

1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:02,330  
Please wait until I  
ask you a question.

2  
00:00:02,330 --> 00:00:02,830  
OK.

3  
00:00:02,830 --> 00:00:05,550

4  
00:00:05,550 --> 00:00:08,580  
This is the United States  
Holocaust Memorial Museum

5  
00:00:08,580 --> 00:00:11,820  
interview with Harold  
Cohen conducted by Gail

6  
00:00:11,820 --> 00:00:17,520  
Schwartz on February 21, 2014.

7  
00:00:17,520 --> 00:00:20,640  
It is taking place over the  
telephone at the United States

8  
00:00:20,640 --> 00:00:26,220  
Holocaust Memorial Museum and  
in Port Washington, New York.

9  
00:00:26,220 --> 00:00:29,640  
This is track number one.

10  
00:00:29,640 --> 00:00:31,590  
What is your full name?

11  
00:00:31,590 --> 00:00:34,080  
Harold Samuel Cohen.

12  
00:00:34,080 --> 00:00:36,210  
And when were you born?

13  
00:00:36,210 --> 00:00:39,090  
June 26, 1924.

14  
00:00:39,090 --> 00:00:40,690  
And where were you born?

15  
00:00:40,690 --> 00:00:44,580  
I was born in Coney  
Island, in Brooklyn.

16  
00:00:44,580 --> 00:00:48,780  
And let's talk a little bit  
about your family background.

17  
00:00:48,780 --> 00:00:52,510  
Your parents, what  
were their names?

18  
00:00:52,510 --> 00:00:54,270  
My mother's name was Fanny.

19  
00:00:54,270 --> 00:00:55,560  
Fanny Cohen, of course.

20  
00:00:55,560 --> 00:00:58,420  
My father's name  
was Morris Cohen.

21  
00:00:58,420 --> 00:01:00,720  
I also had a grandmother,  
my mother's mother,

22  
00:01:00,720 --> 00:01:03,960  
living with us at the time.

23  
00:01:03,960 --> 00:01:07,590  
Was your family a  
religious family?

24  
00:01:07,590 --> 00:01:08,280  
Somewhat.

25

00:01:08,280 --> 00:01:09,930

Not very.

26

00:01:09,930 --> 00:01:14,310

But I was going  
through Hebrew school,

27

00:01:14,310 --> 00:01:17,600

and I had a Hebrew tutor  
also when I was very young.

28

00:01:17,600 --> 00:01:18,290

Mm-hmm.

29

00:01:18,290 --> 00:01:19,170

Mm-hmm.

30

00:01:19,170 --> 00:01:21,550

What kind of work  
did your father do?

31

00:01:21,550 --> 00:01:25,920

My father was a cutter  
in the garment industry.

32

00:01:25,920 --> 00:01:27,790

And your mother?

33

00:01:27,790 --> 00:01:29,800

My mother was a homemaker.

34

00:01:29,800 --> 00:01:30,720

She did not work.

35

00:01:30,720 --> 00:01:33,450

36

00:01:33,450 --> 00:01:36,960

Took care of ours  
and did a great job.

37

00:01:36,960 --> 00:01:38,770  
Any siblings?

38  
00:01:38,770 --> 00:01:42,450  
I had an older sister who  
unfortunately passed away

39  
00:01:42,450 --> 00:01:43,680  
a few years ago.

40  
00:01:43,680 --> 00:01:45,110  
I'm sorry.

41  
00:01:45,110 --> 00:01:47,833  
But I think she  
passed away happy.

42  
00:01:47,833 --> 00:01:51,930  
My brother-in-law told me  
that she was eating a tongue

43  
00:01:51,930 --> 00:01:52,890  
sandwich at the time.

44  
00:01:52,890 --> 00:01:59,340  
[LAUGHTER] And what kind  
of schooling did you have?

45  
00:01:59,340 --> 00:02:01,570  
Where did you go to  
in the beginning?

46  
00:02:01,570 --> 00:02:03,150  
Where did you go to school?

47  
00:02:03,150 --> 00:02:06,600  
I started at P.S.  
100 in Brooklyn,

48  
00:02:06,600 --> 00:02:08,400  
and moved to another  
part of Brooklyn.

49

00:02:08,400 --> 00:02:12,300

Went to P.S. 119, then went  
to Thomas Jefferson High

50

00:02:12,300 --> 00:02:14,020

School for one year.

51

00:02:14,020 --> 00:02:17,820

Moved again and graduated from  
James Madison High School, also

52

00:02:17,820 --> 00:02:19,650

in Brooklyn in Sheepshead Bay.

53

00:02:19,650 --> 00:02:22,440

54

00:02:22,440 --> 00:02:24,930

Did you experience  
any antisemitism

55

00:02:24,930 --> 00:02:28,050

when you were young, growing  
up in elementary school

56

00:02:28,050 --> 00:02:28,830

or high school?

57

00:02:28,830 --> 00:02:31,770

58

00:02:31,770 --> 00:02:36,220

I was trying to think  
of how to phrase it.

59

00:02:36,220 --> 00:02:39,520

We lived in a  
Jewish neighborhood

60

00:02:39,520 --> 00:02:44,450

and an Italian neighborhood  
and the two did not get along,

61  
00:02:44,450 --> 00:02:46,660  
did not play with one another.

62  
00:02:46,660 --> 00:02:48,780  
Used to throw rocks  
at one another.

63  
00:02:48,780 --> 00:02:51,640  
Missed all the time,  
but it was done.

64  
00:02:51,640 --> 00:02:53,440  
Yeah.

65  
00:02:53,440 --> 00:02:56,470  
So you did experience-- what  
about your schoolteachers?

66  
00:02:56,470 --> 00:02:57,350  
Were they--

67  
00:02:57,350 --> 00:02:57,850  
No.

68  
00:02:57,850 --> 00:02:59,440  
My school teachers,  
I've never had

69  
00:02:59,440 --> 00:03:01,350  
a problem with school teachers.

70  
00:03:01,350 --> 00:03:03,550  
I had a personal problem  
with one teacher.

71  
00:03:03,550 --> 00:03:05,470  
Would you like to hear about it?

72  
00:03:05,470 --> 00:03:08,230  
Well if it relates to this--

73  
00:03:08,230 --> 00:03:09,480  
No, not really.

74  
00:03:09,480 --> 00:03:10,930  
OK.

75  
00:03:10,930 --> 00:03:17,360  
So-- and did you have any  
other interests besides school?

76  
00:03:17,360 --> 00:03:19,680  
Sports or reading,  
things like that?

77  
00:03:19,680 --> 00:03:20,180  
Yes.

78  
00:03:20,180 --> 00:03:21,590  
We used to.

79  
00:03:21,590 --> 00:03:24,100  
[INAUDIBLE] friends of  
mine used to, if necessary,

80  
00:03:24,100 --> 00:03:26,965  
clear the snow off a basketball  
court and a playground.

81  
00:03:26,965 --> 00:03:33,090  
We played basketball 12 months  
a year, enjoyed it very much.

82  
00:03:33,090 --> 00:03:35,630  
I also play the trumpet.

83  
00:03:35,630 --> 00:03:39,790  
And I recently met  
someone who played with me

84  
00:03:39,790 --> 00:03:42,310  
in the 1939 World's Fair.

85

00:03:42,310 --> 00:03:43,390

Oh wonderful.

86

00:03:43,390 --> 00:03:43,890

Years ago.

87

00:03:43,890 --> 00:03:47,840

88

00:03:47,840 --> 00:03:51,310

And were your parents Zionists?

89

00:03:51,310 --> 00:03:52,180

Yes.

90

00:03:52,180 --> 00:03:53,320

Yes.

91

00:03:53,320 --> 00:04:00,360

They both felt strongly  
about Israel as a country.

92

00:04:00,360 --> 00:04:03,780

So Hitler came  
into power in '33.

93

00:04:03,780 --> 00:04:06,990

Of course you were very  
young, you are only 9.

94

00:04:06,990 --> 00:04:11,280

But as the 30s went on  
and conditions got worse

95

00:04:11,280 --> 00:04:14,590

for the Jews, did your  
parents know about this,

96

00:04:14,590 --> 00:04:17,529

and if so, did they  
talk it over with you?



97

00:04:17,529 --> 00:04:19,990

No, they did not want  
to talk it over with me.

98

00:04:19,990 --> 00:04:21,120

I know they knew about it.

99

00:04:21,120 --> 00:04:22,200

They spoke about it.

100

00:04:22,200 --> 00:04:23,458

They did.

101

00:04:23,458 --> 00:04:24,750

They felt probably I was young.

102

00:04:24,750 --> 00:04:25,250

Sure.

103

00:04:25,250 --> 00:04:26,640

And needed to remain innocent.

104

00:04:26,640 --> 00:04:27,390

Sure.

105

00:04:27,390 --> 00:04:29,250

Sure.

106

00:04:29,250 --> 00:04:32,430

So life went on, and then you--

107

00:04:32,430 --> 00:04:35,490

would you call yourself  
a very independent child?

108

00:04:35,490 --> 00:04:39,620

Were you-- or were you more  
dependent on your parents?

109

00:04:39,620 --> 00:04:40,780

No.

110  
00:04:40,780 --> 00:04:44,760  
Unfortunately my mother  
had breast cancer

111  
00:04:44,760 --> 00:04:46,500  
and died when I was 14 years.

112  
00:04:46,500 --> 00:04:47,980  
Oh dear.

113  
00:04:47,980 --> 00:04:51,090  
While I lived with an aunt  
of mine in the same apartment

114  
00:04:51,090 --> 00:04:56,880  
house where my family lived,  
and I was out on my own,

115  
00:04:56,880 --> 00:04:59,410  
free to do whatever I  
want, but I went to school.

116  
00:04:59,410 --> 00:05:01,050  
Yeah, yeah.

117  
00:05:01,050 --> 00:05:05,242  
After that, I  
roamed Coney Island.

118  
00:05:05,242 --> 00:05:07,590  
There were no questions.

119  
00:05:07,590 --> 00:05:12,180  
I was arrested once, for  
roaming a little too far.

120  
00:05:12,180 --> 00:05:15,190  
I tried to get on a  
ride that was closed.

121  
00:05:15,190 --> 00:05:19,280

A policeman came along and  
took me to the police station,

122  
00:05:19,280 --> 00:05:20,970  
and I knew it wasn't  
too serious when

123  
00:05:20,970 --> 00:05:24,962  
they asked me whether I wanted  
vanilla custard or chocolate.

124  
00:05:24,962 --> 00:05:27,810

125  
00:05:27,810 --> 00:05:34,290  
So you are a young high school  
boy, and you graduated in when,

126  
00:05:34,290 --> 00:05:35,450  
in 1940?

127  
00:05:35,450 --> 00:05:36,080  
Or--

128  
00:05:36,080 --> 00:05:36,900  
Yeah.

129  
00:05:36,900 --> 00:05:38,600  
Early 1940.

130  
00:05:38,600 --> 00:05:39,540  
1940.

131  
00:05:39,540 --> 00:05:40,710  
OK.

132  
00:05:40,710 --> 00:05:43,230  
And again were you  
aware at that time

133  
00:05:43,230 --> 00:05:45,670  
that Hitler had

invaded Poland by then,

134  
00:05:45,670 --> 00:05:47,290  
or did you know any of that?

135  
00:05:47,290 --> 00:05:47,790  
Yes.

136  
00:05:47,790 --> 00:05:49,980  
Yes, it was in  
all the newspapers

137  
00:05:49,980 --> 00:05:51,710  
and especially talked about--

138  
00:05:51,710 --> 00:05:53,590  
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

139  
00:05:53,590 --> 00:05:55,470  
Did you as a young  
Jewish boy feel

140  
00:05:55,470 --> 00:05:58,530  
especially threatened  
or frightened

141  
00:05:58,530 --> 00:06:00,760  
about the future for you all?

142  
00:06:00,760 --> 00:06:02,640  
No, honestly I must say no.

143  
00:06:02,640 --> 00:06:04,720  
I was young and naive--

144  
00:06:04,720 --> 00:06:05,220  
Yeah--

145  
00:06:05,220 --> 00:06:05,940  
The longer the--

146

00:06:05,940 --> 00:06:06,870  
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

147  
00:06:06,870 --> 00:06:08,250  
Yeah.

148  
00:06:08,250 --> 00:06:10,290  
So then what happened  
when you graduated?

149  
00:06:10,290 --> 00:06:12,330  
What happened after that?

150  
00:06:12,330 --> 00:06:15,450  
After I graduated from high  
school, a friend of our family

151  
00:06:15,450 --> 00:06:20,190  
got me a job as an  
apprentice diamond cutter,

152  
00:06:20,190 --> 00:06:23,520  
and I went to Brooklyn  
College at night.

153  
00:06:23,520 --> 00:06:27,810  
I stayed at the job even  
though honestly, I must say,

154  
00:06:27,810 --> 00:06:32,910  
that I was not as nimble  
fingered as I should have been.

155  
00:06:32,910 --> 00:06:37,410  
But I stayed at the job  
until I was drafted.

156  
00:06:37,410 --> 00:06:39,630  
And you went to Brooklyn  
College, you said, at night?

157  
00:06:39,630 --> 00:06:40,030  
Yes.

158  
00:06:40,030 --> 00:06:41,590  
I went to Brooklyn  
College at night.

159  
00:06:41,590 --> 00:06:42,180  
OK.

160  
00:06:42,180 --> 00:06:47,490  
Any memories of Pearl  
Harbor, December 7, 1941?

161  
00:06:47,490 --> 00:06:48,980  
Do you remember that or not?

162  
00:06:48,980 --> 00:06:53,620  
I remember it, but it  
was far away from me.

163  
00:06:53,620 --> 00:06:54,530  
Yeah.

164  
00:06:54,530 --> 00:06:56,640  
Right.

165  
00:06:56,640 --> 00:06:59,310  
And then, as you say  
you were drafted.

166  
00:06:59,310 --> 00:07:01,600  
When was that?

167  
00:07:01,600 --> 00:07:08,035  
In January 1943, I was drafted.

168  
00:07:08,035 --> 00:07:11,130  
I went to Whitehall Street.

169  
00:07:11,130 --> 00:07:12,930  
I took an examination.

170

00:07:12,930 --> 00:07:14,910  
I was 1A healthy.

171  
00:07:14,910 --> 00:07:19,270  
Went to Whitehall Street  
and we all congregated,

172  
00:07:19,270 --> 00:07:21,900  
or whatever it was  
called for that day,

173  
00:07:21,900 --> 00:07:24,330  
and continued from there.

174  
00:07:24,330 --> 00:07:24,830  
OK.

175  
00:07:24,830 --> 00:07:27,900  
So then let's now talk  
about your military career.

176  
00:07:27,900 --> 00:07:30,640  
So you said that  
was January '43.

177  
00:07:30,640 --> 00:07:33,190  
Where did you first  
do basic training?

178  
00:07:33,190 --> 00:07:34,650  
What they did at  
Whitehall Street

179  
00:07:34,650 --> 00:07:37,892  
was had us lined up  
in alphabetical order.

180  
00:07:37,892 --> 00:07:42,750  
They took groups of 50 or 60  
people, and the first 60 went--

181  
00:07:42,750 --> 00:07:46,050  
I don't know where, I was

part of the second 60 people,

182  
00:07:46,050 --> 00:07:50,890  
which by the way included seven  
Cohens because it was strictly

183  
00:07:50,890 --> 00:07:54,240  
in alphabetical order.

184  
00:07:54,240 --> 00:07:55,490  
We were put on a train.

185  
00:07:55,490 --> 00:07:57,590  
Did not know we were going.

186  
00:07:57,590 --> 00:08:00,260  
We ended up at  
Camp Grant Illinois

187  
00:08:00,260 --> 00:08:05,260  
in Rockford, Illinois,  
which is a medical base,

188  
00:08:05,260 --> 00:08:07,470  
a basic training camp.

189  
00:08:07,470 --> 00:08:10,100  
So you did you didn't go to  
Fort Dix or anything like that.

190  
00:08:10,100 --> 00:08:11,240  
No, no.

191  
00:08:11,240 --> 00:08:15,380  
We went right from  
Whitehall Street.

192  
00:08:15,380 --> 00:08:18,230  
To Camp Grant, Illinois.

193  
00:08:18,230 --> 00:08:18,730  
OK.



194  
00:08:18,730 --> 00:08:22,010  
And you said it  
was a medical team?

195  
00:08:22,010 --> 00:08:23,240  
Yes, a medical team.

196  
00:08:23,240 --> 00:08:24,350  
Can you explain it?

197  
00:08:24,350 --> 00:08:27,080  
Talk a little bit about  
it, your experience there?

