

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:01,700

2
00:00:01,700 --> 00:00:03,510
You want to ask me a question?

3
00:00:03,510 --> 00:00:04,010
Yes.

4
00:00:04,010 --> 00:00:05,130
We'll just get started?

5
00:00:05,130 --> 00:00:05,630
Yes.

6
00:00:05,630 --> 00:00:08,720
OK, so we're still speaking
with Ingrid Kisliuk

7
00:00:08,720 --> 00:00:09,960
in Newton, Massachusetts.

8
00:00:09,960 --> 00:00:14,960
This is the 30th of March, 1992.

9
00:00:14,960 --> 00:00:19,820
And now we're discussing your
sister, Herta Scheer-Krygier.

10
00:00:19,820 --> 00:00:20,650
Is that correct?

11
00:00:20,650 --> 00:00:21,375
Mm-hmm.

12
00:00:21,375 --> 00:00:23,000
What can you tell us
about your sister?

13
00:00:23,000 --> 00:00:27,200

Do you know her date of birth and where she was born?

14
00:00:27,200 --> 00:00:28,070
Yes.

15
00:00:28,070 --> 00:00:33,470
As I said, she must have been born in 1921.

16
00:00:33,470 --> 00:00:35,780
And she was born in Germany.

17
00:00:35,780 --> 00:00:39,710
And I believe it was Munich because my parents lived there

18
00:00:39,710 --> 00:00:41,570
at the time.

19
00:00:41,570 --> 00:00:45,830
I know that my brother was born in Frauenstein,

20
00:00:45,830 --> 00:00:48,830
which is in Bavaria as well.

21
00:00:48,830 --> 00:00:53,000
But that was three years previous to my sister's birth.

22
00:00:53,000 --> 00:00:55,770
So after that, they lived in Munich.

23
00:00:55,770 --> 00:01:00,725
And I understand they had a very successful business in Munich.

24
00:01:00,725 --> 00:01:03,380

25

00:01:03,380 --> 00:01:07,195
They had a clothing store,
large clothing store

26
00:01:07,195 --> 00:01:09,530
in men's furnishing.

27
00:01:09,530 --> 00:01:15,710
And they even experienced
the putsch, the Hitler putsch

28
00:01:15,710 --> 00:01:16,745
in Munich then.

29
00:01:16,745 --> 00:01:20,720
And that's when they returned
to Vienna because my grandmother

30
00:01:20,720 --> 00:01:22,280
lived in Vienna.

31
00:01:22,280 --> 00:01:25,640
Some of my father's family--

32
00:01:25,640 --> 00:01:28,520
some of my father's
family-- he had two sisters

33
00:01:28,520 --> 00:01:30,380
who lived in Munich.

34
00:01:30,380 --> 00:01:31,290
Two at the time.

35
00:01:31,290 --> 00:01:36,890
And they went to France
and they fared much better

36
00:01:36,890 --> 00:01:42,590
than my family who returned to
Vienna because my grandparents

37

00:01:42,590 --> 00:01:44,600
lived in Vienna.

38
00:01:44,600 --> 00:01:48,560
But especially one of
my aunts, who lived

39
00:01:48,560 --> 00:01:51,380
in Strasbourg with her husband.

40
00:01:51,380 --> 00:01:53,840
Survived in
Strasbourg, was hidden.

41
00:01:53,840 --> 00:01:57,620
And we found her after the war.

42
00:01:57,620 --> 00:02:03,710
The other sister lived in Nice.

43
00:02:03,710 --> 00:02:09,949
And as long as nice was
not occupied by the Germans

44
00:02:09,949 --> 00:02:14,480
and was occupied by the
Italians, many of the Jews

45
00:02:14,480 --> 00:02:18,230
survived because the
Italians protected them.

46
00:02:18,230 --> 00:02:23,000
But she was married to someone
of Portuguese nationality.

47
00:02:23,000 --> 00:02:25,190
Jewish as well, but Portuguese.

48
00:02:25,190 --> 00:02:28,820
And those were
neutral countries.

49

00:02:28,820 --> 00:02:31,610

When you were for
one for a time,

50

00:02:31,610 --> 00:02:35,580

they protected these people
that were from those countries.

51

00:02:35,580 --> 00:02:38,870

So for a while, they
were protected in Nice.

52

00:02:38,870 --> 00:02:41,580

And as I say, the
Italians were there.

53

00:02:41,580 --> 00:02:43,460

But as soon as the
Italians moved out

54

00:02:43,460 --> 00:02:46,100

and the Germans moved
in, the Jewish population

55

00:02:46,100 --> 00:02:47,060

was decimated.

56

00:02:47,060 --> 00:02:50,150

They were deported.

57

00:02:50,150 --> 00:02:52,910

And so was she.

58

00:02:52,910 --> 00:02:55,910

But my aunt who lived in
Strasbourg-- and, of course,

59

00:02:55,910 --> 00:02:58,400

that was occupied
by the Germans.

60

00:02:58,400 --> 00:03:00,230

But they moved
into the mountains

61
00:03:00,230 --> 00:03:02,070
and they hid in the mountains.

62
00:03:02,070 --> 00:03:05,180
And that's the
way they survived.

63
00:03:05,180 --> 00:03:07,100
Well, can we get
back to your sister?

64
00:03:07,100 --> 00:03:07,790
Yes, my sister.

65
00:03:07,790 --> 00:03:09,590
What was she like?

66
00:03:09,590 --> 00:03:11,060
What did she like to do?

67
00:03:11,060 --> 00:03:15,350
And did you do any special
activities with her or?

68
00:03:15,350 --> 00:03:20,300
Well, she was-- she
liked the outdoors.

69
00:03:20,300 --> 00:03:22,430
She did a lot of hiking.

70
00:03:22,430 --> 00:03:24,180
She liked to sing.

71
00:03:24,180 --> 00:03:25,940
She would have
been-- she would have

72
00:03:25,940 --> 00:03:30,440

liked to be a school teacher
had she been able to continue.

73
00:03:30,440 --> 00:03:32,630
Because her grades
were excellent.

