

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:01,130

2
00:00:01,130 --> 00:00:02,990
This is Susan Bachrach.

3
00:00:02,990 --> 00:00:08,000
I'm at the home of
Mr. Emanuel Munzer.

4
00:00:08,000 --> 00:00:10,430
I'm representing the
US Holocaust Museum,

5
00:00:10,430 --> 00:00:16,010
and Mr. Munzer is going
to tell us about his life

6
00:00:16,010 --> 00:00:18,080
before and during the war.

7
00:00:18,080 --> 00:00:22,780

8
00:00:22,780 --> 00:00:28,250
Could you tell us a little bit
about your family background,

9
00:00:28,250 --> 00:00:33,170
where you were born and
what your father did,

10
00:00:33,170 --> 00:00:36,410
your school background,
those sorts of things?

11
00:00:36,410 --> 00:00:50,570
I was born in Berlin on February
26, 1920 in Berlin, Germany

12
00:00:50,570 --> 00:00:55,010

as the only son of my parents.

13
00:00:55,010 --> 00:00:59,650

14
00:00:59,650 --> 00:01:01,860
What should I say?

15
00:01:01,860 --> 00:01:05,120
Give your parents' names.

16
00:01:05,120 --> 00:01:07,085
Hans and Margaret.

17
00:01:07,085 --> 00:01:10,710

18
00:01:10,710 --> 00:01:15,360
And I had pretty
normal schooling, went

19
00:01:15,360 --> 00:01:17,650
to kindergarten, pre-school.

20
00:01:17,650 --> 00:01:20,400

21
00:01:20,400 --> 00:01:21,970
Did you go to public school?

22
00:01:21,970 --> 00:01:22,645
Public school.

23
00:01:22,645 --> 00:01:28,110

24
00:01:28,110 --> 00:01:34,460
And after that, I went to a
gymnasium with the intention

25
00:01:34,460 --> 00:01:41,600

to go to university and
become a electrical engineer

26
00:01:41,600 --> 00:01:48,290
and go through to my PhD.

27
00:01:48,290 --> 00:01:51,620

28
00:01:51,620 --> 00:02:00,270
And this was interrupted by the
advent of the Nazis in 1933.

29
00:02:00,270 --> 00:02:01,920
OK.

30
00:02:01,920 --> 00:02:05,780
What was your father doing
in-- you always lived

31
00:02:05,780 --> 00:02:07,890
in Berlin with your parents?

32
00:02:07,890 --> 00:02:11,250
I always lived in Berlin,
yes, with my parents.

33
00:02:11,250 --> 00:02:13,500
What sort of neighborhood
did you live in?

34
00:02:13,500 --> 00:02:14,720
Do you recall?

35
00:02:14,720 --> 00:02:16,400
It was a well-to-do
neighborhood.

36
00:02:16,400 --> 00:02:25,350
It was in the southwestern
district of Berlin.

37

00:02:25,350 --> 00:02:32,030
That was a district
called Schoneberg.

38
00:02:32,030 --> 00:02:36,950
And I had a good childhood.

39
00:02:36,950 --> 00:02:40,110
Was it a Jewish neighborhood?

40
00:02:40,110 --> 00:02:41,350
No, no.

41
00:02:41,350 --> 00:02:43,920
I was mixed.

42
00:02:43,920 --> 00:02:47,750
There were many Jews living
there and many non-Jews.

43
00:02:47,750 --> 00:02:49,520
What sort of building
did you live in?

44
00:02:49,520 --> 00:02:51,680
Did you live in an
apartment building?

45
00:02:51,680 --> 00:02:53,360
We lived in an
apartment building.

46
00:02:53,360 --> 00:02:59,440
We lived on the fourth
floor, and my father always

47
00:02:59,440 --> 00:03:02,350
complained about
being bald, that when

48
00:03:02,350 --> 00:03:06,040
he carried me these four
flights up the stairs

49
00:03:06,040 --> 00:03:08,260
I amused myself
pulling out his hair.

50
00:03:08,260 --> 00:03:13,780

51
00:03:13,780 --> 00:03:18,870
And so you spent all your
childhood in this apartment?

52
00:03:18,870 --> 00:03:20,580
That's right.

53
00:03:20,580 --> 00:03:25,600
And let's see.

54
00:03:25,600 --> 00:03:29,810
Your father was
employed for a business?

55
00:03:29,810 --> 00:03:32,380
My father was a
foreign correspondent

56
00:03:32,380 --> 00:03:40,360
for a notions trading company,
and he spoke eight languages

57
00:03:40,360 --> 00:03:42,772
fluently.

58
00:03:42,772 --> 00:03:45,580
Did he travel a great deal?

59
00:03:45,580 --> 00:03:46,840
He traveled, yes.

60
00:03:46,840 --> 00:03:51,880
He traveled, too, not a
great deal, but he traveled.

61
00:03:51,880 --> 00:03:54,310
Was your mother at home?

62
00:03:54,310 --> 00:03:56,710
My mother was a
full-time mother, yes.

63
00:03:56,710 --> 00:03:59,200
She was at home bringing me up.

64
00:03:59,200 --> 00:04:01,840

65
00:04:01,840 --> 00:04:03,610
Where were your parents from?

66
00:04:03,610 --> 00:04:06,220
Were they born in Berlin also?

67
00:04:06,220 --> 00:04:12,880
My father was born in Berlin,
and my mother was also

68
00:04:12,880 --> 00:04:14,590
born in Berlin, actually.

69
00:04:14,590 --> 00:04:16,029
What do their parents--

70
00:04:16,029 --> 00:04:18,172
what sort of backgrounds
did they come from?

71
00:04:18,172 --> 00:04:22,990

72
00:04:22,990 --> 00:04:32,960
They came from--
my father's father

73

00:04:32,960 --> 00:04:44,120
was the first lyceum
professor appointed

74
00:04:44,120 --> 00:04:47,092
by the then-emperor William III.

75
00:04:47,092 --> 00:04:50,466

76
00:04:50,466 --> 00:04:55,630
The first lyceum
professor, did you say?

77
00:04:55,630 --> 00:05:02,290
Professor at the lyceum,
professor of history,

78
00:05:02,290 --> 00:05:04,620
a full professor of history.

79
00:05:04,620 --> 00:05:12,870
He was one of the first Jewish
appointments by the emperor.

80
00:05:12,870 --> 00:05:16,320
That's interesting.

81
00:05:16,320 --> 00:05:21,530
And did you know
your grandparents?

82
00:05:21,530 --> 00:05:22,760
Did they live near you?

83
00:05:22,760 --> 00:05:25,740

84
00:05:25,740 --> 00:05:29,970
My grandparents on my mother's
side I knew very well.

85

00:05:29,970 --> 00:05:33,450

86

00:05:33,450 --> 00:05:37,710

My father's father
died at an early age

87

00:05:37,710 --> 00:05:42,070

from cancer, so I didn't know--

88

00:05:42,070 --> 00:05:45,550

he died about a year
before I was born.

89

00:05:45,550 --> 00:05:47,860

Did your father have
any brothers or sisters?

90

00:05:47,860 --> 00:05:59,030

Yeah, one brother, and he was
a captain in the United States

91

00:05:59,030 --> 00:05:59,530

Army.

92

00:05:59,530 --> 00:06:03,110

93

00:06:03,110 --> 00:06:12,330

He was a medical doctor, and
he came to the United States

94

00:06:12,330 --> 00:06:19,830

in 1928 or '29.

95

00:06:19,830 --> 00:06:22,360

What was his name?

96

00:06:22,360 --> 00:06:28,670

His name was Albert
Alfred Munzer, MD.

97

00:06:28,670 --> 00:06:31,520

98

00:06:31,520 --> 00:06:35,690

Did your father receive
a university degree?

99

00:06:35,690 --> 00:06:37,340

Yes.

100

00:06:37,340 --> 00:06:39,830

At the university in Berlin?

101

00:06:39,830 --> 00:06:42,350

No, he went to the
University of--

102

00:06:42,350 --> 00:06:55,030

103

00:06:55,030 --> 00:06:59,837

I think he went to University
of Leipzig or somewhere.

104

00:06:59,837 --> 00:07:03,500

105

00:07:03,500 --> 00:07:04,820

That was before my time.

106

00:07:04,820 --> 00:07:07,650

107

00:07:07,650 --> 00:07:10,580

Do you know your
father's birthday?

108

00:07:10,580 --> 00:07:17,240

Yeah, September 21, 1893.

109

00:07:17,240 --> 00:07:20,703

Do you know what year

your parents were married?

110

00:07:20,703 --> 00:07:21,495

Were they married--

111

00:07:21,495 --> 00:07:31,610

112

00:07:31,610 --> 00:07:41,740

They were married 1918, I think.

113

00:07:41,740 --> 00:07:45,730

And you said your father was--

114

00:07:45,730 --> 00:07:49,720

Shortly before the
end of World War I.

115

00:07:49,720 --> 00:07:55,870

And your father was
enlisted during the war?

116

00:07:55,870 --> 00:07:57,850

Yes, yeah.

117

00:07:57,850 --> 00:08:00,940

Did he fight?

118

00:08:00,940 --> 00:08:11,830

Yeah, he saw frontline
service, but he got meningitis

119

00:08:11,830 --> 00:08:14,590

and had to be hospitalized.

120

00:08:14,590 --> 00:08:20,560

And he recovered, and
then they discharged him.

121

00:08:20,560 --> 00:08:24,700

Do you know where
your parents met?

122
00:08:24,700 --> 00:08:26,530
Did they meet after
the war, or did they

123
00:08:26,530 --> 00:08:29,630
know each other before the war?

124
00:08:29,630 --> 00:08:34,610
Do you know anything about the
circumstances of their meeting?

125
00:08:34,610 --> 00:08:40,159
They met as members
of a youth group.

126
00:08:40,159 --> 00:08:41,480
A Jewish youth group?

127
00:08:41,480 --> 00:08:44,179

128
00:08:44,179 --> 00:08:45,810
I don't know whether
I was Jewish.

129
00:08:45,810 --> 00:08:52,460

130
00:08:52,460 --> 00:08:57,980
At that time, it was
very popular to make

131
00:08:57,980 --> 00:09:04,260
trips to rough it.