198  
00:08:27,080 --> 00:08:31,370  
They trained us to become  
either a medical or surgical

199  
00:08:31,370 --> 00:08:36,380  
technicians, or both, and  
I was trained for both.

200  
00:08:36,380 --> 00:08:42,950  
That meant that I was trained  
to treat people for injuries

201  
00:08:42,950 --> 00:08:45,750  
under the supervision  
of the nurse.

202  
00:08:45,750 --> 00:08:47,490  
The nurses were officers.

203  
00:08:47,490 --> 00:08:50,590  
We were not the  
nurse's supervisors.

204  
00:08:50,590 --> 00:08:51,710  
We're doctors.

205  
00:08:51,710 --> 00:08:57,990

We're trained in the use of  
certain medical techniques,

206  
00:08:57,990 --> 00:09:05,250  
use of certain medications and  
how to use a hypodermic needle.

207  
00:09:05,250 --> 00:09:09,920  
We practiced on apples and  
oranges and hypodermic needles,

208  
00:09:09,920 --> 00:09:11,978  
and--

209  
00:09:11,978 --> 00:09:16,170  
I took the training  
there, and I think

210  
00:09:16,170 --> 00:09:21,030  
that was the first place that I  
saw some signs of antisemitism.

211  
00:09:21,030 --> 00:09:24,450  
And believe it or not it  
was not from the trainers

212  
00:09:24,450 --> 00:09:31,830  
or their officers or the  
sergeants, et cetera, or that,

213  
00:09:31,830 --> 00:09:36,120  
but other members of  
this basic training camp

214  
00:09:36,120 --> 00:09:39,720  
were obviously anti-Semitic.

215  
00:09:39,720 --> 00:09:44,890  
They tried to pick on the  
Jews, but we fortunately

216  
00:09:44,890 --> 00:09:48,930  
were able to withstand

them, and sometimes there

217  
00:09:48,930 --> 00:09:56,710  
was even a sanctioned  
boxing match, on which the--

218  
00:09:56,710 --> 00:10:02,230  
which set up-- the other  
officers, et cetera watched it.

219  
00:10:02,230 --> 00:10:06,400  
I was set up against-- a  
Jewish man against a non-Jew.

220  
00:10:06,400 --> 00:10:10,210  
And they really  
went hard and heavy.

221  
00:10:10,210 --> 00:10:12,560  
I was not involved with that.

222  
00:10:12,560 --> 00:10:14,790  
Mm-hmm.

223  
00:10:14,790 --> 00:10:17,670  
And any other  
instances, any other?

224  
00:10:17,670 --> 00:10:19,670  
Yes.

225  
00:10:19,670 --> 00:10:22,520  
During basic  
training we were also

226  
00:10:22,520 --> 00:10:25,640  
involved with KP, which  
was kitchen police.

227  
00:10:25,640 --> 00:10:26,630  
Right.

228

00:10:26,630 --> 00:10:29,870  
And again we were called  
in alphabetically.

229  
00:10:29,870 --> 00:10:33,350  
The first group was called  
in to help the cooks

230  
00:10:33,350 --> 00:10:36,830  
and clean up and help  
the serving, et cetera,

231  
00:10:36,830 --> 00:10:40,670  
when our group, which consisted  
of six Cohens, plus [INAUDIBLE]

232  
00:10:40,670 --> 00:10:42,110  
was called in.

233  
00:10:42,110 --> 00:10:45,680  
At the end of the day, we  
were called back the next day

234  
00:10:45,680 --> 00:10:47,930  
to go on kitchen police again.

235  
00:10:47,930 --> 00:10:52,400  
One of the Cohens happened  
to have been a lawyer.

236  
00:10:52,400 --> 00:10:56,150  
He said he had read the  
army regulations, which

237  
00:10:56,150 --> 00:11:00,053  
said that kitchen police could  
not be used as a punishment.

238  
00:11:00,053 --> 00:11:01,970  
And he said to me, do  
you want to come with me

239  
00:11:01,970 --> 00:11:03,560

to the commanding officer?

240  
00:11:03,560 --> 00:11:05,450  
I said sure.

241  
00:11:05,450 --> 00:11:06,930  
So we went to the commanding--

242  
00:11:06,930 --> 00:11:08,760  
I was young, and he  
said let's go, so I

243  
00:11:08,760 --> 00:11:12,620  
said I went, and went to  
the commanding officer,

244  
00:11:12,620 --> 00:11:16,940  
and he explained to the  
captain what happened,

245  
00:11:16,940 --> 00:11:21,380  
that we were called back  
twice for kitchen police

246  
00:11:21,380 --> 00:11:24,360  
and this should not be  
used as a punishment.

247  
00:11:24,360 --> 00:11:27,800  
What were are you  
being punished for?

248  
00:11:27,800 --> 00:11:30,830  
I think we were being punished  
just for being Jewish--

249  
00:11:30,830 --> 00:11:31,330  
Oh, I see.

250  
00:11:31,330 --> 00:11:32,600  
Because we were all Cohens.

251

00:11:32,600 --> 00:11:33,340  
Yeah.

252  
00:11:33,340 --> 00:11:37,610  
Because the captain  
called the mess sergeant,

253  
00:11:37,610 --> 00:11:40,110  
and the mess sergeant said,  
no I'm not punishing them.

254  
00:11:40,110 --> 00:11:44,090  
They didn't do a good job,  
and I wanted to give them

255  
00:11:44,090 --> 00:11:47,300  
a little more training.

256  
00:11:47,300 --> 00:11:51,410  
So the captain said to  
us, go back to the kitchen

257  
00:11:51,410 --> 00:11:52,730  
and finish your day's work.

258  
00:11:52,730 --> 00:11:53,870  
And they asked the--

259  
00:11:53,870 --> 00:11:57,380  
he told the Sergeant to  
stay with him while he spoke

260  
00:11:57,380 --> 00:11:59,660  
with him while we were gone.

261  
00:11:59,660 --> 00:12:03,920  
And I think probably--

262  
00:12:03,920 --> 00:12:07,110  
I think what happened was he  
said, don't do it anymore.

263

00:12:07,110 --> 00:12:07,610  
Right.

264  
00:12:07,610 --> 00:12:11,480  
And we were never called  
for kitchen police again.

265  
00:12:11,480 --> 00:12:14,120  
I guess that was one of  
the arrangements made

266  
00:12:14,120 --> 00:12:16,580  
between the sergeant  
and the captain.

267  
00:12:16,580 --> 00:12:20,330  
But for me it was obvious  
that it was the Cohens who

268  
00:12:20,330 --> 00:12:23,000  
were bring picked on for that.

269  
00:12:23,000 --> 00:12:24,470  
Right.

270  
00:12:24,470 --> 00:12:27,110  
Did you did you and  
the other Cohens talk

271  
00:12:27,110 --> 00:12:30,080  
about the war among  
yourselves and what

272  
00:12:30,080 --> 00:12:32,300  
was happening to the Jews?

273  
00:12:32,300 --> 00:12:32,840  
No.

274  
00:12:32,840 --> 00:12:34,550  
I must say no.

275

00:12:34,550 --> 00:12:35,630  
We didn't at all.

276  
00:12:35,630 --> 00:12:36,920  
We were busy.

277  
00:12:36,920 --> 00:12:41,250  
They kept us busy a  
big part of the day.

278  
00:12:41,250 --> 00:12:43,540  
And we slept well  
because we were busy.

279  
00:12:43,540 --> 00:12:48,130  
Besides basic training, we in  
the medical and surgical end

280  
00:12:48,130 --> 00:12:53,480  
of it, we had physical  
training push ups, et cetera.

281  
00:12:53,480 --> 00:12:55,155  
But I was just saying,  
so many lives--

282  
00:12:55,155 --> 00:12:59,510  
this was already '43, so many  
Jewish lives have been lost.

283  
00:12:59,510 --> 00:13:01,730  
But you all weren't  
aware at that time.

284  
00:13:01,730 --> 00:13:02,400  
No.

285  
00:13:02,400 --> 00:13:05,350  
I don't know if I  
was aware of it.

286  
00:13:05,350 --> 00:13:08,900  
If I did, it was



far away from me.

287  
00:13:08,900 --> 00:13:11,193  
Yeah.

288  
00:13:11,193 --> 00:13:12,860  
Things changed, but  
we'll get into that.

289  
00:13:12,860 --> 00:13:14,270  
No, I know, I know.

290  
00:13:14,270 --> 00:13:15,110  
I know.

291  
00:13:15,110 --> 00:13:16,640  
So you're still at Camp Grant.

292  
00:13:16,640 --> 00:13:19,390  
How long were you there for?

293  
00:13:19,390 --> 00:13:23,540  
We were there for five months.

294  
00:13:23,540 --> 00:13:25,490  
And then after  
that, they choose--

295  
00:13:25,490 --> 00:13:34,160  
they chose some of us to go to  
a basic engineering program.

296  
00:13:34,160 --> 00:13:36,170  
I went-- they chose  
some of us to go

297  
00:13:36,170 --> 00:13:38,760  
to the University  
of Chicago, where

298  
00:13:38,760 --> 00:13:41,870  
we went to school

for nine months

299

00:13:41,870 --> 00:13:44,960

to learn basic engineering.

300

00:13:44,960 --> 00:13:48,890

Honestly I couldn't see  
the connection between that

301

00:13:48,890 --> 00:13:53,320

and anything else that the army  
required or my basic training,

302

00:13:53,320 --> 00:13:54,610

but was happy--

303

00:13:54,610 --> 00:13:56,060

I was happy to go there.

304

00:13:56,060 --> 00:13:57,590

It was challenging.

305

00:13:57,590 --> 00:14:02,180

Great professors,  
great area in Chicago.

306

00:14:02,180 --> 00:14:04,520

Obviously had no connection  
to the medical training

307

00:14:04,520 --> 00:14:05,720

you just got.

308

00:14:05,720 --> 00:14:07,910

No, not at all.

309

00:14:07,910 --> 00:14:08,660

OK.

310

00:14:08,660 --> 00:14:10,400

I don't know why--

311

00:14:10,400 --> 00:14:15,250

I still don't know, honestly,  
what the purpose of it was.

312

00:14:15,250 --> 00:14:17,290

We did not become--  
in nine months,

313

00:14:17,290 --> 00:14:19,090

you don't become an engineer.

314

00:14:19,090 --> 00:14:21,650

Right.

315

00:14:21,650 --> 00:14:25,010

Was it the same group  
of Cohens, that--

316

00:14:25,010 --> 00:14:26,600

No.

317

00:14:26,600 --> 00:14:30,530

These were people from  
all over the country.

318

00:14:30,530 --> 00:14:31,470

It wasn't the Cohens.

319

00:14:31,470 --> 00:14:33,980

320

00:14:33,980 --> 00:14:37,410

We finished the nine months.

321

00:14:37,410 --> 00:14:40,560

And this was not  
far from Chicago.

322

00:14:40,560 --> 00:14:45,080

And during my training,  
I went to Chicago

323

00:14:45,080 --> 00:14:49,580

and applied for the Air  
Force, the army Air Force.

324

00:14:49,580 --> 00:14:52,010

And after my training,  
I was accepted

325

00:14:52,010 --> 00:14:54,980

for training in  
the army Air Force,

326

00:14:54,980 --> 00:15:01,040

and were sent to Keesler field  
in Biloxi, Mississippi, which

327

00:15:01,040 --> 00:15:08,780

was a B29 field where they  
were training people besides us

328

00:15:08,780 --> 00:15:09,950

for pilot training.

329

00:15:09,950 --> 00:15:11,900

They were training  
people specifically

330

00:15:11,900 --> 00:15:15,530

to pilot, et cetera, on the B29.

331

00:15:15,530 --> 00:15:18,580

332

00:15:18,580 --> 00:15:21,900

We stayed there, again  
this is the army,

333

00:15:21,900 --> 00:15:24,970

the Air Force was part of  
your army at that time.

334

00:15:24,970 --> 00:15:26,555

We stayed there  
for about a month

335  
00:15:26,555 --> 00:15:29,870  
doing nothing, waiting  
for assignment,

336  
00:15:29,870 --> 00:15:34,770  
playing basketball and going  
to town, and doing very little,

337  
00:15:34,770 --> 00:15:36,980  
just waiting for assignments.

338  
00:15:36,980 --> 00:15:39,560  
After about a month--

339  
00:15:39,560 --> 00:15:43,520  
oh by the way Biloxi,  
Mississippi had, of course,

340  
00:15:43,520 --> 00:15:44,470  
a kosher delicatessen.

341  
00:15:44,470 --> 00:15:46,640  
I was very surprised.

342  
00:15:46,640 --> 00:15:49,000  
We used to go there for  
sandwiches once in a while.

343  
00:15:49,000 --> 00:15:51,490  
What was the name of  
the field you were at?

344  
00:15:51,490 --> 00:15:51,990  
Keesler.

345  
00:15:51,990 --> 00:16:01,360  
K-E-E-S-L-E-R. Or another  
interesting point--

346

00:16:01,360 --> 00:16:03,050  
I guess it's interesting--

347  
00:16:03,050 --> 00:16:07,250  
first day we got there, I went  
to a mess hall for breakfast.

348  
00:16:07,250 --> 00:16:11,440  
Went to the mess hall, and they  
serve the same breakfast again.

349  
00:16:11,440 --> 00:16:14,920  
For lunch at lunch time  
served they cornflakes

350  
00:16:14,920 --> 00:16:16,750  
et cetera, et cetera.

351  
00:16:16,750 --> 00:16:20,480  
And I went to dinner again,  
they served cornflakes, juice,

352  
00:16:20,480 --> 00:16:21,580  
et cetera.

353  
00:16:21,580 --> 00:16:23,950  
The second they had  
discovered that it

354  
00:16:23,950 --> 00:16:28,720  
was a 24 hour field when mess  
halls served only breakfast,

355  
00:16:28,720 --> 00:16:32,460  
and other lunches.

356  
00:16:32,460 --> 00:16:34,520  
So after one day of  
old breakfast, I--

357  
00:16:34,520 --> 00:16:37,100  
You learned.

358

00:16:37,100 --> 00:16:38,530

Yeah.

359

00:16:38,530 --> 00:16:39,850

So you stayed there?

360

00:16:39,850 --> 00:16:40,920

For--

361

00:16:40,920 --> 00:16:43,930

I was there for  
about a month, and it

362

00:16:43,930 --> 00:16:50,390

was decided that there were too  
many personnel, too many pilots

363

00:16:50,390 --> 00:16:52,000

to serve for the planes.

364

00:16:52,000 --> 00:16:55,300

They couldn't produce  
enough planes to service us.

365

00:16:55,300 --> 00:16:59,560

So we went back to our  
respective specialties.

366

00:16:59,560 --> 00:17:01,510

I went back to Camp Grant.

367

00:17:01,510 --> 00:17:02,370

Oh.

368

00:17:02,370 --> 00:17:03,170

OK.

369

00:17:03,170 --> 00:17:07,300

And then, to be assigned  
to a medical group.

370

00:17:07,300 --> 00:17:08,400  
So back to the medical.

371  
00:17:08,400 --> 00:17:09,250  
Yeah.

372  
00:17:09,250 --> 00:17:10,570  
Now when is this?

373  
00:17:10,570 --> 00:17:13,150  
This is '44, obviously, right?

374  
00:17:13,150 --> 00:17:14,940  
Yes.

375  
00:17:14,940 --> 00:17:16,250  
No, late '43.

376  
00:17:16,250 --> 00:17:17,359  
Oh late '43.

377  
00:17:17,359 --> 00:17:18,260  
OK.

378  
00:17:18,260 --> 00:17:20,589  
The fall of '43.

379  
00:17:20,589 --> 00:17:27,730  
And I was assigned to 170, it's  
a general hospital, which is--

380  
00:17:27,730 --> 00:17:32,620  
a general hospital was  
similar to a large hospital

381  
00:17:32,620 --> 00:17:34,750  
in New York or any  
other place where

382  
00:17:34,750 --> 00:17:41,820  
it was treated medical  
and surgical situations.



383  
00:17:41,820 --> 00:17:49,950  
We got together and set off for  
England on our way to France,

384  
00:17:49,950 --> 00:17:54,450  
and we went to England  
on a hospital ship

385  
00:17:54,450 --> 00:17:57,570  
with a big Red Cross  
painted on the side.

386  
00:17:57,570 --> 00:18:02,790  
which I thought to myself was  
a great target for submarines.

387  
00:18:02,790 --> 00:18:06,740  
But fortunately,  
we got to England

388  
00:18:06,740 --> 00:18:12,240  
and touched-- landed in  
Bournemouth, England.

389  
00:18:12,240 --> 00:18:16,680  
I spent a day or two there  
and went across England,

390  
00:18:16,680 --> 00:18:21,940  
and went to land at a place  
called Omaha Beach in France

391  
00:18:21,940 --> 00:18:25,680  
about a week after the  
invasion of France.

