

1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:02,290

2  
00:00:02,290 --> 00:00:03,770  
Let's go back a little bit.

3  
00:00:03,770 --> 00:00:07,720  
You were talking about  
standing in a field with people

4  
00:00:07,720 --> 00:00:10,620  
with guns.

5  
00:00:10,620 --> 00:00:13,172  
Can you repeat that to make  
sure sure we get all in?

6  
00:00:13,172 --> 00:00:15,400  
Thousands of people,  
one next to the other,

7  
00:00:15,400 --> 00:00:18,940  
on a very cold night.

8  
00:00:18,940 --> 00:00:22,720  
I remember wearing  
lots of underpanties,

9  
00:00:22,720 --> 00:00:28,200  
I can't count how many, and  
why that was, I don't know.

10  
00:00:28,200 --> 00:00:29,920  
We were not told.

11  
00:00:29,920 --> 00:00:32,720  
And we were surrounded  
by machine guns

12  
00:00:32,720 --> 00:00:37,030  
and were supposed to

be shot, all of us,

13  
00:00:37,030 --> 00:00:41,740  
and then supposedly the  
word that, this is it.

14  
00:00:41,740 --> 00:00:43,960  
And then they canceled that.

15  
00:00:43,960 --> 00:00:46,930

16  
00:00:46,930 --> 00:00:51,760  
And I made it again.

17  
00:00:51,760 --> 00:00:54,675  
So you actually have  
memories of that time?

18  
00:00:54,675 --> 00:00:56,890  
Of that time standing  
there, yes, I

19  
00:00:56,890 --> 00:01:00,850  
could find my way around  
there and where that was here.

20  
00:01:00,850 --> 00:01:03,880  
And of course my  
grandmother, she

21  
00:01:03,880 --> 00:01:07,330  
passed in the concentration  
camp where the bread

22  
00:01:07,330 --> 00:01:08,800  
was delivered one day.

23  
00:01:08,800 --> 00:01:10,560  
And the dead people  
where the others,

24

00:01:10,560 --> 00:01:12,610  
they were thrown  
in the water there.

25  
00:01:12,610 --> 00:01:14,320  
They were not buried.

26  
00:01:14,320 --> 00:01:18,850  
And my mother felt for the  
rest of her life, really bad.

27  
00:01:18,850 --> 00:01:22,600  
That was very hurtful to her.

28  
00:01:22,600 --> 00:01:26,257  
So your grandmother  
died in the--

29  
00:01:26,257 --> 00:01:27,340  
In the concentration camp.

30  
00:01:27,340 --> 00:01:28,390  
In Theresienstadt.

31  
00:01:28,390 --> 00:01:31,720  
That was my mom's  
mom, and my dad's mom

32  
00:01:31,720 --> 00:01:34,510  
died shortly before I was born.

33  
00:01:34,510 --> 00:01:36,010  
But I'm just saying  
your grandmother

34  
00:01:36,010 --> 00:01:37,050  
died Theresienstadt.

35  
00:01:37,050 --> 00:01:39,040  
In Theresienstadt, yes.

36  
00:01:39,040 --> 00:01:41,355

Her name was  
[? Phillipina ?] Goodman.

37  
00:01:41,355 --> 00:01:42,550  
OK.

38  
00:01:42,550 --> 00:01:47,125  
What about clothes, did you  
have enough warm clothes

39  
00:01:47,125 --> 00:01:50,560  
No, whatever they gave us,  
whether it was mine or not

40  
00:01:50,560 --> 00:01:54,400  
necessarily, whatever  
these people gave us.

41  
00:01:54,400 --> 00:01:57,730  
We became this nothing,  
no suitcases, no anything,

42  
00:01:57,730 --> 00:02:00,880  
no warm clothes,  
whatever they want.

43  
00:02:00,880 --> 00:02:06,080  
I did have some  
mumps while there.

44  
00:02:06,080 --> 00:02:11,320  
And I do remember my  
neck being swollen,

45  
00:02:11,320 --> 00:02:14,860  
and they put some brown  
smelly cream on me

46  
00:02:14,860 --> 00:02:18,290  
which did not seem to help.

47  
00:02:18,290 --> 00:02:22,480  
And then they put me on a

table, not in a hospital,

48  
00:02:22,480 --> 00:02:24,670  
there was not such  
a thing there.

49  
00:02:24,670 --> 00:02:29,620  
On the table, and they cut, to  
make a cut, then you could--

50  
00:02:29,620 --> 00:02:34,120  
quite a cut, several inches  
on the side of my neck,

51  
00:02:34,120 --> 00:02:41,830  
and whatever, and that took  
care of, remedied the situation.

52  
00:02:41,830 --> 00:02:45,140  
And what's the sedation,  
or what it was, I do not--

53  
00:02:45,140 --> 00:02:48,430  
I was all by myself.

54  
00:02:48,430 --> 00:02:52,120  
Whatever they done  
then-- what could we say?

55  
00:02:52,120 --> 00:02:55,540  
Being dumb, uneducated,  
and whatever

56  
00:02:55,540 --> 00:03:00,130  
was done to us, whether  
you were young or old,

57  
00:03:00,130 --> 00:03:01,750  
you had to submit to.

58  
00:03:01,750 --> 00:03:03,300  
No choice.

59

00:03:03,300 --> 00:03:06,310

So do you remember talking  
to the other children at all?

60

00:03:06,310 --> 00:03:08,830

61

00:03:08,830 --> 00:03:11,170

I'm sure I did.

62

00:03:11,170 --> 00:03:14,410

I was shy by nature  
in that situation.

63

00:03:14,410 --> 00:03:17,920

Being away from my family,  
and was a little spoiled,

64

00:03:17,920 --> 00:03:19,725

being an only child.

65

00:03:19,725 --> 00:03:21,587

Right.

66

00:03:21,587 --> 00:03:24,880

My mom said when I  
came to visit her

67

00:03:24,880 --> 00:03:29,660

I would put my hands and fingers  
into her neck to be with her,

68

00:03:29,660 --> 00:03:33,550

but she had to leave,  
she couldn't stay.

69

00:03:33,550 --> 00:03:36,730

I'm sure I was affected by that.

70

00:03:36,730 --> 00:03:42,250

Growing up, I was  
pretty reserved and shy

71  
00:03:42,250 --> 00:03:43,630  
for quite some time.

72  
00:03:43,630 --> 00:03:46,780  
It has worn off after the  
years, thank goodness.

73  
00:03:46,780 --> 00:03:50,095

74  
00:03:50,095 --> 00:03:52,990  
Were you as a strong  
child, physically,

75  
00:03:52,990 --> 00:03:54,370  
or were you delicate?

76  
00:03:54,370 --> 00:03:57,302  
How would you describe  
yourself at that age?

77  
00:03:57,302 --> 00:03:57,820  
No.

78  
00:03:57,820 --> 00:04:04,560  
I was, I remember after the war  
being not a very strong child,

79  
00:04:04,560 --> 00:04:09,690  
plagued by colds very much,  
and put under X-ray machines

80  
00:04:09,690 --> 00:04:16,339  
for my swollen tonsils  
repeatedly afterwards.

81  
00:04:16,339 --> 00:04:19,540  
And now, of course, I am very  
much aware, not more than

82  
00:04:19,540 --> 00:04:20,950

absolutely necessary.

83

00:04:20,950 --> 00:04:22,040

I had enough of it.

84

00:04:22,040 --> 00:04:25,060

That was a very in them  
days of finding out,

85

00:04:25,060 --> 00:04:28,210

and they did not, of course,  
know the harmful effects which

86

00:04:28,210 --> 00:04:33,480

were much more harmful,  
the X-rays [INAUDIBLE]

87

00:04:33,480 --> 00:04:36,617

than they are today.

88

00:04:36,617 --> 00:04:40,320

So what other memories do  
you have of Theresienstadt

89

00:04:40,320 --> 00:04:42,880

that you can talk about?

90

00:04:42,880 --> 00:04:48,170

Then when they came to visit,  
the SS people and the head

91

00:04:48,170 --> 00:04:48,670

person--

92

00:04:48,670 --> 00:04:51,510

Rahm supposedly was his name--

93

00:04:51,510 --> 00:04:54,760

he would come and there was  
a nice children's playground

94

00:04:54,760 --> 00:04:56,920



which we never got to play with.

95

00:04:56,920 --> 00:04:57,940

But he went there.

96

00:04:57,940 --> 00:04:59,250

It's a gate.

97

00:04:59,250 --> 00:05:01,670

It was the entrance to the town.

98

00:05:01,670 --> 00:05:05,630

And then he came in and said--

99

00:05:05,630 --> 00:05:08,310

Uncle Rahm was his name.

100

00:05:08,310 --> 00:05:10,460

We have to eat again sardines.

101

00:05:10,460 --> 00:05:11,900

Well, we never got sardines.

102

00:05:11,900 --> 00:05:14,770

It was just something  
they told us to do

103

00:05:14,770 --> 00:05:19,340

when the camp was inspected.

104

00:05:19,340 --> 00:05:22,550

But other than hanging  
around from day-to-day

105

00:05:22,550 --> 00:05:30,240

and having no knowledge of  
anything, it just passed by--

106

00:05:30,240 --> 00:05:34,850

and being really happy when  
I could see my parents.

107  
00:05:34,850 --> 00:05:35,350  
Right.

108  
00:05:35,350 --> 00:05:38,090

109  
00:05:38,090 --> 00:05:41,920  
Do you remember snow, with  
the bad weather times at all?

110  
00:05:41,920 --> 00:05:42,480  
I did.

111  
00:05:42,480 --> 00:05:44,210  
I do.

112  
00:05:44,210 --> 00:05:47,310  
Many of my memories,  
and this I'm sure

113  
00:05:47,310 --> 00:05:51,237  
has to do that, you kind  
of want to shut down--

114  
00:05:51,237 --> 00:05:53,540  
Yes, yes.

115  
00:05:53,540 --> 00:05:56,460  
Things that are  
not very pleasant.

116  
00:05:56,460 --> 00:06:00,090  
I think that has a lot to do it.

117  
00:06:00,090 --> 00:06:04,805  
But of course after the war  
I had really vivid memories.

118  
00:06:04,805 --> 00:06:07,880  
Well, we can talk  
about that later.

119

00:06:07,880 --> 00:06:10,310

So what happened  
there, it's not,

120

00:06:10,310 --> 00:06:19,590

but when it was over, on our  
way home, it was on buses--

121

00:06:19,590 --> 00:06:21,300

Let's get to that in a minute.

122

00:06:21,300 --> 00:06:23,630

I just want to talk a little  
more about Theresienstadt,

123

00:06:23,630 --> 00:06:28,010

about if you have any other  
memories, any other incidents

124

00:06:28,010 --> 00:06:30,952

that happened while  
you were there?

125

00:06:30,952 --> 00:06:34,940

Nothing's a [INAUDIBLE] test.

126

00:06:34,940 --> 00:06:40,250

Not eventful or anything,  
but just being--

127

00:06:40,250 --> 00:06:43,260

For three years.

128

00:06:43,260 --> 00:06:47,120

Exactly according to  
my mom, 32 months.

129

00:06:47,120 --> 00:06:51,630

Of course no holiday, a birthday  
celebration, or anything,

130

00:06:51,630 --> 00:06:56,150

the days went by  
one like the next.

131  
00:06:56,150 --> 00:06:58,985  
Do you remember the Red  
Cross coming to visit?

132  
00:06:58,985 --> 00:07:04,730  
No, no knowledge  
of that, nor did

133  
00:07:04,730 --> 00:07:07,410  
I hear that from my parents.

134  
00:07:07,410 --> 00:07:07,910  
No.

135  
00:07:07,910 --> 00:07:10,745

136  
00:07:10,745 --> 00:07:12,937  
Do you remember what  
state your mother was in,

137  
00:07:12,937 --> 00:07:15,020  
or your father, when they  
would come to visit you?

138  
00:07:15,020 --> 00:07:18,320  
Were they very emotional  
or were more reserved?

139  
00:07:18,320 --> 00:07:19,575  
Or do you have any memories?

140  
00:07:19,575 --> 00:07:22,130  
They were very happy to  
see me, having me only,

141  
00:07:22,130 --> 00:07:23,660  
it means even more.

142

00:07:23,660 --> 00:07:26,720  
One child, and then my  
dad was on in years.