132
00:09:04,260 --> 00:09:07,620

133
00:09:07,620 --> 00:09:11,640
Right, climbing mountains.

134

00:09:11,640 --> 00:09:17,760

Climbing mountains,
bike trips, canoe trips.

135

00:09:17,760 --> 00:09:20,160

My father had one of
those Klepper boats,

136

00:09:20,160 --> 00:09:22,570

those folding canoes
with the rubber

137

00:09:22,570 --> 00:09:35,800

draped over it, to assemble it
on the beach, wooden planks,

138

00:09:35,800 --> 00:09:38,510

and you'd drape the
rubber skin over them.

139

00:09:38,510 --> 00:09:41,410

Everything matched perfectly.

140

00:09:41,410 --> 00:09:43,270

So you would go
canoeing with him?

141

00:09:43,270 --> 00:09:46,000

Canoeing, sailing, anything.

142

00:09:46,000 --> 00:09:47,600

Where did you do that usually?

143

00:09:47,600 --> 00:09:48,890

Where did you go to do that?

144

00:09:48,890 --> 00:09:56,450

Oh, lots of lakes and
rivers in northern Germany,

145

00:09:56,450 --> 00:10:02,280

especially in that

area south of Berlin.

146

00:10:02,280 --> 00:10:05,460

You don't remember any special
place that you used to go to?

147

00:10:05,460 --> 00:10:10,490

148

00:10:10,490 --> 00:10:13,580

Havel or MÃ¼ggelsee.

149

00:10:13,580 --> 00:10:18,330

150

00:10:18,330 --> 00:10:21,150

These are two as
far as I remember.

151

00:10:21,150 --> 00:10:24,700

So the whole family would
go on these excursions?

152

00:10:24,700 --> 00:10:25,200

Yeah.

153

00:10:25,200 --> 00:10:26,370

Did you take friends?

154

00:10:26,370 --> 00:10:32,050

Yeah, we-- this boat
came along with a tent,

155

00:10:32,050 --> 00:10:35,440

and we spent the
nights in the tent.

156

00:10:35,440 --> 00:10:41,240

157

00:10:41,240 --> 00:10:43,520

Is there anything

else, any other--

158

00:10:43,520 --> 00:10:46,730

159

00:10:46,730 --> 00:10:49,510

so did you have any
religious education

160

00:10:49,510 --> 00:10:51,340

when you were growing up?

161

00:10:51,340 --> 00:10:58,360

No, not that much.

162

00:10:58,360 --> 00:11:01,030

163

00:11:01,030 --> 00:11:08,150

What did it mean to you to be
Jewish when you were a child?

164

00:11:08,150 --> 00:11:11,180

I wasn't very conscious of it.

165

00:11:11,180 --> 00:11:14,660

You didn't observe-- did
you observe the holidays?

166

00:11:14,660 --> 00:11:19,980

We observed the high holidays,
but that was about it.

167

00:11:19,980 --> 00:11:20,970

We belonged to that--

168

00:11:20,970 --> 00:11:21,803

That's very typical.

169

00:11:21,803 --> 00:11:28,070

Yeah, we belonged to the
class of the emancipated Jews.

170
00:11:28,070 --> 00:11:32,970

171
00:11:32,970 --> 00:11:40,320
So after Hitler came to power,
you were still in Berlin

172
00:11:40,320 --> 00:11:41,970
for a time?

173
00:11:41,970 --> 00:11:45,180
After Hitler came to power,
we were still in Berlin, yes.

174
00:11:45,180 --> 00:11:47,820
Can you tell us a little bit--

175
00:11:47,820 --> 00:11:57,750
your memories of--
so you were in--

176
00:11:57,750 --> 00:12:00,560
if you could just
describe some of your--

177
00:12:00,560 --> 00:12:03,320
so you were a teenager.

178
00:12:03,320 --> 00:12:07,130
You were 13 in 1933, so you
were in your early teens

179
00:12:07,130 --> 00:12:12,020
during the years when
the Nazis came to power.

180
00:12:12,020 --> 00:12:14,780
Just describe some
of your memories of--

181
00:12:14,780 --> 00:12:19,640

182
00:12:19,640 --> 00:12:23,640
Well, we had--

183
00:12:23,640 --> 00:12:27,870

184
00:12:27,870 --> 00:12:35,780
I walked daily 2 and 1/2
miles to school and 2

185
00:12:35,780 --> 00:12:39,890
and 1/2 miles back from
school, and there were

186
00:12:39,890 --> 00:12:43,280
no school buses to pick us up.

187
00:12:43,280 --> 00:12:51,100
And I wasn't aware
of any incidents,

188
00:12:51,100 --> 00:12:55,060
except maybe one we had these--

189
00:12:55,060 --> 00:12:59,200
we wore these
Tyrolean pants that

190
00:12:59,200 --> 00:13:04,660
were very popular at the time,
and somebody turned around

191
00:13:04,660 --> 00:13:07,660
on the street and remarked
that Jewish kids shouldn't

192
00:13:07,660 --> 00:13:08,815
be wearing these things.

193
00:13:08,815 --> 00:13:12,640

194

00:13:12,640 --> 00:13:16,360

Did you walk to school
with Jewish friends?

195

00:13:16,360 --> 00:13:18,840

Jewish and non-Jewish, oh, yes.

196

00:13:18,840 --> 00:13:24,070

Did your non-Jewish friends
start treating you differently

197

00:13:24,070 --> 00:13:26,020

after Hitler came to power?

198

00:13:26,020 --> 00:13:27,620

Do you remember
anything about that?

199

00:13:27,620 --> 00:13:35,620

No, no not in the beginning, no.

200

00:13:35,620 --> 00:13:42,220

Now, Berlin was a
thoroughly socialist city.

201

00:13:42,220 --> 00:13:46,920

There was a social
democratic mayor

202

00:13:46,920 --> 00:13:53,665

at the time Hitler came to
power, and he was Jewish.

203

00:13:53,665 --> 00:13:56,990

204

00:13:56,990 --> 00:14:04,590

And the story goes that
the Berlin police was all

205

00:14:04,590 --> 00:14:09,720
poised that when the brown
shirts were marching on Berlin

206
00:14:09,720 --> 00:14:21,380
in 1932 that the Berlin police
and the Berlin national guard

207
00:14:21,380 --> 00:14:24,920
was mobilized with
everything to give them

208
00:14:24,920 --> 00:14:26,470
the appropriate reception.

209
00:14:26,470 --> 00:14:29,020

210
00:14:29,020 --> 00:14:34,510
But somebody cut
the wire that led

211
00:14:34,510 --> 00:14:38,820
to a button underneath
the mayor's desk.

212
00:14:38,820 --> 00:14:41,112
It was sabotaged.

213
00:14:41,112 --> 00:14:43,500
And when it came to
pushing the button,

214
00:14:43,500 --> 00:14:47,390
nothing happened, so
consequently, Berlin

215
00:14:47,390 --> 00:14:50,315
was taken over by surprise.

216
00:14:50,315 --> 00:14:55,150

217

00:14:55,150 --> 00:14:59,680

Do you remember--
so you continued

218

00:14:59,680 --> 00:15:01,900

to go to school until when?

219

00:15:01,900 --> 00:15:06,290

You were in a gymnasium
already in '33?

220

00:15:06,290 --> 00:15:06,790

Yeah.

221

00:15:06,790 --> 00:15:10,420

222

00:15:10,420 --> 00:15:25,770

In '33, I went to the
Konigstadtige Oberrealschule

223

00:15:25,770 --> 00:15:27,210

in the northeast of Berlin.

224

00:15:27,210 --> 00:15:32,200

225

00:15:32,200 --> 00:15:40,020

And at that time, my
maternal grandmother

226

00:15:40,020 --> 00:15:45,690

took me under her wings
because my parents

227

00:15:45,690 --> 00:15:51,990

I left the country for France,
and I had to be given away.

228

00:15:51,990 --> 00:15:56,880

In 1933?

229

00:15:56,880 --> 00:16:01,170

Early 1934.

230

00:16:01,170 --> 00:16:03,240

Your parents left
the country in '34.

231

00:16:03,240 --> 00:16:06,360

232

00:16:06,360 --> 00:16:12,540

Late '33, they left the
country, and I was given

233

00:16:12,540 --> 00:16:14,520

into my grandmother's care.

234

00:16:14,520 --> 00:16:23,820

And in 1934, she gave me
up to the Auerbachsches

235

00:16:23,820 --> 00:16:26,580

Waisen-Erziehungs-Anstalten.

236

00:16:26,580 --> 00:16:33,460

Which was an orphan asylum
that took in the kids

237

00:16:33,460 --> 00:16:36,610

that had parents but
whose parents are

238

00:16:36,610 --> 00:16:40,180

no longer in the country.

239

00:16:40,180 --> 00:16:46,420

So why did your
parents leave in '34?

240

00:16:46,420 --> 00:16:51,180

'34, of course, they
were apprehensive,

241
00:16:51,180 --> 00:16:53,940
and they knew that
somebody was after them.

242
00:16:53,940 --> 00:16:57,770

243
00:16:57,770 --> 00:17:01,430
Is this because of your
father's Jewishness

244
00:17:01,430 --> 00:17:04,500
or his political affiliations?

245
00:17:04,500 --> 00:17:05,960
Both, both.

246
00:17:05,960 --> 00:17:10,369
So you can talk about that.

247
00:17:10,369 --> 00:17:19,170

248
00:17:19,170 --> 00:17:29,290
My father was the
district supervisor

249
00:17:29,290 --> 00:17:34,690
of the Wilmersdorf-Schoneberg
district of the Socialist

250
00:17:34,690 --> 00:17:41,200
Party, the same party that
Albert Einstein belonged to.

251
00:17:41,200 --> 00:17:44,350

252
00:17:44,350 --> 00:17:50,620
And as a matter of fact,
I do remember having

253
00:17:50,620 --> 00:17:55,440
played with his grandchildren.

254
00:17:55,440 --> 00:17:58,210

255
00:17:58,210 --> 00:18:02,425
We were both kids,
very young, and we

256
00:18:02,425 --> 00:18:06,730
were playing while
she was at the piano

257
00:18:06,730 --> 00:18:08,750
and he was playing the violin.

