

And us, as children, was of her cheerful Christianity. She was a very loving, helpful, joyful person, very, very always upbeat and helpful and cheerful. I'm sure she had her down days, too, but on the whole, she had a-- sure.

Did you mother attend elementary school?

Yes.

Gymnasium or high school?

No, she was a nurse, was in nurse's training.

Yes?

Yes, my mother was a nurse.

So she, we would call it probably as a apprentice.

No, it's nursing. Yeah, nursing, nursing student.

And do you say that she was a Protestant?

Yes, we were Protestant.

What do you think that, how much influence the religion had in the way she lived her life, a great deal?

Yes, a very great deal, yeah.

Now, you turn to page 7. That was page 6.

Yeah, I know.

Did she fear that people from other religion were very different from herself?

Somewhat different, I would say.

Somewhat different.

Yeah.

Did she ever talk about the Gypsies?

The Gypsies?

Yes.

Yeah, we had a gypsy camp in our town.

She talked?

Yeah.

What she said. What she tell you?

What do you mean?

About the Gypsies, what kind of people they are.

Well, at that time, she told us we had to be careful for them because they stole a lot in our town. [LAUGHS] They did a lot of stealing, but she was fascinated by them, also. They were very colorful people, very different people, but they did do a lot of stealing in our town, chickens and whatever they could find.

Would you say admired them?

Yeah, she was fascinated, I would say, yeah, by the way of living. They were very musical and colorful. They looked colorful.

Yeah. Did your mother ever talk to you about the Jews?

Yes.

And what did she tell you?

Well, that they were God's people. They were God's chosen people, very special people.

What else? Something more?

Well, that they were good business people, that they were very, very supportive of one another. We had, in Amsterdam, they were very prosperous. The Jews were very prosperous in Amsterdam. They were very much see the Amsterdam as the diamond city, you know? They were very, very good business people.

Yes. What do you think were the most important things you learned from your mother?

Well, Mother had three loves, and they were her country and her royal family and her church.

It means to love your country?

Yes very, very much. And she was very stubborn about it. We used to tease her about it, how loyal she was.

Love your country, love your.

Church, and our royal family. She was very, very supportive.

Now, please look at page 8 at the list of qualities on this page. And for each one, please tell me whether you feel you learn this quality from your mother. To be self-confident?

Yeah.

Yes.

I would say she taught us that.

To be independent?

Yes, very definitely.

Take responsibility?

Yes.

Take chances?

Yes.

Make your own decisions?

Yes.

To be adventurous?

Yes.

To help others?

Yes. They are.

On the page 9, looking at this list of qualities on page 9, please tell me whether you feel that when you grow up you were self-confident?

Mm-hmm.

Independent?

Yes.

Able to take responsibility?

Yes.

Willing to take chances?

Yes.

Able to make decisions?

Yes.

Adventurous?

Yeah.

Helpful of others.

Yeah.

During the Second World War, did you mother ever help Jews in any way?

Yes.

Now you can tell what you wanted to say. What kind of thing did she do to help Jews?

Well, I think that she was, during the war, was the strength of our family. She was, I mean, Mother was there, you

know? She even, if we didn't have much food, she made something out of nothing. And she was always there to encourage everybody.

Tell what she did.

A mother--

What she did to help the Jews.

To be a mother to them. I would say. The ones who stayed with us in the house, she was a mother to them and she was--

She tried to be, a mother to them.

Yes, she to them. But they were missing, and she was very caring and very loving to them and would literally have given her life, her own life to for them.

Before the Second World War, was your mother a member of a political party?

Yes.

What was the name of the party?

AR, Anti-Révolutionnaire, but it's AR it stands for. Yeah.

Anti-Révolutionnaire?

Yeah, Anti-Révolutionnaire party. There was a conservative party.

And that's not just-- it says the record complete name, not just initial. Anti-Révolutionnaire.

OK. After the war started, did your mother belong to a group that opposed the German Nazis?

I don't know if it was certain group but could come-- she was in the underground. I don't think there was a group openly, you know, I mean, came out because she belonged to the underground, like everyone else.

She belonged to the underground.

Oh, yes.