143  
00:07:26,720 --> 00:07:31,700  
My mom and dad were  
married 14 years till they

144  
00:07:31,700 --> 00:07:34,560  
were lucky enough to have me.

145  
00:07:34,560 --> 00:07:35,515  
Oh my!

146  
00:07:35,515 --> 00:07:39,270  
So my dad was about  
50, 51 and my mom 36.

147  
00:07:39,270 --> 00:07:43,190

148  
00:07:43,190 --> 00:07:44,590  
When you were born?

149  
00:07:44,590 --> 00:07:45,890  
When I was born.

150  
00:07:45,890 --> 00:07:49,425

151  
00:07:49,425 --> 00:07:53,450  
Because they were married  
for about 14 years before I

152  
00:07:53,450 --> 00:07:56,330  
was born, couldn't have any  
children, nothing was done.

153  
00:07:56,330 --> 00:07:57,980  
It finally happened.

154  
00:07:57,980 --> 00:08:01,712

But of course they  
wanted children,

155  
00:08:01,712 --> 00:08:04,340  
but that's how it was  
and the age difference is

156  
00:08:04,340 --> 00:08:07,325  
because my dad was married to  
my mom's sister for seven years.

157  
00:08:07,325 --> 00:08:08,720  
You said that.

158  
00:08:08,720 --> 00:08:12,440  
And then he was in the family  
and stayed in the family.

159  
00:08:12,440 --> 00:08:15,490  
And my mom was a  
good-looking woman.

160  
00:08:15,490 --> 00:08:20,390  
And so that's how that happened.

161  
00:08:20,390 --> 00:08:23,330  
So what I wanted to  
bring up is my dad.

162  
00:08:23,330 --> 00:08:26,180  
He was [INAUDIBLE]  
perhaps at that age

163  
00:08:26,180 --> 00:08:32,240  
when people are more mature,  
children even more meaningful

164  
00:08:32,240 --> 00:08:35,030  
than when you are  
young and especially

165  
00:08:35,030 --> 00:08:42,680  
after they had been through

all that, it means much more.

166  
00:08:42,680 --> 00:08:45,740  
You had said you had  
said that he did not

167  
00:08:45,740 --> 00:08:48,010  
want to talk about what  
he had been through.

168  
00:08:48,010 --> 00:08:51,350  
After the war, not  
in my presence.

169  
00:08:51,350 --> 00:08:52,550  
Not in my presence.

170  
00:08:52,550 --> 00:08:55,530  
My mom didn't say  
anything about that.

171  
00:08:55,530 --> 00:09:00,320  
But my dad did not want them,  
my mom and dad together,

172  
00:09:00,320 --> 00:09:02,550  
or others to talk.

173  
00:09:02,550 --> 00:09:06,560  
But he couldn't force  
others but together,

174  
00:09:06,560 --> 00:09:10,970  
no mention about  
that time at all.

175  
00:09:10,970 --> 00:09:13,340  
Do you know what he  
did in Theresienstadt?

176  
00:09:13,340 --> 00:09:15,975  
Your mother was in  
the children's home.

177  
00:09:15,975 --> 00:09:17,990  
If he do, and he didn't do and--

178  
00:09:17,990 --> 00:09:19,425  
He wasn't well.

179  
00:09:19,425 --> 00:09:21,890  
He walked on a cane.

180  
00:09:21,890 --> 00:09:28,330  
He was a little humped over  
for the pain which increasingly

181  
00:09:28,330 --> 00:09:30,060  
got worse and worse.

182  
00:09:30,060 --> 00:09:34,790  
He finally was, after the  
war, confined to a wheelchair.

183  
00:09:34,790 --> 00:09:37,370

184  
00:09:37,370 --> 00:09:43,345  
And we get to that after,  
how that situation--

185  
00:09:43,345 --> 00:09:44,720  
Is there anything  
else you wanted

186  
00:09:44,720 --> 00:09:47,840  
to say about being  
in Theresienstadt

187  
00:09:47,840 --> 00:09:51,530  
that you haven't mentioned yet?

188  
00:09:51,530 --> 00:09:57,770  
If you want to [INAUDIBLE]  
a time in the camp,



189  
00:09:57,770 --> 00:10:02,510  
it was really not eventful.

190  
00:10:02,510 --> 00:10:06,340  
We were separated,  
living from day to day.

191  
00:10:06,340 --> 00:10:09,260  
Nothing happened.

192  
00:10:09,260 --> 00:10:13,910  
As I said the dangers  
of it, my parents

193  
00:10:13,910 --> 00:10:17,750  
knew about more than I  
did and my father as they

194  
00:10:17,750 --> 00:10:20,090  
said they're selling  
their wedding bands

195  
00:10:20,090 --> 00:10:27,590  
and giving all the money to  
save me a little luck plate

196  
00:10:27,590 --> 00:10:33,500  
invisible also then I was not  
taken to the gas chambers.

197  
00:10:33,500 --> 00:10:35,682  
When they first wanted to.

198  
00:10:35,682 --> 00:10:40,220  
When you left Frankfurt  
to go to Theresienstadt,

199  
00:10:40,220 --> 00:10:42,725  
do you know if you took  
anything special with you?

200

00:10:42,725 --> 00:10:44,120  
You were very young.

201  
00:10:44,120 --> 00:10:46,700  
You were five.

202  
00:10:46,700 --> 00:10:48,740  
Any toys or anything like that?

203  
00:10:48,740 --> 00:10:51,800  
Not that I remember.

204  
00:10:51,800 --> 00:10:53,750  
Of course you were limited.

205  
00:10:53,750 --> 00:10:56,350  
We had to leave already in  
[PLACE NAME] inside everything

206  
00:10:56,350 --> 00:10:57,710  
when we went to Frankfurt.

207  
00:10:57,710 --> 00:10:59,690  
We always had to  
leave everything.

208  
00:10:59,690 --> 00:11:01,345  
We couldn't sell or do anything.

209  
00:11:01,345 --> 00:11:04,365  
So you didn't have a special  
toy or anything with you?

210  
00:11:04,365 --> 00:11:06,340  
Not that I remember that.

211  
00:11:06,340 --> 00:11:09,655  
Only I do remember  
the Italian bread.

212  
00:11:09,655 --> 00:11:12,310  
They called it

[INAUDIBLE],, which

213  
00:11:12,310 --> 00:11:22,915  
is the smoked sausage that  
doesn't need refrigeration.

214  
00:11:22,915 --> 00:11:25,040  
It was very fatty,  
and the taste of it,

215  
00:11:25,040 --> 00:11:27,710  
the salt, and the spices.

216  
00:11:27,710 --> 00:11:30,650  
I seemed to like it so  
I would tell my mother,

217  
00:11:30,650 --> 00:11:35,920  
I don't like the apartment  
but I do like the food here.

218  
00:11:35,920 --> 00:11:38,907  
So that is something I  
liked for a few days,

219  
00:11:38,907 --> 00:11:39,740  
they still had that.

220  
00:11:39,740 --> 00:11:42,755  
And of course, they  
take it from me.

221  
00:11:42,755 --> 00:11:46,900  
So aside from the mumps that  
you had, your health was with

222  
00:11:46,900 --> 00:11:50,430  
was pretty good  
in Theresienstadt?

223  
00:11:50,430 --> 00:11:57,780  
Well, a few colds, but  
nothing that stands out.

224  
00:11:57,780 --> 00:11:59,240  
I was malnourished, of course.

225  
00:11:59,240 --> 00:12:02,210

226  
00:12:02,210 --> 00:12:08,150  
But I did no  
activity, no nothing,

227  
00:12:08,150 --> 00:12:10,880  
just an existence [INAUDIBLE].

228  
00:12:10,880 --> 00:12:14,000  
Do you remember feeling  
hungry all the time?

229  
00:12:14,000 --> 00:12:15,110  
No, I was never hungry.

230  
00:12:15,110 --> 00:12:18,200  
I never wanted to eat.

231  
00:12:18,200 --> 00:12:20,780  
That was not my  
favorite pastime.

232  
00:12:20,780 --> 00:12:22,610  
And did you see  
people who were dead?

233  
00:12:22,610 --> 00:12:24,365  
Did you ever--

234  
00:12:24,365 --> 00:12:30,880  
About my mom, after told  
me that the dead people,

235  
00:12:30,880 --> 00:12:32,880  
120 on the attic.

236

00:12:32,880 --> 00:12:37,800

They were kept there  
for a while next us

237

00:12:37,800 --> 00:12:40,100

till finally removed them.

238

00:12:40,100 --> 00:12:42,440

And my grandmother  
was put on the wagon

239

00:12:42,440 --> 00:12:47,100

where they transported bread  
on, to be thrown in the river.

240

00:12:47,100 --> 00:12:50,180

But this is stories  
I have heard.

241

00:12:50,180 --> 00:12:51,360

I was too young.

242

00:12:51,360 --> 00:12:51,860

Too young.

243

00:12:51,860 --> 00:12:55,460

And especially since I lacked  
the education and all that.

244

00:12:55,460 --> 00:13:00,310

I wasn't aware of any of these.

245

00:13:00,310 --> 00:13:04,920

Let's now move on  
to the next chapter,

246

00:13:04,920 --> 00:13:07,770

which is how did you  
know that you were going

247

00:13:07,770 --> 00:13:09,560

to be leaving Theresienstadt?

248  
00:13:09,560 --> 00:13:12,600  
What was the next  
big change for you?

249  
00:13:12,600 --> 00:13:15,710  
Well, I was not--

250  
00:13:15,710 --> 00:13:20,700  
I did what I was told to do,  
and along with my parents

251  
00:13:20,700 --> 00:13:26,870  
on a big bus we left  
[PLACE NAME] to Frankfurt.

252  
00:13:26,870 --> 00:13:30,650  
So what did that mean  
to an eight-- you're now

253  
00:13:30,650 --> 00:13:32,237  
eight years old, right?

254  
00:13:32,237 --> 00:13:33,245  
Right.

255  
00:13:33,245 --> 00:13:34,730  
What did what did  
that mean to you?

256  
00:13:34,730 --> 00:13:36,530  
You were back with your parents.

257  
00:13:36,530 --> 00:13:40,970  
I was back with my parents,  
which was very important,

258  
00:13:40,970 --> 00:13:42,035  
of course.

259  
00:13:42,035 --> 00:13:43,950  
Absolutely.

260  
00:13:43,950 --> 00:13:47,870  
And upon arriving there,  
I do vaguely remember--

261  
00:13:47,870 --> 00:13:50,460  
I think Kolb was his name--

262  
00:13:50,460 --> 00:13:54,260  
K-O-L-B, if I remember right.

263  
00:13:54,260 --> 00:13:56,540  
He was the mayor of  
Frankfurt, and he

264  
00:13:56,540 --> 00:14:01,850  
treated the bus of  
survivors somewhere there

265  
00:14:01,850 --> 00:14:06,170  
with tulips, a bunch of tulips.

266  
00:14:06,170 --> 00:14:07,460  
And my mom came back.

267  
00:14:07,460 --> 00:14:10,250  
She didn't have a  
pair of underpants

268  
00:14:10,250 --> 00:14:13,310  
to wear under her  
dress [INAUDIBLE]

269  
00:14:13,310 --> 00:14:16,640  
And we were fed  
and taken care of.

270  
00:14:16,640 --> 00:14:20,190  
We were then taken--

271  
00:14:20,190 --> 00:14:24,958  
Do you know what month you

left Theresienstadt in '45?

272

00:14:24,958 --> 00:14:26,390

No.

273

00:14:26,390 --> 00:14:30,170

I don't want to just  
take a wild guess,

274

00:14:30,170 --> 00:14:32,970

but I cannot tell you that.

275

00:14:32,970 --> 00:14:35,240

OK, so now you're in Frankfurt.

276

00:14:35,240 --> 00:14:36,590

Now we were in Frankfurt.

277

00:14:36,590 --> 00:14:37,610

For how long?

278

00:14:37,610 --> 00:14:38,750

A short time.

279

00:14:38,750 --> 00:14:42,060

Whether it was days or  
weeks, I do not know.

280

00:14:42,060 --> 00:14:45,930

We were transported  
to [? Kurtbaden, ?]

281

00:14:45,930 --> 00:14:51,230

which was a hospital with  
different things like schools,

282

00:14:51,230 --> 00:14:55,580

the empty one being for  
the Holocaust survivors.

283

00:14:55,580 --> 00:14:59,610

And they housed us



there for 10 months.