258
00:18:08,750 --> 00:18:12,970
And they were
entertaining each other.

259
00:18:12,970 --> 00:18:23,280
And they talked business, and
we talked children's stuff.

260
00:18:23,280 --> 00:18:24,740
We played together.

261
00:18:24,740 --> 00:18:25,490
Wow.

262
00:18:25,490 --> 00:18:28,960
Do you know what year that was?

263
00:18:28,960 --> 00:18:32,830
Oh, that was way in the 20s.

264
00:18:32,830 --> 00:18:34,103
That's interesting.

265

00:18:34,103 --> 00:18:38,140

266

00:18:38,140 --> 00:18:43,360

But he was a marked man as far
as the Nazis were concerned.

267

00:18:43,360 --> 00:18:48,700

A lot of social
democrats were imprisoned

268

00:18:48,700 --> 00:18:50,100

starting then, right?

269

00:18:50,100 --> 00:18:51,190

Mm-hm.

270

00:18:51,190 --> 00:18:55,720

So he had friends or
other party members

271

00:18:55,720 --> 00:18:57,460

who were in prison then?

272

00:18:57,460 --> 00:19:00,970

Did they have to
leave fairly quickly?

273

00:19:00,970 --> 00:19:04,780

Yeah, they had to leave
very quickly because one--

274

00:19:04,780 --> 00:19:11,080

I remember one evening my
father got this note that

275

00:19:11,080 --> 00:19:12,490

was pushed under the door.

276

00:19:12,490 --> 00:19:15,430

277

00:19:15,430 --> 00:19:18,210

The post office wasn't
reliable anymore.

278

00:19:18,210 --> 00:19:21,100

279

00:19:21,100 --> 00:19:23,140

People would open
up each other's mail

280

00:19:23,140 --> 00:19:24,205

and look for trouble.

281

00:19:24,205 --> 00:19:27,260

282

00:19:27,260 --> 00:19:32,980

And so this note under the door
said something to the effect

283

00:19:32,980 --> 00:19:40,650

that, change your domicile,
somebody is after you.

284

00:19:40,650 --> 00:19:46,400

And do you remember
the month and the year?

285

00:19:46,400 --> 00:19:48,630

You think it was early '34?

286

00:19:48,630 --> 00:19:50,400

It was early 3--

287

00:19:50,400 --> 00:19:57,750

well, it was shortly after
the election in April 1933.

288

00:19:57,750 --> 00:19:59,950

My father was very upset.

289

00:19:59,950 --> 00:20:00,820
He came home.

290
00:20:00,820 --> 00:20:02,910
He says, guess what.

291
00:20:02,910 --> 00:20:04,470
He said, the Nazis won.

292
00:20:04,470 --> 00:20:15,740

293
00:20:15,740 --> 00:20:22,610
So they gave up their
apartment, and they

294
00:20:22,610 --> 00:20:33,000
lived under an assumed
name some place else as a--

295
00:20:33,000 --> 00:20:38,210
in a room sublet by somebody.

296
00:20:38,210 --> 00:20:39,480
Still in Berlin?

297
00:20:39,480 --> 00:20:41,120
Still in Berlin, yeah.

298
00:20:41,120 --> 00:20:43,340
And so they stayed there
for a few more months,

299
00:20:43,340 --> 00:20:44,395
and then they--

300
00:20:44,395 --> 00:20:46,280
Incognito.

301
00:20:46,280 --> 00:20:49,160
But when they changed
their identities,

302
00:20:49,160 --> 00:20:51,560
that's when you went to
live with your grandmother--

303
00:20:51,560 --> 00:20:52,070
Yes.

304
00:20:52,070 --> 00:20:55,440
--because you couldn't easily--

305
00:20:55,440 --> 00:20:59,430
And then I was getting to be
too much for my grandmother,

306
00:20:59,430 --> 00:21:03,170
so I ended up in
this orphan asylum.

307
00:21:03,170 --> 00:21:04,340
How long were you there?

308
00:21:04,340 --> 00:21:07,670

309
00:21:07,670 --> 00:21:18,520
1936-- until 1937.

310
00:21:18,520 --> 00:21:26,420
Yeah, early 1937, they put me
on a train bound for Paris.

311
00:21:26,420 --> 00:21:28,850
So you were in the
orphan asylum from--

312
00:21:28,850 --> 00:21:31,970

313
00:21:31,970 --> 00:21:33,590
'34 to '37.

314

00:21:33,590 --> 00:21:34,670

Oh, for three years?

315

00:21:34,670 --> 00:21:36,290

Three years.

316

00:21:36,290 --> 00:21:40,130

What memory-- did you still
go to school from there?

317

00:21:40,130 --> 00:21:47,930

Yes, they forbid the Jewish kids
to go to a regular gymnasium,

318

00:21:47,930 --> 00:21:50,685

so I went to the
Jewish middle school.

319

00:21:50,685 --> 00:21:54,160

320

00:21:54,160 --> 00:21:55,810

What are your memories of that?

321

00:21:55,810 --> 00:21:59,780

322

00:21:59,780 --> 00:22:03,530

Well, they tried their best.

323

00:22:03,530 --> 00:22:09,860

324

00:22:09,860 --> 00:22:12,410

So it wasn't gymnasium anyway.

325

00:22:12,410 --> 00:22:13,100

Hm?

326

00:22:13,100 --> 00:22:14,690

It wasn't gymnasium.

327
00:22:14,690 --> 00:22:15,740
No.

328
00:22:15,740 --> 00:22:19,160
I remember my Hebrew teacher--

329
00:22:19,160 --> 00:22:26,810
he was a tall fella, blond,
pug-nosed, blue-eyed, the real

330
00:22:26,810 --> 00:22:30,830
image of the typical
Aryan, and they

331
00:22:30,830 --> 00:22:35,870
wanted to get him into
the party, a party member.

332
00:22:35,870 --> 00:22:38,000
And they didn't believe
that he was Jewish.

333
00:22:38,000 --> 00:22:42,710

334
00:22:42,710 --> 00:22:43,550
He was tall.

335
00:22:43,550 --> 00:22:46,940
He was 6 and 1/2 feet tall.

336
00:22:46,940 --> 00:22:48,740
Gosh.

337
00:22:48,740 --> 00:22:50,510
I can see why they wanted him.

338
00:22:50,510 --> 00:22:57,170
Blond, blue-eyed, ruddy-faced,
the typical Aryan.

339

00:22:57,170 --> 00:22:59,850

What happened to him?

340

00:22:59,850 --> 00:23:01,700

I don't know why
that happened to him.

341

00:23:01,700 --> 00:23:04,120

He's probably still
around some place.

342

00:23:04,120 --> 00:23:08,120

343

00:23:08,120 --> 00:23:11,630

So what was this-- was
this orphanage-- who

344

00:23:11,630 --> 00:23:12,880

ran the orphanage?

345

00:23:12,880 --> 00:23:14,690

Was this a Jewish--

346

00:23:14,690 --> 00:23:15,650

This was a Jewish--

347

00:23:15,650 --> 00:23:19,460

yes, this was a
Jewish enterprise,

348

00:23:19,460 --> 00:23:28,430

and it's no longer in
existence, actually.

349

00:23:28,430 --> 00:23:30,770

The building is no
longer existence.

350

00:23:30,770 --> 00:23:42,590

It was established in an old
brewery which changed location

351
00:23:42,590 --> 00:23:44,730
because it got too
big for this building,

352
00:23:44,730 --> 00:23:47,720
so they sold it to that orphan--

353
00:23:47,720 --> 00:23:54,830
to that company that
established an orphanage there.

354
00:23:54,830 --> 00:23:56,120
This is still in Berlin?

355
00:23:56,120 --> 00:23:57,380
Mm-hm.

356
00:23:57,380 --> 00:23:59,180
Berlin proper?

357
00:23:59,180 --> 00:24:00,950
It was still in Berlin proper.

358
00:24:00,950 --> 00:24:08,090
As a matter of fact,
the son of the director

359
00:24:08,090 --> 00:24:17,660
of this orphan asylum
is now a famous rabbi

360
00:24:17,660 --> 00:24:28,690
in Ottawa, Ontario at a temple
called the Holy Blossom Temple.

361
00:24:28,690 --> 00:24:30,550
His name is Dr. Plaut.

362
00:24:30,550 --> 00:24:34,230

363

00:24:34,230 --> 00:24:34,730

How many--

364

00:24:34,730 --> 00:24:35,720

And his mother--

365

00:24:35,720 --> 00:24:38,330

366

00:24:38,330 --> 00:24:41,450

I sent her a
congratulatory letter.

367

00:24:41,450 --> 00:24:53,670

His mother just turned 100
last June, a year ago, June.

368

00:24:53,670 --> 00:25:00,630

How many children-- what was
the atmosphere at this orphanage

369

00:25:00,630 --> 00:25:02,280

like?

370

00:25:02,280 --> 00:25:08,640

There were three groups
of children, the toddlers,

371

00:25:08,640 --> 00:25:14,560

the medium-sized,
and the adolescents,

372

00:25:14,560 --> 00:25:15,795

and I was one of the oldest.

373

00:25:15,795 --> 00:25:19,980

374

00:25:19,980 --> 00:25:22,590

Were you treated well there?

375

00:25:22,590 --> 00:25:23,495

Oh, yes.

376

00:25:23,495 --> 00:25:24,030

Oh, yes.

377

00:25:24,030 --> 00:25:27,480

378

00:25:27,480 --> 00:25:34,020

Considering the conditions,
we were all treated well.

379

00:25:34,020 --> 00:25:38,710

380

00:25:38,710 --> 00:25:42,550

During this period, you had a
more intense religious history.

381

00:25:42,550 --> 00:25:46,120

And they were all indigents,
and the parents paid for it.

382

00:25:46,120 --> 00:25:50,000

My parents did, too, for me.

383

00:25:50,000 --> 00:25:56,280

So you ate well enough,
and you got enough food?

384

00:25:56,280 --> 00:25:58,480

Oh, yes.