Don't you remember what was the name of this? Just underground?

I don't think it had a special name. No, it was just they had special code names for giving messages, but I don't think it has a special name.

It had only code names.

And she was responsible for-- she did, personally, she brought money to the people, my dad was responsible for the people in the underground who were on the strike from the railroad. And she brought them all the money, and she did that. Walked for miles every day to bring him that money.

What kind of things did your mother do to oppose the Nazis?

Well, she did support the underground and supported my dad, whoever we brought in or my brothers, you know? She was fully behind him and supported him in every way.

And support her husband.

Yeah.

And who worked against the Nazis?

Yes.

In underground.

Right. Yeah, they worked as a team.

Now we are talking about you. I would like to ask some questions about you during the time when you were growing up. Did you attend elementary school?

Yes.

What kind of elementary school did you attend? Was it Protestant?

Yeah, Christian Protestant school.

Christian. Did any Jews attend your elementary school?

Not in the town where I lived, no.

No. Now would you like to see page 10. Were there many Jewish students attending your elementary school? No?

No.

Oh, that doesn't pertain. Did you attend gymnasium or high school?

I went to a special girls' school.

Lyceum?

Lyceum, no. I would call it a household school, a domestic school for girls, I would say, where girls learn to be domestic.

Not high school.

Yes, a girls' high school, maybe.

Girls' high school.

Home economics, yeah. Yeah, that would be better?

Was it a Protestant?

No that wasn't--

Non-sectarian?

Yeah, non.

You graduated also?

Yes.

Which year?

Let's see, it was during the war. It must have been in '43. Yeah, '43.

'43.

Yeah, I was there during the war.

Now, in this high school, did many Jewish children go?

I would say just a few, maybe.

A few?

Yeah.

Not very many.

Page 10, yes?

Did you have any trade? Trade?

An occupation?

Yes, for which you had to apprentice?

Well, I went to that school, and then I worked in an office for a while.

So that wasn't a trade.

No.

What was your religious affiliation during the time when you were growing up? Were you Protestant?

Yes, Protestant.

Now page 11.

During the time when you were growing up, how much influence did your religion have on the way you lived your life?

A great deal of influence.

Page 12. During the time when you were growing up, did you have many close friends?

Yes, I had a lot of friends.

Many?

Yes, I would say many.

When you were with your friends, were you usually leader or a follower?

A leader.

A leader. Were any of your close friends, very different from you, in terms of religion or social class?

Most of the friends I had went to the same church. They weren't very much different.

Yeah.

During that time you were growing up, were any of your close friends Jewish?

No, we didn't have too many Jewish people in the town where I grew up.

But did you know any Jews?

Yes.

During the time you were growing up was there a particular person that you admired very much and wanted to be like when you grow up?

I don't know. Well, when we grew up, we--

It was a person who you admired. And you said when I grow up, I wanted to be just like she or he?

I can't remember anybody in particular. I know when we grew up, Hollywood was really big. You know, we would clip out the pictures and save. And I can't really remember one in particular. Yeah, the boys all admired Roy Rogers because he was really the cowboy star.

So what was the quality that you admired in this person?

I would say a certain strength of character.

Strength?

Yeah. Yes, strength of character or who did something really brave, like Florence Nightingale or somebody like that.

Now we are interested in your feeling about various group of people. Before the war, did you have any feelings about people with educational background different from yours? Turn to the page 13 now.

Oh, had a different background. I grew up in a time that educated was only for rich people. So I think that we, there was very much a class system in our town, in Holland. So only the rich studied and the rest did this, sort of us. A definite class system there.

You had some feeling.

I would say we had feelings about that.

Yes. Now we have a scale here. We chose from the best to the worst. And I would like you to answer it using the seven points. There are seven point scales on this page. Number 1 means thought well of them and so on. What would be the closest, the way you felt about people with educational background different from yours.

On a scale from 1 to 7? The highest one is did nothing wrong. I would say we thought well of them.

Of the you would put it for to 1?

Yeah, I would think so. Yeah we thought, well of them.

During the war, did you your feeling about people from different educational backgrounds changed?

No, unh-huh.