392  
00:18:25,680 --> 00:18:31,320  
Oh so this is June '44  
we're now talking about.

393  
00:18:31,320 --> 00:18:31,860  
Yeah.

394  
00:18:31,860 --> 00:18:32,820  
You're talking about D-day.

395  
00:18:32,820 --> 00:18:33,350  
After D-day.

396  
00:18:33,350 --> 00:18:34,530  
Yeah.

397  
00:18:34,530 --> 00:18:36,630  
So it's already June '44--

398  
00:18:36,630 --> 00:18:37,630  
A week after D-day.

399  
00:18:37,630 --> 00:18:38,130  
Yeah.

400  
00:18:38,130 --> 00:18:38,640  
Oh.

401  
00:18:38,640 --> 00:18:41,040  
OK.

402  
00:18:41,040 --> 00:18:43,340  
And we went there.

403  
00:18:43,340 --> 00:18:45,210  
We landed.

404  
00:18:45,210 --> 00:18:49,740  
There were still a lot of  
traces of the invasion.

405  
00:18:49,740 --> 00:18:51,700  
There was still-- they  
were believe it or not,

406  
00:18:51,700 --> 00:18:54,920  
still cleaning up

bodies a week after,

407

00:18:54,920 --> 00:18:58,060  
or 10 days after the invasion.

408

00:18:58,060 --> 00:19:00,300  
We went on and we--

409

00:19:00,300 --> 00:19:04,650  
Now how much preparation did you  
have for these kinds of sights

410

00:19:04,650 --> 00:19:09,990  
and seeing the devastation?

411

00:19:09,990 --> 00:19:12,300  
Not-- nothing at all really.

412

00:19:12,300 --> 00:19:13,540  
And you were so young, too.

413

00:19:13,540 --> 00:19:14,100  
You--

414

00:19:14,100 --> 00:19:19,940  
I was young, as I  
say, I was a kid.

415

00:19:19,940 --> 00:19:21,870  
They said go here, I went here.

416

00:19:21,870 --> 00:19:24,440  
They said go there, I  
went there, et cetera.

417

00:19:24,440 --> 00:19:29,130  
And personally, I  
just went along.

418

00:19:29,130 --> 00:19:33,440  
And we set up  
camp, and we set up

419  
00:19:33,440 --> 00:19:36,210  
the hospital, which  
was a tent hospital,

420  
00:19:36,210 --> 00:19:39,620  
but a very large hospital  
with two medical wings

421  
00:19:39,620 --> 00:19:43,400  
and surgical wings and  
emergency room, just

422  
00:19:43,400 --> 00:19:46,460  
like any other hospital  
right outside of a town

423  
00:19:46,460 --> 00:19:47,700  
called Le Mans.

424  
00:19:47,700 --> 00:19:50,115  
L-E-M-A-N-S. In France.

425  
00:19:50,115 --> 00:19:54,290

426  
00:19:54,290 --> 00:19:58,760  
Were you working with any  
other Jewish soldiers?

427  
00:19:58,760 --> 00:20:01,010  
Yes, there were Jewish nurses.

428  
00:20:01,010 --> 00:20:03,410  
Most of the doctors were Jewish.

429  
00:20:03,410 --> 00:20:05,120  
Oh OK.

430  
00:20:05,120 --> 00:20:06,890  
Some of the nurses were Jewish.

431

00:20:06,890 --> 00:20:10,990

The personnel were-- it  
was everything, of course.

432

00:20:10,990 --> 00:20:14,150

Now did you discuss again about  
what was happening to the Jews

433

00:20:14,150 --> 00:20:15,470

by '44?

434

00:20:15,470 --> 00:20:16,750

Yes.

435

00:20:16,750 --> 00:20:19,370

We were at that point.

436

00:20:19,370 --> 00:20:22,040

We were a little more involved.

437

00:20:22,040 --> 00:20:22,670

Yes.

438

00:20:22,670 --> 00:20:26,810

Jewish members more than others.

439

00:20:26,810 --> 00:20:27,890

Aha.

440

00:20:27,890 --> 00:20:32,150

The doctors, we had discussion  
with the doctors about

441

00:20:32,150 --> 00:20:34,670

what was going on.

442

00:20:34,670 --> 00:20:40,230

Types of patients we saw as  
a result of the war going on,

443

00:20:40,230 --> 00:20:42,140

et cetera, et cetera.

444

00:20:42,140 --> 00:20:46,130

And we-- I anyway, I  
started to get a feel

445

00:20:46,130 --> 00:20:49,300

for what was going on and  
what I felt should be done,

446

00:20:49,300 --> 00:20:55,400

and what was right and what  
was wrong, and how terrible,

447

00:20:55,400 --> 00:20:57,280

for me, the Germans were.

448

00:20:57,280 --> 00:20:58,070

Yeah.

449

00:20:58,070 --> 00:21:01,172

And again, just a  
little interjection.

450

00:21:01,172 --> 00:21:02,880

I don't know whether  
it's right or wrong,

451

00:21:02,880 --> 00:21:05,870

but I still will not-- if I  
know that a product is made

452

00:21:05,870 --> 00:21:07,940

in Germany, I will not buy it.

453

00:21:07,940 --> 00:21:10,310

I will not buy a German car.

454

00:21:10,310 --> 00:21:14,010

I say, they might have a  
prejudice which is incorrect,

455

00:21:14,010 --> 00:21:17,700  
but this is the way I feel.

456  
00:21:17,700 --> 00:21:22,640  
Do-- do you speak German, or did  
you speak German at the time?

457  
00:21:22,640 --> 00:21:26,780  
Going back to high school,  
I took German in school.

458  
00:21:26,780 --> 00:21:27,560  
Oh.

459  
00:21:27,560 --> 00:21:32,310  
And after the first day,  
the teacher said to me,

460  
00:21:32,310 --> 00:21:34,940  
but you know you know  
German don't you?

461  
00:21:34,940 --> 00:21:38,660  
I said no, but I speak Yiddish.

462  
00:21:38,660 --> 00:21:41,910  
And I started to go over  
the days of the week,

463  
00:21:41,910 --> 00:21:47,720  
whether counting the words  
that were so similar that I

464  
00:21:47,720 --> 00:21:48,880  
felt I knew it.

465  
00:21:48,880 --> 00:21:50,840  
Took three years or  
German, enough so

466  
00:21:50,840 --> 00:21:53,840  
that I could understand Germans.

467

00:21:53,840 --> 00:21:59,450

We had after a while we had some  
German prisoners of war working

468

00:21:59,450 --> 00:22:04,160

in our camp, and I was able to  
have conversations with them

469

00:22:04,160 --> 00:22:09,740

and discuss what they should  
be doing, et cetera, et cetera.

470

00:22:09,740 --> 00:22:11,670

That was a little  
later on, right?

471

00:22:11,670 --> 00:22:12,500

Yeah.

472

00:22:12,500 --> 00:22:14,080

We'll get to that.

473

00:22:14,080 --> 00:22:15,370

Yeah.

474

00:22:15,370 --> 00:22:17,560

OK so now you're  
in Le Mans, and you

475

00:22:17,560 --> 00:22:19,840

say you helped to  
set up a hospital?

476

00:22:19,840 --> 00:22:20,340

Yes.

477

00:22:20,340 --> 00:22:25,160

We set up a hospital,  
surgical, and a medical wing,

478

00:22:25,160 --> 00:22:27,560

and an operating room.



479  
00:22:27,560 --> 00:22:29,300  
And you were treating  
military people?

480  
00:22:29,300 --> 00:22:31,310  
Who were you  
training-- or civilian?

481  
00:22:31,310 --> 00:22:31,820  
No.

482  
00:22:31,820 --> 00:22:32,910  
It was all military.

483  
00:22:32,910 --> 00:22:34,040  
It was all military.

484  
00:22:34,040 --> 00:22:36,050  
No civilian.

485  
00:22:36,050 --> 00:22:37,340  
And--

486  
00:22:37,340 --> 00:22:39,590  
Were you in danger  
at all at that point?

487  
00:22:39,590 --> 00:22:41,000  
At that point, no.

488  
00:22:41,000 --> 00:22:42,920  
This was behind the lines.

489  
00:22:42,920 --> 00:22:44,540  
We set up there.

490  
00:22:44,540 --> 00:22:46,190  
When we originally  
set up we were

491

00:22:46,190 --> 00:22:50,450  
pretty close to the front  
line, but meanwhile the line

492  
00:22:50,450 --> 00:22:56,960  
kept moving east as the Allies  
went further and further.

493  
00:22:56,960 --> 00:23:02,270  
And I had a good rapport  
with the doctors, --

494  
00:23:02,270 --> 00:23:06,890  
and I did things that--

495  
00:23:06,890 --> 00:23:09,650  
I don't know if they'd accepted  
these days, such as giving

496  
00:23:09,650 --> 00:23:17,060  
injections, changing  
dressings, maybe a nurse

497  
00:23:17,060 --> 00:23:19,970  
these days would do it but not  
a civilian, or a technician

498  
00:23:19,970 --> 00:23:21,260  
anyway.

499  
00:23:21,260 --> 00:23:24,568  
But I did.

500  
00:23:24,568 --> 00:23:26,110  
I found out later,  
one of the doctors

501  
00:23:26,110 --> 00:23:28,810  
told me that I was doing such  
a good job that they wanted me

502  
00:23:28,810 --> 00:23:30,020  
in their operating room.

503  
00:23:30,020 --> 00:23:30,680  
Oh my.

504  
00:23:30,680 --> 00:23:33,370

505  
00:23:33,370 --> 00:23:37,240  
And however, I had a  
commanding officer,

506  
00:23:37,240 --> 00:23:39,172  
which I said to myself--

507  
00:23:39,172 --> 00:23:40,630  
I didn't say it to  
him, of course--

508  
00:23:40,630 --> 00:23:43,720  
that I think was  
on the wrong side.

509  
00:23:43,720 --> 00:23:48,320  
He did not like any of  
the Jewish soldiers.

510  
00:23:48,320 --> 00:23:52,500  
He couldn't do anything  
about the officers of course,

511  
00:23:52,500 --> 00:23:56,720  
but the soldiers that were under  
his command, he did not like.

512  
00:23:56,720 --> 00:23:58,310  
And he used to send  
us out on what's

513  
00:23:58,310 --> 00:24:04,260  
called detached service  
to get us away from him.

514

00:24:04,260 --> 00:24:11,220  
And one of the times that he  
sent us out on detached service

515  
00:24:11,220 --> 00:24:14,930  
was a wonderful experience.

516  
00:24:14,930 --> 00:24:16,220  
He put me--

517  
00:24:16,220 --> 00:24:17,900  
I went out with  
a group of people

518  
00:24:17,900 --> 00:24:21,550  
that work on a hospital  
train based in Paris.

519  
00:24:21,550 --> 00:24:28,010  
We went out on the train to pick  
up wounded and sick soldiers,

520  
00:24:28,010 --> 00:24:31,570  
bring them back to Paris  
to rural hospitals.

521  
00:24:31,570 --> 00:24:34,500  
And in the interim, I had  
a day or two off in Paris

522  
00:24:34,500 --> 00:24:39,230  
to tour Paris and view  
the sights, et cetera.

523  
00:24:39,230 --> 00:24:44,150  
And so that was one of the  
benefits of him not liking me.

524  
00:24:44,150 --> 00:24:49,460  
Did you see any Jewish  
refugees at that time?

525  
00:24:49,460 --> 00:24:51,930

Amazingly, there was--

526  
00:24:51,930 --> 00:24:57,140  
I got familiar with a farmer  
who had some land not far

527  
00:24:57,140 --> 00:24:58,550  
from our camp.

528  
00:24:58,550 --> 00:25:00,410  
This is in LeMans  
you're talking about?

529  
00:25:00,410 --> 00:25:01,280  
Yeah.

530  
00:25:01,280 --> 00:25:02,930  
And he was Jewish.

531  
00:25:02,930 --> 00:25:03,650  
Oh my.

532  
00:25:03,650 --> 00:25:05,720  
Nobody ever knew he was Jewish.

533  
00:25:05,720 --> 00:25:06,670  
Oh my.

534  
00:25:06,670 --> 00:25:09,200  
And of course the Germans  
had occupied that area

535  
00:25:09,200 --> 00:25:11,240  
and didn't know he was Jewish.

536  
00:25:11,240 --> 00:25:18,300  
And I used to go to him, and I  
used to buy a drink from him.

537  
00:25:18,300 --> 00:25:22,130  
I'd give him one  
franc, and he'd give me

538  
00:25:22,130 --> 00:25:28,460  
a drink called Calvados, which  
is a liquor made from apples.

539  
00:25:28,460 --> 00:25:32,060  
And we'd sit and we'd  
talk, and he had a dog,

540  
00:25:32,060 --> 00:25:36,450  
and I learned a word called--

541  
00:25:36,450 --> 00:25:39,847  
a French word, I also taken  
French besides German,

542  
00:25:39,847 --> 00:25:41,180  
I'd taken French in high school.

543  
00:25:41,180 --> 00:25:43,138  
I was going to ask you  
how did you know French?

544  
00:25:43,138 --> 00:25:44,310  
Yeah.

545  
00:25:44,310 --> 00:25:49,130  
And I took about four years  
of French in high school.

546  
00:25:49,130 --> 00:25:51,098  
Not about, but four years.

547  
00:25:51,098 --> 00:25:52,890  
And I learned a word  
that I'd never learned

548  
00:25:52,890 --> 00:25:54,920  
in high school called pisse.

549  
00:25:54,920 --> 00:25:59,600  
He had a dog, and he looked

at me and yelled, pisse.

550  
00:25:59,600 --> 00:26:03,234  
And the dog was ready  
to urinate on my leg.

551  
00:26:03,234 --> 00:26:05,990  
[LAUGHTER]

552  
00:26:05,990 --> 00:26:09,130  
I learned what that word means.

553  
00:26:09,130 --> 00:26:14,360  
And as a side issue, I  
was in a French restaurant

554  
00:26:14,360 --> 00:26:18,280  
many years ago after the war,  
and I ordered a Calvados.

555  
00:26:18,280 --> 00:26:20,450  
And there was a  
brownish color, and I

556  
00:26:20,450 --> 00:26:22,220  
said to the restaurant  
owner, happened

557  
00:26:22,220 --> 00:26:25,040  
to be a French woman,  
how come in France

558  
00:26:25,040 --> 00:26:27,350  
I got the right Calvados  
and here it's brown?

559  
00:26:27,350 --> 00:26:31,280  
He says, well, so there  
was a woman-- she said,

560  
00:26:31,280 --> 00:26:34,900  
the Calvados you got was  
maybe eight hours old.

561  
00:26:34,900 --> 00:26:36,630  
Not age, didn't have it.

562  
00:26:36,630 --> 00:26:38,410  
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

563  
00:26:38,410 --> 00:26:39,550  
Right, right.

564  
00:26:39,550 --> 00:26:43,730

565  
00:26:43,730 --> 00:26:48,860  
So now you're still in Le Mans,  
going back and forth to Paris.

566  
00:26:48,860 --> 00:26:49,970  
You said--

567  
00:26:49,970 --> 00:26:51,272  
No, I was just stationed--

568  
00:26:51,272 --> 00:26:51,980  
Or just watching.

569  
00:26:51,980 --> 00:26:54,690  
I was stationed in Paris  
to work on a hospital

570  
00:26:54,690 --> 00:26:56,288  
train for a few months.

571  
00:26:56,288 --> 00:26:57,830  
Oh you were actually  
stationed there.

572  
00:26:57,830 --> 00:26:59,300  
Yeah that's right.

573  
00:26:59,300 --> 00:27:01,710



I didn't go back and  
forth from Le Mans.

574  
00:27:01,710 --> 00:27:04,360  
We were-- we lived on the train.

575  
00:27:04,360 --> 00:27:04,860  
Oh!

576  
00:27:04,860 --> 00:27:07,520  
There were sleepers  
on the train and we

577  
00:27:07,520 --> 00:27:09,910  
lived in our little sections.

578  
00:27:09,910 --> 00:27:14,630  
But we were in Paris,  
and we had time off

579  
00:27:14,630 --> 00:27:19,640  
and had time to explore the  
city with people, et cetera.

580  
00:27:19,640 --> 00:27:21,750  
And that was one  
of the benefits.

581  
00:27:21,750 --> 00:27:22,250  
Yeah.

582  
00:27:22,250 --> 00:27:25,520

583  
00:27:25,520 --> 00:27:31,170  
Again, he sent me out, and I had  
learned to drive and service.