74
00:03:32,630 --> 00:03:35,030
She had very good
grades in school.

75
00:03:35,030 --> 00:03:37,400
And she would have loved
to become a school teacher.

76
00:03:37,400 --> 00:03:39,815
Did she have any topics
that she liked specifically,

77
00:03:39,815 --> 00:03:41,080
do you know?

78
00:03:41,080 --> 00:03:44,630
I just know that she
liked little children.

79
00:03:44,630 --> 00:03:47,540
But my parents always
said she wanted

80
00:03:47,540 --> 00:03:49,520
to become a school teacher.

81
00:03:49,520 --> 00:03:52,440
So I guess she would have become
an elementary school teacher.

82
00:03:52,440 --> 00:03:53,760
That's what she--.

83
00:03:53,760 --> 00:03:55,880
And there was a lot
of prestige of that

84
00:03:55,880 --> 00:04:00,260
in that profession at the time.

85
00:04:00,260 --> 00:04:01,940
Not like nowadays.

86
00:04:01,940 --> 00:04:09,620
To be in the teaching
profession is a very--

87
00:04:09,620 --> 00:04:10,880
how would I say?

88
00:04:10,880 --> 00:04:18,450
--a very self-sacrificing
sort of goal.

89
00:04:18,450 --> 00:04:20,760
So anyway.

90
00:04:20,760 --> 00:04:24,390
And then, since she couldn't do
that and since we had to flee,

91
00:04:24,390 --> 00:04:26,010
she took up sewing.

92
00:04:26,010 --> 00:04:28,530
And she was very
good in dress making.

93
00:04:28,530 --> 00:04:33,540
And that's what she did since
she couldn't do anything else.

94
00:04:33,540 --> 00:04:36,650
She was very good
with her hands.

95
00:04:36,650 --> 00:04:42,950
And she was a very,

very sweet person.

96
00:04:42,950 --> 00:04:46,850
And very attached
to her parents.

97
00:04:46,850 --> 00:04:48,560
And especially to my father--

98
00:04:48,560 --> 00:04:51,680
very, very much attached.

99
00:04:51,680 --> 00:04:54,410
And protective of them.

100
00:04:54,410 --> 00:04:56,660
It's funny because
most of us were

101
00:04:56,660 --> 00:04:59,570
sort of protective
of our parents

102
00:04:59,570 --> 00:05:01,850
even though our parents
weren't that old.

103
00:05:01,850 --> 00:05:05,470
I mean, but we still felt
we were protective of them.

104
00:05:05,470 --> 00:05:08,230

105
00:05:08,230 --> 00:05:13,090
And she was very generous
when she gave of herself.

106
00:05:13,090 --> 00:05:16,600
A very generous person
and had many friends

107

00:05:16,600 --> 00:05:19,990
and was very loved by everybody.

108
00:05:19,990 --> 00:05:24,640
And with me, she was she was
especially very close to me.

109
00:05:24,640 --> 00:05:30,280
Because being so much younger,
my mother kind of very often

110
00:05:30,280 --> 00:05:33,970
had her take care of me and
talk to me, for instance,

111
00:05:33,970 --> 00:05:37,030
when I had trouble in school.

112
00:05:37,030 --> 00:05:39,440
When my teacher
wouldn't understand

113
00:05:39,440 --> 00:05:43,690
my particular
problems because I did

114
00:05:43,690 --> 00:05:47,710
have this handicap of knowing
the language right away.

115
00:05:47,710 --> 00:05:50,530
And she would be the
one to come to school.

116
00:05:50,530 --> 00:05:52,840
And she'd get very upset
when the teacher wouldn't

117
00:05:52,840 --> 00:05:53,740
understand.

118
00:05:53,740 --> 00:05:56,680
I remember her being very

emotional about that.

119
00:05:56,680 --> 00:06:02,920
But my mother would
give her this job.

120
00:06:02,920 --> 00:06:06,520
Besides, she spoke French,
whereas my mother didn't.

121
00:06:06,520 --> 00:06:09,610
So and as I said, when
I was in the theater,

122
00:06:09,610 --> 00:06:12,340
she would be my chaperone.

123
00:06:12,340 --> 00:06:15,700
She would come with me and
she would take care of me.

124
00:06:15,700 --> 00:06:17,560
And we would stay--

125
00:06:17,560 --> 00:06:21,970
when we went to Antwerp, we
would stay in families' home.

126
00:06:21,970 --> 00:06:24,970
Families would open
their homes to us

127
00:06:24,970 --> 00:06:26,350
and we would stay with them.

128
00:06:26,350 --> 00:06:28,630
And she would take
care of me and take me

129
00:06:28,630 --> 00:06:31,150
to rehearsals, et
cetera and so on.

130

00:06:31,150 --> 00:06:34,660

So it was a terrible,
terrible blow.

131

00:06:34,660 --> 00:06:38,140

And often, even after she
was married at age 19,

132

00:06:38,140 --> 00:06:41,620

she would have me over
and I would stay with her.

133

00:06:41,620 --> 00:06:46,070

And especially after her husband
left, I would stay with her.

134

00:06:46,070 --> 00:06:48,070

When was her husband?

135

00:06:48,070 --> 00:06:50,590

He left in '42.

136

00:06:50,590 --> 00:06:54,820

But I guess she was
caught in '42 as well,

137

00:06:54,820 --> 00:06:56,890

but that must have
been in the spring.

138

00:06:56,890 --> 00:06:58,660

But he was taken away, right?

139

00:06:58,660 --> 00:07:00,790

But he went.

140

00:07:00,790 --> 00:07:06,250

I mean, he wasn't rounded up
like the rest of them were.

141

00:07:06,250 --> 00:07:10,570

Just like my cousin, he

received the summons.

142
00:07:10,570 --> 00:07:13,360
And it was
hand-delivered by someone

143
00:07:13,360 --> 00:07:15,310
from this Jewish agency.

144
00:07:15,310 --> 00:07:21,700
And he just presented
himself to this place

145
00:07:21,700 --> 00:07:24,400
where they were all
going to get together.