Now you turned to the page 13. Using the same scale, please tell me what is the closest number, the way you felt during the war about people from different educational background.

I would say 1, thought well of.

Yes.

Before the war, did you have any feelings about people of nationalities different from yours?

Nationalities different from ours.

And go to the page 16. OK, 16.

No, sorry, 13.

Well, at that time, we were not so up to date with other people, but I would say that we thought well of most of the people we knew, the different nationalities.

But do you feel different? Before the war, did you have any feelings about people of nationalities different from yours? You had any before the war, yes?

I don't think--

Before the era, when the war, yeah--

Before the war, I don't think so. But then after the war, we did, after we had the experience with the Germans.

Now during the war, did your feeling about people of different nationalities changed?

Yes, it changed.

Yes. Tell me the number of the scale, what comes closest to the way you felt during the war about people of different nationalities? On page 13.

7, I would say, because we did not think very well of the Germans. I don't know if that's the right answer.

No, no, you don't. You did not understand the question.

OK. The nationalities different, probably it means the Jews, no? The Jewish.

Oh, I thought maybe that the Nazis were meant of that, the nationalities. Because we have Dutch Jews, too,

This is also, it's an interesting question that I have to make a point something here, because it can be anyone.

Yeah.

Please tell me the number on the scale that comes closest to the way you felt during the war about people of different nationalities. It could be anyone.

Yeah, see, that's a tricky question, really, because if you say another nationality, we did not think well of the Germans, you know? So if I would say, well, that would not include the Jews.

Yes, could be Germans. Could be Italians. Could be any nationality.

Oh, I don't know. That's a hard question to answer.

I'll put a question mark.

Yeah 13, 12. This done under the scale that comes closest to the way you felt during the war about people of different nationalities. I think includes all different nationalities.

Yeah, well, then, I did not think well of the Nazi Germans, but if that refers to the Jews, then that's not a good question.

Before the war, did you have any feeling about people of religious different from yours?

No.

On page 13, what number of the scale comes closest to the way you felt about people of different religion before the war?

1, we thought well of different people.

Yes. During the war, did your feeling about people of different religion change?

Not really, no.

What number of the scale comes closest to the way you felt about people in different religious?

I think I thought well of them, the same.

Before the war, did you have any feeling about people from social classes different from yours?

Yes, we had feeling for that.

What number of the scale come closest to the way you felt about people of different social classes?

I would say 2.

During the war, did your feeling about people of different social classes change?

No.

Which, the number on the scale that comes closest to the way you felt during the war about people of different social classes?

I would say 2, also.

Before the war, did you have any feeling about Jews?

Yes.

What number of the scale comes closest to the way you felt about Jews before the war?

Number 1.

During the war, did your feeling about Jews change?

No.

What number on the scale comes closest?

1.

Before the war, did you have any feeling about Gypsies?

Those Gypsies, yeah, I had feelings about the Gypsies.

What number on the scales come closest?

Well, I would make it maybe a 3, because we had our feelings about it.

Yeah. And this feeling, during the war, changed?

No. Unh-uh.

On page 13, again, where you would put--

Yeah, I would keep them at the 3 scale.

3? Before the war, did you have any feeling about Nazis? Before the war.

Before the war, yeah, we had our feelings about the Nazis. We didn't know too much about it.

What number, in this case, comes closest to the way you felt about Nazis before the war?

Before the war, well, let's put them in a 6, because we didn't know that much about them.

So probably this question, what we left out, it relates to the Jews, because here now, this special, where we put the question mark. And I would like you to complete this one after.

During the war, did your feeling about the Nazis change?

Oh, definitely.

Where would you put them?

If there was a lower number, [LAUGHS] I would put it lower than a 7.

7.

Now, again, you have to turn to page 22.

OK.

It's sad to see a lonely person in a group. I strongly agree, agree, disagree. Do you have the answers here?

22.

Page 22. What do you say? Shall I repeat it again?

Yes.

It's sad to see a lonely person in a group.

A lonely person in a group?

Yeah. It's really sad to see when someone is lonely in a group.

Yeah.

What do you say?

But I don't understand. What should I do? Strongly agree or agree?