584  
00:27:31,170 --> 00:27:35,870  
They needed an ambulance driver  
and they asked for volunteers,

585

00:27:35,870 --> 00:27:38,710  
and I'd seen my parents  
and other adults

586  
00:27:38,710 --> 00:27:41,600  
driving, how to shift the car.

587  
00:27:41,600 --> 00:27:45,080  
They gave me an ambulance,  
and I think it was an hour

588  
00:27:45,080 --> 00:27:47,665  
and they said here's an  
ambulance and this field.

589  
00:27:47,665 --> 00:27:49,683  
I want you to  
practice for an hour.

590  
00:27:49,683 --> 00:27:51,850  
And they said OK, now you're  
in an ambulance driver.

591  
00:27:51,850 --> 00:27:53,420  
Right.

592  
00:27:53,420 --> 00:27:56,810  
And I became an--

593  
00:27:56,810 --> 00:28:01,670  
I'm sorry-- I became  
an ambulance driver,

594  
00:28:01,670 --> 00:28:06,890  
and was sent out  
to pick up people

595  
00:28:06,890 --> 00:28:08,720  
closer to the  
front to bring them

596  
00:28:08,720 --> 00:28:11,630  
to aid stations or

hospitals, et cetera.

597

00:28:11,630 --> 00:28:12,800

These are soldiers.

598

00:28:12,800 --> 00:28:14,240

Yeah soldiers.

599

00:28:14,240 --> 00:28:15,890

Wounded, the wounded soldiers.

600

00:28:15,890 --> 00:28:17,100

Wounded or sick soldiers.

601

00:28:17,100 --> 00:28:20,300

602

00:28:20,300 --> 00:28:26,270

And one of my tips, by the way, it was probably dangerous

603

00:28:26,270 --> 00:28:27,950

because they said--

604

00:28:27,950 --> 00:28:29,540

I was told, wait, wait, wait.

605

00:28:29,540 --> 00:28:32,270

OK now go and go exactly the way we told you.

606

00:28:32,270 --> 00:28:36,180

Of course that area is cleared and you can get in and out.

607

00:28:36,180 --> 00:28:39,330

And I'm one of the troops.

608

00:28:39,330 --> 00:28:44,430

As I was driving to pick up patients,

609

00:28:44,430 --> 00:28:46,890

a bomb hit the ambulance.

610

00:28:46,890 --> 00:28:48,410

Oh my.

611

00:28:48,410 --> 00:28:49,680

Slipped over.

612

00:28:49,680 --> 00:28:53,180

I broke my-- I  
broke my left ankle,

613

00:28:53,180 --> 00:28:59,130

got a big gash on my left thigh,  
broke my right forefinger,

614

00:28:59,130 --> 00:29:02,730

and had to be taken back  
to the same hospital

615

00:29:02,730 --> 00:29:05,130

that I worked at,  
the general hospital.

616

00:29:05,130 --> 00:29:06,370

Oh my.

617

00:29:06,370 --> 00:29:10,660

And this is-- some more  
evidence about how I felt

618

00:29:10,660 --> 00:29:12,790

about my commanding officer.

619

00:29:12,790 --> 00:29:16,470

He came into me what I was  
lying in bed with a broken leg

620

00:29:16,470 --> 00:29:20,660

and said, you people  
are always complaining.

621  
00:29:20,660 --> 00:29:25,510  
And I said I'm not complaining.

622  
00:29:25,510 --> 00:29:26,860  
I'm laying here.

623  
00:29:26,860 --> 00:29:29,310  
You know, he said, don't  
argue with me, soldier.

624  
00:29:29,310 --> 00:29:31,050  
He got very angry at me.

625  
00:29:31,050 --> 00:29:33,450  
Don't argue with me  
soldier, and stamped out.

626  
00:29:33,450 --> 00:29:36,300

627  
00:29:36,300 --> 00:29:36,967  
I think it was--

628  
00:29:36,967 --> 00:29:39,258  
I don't remember if it was  
that day or a couple of days

629  
00:29:39,258 --> 00:29:41,750  
later when the doctor who  
was treating me who happened

630  
00:29:41,750 --> 00:29:44,940  
to be Jewish said that  
our commanding officer, he

631  
00:29:44,940 --> 00:29:49,710  
had heard this, and he said Dr.  
Manifoff is being transferred

632  
00:29:49,710 --> 00:29:54,150  
to another location,

not in a position where

633

00:29:54,150 --> 00:29:58,380

he would have people under him.

634

00:29:58,380 --> 00:30:02,130

So, anyway this doctor

knew the situation.

635

00:30:02,130 --> 00:30:02,630

Yeah.

636

00:30:02,630 --> 00:30:05,190

637

00:30:05,190 --> 00:30:07,290

Anyway, I recovered.

638

00:30:07,290 --> 00:30:08,845

Amazing.

639

00:30:08,845 --> 00:30:10,970

I guess it was pretty

amazing that after about four

640

00:30:10,970 --> 00:30:16,300

to six weeks I was back on my  
feet, and back in business,

641

00:30:16,300 --> 00:30:19,320

working again at the

hospital, giving injections,

642

00:30:19,320 --> 00:30:21,810

treating patients, changing.

643

00:30:21,810 --> 00:30:24,690

I worked in the

surgery and I must

644

00:30:24,690 --> 00:30:27,220

say the doctors were amazing.

645  
00:30:27,220 --> 00:30:29,820  
I saw the doctors  
sew a finger back

646  
00:30:29,820 --> 00:30:32,520  
on a soldier, and the finger--

647  
00:30:32,520 --> 00:30:35,970  
in those days, I  
don't know what was

648  
00:30:35,970 --> 00:30:40,320  
being done but the finger  
was able to be used again

649  
00:30:40,320 --> 00:30:42,780  
after a while.

650  
00:30:42,780 --> 00:30:43,500  
Amazing.

651  
00:30:43,500 --> 00:30:47,820  
Now while you were there  
and in France at that time,

652  
00:30:47,820 --> 00:30:53,236  
did you see any Jewish people  
returning, or survivors?

653  
00:30:53,236 --> 00:30:56,040

654  
00:30:56,040 --> 00:30:56,670  
No.

655  
00:30:56,670 --> 00:30:58,450  
I was looking for--

656  
00:30:58,450 --> 00:31:02,050  
there was what must have  
been a Jewish area called

657  
00:31:02,050 --> 00:31:06,330  
Le Marais, the swamp, in Paris.

658  
00:31:06,330 --> 00:31:10,560  
M-A-R-A-I-S, which was  
a Jewish neighborhood.

659  
00:31:10,560 --> 00:31:15,000  
And I went there, but I don't  
know if there are any Jews yet

660  
00:31:15,000 --> 00:31:17,680  
at that time.

661  
00:31:17,680 --> 00:31:25,770  
And from there, I'd say that the  
170th general hospital, until

662  
00:31:25,770 --> 00:31:28,470  
the war ended at that time--

663  
00:31:28,470 --> 00:31:33,780  
the hospital closed up,  
and I was still in service,

664  
00:31:33,780 --> 00:31:39,820  
and I was transferred to the  
100 tent station hospital.

665  
00:31:39,820 --> 00:31:44,180  
No, let me go back I'm  
sorry, I'm jumping the gun.

666  
00:31:44,180 --> 00:31:48,350  
Again, while I was at  
the general hospital,

667  
00:31:48,350 --> 00:31:50,120  
a small group of  
us were sent out,

668



00:31:50,120 --> 00:31:51,800  
again some doctors and soldiers.

669  
00:31:51,800 --> 00:31:58,560  
The doctors chose me among  
others to go to a refugee camp.

670  
00:31:58,560 --> 00:32:02,450  
Survivors of a  
concentration camp in a town

671  
00:32:02,450 --> 00:32:04,200  
called Prachatice.

672  
00:32:04,200 --> 00:32:11,620  
P-R-A-C-H-A-T-I-C-E.  
Where there were remnants

673  
00:32:11,620 --> 00:32:16,240  
of a woman's concentration  
camp, women who had marched from

674  
00:32:16,240 --> 00:32:20,430  
Poland into Czechoslovakia  
under the care--

675  
00:32:20,430 --> 00:32:25,630  
not care-- under  
the eyes of Germans.

676  
00:32:25,630 --> 00:32:26,710  
And--

677  
00:32:26,710 --> 00:32:29,950  
So this camp was  
in Czechoslovakia.

678  
00:32:29,950 --> 00:32:31,450  
Yes.

679  
00:32:31,450 --> 00:32:33,350  
We were sent there  
in a rush until they

680  
00:32:33,350 --> 00:32:37,110  
could establish a more basic--

681  
00:32:37,110 --> 00:32:38,860  
they needed someone  
in the rush to go over

682  
00:32:38,860 --> 00:32:41,740  
there to take care of the people  
until they could establish

683  
00:32:41,740 --> 00:32:43,820  
a hospital for these people.

684  
00:32:43,820 --> 00:32:44,620  
Oh.

685  
00:32:44,620 --> 00:32:47,370  
And I went there--

686  
00:32:47,370 --> 00:32:48,550  
You went from France.

687  
00:32:48,550 --> 00:32:51,140  
You went from France  
to Czechoslovakia.

688  
00:32:51,140 --> 00:32:51,640  
Yeah.

689  
00:32:51,640 --> 00:32:54,880  
We must-- there must have  
been about five doctors

690  
00:32:54,880 --> 00:32:57,940  
and 15 enlisted personnel.

691  
00:32:57,940 --> 00:33:01,080  
What time of year was this/

692

00:33:01,080 --> 00:33:04,080

This was--

693

00:33:04,080 --> 00:33:05,550

Was this early--

694

00:33:05,550 --> 00:33:08,040

Late-- early spring.

695

00:33:08,040 --> 00:33:09,040

'45.

696

00:33:09,040 --> 00:33:10,707

Yeah. '45.

697

00:33:10,707 --> 00:33:12,790

So you weren't involved  
in the Battle of the Bulge

698

00:33:12,790 --> 00:33:13,720

or anything like that.

699

00:33:13,720 --> 00:33:16,520

700

00:33:16,520 --> 00:33:18,955

Well again, as part of my--

701

00:33:18,955 --> 00:33:20,330

when I was driving  
the ambulance,

702

00:33:20,330 --> 00:33:24,470

I also went in to the  
Battle of the Bulge area

703

00:33:24,470 --> 00:33:26,660

a couple of times again.

704

00:33:26,660 --> 00:33:30,320

As I said-- they said,  
wait, wait, go and make sure

705  
00:33:30,320 --> 00:33:33,140  
you go exactly the  
way we told you to,

706  
00:33:33,140 --> 00:33:35,300  
because this area's  
been cleared.

707  
00:33:35,300 --> 00:33:38,200  
Oh that was the time of  
the Battle in the Bulge.

708  
00:33:38,200 --> 00:33:38,700  
OK.

709  
00:33:38,700 --> 00:33:41,810

710  
00:33:41,810 --> 00:33:46,180  
So now you get to this  
women's camp, you said--

711  
00:33:46,180 --> 00:33:50,060  
All women, Czechoslovakia.

712  
00:33:50,060 --> 00:33:51,980  
Whereabouts in  
Czechoslovakia was it?

713  
00:33:51,980 --> 00:33:52,754  
Near--

714  
00:33:52,754 --> 00:33:54,220  
Near Pilsen.

715  
00:33:54,220 --> 00:33:55,070  
OK.

716  
00:33:55,070 --> 00:33:56,750  
Yeah.

717

00:33:56,750 --> 00:34:02,890

Towards the southwest  
part of Czechoslovakia.

718

00:34:02,890 --> 00:34:05,380

And I went into the  
building on the first day

719

00:34:05,380 --> 00:34:10,840

we got there, ready to treat  
the people who needed treatment.

720

00:34:10,840 --> 00:34:14,639

And there was one room  
where the woman in it

721

00:34:14,639 --> 00:34:19,840

was beaten black and blue  
with her arm in a sling,

722

00:34:19,840 --> 00:34:22,989

and there was a soldier  
sitting outside her room,

723

00:34:22,989 --> 00:34:26,560

and I found out later that she  
was one of the German prison

724

00:34:26,560 --> 00:34:30,760

guards in the same building,  
but in a separate room

725

00:34:30,760 --> 00:34:34,929

from the survivors  
of the camp march.

726

00:34:34,929 --> 00:34:41,290

And when they were liberated,  
the Jewish people jumped on her

727

00:34:41,290 --> 00:34:45,280

and beat her up so badly  
that she was black and blue

728  
00:34:45,280 --> 00:34:48,340  
and her arm in a cast.

729  
00:34:48,340 --> 00:34:52,239  
And I must say, I  
felt good about it.

730  
00:34:52,239 --> 00:34:54,520  
I felt sort of--  
feeling guilty about it,

731  
00:34:54,520 --> 00:34:58,330  
but I felt very,  
very good about it.

732  
00:34:58,330 --> 00:35:02,590  
When I went in to visit  
the women in the hall

733  
00:35:02,590 --> 00:35:07,420  
or lying around, a lot of  
them had frostbitten toes,

734  
00:35:07,420 --> 00:35:10,090  
other illnesses, et cetera.

735  
00:35:10,090 --> 00:35:13,550  
We did have a little section,  
a segregated section of people

736  
00:35:13,550 --> 00:35:20,230  
that we felt had diseases  
that were maybe communicable,

737  
00:35:20,230 --> 00:35:23,770  
but most of them  
there were mostly

738  
00:35:23,770 --> 00:35:26,650  
surgical problems  
such as frostbite.

739

00:35:26,650 --> 00:35:30,490

We had to scrape away the  
dead tissues on the toes, that

740

00:35:30,490 --> 00:35:33,790

was part of our  
job to inject them

741

00:35:33,790 --> 00:35:37,480

with antibiotics, et cetera.

742

00:35:37,480 --> 00:35:43,510

And I must say the women who  
ranged in age from early teens

743

00:35:43,510 --> 00:35:46,270

to I don't know how old,  
the older ones or workers,

744

00:35:46,270 --> 00:35:49,030

I was young-- it was  
hard for me to visualize.

745

00:35:49,030 --> 00:35:51,530

But their spirits  
were wonderful.

746

00:35:51,530 --> 00:35:54,340

What camp had they come from?

747

00:35:54,340 --> 00:35:56,560

Had they all come  
from the same camp?

748

00:35:56,560 --> 00:35:57,940

Yeah.

749

00:35:57,940 --> 00:36:00,490

I'm sorry, I don't have  
the name of the camp,

750

00:36:00,490 --> 00:36:06,390

but they came from-- they were  
marched from a camp in Poland

751  
00:36:06,390 --> 00:36:11,200  
because the Russians were  
approaching from the east.

752  
00:36:11,200 --> 00:36:14,250  
They were moving west.

753  
00:36:14,250 --> 00:36:16,690  
And they couldn't  
get any further west,

754  
00:36:16,690 --> 00:36:21,430  
because the Allies were the West  
and that's where they ended up.

755  
00:36:21,430 --> 00:36:24,010  
But all those women had  
come from the same camp.

756  
00:36:24,010 --> 00:36:26,080  
They were all young.

757  
00:36:26,080 --> 00:36:30,220  
Were they in the striped prison  
uniforms or regular clothes?

758  
00:36:30,220 --> 00:36:32,680  
They were already  
wearing regular clothes.

759  
00:36:32,680 --> 00:36:36,640  
They wanted to get rid of their  
uniforms as fast as possible.

760  
00:36:36,640 --> 00:36:39,400  
And I was able to--

761  
00:36:39,400 --> 00:36:42,410  
not all of them spoke  
Yiddish or Jewish,



762  
00:36:42,410 --> 00:36:44,780  
but I was able to converse  
with most of them.

763  
00:36:44,780 --> 00:36:46,870  
So these were all  
Jewish survivors.

764  
00:36:46,870 --> 00:36:50,380  
All Jewish survivors  
and all female.

765  
00:36:50,380 --> 00:36:55,290  
From ages from early teenagers  
up to I don't know how old.

766  
00:36:55,290 --> 00:36:57,760  
And their spirits  
were marvelous.

767  
00:36:57,760 --> 00:37:00,610  
They enjoyed-- seem to enjoy--

768  
00:37:00,610 --> 00:37:04,270  
what they wanted mostly from me  
was, do you have a cigarette?

769  
00:37:04,270 --> 00:37:05,562  
Do you have a cigarette?

770  
00:37:05,562 --> 00:37:06,520  
Do you have cigarettes?

771  
00:37:06,520 --> 00:37:12,120  
And the army gave us cigarettes,  
and I collected cigarettes

772  
00:37:12,120 --> 00:37:14,746  
for every other soldier  
that could figure it out,

773

00:37:14,746 --> 00:37:19,300  
that these women were happy.