146
00:07:24,400 --> 00:07:27,250
And from there, they
were shipped off.

147
00:07:27,250 --> 00:07:28,708
And they went on
their own until--

148
00:07:28,708 --> 00:07:30,250
Well, do you think
he might have been

149
00:07:30,250 --> 00:07:33,340
thinking that he was protecting
his family or something?

150
00:07:33,340 --> 00:07:36,010
I think he knew--
well, yes, of course.

151
00:07:36,010 --> 00:07:37,240
That was part of it.

152
00:07:37,240 --> 00:07:38,980
That was the trickery.

153

00:07:38,980 --> 00:07:45,010

And he thought that if he
didn't go something worse

154

00:07:45,010 --> 00:07:46,210

will happen to him.

155

00:07:46,210 --> 00:07:49,330

Then he would be
thrown in jail or be--

156

00:07:49,330 --> 00:07:52,040

because he was supposed to go.

157

00:07:52,040 --> 00:07:56,020

And so he didn't go and hide
like he should have done

158

00:07:56,020 --> 00:07:58,060

and like my cousin
should have done.

159

00:07:58,060 --> 00:07:59,830

He just went.

160

00:07:59,830 --> 00:08:04,000

He just went, as
did my cousin, so.

161

00:08:04,000 --> 00:08:05,770

And it wasn't until
later that people

162

00:08:05,770 --> 00:08:12,170

started to hide and not go.

163

00:08:12,170 --> 00:08:12,670

Right.

164

00:08:12,670 --> 00:08:16,840

And always be careful that
nobody was following you.

165
00:08:16,840 --> 00:08:19,050
Because you might be
followed by someone

166
00:08:19,050 --> 00:08:23,200
who would find out where you
lived and then be denounced.

167
00:08:23,200 --> 00:08:25,270
So because a lot of
people were denounced.

168
00:08:25,270 --> 00:08:27,162
Oh, definitely.

169
00:08:27,162 --> 00:08:28,870
Is there anything else
about your sister?

170
00:08:28,870 --> 00:08:31,480
Now, we do have the other events
that you've already discussed

171
00:08:31,480 --> 00:08:32,985
in the other interview.

172
00:08:32,985 --> 00:08:35,110
Is there anything else
you'd like to add about her?

173
00:08:35,110 --> 00:08:38,440
About her as a
person, or anything

174
00:08:38,440 --> 00:08:41,919
that happened to her that of?

175
00:08:41,919 --> 00:08:47,207
She was she was in the youth
group, a Zionist youth group.

176

00:08:47,207 --> 00:08:47,790
Oh, which one?

177
00:08:47,790 --> 00:08:50,800
It was called Gordonia.

178
00:08:50,800 --> 00:08:51,670
Gordonia.

179
00:08:51,670 --> 00:08:56,590
And that was when she was a
young teenager in Austria.

180
00:08:56,590 --> 00:09:01,940
And there was talk
about going to Israel.

181
00:09:01,940 --> 00:09:04,930
My mother sort of thought
that they should go,

182
00:09:04,930 --> 00:09:07,300
but my father didn't want to.

183
00:09:07,300 --> 00:09:10,600
But that was way
before, you know.

184
00:09:10,600 --> 00:09:12,730
And my brother belonged
to that same youth

185
00:09:12,730 --> 00:09:16,880
group too, but not so much
for ideological reasons.

186
00:09:16,880 --> 00:09:19,450
It's just because it
was a social place.

187
00:09:19,450 --> 00:09:23,960
It was where you met girls
and that sort of thing.

188
00:09:23,960 --> 00:09:29,500
And I know that they had
moshavas in the summertime.

189
00:09:29,500 --> 00:09:31,510
They would pretend that
they were in a moshav.

190
00:09:31,510 --> 00:09:34,150

191
00:09:34,150 --> 00:09:39,340
And we would go-- my mother
and I would meet them there

192
00:09:39,340 --> 00:09:39,910
sometimes.

193
00:09:39,910 --> 00:09:41,980
We would go and visit.

194
00:09:41,980 --> 00:09:49,380
And it was in another place
where I was kind of a star

195
00:09:49,380 --> 00:09:50,830
because I could sing.

196
00:09:50,830 --> 00:09:54,270
I was very small, and
I could sing and dance.

197
00:09:54,270 --> 00:09:57,910
And they would
spoil me that way.

198
00:09:57,910 --> 00:09:59,670
But that was the youth group.

199
00:09:59,670 --> 00:10:03,540
And that's where I learned

how to dance the hora

200
00:10:03,540 --> 00:10:06,330
at age five I guess, or so.

201
00:10:06,330 --> 00:10:07,200
Yeah.

202
00:10:07,200 --> 00:10:09,870
And because they danced
the hora and they sang.

203
00:10:09,870 --> 00:10:14,530
And they sang Hebrew and they
sang in German Zionist songs.

204
00:10:14,530 --> 00:10:17,770
And I never forgot
those, and the hora

205
00:10:17,770 --> 00:10:19,180
and that sort of thing.

206
00:10:19,180 --> 00:10:20,880
And there are pictures--

207
00:10:20,880 --> 00:10:22,050
there pictures of her.

208
00:10:22,050 --> 00:10:23,340
I have a little album--

209
00:10:23,340 --> 00:10:27,960
I couldn't put my hands on
them --of her in the moshav.

210
00:10:27,960 --> 00:10:29,160
But it wasn't a moshav.

211
00:10:29,160 --> 00:10:31,260
It was called moshava.

212

00:10:31,260 --> 00:10:33,630

So they pretended
that this summer--

213

00:10:33,630 --> 00:10:36,600

you know, for three
weeks or so they

214

00:10:36,600 --> 00:10:38,610

pretended to be in a moshav.

215

00:10:38,610 --> 00:10:41,340

And they were going
to work the way

216

00:10:41,340 --> 00:10:43,210

people would work in Israel.

217

00:10:43,210 --> 00:10:46,290

They worked the soil and have--

218

00:10:46,290 --> 00:10:49,290

it was like, well,
maybe like a kibbutz.

