01:02:54,220  
and your people helped us.

1135  
01:02:54,220 --> 01:02:56,170  
And he said, oh yes.

1136  
01:02:56,170 --> 01:03:00,830  
And he said, may I  
ask you what ship?

1137  
01:03:00,830 --> 01:03:08,450  
And I said, the Volendam, and  
he said, oh, almost like, oh.

1138  
01:03:08,450 --> 01:03:11,350  
I said, are you OK?

1139  
01:03:11,350 --> 01:03:19,880  
And he said, at that time, I was  
a crew member on the Volendam,

1140  
01:03:19,880 --> 01:03:23,980  
and we had a trip to Cuba.

1141  
01:03:23,980 --> 01:03:27,670  
And on the way  
back, we hit a mine,

1142  
01:03:27,670 --> 01:03:31,280  
and all my crew members died.



1143

01:03:31,280 --> 01:03:35,430

I'm one of the  
very few survivors.

1144

01:03:35,430 --> 01:03:38,080

I said, I think that's  
the end of my dinner.

1145

01:03:38,080 --> 01:03:39,870

I can't-- can you--

1146

01:03:39,870 --> 01:03:44,600

1147

01:03:44,600 --> 01:03:45,680

that was quite a--

1148

01:03:45,680 --> 01:03:48,560

1149

01:03:48,560 --> 01:03:53,630

so that was one of the  
stories that made me very sad,

1150

01:03:53,630 --> 01:03:57,690

but I said, I'm so  
glad you're alive.

1151

01:03:57,690 --> 01:04:00,716

He had tears in his  
eyes, and he walked away.

1152

01:04:00,716 --> 01:04:01,628

Yeah, I'm sure.

1153

01:04:01,628 --> 01:04:04,820

1154

01:04:04,820 --> 01:04:07,640

Do you remember the  
organization that helped you,

1155

01:04:07,640 --> 01:04:11,870

and the Jewish was it the  
Joint Distribution Committee?

1156

01:04:11,870 --> 01:04:14,030

In Holland, when you--  
you said there was--

1157

01:04:14,030 --> 01:04:15,918

Well, the Jewish--  
what else is there?

1158

01:04:15,918 --> 01:04:17,210

There were other organizations.

1159

01:04:17,210 --> 01:04:18,418

We had so many organizations.

1160

01:04:18,418 --> 01:04:19,765

Yeah, there so many.

1161

01:04:19,765 --> 01:04:24,380

OK, so now you're in  
the United States.

1162

01:04:24,380 --> 01:04:27,110

What did the United States  
mean to you as a young girl?

1163

01:04:27,110 --> 01:04:30,130

Well, I tell you,  
the first impression

1164

01:04:30,130 --> 01:04:32,620

seeing the skyscrapers was--

1165

01:04:32,620 --> 01:04:35,860

I said, this cannot be.

1166

01:04:35,860 --> 01:04:38,260

I come from this little  
town in Wiesenfeld.

1167  
01:04:38,260 --> 01:04:40,300  
Vienna is gorgeous.

1168  
01:04:40,300 --> 01:04:41,540  
Have you ever been?

1169  
01:04:41,540 --> 01:04:42,040  
Yeah, yes.

1170  
01:04:42,040 --> 01:04:44,140  
It's a beautiful city.

1171  
01:04:44,140 --> 01:04:48,580  
It has some novel, but  
this is ridiculous.

1172  
01:04:48,580 --> 01:04:51,580

1173  
01:04:51,580 --> 01:04:55,150  
So I was very  
impressed but very--

1174  
01:04:55,150 --> 01:04:59,070  
my English was minimal.

1175  
01:04:59,070 --> 01:05:01,020  
I did have English in school.

1176  
01:05:01,020 --> 01:05:02,130  
Oh, you did?

1177  
01:05:02,130 --> 01:05:03,600  
Yeah.

1178  
01:05:03,600 --> 01:05:08,200  
But it's difficult when  
you're in the country,

1179  
01:05:08,200 --> 01:05:10,390

and you try to  
converse with people.

1180  
01:05:10,390 --> 01:05:12,820  
You don't understand  
it because it's--

1181  
01:05:12,820 --> 01:05:15,535  
you think, why do  
they talk so fast?

1182  
01:05:15,535 --> 01:05:17,130  
--fast, yes.

1183  
01:05:17,130 --> 01:05:22,060  
But I had to go to school, and  
I was admitted to sixth grade.

1184  
01:05:22,060 --> 01:05:28,290  
Now, here I am 13 now, so I'm  
the oldest in the classroom.