774  
00:37:19,300 --> 00:37:21,550  
Originally-- this is probably  
how we got together--

775  
00:37:21,550 --> 00:37:26,340  
I was hoping to find somebody  
who was a survivor of that camp

776  
00:37:26,340 --> 00:37:27,790  
or discuss with them.

777  
00:37:27,790 --> 00:37:28,440  
Yeah.

778  
00:37:28,440 --> 00:37:33,580  
But we spent about 10 days.

779  
00:37:33,580 --> 00:37:37,200  
I had met some of the civilians  
who lived in that area,

780  
00:37:37,200 --> 00:37:42,220  
and there were all Germans  
who the German government

781  
00:37:42,220 --> 00:37:46,930  
had chased, taking the  
land from Czechoslovakians,

782  
00:37:46,930 --> 00:37:50,650  
moved German families  
into their families

783  
00:37:50,650 --> 00:37:52,940  
so that they can claim  
it as part of Germany.

784  
00:37:52,940 --> 00:37:57,310  
But of course it didn't happen.

785

00:37:57,310 --> 00:37:58,840

So we spent about 10 days.

786

00:37:58,840 --> 00:37:59,930

10 days to two weeks.

787

00:37:59,930 --> 00:38:00,850

I'm not sure.

788

00:38:00,850 --> 00:38:03,900

Did they tell you about what  
had happened to their families

789

00:38:03,900 --> 00:38:05,770

there?

790

00:38:05,770 --> 00:38:08,290

Did they talk about that or not?

791

00:38:08,290 --> 00:38:09,180

No.

792

00:38:09,180 --> 00:38:10,930

No they didn't.

793

00:38:10,930 --> 00:38:13,360

I don't remember that.

794

00:38:13,360 --> 00:38:18,010

I do remember talking  
about where they came from.

795

00:38:18,010 --> 00:38:23,710

They were all, or mostly all,  
if I remember, from Poland.

796

00:38:23,710 --> 00:38:25,600

And as I said, they  
were just trying

797

00:38:25,600 --> 00:38:29,270

to avoid the Russians  
who were approaching,

798  
00:38:29,270 --> 00:38:31,780  
and I don't know why they  
moved them, didn't leave them.

799  
00:38:31,780 --> 00:38:32,980  
But anyway.

800  
00:38:32,980 --> 00:38:36,310  
What kind of connection  
did you feel to them?

801  
00:38:36,310 --> 00:38:39,900  
I felt very, very--

802  
00:38:39,900 --> 00:38:43,390  
I felt as if I was one of them.

803  
00:38:43,390 --> 00:38:48,210  
Whatever they wanted,  
whatever I could do for them,

804  
00:38:48,210 --> 00:38:53,060  
having long discussions with  
them, and pleasant discussions.

805  
00:38:53,060 --> 00:38:57,260  
And as I say, amazingly  
enough, the spirits of everyone

806  
00:38:57,260 --> 00:39:00,570  
there, I guess-- it  
may have been relief,

807  
00:39:00,570 --> 00:39:05,200  
but they were all  
in good spirits.

808  
00:39:05,200 --> 00:39:09,470  
Nobody-- probably  
I did not discuss

809  
00:39:09,470 --> 00:39:10,640  
their families, et cetera.

810  
00:39:10,640 --> 00:39:11,350  
Yeah.

811  
00:39:11,350 --> 00:39:12,250  
Yeah.

812  
00:39:12,250 --> 00:39:13,970  
That wouldn't have  
been as pleasant.

813  
00:39:13,970 --> 00:39:14,900  
Right.

814  
00:39:14,900 --> 00:39:16,750  
I got the feeling of--

815  
00:39:16,750 --> 00:39:19,270  
Yeah.

816  
00:39:19,270 --> 00:39:25,060  
Were there any other  
incidences of the German guards

817  
00:39:25,060 --> 00:39:29,080  
being taken revenge on  
besides that one woman?

818  
00:39:29,080 --> 00:39:31,270  
No.

819  
00:39:31,270 --> 00:39:35,290  
I remember reading  
something a while back,

820  
00:39:35,290 --> 00:39:40,060  
that the women turned upon their  
guards and killed some of them,

821

00:39:40,060 --> 00:39:42,970  
and probably this one was on  
the verge of being killed,

822

00:39:42,970 --> 00:39:49,000  
and the American soldiers who  
entered that camp probably

823

00:39:49,000 --> 00:39:49,810  
kept her--

824

00:39:49,810 --> 00:39:50,590  
Saved her life.

825

00:39:50,590 --> 00:39:53,370

826

00:39:53,370 --> 00:39:56,710  
I don't know what  
happened with her.

827

00:39:56,710 --> 00:39:58,450  
What was the reaction?

828

00:39:58,450 --> 00:40:00,970  
Were there any other Jewish  
soldiers with you who were

829

00:40:00,970 --> 00:40:03,630  
helping out, who were  
doing what you were doing?

830

00:40:03,630 --> 00:40:04,720  
Yeah.

831

00:40:04,720 --> 00:40:08,740  
If I remember, all of  
the doctors were Jewish.

832

00:40:08,740 --> 00:40:11,650  
That's because most of  
the doctors at that time

833  
00:40:11,650 --> 00:40:12,180  
were Jewish.

834  
00:40:12,180 --> 00:40:13,990  
Right.

835  
00:40:13,990 --> 00:40:15,400  
So what did they say?

836  
00:40:15,400 --> 00:40:20,050  
Did they have any special  
comments, being Jewish

837  
00:40:20,050 --> 00:40:23,680  
and seeing the survivors?

838  
00:40:23,680 --> 00:40:25,540  
I remember one of  
them being very

839  
00:40:25,540 --> 00:40:29,380  
angry at what had  
happened to them,

840  
00:40:29,380 --> 00:40:33,190  
a couple of them  
feeling that way,

841  
00:40:33,190 --> 00:40:40,600  
and the comments about how  
badly they were treated,

842  
00:40:40,600 --> 00:40:44,630  
for the women, for no reason  
at all except for being Jewish.

843  
00:40:44,630 --> 00:40:45,660  
Right.

844  
00:40:45,660 --> 00:40:48,320  
And I felt that--

845  
00:40:48,320 --> 00:40:51,648  
I felt the same way.

846  
00:40:51,648 --> 00:40:52,190  
I don't know.

847  
00:40:52,190 --> 00:40:56,392  
It's very hard for  
me to remember,

848  
00:40:56,392 --> 00:40:58,730  
to express my feelings.

849  
00:40:58,730 --> 00:41:02,420  
I was-- I felt  
good about the fact

850  
00:41:02,420 --> 00:41:05,680  
that the women were so  
high spirited themselves.

851  
00:41:05,680 --> 00:41:06,640  
Oh yes.

852  
00:41:06,640 --> 00:41:07,790  
Yes.

853  
00:41:07,790 --> 00:41:10,610  
Especially the young  
girls, as if they

854  
00:41:10,610 --> 00:41:14,870  
were on vacation, finally.

855  
00:41:14,870 --> 00:41:16,742  
Oh my gosh.

856  
00:41:16,742 --> 00:41:17,700  
However you can put it.

857



00:41:17,700 --> 00:41:18,680  
Yeah.

858  
00:41:18,680 --> 00:41:21,140  
It was quite an experience.

859  
00:41:21,140 --> 00:41:21,880  
I can imagine.

860  
00:41:21,880 --> 00:41:29,020  
And I remember also, prior to  
that, as I said, in the army,

861  
00:41:29,020 --> 00:41:30,990  
they said go over  
here, I went here.

862  
00:41:30,990 --> 00:41:34,370  
They said go there, I went  
there and I did what I wanted.

863  
00:41:34,370 --> 00:41:39,740  
But when I saw them, something  
inside of me switched on.

864  
00:41:39,740 --> 00:41:42,200  
All of a sudden,  
I felt different.

865  
00:41:42,200 --> 00:41:45,960  
And I think this was me--

866  
00:41:45,960 --> 00:41:49,680  
my turning point  
from a boy to a man.

867  
00:41:49,680 --> 00:41:54,660  
When I saw, everything else  
previous this was impersonal.

868  
00:41:54,660 --> 00:41:58,560  
This finally became personal.

869

00:41:58,560 --> 00:42:02,110  
I can't even express it anymore.

870

00:42:02,110 --> 00:42:05,070  
But it was a different  
me after that.

871

00:42:05,070 --> 00:42:07,980  
I'm sure.

872

00:42:07,980 --> 00:42:12,150  
And that's something I  
lived with, and used,

873

00:42:12,150 --> 00:42:17,250  
and tried to live as--

874

00:42:17,250 --> 00:42:20,730  
try not to punish people  
that are not being deserved,

875

00:42:20,730 --> 00:42:22,490  
don't pick on people, et cetera.

876

00:42:22,490 --> 00:42:24,000  
And it was--

877

00:42:24,000 --> 00:42:27,660  
I think it changed my entire  
personality, just being there

878

00:42:27,660 --> 00:42:31,290  
and seeing these people.

879

00:42:31,290 --> 00:42:35,570  
I remember a few  
years ago, going on.

880

00:42:35,570 --> 00:42:37,100  
I googled the word Prachaticce.

881

00:42:37,100 --> 00:42:39,800  
And there was quite  
a bit about it,

882  
00:42:39,800 --> 00:42:42,630  
about where they  
marched from in Poland.

883  
00:42:42,630 --> 00:42:44,560  
I don't remember, honestly.

884  
00:42:44,560 --> 00:42:47,290  
But that information  
is available.

885  
00:42:47,290 --> 00:42:53,320  
And again, I'm hesitating.

886  
00:42:53,320 --> 00:42:59,850  
I'm reliving the feelings  
that I had at that time,

887  
00:42:59,850 --> 00:43:05,030  
when I saw and  
realized what I felt

888  
00:43:05,030 --> 00:43:06,615  
was our purpose in the war.

889  
00:43:06,615 --> 00:43:13,900

890  
00:43:13,900 --> 00:43:18,310  
After that, I'm trying to  
think of any other comments

891  
00:43:18,310 --> 00:43:19,560  
about that.

892  
00:43:19,560 --> 00:43:23,910  
But really, my comments about  
that were mostly my feelings

893

00:43:23,910 --> 00:43:26,890

more than the physical,  
or both feelings

894

00:43:26,890 --> 00:43:31,000

and the physical  
situation, and how I felt

895

00:43:31,000 --> 00:43:33,720

changed when I finally--

896

00:43:33,720 --> 00:43:35,710

try it, that everything  
was impersonal.

897

00:43:35,710 --> 00:43:38,350

I picked up soldiers from  
close to the frontline,

898

00:43:38,350 --> 00:43:39,490

brought them back.

899

00:43:39,490 --> 00:43:40,690

They were wounded.

900

00:43:40,690 --> 00:43:41,600

I didn't know them.

901

00:43:41,600 --> 00:43:42,730

They didn't know me.

902

00:43:42,730 --> 00:43:47,200

I was just doing my  
job as a soldier.

903

00:43:47,200 --> 00:43:51,160

But when I got there,  
I felt I didn't

904

00:43:51,160 --> 00:43:52,550

know what I could do more.

905

00:43:52,550 --> 00:43:58,420

I tried to do everything I  
could besides for these people.

906

00:43:58,420 --> 00:44:02,470

I tried to imagine  
and I couldn't imagine

907

00:44:02,470 --> 00:44:04,160

what they had gone through.

908

00:44:04,160 --> 00:44:07,140

When I saw the women  
with their toes

909

00:44:07,140 --> 00:44:13,690

blackened and frostbitten,  
falling off almost,

910

00:44:13,690 --> 00:44:17,110

I was working with them,  
I felt entirely different

911

00:44:17,110 --> 00:44:19,420

than I had previously.

912

00:44:19,420 --> 00:44:21,430

And I think as I  
said to repeat--

913

00:44:21,430 --> 00:44:22,760

I know I'm repeating it--

914

00:44:22,760 --> 00:44:23,530

That's OK.

915

00:44:23,530 --> 00:44:26,130

I became from a child to a man.

916

00:44:26,130 --> 00:44:27,740

A young boy to a man.

917  
00:44:27,740 --> 00:44:28,240  
Yes.

918  
00:44:28,240 --> 00:44:31,720

919  
00:44:31,720 --> 00:44:32,380  
Go ahead.

920  
00:44:32,380 --> 00:44:34,810  
Were there other young  
soldiers like you,

921  
00:44:34,810 --> 00:44:38,200  
Jewish soldiers who you  
think had the same response

922  
00:44:38,200 --> 00:44:39,290  
that you did?

923  
00:44:39,290 --> 00:44:41,170  
Do you know?

924  
00:44:41,170 --> 00:44:42,100  
I didn't know.

925  
00:44:42,100 --> 00:44:47,560  
It's funny, there was one not  
Jewish, an Italian person,

926  
00:44:47,560 --> 00:44:50,480  
an Italian young  
man from the Bronx,

927  
00:44:50,480 --> 00:44:52,090  
who had the same feelings.

928  
00:44:52,090 --> 00:44:54,820  
Maybe he lived in a Jewish  
neighborhood in the Bronx,

929

00:44:54,820 --> 00:44:56,080  
but I don't know.

930  
00:44:56,080 --> 00:45:01,540  
But he also-- we would discuss  
it and comment upon it.

931  
00:45:01,540 --> 00:45:05,640  
His feelings were the  
same as mine also,

932  
00:45:05,640 --> 00:45:08,560  
from being a child  
to becoming a man.

933  
00:45:08,560 --> 00:45:09,550  
Right.

934  
00:45:09,550 --> 00:45:13,730  
Seeing this personally--  
everything else was impersonal,

935  
00:45:13,730 --> 00:45:16,870  
we did pick up soldiers  
who were in terrible shape,

936  
00:45:16,870 --> 00:45:19,540  
but again it was  
impersonal, it was a job.

937  
00:45:19,540 --> 00:45:21,720  
This was different than a job.

938  
00:45:21,720 --> 00:45:24,010  
Yes.

939  
00:45:24,010 --> 00:45:26,620  
What other problems  
did the women have?

940  
00:45:26,620 --> 00:45:28,220  
You talked about the frostbite.

941

00:45:28,220 --> 00:45:29,560

Were--

942

00:45:29,560 --> 00:45:37,120

They had-- some had communicable diseases, some pneumonia,

943

00:45:37,120 --> 00:45:45,160

bad coughs, other cold symptoms.

944

00:45:45,160 --> 00:45:50,590

And we put on a mask and went to take care of those people.

945

00:45:50,590 --> 00:45:51,540

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

946

00:45:51,540 --> 00:45:53,970

--just like anyone else.

947

00:45:53,970 --> 00:45:57,110

But was it like diptheria and things like that?

948

00:45:57,110 --> 00:45:57,610

Uh.

949

00:45:57,610 --> 00:45:58,310

I really--

950

00:45:58,310 --> 00:45:59,420

You wouldn't know.

951

00:45:59,420 --> 00:46:01,390

I know there were communicable diseases.

952

00:46:01,390 --> 00:46:03,620

Yeah.

953

00:46:03,620 --> 00:46:05,420



Excuse me.

954  
00:46:05,420 --> 00:46:11,250  
And at that time  
penicillin, had just been--

955  
00:46:11,250 --> 00:46:14,180  
it was just becoming in use.

956  
00:46:14,180 --> 00:46:18,080  
Prior to that, most of the--  
in fact, when I started out

957  
00:46:18,080 --> 00:46:22,280  
in service, most of the drugs  
that we had for treating things

958  
00:46:22,280 --> 00:46:25,160  
that needed were sulfur drugs.

959  
00:46:25,160 --> 00:46:32,570  
Penicillin became available,  
and fortunately, it was really

960  
00:46:32,570 --> 00:46:34,100  
a miracle, miracle drug.

961  
00:46:34,100 --> 00:46:37,430

962  
00:46:37,430 --> 00:46:39,410  
When I got home  
from the war, there

963  
00:46:39,410 --> 00:46:43,880  
was a place in Brooklyn,  
Merck Pharmaceuticals.

964  
00:46:43,880 --> 00:46:47,540  
Had a big tank on the roof where  
they were making penicillin.

965

00:46:47,540 --> 00:46:49,170  
Oh my.

966  
00:46:49,170 --> 00:46:50,150  
And I remember that.

967  
00:46:50,150 --> 00:46:52,040  
Oh my.

968  
00:46:52,040 --> 00:46:57,890  
So you stayed at this place  
for 10 days, you said?

969  
00:46:57,890 --> 00:47:00,410  
About 10 days, yes.

970  
00:47:00,410 --> 00:47:04,370  
Until a regular hospital unit,  
a complete hospital unit,

971  
00:47:04,370 --> 00:47:06,190  
could move in.

