

Yes. Well, obviously. There's one thing I would like to say yet.

Yes.

And that is--

Talk a little louder.

That is we have never felt that it was such a big deal what we have done and we are a little bit wary about it turning into a big deal. Because we did it and we said, OK, we did it. And after the war was over we were glad it was over and we went back to normal life, more or less at least, and we never thought about it much.

We thought about many experiences we had had and we thought about the friends we had made and about the friends we had lost, but about what we personally had done we never thought that much. And we really still don't feel it's not such a big deal. And we are a little bit worried or really I could say about interviews and medals and conferences in Washington and all that forces us more or less to--

Yeah.

You know?

I think I know what you mean. But let me say, as I said, I have not been around here very long. I'm just starting on it. But from the little that I know about it, I think this is very different from the medals and Washington and whatever goes on. Because you see from the little I see about this here the research that is being done that I discussed with you before or that they tried to do is how were you influenced by your parents? How did you act on it? How do you influence your children, your grandchildren, and so on?

So in other words, here you use a fancy word altruism. Fine. In the long run, I hope for your sake, I don't know if there is such a thing as altruism, but I hope for your sake you had a good feeling out of that. And what you are trying to say again and again and what comes through from your husband is you want to do the best that you can and you want to instill the same in your children and your grandchildren and you feel the world would be a better place to live if everybody would do the same. I think this is what you're trying to say. And I think they're trying to say a little bit, is it instinct? Is it being taught? How much do you do yourself, et cetera.

Yeah but now again--

Would you like me to record what you want to say?

That's OK.

OK.

Because now again it would be a point that if I really felt that way, then I would think I was better than other people. And I don't have that feeling at all. I don't think I'm any better as a person than people who didn't do it.

Did I use that word?

No, no, no. But when you say if everybody did what we had done that it's--

I said it would be a better world we would live in.

Maybe that's true.

Maybe that's my own bias. Forgive me.

Yeah, that's true.

I think I'm bringing in my own bias. But I think from the little that I have seen here, without going into all the things that are necessary for the research and having thousands of those questionnaires, which is very, very different, is really what is behind all that? What makes us tick?

Yes.

And I think this is all they're trying to study. And I'm really sorry that I'm taking so much of your time and energy, et cetera. It is very difficult. I can well understand it. And you are going through quite a bit I'm aware of it. But the main thing is really if we can prevent it in the future.

Yes.

I mean, all the things that are coming up. And I'm sure there's a lot more that they're trying to study about.

If this helps in preventing it in the future, then I'm very willing and happy if I am able to do that.

Let's hope for the best--

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

I mean, I'm involved in this too, and I would wish it would be helpful. So back to question D44. Was anyone you cared about ever unjustly treated by the Nazis?

Oh, yeah, sure.

Yes. And you remember when that was and what happened?

Well, so many of our friends had friends who were killed by the Nazis, very close friends.

Killed how? In concentration camps or--

Shot.

Yes. You want to give just one instance, maybe?

I told about this one already who was shot, but I don't think that was on the tape that I told that.

Would you like to tell about it? I can't remember.

Well, that was a very known author. His name was-- It'll come in a moment.

Well, that's not important. Forget about the name.

And he had done some work and he was very openly opposed to what the Germans did. I don't even know how much he did practically or physically, but I know he was very opposed to it and that was known. And as he was a very famous author, it was known how he thought. And one day there came two German officers to his house in the evening and asked to talk to him. And he received them very politely. And they came to his study and they talked to him. And his wife brought them coffee and it looked all very all right, not dangerous. And I don't know what they discussed, but it was nothing which gave him the feeling that he was in any danger.

And so when they left, they said he had to go with them for a moment to the headquarters to make a statement or something. And he said, OK, fine. I'll do that. And he said to his wife, I'll be back in 10 minutes. Because that was not far away me from headquarters. And so he left. And he walked in front of the two officers when they left the door. And when they were still in the garden they shot him in the back and he was dead. And his wife saw it. It was shocking.

And I have another friend who was in the underground. And he was caught at [INAUDIBLE] at the moment. He had also Jewish people hidden in his house and he was shot on the spot.

Well, I think you already explained that. Did you ever witness mistreatment of Jews by the Nazis?

Yes, I did.

You just said that. Anything else you would like to talk about?

No, I think I've talked enough.

You have talked enough. Well, did you ever witness mistreatment of anyone else by the Nazis?

Yes.

Would you like to talk about that?

Well, I just talked about that. They were not Jewish.

Oh, they were not Jewish.

No.

On what occasion did you become aware of what the Nazis intended to do with the Jews?

When the German Jews came to Holland, we knew several of them and they told us.

Well, that was--

In '39.

In '39? They did not come before?

Or '38. I don't remember exactly the details. '38 maybe, yeah.

How did you feel the first time you saw a Jew wearing the Magen David?

Well, I immediately put on a star myself.

How did you get hold of it right away?

You could get them.

Yes?

Oh yes, they were handed out very generously.

What was the most stressful situation you were in during the war?

Oh, that was the story I told when my friend was called and we had the arsenal.

Right.

That was probably the most stressful. We have had a long day with Germans coming in our house and looking for the Jews. And we were all upstairs and one of our Jewish friends wanted to jump out of the window and we could hold him back. And that was a good thing because the house was surrounded. So that was a very stressful situation. And another stressful situation was when a Jewish woman who lived for three years with us became, well, you could say insane.

What happened?

She couldn't be under stress any longer and she went out of her mind. And she started to be physically very dangerous. She attacked us and she threw with a kettle with boiling water to my husband and-- no, no, to her own husband. But my husband had a very good and calming influence on her.

She didn't have to be hospitalized?

No. Thank God, no. Because one of our main problems was what do you do with a sick Jew? And a much greater problem was, and it sounds terrible and rude, but what do you do with a dead Jew? Because when a Jewish person died in your house, what the hell did you do? So what we did-- It never happened, thank God, in our house, but it happened in the house in front of ours, and the only thing to do to go in the night and put them somewhere against a tree and say goodbye. So those were terrific problems. And also somebody who went out of her mind was a terrible problem.

Was she put on medication?

No, we couldn't--

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

--but we managed to calm her down. And it was difficult because she ran away in the end and said, I'm going to give myself up to the Gestapo. I can't bear it anymore. So that brought us in great danger because they would have, of course, asked her, where you come from. But later on she didn't and she's still a very dear friend of mine.

She is still alive. Thank you so much.

OK.