1185  
01:05:28,290 --> 01:05:31,910  
And the children  
were very nice to me,

1186  
01:05:31,910 --> 01:05:33,890  
and the teacher explained--

1187  
01:05:33,890 --> 01:05:36,770  
her name was Mrs. Sachs--

1188  
01:05:36,770 --> 01:05:41,590  
Jewish lady-- that Trudy has  
just come from another country.

1189  
01:05:41,590 --> 01:05:45,810  
And she was trying to put  
a little history in there

1190  
01:05:45,810 --> 01:05:52,140  
to tell the kids why this  
is happening, why I'm here.

1191  
01:05:52,140 --> 01:05:56,370  
And they were listening, and  
very polite, and very sweet,

1192  
01:05:56,370 --> 01:05:59,680  
and, can I help  
you, and all that.

1193  
01:05:59,680 --> 01:06:04,340  
So the teacher said, you don't  
have to do anything, to me.

1194  
01:06:04,340 --> 01:06:07,910  
Just listen to the language.

1195  
01:06:07,910 --> 01:06:11,060  
And I'm listening, and  
I guess I'm learning.

1196  
01:06:11,060 --> 01:06:15,020  
And three months passed  
by, and she said,

1197  
01:06:15,020 --> 01:06:17,750  
we're having a  
vocabulary test today.

1198  
01:06:17,750 --> 01:06:19,610  
We're going to have 100 words.

1199  
01:06:19,610 --> 01:06:24,440  
And I raised my hand,  
and she said, yes?

1200  
01:06:24,440 --> 01:06:26,720  
I said, could I try it?

1201  
01:06:26,720 --> 01:06:29,590  
And she said, yes.

1202  
01:06:29,590 --> 01:06:32,120

I got 100.

1203

01:06:32,120 --> 01:06:35,270

And the next day-- this  
was after she comes in,

1204

01:06:35,270 --> 01:06:40,960

and she said, I have an  
announcement to make, class.

1205

01:06:40,960 --> 01:06:44,680

We had this vocabulary  
test yesterday,

1206

01:06:44,680 --> 01:06:50,690

and I want you to know  
that Trudy got 100%.

1207

01:06:50,690 --> 01:06:53,690

And they all stood  
up, and that made me--

1208

01:06:53,690 --> 01:06:57,860

that was America, my goodness,  
whereas in Europe you

1209

01:06:57,860 --> 01:07:00,470

have to sit quietly,  
and most of the time

1210

01:07:00,470 --> 01:07:04,190

you have your  
hands on the table.

1211

01:07:04,190 --> 01:07:08,030

And you don't say a word,  
and you don't-- and here

1212

01:07:08,030 --> 01:07:10,760

the children are up  
and celebrating this.

1213

01:07:10,760 --> 01:07:13,160

I thought, America is wonderful.

1214

01:07:13,160 --> 01:07:15,800

1215

01:07:15,800 --> 01:07:17,360

So where were you living then?

1216

01:07:17,360 --> 01:07:18,260

Woodside.

1217

01:07:18,260 --> 01:07:20,630

Woodside, yeah.

1218

01:07:20,630 --> 01:07:25,123

And then I skipped sixth grade  
and went to seventh grade.

1219

01:07:25,123 --> 01:07:25,790

--seventh grade.

1220

01:07:25,790 --> 01:07:29,160

And I was in seventh  
grade for a few months.

1221

01:07:29,160 --> 01:07:30,930

I don't remember how long.

1222

01:07:30,930 --> 01:07:36,350

And I skipped to eighth grade,  
and then I moved to New Jersey

1223

01:07:36,350 --> 01:07:39,430

with my parents.

1224

01:07:39,430 --> 01:07:43,150

And both my parents  
worked in factories

1225

01:07:43,150 --> 01:07:45,010

and had a little room.

1226

01:07:45,010 --> 01:07:46,120

I couldn't live with them.

1227

01:07:46,120 --> 01:07:47,080

They had no room.

1228

01:07:47,080 --> 01:07:50,960

I lived with my cousin,  
the ones who brought me.

1229

01:07:50,960 --> 01:07:57,550

I stayed with them for, oh, a  
year or two while my parents

1230

01:07:57,550 --> 01:08:00,370

were looking for work.

1231

01:08:00,370 --> 01:08:01,280

Oh, boy.

1232

01:08:01,280 --> 01:08:03,010

Was that hard.

1233

01:08:03,010 --> 01:08:05,020

So they only had one room.

1234

01:08:05,020 --> 01:08:07,180

Were you in touch with  
Lilly at that point?

1235

01:08:07,180 --> 01:08:08,230

No more.

1236

01:08:08,230 --> 01:08:09,050

Once you left--

1237

01:08:09,050 --> 01:08:10,280

Once I left, no more.

1238

01:08:10,280 --> 01:08:11,822

--you had no



communication with them.

1239

01:08:11,822 --> 01:08:14,950

No, no, no, no.