284

00:14:59,610 --> 00:15:02,160

It was part of the  
hospital because they

285

00:15:02,160 --> 00:15:06,720

didn't know what to do with us.

286

00:15:06,720 --> 00:15:12,630

I was frequently with sickness,  
plagued by colds, especially

287

00:15:12,630 --> 00:15:14,910

the tonsils, and as  
I mentioned before,

288

00:15:14,910 --> 00:15:17,060

the X-rays and all that.

289

00:15:17,060 --> 00:15:20,790

And I was finally free  
and could go outside.

290

00:15:20,790 --> 00:15:27,860

And the people there,  
talking, and on holidays,

291

00:15:27,860 --> 00:15:33,570

trying to make it a little  
festive and all that.

292

00:15:33,570 --> 00:15:38,520

So after the 10 months  
we went back to Frankfurt

293

00:15:38,520 --> 00:15:43,200

and they made  
available a wing that

294

00:15:43,200 --> 00:15:48,210

was a hospital before  
the war, was mostly

295  
00:15:48,210 --> 00:15:52,920  
destroyed but a half  
of a round building

296  
00:15:52,920 --> 00:15:56,580  
was made available  
for all the survivors.

297  
00:15:56,580 --> 00:16:02,100  
And I go up there, it was  
called an old people's home,

298  
00:16:02,100 --> 00:16:03,330  
translated.

299  
00:16:03,330 --> 00:16:07,900  
It was in  
[? Stagenstrasse ?] even,

300  
00:16:07,900 --> 00:16:10,530  
what's her name, not  
Susan, the other lady

301  
00:16:10,530 --> 00:16:16,660  
that was a pediatrician,  
that is friends with Susan--

302  
00:16:16,660 --> 00:16:18,990  
Ilsa Nussbaum.

303  
00:16:18,990 --> 00:16:21,030  
They came from  
[PLACE NAME],, too.

304  
00:16:21,030 --> 00:16:23,980  
She came to visit us.

305  
00:16:23,980 --> 00:16:31,140  
And we stayed  
there till I almost

306

00:16:31,140 --> 00:16:33,060  
left for the United States.

307  
00:16:33,060 --> 00:16:34,800  
We were fed there.

308  
00:16:34,800 --> 00:16:37,120  
The government supported us.

309  
00:16:37,120 --> 00:16:41,610  
We had no money and all the  
other people were on in years

310  
00:16:41,610 --> 00:16:45,240  
and it was called an old  
age home, translated.

311  
00:16:45,240 --> 00:16:48,020  
I grew up with  
people 80 years old.

312  
00:16:48,020 --> 00:16:51,780  
I was the youngest  
there, the only one.

313  
00:16:51,780 --> 00:16:54,330  
I learned to play  
craps from them,

314  
00:16:54,330 --> 00:16:58,220  
and learned of mood swings  
and what makes people tick.

315  
00:16:58,220 --> 00:17:00,610  
And I learned a lot.

316  
00:17:00,610 --> 00:17:03,330  
I went into school.

317  
00:17:03,330 --> 00:17:06,990  
I was going to ask, when  
did you start school?

318

00:17:06,990 --> 00:17:10,510

When did you first  
start schooling?

319

00:17:10,510 --> 00:17:13,540

Approximately the age  
8 and a half years

320

00:17:13,540 --> 00:17:18,040

when I learned to write  
my name and all that.

321

00:17:18,040 --> 00:17:23,790

And I did not have  
anything to put my books,

322

00:17:23,790 --> 00:17:27,089

nor did I have a pencil.

323

00:17:27,089 --> 00:17:35,740

So it was given to me, it  
was a pocket book really,

324

00:17:35,740 --> 00:17:39,070

and not suited to the  
school but that's all I had.

325

00:17:39,070 --> 00:17:41,910

Then somebody was  
nice enough to give me

326

00:17:41,910 --> 00:17:44,050

a pencil because  
we had no money,

327

00:17:44,050 --> 00:17:48,300

and so we couldn't go to  
the store and do anything.

328

00:17:48,300 --> 00:17:54,180

And we were living there in  
one room, my parents and me.

329

00:17:54,180 --> 00:17:58,770

And the exterminator had to  
come frequently, because there

330

00:17:58,770 --> 00:18:02,220

was bedbugs in there.

331

00:18:02,220 --> 00:18:04,470

And they took care of us.

332

00:18:04,470 --> 00:18:07,440

But I went to school.

333

00:18:07,440 --> 00:18:11,870

The adjustment  
was not that easy,

334

00:18:11,870 --> 00:18:15,140

but reluctantly I made it.

335

00:18:15,140 --> 00:18:18,510

At home I was happy even  
without these things

336

00:18:18,510 --> 00:18:23,360

because I felt always  
cared for and loved.

337

00:18:23,360 --> 00:18:28,110

But after several  
years in school,

338

00:18:28,110 --> 00:18:31,950

my parents were wise  
enough to realize

339

00:18:31,950 --> 00:18:36,220

that it was possible to  
send me to a private school.

340

00:18:36,220 --> 00:18:40,970

The schools were pretty much

destroyed during the war.

341

00:18:40,970 --> 00:18:45,250

A private school with less  
children in the class.

342

00:18:45,250 --> 00:18:47,670

And so I could get  
a better education

343

00:18:47,670 --> 00:18:50,090

and I was always  
older than the others.

344

00:18:50,090 --> 00:18:53,560

They started school  
at the age of six.

345

00:18:53,560 --> 00:18:57,300

346

00:18:57,300 --> 00:19:02,130

I was able to go with a little  
money we had saved to send me

347

00:19:02,130 --> 00:19:09,360

to a private school, which one  
they had to pay for of course.

348

00:19:09,360 --> 00:19:11,580

And I was very happy there.

349

00:19:11,580 --> 00:19:13,830

I did really well.

350

00:19:13,830 --> 00:19:17,490

Was it nearby?

351

00:19:17,490 --> 00:19:22,810

No, I had to take what's  
called a straÅenbahn.

352

00:19:22,810 --> 00:19:28,440  
It's not a subway, but it's  
above ground, streetcar.

353  
00:19:28,440 --> 00:19:31,440  
I had to change in the  
middle of the town.

354  
00:19:31,440 --> 00:19:35,805  
It took me about a half  
an hour to get there.

355  
00:19:35,805 --> 00:19:37,950  
This is still in Frankfurt?

356  
00:19:37,950 --> 00:19:42,180  
In Frankfurt, it was a  
private all girls school.

357  
00:19:42,180 --> 00:19:44,590  
And I made good progress.

358  
00:19:44,590 --> 00:19:45,640  
I was happy.

359  
00:19:45,640 --> 00:19:47,690  
I was a good student.

360  
00:19:47,690 --> 00:19:55,560  
I jumped twice over classes  
because I was always the oldest

361  
00:19:55,560 --> 00:19:58,180  
due to circumstances.

362  
00:19:58,180 --> 00:20:03,830  
And I did graduate  
number one in my class.

363  
00:20:03,830 --> 00:20:06,720  
Were the other students  
Jewish students?

364

00:20:06,720 --> 00:20:07,760

No.

365

00:20:07,760 --> 00:20:12,510

I was the only  
Jewish person there.

366

00:20:12,510 --> 00:20:14,850

No Jewish students.

367

00:20:14,850 --> 00:20:18,970

First of all, the Jewish people  
were all killed supposedly,

368

00:20:18,970 --> 00:20:22,350

according to my mom.

369

00:20:22,350 --> 00:20:24,810

I mean you must  
know that better.

370

00:20:24,810 --> 00:20:27,360

I am probably the--

371

00:20:27,360 --> 00:20:32,940

or one of the youngest survivors  
from the concentration camp.

372

00:20:32,940 --> 00:20:36,570

And supposedly one  
of five families

373

00:20:36,570 --> 00:20:40,380

where mother and  
children that came out

374

00:20:40,380 --> 00:20:45,740

of a concentration camp  
without losing any one

375

00:20:45,740 --> 00:20:49,185

of the close family members.



376  
00:20:49,185 --> 00:20:53,400  
And the people there  
help me in the beginning

377  
00:20:53,400 --> 00:20:56,820  
with homework and all that.

378  
00:20:56,820 --> 00:21:01,230  
My parents were-- my  
father's condition got worse,

379  
00:21:01,230 --> 00:21:06,870  
of course, that he had  
to go be in a wheelchair.

380  
00:21:06,870 --> 00:21:12,390  
But the surroundings I grew  
up in are not the norm.

381  
00:21:12,390 --> 00:21:17,940  
But remarkably at that  
time and even today

382  
00:21:17,940 --> 00:21:23,760  
I do not feel deprived because  
I was loved and cared for

383  
00:21:23,760 --> 00:21:26,610  
and had experiences,  
and all that

384  
00:21:26,610 --> 00:21:29,820  
adds up to making  
me as the person

385  
00:21:29,820 --> 00:21:35,550  
I am today, which is the  
great understanding of people.

386  
00:21:35,550 --> 00:21:38,780  
You name it, hardships  
or everything.

387  
00:21:38,780 --> 00:21:42,210  
I was very, very poor,  
and I was well-to-do,

388  
00:21:42,210 --> 00:21:46,170  
so I can identify with both.

389  
00:21:46,170 --> 00:21:49,200  
And the most important  
thing in life

390  
00:21:49,200 --> 00:21:57,000  
is what people do to each other,  
that they don't care enough.

391  
00:21:57,000 --> 00:22:00,240  
My values at different  
than the norm as

392  
00:22:00,240 --> 00:22:03,600  
shaped by all my  
experiences, and of course I

393  
00:22:03,600 --> 00:22:07,380  
have a special soft  
spot for the elderly.

394  
00:22:07,380 --> 00:22:12,120  
I feel that the younger people  
get all the attention needed

395  
00:22:12,120 --> 00:22:15,180  
and the elderly, they  
have done their job,

396  
00:22:15,180 --> 00:22:19,410  
and often are left  
alone, lonesome,

397  
00:22:19,410 --> 00:22:25,710  
and deserve more attention  
than they are given.

398  
00:22:25,710 --> 00:22:29,520  
And I've stood today,  
even a few days ago,

399  
00:22:29,520 --> 00:22:34,890  
stand up when I see  
something is not right

400  
00:22:34,890 --> 00:22:40,200  
and could be a change to  
make an older person happy.

401  
00:22:40,200 --> 00:22:44,430  
So as I said, I don't need  
anyone to feel sorry for me

402  
00:22:44,430 --> 00:22:48,780  
and I have not spoken  
up for all these years.

403  
00:22:48,780 --> 00:22:53,230  
Even my close friends  
didn't know about my past.

404  
00:22:53,230 --> 00:22:56,330  
But what may be my  
husband's parents

405  
00:22:56,330 --> 00:22:58,950  
would say that I was in  
the concentration camp.

406  
00:22:58,950 --> 00:23:03,090  
I would never even mention  
that because I did not

407  
00:23:03,090 --> 00:23:05,780  
have the need that  
anyone feels sorry for me

408  
00:23:05,780 --> 00:23:08,310  
or refers to me as

a concentration camp

409

00:23:08,310 --> 00:23:09,820

survivor or anything.

410

00:23:09,820 --> 00:23:13,110

I just want to be treated  
like any one else.

411

00:23:13,110 --> 00:23:18,915

No special attention required.

412

00:23:18,915 --> 00:23:22,620

Can we get back to your  
story about going to school

413

00:23:22,620 --> 00:23:27,090

with non-Jewish children  
back in Frankfurt?

414

00:23:27,090 --> 00:23:30,810

Did any of them ever ask  
you about your background?

415

00:23:30,810 --> 00:23:32,650

Did you become  
friends with them?

416

00:23:32,650 --> 00:23:34,770

417

00:23:34,770 --> 00:23:39,150

Yes, except one  
incident once happened

418

00:23:39,150 --> 00:23:44,790

in the private school of girls,  
they told a girlfriend of mine

419

00:23:44,790 --> 00:23:49,410

about that dirty, dirty Jew  
and she told it back to me.

420

00:23:49,410 --> 00:23:50,370

I told my mom.

421

00:23:50,370 --> 00:23:54,700

She went to school and  
my mom was really upset.

422

00:23:54,700 --> 00:23:58,210

And it was found out that  
the parents of that girl

423

00:23:58,210 --> 00:24:00,410

were in the Nazi party.