219

00:10:49,290 --> 00:10:52,890

But they called it moshava.

220

00:10:52,890 --> 00:10:54,750

So that's another
thing she was--

221

00:10:54,750 --> 00:10:55,410

That's great.

222

00:10:55,410 --> 00:10:56,170

That's important.

223

00:10:56,170 --> 00:10:57,600

Yeah.

224

00:10:57,600 --> 00:10:58,230
OK.

225
00:10:58,230 --> 00:11:01,710
So as you see, even
though it wasn't--

226
00:11:01,710 --> 00:11:04,560
my family wasn't
very, very pious,

227
00:11:04,560 --> 00:11:08,340
they still had a very
strong Jewish identity.

228
00:11:08,340 --> 00:11:11,130
And they were believers.

229
00:11:11,130 --> 00:11:12,900
It's not that they
were atheists.

230
00:11:12,900 --> 00:11:18,430
It was just too difficult
to observe the laws.

231
00:11:18,430 --> 00:11:21,240
And besides, I don't really
think that they really

232
00:11:21,240 --> 00:11:22,590
believed in them.

233
00:11:22,590 --> 00:11:25,660
Otherwise, they would
have, like many people did.

234
00:11:25,660 --> 00:11:28,980
They would have struggled
to observe all the laws.

235
00:11:28,980 --> 00:11:29,880
OK, well, thank you.

236
00:11:29,880 --> 00:11:32,550
Can we move on and talk a
little bit about your aunt?

237
00:11:32,550 --> 00:11:34,440
Yeah.

238
00:11:34,440 --> 00:11:36,100
Would you like to
tell her name and?

239
00:11:36,100 --> 00:11:36,600
Yes.

240
00:11:36,600 --> 00:11:39,630
Well, her name was
Josephine Dermer

241
00:11:39,630 --> 00:11:41,550
and they called her Pepi.

242
00:11:41,550 --> 00:11:44,370
And she was widowed.

243
00:11:44,370 --> 00:11:47,190
And she lived with
my grandfather

244
00:11:47,190 --> 00:11:48,350
because she was widowed.

245
00:11:48,350 --> 00:11:51,600
Do you know approximately
when she was widowed?

246
00:11:51,600 --> 00:11:53,790
Before I was born.

247
00:11:53,790 --> 00:11:55,605
So I think--

248

00:11:55,605 --> 00:11:57,360

In the '20s?

249

00:11:57,360 --> 00:12:00,600

She may have been
married two years or so,

250

00:12:00,600 --> 00:12:03,120

or maybe four years.

251

00:12:03,120 --> 00:12:08,280

And her boy was two
when her husband died,

252

00:12:08,280 --> 00:12:11,200

I believe of a heart attack.

253

00:12:11,200 --> 00:12:17,340

And she apparently had
been very, very beautiful

254

00:12:17,340 --> 00:12:20,640

when she was young
and turned down

255

00:12:20,640 --> 00:12:23,680

many proposal of marriages.

256

00:12:23,680 --> 00:12:25,830

Nobody was good enough for her.

257

00:12:25,830 --> 00:12:30,570

And then, apparently,
did not marry

258

00:12:30,570 --> 00:12:37,490

someone that was
deserving of her

259

00:12:37,490 --> 00:12:40,145

because she had waited too long.

260

00:12:40,145 --> 00:12:42,560

She was probably 30
when she got married.

261

00:12:42,560 --> 00:12:46,400

At that time, that was
a terrible old maid.

262

00:12:46,400 --> 00:12:49,340

To get married at 30,
I mean, forget it.

263

00:12:49,340 --> 00:12:50,900

But anyway, she married.

264

00:12:50,900 --> 00:12:52,170

And she married this man.

265

00:12:52,170 --> 00:13:01,430

And she was widowed and
left without any resources.

266

00:13:01,430 --> 00:13:03,620

And so she lived
with my grandfather.

267

00:13:03,620 --> 00:13:05,750

And my grandfather
lived with her.

268

00:13:05,750 --> 00:13:07,700

I mean, they lived in
the same apartment.

269

00:13:07,700 --> 00:13:08,360

In Vienna.

270

00:13:08,360 --> 00:13:08,870

In Vienna.

271

00:13:08,870 --> 00:13:11,930

And what did your

grandparents do?

272

00:13:11,930 --> 00:13:15,470

Well, my grandfather
was in business.

273

00:13:15,470 --> 00:13:19,310

He traded in furs.

274

00:13:19,310 --> 00:13:26,610

And my grandmother, who
had died before I was born,

275

00:13:26,610 --> 00:13:29,260

was a housewife,
was a homemaker.

276

00:13:29,260 --> 00:13:35,230

She had had five children
and was busy in the home.

277

00:13:35,230 --> 00:13:42,510

And so my aunt lived with my
grandfather, or vice versa.

278

00:13:42,510 --> 00:13:45,420

I'm not quite sure how it was.

279

00:13:45,420 --> 00:13:48,400

But it was fine,
because she was a widow

280

00:13:48,400 --> 00:13:52,450

and that was apparently
the thing to do.

281

00:13:52,450 --> 00:13:58,260

And so when we moved
from our first apartment

282

00:13:58,260 --> 00:14:00,820

into our second
apartment in Vienna

283
00:14:00,820 --> 00:14:06,540
after having sold all our
furniture, she moved in with us

284
00:14:06,540 --> 00:14:09,040
because my grandfather had died.

285
00:14:09,040 --> 00:14:11,950
And she moved with us.

286
00:14:11,950 --> 00:14:15,330
And my mother kind of
took her under her wing.

287
00:14:15,330 --> 00:14:22,920
And she provided the funds for
her to escape at the same time

288
00:14:22,920 --> 00:14:23,640
as we did.

289
00:14:23,640 --> 00:14:25,275
In other words, she
paid the smuggler

290
00:14:25,275 --> 00:14:29,670
who smuggled us over the
border, et cetera and so on.

291
00:14:29,670 --> 00:14:39,330
And then in Brussels, she and
her son lived on another street

292
00:14:39,330 --> 00:14:40,680
but not terribly far.