You have to choose one of these answers. Do you strongly agree or agree, disagree? That would be unpleasant to see someone who is sad in a group.

Oh, oh, yeah.

I can't quite understand what.

How do you feel after you say it? Do you feel for that person?

Yeah, I feel. I agree, you know? Is that the right word for it?

Yes. Yes.

Yeah, I would strongly agree to.

Strongly?

Yeah.

I get nervous if others seem nervous.

I get nervous when others seem nervous. Yes, I feel sort of for them.

What is your--

1.

1?

OK. Bringing bad news to people upsets me.

Yeah, 1.

The words of a song can move me deeply.

Yes, 1.

I get very involved with my friends' problems.

Yes.

My moods are affected by the people around me.

2, I would say.

I get upset when my friend is upset.

2.

I like to watch people open presents.

1.

I get very upset when I see someone hurt.

1.

The feeling of people in books affect me.

1.

Seeing people cry upsets me.

1.

I usually stay calm, even when others worry.

2.

Yeah?

I stay calm when others worry?

Yeah. You feel so?

Yeah. I would say 2, yeah.

My decisions are not influenced by people's feelings.

Yes, I agree with that.

2?

1.

I feel bad if people around me are sad.

Yeah, I agree there. Yes, I feel bad.

Which number?

1.

This is strongly agree, the 1.

Yeah.

I get very upset when I see an animal in pain.

An animal in pain. 2.

It upsets me to see helpless people.

Yeah, I strongly agree on that.

No. 4.

I feel that I have much to be proud about myself.

1.

I am able to do things as well as most other people.

1.

I wish I could have more respect for myself.

4.

I take a positive attitude about myself.

1.

In general, I am satisfied with myself.

2. Should always leave room for improvement.

Yes, you are very moderate. At times, I think I am no good at all.

2.

Now check the box that comes closest to your opinion about each of the following statements. And that will be true and false. On page 23. Sometimes an individual's ability is not recognized.

True.

Students' grades in school depend on their own efforts.

True.

Getting what I want has little or nothing to do with luck.

True.

When I make plans, I am almost certain that I can make them work.

False.

Getting a good job depends mainly on being in the right place at the right time.

False.

Who gets to be boss is the person who is lucky enough to be in the right place first.

False.

Many times, we might just as well decide what to do by flipping a coin.

False.

Many times I feel that I have little influence over the things that happens to me.

Ah, true.

There really is no such thing as luck.

True.

No? You don't believe?

There's not such a thing as luck.

You can be lucky, you know? You don't believe in luck?

There is little one can do to alter his fate. There is little one can do to alter his fate.

Oh, that's false, I would say.

All success in life is outside of our own control.

Ah, false.

If a person tries hard enough he will reach his goals.

False.

Most persons have a lot of control over what happens to them in life.

False.

What happens to me is largely my own doing.

False

Ultimately, no one is going to care much what happens to you when you get right down to it.

That's false.

If you don't watch yourself people will take advantage of you.

False.

If you risk my life to save an acquaintance. Sorry. I would risk my life to save an acquaintance.

Acquaintance. That's one of those questions again.

Would you risk your life?

Would you save an acquaintance?

Yeah.

I don't know.

People are usually cooperative.

Yes, I would say, that's true.

I would risk my life for a stranger. That's true or false?

See there are such questions, if you were there. I don't think you can answer that fully, you know? Risking your life. We risked our life for strangers, really.

Yes. Would you do it again?

Yeah, I would think so.

Yeah, there is not an answer. False or true. I would risk my life for a stranger.

If someone jumps in the water--

Yeah, see, you know, when a man-- yeah, I think if you saw a person, then you would. You don't start deliberating whether you're going to do it or not.

Yes. What's the time now? 9:05.

I think maybe I should-- I was reading it, but it says also in there. Maybe I should give it to you. Then you could--
[INAUDIBLE]

Yeah, where were you living for the longest period of time during the war, in what place and country?

In Ermelo, Holland.

Would you like to spell it again, please.

Ermelo is E-R-M-E-L-O.

Page 14. Was it a large city, no?

A village.

Did you live in a house, an apartment, or other?