424

00:24:00,410 --> 00:24:03,460

And the girl was much too  
young to form an opinion,

425

00:24:03,460 --> 00:24:09,120

but heard this from  
her family at home,

426

00:24:09,120 --> 00:24:15,690

and they took a  
disciplinary action.

427

00:24:15,690 --> 00:24:20,452

Did you experience any  
other antisemitic incidents?

428

00:24:20,452 --> 00:24:24,930

No, only when I would  
travel in the streetcar,

429

00:24:24,930 --> 00:24:28,860

and of course people didn't  
know who I was, and would

430

00:24:28,860 --> 00:24:31,020

now and then make comments.

431

00:24:31,020 --> 00:24:34,230

And when I was  
finished, this school,

432  
00:24:34,230 --> 00:24:39,780  
I wanted to become a nurse,  
and there was the hospital

433  
00:24:39,780 --> 00:24:43,785  
that was a gift from--

434  
00:24:43,785 --> 00:24:46,300

435  
00:24:46,300 --> 00:24:51,790  
it started before the  
war on Jewish people.

436  
00:24:51,790 --> 00:24:58,080  
And I wanted to be admitted  
to the Nursing class there.

437  
00:24:58,080 --> 00:24:59,780  
So I went there.

438  
00:24:59,780 --> 00:25:01,220  
I was accepted.

439  
00:25:01,220 --> 00:25:03,980  
In them days, a  
long time ago, you

440  
00:25:03,980 --> 00:25:07,190  
had to fill out your religion.

441  
00:25:07,190 --> 00:25:10,670  
I don't think that's  
the case here today.

442  
00:25:10,670 --> 00:25:12,980  
Now, what year are  
we talking about?

443

00:25:12,980 --> 00:25:20,150  
We are talking about  
the mid-1950's.

444  
00:25:20,150 --> 00:25:24,540  
I went there with my mom,  
filled out the paper, what

445  
00:25:24,540 --> 00:25:28,040  
was required, but it  
said also religion.

446  
00:25:28,040 --> 00:25:31,810  
And of course they wouldn't  
let me fill out papers

447  
00:25:31,810 --> 00:25:32,870  
if the place was full.

448  
00:25:32,870 --> 00:25:35,960  
As soon as we got home,  
there was a phone call.

449  
00:25:35,960 --> 00:25:38,090  
And we didn't have  
a phone of our own.

450  
00:25:38,090 --> 00:25:42,840  
We used the phone  
number of a neighbor

451  
00:25:42,840 --> 00:25:45,330  
because we couldn't  
afford the telephone.

452  
00:25:45,330 --> 00:25:49,310  
And was a phone call saying  
they could not accept me

453  
00:25:49,310 --> 00:25:52,780  
because the class was filled.

454  
00:25:52,780 --> 00:25:54,600

It was not full.

455

00:25:54,600 --> 00:25:58,790

We could put one  
and one together.

456

00:25:58,790 --> 00:26:00,590

Because of my religion.

457

00:26:00,590 --> 00:26:05,000

So when I was still  
in my mid-teens,

458

00:26:05,000 --> 00:26:11,300

my mom did have the foresight,  
it would be a good idea

459

00:26:11,300 --> 00:26:17,990

to apply to go to the  
United States, which I--

460

00:26:17,990 --> 00:26:21,540

although I'm independent, can  
go during the day wherever,

461

00:26:21,540 --> 00:26:28,580

but I do need a home when  
at night with my family.

462

00:26:28,580 --> 00:26:31,820

So I really didn't  
[? pull ?] much,

463

00:26:31,820 --> 00:26:35,600

but she said, well, you can  
just put the application in.

464

00:26:35,600 --> 00:26:38,120

That does not mean  
that you have to go.

465

00:26:38,120 --> 00:26:40,920

So I did what she told me.



466  
00:26:40,920 --> 00:26:43,220  
And it took several--

467  
00:26:43,220 --> 00:26:46,790  
talking now about that legal  
and illegal immigration,

468  
00:26:46,790 --> 00:26:48,810  
took several years.

469  
00:26:48,810 --> 00:26:53,080  
And when I was finished school,  
I realized that there was--

470  
00:26:53,080 --> 00:26:56,810  
and applying and being  
denied there for a job,

471  
00:26:56,810 --> 00:27:01,290  
and what I heard, laughing when  
people didn't know who I was--

472  
00:27:01,290 --> 00:27:06,760  
there was still a good  
amount of antisemitism there.

473  
00:27:06,760 --> 00:27:09,920  
And the future, not too  
many Jewish people there,

474  
00:27:09,920 --> 00:27:14,430  
and the future is really not--

475  
00:27:14,430 --> 00:27:18,830  
And my parents were  
open to me marrying

476  
00:27:18,830 --> 00:27:22,400  
somebody that is not Jewish.

477  
00:27:22,400 --> 00:27:28,460

As long as they-- even so my  
dad would keep the holidays

478

00:27:28,460 --> 00:27:33,380  
and on Yom Kippur wouldn't eat,  
no matter what his health was.

479

00:27:33,380 --> 00:27:37,220  
He would-- till the day he  
died, he wouldn't do that.

480

00:27:37,220 --> 00:27:39,920  
And also in the  
concentration camp, he

481

00:27:39,920 --> 00:27:42,470  
or afterwards, he would  
rather go hungry than eat

482

00:27:42,470 --> 00:27:44,610  
something you shouldn't eat.

483

00:27:44,610 --> 00:27:49,350  
But he wanted me  
to have somebody.

484

00:27:49,350 --> 00:27:51,230  
He didn't say Jewish  
or not Jewish,

485

00:27:51,230 --> 00:27:55,570  
somebody that treats me good,  
that was the main thing.

486

00:27:55,570 --> 00:27:58,840  
He could be poor, but  
somebody that's good to me.

487

00:27:58,840 --> 00:28:03,500  
So I figured there is  
no future for me there,

488

00:28:03,500 --> 00:28:07,100

and I figured I  
will take a chance.

489  
00:28:07,100 --> 00:28:14,540  
I had an aunt and uncle, my  
dad's sister, and her husband,

490  
00:28:14,540 --> 00:28:17,000  
and other relatives.

491  
00:28:17,000 --> 00:28:20,540  
They were in California,  
but my dad's sister

492  
00:28:20,540 --> 00:28:24,855  
and her husband, who lost  
a child in a car accident,

493  
00:28:24,855 --> 00:28:26,850  
were in New York.

494  
00:28:26,850 --> 00:28:29,910  
And I think if I go  
there and my dad said,

495  
00:28:29,910 --> 00:28:33,420  
if things don't work out,  
I can always come back.

496  
00:28:33,420 --> 00:28:36,270  
So I figure, that  
is not a bad idea.

497  
00:28:36,270 --> 00:28:38,540  
I'm going to do that.

498  
00:28:38,540 --> 00:28:43,000  
So I turned 19.

499  
00:28:43,000 --> 00:28:46,820  
The boat was the SS United  
States it just had a write-up.

500

00:28:46,820 --> 00:28:49,480

It is done now, the ship.

501

00:28:49,480 --> 00:28:53,390

I came over with this  
ship, tourist class,

502

00:28:53,390 --> 00:28:55,895

and Margaret Truman  
was on that ship.

503

00:28:55,895 --> 00:28:58,160

I'm sorry, what was  
the name of the ship?

504

00:28:58,160 --> 00:28:59,620

The SS United States.

505

00:28:59,620 --> 00:29:00,140

Oh, SS.

506

00:29:00,140 --> 00:29:06,290

[INAUDIBLE] to  
find investors to--

507

00:29:06,290 --> 00:29:08,450

there was a big write-up  
in the Harford--

508

00:29:08,450 --> 00:29:11,730

in the local paper about it.

509

00:29:11,730 --> 00:29:17,450

And I saw it on the news and all  
that, it's now in Philadelphia.

510

00:29:17,450 --> 00:29:21,740

It was a luxury ship, it  
was only a few years old.

511

00:29:21,740 --> 00:29:23,615

Lightweight, we

went into a storm.

512

00:29:23,615 --> 00:29:25,700

I was quite sick.

513

00:29:25,700 --> 00:29:28,995

And I said, no more [INAUDIBLE].

514

00:29:28,995 --> 00:29:31,655

You're now 19 years old, right?

515

00:29:31,655 --> 00:29:33,515

I turned 19 on the ship.

516

00:29:33,515 --> 00:29:37,690

So this is 1956?

517

00:29:37,690 --> 00:29:39,850

This is 1956.

518

00:29:39,850 --> 00:29:42,510

That is correct.

519

00:29:42,510 --> 00:29:44,960

And I came here the 4th of July.

520

00:29:44,960 --> 00:29:49,710

521

00:29:49,710 --> 00:29:54,035

What did the United States  
mean to you as a 19-year-old?

522

00:29:54,035 --> 00:30:01,120

As a 19-year-old, freedom like  
I have never experienced before,

523

00:30:01,120 --> 00:30:10,540

and achieving my dream and  
being able to do what one wants

524

00:30:10,540 --> 00:30:14,200  
to do as long as you  
don't hurt somebody else,

525  
00:30:14,200 --> 00:30:20,830  
and having a life like you  
couldn't have in Germany.

526  
00:30:20,830 --> 00:30:26,100  
people being much,  
much different,

527  
00:30:26,100 --> 00:30:28,580  
not resenting people  
from other cultures,

528  
00:30:28,580 --> 00:30:33,340  
since this was a melting pot  
of many, the United States,

529  
00:30:33,340 --> 00:30:36,100  
which Germany isn't.

530  
00:30:36,100 --> 00:30:38,800  
Even some years ago  
visiting, anybody

531  
00:30:38,800 --> 00:30:41,290  
that's different from  
them they kind of--

532  
00:30:41,290 --> 00:30:43,870

533  
00:30:43,870 --> 00:30:48,490  
I don't think that's a  
way to celebrate, to live,

534  
00:30:48,490 --> 00:30:49,750  
only their way.

535  
00:30:49,750 --> 00:30:55,870  
And yeah, I felt total

freedom doing what whatever

536

00:30:55,870 --> 00:30:58,765

I can achieve without--

537

00:30:58,765 --> 00:31:01,420

Did you know any English?

538

00:31:01,420 --> 00:31:03,730

Yes, I took English in school.

539

00:31:03,730 --> 00:31:05,440

I was good at it.

540

00:31:05,440 --> 00:31:08,710

In writing and speaking,  
may maybe better than today

541

00:31:08,710 --> 00:31:12,170

because we spoke only German  
with my husband's parents.

542

00:31:12,170 --> 00:31:15,430

Even so, they could speak  
English and so did my husband.

543

00:31:15,430 --> 00:31:18,430

So yes I spoke English,  
French, and German.

544

00:31:18,430 --> 00:31:22,990

I was fluent in reading,  
speaking, and writing, when

545

00:31:22,990 --> 00:31:24,720

I came to the United States.

546

00:31:24,720 --> 00:31:27,141

So who met you when you arrived?

547

00:31:27,141 --> 00:31:33,690

My aunt and uncle, which is my

dad's sister and her husband,

548

00:31:33,690 --> 00:31:37,300

and a boyfriend that  
was a Jewish guy that

549

00:31:37,300 --> 00:31:40,540

was in the military in Germany.

550

00:31:40,540 --> 00:31:42,730

I met him in synagogue  
there, and we

551

00:31:42,730 --> 00:31:44,380

were friends and corresponded.

552

00:31:44,380 --> 00:31:51,970

And he picked me up, with my  
aunt and uncle, when I arrived.

553

00:31:51,970 --> 00:31:54,790

And another boy and I  
still know his name,

554

00:31:54,790 --> 00:31:59,290

and another boyfriend, also  
in the military, Jewish man,

555

00:31:59,290 --> 00:32:05,930

he bought me to the boat  
in France in Le Havre,

556

00:32:05,930 --> 00:32:10,320

when I left on the boat  
to the United States.

557

00:32:10,320 --> 00:32:12,430

And of course one didn't  
know from the other.

558

00:32:12,430 --> 00:32:15,360



559

00:32:15,360 --> 00:32:19,560

It was the best, that's the  
platonic friendship nothing

560

00:32:19,560 --> 00:32:21,865

else between all of these.

561

00:32:21,865 --> 00:32:24,510

Do you remember seeing  
the Statue of Liberty?

562

00:32:24,510 --> 00:32:26,290

Absolutely, yes.

563

00:32:26,290 --> 00:32:30,550

It meant ultimate freedom to me.