293
00:14:40,680 --> 00:14:42,640
But we would see
them very often.

294
00:14:42,640 --> 00:14:44,400

She would come by.

295

00:14:44,400 --> 00:14:50,910

And then when my cousin
left, she was, of course,

296

00:14:50,910 --> 00:14:52,530

devastated by this.

297

00:14:52,530 --> 00:14:56,760

And she kind of
blamed my parents

298

00:14:56,760 --> 00:14:59,760

for not having
talked him out of it

299

00:14:59,760 --> 00:15:02,700

or for not having
hidden him somewhere

300

00:15:02,700 --> 00:15:04,510

or something like that.

301

00:15:04,510 --> 00:15:07,800

So then there was this
kind of chill between them.

302

00:15:07,800 --> 00:15:11,530

303

00:15:11,530 --> 00:15:16,090

Which was unfortunate because
nobody knew what to do.

304

00:15:16,090 --> 00:15:18,790

And he wanted to go, you know?

305

00:15:18,790 --> 00:15:20,880

And she couldn't
talk him out of it.

306

00:15:20,880 --> 00:15:23,170
And there were no
other resources

307
00:15:23,170 --> 00:15:24,850
because so many people went.

308
00:15:24,850 --> 00:15:30,370
I remember young boys coming
by to say goodbye to my parents

309
00:15:30,370 --> 00:15:31,520
because they were leaving.

310
00:15:31,520 --> 00:15:34,360
They had known them, and
they just said goodbye.

311
00:15:34,360 --> 00:15:36,380
And they left.

312
00:15:36,380 --> 00:15:42,710
So then during that
roundup, that raid,

313
00:15:42,710 --> 00:15:47,060
where in that neighborhood
they went from house to house,

314
00:15:47,060 --> 00:15:48,980
she was caught.

315
00:15:48,980 --> 00:15:51,356
And the--

316
00:15:51,356 --> 00:15:53,660
Wait, what month and
the year was this?

317
00:15:53,660 --> 00:15:56,520

318

00:15:56,520 --> 00:15:58,980
That must have been
late fall, you know?

319
00:15:58,980 --> 00:16:02,730
Late fall, 1942.

320
00:16:02,730 --> 00:16:07,170
That was in November
1942, something like that.

321
00:16:07,170 --> 00:16:13,140
And I know that the
landlady of her building

322
00:16:13,140 --> 00:16:18,450
told us that when she
went down the stairs, when

323
00:16:18,450 --> 00:16:21,780
the Gestapo brought
her down, she

324
00:16:21,780 --> 00:16:26,760
tried giving her watch and
her ring, the golden watch

325
00:16:26,760 --> 00:16:29,670
and her ring, by
shaking hands with her.

326
00:16:29,670 --> 00:16:34,760
But they noticed it
and they took it.

327
00:16:34,760 --> 00:16:38,220
And that's one thing
that we found out.

328
00:16:38,220 --> 00:16:39,690
Because that's where she lived.

329
00:16:39,690 --> 00:16:41,400

So that was my aunt.

330

00:16:41,400 --> 00:16:43,360

What can you remember
about her as a person?

331

00:16:43,360 --> 00:16:50,260

332

00:16:50,260 --> 00:16:52,418

Um, let's see.

333

00:16:52,418 --> 00:16:55,060

Had she ever worked in Vienna?

334

00:16:55,060 --> 00:16:55,790

I don't think so.

335

00:16:55,790 --> 00:16:59,360

Because, you know,
women didn't do that.

336

00:16:59,360 --> 00:17:01,100

Even though she was widowed and?

337

00:17:01,100 --> 00:17:02,270

No, no.

338

00:17:02,270 --> 00:17:05,780

They were-- you know, men were
supposed to be the providers.

339

00:17:05,780 --> 00:17:06,990

Oh, wait a minute.

340

00:17:06,990 --> 00:17:08,240

Wait a minute.

341

00:17:08,240 --> 00:17:10,970

That's interesting.

342

00:17:10,970 --> 00:17:12,050
Yes!

343
00:17:12,050 --> 00:17:17,630
My father was a representative
at one point for some company.

344
00:17:17,630 --> 00:17:22,910
Oh, they were selling
Singer sewing machines.

345
00:17:22,910 --> 00:17:26,240
And during the
summer he would try

346
00:17:26,240 --> 00:17:31,520
to go to various small towns
in Austria and contact people

347
00:17:31,520 --> 00:17:34,160
and try to sell sewing machines.

348
00:17:34,160 --> 00:17:42,490
And the summer that I was at
the camp of my Jewish school,

349
00:17:42,490 --> 00:17:46,990
my mother and my aunt
went along with my father

350
00:17:46,990 --> 00:17:49,330
to sell sewing machines.

351
00:17:49,330 --> 00:17:53,230
And apparently, they
were good talkers.

352
00:17:53,230 --> 00:17:57,700
And they would talk them into
buying Singer sewing machines.

353
00:17:57,700 --> 00:18:01,000
So and they were very

anxious to do that.

354

00:18:01,000 --> 00:18:02,530

They thrived doing that.

355

00:18:02,530 --> 00:18:04,360

They just loved working.

356

00:18:04,360 --> 00:18:07,750

And especially earning some money, that was really--

357

00:18:07,750 --> 00:18:09,320

they would have loved to do that.

358

00:18:09,320 --> 00:18:12,040

But there wasn't-- there just wasn't enough opportunity

359

00:18:12,040 --> 00:18:13,180

for them.

360

00:18:13,180 --> 00:18:17,020

Since they didn't have a chance to really become professionals

361

00:18:17,020 --> 00:18:22,060

because, well, women just didn't become professionals

362

00:18:22,060 --> 00:18:23,500

at that time.

363

00:18:23,500 --> 00:18:24,940

But they did.

364

00:18:24,940 --> 00:18:25,510

She did.

365

00:18:25,510 --> 00:18:27,940

She went along.

366

00:18:27,940 --> 00:18:34,970

And I remember when I came out
of my camp, my summer camp,

367

00:18:34,970 --> 00:18:36,880

they took me and
my cousins along

368

00:18:36,880 --> 00:18:39,550

on their various journeys.