385

00:25:58,480 --> 00:26:03,160

Did you make friends with anyone
you've stayed in touch with

386

00:26:03,160 --> 00:26:06,400

or you didn't
track anybody down?

387

00:26:06,400 --> 00:26:08,170
I didn't track anybody down.

388
00:26:08,170 --> 00:26:17,320

389
00:26:17,320 --> 00:26:30,150
So then your-- do you have
any memories during '34, '35,

390
00:26:30,150 --> 00:26:37,310
'36 of intensified Nazi
persecution of Jews,

391
00:26:37,310 --> 00:26:42,140
anything that comes to
mind, any incidents?

392
00:26:42,140 --> 00:26:44,630
It's strange.

393
00:26:44,630 --> 00:26:48,080
Nothing happened
to me personally.

394
00:26:48,080 --> 00:26:50,270
Did you see people
getting beat up?

395
00:26:50,270 --> 00:26:50,900
No.

396
00:26:50,900 --> 00:26:51,680
Nothing like that?

397
00:26:51,680 --> 00:26:52,377
No.

398
00:26:52,377 --> 00:26:53,960
You didn't-- did you
have a personal--

399

00:26:53,960 --> 00:27:01,250
No, because we were sheltered,
actually, by the orphanage,

400
00:27:01,250 --> 00:27:03,380
and when we could
walk to school,

401
00:27:03,380 --> 00:27:05,210
you always walked in groups.

402
00:27:05,210 --> 00:27:08,990
And they never bothered us.

403
00:27:08,990 --> 00:27:12,440
You had to wear
the Star of David?

404
00:27:12,440 --> 00:27:13,010
No.

405
00:27:13,010 --> 00:27:15,105
You didn't have to wear
any identification?

406
00:27:15,105 --> 00:27:15,920
No, no.

407
00:27:15,920 --> 00:27:21,660

408
00:27:21,660 --> 00:27:27,260
And you didn't personally
have any particular fears?

409
00:27:27,260 --> 00:27:27,760
No.

410
00:27:27,760 --> 00:27:32,590
I heard a lot of things
that went on around us,

411

00:27:32,590 --> 00:27:39,820
but it never affected
us personally.

412
00:27:39,820 --> 00:27:47,090
And then your parents took
you out of the orphanage?

413
00:27:47,090 --> 00:27:48,530
Yes.

414
00:27:48,530 --> 00:27:52,760
That was in 1937?

415
00:27:52,760 --> 00:27:55,990
'37, yes.

416
00:27:55,990 --> 00:28:00,610
You left the orphanage,
and you traveled to Paris?

417
00:28:00,610 --> 00:28:03,880
--to Paris to rejoin my parents.

418
00:28:03,880 --> 00:28:05,380
At the time, they were in Paris.

419
00:28:05,380 --> 00:28:08,520

420
00:28:08,520 --> 00:28:09,912
And they had a--

421
00:28:09,912 --> 00:28:14,810

422
00:28:14,810 --> 00:28:16,130
Excuse me.

423
00:28:16,130 --> 00:28:23,400
You said that your
mother died in 1935.

424
00:28:23,400 --> 00:28:25,240
Yeah.

425
00:28:25,240 --> 00:28:26,930
She died in Paris?

426
00:28:26,930 --> 00:28:27,430
Hm?

427
00:28:27,430 --> 00:28:29,050
She died in Paris?

428
00:28:29,050 --> 00:28:30,250
No.

429
00:28:30,250 --> 00:28:31,630
She died in Berlin.

430
00:28:31,630 --> 00:28:37,310
In 1935, I was still there.

431
00:28:37,310 --> 00:28:41,300
Oh, so your father
left for Paris alone?

432
00:28:41,300 --> 00:28:41,930
That's right.

433
00:28:41,930 --> 00:28:43,526
Oh, OK, all right.

434
00:28:43,526 --> 00:28:44,200
Oh gosh.

435
00:28:44,200 --> 00:28:47,510
And she died after he left?

436
00:28:47,510 --> 00:28:49,190
Was she in the hospital or--

437

00:28:49,190 --> 00:28:54,900

438

00:28:54,900 --> 00:28:59,400

She was in the hospital, and the prognosis was not good for her.

439

00:28:59,400 --> 00:29:03,350

So he did his best.

440

00:29:03,350 --> 00:29:08,000

Actually, I don't know what happened,

441

00:29:08,000 --> 00:29:14,450

but I'm reading that he sort of abandoned her.

442

00:29:14,450 --> 00:29:17,290

He sent her money, but--

443

00:29:17,290 --> 00:29:18,690

Did you see her?

444

00:29:18,690 --> 00:29:20,492

I saw her regularly.

445

00:29:20,492 --> 00:29:23,870

446

00:29:23,870 --> 00:29:31,638

So he was in Paris, and so he met your stepmother there?

447

00:29:31,638 --> 00:29:32,180

That's right.

448

00:29:32,180 --> 00:29:34,040

She's French?

449

00:29:34,040 --> 00:29:37,380

No, she is also from Berlin.

450

00:29:37,380 --> 00:29:46,190

And they didn't travel
together, but he made her come.

451

00:29:46,190 --> 00:29:47,747

And they got married in France?

452

00:29:47,747 --> 00:29:49,080

They got married in France, yes.

453

00:29:49,080 --> 00:29:53,380

454

00:29:53,380 --> 00:29:59,124

So you joined them in 1937?

455

00:29:59,124 --> 00:30:01,160

'37.

456

00:30:01,160 --> 00:30:02,500

And go on.

457

00:30:02,500 --> 00:30:04,660

And you were telling me
they were living in Paris.

458

00:30:04,660 --> 00:30:07,850

459

00:30:07,850 --> 00:30:15,510

And I joined them in
Paris, and they had a--

460

00:30:15,510 --> 00:30:19,690

they established a business,
a sort of a library.

461

00:30:19,690 --> 00:30:23,710

462

00:30:23,710 --> 00:30:24,840

You mean a bookstore?

463

00:30:24,840 --> 00:30:30,840

Bookstore, yes, part

bookstore and part lending

464

00:30:30,840 --> 00:30:34,590

library and

specializing in books

465

00:30:34,590 --> 00:30:35,820

that were banned in Germany.

466

00:30:35,820 --> 00:30:42,580

467

00:30:42,580 --> 00:30:44,920

How did that do?

468

00:30:44,920 --> 00:30:47,050

They did pretty well.

469

00:30:47,050 --> 00:30:48,440

What neighborhood was it in?

470

00:30:48,440 --> 00:30:48,940

Hm?

471

00:30:48,940 --> 00:30:49,990

Do you know where it was?

472

00:30:49,990 --> 00:30:54,560

Yeah, it was the

15th Arrondissement.

473

00:30:54,560 --> 00:30:57,050

And you lived over there?

474

00:30:57,050 --> 00:30:59,960

It was not far from

a slaughterhouse.

475

00:30:59,960 --> 00:31:03,200

476

00:31:03,200 --> 00:31:06,890

You remember that, probably.

477

00:31:06,890 --> 00:31:08,610

So you lived in the 15th?

478

00:31:08,610 --> 00:31:10,910

Yeah, in the 15th.

479

00:31:10,910 --> 00:31:14,060

So that was 1937.

480

00:31:14,060 --> 00:31:25,450

That was in 1937, from 1937 on.

481

00:31:25,450 --> 00:31:30,790

And the first half of 1939, I--

482

00:31:30,790 --> 00:31:32,800

Did you go to school
when you went to Paris?

483

00:31:32,800 --> 00:31:40,240

No, I went to a training
institute that would prepare me

484

00:31:40,240 --> 00:31:51,060

for mechanics, and I
wound up in employment

485

00:31:51,060 --> 00:32:05,310

at the Hispano-Suiza Works
in Courbevoie, Paris in 1938.

486

00:32:05,310 --> 00:32:06,060

The what?

487

00:32:06,060 --> 00:32:10,670

488

00:32:10,670 --> 00:32:16,460

They made engines similar
to the Rolls-Royce Company.

489

00:32:16,460 --> 00:32:19,970

As a matter of fact,
they were compared to it.

490

00:32:19,970 --> 00:32:25,580

And they made engines
and engine parts,

491

00:32:25,580 --> 00:32:31,230

and I was employed
there as a mechanic.

492

00:32:31,230 --> 00:32:32,430

Oh.

493

00:32:32,430 --> 00:32:34,800

So had you studying
French in Germany

494

00:32:34,800 --> 00:32:37,248

so that you can get around,
or did you just pick it up

495

00:32:37,248 --> 00:32:38,040

when you got there?

496

00:32:38,040 --> 00:32:44,010

I was worst in languages,
but it took me only 30 days

497

00:32:44,010 --> 00:32:45,075

to master the French.

498

00:32:45,075 --> 00:32:49,770

499
00:32:49,770 --> 00:32:54,060
So you worked
there for how long?

500
00:32:54,060 --> 00:32:57,636

501
00:32:57,636 --> 00:33:05,100
I worked to the end of
1939 when war broke out.

502
00:33:05,100 --> 00:33:08,210
Did you have teenage
friends in Paris?

503
00:33:08,210 --> 00:33:11,920

504
00:33:11,920 --> 00:33:13,190
I don't know.

505
00:33:13,190 --> 00:33:15,240
I don't remember.

506
00:33:15,240 --> 00:33:22,045
I know there were lots of girls
after me, but it was passe.

507
00:33:22,045 --> 00:33:26,830

508
00:33:26,830 --> 00:33:34,960
So when the war
broke out in '39--

509
00:33:34,960 --> 00:33:45,130
'39, yeah, after Hitler
invaded Poland thinking

510
00:33:45,130 --> 00:33:47,900
that the Russians

would be with them,

511

00:33:47,900 --> 00:33:50,320

then he turned
against the Russians.

512

00:33:50,320 --> 00:33:59,730

And that's when England declared
war first and then France.

513

00:33:59,730 --> 00:34:06,520

What did your father think when
the Soviets signed the pact

514

00:34:06,520 --> 00:34:07,305

with the Nazis?

515

00:34:07,305 --> 00:34:14,679

516

00:34:14,679 --> 00:34:15,770

I don't know.