564

00:32:30,550 --> 00:32:34,185

And I worked across the  
Statue of Liberty in New York,

565

00:32:34,185 --> 00:32:38,290

near Wall Street, for two  
years I saw it for my window

566

00:32:38,290 --> 00:32:41,920

every single day.

567

00:32:41,920 --> 00:32:44,830

I know the meaning,  
the gift from France,

568

00:32:44,830 --> 00:32:47,775

and it is something else.

569

00:32:47,775 --> 00:32:51,490

So you stayed in New York  
City in the beginning?

570

00:32:51,490 --> 00:32:54,220

I stayed in New York.

571

00:32:54,220 --> 00:32:56,950

I lived a few weeks  
with my aunt and uncle.

572

00:32:56,950 --> 00:32:59,170

They had a one  
bedroom apartment.

573

00:32:59,170 --> 00:33:02,110

They had a pullout  
bed that they bought

574

00:33:02,110 --> 00:33:05,530

in the living room, a small  
place in Washington Heights.

575

00:33:05,530 --> 00:33:11,530

And then I rented a room from  
neighbors in the next building.

576

00:33:11,530 --> 00:33:13,990

I ate and lived with  
my aunt and uncle,

577

00:33:13,990 --> 00:33:18,400

but I had my home and my clothes  
over there because their place

578

00:33:18,400 --> 00:33:21,100

was really, really very small.

579

00:33:21,100 --> 00:33:28,420

It was a disappointment that  
I couldn't stay, but now

580

00:33:28,420 --> 00:33:31,110

after, when I was more  
mature, I understood

581

00:33:31,110 --> 00:33:32,650

that they didn't have room.

582

00:33:32,650 --> 00:33:37,870  
And they did everything possible  
to make me feel comfortable.

583  
00:33:37,870 --> 00:33:39,640  
And we good to each other.

584  
00:33:39,640 --> 00:33:42,280

585  
00:33:42,280 --> 00:33:44,565  
Did you go to school,  
or go to work?

586  
00:33:44,565 --> 00:33:50,060  
I went to night school,  
and I went to work.

587  
00:33:50,060 --> 00:33:55,840  
I worked at Associated Metals  
and Minerals, 75 West Street

588  
00:33:55,840 --> 00:33:57,340  
down near Wall Street.

589  
00:33:57,340 --> 00:34:05,340  
I took the IRT and the subway  
every day to make it to work.

590  
00:34:05,340 --> 00:34:13,415  
And they wanted to keep me  
there after I got married.

591  
00:34:13,415 --> 00:34:15,624  
So when did you get married?

592  
00:34:15,624 --> 00:34:19,989  
I got married after I was  
two years in the country.

593  
00:34:19,989 --> 00:34:22,239  
I could have gotten  
married before,

594

00:34:22,239 --> 00:34:24,760

but it wasn't what I wanted.

595

00:34:24,760 --> 00:34:28,770

And I was still very young  
and there was no need for it.

596

00:34:28,770 --> 00:34:31,950

So this is 1958?

597

00:34:31,950 --> 00:34:37,409

I was married in '58.

598

00:34:37,409 --> 00:34:38,159

That is correct.

599

00:34:38,159 --> 00:34:44,949

I was married on June  
22, 1958, and it so

600

00:34:44,949 --> 00:34:50,110

turned out that my husband's  
family and my family

601

00:34:50,110 --> 00:34:53,025

knew each other from Germany.

602

00:34:53,025 --> 00:34:54,944

How did you meet your husband?

603

00:34:54,944 --> 00:34:58,410

He did not know that before.

604

00:34:58,410 --> 00:35:09,690

And I had my mother,  
my dad in '57.

605

00:35:09,690 --> 00:35:16,380

September the 13th  
of '57 my dad died

606

00:35:16,380 --> 00:35:18,405  
How did you meet your husband?

607

00:35:18,405 --> 00:35:19,695  
On a blind date.

608

00:35:19,695 --> 00:35:22,740

609

00:35:22,740 --> 00:35:30,810  
When my dad died, a mutual  
relative of my aunt and uncle,

610

00:35:30,810 --> 00:35:35,910  
and also of my husband, came to  
pay their respects to my aunt

611

00:35:35,910 --> 00:35:38,940  
and uncle, and I was there.

612

00:35:38,940 --> 00:35:43,710  
And she said she heard of  
a relative in Connecticut,

613

00:35:43,710 --> 00:35:47,320  
and if I would go out with him.

614

00:35:47,320 --> 00:35:51,600  
And so he came,  
weather permitting.

615

00:35:51,600 --> 00:35:53,310  
It was winter time.

616

00:35:53,310 --> 00:35:56,190  
Due to a snow storm,  
we had to postpone it.

617

00:35:56,190 --> 00:36:06,990  
And we met I believe it  
was in February of '58,

618

00:36:06,990 --> 00:36:15,920  
and in April we became engaged,  
and on June 22 we were married.

619

00:36:15,920 --> 00:36:25,440  
And I had my mom come over this  
country on a permanent visa,

620

00:36:25,440 --> 00:36:30,100  
but she decided this  
lifestyle was not for her,

621

00:36:30,100 --> 00:36:35,220  
not speaking the language and  
being used to disciplined life,

622

00:36:35,220 --> 00:36:37,290  
and having persons there.

623

00:36:37,290 --> 00:36:42,930  
And now that I'm married,  
she decided one day

624

00:36:42,930 --> 00:36:44,910  
after we came back  
from the honeymoon

625

00:36:44,910 --> 00:36:50,640  
that she is going back to  
Germany, which she did.

626

00:36:50,640 --> 00:36:53,595  
Was your husband  
a survivor also?

627

00:36:53,595 --> 00:36:56,730  
My husband was born in  
Bad Kissingen in Germany.

628

00:36:56,730 --> 00:37:00,570  
He came here when he  
was five years old.

629

00:37:00,570 --> 00:37:03,245

He came to New York, which  
is why he had no accent.

630

00:37:03,245 --> 00:37:06,765

631

00:37:06,765 --> 00:37:08,490

What year was that he came over?

632

00:37:08,490 --> 00:37:11,220

633

00:37:11,220 --> 00:37:16,630

He was born in '37.

634

00:37:16,630 --> 00:37:18,020

No, he came over in '37.

635

00:37:18,020 --> 00:37:19,055

He was born in '32.

636

00:37:19,055 --> 00:37:22,640

637

00:37:22,640 --> 00:37:26,970

I was just a little  
thing then when

638

00:37:26,970 --> 00:37:30,235

he came over to this  
country at the age of five.

639

00:37:30,235 --> 00:37:34,560

So you moved to Connecticut  
after you got married?

640

00:37:34,560 --> 00:37:37,310

Yes, because my husband  
lived in Connecticut.

641

00:37:37,310 --> 00:37:40,125

642

00:37:40,125 --> 00:37:42,385

Did you work, or what did  
you do in Connecticut?

643

00:37:42,385 --> 00:37:46,950

No, I helped, and  
I was a homemaker.

644

00:37:46,950 --> 00:37:49,350

I would have liked  
that, but my husband

645

00:37:49,350 --> 00:37:51,960

did not want me to work.

646

00:37:51,960 --> 00:37:54,000

He was used to  
old-fashioned ways.

647

00:37:54,000 --> 00:38:00,420

He said, I can support  
a wife and a family.

648

00:38:00,420 --> 00:38:03,810

And he was five years  
older than I was.

649

00:38:03,810 --> 00:38:06,215

What kind of work did he do?

650

00:38:06,215 --> 00:38:09,610

He had an-- you're  
not from around here.

651

00:38:09,610 --> 00:38:10,710

They had a farm.

652

00:38:10,710 --> 00:38:17,130

His dad bought a farm when  
they came from New York here.



653  
00:38:17,130 --> 00:38:21,240  
My husband worked on--

654  
00:38:21,240 --> 00:38:24,960  
he didn't do the work,  
they had hired help.

655  
00:38:24,960 --> 00:38:29,940  
They had cattle, and  
they went to auctions,

656  
00:38:29,940 --> 00:38:32,730  
and bought them, and  
sold them to farmers,

657  
00:38:32,730 --> 00:38:35,060  
and milked them in between.

658  
00:38:35,060 --> 00:38:38,010  
And they had hired  
help for that.

659  
00:38:38,010 --> 00:38:41,055  
So you lived out in  
the country then?

660  
00:38:41,055 --> 00:38:43,320  
Yes, it was right  
outside Hartford

661  
00:38:43,320 --> 00:38:46,470  
in Bloomfield, the  
town I live in now.

662  
00:38:46,470 --> 00:38:49,365  
Do you have any children?

663  
00:38:49,365 --> 00:38:50,710  
Yes, I have one.

664  
00:38:50,710 --> 00:38:56,350

I miscarried a little boy  
that was totally formed,

665  
00:38:56,350 --> 00:39:00,700  
was only four months  
old and stillborn.

666  
00:39:00,700 --> 00:39:08,270  
And then we had our only living  
son, who is now 56 years old.

667  
00:39:08,270 --> 00:39:09,420  
He is old.

668  
00:39:09,420 --> 00:39:12,340  
He went to UConn in Storrs.

669  
00:39:12,340 --> 00:39:16,180  
Then he went to Case  
Western in Ohio,

670  
00:39:16,180 --> 00:39:21,070  
and he stayed there  
and became an attorney.

671  
00:39:21,070 --> 00:39:24,970  
Can I ask you, do you  
have any grandchildren?

672  
00:39:24,970 --> 00:39:25,560  
Yes.

673  
00:39:25,560 --> 00:39:26,260  
Wonderful.

674  
00:39:26,260 --> 00:39:27,490  
I have two grandchildren.

675  
00:39:27,490 --> 00:39:30,410  
A granddaughter, she's 28.

676  
00:39:30,410 --> 00:39:35,290

She manages a ski resort in Colorado.

677  
00:39:35,290 --> 00:39:37,480  
And I have a grandson whose wedding

678  
00:39:37,480 --> 00:39:39,725  
I attended over Labor Day.

679  
00:39:39,725 --> 00:39:45,175  
He's 30 years old, and he lives in Cleveland, Ohio.

680  
00:39:45,175 --> 00:39:49,240  
Can we now talk about some of your thoughts?

681  
00:39:49,240 --> 00:39:54,130  
Are you more comfortable around other people

682  
00:39:54,130 --> 00:39:57,550  
who are survivors than people who

683  
00:39:57,550 --> 00:40:01,930  
didn't go through what you went through,

684  
00:40:01,930 --> 00:40:04,562  
or does it not make a difference?

685  
00:40:04,562 --> 00:40:05,770  
It doesn't make a difference.

686  
00:40:05,770 --> 00:40:10,270  
In fact, I'd rather be around people that are not survivors,

687  
00:40:10,270 --> 00:40:13,510  
because I don't want to

identify as just part.

688  
00:40:13,510 --> 00:40:15,730  
Everybody has  
different experiences.

689  
00:40:15,730 --> 00:40:19,430  
We all have a suitcase, and I--

690  
00:40:19,430 --> 00:40:22,450  
this is not what I want to  
be known for, talk about,

691  
00:40:22,450 --> 00:40:26,560  
this is just a part of--

692  
00:40:26,560 --> 00:40:29,200  
everybody has something  
else happen to them,

693  
00:40:29,200 --> 00:40:31,870  
and I'm much more  
comfortable about people

694  
00:40:31,870 --> 00:40:35,560  
that are not survivors  
than people who are,

695  
00:40:35,560 --> 00:40:39,870  
because I find they want to  
talk about this and that.

696  
00:40:39,870 --> 00:40:42,160  
And I really don't want it.

697  
00:40:42,160 --> 00:40:45,160  
It's like rubbing  
on a wound, and I

698  
00:40:45,160 --> 00:40:48,190  
feel more comfortable  
not talking about that,

699

00:40:48,190 --> 00:40:52,480

just letting it be, like losing  
my husband to Lou Gehrig's

700

00:40:52,480 --> 00:40:53,620

Disease and all this.

701

00:40:53,620 --> 00:40:57,220

702

00:40:57,220 --> 00:41:02,880

This is part of me and  
who I am, but it is not--

703

00:41:02,880 --> 00:41:07,270

in a social situation, this is  
not what I like to focus on.

704

00:41:07,270 --> 00:41:10,350

I like to talk about  
other things that

705

00:41:10,350 --> 00:41:12,160

are of interest to everybody.