369

00:18:39,550 --> 00:18:44,830

And they left in the morning
and we were left at this inn

370

00:18:44,830 --> 00:18:48,560

to fend for
ourselves very often.

371

00:18:48,560 --> 00:18:51,730

My cousin was five years older.

372

00:18:51,730 --> 00:18:54,430

But we stayed in the gardens.

373

00:18:54,430 --> 00:18:58,840

And it was very strange that
they should have done that,

374

00:18:58,840 --> 00:19:00,280

but they did.

375

00:19:00,280 --> 00:19:03,670

I was only six or
seven at the time.

376

00:19:03,670 --> 00:19:05,650

So we stayed in
the garden and then

377

00:19:05,650 --> 00:19:09,220

they would come
back late afternoon.

378
00:19:09,220 --> 00:19:13,100
And they did that for
two weeks, I remember.

379
00:19:13,100 --> 00:19:14,890
So that's the-- they did work.

380
00:19:14,890 --> 00:19:17,320
They may have done more of that.

381
00:19:17,320 --> 00:19:18,250
Oh!

382
00:19:18,250 --> 00:19:19,870
Now, wait a minute.

383
00:19:19,870 --> 00:19:21,880
My mother-- yes, of course.

384
00:19:21,880 --> 00:19:26,260
When my father had his business,
his very large, big store

385
00:19:26,260 --> 00:19:29,080
in Munich, she
worked in the store.

386
00:19:29,080 --> 00:19:30,430
Yes, she did.

387
00:19:30,430 --> 00:19:33,010
She worked in the store.

388
00:19:33,010 --> 00:19:34,390
Right.

389
00:19:34,390 --> 00:19:38,002
Well, anything else about
your aunt's personality that--

390
00:19:38,002 --> 00:19:41,380
was she funny or bubbly or not?

391
00:19:41,380 --> 00:19:42,520
[LAUGHS] Serious?

392
00:19:42,520 --> 00:19:45,140
Well, I think she
was rather serious.

393
00:19:45,140 --> 00:19:46,580
She, too, liked to sing.

394
00:19:46,580 --> 00:19:47,650
They all sang.

395
00:19:47,650 --> 00:19:51,490
The sister sang, except for
the very oldest, Regine.

396
00:19:51,490 --> 00:19:52,900
Her voice wasn't very good.

397
00:19:52,900 --> 00:19:56,420
But all the others sang.

398
00:19:56,420 --> 00:20:05,700
And I don't remember
her being bubbly.

399
00:20:05,700 --> 00:20:14,630
She tried, but since she was a
widow, she was morose at times.

400
00:20:14,630 --> 00:20:16,970
And she was very
attached to her son.

401
00:20:16,970 --> 00:20:20,040
I mean, that son, you know?

402

00:20:20,040 --> 00:20:22,050

And he really needed the father.

403

00:20:22,050 --> 00:20:25,830

He was wild and uncontrollable.

404

00:20:25,830 --> 00:20:29,510

They lived on the first
floor and he would never

405

00:20:29,510 --> 00:20:30,620

walk out the door.

406

00:20:30,620 --> 00:20:32,650

He would always
jump out the window.

407

00:20:32,650 --> 00:20:33,150

Wow.

408

00:20:33,150 --> 00:20:38,600

And I know that he-- and he
would always climb on trees

409

00:20:38,600 --> 00:20:40,820

and then fall off the trees.

410

00:20:40,820 --> 00:20:43,030

And he once fell on his
nose and broke his nose.

411

00:20:43,030 --> 00:20:44,150

I remember that.

412

00:20:44,150 --> 00:20:46,640

But she had trouble
controlling him.

413

00:20:46,640 --> 00:20:47,600

He was very wild.

414

00:20:47,600 --> 00:20:50,060
No, he was a nice
boy, but was wild.

415
00:20:50,060 --> 00:20:52,220
Do you want to move straight
on and talk about him

416
00:20:52,220 --> 00:20:52,762
a little bit?

417
00:20:52,762 --> 00:20:54,590
Yeah, I think so.

418
00:20:54,590 --> 00:20:58,280
The two of us didn't get along
very well because, as I say,

419
00:20:58,280 --> 00:21:01,550
he was five years older.

420
00:21:01,550 --> 00:21:04,220
And he was wild
and he'd bully me.

421
00:21:04,220 --> 00:21:09,500
And so we didn't
get along very well.

422
00:21:09,500 --> 00:21:13,640
And I was very often
left in his company.

423
00:21:13,640 --> 00:21:15,680
And I didn't like that one bit.

424
00:21:15,680 --> 00:21:20,900
And I remember one evening,
the adults went out.

425
00:21:20,900 --> 00:21:23,690
And my grandfather was
supposed to babysit.

426
00:21:23,690 --> 00:21:26,270
My grandfather
always went to sleep.

427
00:21:26,270 --> 00:21:28,640
And we lived on this
very busy street.

428
00:21:28,640 --> 00:21:34,920
And we had this very, very big
lampshade made out of straw

429
00:21:34,920 --> 00:21:36,700
with silk on top.

430
00:21:36,700 --> 00:21:40,860
[LAUGHS] And we lived on
the third, fourth floor.

431
00:21:40,860 --> 00:21:43,560
Because the first floor
is the rez-de-chaussée.

432
00:21:43,560 --> 00:21:47,850
And the second floor is
the first floor, you know,

433
00:21:47,850 --> 00:21:48,630
in Europe.

434
00:21:48,630 --> 00:21:52,480
Anyway, so we lived on
the European third floor

435
00:21:52,480 --> 00:21:56,160
but the American fourth
floor, and looking over

436
00:21:56,160 --> 00:21:57,720
this very busy street.

437

00:21:57,720 --> 00:22:00,900

And he said, you
know, you could really

438

00:22:00,900 --> 00:22:04,020

use this lampshade
as a parachute

439

00:22:04,020 --> 00:22:05,970

and jump out the window.