972  
00:47:06,190 --> 00:47:09,020  
We were the emergency  
fill-in till they

973  
00:47:09,020 --> 00:47:10,750  
could assemble somebody.

974  
00:47:10,750 --> 00:47:14,410  
Were the women  
there able to eat?

975  
00:47:14,410 --> 00:47:15,170  
Yes.

976  
00:47:15,170 --> 00:47:17,900  
Yes, some of them, as I say,  
were walking around fine,

977  
00:47:17,900 --> 00:47:22,180

and some were just lying there.

978

00:47:22,180 --> 00:47:25,830

They were in bunks three high.

979

00:47:25,830 --> 00:47:28,940

Again, there wasn't spread out.

980

00:47:28,940 --> 00:47:33,990

They weren't in beds on the floor, but at different levels.

981

00:47:33,990 --> 00:47:35,507

So this is all in one building.

982

00:47:35,507 --> 00:47:36,590

Yeah, all in one building.

983

00:47:36,590 --> 00:47:38,900

About how many women, did you say?

984

00:47:38,900 --> 00:47:41,220

Do you have any idea?

985

00:47:41,220 --> 00:47:42,720

About 100.

986

00:47:42,720 --> 00:47:45,350

Oh my.

987

00:47:45,350 --> 00:47:46,300

Yeah.

988

00:47:46,300 --> 00:47:47,060

About 100.

989

00:47:47,060 --> 00:47:47,905

Oh my.

990

00:47:47,905 --> 00:47:49,120

I don't know exactly.

991

00:47:49,120 --> 00:47:52,830

This was the remnants  
of a much larger group.

992

00:47:52,830 --> 00:47:54,480

Right, who'd been on the march.

993

00:47:54,480 --> 00:47:55,650

Yeah.

994

00:47:55,650 --> 00:47:59,930

And I also discovered  
that if any Jewish woman

995

00:47:59,930 --> 00:48:04,120

on the march, if she faltered,  
she was shot and that was that.

996

00:48:04,120 --> 00:48:09,680

If a woman was pregnant, she  
was shot, and that was that.

997

00:48:09,680 --> 00:48:13,330

This is why they turned  
upon this guard who

998

00:48:13,330 --> 00:48:18,220

had been one of the  
shooters, et cetera,

999

00:48:18,220 --> 00:48:21,770

and beat her up so badly.

1000

00:48:21,770 --> 00:48:25,430

It was-- again,  
it's an experience

1001

00:48:25,430 --> 00:48:31,250

that I am trying  
to decide whether I

1002

00:48:31,250 --> 00:48:37,580

was happy I experienced  
it, and I think I am.

1003

00:48:37,580 --> 00:48:41,840

It helped me be what  
I am and where I am,

1004

00:48:41,840 --> 00:48:45,680

even though it was such  
an unpleasant experience.

1005

00:48:45,680 --> 00:48:48,710

However, to repeat  
again, the women were--

1006

00:48:48,710 --> 00:48:51,700

or the ones who  
were able to, let

1007

00:48:51,700 --> 00:48:55,340

me put it that way--  
were in great spirits.

1008

00:48:55,340 --> 00:48:57,500

The ones who were lying  
and couldn't get out

1009

00:48:57,500 --> 00:49:01,190

of the cuts or beds, there's  
nothing they could do.

1010

00:49:01,190 --> 00:49:04,520

1011

00:49:04,520 --> 00:49:07,310

So did you get a sense that the  
women were helping each other

1012

00:49:07,310 --> 00:49:08,750

and supporting each other?

1013

00:49:08,750 --> 00:49:10,040  
Oh yeah, absolutely.

1014  
00:49:10,040 --> 00:49:10,850  
Yeah.

1015  
00:49:10,850 --> 00:49:13,720  
They were helping  
to feed one another.

1016  
00:49:13,720 --> 00:49:15,320  
They'd been there.

1017  
00:49:15,320 --> 00:49:17,780  
I don't know how many or what  
happened for the few days

1018  
00:49:17,780 --> 00:49:19,550  
they were there before we got--

1019  
00:49:19,550 --> 00:49:20,570  
Before you got there.

1020  
00:49:20,570 --> 00:49:21,250  
Yeah.

1021  
00:49:21,250 --> 00:49:27,240  
But one way or another,  
well, the army at that time--

1022  
00:49:27,240 --> 00:49:29,080  
there must have been  
one or two medics,

1023  
00:49:29,080 --> 00:49:34,395  
there are always medics  
attached to the army groups

1024  
00:49:34,395 --> 00:49:40,250  
that took care of them till we  
moved in as a medical group.

1025

00:49:40,250 --> 00:49:45,260  
And those medics, I guess,  
took care of them till then.

1026  
00:49:45,260 --> 00:49:48,360  
Set them up, et cetera.

1027  
00:49:48,360 --> 00:49:53,990  
And did any of them talk about  
possibly going to Palestine,

1028  
00:49:53,990 --> 00:49:55,220  
or that didn't come up?

1029  
00:49:55,220 --> 00:49:56,750  
No, not at all.

1030  
00:49:56,750 --> 00:49:57,330  
Yeah.

1031  
00:49:57,330 --> 00:49:59,270  
OK.

1032  
00:49:59,270 --> 00:49:59,900  
So then--

1033  
00:49:59,900 --> 00:50:00,480  
I don't know.

1034  
00:50:00,480 --> 00:50:04,190  
I don't know if they  
even had, how long

1035  
00:50:04,190 --> 00:50:10,340  
they had been in a concentration  
camp, what they knew.

1036  
00:50:10,340 --> 00:50:14,370  
Were they able to be in  
contact, et cetera, et cetera.

1037  
00:50:14,370 --> 00:50:16,720

So they didn't have any  
numbers on their arms

1038  
00:50:16,720 --> 00:50:17,810  
or anything like that?

1039  
00:50:17,810 --> 00:50:18,680  
Yes they did.

1040  
00:50:18,680 --> 00:50:19,640  
Oh they did.

1041  
00:50:19,640 --> 00:50:20,390  
Yeah.

1042  
00:50:20,390 --> 00:50:22,460  
They all did.

1043  
00:50:22,460 --> 00:50:23,000  
Oh.

1044  
00:50:23,000 --> 00:50:23,500  
Yeah.

1045  
00:50:23,500 --> 00:50:27,050

1046  
00:50:27,050 --> 00:50:32,750  
It was a sort of bluish tattoo  
that they all went through.

1047  
00:50:32,750 --> 00:50:33,330  
And--

1048  
00:50:33,330 --> 00:50:36,390  
So they didn't mention  
Auschwitz or anything like that?

1049  
00:50:36,390 --> 00:50:38,540  
They were not from Auschwitz.

1050



00:50:38,540 --> 00:50:41,090  
They were from a place--

1051  
00:50:41,090 --> 00:50:43,830  
a camp in Poland, I  
don't remember the name.

1052  
00:50:43,830 --> 00:50:44,330  
OK.

1053  
00:50:44,330 --> 00:50:46,180  
But--

1054  
00:50:46,180 --> 00:50:49,280  
It could have been a  
subcamp of Auschwitz.

1055  
00:50:49,280 --> 00:50:50,010  
Maybe.

1056  
00:50:50,010 --> 00:50:50,510  
Maybe.

1057  
00:50:50,510 --> 00:50:52,850  
I don't know.

1058  
00:50:52,850 --> 00:50:57,620  
They had a terrible, terrible  
march in cold weather.

1059  
00:50:57,620 --> 00:50:59,830  
No shoes, some of  
them, sort of, that's

1060  
00:50:59,830 --> 00:51:02,450  
where they had the  
frostbite, et cetera.

1061  
00:51:02,450 --> 00:51:05,960  
So again, do you remember  
what month you were there?

1062

00:51:05,960 --> 00:51:08,860  
This is early '45, obviously.

1063  
00:51:08,860 --> 00:51:09,980  
Yeah.

1064  
00:51:09,980 --> 00:51:10,970  
Early spring.

1065  
00:51:10,970 --> 00:51:14,390  
It was maybe February or March.

1066  
00:51:14,390 --> 00:51:17,070  
OK.

1067  
00:51:17,070 --> 00:51:17,860  
'45.

1068  
00:51:17,860 --> 00:51:19,760  
Yeah.

1069  
00:51:19,760 --> 00:51:25,090  
And then you got  
orders to move on?

1070  
00:51:25,090 --> 00:51:29,660  
Then, when we were replaced  
by a complete medical unit,

1071  
00:51:29,660 --> 00:51:37,700  
we went back to our position  
at the general hospital .

1072  
00:51:37,700 --> 00:51:41,935  
At that time, there was already  
a different commanding officer

1073  
00:51:41,935 --> 00:51:44,480  
who I got along well with.

1074  
00:51:44,480 --> 00:51:46,260  
Yeah.

1075  
00:51:46,260 --> 00:51:49,110  
And I don't know what  
happened with Captain King.

1076  
00:51:49,110 --> 00:51:51,470  
That was his name, Thomas King.

1077  
00:51:51,470 --> 00:51:55,880  
One of the things he did  
to me was the doctors

1078  
00:51:55,880 --> 00:51:57,770  
kept trying to promote me.

1079  
00:51:57,770 --> 00:51:59,540  
I was a private.

1080  
00:51:59,540 --> 00:52:01,160  
And they kept trying  
to promote me.

1081  
00:52:01,160 --> 00:52:05,060  
He kept turning me  
down on my records,

1082  
00:52:05,060 --> 00:52:07,070  
not suitable for promotion.

1083  
00:52:07,070 --> 00:52:08,070  
Right.

1084  
00:52:08,070 --> 00:52:11,750  
And he didn't write not  
suitable for promotion

1085  
00:52:11,750 --> 00:52:12,760  
because he's Jewish.

1086  
00:52:12,760 --> 00:52:13,940  
Right.

1087

00:52:13,940 --> 00:52:16,060

Not suitable for promotion.

1088

00:52:16,060 --> 00:52:20,540

And for that reason,

I was never promoted.

1089

00:52:20,540 --> 00:52:23,100

But it didn't make a difference.

1090

00:52:23,100 --> 00:52:25,420

I did whatever I

was supposed to do

1091

00:52:25,420 --> 00:52:27,400

regardless of rank, et cetera.

1092

00:52:27,400 --> 00:52:27,900

Yes.

1093

00:52:27,900 --> 00:52:30,590

1094

00:52:30,590 --> 00:52:33,660

So then as you

said, you went back.

1095

00:52:33,660 --> 00:52:34,230

Yeah.

1096

00:52:34,230 --> 00:52:38,020

I went back and that

hospital was dissolved,

1097

00:52:38,020 --> 00:52:44,400

and I was transferred

to a 100 tent station

1098

00:52:44,400 --> 00:52:48,950

hospital, which is another

hospital unit based in Vienna.

1099

00:52:48,950 --> 00:52:49,790

Oh.

1100

00:52:49,790 --> 00:52:50,930

Yeah.

1101

00:52:50,930 --> 00:52:59,190

And we took over an established  
hospital called the [INAUDIBLE]

1102

00:52:59,190 --> 00:53:01,540

in Vienna.

1103

00:53:01,540 --> 00:53:04,550

It was in a building, and  
we took over that hospital,

1104

00:53:04,550 --> 00:53:09,270

and I worked there again as a  
medical and surgical position,

1105

00:53:09,270 --> 00:53:13,790

and drove an ambulance  
occasionally down.

1106

00:53:13,790 --> 00:53:18,800

And Vienna was in  
fair shape, and it

1107

00:53:18,800 --> 00:53:24,860

was a tripartate government,  
the British, the Russians

1108

00:53:24,860 --> 00:53:28,520

and the Americans  
governed Vienna.

1109

00:53:28,520 --> 00:53:35,860

And nobody who was part of the  
Russian army was under six feet

1110

00:53:35,860 --> 00:53:36,680

two.

1111  
00:53:36,680 --> 00:53:40,030  
They're all tall,  
imposing soldiers

1112  
00:53:40,030 --> 00:53:44,050  
the Russians sent in to make  
sure that the civilians knew

1113  
00:53:44,050 --> 00:53:46,150  
who was boss.

1114  
00:53:46,150 --> 00:53:47,460  
The Americans didn't do that.

1115  
00:53:47,460 --> 00:53:49,240  
Neither did the British.

1116  
00:53:49,240 --> 00:53:54,280  
But every Russian that  
we met was, as I say,

1117  
00:53:54,280 --> 00:54:02,980  
was very tall and in good shape  
to be an imposing position.

1118  
00:54:02,980 --> 00:54:06,940  
I had contact with civilians.

1119  
00:54:06,940 --> 00:54:10,810  
We had civilians  
working in the hospital,

1120  
00:54:10,810 --> 00:54:16,450  
in the kitchen, et cetera, and I  
spoke with quite a few of them.

1121  
00:54:16,450 --> 00:54:20,200  
My German had improved,  
by the way, since then.

1122

00:54:20,200 --> 00:54:27,370  
And never-- another thing is,  
I never heard so much not me,

1123  
00:54:27,370 --> 00:54:31,130  
and I don't know what  
happened, as I did in Vienna.

1124  
00:54:31,130 --> 00:54:31,780  
Oh really.

1125  
00:54:31,780 --> 00:54:33,140  
Yeah.

1126  
00:54:33,140 --> 00:54:34,620  
Yeah.

1127  
00:54:34,620 --> 00:54:37,010  
And I spent time at  
the hospital over there

1128  
00:54:37,010 --> 00:54:46,390  
again as a technician, and  
visiting the town et cetera,

1129  
00:54:46,390 --> 00:54:50,230  
and meeting with civilians  
who would say, oh, not me.

1130  
00:54:50,230 --> 00:54:54,130  
Talking with the English  
and the Russians,

1131  
00:54:54,130 --> 00:54:56,050  
we all got along well.

1132  
00:54:56,050 --> 00:55:02,820  
The-- I don't remember  
honestly, how many months

1133  
00:55:02,820 --> 00:55:04,810  
I spent over there.

1134

00:55:04,810 --> 00:55:08,490

And then finally,  
they were being--

1135

00:55:08,490 --> 00:55:15,330

we were being replaced by  
new soldiers from the States,

1136

00:55:15,330 --> 00:55:19,200

and I was approached  
by somebody who said,

1137

00:55:19,200 --> 00:55:21,060

I know you're never  
been promoted,

1138

00:55:21,060 --> 00:55:23,790

but if you want to stay  
for another few months

1139

00:55:23,790 --> 00:55:29,430

to train the incoming people,  
we'll make you a corporal.

1140

00:55:29,430 --> 00:55:31,320

And I said, no thanks.

1141

00:55:31,320 --> 00:55:33,180

Make me a sergeant.

1142

00:55:33,180 --> 00:55:34,680

And they said no,  
we can't do it.

1143

00:55:34,680 --> 00:55:36,780

I said OK.

1144

00:55:36,780 --> 00:55:38,550

I'm going home.

1145

00:55:38,550 --> 00:55:42,460

And that was my army career.



1146  
00:55:42,460 --> 00:55:45,300  
So when did you--

1147  
00:55:45,300 --> 00:55:46,910  
Early '46.

1148  
00:55:46,910 --> 00:55:50,520  
Oh, so you stayed for another  
year after the war was over.

1149  
00:55:50,520 --> 00:55:51,190  
Pretty much.

1150  
00:55:51,190 --> 00:55:51,800  
Yeah.

1151  
00:55:51,800 --> 00:55:54,480  
And that was in  
Vienna the whole time?

1152  
00:55:54,480 --> 00:55:54,980  
Most of it.

1153  
00:55:54,980 --> 00:56:01,110  
Well, part of it was still  
at the hospital, 170 General

1154  
00:56:01,110 --> 00:56:06,000  
Hospital, till it was  
disbanded and moved to Vienna.

1155  
00:56:06,000 --> 00:56:10,620  
I was in Vienna maybe eight  
months, seven or eight months.

1156  
00:56:10,620 --> 00:56:16,690  
And living a pretty  
good life, by the way.

1157  
00:56:16,690 --> 00:56:19,140  
The food was good.

1158  
00:56:19,140 --> 00:56:23,810  
Was it-- a civilian situation  
rather than an armed situation.

1159  
00:56:23,810 --> 00:56:28,570  
Right. , Again any antisemitism,  
even after the war?

1160  
00:56:28,570 --> 00:56:33,500

1161  
00:56:33,500 --> 00:56:34,080  
No.

1162  
00:56:34,080 --> 00:56:36,590  
It's just a denial.

1163  
00:56:36,590 --> 00:56:37,290  
Denial.

1164  
00:56:37,290 --> 00:56:39,200  
Yeah, right.

1165  
00:56:39,200 --> 00:56:42,340  
These are the non-Jewish  
Austrians who are denying--

1166  
00:56:42,340 --> 00:56:44,270  
Yeah.