706

00:41:12,160 --> 00:41:14,620

So when you meet  
people and they ask you

707

00:41:14,620 --> 00:41:17,500

about your background, what--

708

00:41:17,500 --> 00:41:21,370

It sometimes comes  
because of my accent.

709

00:41:21,370 --> 00:41:24,330

It depends how close  
I want to know them.

710

00:41:24,330 --> 00:41:31,860

I will put them off

or walk away if I can,

711  
00:41:31,860 --> 00:41:34,390  
if I feel it's just  
a casual situation,

712  
00:41:34,390 --> 00:41:36,790  
and I really don't  
like to dig into this.

713  
00:41:36,790 --> 00:41:39,220  
It's not what I want  
to do with anybody.

714  
00:41:39,220 --> 00:41:41,485  
I don't feel  
comfortable unless I'm

715  
00:41:41,485 --> 00:41:44,410  
in a close friendship  
or relationship.

716  
00:41:44,410 --> 00:41:47,635  
I do not like to talk  
about these things.

717  
00:41:47,635 --> 00:41:51,230  
You said your father didn't  
want to talk about, let's say,

718  
00:41:51,230 --> 00:41:52,215  
the Kristallnacht.

719  
00:41:52,215 --> 00:41:54,620  
And as a result, I  
didn't do that to my son

720  
00:41:54,620 --> 00:42:00,010  
either, because I figured a  
life presents enough hardship,

721  
00:42:00,010 --> 00:42:04,510  
and you want a

happy, happy life.

722

00:42:04,510 --> 00:42:09,200

You have to know the bad in  
order to appreciate the good.

723

00:42:09,200 --> 00:42:10,480

I understand that.

724

00:42:10,480 --> 00:42:17,320

But to overdo it with miseries--

725

00:42:17,320 --> 00:42:19,880

I didn't.

726

00:42:19,880 --> 00:42:22,240

I did the same thing  
my dad did to me.

727

00:42:22,240 --> 00:42:24,940

Very little-- never talked  
about it when he was growing up.

728

00:42:24,940 --> 00:42:26,900

I don't try to dwell about it.

729

00:42:26,900 --> 00:42:29,050

It's something that happened.

730

00:42:29,050 --> 00:42:30,220

I cannot change it.

731

00:42:30,220 --> 00:42:33,950

He could not change it,  
and there is more to life.

732

00:42:33,950 --> 00:42:34,990

Life goes on.

733

00:42:34,990 --> 00:42:37,900

I feel, whatever  
life presents me,

734  
00:42:37,900 --> 00:42:42,450  
I do my best to  
improve it, remedy it.

735  
00:42:42,450 --> 00:42:46,930  
And after I've done it, all  
I have to let go and move on.

736  
00:42:46,930 --> 00:42:47,980  
I can't change anything.

737  
00:42:47,980 --> 00:42:51,607

738  
00:42:51,607 --> 00:42:52,940  
How would you describe yourself?

739  
00:42:52,940 --> 00:42:55,010  
German, Jewish, American?

740  
00:42:55,010 --> 00:42:59,940  
What would you  
describe yourself as?

741  
00:42:59,940 --> 00:43:02,235  
Do you feel German?

742  
00:43:02,235 --> 00:43:05,800  
No, absolutely not, no way.

743  
00:43:05,800 --> 00:43:12,460  
I would describe myself  
as an American Jew.

744  
00:43:12,460 --> 00:43:15,703  
That would describe myself best.

745  
00:43:15,703 --> 00:43:17,245  
What are your thoughts  
about Germany?



746  
00:43:17,245 --> 00:43:24,320

747  
00:43:24,320 --> 00:43:27,190  
That there are good and  
bad people in the world,

748  
00:43:27,190 --> 00:43:31,400  
and these things would not  
happen if the majority would

749  
00:43:31,400 --> 00:43:32,570  
be good people.

750  
00:43:32,570 --> 00:43:35,390  
Even so, there are good  
people, and we owe them a lot,

751  
00:43:35,390 --> 00:43:38,210  
and I'm personally  
friendly with them.

752  
00:43:38,210 --> 00:43:42,800  
Still have some that  
are still alive.

753  
00:43:42,800 --> 00:43:48,590  
But the majority is not good.

754  
00:43:48,590 --> 00:43:51,320  
These people I was  
visiting with my husband,

755  
00:43:51,320 --> 00:43:53,240  
and I heard them  
comment about people

756  
00:43:53,240 --> 00:43:57,620  
from other countries that  
look different than they are.

757  
00:43:57,620 --> 00:44:04,940

It is difficult for that  
society to accept people that

758  
00:44:04,940 --> 00:44:06,380  
are different than they are.

759  
00:44:06,380 --> 00:44:11,000  
Here, our makeup is the  
melting pot from all countries.

760  
00:44:11,000 --> 00:44:13,300  
Maybe that has something  
to do with this.

761  
00:44:13,300 --> 00:44:16,690  
Other countries are more  
where only the majority

762  
00:44:16,690 --> 00:44:20,350  
is of their own background.

763  
00:44:20,350 --> 00:44:24,100  
And they are very  
narrow-minded and all that,

764  
00:44:24,100 --> 00:44:28,430  
and it is not my cup of tea.

765  
00:44:28,430 --> 00:44:30,610  
You have been back to Germany.

766  
00:44:30,610 --> 00:44:32,090  
I have been back to Germany.

767  
00:44:32,090 --> 00:44:35,760  
I don't discuss any of  
these things with them.

768  
00:44:35,760 --> 00:44:39,110  
I know who they are  
and want no part of it.

769

00:44:39,110 --> 00:44:43,400  
Why did why did you  
go back to Germany?

770  
00:44:43,400 --> 00:44:47,150  
Because, first of all,  
to my mom's funeral.

771  
00:44:47,150 --> 00:44:51,430  
I've never been for pleasure, to  
spend my money there, or about

772  
00:44:51,430 --> 00:44:53,922  
[? striking ?] out  
after reunification.

773  
00:44:53,922 --> 00:45:01,360  
The property was in the  
Russian-occupied zone.

774  
00:45:01,360 --> 00:45:09,110  
But what I forgot to mention  
is that, when I finally--

775  
00:45:09,110 --> 00:45:12,930  
with attorneys, of course, and  
proving that I was the heir,

776  
00:45:12,930 --> 00:45:16,840  
and the only child, and all  
that, got the property back.

777  
00:45:16,840 --> 00:45:19,370

778  
00:45:19,370 --> 00:45:20,780  
It took a long time.

779  
00:45:20,780 --> 00:45:26,060  
They still owe me money, for  
now I would say 65, 70 years.

780  
00:45:26,060 --> 00:45:28,980

They do not deny that  
when I was there.

781  
00:45:28,980 --> 00:45:33,230  
From a then 16-room  
house, they put it

782  
00:45:33,230 --> 00:45:38,800  
into three, four apartments,  
and the town collects the money.

783  
00:45:38,800 --> 00:45:41,300  
They had to give me my--

784  
00:45:41,300 --> 00:45:44,450  
after reunification, they  
had to give me my property

785  
00:45:44,450 --> 00:45:45,530  
back in my name.

786  
00:45:45,530 --> 00:45:48,980  
It could not be changed  
after my parents passed,

787  
00:45:48,980 --> 00:45:51,410  
but it was Russian zone.

788  
00:45:51,410 --> 00:45:58,860  
But after that, with the help  
from attorney, I was able to.

789  
00:45:58,860 --> 00:46:01,730  
But there is no law  
saying, for all the years

790  
00:46:01,730 --> 00:46:03,740  
they collected the  
rent, that they

791  
00:46:03,740 --> 00:46:06,420  
have to pay that back to me.

792

00:46:06,420 --> 00:46:10,470

And since my husband could  
speak German, but more dialect

793

00:46:10,470 --> 00:46:14,420

and not in writing, and it  
was up to me, and the family,

794

00:46:14,420 --> 00:46:18,410

and be here to take care  
of my husband's parents

795

00:46:18,410 --> 00:46:24,080

who could not drive  
a car, were dependent

796

00:46:24,080 --> 00:46:26,480

on us taking care of them--

797

00:46:26,480 --> 00:46:31,100

798

00:46:31,100 --> 00:46:34,820

since there was no law and  
no need to fight anymore--

799

00:46:34,820 --> 00:46:38,300

even so, I consider  
myself a little fighter--

800

00:46:38,300 --> 00:46:42,260

but I did not want to carry  
on, because it would be pretty

801

00:46:42,260 --> 00:46:46,010

useless wasting more time,  
harping on these things that I

802

00:46:46,010 --> 00:46:46,980

cannot change.

803

00:46:46,980 --> 00:46:48,680

So they still owe me the rent.

804

00:46:48,680 --> 00:46:50,450

They don't deny  
it, but since there

805

00:46:50,450 --> 00:46:55,520

is no law saying that they  
have to give it back to me.

806

00:46:55,520 --> 00:46:57,740

Do you get reparations?

807

00:46:57,740 --> 00:46:59,388

Yes, I do.

808

00:46:59,388 --> 00:47:00,680

And how do you feel about that?

809

00:47:00,680 --> 00:47:05,555

810

00:47:05,555 --> 00:47:08,030

I feel I am  
absolutely deserving.

811

00:47:08,030 --> 00:47:12,080

812

00:47:12,080 --> 00:47:13,220

You cannot make it up.

813

00:47:13,220 --> 00:47:21,110

The reparations cannot give  
back what they've taken away.

814

00:47:21,110 --> 00:47:23,790

It is just a token.

815

00:47:23,790 --> 00:47:34,960

It's not enough, and  
it is deserving money,

816  
00:47:34,960 --> 00:47:37,460  
and what can I say.

817  
00:47:37,460 --> 00:47:40,760

818  
00:47:40,760 --> 00:47:46,100  
it's not a substitute for  
if that wouldn't have been.

819  
00:47:46,100 --> 00:47:49,520  
I would have had the  
other way around.

820  
00:47:49,520 --> 00:47:51,740  
Do you think you would  
be a different person

821  
00:47:51,740 --> 00:47:55,310  
today if you hadn't  
gone through,

822  
00:47:55,310 --> 00:47:57,005  
in your childhood, what you did?

823  
00:47:57,005 --> 00:48:02,150  
Absolutely, yes, because I know  
I'm very different than most

824  
00:48:02,150 --> 00:48:03,690  
people because of it.

825  
00:48:03,690 --> 00:48:06,980  
Because we are formed,  
not only by our genes,

826  
00:48:06,980 --> 00:48:14,420  
but a lot of our  
life experiences

827  
00:48:14,420 --> 00:48:17,100

that make us who we are today.

828

00:48:17,100 --> 00:48:18,350

So how would you be different?

829

00:48:18,350 --> 00:48:21,370

What do you think?

830

00:48:21,370 --> 00:48:27,610

I would be not as  
compassionate, understanding,

831

00:48:27,610 --> 00:48:29,635

and have very different values.

832

00:48:29,635 --> 00:48:32,290

833

00:48:32,290 --> 00:48:34,570

Probably not better.

834

00:48:34,570 --> 00:48:37,660

I think these are  
better, whatever,

835

00:48:37,660 --> 00:48:44,690

family, education, being  
considerate those of others,

836

00:48:44,690 --> 00:48:48,140

not being judgemental,  
and all these things

837

00:48:48,140 --> 00:48:53,610

and part of my experiences  
that made me who I am.

838

00:48:53,610 --> 00:48:57,680

And I think, and  
very important, I

839

00:48:57,680 --> 00:49:04,010



was never short cut the time  
together of love for my family.

840  
00:49:04,010 --> 00:49:09,650  
The value of family and love was  
very important, and still is.

841  
00:49:09,650 --> 00:49:14,440  
It's important to me, not  
material things or any of that.

842  
00:49:14,440 --> 00:49:20,610  
Good health and happiness  
and financial rewards

843  
00:49:20,610 --> 00:49:23,790  
are two completely  
different things.

844  
00:49:23,790 --> 00:49:26,480  
And one thing I'm not  
looking for and don't need

845  
00:49:26,480 --> 00:49:30,960  
is means any pity.

846  
00:49:30,960 --> 00:49:34,880

847  
00:49:34,880 --> 00:49:40,990  
I find that survivors dwell  
too much on some of that,

848  
00:49:40,990 --> 00:49:41,840  
that they should.