517

00:34:15,770 --> 00:34:17,909

He was pretty upset.

518

00:34:17,909 --> 00:34:20,060

I had my own apartment.

519

00:34:20,060 --> 00:34:23,180

I wasn't much in contact
with him at that point.

520

00:34:23,180 --> 00:34:24,690

Oh, really?

521

00:34:24,690 --> 00:34:27,389

I was alone, by myself.

522

00:34:27,389 --> 00:34:29,540

But you were living in the 15th?

523

00:34:29,540 --> 00:34:34,639

I was living-- no-- at
Courbevoie near the plant.

524

00:34:34,639 --> 00:34:35,389

Where's that?

525

00:34:35,389 --> 00:34:37,610

Courbevoie is the outskirts of--

526

00:34:37,610 --> 00:34:40,250

527

00:34:40,250 --> 00:34:42,019

it's one of the
outskirts of Paris.

528

00:34:42,019 --> 00:34:45,639

529

00:34:45,639 --> 00:34:50,260

So you were in Courbevoie
living by yourself

530

00:34:50,260 --> 00:35:01,450

and working when war broke
out, and then what happened?

531

00:35:01,450 --> 00:35:04,510

Then, since the
French classified us

532

00:35:04,510 --> 00:35:12,730

as hostile aliens, they rounded
us up and took the young ones

533

00:35:12,730 --> 00:35:14,365

into the inner--

534

00:35:14,365 --> 00:35:19,010

535

00:35:19,010 --> 00:35:25,640
into the inside of the
French countryside, where

536

00:35:25,640 --> 00:35:30,740
we were harvesting sugar beets.

537

00:35:30,740 --> 00:35:33,090
Where was that exactly?

538

00:35:33,090 --> 00:35:33,590
In Touraine.

539

00:35:33,590 --> 00:35:36,290

540

00:35:36,290 --> 00:35:43,010
And the little village where
we were quartered was--

541

00:35:43,010 --> 00:35:50,480
the little village was
Marolles, M-A-R-O-L-L-E-S.

542

00:35:50,480 --> 00:35:51,680
When did you arrive there?

543

00:35:51,680 --> 00:35:55,220

544

00:35:55,220 --> 00:35:56,255
They took us--

545

00:35:56,255 --> 00:35:59,180

546

00:35:59,180 --> 00:36:09,726
1939-- it was 11
weeks after the--

547

00:36:09,726 --> 00:36:12,980

11 weeks after the--

548

00:36:12,980 --> 00:36:25,130

no, 11 days after the
outbreak of the hostilities,

549

00:36:25,130 --> 00:36:27,290

they took us into the Touraine.

550

00:36:27,290 --> 00:36:29,900

551

00:36:29,900 --> 00:36:32,540

Can you describe the
circumstances of your

552

00:36:32,540 --> 00:36:33,530

being rounded up?

553

00:36:33,530 --> 00:36:36,637

554

00:36:36,637 --> 00:36:37,220

How did they--

555

00:36:37,220 --> 00:36:41,030

Well, the gendarmes
just showed up

556

00:36:41,030 --> 00:36:48,710

and told us to pack all of your
belongings and go with them.

557

00:36:48,710 --> 00:36:50,323

That's it.

558

00:36:50,323 --> 00:36:51,865

So you were registered
at the police,

559

00:36:51,865 --> 00:36:54,710

so they knew your address,

and they came to your house?

560
00:36:54,710 --> 00:36:55,430
Oh, yeah.

561
00:36:55,430 --> 00:36:58,575
Everybody was registered with
the police, every resident.

562
00:36:58,575 --> 00:37:01,520

563
00:37:01,520 --> 00:37:05,010
So you were taken by a truck?

564
00:37:05,010 --> 00:37:08,300
We were taken to the railroad
station, and the railroad

565
00:37:08,300 --> 00:37:10,370
station--

566
00:37:10,370 --> 00:37:13,670
and were freighted into
the well, freighted.

567
00:37:13,670 --> 00:37:18,290
We had passenger cars,
passenger compartments,

568
00:37:18,290 --> 00:37:23,520
going into the French
cornbelt, as it was called,

569
00:37:23,520 --> 00:37:28,845
the wheatbelt. It was
called the Touraine,

570
00:37:28,845 --> 00:37:34,050
a series of little villages,
little villages, farmers,

571

00:37:34,050 --> 00:37:36,480
farming villages.

572
00:37:36,480 --> 00:37:38,790
Were their other
Jewish kids with you?

573
00:37:38,790 --> 00:37:41,570

574
00:37:41,570 --> 00:37:44,600
Some of them yes,
some of them not,

575
00:37:44,600 --> 00:37:46,760
but they were all foreigners.

576
00:37:46,760 --> 00:37:47,930
From--

577
00:37:47,930 --> 00:37:49,220
--all over.

578
00:37:49,220 --> 00:37:52,490

579
00:37:52,490 --> 00:37:55,220
Some were students.

580
00:37:55,220 --> 00:37:58,820
They helped with the
harvest because the men went

581
00:37:58,820 --> 00:38:03,230
to the front, so we
went to the interior

582
00:38:03,230 --> 00:38:05,330
helping with the harvest.

583
00:38:05,330 --> 00:38:11,320
How did the French

gendarmes treat you?

584

00:38:11,320 --> 00:38:13,540

They were nice
but authoritarian.

585

00:38:13,540 --> 00:38:16,180

586

00:38:16,180 --> 00:38:20,740

And you stayed in
farmhouses with families

587

00:38:20,740 --> 00:38:21,910

when you got there?

588

00:38:21,910 --> 00:38:27,550

We stayed as guests
of the farmer there.

589

00:38:27,550 --> 00:38:29,860

You were with one family there?

590

00:38:29,860 --> 00:38:35,840

Well, we were housed in an
old barn because we were many.

591

00:38:35,840 --> 00:38:37,630

We were about 40 people.

592

00:38:37,630 --> 00:38:41,140

Oh gosh.

593

00:38:41,140 --> 00:38:43,540

And at 3:00 in the
morning, we were

594

00:38:43,540 --> 00:38:51,070

out there with our machetes
harvesting the beets in order

595

00:38:51,070 --> 00:38:51,640

to--

596

00:38:51,640 --> 00:38:55,270

and the dew was
heavy, so in order

597

00:38:55,270 --> 00:38:59,140

to prevent the
outbreak of rashes

598

00:38:59,140 --> 00:39:07,510

and other disturbances of the
skin, they fed us vitamin--

599

00:39:07,510 --> 00:39:12,790

I believe it was vitamin
A and D, giving us

600

00:39:12,790 --> 00:39:17,641

boiled lard to eat
in the morning,

601

00:39:17,641 --> 00:39:22,540

and black bread
from weird stuff.

602

00:39:22,540 --> 00:39:25,240

I liked it.

603

00:39:25,240 --> 00:39:27,250

It was very fat.

604

00:39:27,250 --> 00:39:28,420

Oh, really?

605

00:39:28,420 --> 00:39:30,010

The fat was just
dropping off them.

606

00:39:30,010 --> 00:39:31,150

Oh, yeah.

607

00:39:31,150 --> 00:39:32,370
Boiled lard?

608
00:39:32,370 --> 00:39:34,140
Oh, yeah.

609
00:39:34,140 --> 00:39:35,830
Oh, got you.

610
00:39:35,830 --> 00:39:36,740
And so you were all--

611
00:39:36,740 --> 00:39:38,530
Potatoes and bread.

612
00:39:38,530 --> 00:39:40,380
You were all men or--

613
00:39:40,380 --> 00:39:41,110
All men.

614
00:39:41,110 --> 00:39:42,850
Oh, you were, OK.

615
00:39:42,850 --> 00:39:47,830

616
00:39:47,830 --> 00:39:50,490
And the weekends we
whiled away our time

617
00:39:50,490 --> 00:39:54,990
with playing cards and
going into the local pubs.

618
00:39:54,990 --> 00:39:57,850
Oh, so you had--
you had freedom.

619
00:39:57,850 --> 00:39:58,350
Oh, yeah.

620

00:39:58,350 --> 00:39:59,460

We had freedom there.

621

00:39:59,460 --> 00:40:00,060

Oh, yes.

622

00:40:00,060 --> 00:40:01,320

And were you paid a wage?

623

00:40:01,320 --> 00:40:04,450

We were paid a wage.

624

00:40:04,450 --> 00:40:08,910

Oh, yeah, that arrangement
was not bad at all.

625

00:40:08,910 --> 00:40:12,940

626

00:40:12,940 --> 00:40:16,802

Why did you start work
so early in the day?

627

00:40:16,802 --> 00:40:18,010

It wasn't-- you couldn't see.

628

00:40:18,010 --> 00:40:29,060

Apparently sugar beets get stuck
on the ground when the sun is

629

00:40:29,060 --> 00:40:32,630

up, and you have to--
to collect these beads,

630

00:40:32,630 --> 00:40:39,110

you have to put them straight
up not to break them.

631

00:40:39,110 --> 00:40:42,110

You want the whole
beat, you see.

632

00:40:42,110 --> 00:40:45,690

Once they break,
they're no good anymore.

633

00:40:45,690 --> 00:40:46,490

That's it.

634

00:40:46,490 --> 00:40:49,310

You can't do a thing.

635

00:40:49,310 --> 00:40:54,570

So the ground had to be
slightly wet to pull them out?

636

00:40:54,570 --> 00:40:55,240

That was it?

637

00:40:55,240 --> 00:40:57,260

That's right.

638

00:40:57,260 --> 00:40:59,690

It had to be done
before sunrise.

639

00:40:59,690 --> 00:41:02,830

What did you do the
rest of the day?

640

00:41:02,830 --> 00:41:03,880

Did you work on the farm?

641

00:41:03,880 --> 00:41:07,930

Well, by the time the beats
were out of the ground,

642

00:41:07,930 --> 00:41:12,010

the sun was up, and then
you went down the roads

643

00:41:12,010 --> 00:41:14,080

with your machetes and
cut off the greens.

644
00:41:14,080 --> 00:41:16,780

645
00:41:16,780 --> 00:41:19,480
OK.

646
00:41:19,480 --> 00:41:21,850
So you worked real hard there?