1167  
00:56:44,270 --> 00:56:47,280  
Not me, I didn't know, I wasn't  
there, I didn't see anything,

1168  
00:56:47,280 --> 00:56:48,910  
I didn't hear anything.

1169  
00:56:48,910 --> 00:56:50,810  
I never heard so much of that.

1170

00:56:50,810 --> 00:56:54,110  
And not-- this is all voluntary.

1171  
00:56:54,110 --> 00:56:55,470  
I didn't ask them.

1172  
00:56:55,470 --> 00:56:58,220  
That was their first approach.

1173  
00:56:58,220 --> 00:57:01,760  
What was your reaction  
when the war was over

1174  
00:57:01,760 --> 00:57:04,310  
and you heard Hitler died?

1175  
00:57:04,310 --> 00:57:08,330  
I was sorry to hear that  
he committed suicide.

1176  
00:57:08,330 --> 00:57:15,150  
I wanted him punished bad, and  
not take the coward's way out,

1177  
00:57:15,150 --> 00:57:19,060  
the easy way out or however  
you want to refer to it.

1178  
00:57:19,060 --> 00:57:24,990  
And I was hoping that he would--

1179  
00:57:24,990 --> 00:57:29,150  
that he would be brought  
up before a tribunal,

1180  
00:57:29,150 --> 00:57:32,040  
but it didn't happen.

1181  
00:57:32,040 --> 00:57:34,960  
Then again, I felt there  
was an opportunity that

1182

00:57:34,960 --> 00:57:37,870  
was somehow missed  
or let the world

1183  
00:57:37,870 --> 00:57:40,230  
know what had really gone on.

1184  
00:57:40,230 --> 00:57:43,850  
As I said when I saw  
that concentration camp,

1185  
00:57:43,850 --> 00:57:45,180  
I became a different person.

1186  
00:57:45,180 --> 00:57:47,260  
My thoughts were different.

1187  
00:57:47,260 --> 00:57:52,690  
I didn't think it was just  
me as a kid, going here

1188  
00:57:52,690 --> 00:57:54,680  
and there, et cetera.

1189  
00:57:54,680 --> 00:57:58,750  
A sort of personal involvement  
which still carries on.

1190  
00:57:58,750 --> 00:57:59,385  
Of course.

1191  
00:57:59,385 --> 00:58:02,810

1192  
00:58:02,810 --> 00:58:07,270  
So now you come back  
to the United States.

1193  
00:58:07,270 --> 00:58:09,820  
Came back.

1194  
00:58:09,820 --> 00:58:11,170

Again, went to live--

1195  
00:58:11,170 --> 00:58:12,710  
my mother had passed away.

1196  
00:58:12,710 --> 00:58:13,750  
Right.

1197  
00:58:13,750 --> 00:58:16,140  
My father had remarried.

1198  
00:58:16,140 --> 00:58:19,570  
Then I went back to  
Brooklyn College,

1199  
00:58:19,570 --> 00:58:24,850  
finished up school and then went  
to the University of Chicago

1200  
00:58:24,850 --> 00:58:26,270  
for a masters in engineering.

1201  
00:58:26,270 --> 00:58:28,120  
Oh, back to Chicago.

1202  
00:58:28,120 --> 00:58:29,200  
Yeah.

1203  
00:58:29,200 --> 00:58:30,700  
A master's in--

1204  
00:58:30,700 --> 00:58:33,750  
Industrial psychology.

1205  
00:58:33,750 --> 00:58:35,860  
And I got a job.

1206  
00:58:35,860 --> 00:58:37,280  
Shall I continue?

1207  
00:58:37,280 --> 00:58:37,780

Yeah.

1208  
00:58:37,780 --> 00:58:41,170  
You can just generally  
tell me what you did.

1209  
00:58:41,170 --> 00:58:44,100  
I got a job for a  
toy manufacturer

1210  
00:58:44,100 --> 00:58:46,500  
called Pressman Toys.

1211  
00:58:46,500 --> 00:58:51,910  
They asked me to come  
in to help design toys.

1212  
00:58:51,910 --> 00:58:56,500  
They made basic items such  
as checkers and chess, blocks

1213  
00:58:56,500 --> 00:58:58,110  
for kids, et cetera.

1214  
00:58:58,110 --> 00:59:02,650  
And they wanted me to come  
in to help design some

1215  
00:59:02,650 --> 00:59:06,650  
based upon my ideas.

1216  
00:59:06,650 --> 00:59:09,500  
Industrial psychology,  
some toys start--

1217  
00:59:09,500 --> 00:59:12,190  
kids would be more  
acclimated to.

1218  
00:59:12,190 --> 00:59:18,090  
And again, my background--  
and made a little ambulance,

1219  
00:59:18,090 --> 00:59:23,450  
a plastic ambulance  
packed with gauze and--

1220  
00:59:23,450 --> 00:59:25,660  
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

1221  
00:59:25,660 --> 00:59:28,450  
And that was good.

1222  
00:59:28,450 --> 00:59:32,770  
And then I came across the  
idea, which someone took over,

1223  
00:59:32,770 --> 00:59:35,740  
but I'll tell you at  
the beginning of it.

1224  
00:59:35,740 --> 00:59:39,010  
I called it tater head.

1225  
00:59:39,010 --> 00:59:41,250  
T-A-T-E-R.

1226  
00:59:41,250 --> 00:59:41,950  
Potato Head.

1227  
00:59:41,950 --> 00:59:42,450  
Yeah.

1228  
00:59:42,450 --> 00:59:45,620  
It was-- mine was all plastic.

1229  
00:59:45,620 --> 00:59:50,980  
And again, with replaceable ears  
and nose and mouth, et cetera.

1230  
00:59:50,980 --> 00:59:56,290  
And we made it for a few years.

1231  
00:59:56,290 --> 01:00:00,420

Unfortunately, the  
company didn't patent it.

1232  
01:00:00,420 --> 01:00:03,120  
Another big company came  
out with the Potato Head.

1233  
01:00:03,120 --> 01:00:04,750  
Right.

1234  
01:00:04,750 --> 01:00:08,020  
Using a real potato instead.

1235  
01:00:08,020 --> 01:00:10,510  
I can't think of the name  
of that other company.

1236  
01:00:10,510 --> 01:00:12,680  
Pressman Toys, I believe,  
is still in business.

1237  
01:00:12,680 --> 01:00:15,232  
That other company  
became a big toy company.

1238  
01:00:15,232 --> 01:00:16,940  
I don't remember which  
one it was though.

1239  
01:00:16,940 --> 01:00:19,650  
And it became a  
very popular item.

1240  
01:00:19,650 --> 01:00:24,190  
I stayed there for, I don't  
know, maybe a year or so,

1241  
01:00:24,190 --> 01:00:28,540  
helping with design, and helping  
to reconstruct their production

1242  
01:00:28,540 --> 01:00:31,780  
lines to be more



efficient, et cetera.

1243

01:00:31,780 --> 01:00:36,220

And I felt that  
was a dead end job,

1244

01:00:36,220 --> 01:00:40,820

and I ended up going in  
the garment industry,

1245

01:00:40,820 --> 01:00:43,880

with a firm called  
Marlene Industries.

1246

01:00:43,880 --> 01:00:51,320

It was the largest private label  
women's clothing manufacturer

1247

01:00:51,320 --> 01:00:52,660

in the United States.

1248

01:00:52,660 --> 01:00:54,820

Private label meant--

1249

01:00:54,820 --> 01:00:57,800

Macy's would give us an order,  
and we put their label in it.

1250

01:00:57,800 --> 01:00:58,300

Right.

1251

01:00:58,300 --> 01:01:01,580

Or Bloomingdale's would put  
their label in it, et cetera.

1252

01:01:01,580 --> 01:01:05,280

We also sold to other retailers.

1253

01:01:05,280 --> 01:01:09,110

Like Lord and  
Taylor for example,

1254

01:01:09,110 --> 01:01:12,660  
was willing to pay us more  
money for the same garment

1255  
01:01:12,660 --> 01:01:16,900  
as Macy's, because they know  
they can get more money for it.

1256  
01:01:16,900 --> 01:01:19,780  
So the only difference  
between a Lord Taylor garment

1257  
01:01:19,780 --> 01:01:22,590  
and the Macy's  
garment was the label.

1258  
01:01:22,590 --> 01:01:25,810  
And people went to Lord  
Taylor just to buy the label

1259  
01:01:25,810 --> 01:01:27,480  
and paid more.

1260  
01:01:27,480 --> 01:01:30,850  
And I felt that it was funny.

1261  
01:01:30,850 --> 01:01:34,210  
We'd run a production  
line, and then they'd

1262  
01:01:34,210 --> 01:01:36,850  
stop and switch labels,  
and just keep going

1263  
01:01:36,850 --> 01:01:38,380  
with the same production line.

1264  
01:01:38,380 --> 01:01:41,290  
And then how long did  
you stay with them?

1265  
01:01:41,290 --> 01:01:46,410  
I stayed with them for the

remainder of my work life.

1266  
01:01:46,410 --> 01:01:47,450  
OK.

1267  
01:01:47,450 --> 01:01:52,100  
I ended up being vice  
president of operations.

1268  
01:01:52,100 --> 01:01:55,250  
I did a lot of traveling  
through our factories.

1269  
01:01:55,250 --> 01:01:56,540  
In the South we had factories.

1270  
01:01:56,540 --> 01:02:00,980  
In Tennessee, South Carolina,  
North Carolina, Arkansas

1271  
01:02:00,980 --> 01:02:02,720  
and Alabama.

1272  
01:02:02,720 --> 01:02:04,380  
And I did a lot of traveling.

1273  
01:02:04,380 --> 01:02:07,130  
Some of the things  
I did there were--

1274  
01:02:07,130 --> 01:02:10,610  
some of the what I feel  
were noteworthy things

1275  
01:02:10,610 --> 01:02:14,840  
were, I dealt with the  
local and state governments

1276  
01:02:14,840 --> 01:02:20,700  
and set up schools  
on our premises

1277

01:02:20,700 --> 01:02:26,020  
so that we would have trained  
sewing machine operators.

1278  
01:02:26,020 --> 01:02:28,800  
So the state paid  
them, and all we

1279  
01:02:28,800 --> 01:02:33,830  
did was supply was space  
and the sewing machines,

1280  
01:02:33,830 --> 01:02:35,880  
and were able to get the  
experienced operators.

1281  
01:02:35,880 --> 01:02:37,920  
Wonderful.

1282  
01:02:37,920 --> 01:02:40,310  
Wonderful.

1283  
01:02:40,310 --> 01:02:42,300  
Well, do you have a family?

1284  
01:02:42,300 --> 01:02:43,133  
Did you get married?

1285  
01:02:43,133 --> 01:02:44,592  
Let me give you  
one more situation.

1286  
01:02:44,592 --> 01:02:45,260  
Oh, sure.

1287  
01:02:45,260 --> 01:02:47,335  
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

1288  
01:02:47,335 --> 01:02:48,610

1289  
01:02:48,610 --> 01:02:52,100

We had one of the plants.

1290  
01:02:52,100 --> 01:02:53,950  
Well we're doing  
very, very well,

1291  
01:02:53,950 --> 01:02:58,260  
and we didn't have enough  
personnel living in that area.

1292  
01:02:58,260 --> 01:03:03,330  
And I told the town  
fathers that we'd

1293  
01:03:03,330 --> 01:03:05,190  
have to move the  
plant unless they

1294  
01:03:05,190 --> 01:03:09,120  
were allow us accept the  
fact that we would integrate

1295  
01:03:09,120 --> 01:03:14,830  
the factories with Black people  
working next to white people

1296  
01:03:14,830 --> 01:03:17,810  
on the sewing, on  
the production line.

1297  
01:03:17,810 --> 01:03:19,980  
And they said absolutely not.

1298  
01:03:19,980 --> 01:03:22,320  
So they said, we don't need you.

1299  
01:03:22,320 --> 01:03:25,260  
We'll get along-- we got  
along without you before,

1300  
01:03:25,260 --> 01:03:28,320  
and we'll get along  
after you leave.

1301  
01:03:28,320 --> 01:03:34,260  
So what I did was, arrange  
with the bank who sent out

1302  
01:03:34,260 --> 01:03:36,190  
the payroll to pay everybody.

1303  
01:03:36,190 --> 01:03:39,930  
We paid in cash and  
there was-- in \$2 bills.

1304  
01:03:39,930 --> 01:03:42,930  
When the townpeople,  
town fathers,

1305  
01:03:42,930 --> 01:03:45,450  
elected officials saw  
how many \$2 bills were

1306  
01:03:45,450 --> 01:03:50,660  
floating around the city, they  
said yes, let's try doing it.

1307  
01:03:50,660 --> 01:03:52,700  
They realized how  
important we were.

1308  
01:03:52,700 --> 01:03:53,460  
Yeah.

1309  
01:03:53,460 --> 01:03:56,220  
And that really worked out.

1310  
01:03:56,220 --> 01:04:01,770  
The Black people had worked as  
porters carrying the material,

1311  
01:04:01,770 --> 01:04:03,220  
but never on a production line.

1312  
01:04:03,220 --> 01:04:07,370

So they knew-- the working  
people didn't care.

1313  
01:04:07,370 --> 01:04:08,850  
What city was this?

1314  
01:04:08,850 --> 01:04:16,570  
This was in A or  
A-Y-N-O-R, South Carolina.

1315  
01:04:16,570 --> 01:04:19,580  
South Carolina.

1316  
01:04:19,580 --> 01:04:20,767  
And it worked out.

1317  
01:04:20,767 --> 01:04:21,600  
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

1318  
01:04:21,600 --> 01:04:22,340  
Everybody was happy.

1319  
01:04:22,340 --> 01:04:22,840  
Wonderful.

1320  
01:04:22,840 --> 01:04:26,010  
And things went on.

1321  
01:04:26,010 --> 01:04:31,704  
As I say, I stayed there for  
the rest of my working life,

1322  
01:04:31,704 --> 01:04:33,360  
till China took over.

1323  
01:04:33,360 --> 01:04:36,153

1324  
01:04:36,153 --> 01:04:37,320  
We couldn't-- we could not--

1325

01:04:37,320 --> 01:04:38,790  
You couldn't compete.

1326  
01:04:38,790 --> 01:04:41,160  
We couldn't compete with  
Chinese labor costs.

1327  
01:04:41,160 --> 01:04:41,740  
Of course.

1328  
01:04:41,740 --> 01:04:42,240  
Yeah.

1329  
01:04:42,240 --> 01:04:46,770

1330  
01:04:46,770 --> 01:04:48,480  
Let's talk about family.

1331  
01:04:48,480 --> 01:04:49,430  
Do you have a family?

1332  
01:04:49,430 --> 01:04:50,670  
Did you get married?

1333  
01:04:50,670 --> 01:04:52,900  
Yes.

1334  
01:04:52,900 --> 01:04:57,810  
I was-- I got together,  
after the war,

1335  
01:04:57,810 --> 01:04:59,785  
we got together  
with a group of--

1336  
01:04:59,785 --> 01:05:01,410  
not got together,  
but there was a group

1337  
01:05:01,410 --> 01:05:05,060  
of young men who went



out together, et cetera.

1338  
01:05:05,060 --> 01:05:08,610  
And we were going up to  
the Catskills one day

1339  
01:05:08,610 --> 01:05:10,005  
and we stopped off at a hotel.

1340  
01:05:10,005 --> 01:05:13,000

1341  
01:05:13,000 --> 01:05:14,390  
On the way up to  
the Catskills, I

1342  
01:05:14,390 --> 01:05:17,780  
don't even remember what town  
it was, there was a young lady.

1343  
01:05:17,780 --> 01:05:20,720  
And I said let's  
dance, and we danced.

1344  
01:05:20,720 --> 01:05:24,210  
And I said to my other--

1345  
01:05:24,210 --> 01:05:26,390  
to my friends who were  
with me, I said you go on,

1346  
01:05:26,390 --> 01:05:28,520  
I'm going to stay here.

1347  
01:05:28,520 --> 01:05:32,360  
And we got to  
talking, et cetera.

1348  
01:05:32,360 --> 01:05:33,380  
She went her way.

1349  
01:05:33,380 --> 01:05:36,270

I got her phone number.

1350  
01:05:36,270 --> 01:05:38,210  
She was originally  
from the Bronx.

1351  
01:05:38,210 --> 01:05:40,310  
She was living right  
near Fresh Meadows.

1352  
01:05:40,310 --> 01:05:42,110  
I lived in Brooklyn.

1353  
01:05:42,110 --> 01:05:47,500  
And we went out  
quite a bit together.

1354  
01:05:47,500 --> 01:05:53,290  
And one day I said to her,  
how about becoming my wife?