849  
00:49:41,840 --> 00:49:43,530  
I don't want to be  
treated different

850  
00:49:43,530 --> 00:49:45,590  
than just a normal person.

851

00:49:45,590 --> 00:49:49,250

What I am I don't want  
any [INAUDIBLE] nothing

852

00:49:49,250 --> 00:49:55,920

I also am very caring  
and compassionate,

853

00:49:55,920 --> 00:50:00,020

but I'm also strong  
enough to know

854

00:50:00,020 --> 00:50:11,555

that self-pity has no value.

855

00:50:11,555 --> 00:50:16,220

Are there any sounds  
or sights or smells

856

00:50:16,220 --> 00:50:20,852

that just trigger memories  
of your childhood?

857

00:50:20,852 --> 00:50:21,935

Well, whenever they come--

858

00:50:21,935 --> 00:50:25,220

859

00:50:25,220 --> 00:50:27,410

my mind is usually  
either that I do

860

00:50:27,410 --> 00:50:31,460

something, all these thoughts  
I keep my mind occupied.

861

00:50:31,460 --> 00:50:34,340

But when it comes  
to the suffering

862

00:50:34,340 --> 00:50:38,930

that mainly my dad and  
my husband experienced,

863  
00:50:38,930 --> 00:50:43,470  
it is unreal and difficult  
to understand, especially

864  
00:50:43,470 --> 00:50:45,110  
in my dad's case.

865  
00:50:45,110 --> 00:50:47,080  
Why people do that  
to each other,

866  
00:50:47,080 --> 00:50:50,900  
the hatefulness for  
people, that one

867  
00:50:50,900 --> 00:50:55,890  
is jealous and the other one  
has something more or better,

868  
00:50:55,890 --> 00:50:59,060  
that they worked for, because  
they stress education,

869  
00:50:59,060 --> 00:51:05,150  
and therefore could  
allow to live at a higher

870  
00:51:05,150 --> 00:51:08,430  
standard of living than others.

871  
00:51:08,430 --> 00:51:10,250  
Why these things happen?

872  
00:51:10,250 --> 00:51:13,415  
And I don't believe we  
ever can change that.

873  
00:51:13,415 --> 00:51:15,200  
It's a really unfortunate.

874

00:51:15,200 --> 00:51:18,365

875

00:51:18,365 --> 00:51:22,365

Did you ever did you  
ever get more schooling?

876

00:51:22,365 --> 00:51:26,780

I would have gotten more  
schooling, absolutely.

877

00:51:26,780 --> 00:51:29,720

What I have I was told amounts  
to two years of college.

878

00:51:29,720 --> 00:51:33,190

879

00:51:33,190 --> 00:51:37,040

The private girls'  
school I attended

880

00:51:37,040 --> 00:51:42,360

was what would qualify me to  
go wherever I want to go there.

881

00:51:42,360 --> 00:51:44,500

They have a different  
school system in Germany.

882

00:51:44,500 --> 00:51:45,980

There are three levels--

883

00:51:45,980 --> 00:51:46,640

at the time.

884

00:51:46,640 --> 00:51:48,890

I don't know what it is today.

885

00:51:48,890 --> 00:51:56,450

If you want to just be a regular  
worker, a school system to go,

886  
00:51:56,450 --> 00:51:58,940  
which is elementary school  
all the way through.

887  
00:51:58,940 --> 00:52:01,400  
Then a middle school if  
you want to be a secretary,

888  
00:52:01,400 --> 00:52:06,950  
and I attended where you  
can go to the university.

889  
00:52:06,950 --> 00:52:11,250  
And I was able to do that, and I  
did have the grades to do that.

890  
00:52:11,250 --> 00:52:13,890

891  
00:52:13,890 --> 00:52:17,645  
Have you ever worked  
in the United States?

892  
00:52:17,645 --> 00:52:19,775  
Yes, I worked in New York.

893  
00:52:19,775 --> 00:52:21,940  
Oh, right, in the beginning.

894  
00:52:21,940 --> 00:52:24,555  
And then after you got married?

895  
00:52:24,555 --> 00:52:30,290  
No, my husband did not  
want me to go to work.

896  
00:52:30,290 --> 00:52:34,880  
I was offered a job  
that I will regret

897  
00:52:34,880 --> 00:52:39,470

not have taken as long as  
I live as the years ahead.

898  
00:52:39,470 --> 00:52:43,010  
It's at Hartford Hospital  
in Hartford, Connecticut.

899  
00:52:43,010 --> 00:52:49,350  
A Jewish man by the name of  
Monroe [? Himmelstein-- ?]

900  
00:52:49,350 --> 00:52:50,480  
he came from a farm.

901  
00:52:50,480 --> 00:52:54,590  
His father died  
unexpectedly early, too.

902  
00:52:54,590 --> 00:52:56,840  
He became a top-notch surgeon.

903  
00:52:56,840 --> 00:53:07,460  
He operated on my  
husband for peritonitis.

904  
00:53:07,460 --> 00:53:10,440  
My husband almost died from it.

905  
00:53:10,440 --> 00:53:14,870  
And he operated, and we  
talked frequently together,

906  
00:53:14,870 --> 00:53:18,470  
and my husband was three  
weeks in the hospital.

907  
00:53:18,470 --> 00:53:23,600  
And during that time,  
my mother-in-law

908  
00:53:23,600 --> 00:53:27,530  
was with Alzheimer's  
in a convalescent home,

909  
00:53:27,530 --> 00:53:31,490  
and my husband's dad  
was in another hospital

910  
00:53:31,490 --> 00:53:33,530  
with pneumonia.

911  
00:53:33,530 --> 00:53:37,490  
And I was left with  
30 cows and 20 cats.

912  
00:53:37,490 --> 00:53:41,760  
And we talked frequently  
about different things.

913  
00:53:41,760 --> 00:53:46,890  
And he said, I would like  
you to come and work for me.

914  
00:53:46,890 --> 00:53:50,820  
And this would be  
the job of my dreams.

915  
00:53:50,820 --> 00:53:53,880  
My son was gone, and  
I could have done it,

916  
00:53:53,880 --> 00:53:55,950  
but my husband didn't want to.

917  
00:53:55,950 --> 00:54:00,650  
So when I turned him down, he  
went to my husband and said,

918  
00:54:00,650 --> 00:54:05,550  
you know, I would like your wife  
to work for me in my office.

919  
00:54:05,550 --> 00:54:09,510  
And I told him at the time  
that I was in that trained,

920

00:54:09,510 --> 00:54:13,320

and he said he knew  
that I could do the job.

921

00:54:13,320 --> 00:54:16,110

And my husband turned  
him down and said,

922

00:54:16,110 --> 00:54:18,480

I need her more than you do.

923

00:54:18,480 --> 00:54:21,840

My husband came home from  
peritonitis, and three weeks,

924

00:54:21,840 --> 00:54:26,430

and no food, no IV, and having  
a couple of feet of intestine

925

00:54:26,430 --> 00:54:30,650

lost, with an open belly  
that needed attention

926

00:54:30,650 --> 00:54:32,670

by a nurse every day.

927

00:54:32,670 --> 00:54:35,180

And they wanted to send  
free of charge, of course,

928

00:54:35,180 --> 00:54:38,520

from the insurance  
company, the hospital

929

00:54:38,520 --> 00:54:42,070

that the nurse comes here  
daily till that is healed.

930

00:54:42,070 --> 00:54:44,940

When Doctor Himmelstein  
came and heard it he said,

931



00:54:44,940 --> 00:54:47,610  
there's no nurse coming.

932  
00:54:47,610 --> 00:54:50,560  
Sharon can do that on her own.

933  
00:54:50,560 --> 00:54:53,820  
It was rather scary  
to expect me to take

934  
00:54:53,820 --> 00:54:59,490  
care of this open wound,  
cutting through the belly button

935  
00:54:59,490 --> 00:55:03,110  
to let the pus come out  
and cleaned out daily.

936  
00:55:03,110 --> 00:55:05,400  
So, I did it.

937  
00:55:05,400 --> 00:55:07,610  
It was scary, but I did it.

938  
00:55:07,610 --> 00:55:10,280  
And it healed up nicely.

939  
00:55:10,280 --> 00:55:14,080  
But my husband didn't  
want me to take the job.

940  
00:55:14,080 --> 00:55:16,140  
He said, I need you.

941  
00:55:16,140 --> 00:55:21,750  
And he told the doctor, I need  
her more than you'll need her.

942  
00:55:21,750 --> 00:55:25,721  
But that was  
something up my alley.

943

00:55:25,721 --> 00:55:31,800  
What were your thoughts  
during the Eichmann trial?

944  
00:55:31,800 --> 00:55:33,990  
Do you remember?

945  
00:55:33,990 --> 00:55:39,770  
I didn't have that much time to  
give it the proper attention I

946  
00:55:39,770 --> 00:55:42,150  
would today.

947  
00:55:42,150 --> 00:55:47,360  
Between the business,  
and the family,

948  
00:55:47,360 --> 00:55:52,620  
and with my husband's  
parents, and my own mom,

949  
00:55:52,620 --> 00:55:56,700  
I cannot give you  
any opinion on that,

950  
00:55:56,700 --> 00:56:00,005  
because my priority  
was my devotion,

951  
00:56:00,005 --> 00:56:04,260  
total devotion to my family  
before I [INAUDIBLE]..

952  
00:56:04,260 --> 00:56:09,990  
And so only after everybody  
unfortunately was gone

953  
00:56:09,990 --> 00:56:12,600  
did I spend time--

954  
00:56:12,600 --> 00:56:16,095  
What year did your

husband pass away?

955

00:56:16,095 --> 00:56:18,840

My husband passed away  
nine and a half years ago

956

00:56:18,840 --> 00:56:25,260

after being diagnosed with Lou  
Gehrig's disease, unexpectedly.

957

00:56:25,260 --> 00:56:29,080

His lab work was perfect,  
and all of a sudden,

958

00:56:29,080 --> 00:56:31,578

he got that disease.

959

00:56:31,578 --> 00:56:33,120

I knew there was  
something like that.

960

00:56:33,120 --> 00:56:37,890

I did not know how it was  
called, and how it was.

961

00:56:37,890 --> 00:56:40,050

And [INAUDIBLE]  
here are the papers

962

00:56:40,050 --> 00:56:42,280

after all the information.

963

00:56:42,280 --> 00:56:47,150

I offered to still go to Israel  
and see if they could help us,

964

00:56:47,150 --> 00:56:48,570

but he said he wouldn't.

965

00:56:48,570 --> 00:56:51,820

And of course, they  
couldn't take care of that.

966

00:56:51,820 --> 00:56:58,300

This is something where there  
is no cure for at this point.

967

00:56:58,300 --> 00:57:02,730

And even after I  
contacted so many people

968

00:57:02,730 --> 00:57:06,150

and was told not enough people--

969

00:57:06,150 --> 00:57:08,510

too many, but not  
enough have it,

970

00:57:08,510 --> 00:57:12,870

so enough now the [INAUDIBLE]  
backwards and ordered.

971

00:57:12,870 --> 00:57:16,980

Not enough money is  
put into the research.

972

00:57:16,980 --> 00:57:18,480

Why that happens?

973

00:57:18,480 --> 00:57:21,840

Supposedly most people  
that were in Vietnam

974

00:57:21,840 --> 00:57:25,080

exposed to Agent Orange,  
which he was not.

975

00:57:25,080 --> 00:57:28,590

Why he got suddenly  
and in hindsight

976

00:57:28,590 --> 00:57:31,680

after we got married,  
shortly after,

977

00:57:31,680 --> 00:57:37,025  
there were signs which were  
never recognized and excused

978  
00:57:37,025 --> 00:57:40,710  
with this and that.

979  
00:57:40,710 --> 00:57:44,280  
And even if he has gone  
a few years before,

980  
00:57:44,280 --> 00:57:48,150  
the signs are not recognized.

981  
00:57:48,150 --> 00:57:53,130  
I talked to other people  
that had that in the family,

982  
00:57:53,130 --> 00:57:56,250  
and we all had the  
same experience.

983  
00:57:56,250 --> 00:57:58,950  
At [? Baxter ?] that  
stuff if it does not

984  
00:57:58,950 --> 00:58:00,780  
have first hand experience.

985  
00:58:00,780 --> 00:58:02,290  
It cannot be diagnosed.

986  
00:58:02,290 --> 00:58:05,170  
There's no tests or anything.