647
00:41:21,850 --> 00:41:23,170
What time did you get off work?

648
00:41:23,170 --> 00:41:24,550
Oh, yes.

649
00:41:24,550 --> 00:41:27,790
Well, 3:00 in the afternoon
was quitting time,

650
00:41:27,790 --> 00:41:28,765
and the rest was ours.

651
00:41:28,765 --> 00:41:31,880

652
00:41:31,880 --> 00:41:33,290
How many months were you there?

653
00:41:33,290 --> 00:41:46,130

654
00:41:46,130 --> 00:41:47,180
I don't know.

655
00:41:47,180 --> 00:41:51,810
When the harvest was
over, they took us away.

656
00:41:51,810 --> 00:41:57,767
I guess it was eight weeks

or something like that.

657

00:41:57,767 --> 00:41:59,140

Oh, oh, I see.

658

00:41:59,140 --> 00:42:02,310

Eight or 10 weeks.

659

00:42:02,310 --> 00:42:05,440

And then where did you go?

660

00:42:05,440 --> 00:42:11,780

Then we went back,
and in the meantime,

661

00:42:11,780 --> 00:42:15,295

my parents moved
from Paris to Nice.

662

00:42:15,295 --> 00:42:19,380

663

00:42:19,380 --> 00:42:22,170

They did that because they're
worried about being rounded up

664

00:42:22,170 --> 00:42:23,150

in Paris?

665

00:42:23,150 --> 00:42:25,320

No.

666

00:42:25,320 --> 00:42:28,470

My father had a fall-out
with his partner,

667

00:42:28,470 --> 00:42:33,270

and he said, OK, you
take your business.

668

00:42:33,270 --> 00:42:38,800

You take your

business and shove it.

669

00:42:38,800 --> 00:42:41,630

670

00:42:41,630 --> 00:42:46,820

And they went to Nice because
they had a good offer there

671

00:42:46,820 --> 00:42:51,620

and established a
lending library instead

672

00:42:51,620 --> 00:42:55,010

of the delivery.

673

00:42:55,010 --> 00:42:58,430

And I joined them there until--

674

00:42:58,430 --> 00:43:00,382

Is this picture taken in Nice?

675

00:43:00,382 --> 00:43:06,110

That's the picture in Nice in
front of part of the books.

676

00:43:06,110 --> 00:43:11,072

So this must have been 1940?

677

00:43:11,072 --> 00:43:14,340

Yeah, that was
before we were taken.

678

00:43:14,340 --> 00:43:15,020

'41?

679

00:43:15,020 --> 00:43:17,750

Oh, yes, '41.

680

00:43:17,750 --> 00:43:20,520

They went to Nice
in '41, did you day?

681
00:43:20,520 --> 00:43:21,020
'41.

682
00:43:21,020 --> 00:43:23,965

683
00:43:23,965 --> 00:43:30,135
I can't see this very well, but
your father looks very bookish.

684
00:43:30,135 --> 00:43:34,470

685
00:43:34,470 --> 00:43:36,345
And right after I
arrived in Nice,

686
00:43:36,345 --> 00:43:48,280
I was told that, as a hostile
alien being of a relatively

687
00:43:48,280 --> 00:43:55,360
young, manageable age, I had
to go into military duty.

688
00:43:55,360 --> 00:44:05,440
And since I couldn't
join as a non-French--

689
00:44:05,440 --> 00:44:09,280
since I couldn't join the
regular French armed forces,

690
00:44:09,280 --> 00:44:13,400
I had to go into the
French Foreign Legion.

691
00:44:13,400 --> 00:44:15,480
Oh.

692
00:44:15,480 --> 00:44:18,920

That was in 1941?

693

00:44:18,920 --> 00:44:19,420
'42?

694

00:44:19,420 --> 00:44:21,930

695

00:44:21,930 --> 00:44:24,440
How old were you?

696

00:44:24,440 --> 00:44:38,910
I was in-- that was '41, yes.

697

00:44:38,910 --> 00:44:40,140
So you were--

698

00:44:40,140 --> 00:44:42,060
No, that must have been--

699

00:44:42,060 --> 00:44:42,990
You were 21?

700

00:44:42,990 --> 00:44:47,220
No, it was in 1940.

701

00:44:47,220 --> 00:44:49,890
What am I talking about?

702

00:44:49,890 --> 00:45:02,670
It was in 1940, right after
I joined my parents in Nice.

703

00:45:02,670 --> 00:45:05,040
How long were you with them?

704

00:45:05,040 --> 00:45:10,080
So then I-- oh, there
was only a few weeks.

705

00:45:10,080 --> 00:45:14,450

I had to pack my bags and leave.

706

00:45:14,450 --> 00:45:15,670

I got my working papers.

707

00:45:15,670 --> 00:45:18,018

What was the living
situation in Nice?

708

00:45:18,018 --> 00:45:19,060

They're living situation?

709

00:45:19,060 --> 00:45:19,740

Yes.

710

00:45:19,740 --> 00:45:25,230

Well, we had only this one
big room with the books,

711

00:45:25,230 --> 00:45:30,780

and I slept on a couch.

712

00:45:30,780 --> 00:45:35,220

And they slept in a double bed.

713

00:45:35,220 --> 00:45:36,855

And this was in same room?

714

00:45:36,855 --> 00:45:38,110

Yeah, it was a big room.

715

00:45:38,110 --> 00:45:42,660

It was partitioned off with
a drape, with a curtain.

716

00:45:42,660 --> 00:45:44,850

So they put the curtain
and made a bedroom out

717

00:45:44,850 --> 00:45:47,782

of part of the living room.

718

00:45:47,782 --> 00:45:49,365

And the living room
was full of books.

719

00:45:49,365 --> 00:45:52,940

720

00:45:52,940 --> 00:45:54,200

That's how they lived.

721

00:45:54,200 --> 00:45:56,790

Right.

722

00:45:56,790 --> 00:45:59,970

Did a lot of people come
into the lending library?

723

00:45:59,970 --> 00:46:00,630

Oh, yes.

724

00:46:00,630 --> 00:46:02,107

They had a good business there.

725

00:46:02,107 --> 00:46:05,586

726

00:46:05,586 --> 00:46:08,570

That's interesting.

727

00:46:08,570 --> 00:46:10,130

So did you go--

728

00:46:10,130 --> 00:46:14,720

was there still a beach life
there or anything at that time?

729

00:46:14,720 --> 00:46:15,240

Beach?

730

00:46:15,240 --> 00:46:15,740

Yeah.

731
00:46:15,740 --> 00:46:18,120
Oh, yes.

732
00:46:18,120 --> 00:46:20,970
Do you remember that
at all before you left?

733
00:46:20,970 --> 00:46:25,050

734
00:46:25,050 --> 00:46:30,510
Well, Nice is up
against the French Alps.

735
00:46:30,510 --> 00:46:35,820
They fall right off.

736
00:46:35,820 --> 00:46:40,286
It's nestled in a cliff sort of.

737
00:46:40,286 --> 00:46:49,300
As a matter of fact, the bay
reminds one of Los Angeles

738
00:46:49,300 --> 00:46:50,030
because--

739
00:46:50,030 --> 00:46:59,040
it's called the Baie des Anges,
and the beaches is all pebbles.

740
00:46:59,040 --> 00:46:59,650
I know.

741
00:46:59,650 --> 00:47:00,520
I've been there.

742
00:47:00,520 --> 00:47:02,050
The beach is all pebbles.

743

00:47:02,050 --> 00:47:04,360

I had the hardest time
to walk on these pebbles,

744

00:47:04,360 --> 00:47:07,585

but you get used to
it after a while.

745

00:47:07,585 --> 00:47:11,730

Were you there in the
winter or the spring?

746

00:47:11,730 --> 00:47:12,890

It doesn't matter.

747

00:47:12,890 --> 00:47:16,810

Yeah you see people
bathe in the wintertime,

748

00:47:16,810 --> 00:47:19,120

and you look up the--

749

00:47:19,120 --> 00:47:22,910

as a matter of fact, we
were up in the mountains,

750

00:47:22,910 --> 00:47:25,900

and we looked down to
the sea, to the beach,

751

00:47:25,900 --> 00:47:27,640

and we saw people bathing.

752

00:47:27,640 --> 00:47:31,450

We were having a snowball
fight up in the mountains.

753

00:47:31,450 --> 00:47:35,230

754

00:47:35,230 --> 00:47:38,864

So right after you got there
you went to the mountains?

755
00:47:38,864 --> 00:47:48,640

756
00:47:48,640 --> 00:47:52,900
So then you enrolled
in the Foreign Legion--

757
00:47:52,900 --> 00:47:53,810
The Foreign Legion--

758
00:47:53,810 --> 00:47:56,950
--in 1940, when you
were 20 years old.

759
00:47:56,950 --> 00:47:58,930
That's right.

760
00:47:58,930 --> 00:48:04,110
And where did you go?

761
00:48:04,110 --> 00:48:07,530
We had boot camp in
Lyon, France, which

762
00:48:07,530 --> 00:48:14,445
lasted, what, five weeks, and
we went on to the Sahara Desert.

763
00:48:14,445 --> 00:48:17,640

764
00:48:17,640 --> 00:48:24,630
And I remember the crossing
of the Mediterranean.

765
00:48:24,630 --> 00:48:28,620
The Mediterranean is a
nice, smooth body of water,

766
00:48:28,620 --> 00:48:33,010
very innocent-looking,

but every once in a while,

767

00:48:33,010 --> 00:48:35,460

it gets stormy.

768

00:48:35,460 --> 00:48:40,200

And when it gets
stormy, watch out.

769

00:48:40,200 --> 00:48:46,770

So we had one of those
passages on a sloop

770

00:48:46,770 --> 00:48:56,470

going to North Africa, and
the water was terrible.

771

00:48:56,470 --> 00:48:57,940

Oh, was it ever choppy.

772

00:48:57,940 --> 00:49:00,080

I couldn't remember
a thing like that.

773

00:49:00,080 --> 00:49:01,810

It was stormy, outright stormy.

774

00:49:01,810 --> 00:49:04,150

That thing was--

775

00:49:04,150 --> 00:49:08,050

I don't know how he could
have made headway, but he did.