A house.

A house? How many stories did this house have, not counting the cellar and attic.

Two.

Was there a cellar?

Yes.

Was there an attic?

Yes.

Did you own your own home?

Yes.

Or pay rent? Owned. How many rooms were there in your home, not counting bathrooms.

Six.

Other than the members of your family who were living with you during the war, were there any other relatives living in?

No.

How many different families of your relatives lived in Ermelo?

None.

Before the war, were there any Jews living in your community?

A few. Yes.

A few?

Yeah.

Did you have a sense of belonging in the community? Did you feel like an outsider?

No, we had a sense of belonging.

Now, I would like to make a list of people who were living in your household before the war broke out in 1939. I don't need their names again, just their relationship to you and their ages in 1939.

'39. So I was 12 years old then. If some of them had left the home?

No. Who were living in your household in 1939?

1939.

Immediately before the war

All of us except my oldest brother. He was gone already then.

So mother, father.

Father. Yeah, Mother, Father. Mother, Father, one brother and three sisters.

One brother, one sister, one sister, one sister. In 1939, your father's age?

Let's see, 1939, my father's age. He was two years older than I said before.

Yes.

It seems, well, my mother was 40 when I was born. So when I was 12, she was 52, and my father was then 48. Yeah, my father was young, 48.

In 1937, your father was 50. I mean, 47. Yeah, so now in 1939, two years older isn't it?

Yeah.

49.

Yeah.

49. Your mother was 52 then.

Mm-hmm.

So we just add one brother. Which brother was it?

The youngest one was still living.

22. He was 22 and now is 24.

Well, they were not living there either then, because he was in the Navy.

They're not living there. Maybe.

Do you want to stop?

OK. Yeah, my father and mother and my two sisters in '39, my father and mother, and my one sister was 16 and the other one, 14.

One sister was 16.

Yes.

In 1937-- I mean, '39.

'39.

Does that come up there?

No. How old did you say? 17, maybe. The two youngest? 17 and 14.

Right.

And they were all born in Holland?

Yes, mm-hmm.

And what they were doing?

Well, they--

Father, at that time?

Well, father was working for the railroad and mother, housewife. And the others were students.

Yes. Does that include everyone who was living in your household in 1939?

Mm-hmm. Yes.

Now I would like you to see the page 16. Before the war, were you very well off financially?

I would say 3. Neither rich nor poor.

17. Before the war, did you think of yourself as being upper class?

3, middle class.

Did you get married during the war?

No.

So then you did not have any children.

No. I better not. [LAUGHS] No.

Yeah, because this is again relating to the children.

What kind of work did you do just before the war?

I was in school.

Now, during the war, what was your main job? I mean, you have been in school and before, you told me that you had been learning as a nurse, also in school. It was different from the one what we discussed or the same?

Well, my mother was a nurse.

Oh, your mother. Sorry, sorry.

Yeah, and I went to school, to that special girls' school, home economics school.

Oh, yeah, the girls' school.

Yeah, the girls. During the war-- this is page 18. The answer. Did you have some close friends? Few close friends?

1. I had close friends.

Few close friends or no close friends?

Number 1.

Some close friends.

Yeah.

Number 2, isn't it?

No.

Except, they have 1, 4, 5. Maybe they--

Page 18.

Yeah. See?

Yes, and here, then they made a mistake here, because it's 2, 4, 5. Yeah, I think there's numbers.

OK. So they did not have, they did not marry. This is to your husband. Page 19. That is also for wife or husband.

This, I suppose, if I were to be married and had family during the war.

Before the Second World War, were you a member of a political party?

I was too young then to be a member, so no.

After the war started, did you belong to a group that opposed the Nazis?

Well, yeah. Like we said before, we all belonged to the underground except it didn't have a special name.

What was the name of the group?

Well, it didn't have a special, you know, just resistance movement. Resistance movement, that would be a--

What kind of things did you do to oppose the Nazis?

Ah, well, almost anything. But with my family, the blowing up of railroad tracks and bringing messages, money to divers.

Bringing messages.

Yeah, delivering, the news, underground news.