987  
00:58:05,170 --> 00:58:07,660  
Only people that have  
been unfortunately been

988  
00:58:07,660 --> 00:58:12,420  
through it once  
can say, hey, this

989

00:58:12,420 --> 00:58:17,380  
might be the culprit of it.

990

00:58:17,380 --> 00:58:19,830  
It is still a ways to go.

991

00:58:19,830 --> 00:58:23,600  
It is a very miserable  
disease where your mind stays,

992

00:58:23,600 --> 00:58:26,790  
and your body shrinks away.

993

00:58:26,790 --> 00:58:30,930  
And we have to accept  
it, and I cannot.

994

00:58:30,930 --> 00:58:36,510  
Whether it is my dad or my  
husband, the suffering--

995

00:58:36,510 --> 00:58:39,420  
that is the worst  
about losing somebody,

996

00:58:39,420 --> 00:58:42,630  
is the suffering these  
people go through.

997

00:58:42,630 --> 00:58:45,910  
That is immensely scary.

998

00:58:45,910 --> 00:58:48,090  
And when these  
thoughts come, I have

999

00:58:48,090 --> 00:58:50,550  
to keep doing something else.

1000

00:58:50,550 --> 00:58:54,210  
I still have a chair that we  
bought where my husband had

1001  
00:58:54,210 --> 00:58:56,290  
to sleep on in my living room.

1002  
00:58:56,290 --> 00:59:00,330  
It's like, no, I cannot  
sit on this chair.

1003  
00:59:00,330 --> 00:59:03,260  
Even so it's the most  
comfortable because it brings--

1004  
00:59:03,260 --> 00:59:07,320

1005  
00:59:07,320 --> 00:59:12,860  
like a movie, the memories  
come back, what happened there.

1006  
00:59:12,860 --> 00:59:17,700  
Or, say, with my dad, any of  
this if something mentions,

1007  
00:59:17,700 --> 00:59:19,470  
I don't want to be reminded.

1008  
00:59:19,470 --> 00:59:23,690  
It's part of me, and I  
try to keep right away

1009  
00:59:23,690 --> 00:59:28,920  
occupy myself and get different  
thoughts if these things cross

1010  
00:59:28,920 --> 00:59:31,800  
my mind, which  
they certainly do.

1011  
00:59:31,800 --> 00:59:36,810  
So I try to stay away  
from it and don't

1012

00:59:36,810 --> 00:59:38,900  
want to talk to people.

1013  
00:59:38,900 --> 00:59:46,830  
Don't try to have my friends,  
because they make me sad.

1014  
00:59:46,830 --> 00:59:49,560  
Even here, people from  
the concentration camp,

1015  
00:59:49,560 --> 00:59:51,960  
they say a sad  
[INAUDIBLE],, and I

1016  
00:59:51,960 --> 00:59:56,410  
don't want to be part of this.

1017  
00:59:56,410 --> 01:00:02,310  
It's part of me, and I  
have to make the best of it

1018  
01:00:02,310 --> 01:00:04,260  
because it's past.

1019  
01:00:04,260 --> 01:00:07,530  
And I did my duty to  
the best of my ability,

1020  
01:00:07,530 --> 01:00:09,750  
and that's all I can do.

1021  
01:00:09,750 --> 01:00:13,080  
And to make things  
worse by dwelling on it

1022  
01:00:13,080 --> 01:00:16,245  
doesn't serve any purpose.

1023  
01:00:16,245 --> 01:00:17,760  
Before we end, is  
there anything you



1024

01:00:17,760 --> 01:00:22,405

would like to add that  
you haven't mentioned?

1025

01:00:22,405 --> 01:00:24,170

Suffering after the  
war, I don't think

1026

01:00:24,170 --> 01:00:29,230

it is understood properly,  
for all people after that,

1027

01:00:29,230 --> 01:00:32,140

that have been in the  
concentration camp,

1028

01:00:32,140 --> 01:00:33,700

that it did not end.

1029

01:00:33,700 --> 01:00:35,410

Heaven did not open.

1030

01:00:35,410 --> 01:00:38,410

Life was very, very difficult.

1031

01:00:38,410 --> 01:00:40,630

Being three years in  
the concentration camp

1032

01:00:40,630 --> 01:00:41,660

is one thing.

1033

01:00:41,660 --> 01:00:44,580

Afterward, growing up  
an old people's home,

1034

01:00:44,580 --> 01:00:51,650

and I am again now living in  
a very nice, even luxurious

1035

01:00:51,650 --> 01:00:56,860

retirement home, but

with old people again.

1036  
01:00:56,860 --> 01:00:58,780  
This is my second chance.

1037  
01:00:58,780 --> 01:01:03,910  
Yes, I am more understanding  
toward these people, but for me

1038  
01:01:03,910 --> 01:01:11,110  
to have to go through that again  
is, at times, a bitter pill

1039  
01:01:11,110 --> 01:01:12,355  
to swallow.

1040  
01:01:12,355 --> 01:01:16,725  
But it is something,  
having lost all my family.

1041  
01:01:16,725 --> 01:01:19,750  
Did you lose any  
other extended family

1042  
01:01:19,750 --> 01:01:23,470  
that you know of  
besides your immediate?

1043  
01:01:23,470 --> 01:01:25,540  
Well, my cousins,  
they are all gone.

1044  
01:01:25,540 --> 01:01:27,970  
Most of my aunts, and  
uncles, and cousins--

1045  
01:01:27,970 --> 01:01:30,070  
they perished in the  
concentration camp.

1046  
01:01:30,070 --> 01:01:35,170  
And the others, due to my  
parents' age and circumstances,

1047  
01:01:35,170 --> 01:01:39,340  
they were all about 15,  
16 years older than I am.

1048  
01:01:39,340 --> 01:01:43,630  
And I am 78 now, and  
they have all passed.

1049  
01:01:43,630 --> 01:01:48,260  
I have nobody any more  
except this son and the two

1050  
01:01:48,260 --> 01:01:48,920  
grandchildren.

1051  
01:01:48,920 --> 01:01:54,400  
And my son turned religious.

1052  
01:01:54,400 --> 01:01:57,130  
He is an educated religious man.

1053  
01:01:57,130 --> 01:02:02,360  
But he was left without  
any conscience or heart,

1054  
01:02:02,360 --> 01:02:04,090  
shall I say?

1055  
01:02:04,090 --> 01:02:09,980  
And the grandchildren,  
except my grandson,

1056  
01:02:09,980 --> 01:02:12,050  
they're not much different.

1057  
01:02:12,050 --> 01:02:17,070  
They're good people, but  
they have different values.

1058  
01:02:17,070 --> 01:02:22,570  
And I hear from my

granddaughter rarely,

1059

01:02:22,570 --> 01:02:25,120

not even for the holidays.

1060

01:02:25,120 --> 01:02:28,700

And my son, now and then.

1061

01:02:28,700 --> 01:02:32,020

1062

01:02:32,020 --> 01:02:34,200

And that is something.

1063

01:02:34,200 --> 01:02:35,980

When I was in New  
York, I would write

1064

01:02:35,980 --> 01:02:39,730

to my parents twice  
a week, letters.

1065

01:02:39,730 --> 01:02:43,350

It's a different  
generation, maybe.

1066

01:02:43,350 --> 01:02:45,520

I hear complaints  
from others, too.

1067

01:02:45,520 --> 01:02:48,580

Maybe I'm a little less  
fortunate in that respect.

1068

01:02:48,580 --> 01:02:53,140

I tried my best, and  
that is all I can do.

1069

01:02:53,140 --> 01:02:57,130

And to do justice  
to my dear husband,

1070

01:02:57,130 --> 01:03:03,150  
I would like to say he was  
suffering in the [INAUDIBLE]

1071  
01:03:03,150 --> 01:03:07,750  
a home and hospital, on the  
hospital wing for over a half

1072  
01:03:07,750 --> 01:03:11,440  
a year, dying from Lou Gehrig's.

1073  
01:03:11,440 --> 01:03:16,270  
My son never once came  
to visit him, never once,

1074  
01:03:16,270 --> 01:03:19,840  
and not a phone call either.

1075  
01:03:19,840 --> 01:03:25,150  
And it's a hard pill to  
swallow, but I do not

1076  
01:03:25,150 --> 01:03:27,550  
talk about these things.

1077  
01:03:27,550 --> 01:03:31,420  
Only one or two of  
my close friends

1078  
01:03:31,420 --> 01:03:36,645  
know about it, because  
it is what it is.

1079  
01:03:36,645 --> 01:03:40,510  
Do you think the world  
has learned anything

1080  
01:03:40,510 --> 01:03:41,500  
from the Holocaust?

1081  
01:03:41,500 --> 01:03:45,250

1082  
01:03:45,250 --> 01:03:46,983  
People seem to forget too fast.

1083  
01:03:46,983 --> 01:03:48,400  
I really don't  
think so, otherwise

1084  
01:03:48,400 --> 01:03:52,990  
things that are going on  
today would not be happening.

1085  
01:03:52,990 --> 01:03:56,590  
And I don't think  
it is relevant.

1086  
01:03:56,590 --> 01:03:59,450  
If you can't change  
it, it's very sad.

1087  
01:03:59,450 --> 01:04:07,450  
Netanyahu is coming here now,  
visiting with our president.

1088  
01:04:07,450 --> 01:04:09,340  
And I hope things--

1089  
01:04:09,340 --> 01:04:13,370  
for some reason, they  
don't see eye to eye.

1090  
01:04:13,370 --> 01:04:19,720  
And I was hoping that a person  
of a minority like President

1091  
01:04:19,720 --> 01:04:22,600  
Obama would be  
more understanding

1092  
01:04:22,600 --> 01:04:27,275  
toward our situation, but it  
did not turn out to be that way.

1093

01:04:27,275 --> 01:04:33,250

1094

01:04:33,250 --> 01:04:40,420

I am all in favor of  
Israel, but not to the point

1095

01:04:40,420 --> 01:04:43,000

that I want to  
spend my life there.

1096

01:04:43,000 --> 01:04:46,780

I was and visited Israel for  
three weeks with a group,

1097

01:04:46,780 --> 01:04:51,160

with my husband,  
was very impressed,

1098

01:04:51,160 --> 01:04:53,810

but I choose to live  
in this country.

1099

01:04:53,810 --> 01:05:01,300

But I'm also very much  
in favor of Israel

1100

01:05:01,300 --> 01:05:06,190

being treated the way we  
deserve to be treated.

1101

01:05:06,190 --> 01:05:11,320

And it is, after all, our  
strongest ally in the region

1102

01:05:11,320 --> 01:05:19,060

and hasn't gotten the attention  
that I think we deserve.

1103

01:05:19,060 --> 01:05:24,220

And the Jewish people  
still seem to think

1104

01:05:24,220 --> 01:05:29,560  
President Obama is doing the  
right thing by voting for him.

1105  
01:05:29,560 --> 01:05:33,580  
And I think it is  
important that we

1106  
01:05:33,580 --> 01:05:39,940  
see that Israel remains strong.

1107  
01:05:39,940 --> 01:05:42,940  
And that they can  
have a life of peace,

1108  
01:05:42,940 --> 01:05:49,240  
and not live under the threat  
of the same thing or even worse

1109  
01:05:49,240 --> 01:05:51,985  
happening again.

1110  
01:05:51,985 --> 01:05:53,840  
Well, that's an  
important note to end on.

1111  
01:05:53,840 --> 01:05:58,300  
I want to thank for  
doing this interview.

1112  
01:05:58,300 --> 01:06:04,270  
And I just want to say  
just a closing sentence--

1113  
01:06:04,270 --> 01:06:07,870  
that this concludes the United  
States Holocaust Memorial

1114  
01:06:07,870 --> 01:06:12,040  
Museum interview with  
Charlotte Schiff.

1115  
01:06:12,040 --> 01:06:16,280



1116  
01:06:16,280 --> 01:06:19,610  
Again, I thank you so much.

1117  
01:06:19,610 --> 01:06:21,200  
You're quite welcome.

1118  
01:06:21,200 --> 01:06:25,470  
And I hope I answered a  
good part of your questions

1119  
01:06:25,470 --> 01:06:27,880  
to the best of my ability.

1120  
01:06:27,880 --> 01:06:32,150  
And for your own information  
I cannot stress enough how

1121  
01:06:32,150 --> 01:06:33,500  
important the times.

1122  
01:06:33,500 --> 01:06:34,750  
[INAUDIBLE]