776

00:49:08,050 --> 00:49:09,460

Was it a small bar?

777

00:49:09,460 --> 00:49:10,630

It was a sloop.

778

00:49:10,630 --> 00:49:14,710

It was slightly bigger

than a fishing trawler.

779

00:49:14,710 --> 00:49:18,040

780

00:49:18,040 --> 00:49:27,100

And I saw people standing
up, lining up on the railing,

781

00:49:27,100 --> 00:49:34,810

green in their faces, and
giving to the see whatever they

782

00:49:34,810 --> 00:49:36,670

ate, giving it back to see.

783

00:49:36,670 --> 00:49:39,280

784

00:49:39,280 --> 00:49:42,680

I was sitting there down
at the captain's table

785

00:49:42,680 --> 00:49:44,190

and ate everything in sight.

786

00:49:44,190 --> 00:49:48,310

787

00:49:48,310 --> 00:49:52,950

No, I had no fear
of the sea at all.

788

00:49:52,950 --> 00:49:56,600

789

00:49:56,600 --> 00:50:00,210

So then we ended
up in North Africa.

790

00:50:00,210 --> 00:50:02,030

We got a ferried to--

791
00:50:02,030 --> 00:50:09,560
we were transported in trucks,
military convoys to the Sahara

792
00:50:09,560 --> 00:50:19,750
Desert, and a
little village right

793
00:50:19,750 --> 00:50:25,270
at the outskirts of the
desert by the name of Bouarfa.

794
00:50:25,270 --> 00:50:28,092
That I remember.

795
00:50:28,092 --> 00:50:33,460
It wasn't far from the
Algerian border with Morocco,

796
00:50:33,460 --> 00:50:35,100
but we were on
the Moroccan side.

797
00:50:35,100 --> 00:50:37,740

798
00:50:37,740 --> 00:50:40,035
And we were told to--

799
00:50:40,035 --> 00:50:43,140

800
00:50:43,140 --> 00:50:47,880
well, a regular, little
garrison, garrison duty,

801
00:50:47,880 --> 00:50:51,390
and then we were told to
watch out for the Arabs

802
00:50:51,390 --> 00:50:53,070

because they're
very treacherous.

803
00:50:53,070 --> 00:50:55,870

804
00:50:55,870 --> 00:50:58,180
They can sneak up behind
you, and you don't even

805
00:50:58,180 --> 00:51:01,570
know what hit you,
just come out--

806
00:51:01,570 --> 00:51:07,030
the desert is just a mass of
sand, and dunes, and whatnot,

807
00:51:07,030 --> 00:51:09,970
and they have their
ways of fighting.

808
00:51:09,970 --> 00:51:15,020
And they make no noise
when they come up on you,

809
00:51:15,020 --> 00:51:17,570
so you had to watch out.

810
00:51:17,570 --> 00:51:19,510
Were you scared
when you went there?

811
00:51:19,510 --> 00:51:29,250
No, but I had a
carbine, which was--

812
00:51:29,250 --> 00:51:35,170
oh my God, and I don't know.

813
00:51:35,170 --> 00:51:36,960
I was shooting
around the corners.

814
00:51:36,960 --> 00:51:40,000
I never hit the target.

815
00:51:40,000 --> 00:51:40,695
I don't know.

816
00:51:40,695 --> 00:51:47,640
We had target practice,
and I always ended up

817
00:51:47,640 --> 00:51:51,780
hitting somebody else's target.

818
00:51:51,780 --> 00:51:56,850
And I looked at the
bayonet of the thing,

819
00:51:56,850 --> 00:52:03,665
and it was dated 1792 or
something like that, way--

820
00:52:03,665 --> 00:52:04,320
You're kidding.

821
00:52:04,320 --> 00:52:07,920
Yeah, from Napoleon's time.

822
00:52:07,920 --> 00:52:09,420
That's what we had.

823
00:52:09,420 --> 00:52:20,000

824
00:52:20,000 --> 00:52:26,040
And then we did our
little garrison duty,

825
00:52:26,040 --> 00:52:30,930
and then the Germans came
in after France laid down

826
00:52:30,930 --> 00:52:35,610
her arms in late 19--

827
00:52:35,610 --> 00:52:39,570
well, actually, in 1940,
she laid down her arms,

828
00:52:39,570 --> 00:52:41,940
but the Germans took a
little while to get in there

829
00:52:41,940 --> 00:52:45,180
and organize their things.

830
00:52:45,180 --> 00:52:48,570
It took about a half a
year until they found out

831
00:52:48,570 --> 00:52:51,400
about our Garrison.

832
00:52:51,400 --> 00:52:58,480
And I guess in early 1941 they
disbanded the French Foreign

833
00:52:58,480 --> 00:53:01,030
Legion.

834
00:53:01,030 --> 00:53:03,460
Oh, yeah, I remember.

835
00:53:03,460 --> 00:53:09,900
We were under the Vichy
regime, Marshal Petain.

836
00:53:09,900 --> 00:53:19,440
And he took care of the running
of the French Foreign Legion

837
00:53:19,440 --> 00:53:25,570
until the Germans were good and
ready to organize it their way.

838
00:53:25,570 --> 00:53:28,360
So we had a little time.

839
00:53:28,360 --> 00:53:33,300
Meanwhile, we kept on
functioning as a garrison,

840
00:53:33,300 --> 00:53:36,340
as an outpost.

841
00:53:36,340 --> 00:53:39,550
And then the Germans came in,
and took all our weapons away,

842
00:53:39,550 --> 00:53:45,010
and got us to work on
their railroad project.

843
00:53:45,010 --> 00:53:46,180
When was that?

844
00:53:46,180 --> 00:53:47,380
That was in '41?

845
00:53:47,380 --> 00:53:49,000
That was in '41.

846
00:53:49,000 --> 00:53:52,030
Now, do you remember
who was in the group

847
00:53:52,030 --> 00:53:56,460
with you, some of the other--

848
00:53:56,460 --> 00:54:03,000
Oh, we had-- our group was made
up of all kinds of renegades,

849
00:54:03,000 --> 00:54:05,860
breakers of the laws,
and things like that.

850
00:54:05,860 --> 00:54:08,040
I couldn't tell you.

851
00:54:08,040 --> 00:54:10,440
What were they like?

852
00:54:10,440 --> 00:54:11,970
Did you make any friends?

853
00:54:11,970 --> 00:54:12,840
No.

854
00:54:12,840 --> 00:54:15,390
You can't make
friends with those.

855
00:54:15,390 --> 00:54:16,310
Really?

856
00:54:16,310 --> 00:54:18,670
They were totally
foreign to you?

857
00:54:18,670 --> 00:54:21,870

858
00:54:21,870 --> 00:54:24,426
They really rough?

859
00:54:24,426 --> 00:54:26,880
They were rough, yes.

860
00:54:26,880 --> 00:54:30,370
It was a rough and tumble bunch.

861
00:54:30,370 --> 00:54:31,412
Did they leave you alone?

862
00:54:31,412 --> 00:54:32,662
Did they give you a hard time?

863
00:54:32,662 --> 00:54:33,570
Some were murders.

864
00:54:33,570 --> 00:54:36,150
Well, I was once
threatened by somebody

865
00:54:36,150 --> 00:54:38,060
who wanted to cut off my ears.

866
00:54:38,060 --> 00:54:43,170

867
00:54:43,170 --> 00:54:44,700
The fact that you were Jewish--

868
00:54:44,700 --> 00:54:46,015
was it known to anybody?

869
00:54:46,015 --> 00:54:46,515
No.

870
00:54:46,515 --> 00:54:48,600
It made no difference.

871
00:54:48,600 --> 00:54:51,390
It made no difference.

872
00:54:51,390 --> 00:54:56,070
We were all in the--
as a matter of fact,

873
00:54:56,070 --> 00:55:00,750
I remember when one of the
colonels at the end of boot

874
00:55:00,750 --> 00:55:05,010
camp in Lyon on
the French mainland

875

00:55:05,010 --> 00:55:10,370
gave us a charge
before dismissing us.

876
00:55:10,370 --> 00:55:12,560
And he said, you are in
the French Foreign Legion.

877
00:55:12,560 --> 00:55:20,880
You are here to die, to fight
for your fatherland and to die.

878
00:55:20,880 --> 00:55:23,700
Little did he know that these
are all a bunch of foreigners.

879
00:55:23,700 --> 00:55:29,220

880
00:55:29,220 --> 00:55:34,620
Well, I'm sure you didn't
look at it so ironically then.

881
00:55:34,620 --> 00:55:35,850
No, no, no.

882
00:55:35,850 --> 00:55:42,690
But it struck me as out of
place, completely out of place.

883
00:55:42,690 --> 00:55:46,290

884
00:55:46,290 --> 00:55:46,860
All right.

885
00:55:46,860 --> 00:55:52,740
So you did the Foreign
Legion, and then the Germans

886
00:55:52,740 --> 00:55:54,060
took it over.

887

00:55:54,060 --> 00:55:58,090

And that's when they
made you start working--

888

00:55:58,090 --> 00:56:00,430

The first thing they did is
disband the French Foreign

889

00:56:00,430 --> 00:56:00,930

Legion.

890

00:56:00,930 --> 00:56:03,370

891

00:56:03,370 --> 00:56:07,180

But they took over your
regiment or whatever?

892

00:56:07,180 --> 00:56:08,080

That's right.

893

00:56:08,080 --> 00:56:08,800

That's right.

894

00:56:08,800 --> 00:56:14,360

They took over our
regiment and made

895

00:56:14,360 --> 00:56:20,760

us break up those stones they
trucked in from some place.

896

00:56:20,760 --> 00:56:21,470

I don't know.

897

00:56:21,470 --> 00:56:27,500

You stayed in the same
barracks, the same location?

898

00:56:27,500 --> 00:56:32,360

They put us a little deeper into
the desert, and at that time,

899

00:56:32,360 --> 00:56:36,620

they housed us in pup tents.

900

00:56:36,620 --> 00:56:39,830

When you were in training,
did they give you survival--

901

00:56:39,830 --> 00:56:42,622

did you learn how to
survive in the desert?