440

00:22:05,970 --> 00:22:09,990

And luckily I wasn't
very courageous

441

00:22:09,990 --> 00:22:13,440

and I insisted that
he show me first

442

00:22:13,440 --> 00:22:17,700

how to jump off with this
parachute out the window.

443

00:22:17,700 --> 00:22:20,910

Do you know what year this was?

444

00:22:20,910 --> 00:22:27,478

It was probably right
before the Anschluss.

445

00:22:27,478 --> 00:22:28,020

Right before.

446

00:22:28,020 --> 00:22:30,760

Maybe 1937.

447

00:22:30,760 --> 00:22:34,230

So I was seven and he was 12.

448

00:22:34,230 --> 00:22:36,400

Do you know he went
to school or anything?

449

00:22:36,400 --> 00:22:37,980

He went to school.

450

00:22:37,980 --> 00:22:39,200

In a Jewish school or?

451

00:22:39,200 --> 00:22:40,720

No, I don't think so.

452

00:22:40,720 --> 00:22:42,150

I don't think so.

453

00:22:42,150 --> 00:22:44,880

The school that I went
to had just opened up.

454

00:22:44,880 --> 00:22:46,860

It was, you know--
and this is why.

455

00:22:46,860 --> 00:22:50,220

I think my first grade
was the first first grade

456

00:22:50,220 --> 00:22:51,060

in that school.

457

00:22:51,060 --> 00:22:53,310

Maybe one previous year.

458

00:22:53,310 --> 00:22:56,280

But it was very new.

459

00:22:56,280 --> 00:22:58,380

He went to the regular school.

460

00:22:58,380 --> 00:23:05,100

And so instead of
that, he would he

461

00:23:05,100 --> 00:23:08,810

get up on these high, high wardrobes that we used to have.

462
00:23:08,810 --> 00:23:11,850
You know, the furniture was very big and solid.

463
00:23:11,850 --> 00:23:14,460
And there were these big, big wardrobes.

464
00:23:14,460 --> 00:23:16,740
And he'd get up on the top of the wardrobe

465
00:23:16,740 --> 00:23:21,000
and jump onto some couch with the lampshade over his head.

466
00:23:21,000 --> 00:23:23,310
He'd do that.

467
00:23:23,310 --> 00:23:25,643
But as I said, he was used to jumping out the window.

468
00:23:25,643 --> 00:23:27,060
But when he jumped out the window,

469
00:23:27,060 --> 00:23:28,770
it was from the first floor.

470
00:23:28,770 --> 00:23:30,600
But not from the fourth.

471
00:23:30,600 --> 00:23:33,930
That was the last time my grandfather babysat for us.

472
00:23:33,930 --> 00:23:37,480
My mother wouldn't trust him anymore after that.

473
00:23:37,480 --> 00:23:38,970
So that's one thing.

474
00:23:38,970 --> 00:23:41,370
And then later on--

475
00:23:41,370 --> 00:23:43,692
and he would tease me, you know?

476
00:23:43,692 --> 00:23:47,940
There was this thing
between boys and girls.

477
00:23:47,940 --> 00:23:50,560
Because at the time, there
were still girl schools and boy

478
00:23:50,560 --> 00:23:51,390
schools.

479
00:23:51,390 --> 00:23:55,710
And boys would
always tease girls.

480
00:23:55,710 --> 00:24:00,630
So we didn't mingle
very much that way.

481
00:24:00,630 --> 00:24:02,680
But with him being
five years older,

482
00:24:02,680 --> 00:24:06,000
he was, of course, so
much older at the time.

483
00:24:06,000 --> 00:24:07,500
What about when you
got to Brussels?

484
00:24:07,500 --> 00:24:10,080

Do you know what he
did at that point?

485
00:24:10,080 --> 00:24:11,760
Yes.

486
00:24:11,760 --> 00:24:17,910
He tried to work
in leather shops.

487
00:24:17,910 --> 00:24:23,130
He tried to do with belts and
making pocket books and things

488
00:24:23,130 --> 00:24:23,770
like that.

489
00:24:23,770 --> 00:24:28,830
And he worked in that
when he was 15 and 16.

490
00:24:28,830 --> 00:24:30,540
He went to school too.

491
00:24:30,540 --> 00:24:33,630
But then he abandoned that
because there just wasn't-- he

492
00:24:33,630 --> 00:24:35,760
just had to earn some money.

493
00:24:35,760 --> 00:24:37,230
He just had to earn some money.

494
00:24:37,230 --> 00:24:38,310
So that's what he did.

495
00:24:38,310 --> 00:24:41,310
But I assume all of
his work was illegal.

496
00:24:41,310 --> 00:24:42,445

It wasn't illegal, yes.

497

00:24:42,445 --> 00:24:43,810

So it was all under the table.

498

00:24:43,810 --> 00:24:44,950

It was all under the table.

499

00:24:44,950 --> 00:24:45,450

Yeah.

500

00:24:45,450 --> 00:24:47,640

It was all illegal, all illegal.

501

00:24:47,640 --> 00:24:48,510

Yes, of course.

502

00:24:48,510 --> 00:24:51,240

Because then you had
to get a work permit.

503

00:24:51,240 --> 00:24:55,410

And eventually, I guess, my
father did get a work permit.

504

00:24:55,410 --> 00:24:58,770

But that had to
be worked through.

505

00:24:58,770 --> 00:25:02,010

Actually, the Belgians
were very decent

506

00:25:02,010 --> 00:25:06,540

compared to many of the
other European countries.

507

00:25:06,540 --> 00:25:10,080

And I always thought that
they had been decent.

508

00:25:10,080 --> 00:25:15,450

I never really, inquired
very, very deeply.

509
00:25:15,450 --> 00:25:18,960
And at the meeting of the
hidden children last May

510
00:25:18,960 --> 00:25:24,060
in '91, May '91, I found that
very decent they had been,

511
00:25:24,060 --> 00:25:25,080
really.

512
00:25:25,080 --> 00:25:27,330
And a lot of people hid.