1355  
01:05:53,290 --> 01:05:59,030  
She said, I don't know  
how she phrased it.

1356  
01:05:59,030 --> 01:05:59,750  
Are you sure?

1357  
01:05:59,750 --> 01:06:02,470  
Or something like that.

1358  
01:06:02,470 --> 01:06:05,740  
I wasn't making a lot of  
money at that time yet,

1359  
01:06:05,740 --> 01:06:08,690  
and she said, what about--

1360  
01:06:08,690 --> 01:06:11,080  
can we along, et cetera.

1361  
01:06:11,080 --> 01:06:16,030

And I said I'm lucky  
to have found you,

1362  
01:06:16,030 --> 01:06:18,550  
and my luck was  
going to carry me on.

1363  
01:06:18,550 --> 01:06:20,810  
And sure enough,  
the luck carried on.

1364  
01:06:20,810 --> 01:06:21,310  
Wonderful.

1365  
01:06:21,310 --> 01:06:25,360  
For my family, to my two  
children, my in-laws.

1366  
01:06:25,360 --> 01:06:29,320  
And everything,  
it's been wonderful.

1367  
01:06:29,320 --> 01:06:31,300  
Can we talk just before  
we end, a little bit

1368  
01:06:31,300 --> 01:06:36,850  
about some of your thoughts  
about what you went through?

1369  
01:06:36,850 --> 01:06:43,240  
When your children were  
your age during the war,

1370  
01:06:43,240 --> 01:06:46,510  
and you saw what you saw,  
did you tell them about that?

1371  
01:06:46,510 --> 01:06:47,950  
Did you--

1372  
01:06:47,950 --> 01:06:48,940  
Yes I did.

1373  
01:06:48,940 --> 01:06:50,620  
I told them about  
the experience I had.

1374  
01:06:50,620 --> 01:06:51,430  
You did.

1375  
01:06:51,430 --> 01:06:56,180  
And how important it  
was to me to be Jewish.

1376  
01:06:56,180 --> 01:06:59,130  
How important it was  
to that connection

1377  
01:06:59,130 --> 01:07:02,080  
to other Jewish people,  
not only the ones who

1378  
01:07:02,080 --> 01:07:03,865  
had lived this terrible time.

1379  
01:07:03,865 --> 01:07:07,270  
And of course at that time, we  
knew about what was happening.

1380  
01:07:07,270 --> 01:07:08,430  
Yeah.

1381  
01:07:08,430 --> 01:07:10,990  
In Russia, and other  
parts of the world.

1382  
01:07:10,990 --> 01:07:12,190  
Right.

1383  
01:07:12,190 --> 01:07:15,490  
I told them about how  
my grandfather, who

1384  
01:07:15,490 --> 01:07:17,770

lived in Russia,  
was enlisted, was

1385  
01:07:17,770 --> 01:07:20,060  
drafted into the Russian army.

1386  
01:07:20,060 --> 01:07:24,160  
And in those days he would have  
been served a 20 year term--

1387  
01:07:24,160 --> 01:07:33,330  
and walked across  
Europe to North Germany,

1388  
01:07:33,330 --> 01:07:36,850  
I'm trying to remember  
the name of the town.

1389  
01:07:36,850 --> 01:07:38,140  
Danzig.

1390  
01:07:38,140 --> 01:07:41,590  
Walked from Russia to  
Danzig, hiding in hay mills

1391  
01:07:41,590 --> 01:07:44,720  
during the day and walking  
at night, and stealing

1392  
01:07:44,720 --> 01:07:48,460  
and the baking food on  
the way, and making it

1393  
01:07:48,460 --> 01:07:51,460  
to the United States.

1394  
01:07:51,460 --> 01:07:57,500  
And when he got to the United  
States, he landed in Boston.

1395  
01:07:57,500 --> 01:08:01,030  
And the Irish  
immigration official

1396  
01:08:01,030 --> 01:08:04,450  
said, what is your name, and  
he gave them his Russian name.

1397  
01:08:04,450 --> 01:08:06,572  
His Jewish name, first name.

1398  
01:08:06,572 --> 01:08:07,280  
And they said OK.

1399  
01:08:07,280 --> 01:08:09,400  
Your name is Thomas.

1400  
01:08:09,400 --> 01:08:11,830  
I never knew his  
name was Thomas.

1401  
01:08:11,830 --> 01:08:13,460  
He would never  
acknowledge that name.

1402  
01:08:13,460 --> 01:08:16,456  
He felt it wasn't a Jewish name.

1403  
01:08:16,456 --> 01:08:19,149  
I knew him as Tobias.

1404  
01:08:19,149 --> 01:08:21,370  
Tobias?

1405  
01:08:21,370 --> 01:08:24,490  
Which was his Jewish  
name originally.

1406  
01:08:24,490 --> 01:08:28,135  
But his official name in the  
United States was Thomas Rose.

1407  
01:08:28,135 --> 01:08:29,010  
He never accepted it.

1408  
01:08:29,010 --> 01:08:32,830  
What are your thoughts now?

1409  
01:08:32,830 --> 01:08:37,080  
You did allude to your  
thoughts about Germany.

1410  
01:08:37,080 --> 01:08:38,029  
Yeah.

1411  
01:08:38,029 --> 01:08:40,450  
You still feel that way.

1412  
01:08:40,450 --> 01:08:44,140  
Yes, as I say, right or wrong,  
but something in me says

1413  
01:08:44,140 --> 01:08:46,859  
do not buy a German car.

1414  
01:08:46,859 --> 01:08:50,990  
Do not buy any product that  
I see is made in Germany.

1415  
01:08:50,990 --> 01:08:53,750  
I will not visit Germany,  
I will not visit Austria.

1416  
01:08:53,750 --> 01:08:56,000  
We have been to  
Europe, my wife and I.

1417  
01:08:56,000 --> 01:08:58,040  
But you have not gone  
to Austria either.

1418  
01:08:58,040 --> 01:08:59,170  
No, no.

1419  
01:08:59,170 --> 01:09:00,069  
We've been to France.

1420

01:09:00,069 --> 01:09:02,109

We've been to England.

1421

01:09:02,109 --> 01:09:05,500

Never-- I wouldn't consider.

1422

01:09:05,500 --> 01:09:07,670

What were your thoughts  
during the Eichmann trial?

1423

01:09:07,670 --> 01:09:14,060

1424

01:09:14,060 --> 01:09:17,609

Again, how evil.

1425

01:09:17,609 --> 01:09:22,880

I don't remember the name  
of the woman who talked

1426

01:09:22,880 --> 01:09:24,649

about the banality of evil.

1427

01:09:24,649 --> 01:09:25,359

Right.

1428

01:09:25,359 --> 01:09:30,979

How the Germans,  
the normal people

1429

01:09:30,979 --> 01:09:33,500

became evil, because  
it was easier

1430

01:09:33,500 --> 01:09:35,466

for them to live that way.

1431

01:09:35,466 --> 01:09:37,490

And I believe that  
was the reason,

1432



01:09:37,490 --> 01:09:44,180  
but just again, reinforces  
my feeling that--

1433  
01:09:44,180 --> 01:09:45,800  
I'm not expressing it well.

1434  
01:09:45,800 --> 01:09:48,979  
Reinforcing my feeling that  
I would not, no matter what

1435  
01:09:48,979 --> 01:09:53,810  
they say, no matter how  
they turn or might feel,

1436  
01:09:53,810 --> 01:09:55,370  
how they claim they  
feel, I would not

1437  
01:09:55,370 --> 01:09:58,190  
go back to Germany or Austria.

1438  
01:09:58,190 --> 01:10:00,260  
Do you think the world  
had learned any lessons

1439  
01:10:00,260 --> 01:10:01,100  
from the Holocaust?

1440  
01:10:01,100 --> 01:10:04,840

1441  
01:10:04,840 --> 01:10:08,850  
I'm afraid to say that  
people still people

1442  
01:10:08,850 --> 01:10:14,760  
feel the same way as they did  
before about Jewish people

1443  
01:10:14,760 --> 01:10:16,150  
all over the world.

1444

01:10:16,150 --> 01:10:20,620

You hear stories  
about antisemitism

1445

01:10:20,620 --> 01:10:24,300

in different parts of  
the world still going on.

1446

01:10:24,300 --> 01:10:25,770

And it will never change.

1447

01:10:25,770 --> 01:10:28,050

I'm afraid that  
will never change.

1448

01:10:28,050 --> 01:10:31,230

I don't think that  
Israel will settle

1449

01:10:31,230 --> 01:10:33,530

its borders during my lifetime.

1450

01:10:33,530 --> 01:10:35,010

Have you been to Israel?

1451

01:10:35,010 --> 01:10:36,730

Yes.

1452

01:10:36,730 --> 01:10:40,050

I spent a wonderful,  
wonderful time there.

1453

01:10:40,050 --> 01:10:42,500

At that time-- that  
was many years ago,

1454

01:10:42,500 --> 01:10:50,250

and went into East Jerusalem,  
no problems with it.

1455

01:10:50,250 --> 01:10:52,340

Now I wouldn't want to go.

1456  
01:10:52,340 --> 01:10:56,960  
But we felt free to go  
wherever we wanted to,

1457  
01:10:56,960 --> 01:11:03,570  
and the spirits of the people  
there, they're so wonderful.

1458  
01:11:03,570 --> 01:11:06,810  
Were you-- were you  
active in the Civil rights

1459  
01:11:06,810 --> 01:11:09,090  
movement in the 60s and 70s?

1460  
01:11:09,090 --> 01:11:09,600  
I mean here.

1461  
01:11:09,600 --> 01:11:12,420  
Hitler deprived--  
the Germans deprived

1462  
01:11:12,420 --> 01:11:13,800  
people of their civil rights.

1463  
01:11:13,800 --> 01:11:18,000  
Did you see any connection  
or were you active

1464  
01:11:18,000 --> 01:11:20,010  
in the Civil rights  
movement here in the United

1465  
01:11:20,010 --> 01:11:21,340  
States at that time?

1466  
01:11:21,340 --> 01:11:21,840  
No.

1467  
01:11:21,840 --> 01:11:23,730  
No I wasn't.

1468  
01:11:23,730 --> 01:11:27,530  
I was strictly--

1469  
01:11:27,530 --> 01:11:31,751

1470  
01:11:31,751 --> 01:11:33,660  
I'm trying to figure  
out how to say it.

1471  
01:11:33,660 --> 01:11:34,620  
Not Republican.

1472  
01:11:34,620 --> 01:11:39,440

1473  
01:11:39,440 --> 01:11:47,260  
I was active in, maybe--

1474  
01:11:47,260 --> 01:11:50,610  
I joined a Democratic club.

1475  
01:11:50,610 --> 01:11:57,030  
And-- but that didn't  
have much to do with

1476  
01:11:57,030 --> 01:11:58,830  
whether you were Jewish or not.

1477  
01:11:58,830 --> 01:12:00,760  
Right.

1478  
01:12:00,760 --> 01:12:04,990  
Right now I belong to a  
Jewish community center

1479  
01:12:04,990 --> 01:12:10,230  
where we discuss every  
week the news of the world,

1480

01:12:10,230 --> 01:12:12,410  
our reactions to it.

1481  
01:12:12,410 --> 01:12:17,440  
And we get amazingly  
such divergent points

1482  
01:12:17,440 --> 01:12:19,180  
of opinion on that.

1483  
01:12:19,180 --> 01:12:21,220  
I feel is good.

1484  
01:12:21,220 --> 01:12:24,950  
And we discuss Israel quite  
a bit and our situation.

1485  
01:12:24,950 --> 01:12:36,540  
And one of my relatives is--

1486  
01:12:36,540 --> 01:12:38,980  
I'm trying to remember--

1487  
01:12:38,980 --> 01:12:41,430  
is connected with a AIPAC.

1488  
01:12:41,430 --> 01:12:44,470  
And there's some  
discussion about AIPAC

1489  
01:12:44,470 --> 01:12:47,950  
as against opposing views  
about what's going on.

1490  
01:12:47,950 --> 01:12:49,530  
Right.

1491  
01:12:49,530 --> 01:12:51,990  
I don't have--

1492  
01:12:51,990 --> 01:12:56,510  
I purposely don't have an

opinion on that right now.

1493

01:12:56,510 --> 01:13:00,260

Have you been to the Holocaust  
Museum in Washington?

1494

01:13:00,260 --> 01:13:01,940

No, not the one in Washington.

1495

01:13:01,940 --> 01:13:04,530

In Miami.

1496

01:13:04,530 --> 01:13:07,040

I-- one of these  
days I would like

1497

01:13:07,040 --> 01:13:11,940

to go to the one in Washington.

1498

01:13:11,940 --> 01:13:14,420

And I don't know if you've  
seen the one in Miami.

1499

01:13:14,420 --> 01:13:18,540

It was very-- they  
did a wonderful job.

1500

01:13:18,540 --> 01:13:20,930

And again, it  
brought out emotions

1501

01:13:20,930 --> 01:13:24,830

that I didn't know I'd  
had since World War 2.

1502

01:13:24,830 --> 01:13:26,750

Do you find that  
you think more about

1503

01:13:26,750 --> 01:13:29,790

that as you've gotten  
older, what you saw?

1504  
01:13:29,790 --> 01:13:30,290  
Yeah.

1505  
01:13:30,290 --> 01:13:31,970  
I do.

1506  
01:13:31,970 --> 01:13:34,820  
At the Jewish Community  
Center I belong to,

1507  
01:13:34,820 --> 01:13:38,240  
there are couple of survivors.

1508  
01:13:38,240 --> 01:13:42,420  
One of my neighbors where  
I live now is a survivor.

1509  
01:13:42,420 --> 01:13:45,280  
And we talk about  
it quite a bit.

1510  
01:13:45,280 --> 01:13:47,690  
One of them had written a  
book, and I got his book,

1511  
01:13:47,690 --> 01:13:51,750  
and I look at it  
every once in a while.

1512  
01:13:51,750 --> 01:13:54,800  
And that's the way I  
feel, just what you said.

1513  
01:13:54,800 --> 01:13:57,480  
On my-- what went  
on in this world

1514  
01:13:57,480 --> 01:14:01,400  
are human beings, how  
human beings are not human.

1515  
01:14:01,400 --> 01:14:03,020

Some of them are inhuman.

1516  
01:14:03,020 --> 01:14:08,040

1517  
01:14:08,040 --> 01:14:11,030  
Like that Black man in  
California who was beat up,

1518  
01:14:11,030 --> 01:14:14,340  
said can't we all get along?

1519  
01:14:14,340 --> 01:14:19,810  
And I'm afraid to say--

1520  
01:14:19,810 --> 01:14:21,220  
acknowledge the  
fact that I think

1521  
01:14:21,220 --> 01:14:26,840  
it's never going to happen in  
my lifetime or in the future.

1522  
01:14:26,840 --> 01:14:28,850  
Things I think are getting  
a little bit better,

1523  
01:14:28,850 --> 01:14:30,950  
but then you hear  
about what's going on

1524  
01:14:30,950 --> 01:14:36,270  
in countries like  
Germany and some

1525  
01:14:36,270 --> 01:14:41,400  
of the Scandinavian countries,  
and here in the United States

1526  
01:14:41,400 --> 01:14:47,830  
even, where there are  
talks about boycotting



1527  
01:14:47,830 --> 01:14:50,270  
Israeli products.

1528  
01:14:50,270 --> 01:14:52,086  
Right.

1529  
01:14:52,086 --> 01:14:56,010  
And what happened to  
the Lower East Side.

1530  
01:14:56,010 --> 01:14:58,870  
The Jewish Lower East Side  
is not Jewish anymore,

1531  
01:14:58,870 --> 01:15:01,720  
but that's OK.

1532  
01:15:01,720 --> 01:15:05,410  
And fortunately, I guess about--

1533  
01:15:05,410 --> 01:15:09,340  
I live in a condo where  
maybe 1/3 of the residents

1534  
01:15:09,340 --> 01:15:10,870  
are Jewish.

1535  
01:15:10,870 --> 01:15:13,570  
But we all get along.

1536  
01:15:13,570 --> 01:15:19,730  
I don't see any overt signs  
of antisemitism around.

1537  
01:15:19,730 --> 01:15:23,110  
And I'm sure there  
are other feelings,

1538  
01:15:23,110 --> 01:15:25,030  
but they don't express them.

1539

01:15:25,030 --> 01:15:26,550

They don't want to.

1540

01:15:26,550 --> 01:15:28,690

But I'm afraid that in  
other parts of the world

1541

01:15:28,690 --> 01:15:34,010

and other parts of the country,  
that it still is going on

1542

01:15:34,010 --> 01:15:36,270

and will go on forever.

1543

01:15:36,270 --> 01:15:41,000