Blowing up the--

Railroad tracks. Hiding of weapons, you know? During the last year, they would drop the weapons and the resistance forces, and we would hide them, you know? And helping people who needed homes and bringing money to people who

were underground.

Before the Nazis.

Yeah.

If someone needed your help, would you be more likely to help someone you know? Page 20.

3, I would say. Wouldn't make any difference.

Are you tired?

No, are you?

No, just, I ask. We are nearly finished. Now, during the war did you ever help any Jews?

Yes.

Now you can answer everything. What kind of things did you do?

Slowly, that I can write it.

OK. They usually got you through the resistance movement, through the underground. But what kind of things did you do for them?

Providing them with shelter, with a place.

Providing shelter.

And a safe place to stay.

Shelter. Food?

Food and clothing, a home.

Message, warning?

Yes, warnings, messages. Support. I think that was very important, too, that we gave them encouragement and support and that they came into a loving home where they found that support. Because I think that was very often, that they, especially with children who were separated from their family and to give them that love and support.

And sometimes, even if you had to find another home for them, then to still encourage them and give them that support that they needed to endure, find different places.

Yeah, sometimes that was necessary.

Hiding places.

Yeah, hiding places.

What else?

And too, sometimes, it was possible to let them know that the rest of their family was OK. To give them mainly support, I would say, to encourage them, too.

I know you have read The Diary of Anne Frank. How this one lady constantly keeps on coming back and brings them messages and brings them the food, so that they are encouraged to keep up their spirit. Yeah, to keep up the spirit and to encourage each other. And they look forward.

For that to be a connection between parents and--

Yeah, to, if it is at all possible, to let them know what the rest are, what the family is doing and that they are safe, so to give them that support

Was there ever a time when you wanted to help the Jews but felt that you could not?

Yeah, there were times that you felt like you wanted to help more. And it wasn't always possible, you know?

What were the circumstances that you wanted to help and you could not?

Lack of space in your home, that you wanted to take more in and that you just simply didn't have the room or the finances to feed them all. Because it took money to feed all those people. Yes.

During the war, were there any leaders that you admired?

Oh, Churchill, for sure. Winston Churchill, we admired him very much, yeah. He gave us a lot of encouraging messages on our radio.

Who else?

I would say Eisenhower, the liberators, you know, the people who liberated us and our Queen. Our royal family, I think, was very much admired in Holland for the strength they took.

Queen Astrid? What was her name?

No, Wilhelmina. Wilhelmina--

Oh, Wilhelmina.

--was our Queen.

Queen Wilhelmina.

Yeah, she was very, very well loved, very admired.

Well, what were the things you admired about, let's say, Churchill?

Churchill, I think their strength and their honesty. Churchill never told us lies. He said this blood is going to cost blood and tears, and he didn't. He just said it as it was. But he also had a strength.

Eisenhower?

Eisenhower, I think, also was a great leader. Mainly for the strength, I think, that they encouraged you, and they didn't give up or give in.

They had good leadership and feelings with Wilhelmina?

Yeah, also I think that she was kind of a plain woman, but she had so much strength of character. Strength of character,

I would say.

People admired General Patton very much, too, in Holland?

No, I don't know which one is we lived in Germany, France, Poland, or others. Page 27. Page 27.

Between 1939 and 1945, were you ever unjustly treated by any government officials?

Oh, we were all unjustly treated by government officials.

What was it?

Well, I mean, by being occupied, your freedom being taken away. I think we were all unjustly treated. Our home--

Government and government officials?

Our home was taken away from us.

And when was it? When was it?

Our home was taken away?

When was it? Which year?

In 1944, we had to leave our home.

What happened?

My dad was on strike, on a railroad strike, and they took over our house. So we had to leave, and they took out our house. And then my brother was put into a camp by the government, you know?

Strike. Their home was taken away.

And brother?

My brother was put into a concentration camp for two years by the government.

Really?

For refusing to arrest Jews.

You did not mention it before.

I did tell about him.

Did you?

Yeah.

That he was put into concentration camp? At the very beginning.

At the very beginning.

Yes, for hiding Jews.

No, remember that I told you that he had to go into the police force and that they were--