513
00:25:27,330 --> 00:25:31,860
And I found that many,
many, many details

514
00:25:31,860 --> 00:25:37,530
about their very good
behavior, really, in comparison

515
00:25:37,530 --> 00:25:41,310
to many other countries,
Western European countries.

516
00:25:41,310 --> 00:25:45,650
Holland-- the Belgians
behaved better than the Dutch.

517
00:25:45,650 --> 00:25:48,660
And they certainly behaved
better than the French.

518
00:25:48,660 --> 00:25:52,520
Although, there was
never this conspiracy.

519
00:25:52,520 --> 00:25:56,030
There was never a

Vichy in Brussels.

520
00:25:56,030 --> 00:25:58,190
Although, there
were collaborators.

521
00:25:58,190 --> 00:26:00,980
And we had that
Rexist, which was

522
00:26:00,980 --> 00:26:05,820
that the Belgian Nazi group.

523
00:26:05,820 --> 00:26:09,410
But most people were
really quite decent.

524
00:26:09,410 --> 00:26:12,590
And the underground
was very strong.

525
00:26:12,590 --> 00:26:14,730
And there wasn't this--

526
00:26:14,730 --> 00:26:17,720
I don't think there was in
the underground in Belgium,

527
00:26:17,720 --> 00:26:21,110
this rivalry between
the communists

528
00:26:21,110 --> 00:26:23,810
and the non-communists
that you had in France.

529
00:26:23,810 --> 00:26:27,230
You had that in the
underground in France.

530
00:26:27,230 --> 00:26:29,960
So my cousin, you know,
he was a young boy

531
00:26:29,960 --> 00:26:34,670
and don't always get along that
well with your little cousin.

532
00:26:34,670 --> 00:26:37,100
And, as I said,
he would bully me.

533
00:26:37,100 --> 00:26:42,720
Because he had, as I said,
he was under-disciplined.

534
00:26:42,720 --> 00:26:45,200
But you mentioned in
the other interview

535
00:26:45,200 --> 00:26:46,940
that you remember he
had a bar mitzvah.

536
00:26:46,940 --> 00:26:47,730
Yeah, he did.

537
00:26:47,730 --> 00:26:49,140
Was that in Belgium?

538
00:26:49,140 --> 00:26:49,640
No.

539
00:26:49,640 --> 00:26:50,140
That was--

540
00:26:50,140 --> 00:26:50,840
Still in Vienna.

541
00:26:50,840 --> 00:26:52,040
That was still in Vienna.

542
00:26:52,040 --> 00:26:54,320
That must have
been right before,

543
00:26:54,320 --> 00:26:55,940
right before the Anschluss.

544
00:26:55,940 --> 00:26:57,230
Because he was 12.

545
00:26:57,230 --> 00:26:58,940
Right.

546
00:26:58,940 --> 00:27:00,625
I guess boys must be 13.

547
00:27:00,625 --> 00:27:01,860
13, yeah.

548
00:27:01,860 --> 00:27:02,420
Well, no.

549
00:27:02,420 --> 00:27:04,790
If it was his Hebrew
birthday, his Hebrew birthday

550
00:27:04,790 --> 00:27:07,400
could have been at
a different point.

551
00:27:07,400 --> 00:27:07,970
Yeah.

552
00:27:07,970 --> 00:27:08,990
That's likely.

553
00:27:08,990 --> 00:27:10,400
Yeah, that's right.

554
00:27:10,400 --> 00:27:11,420
He must have been 13.

555
00:27:11,420 --> 00:27:12,180
Well, he could have been--

556
00:27:12,180 --> 00:27:12,650
I mean, whatever.

557
00:27:12,650 --> 00:27:13,250
He could be.

558
00:27:13,250 --> 00:27:14,480
He could be 12 in--

559
00:27:14,480 --> 00:27:15,650
I see, yeah.

560
00:27:15,650 --> 00:27:17,010
No, I remember that.

561
00:27:17,010 --> 00:27:19,670
And I remember a
large synagogue,

562
00:27:19,670 --> 00:27:21,450
a very large synagogue.

563
00:27:21,450 --> 00:27:23,270
And I remember it
was his bar mitzvah.

564
00:27:23,270 --> 00:27:28,441
It's very vague, but I know
that it was his bar mitzvah.

565
00:27:28,441 --> 00:27:29,580
Well, OK.

566
00:27:29,580 --> 00:27:32,690
Is there anything else at
all that you'd like to add?

567
00:27:32,690 --> 00:27:35,577

568

00:27:35,577 --> 00:27:36,410
Let's see, my aunt--

569
00:27:36,410 --> 00:27:39,840

570
00:27:39,840 --> 00:27:40,910
I don't think so.

571
00:27:40,910 --> 00:27:44,970
I think-- you know,
you can't really--

572
00:27:44,970 --> 00:27:48,630
as you speak like this,
it's very difficult

573
00:27:48,630 --> 00:27:54,930
to really describe your
feelings at the time.

574
00:27:54,930 --> 00:27:59,430
I find that's why it's
better to put it in writing.

575
00:27:59,430 --> 00:28:05,160
Because with the words
that you choose and the way

576
00:28:05,160 --> 00:28:12,570
you construct your sentences
give a much better image, sort

577
00:28:12,570 --> 00:28:16,560
of psychological image
of your state of mind

578
00:28:16,560 --> 00:28:18,900
which doesn't come
out when you speak.

579
00:28:18,900 --> 00:28:20,717
I mean, it does,

but not to that--

580

00:28:20,717 --> 00:28:22,800

I think it depends on the individual, I would say.

581

00:28:22,800 --> 00:28:24,225

Perhaps, perhaps.

582

00:28:24,225 --> 00:28:26,100

well, meanwhile, I want to thank you so much.

583

00:28:26,100 --> 00:28:27,990

You have taken your whole morning here.

584

00:28:27,990 --> 00:28:28,530

That's quite all right.

585

00:28:28,530 --> 00:28:29,260

And thank you very much.

586

00:28:29,260 --> 00:28:30,000

My pleasure.

587

00:28:30,000 --> 00:28:31,910

Thank you.

588

00:28:31,910 --> 00:28:33,000