1240

01:08:14,950 --> 01:08:17,620

So at any rate,  
then my parents were

1241

01:08:17,620 --> 01:08:22,000

able to get a little  
apartment, one bedroom,

1242

01:08:22,000 --> 01:08:27,120

and they got a couch so I  
could sleep in the living room.

1243

01:08:27,120 --> 01:08:29,290

Where was your brother then?

1244

01:08:29,290 --> 01:08:29,920

Let's see.

1245

01:08:29,920 --> 01:08:32,890

Now, my brother--  
this was already--

1246

01:08:32,890 --> 01:08:48,170

oh, my brother-- he got  
a job after the factory

1247

01:08:48,170 --> 01:08:53,490

on a tobacco farm, and he  
worked there in the summer.

1248

01:08:53,490 --> 01:08:58,930

And again, somebody  
said to him, Eric,

1249

01:08:58,930 --> 01:09:01,870

you seem like a smart guy.

1250

01:09:01,870 --> 01:09:04,840  
You want to do this for  
the rest of your life?

1251  
01:09:04,840 --> 01:09:07,430  
And Eric said, no, I  
don't want to do it,

1252  
01:09:07,430 --> 01:09:11,200  
but right now I don't  
have much of a choice.

1253  
01:09:11,200 --> 01:09:18,120  
And this man said, did you  
know that Johns Hopkins

1254  
01:09:18,120 --> 01:09:20,370  
is giving out scholarships?

1255  
01:09:20,370 --> 01:09:23,370  
And Eric said, so what?

1256  
01:09:23,370 --> 01:09:25,680  
And this man said,  
you are smart.

1257  
01:09:25,680 --> 01:09:28,420  
You ought to try it.

1258  
01:09:28,420 --> 01:09:30,850  
And again, the same  
thing, with the way

1259  
01:09:30,850 --> 01:09:36,670  
he spoke about Roosevelt. Oh,  
he says, don't be ridiculous.

1260  
01:09:36,670 --> 01:09:40,149  
To make a long story  
short, he applied,

1261  
01:09:40,149 --> 01:09:45,340  
and he got it, got a

scholarship to Hopkins,

1262

01:09:45,340 --> 01:09:52,220  
came for an interview, and the  
dean, whoever interviews, said,

1263

01:09:52,220 --> 01:09:57,080  
we have these two scholarships  
specifically for immigrants.

1264

01:09:57,080 --> 01:10:00,740

1265

01:10:00,740 --> 01:10:02,130  
So that's the good news.

1266

01:10:02,130 --> 01:10:03,650  
You're definitely in.

1267

01:10:03,650 --> 01:10:05,420  
You want to hear the bad news?

1268

01:10:05,420 --> 01:10:06,620  
And Eric said, oh God.

1269

01:10:06,620 --> 01:10:09,680  
No, I had enough bad  
news, but what's the bad--

1270

01:10:09,680 --> 01:10:13,610  
he said, you have to do it  
in three years, not four.

1271

01:10:13,610 --> 01:10:14,720  
And Eric said, so what?

1272

01:10:14,720 --> 01:10:15,770  
That's not bad news.

1273

01:10:15,770 --> 01:10:16,610  
I could do that.

1274

01:10:16,610 --> 01:10:19,230

1275

01:10:19,230 --> 01:10:24,220

So he said to him, if you think  
you can do it in three years,

1276

01:10:24,220 --> 01:10:25,150

you're in.

1277

01:10:25,150 --> 01:10:27,400

What would you like to study?

1278

01:10:27,400 --> 01:10:31,245

And Eric said, law.

1279

01:10:31,245 --> 01:10:32,700

The man leans back.

1280

01:10:32,700 --> 01:10:36,990

He said, Eric, I don't think so.

1281

01:10:36,990 --> 01:10:38,890

You have such an accent.

1282

01:10:38,890 --> 01:10:40,960

You'll never make  
it as a lawyer.

1283

01:10:40,960 --> 01:10:42,910

Pick something else.

1284

01:10:42,910 --> 01:10:47,130

So Eric said, well,  
OK, I'll be a chemist.

1285

01:10:47,130 --> 01:10:52,050

That's what he became,  
went right through Hopkins

1286

01:10:52,050 --> 01:10:54,800

in three years.

1287

01:10:54,800 --> 01:10:55,910

The war came.

1288

01:10:55,910 --> 01:10:58,250

He enlisted.

1289

01:10:58,250 --> 01:11:01,070

Then he came back  
and went to Columbia,

1290

01:11:01,070 --> 01:11:06,920

got a master's, and then  
Purdue and got a PhD.

1291

01:11:06,920 --> 01:11:11,640

So it worked out OK.

1292

01:11:11,640 --> 01:11:13,900

Now I can take a