902

00:56:42,622 --> 00:56:44,330

Did they give you some
training for that?

903

00:56:44,330 --> 00:56:44,660

Oh, yeah.

904

00:56:44,660 --> 00:56:44,990

Oh, yes.

905

00:56:44,990 --> 00:56:46,970

So that wasn't a problem,
adjusting to that?

906

00:56:46,970 --> 00:56:50,570

That was not a problem, no.

907

00:56:50,570 --> 00:56:53,090

No, no.

908

00:56:53,090 --> 00:56:56,150

The French government fed us,
and the Germans made us work.

909

00:56:56,150 --> 00:56:58,820

910

00:56:58,820 --> 00:57:06,980

In other words, we were
still obeying the French,

911
00:57:06,980 --> 00:57:11,060
and the Germans were
in the background.

912
00:57:11,060 --> 00:57:16,211
It was German army
units or Wehrmacht?

913
00:57:16,211 --> 00:57:19,831

914
00:57:19,831 --> 00:57:25,580
A couple of higher-ups
once in a while

915
00:57:25,580 --> 00:57:30,390
came to inspect the
work we are doing

916
00:57:30,390 --> 00:57:37,410
and sniff around a little.

917
00:57:37,410 --> 00:57:43,290
Bit largely they left us alone
because we were doing our job.

918
00:57:43,290 --> 00:57:45,960
Was that hard, breaking
up the stones, that work?

919
00:57:45,960 --> 00:57:46,460
Oh, yeah.

920
00:57:46,460 --> 00:57:47,220
It was hard.

921
00:57:47,220 --> 00:57:51,600
You had to-- there was a
quota that you had to meet,

922
00:57:51,600 --> 00:57:52,830

but it wasn't too hard.

923
00:57:52,830 --> 00:57:54,170
No?

924
00:57:54,170 --> 00:57:55,380
How long did you do that?

925
00:57:55,380 --> 00:57:58,750

926
00:57:58,750 --> 00:58:06,440
Until my father coughed
up 20,000 francs

927
00:58:06,440 --> 00:58:10,576
I guess in '41, '42.

928
00:58:10,576 --> 00:58:15,210

929
00:58:15,210 --> 00:58:20,400
Yeah, in early '42, he was
able to get me out of there,

930
00:58:20,400 --> 00:58:25,105
to buy me out and to have me
shipped back to the mainland,

931
00:58:25,105 --> 00:58:28,650
to the French mainland.

932
00:58:28,650 --> 00:58:32,550
And how long were you there
before you were deported?

933
00:58:32,550 --> 00:58:33,900
You went back to Nice?

934
00:58:33,900 --> 00:58:39,570
I went back to Nice
thinking that Nice

935
00:58:39,570 --> 00:58:42,300
was a safe area because
it was under the Italians.

936
00:58:42,300 --> 00:58:46,340

937
00:58:46,340 --> 00:58:48,560
So you were there for
a couple of years or--

938
00:58:48,560 --> 00:58:52,510

939
00:58:52,510 --> 00:58:56,200
I don't know how long.

940
00:58:56,200 --> 00:59:02,440
Again, this is-- when
Italy laid down her arms--

941
00:59:02,440 --> 00:59:05,740

942
00:59:05,740 --> 00:59:09,370
when Italy laid down
her arms, the Germans

943
00:59:09,370 --> 00:59:16,140
took over the entire
area, and they made the--

944
00:59:16,140 --> 00:59:19,060
they rounded up the Jews.

945
00:59:19,060 --> 00:59:20,950
Were these SS?

946
00:59:20,950 --> 00:59:23,150
These were SS.

947

00:59:23,150 --> 00:59:24,980
Who went around rounding up--

948

00:59:24,980 --> 00:59:27,820
so you were deported
with your parents?

949

00:59:27,820 --> 00:59:28,750
With my parents.

950

00:59:28,750 --> 00:59:33,880
I was first put into a hotel.

951

00:59:33,880 --> 00:59:34,510
In Nice?

952

00:59:34,510 --> 00:59:38,410
In Nice, and from
there regular shipments

953

00:59:38,410 --> 00:59:42,680
were going to Paris
collection camp.

954

00:59:42,680 --> 00:59:47,730
What did the SS tell you
when they rounded you up?

955

00:59:47,730 --> 01:00:02,100
That they had work for
us in some other place

956

01:00:02,100 --> 01:00:03,330
they'd be designating.

957

01:00:03,330 --> 01:00:05,790
Were there many
other Jews in Nice?

958

01:00:05,790 --> 01:00:07,350
They were all Jews.

959

01:00:07,350 --> 01:00:12,330

No, I mean, was there a
large Jewish population

960

01:00:12,330 --> 01:00:13,830

there at that time?

961

01:00:13,830 --> 01:00:16,680

Yes, it was a fairly
large Jewish population

962

01:00:16,680 --> 01:00:19,330

because the Italians
left the Jews alone,

963

01:00:19,330 --> 01:00:23,910

and the Jews were working
under Italian occupation

964

01:00:23,910 --> 01:00:27,735

officers, military officers.

965

01:00:27,735 --> 01:00:31,440

966

01:00:31,440 --> 01:00:33,060

They had it good,
as a matter of fact.

967

01:00:33,060 --> 01:00:35,566

Were they mostly French Jews?

968

01:00:35,566 --> 01:00:41,960

They were all kinds of
Jews, French, non-French.

969

01:00:41,960 --> 01:00:44,660

Was there a community there?

970

01:00:44,660 --> 01:00:47,220

Oh, yeah.

971

01:00:47,220 --> 01:00:53,660

We had three temples in Nice,
a kosher Jewish kitchen,

972

01:00:53,660 --> 01:00:56,063

a business conducted.

973

01:00:56,063 --> 01:00:57,965

There were many Jewish doctors.

974

01:00:57,965 --> 01:01:03,610

975

01:01:03,610 --> 01:01:07,900

So you were taken on regular
passenger trains from Nice?

976

01:01:07,900 --> 01:01:11,040

977

01:01:11,040 --> 01:01:18,870

From Nice, we road a regular
passenger train, yes,

978

01:01:18,870 --> 01:01:24,840

to Paris, under
guard, of course.

979

01:01:24,840 --> 01:01:28,258

And were you allowed to take
possessions with you then?

980

01:01:28,258 --> 01:01:31,470

981

01:01:31,470 --> 01:01:33,480

Only the rudimentary things.

982

01:01:33,480 --> 01:01:36,660

We had to leave
many things behind.

983

01:01:36,660 --> 01:01:39,430

984

01:01:39,430 --> 01:01:41,150

We couldn't take money along.

985

01:01:41,150 --> 01:01:44,320

986

01:01:44,320 --> 01:01:49,750

They let us have jewelry when
we couldn't take money along.

987

01:01:49,750 --> 01:01:53,860

Did your father entrust the
lending library to a friend,

988

01:01:53,860 --> 01:01:57,520

or what happened to that?

989

01:01:57,520 --> 01:02:03,310

My father entrusted the
lending library to a friend,

990

01:02:03,310 --> 01:02:07,600

non-Jewish friend, an
artist, a painter artist--

991

01:02:07,600 --> 01:02:11,230

I don't know what
happened to him--

992

01:02:11,230 --> 01:02:19,400

by the name of Gowa,
G-O-W-A. As a matter of fact,

993

01:02:19,400 --> 01:02:22,570

I came across a--

994

01:02:22,570 --> 01:02:23,840

do you read French?

995

01:02:23,840 --> 01:02:24,340

Yes.

996

01:02:24,340 --> 01:02:26,890

997

01:02:26,890 --> 01:02:29,560

I think the library
was confiscated

998

01:02:29,560 --> 01:02:32,920

by one of the Vichy
representatives,

999

01:02:32,920 --> 01:02:37,360

but it was restored
after the war.

1000

01:02:37,360 --> 01:02:38,725

And this Mr. Gowa--

1001

01:02:38,725 --> 01:02:57,610

1002

01:02:57,610 --> 01:02:58,488

That's nice.

1003

01:02:58,488 --> 01:02:59,780

And there's my signature there.

1004

01:02:59,780 --> 01:03:05,040

1005

01:03:05,040 --> 01:03:06,600

This was, of course,
after the war.

1006

01:03:06,600 --> 01:03:25,930

1007

01:03:25,930 --> 01:03:28,090

No, she went via Switzerland.

1008
01:03:28,090 --> 01:03:30,200
She got into
Switzerland somehow,

1009
01:03:30,200 --> 01:03:33,850
and from Switzerland, she
went to the United States.

1010
01:03:33,850 --> 01:03:38,830
Did your father ever think
of trying to get to the US

1011
01:03:38,830 --> 01:03:39,780
under the--

1012
01:03:39,780 --> 01:03:45,100

1013
01:03:45,100 --> 01:03:49,040
with your uncle's help?

1014
01:03:49,040 --> 01:03:49,540
Excuse me?

1015
01:03:49,540 --> 01:03:52,160

1016
01:03:52,160 --> 01:04:01,300
Did your father ever think
of emigrating from France

1017
01:04:01,300 --> 01:04:02,253
to the US?

1018
01:04:02,253 --> 01:04:04,420
Did he ever think of trying
to get your uncle's help

1019
01:04:04,420 --> 01:04:05,760
to get out of--

1020
01:04:05,760 --> 01:04:06,370
Yes.

1021
01:04:06,370 --> 01:04:08,650
As a matter of fact,
he was thinking

1022
01:04:08,650 --> 01:04:16,570
of going to Spain and from Spain
to go into the United States.

1023
01:04:16,570 --> 01:04:19,390
But he somehow missed the boat.

1024
01:04:19,390 --> 01:04:22,390
He thought it wasn't
going to be this drastic.

1025
01:04:22,390 --> 01:04:26,770

1026
01:04:26,770 --> 01:04:30,340
He had his confidence in
France and the French people.

1027
01:04:30,340 --> 01:04:35,900

1028
01:04:35,900 --> 01:04:43,285
So he missed it, and that was--

1029
01:04:43,285 --> 01:04:45,880
Well, he probably
wasn't the only one.

1030
01:04:45,880 --> 01:04:49,270
Well, he was interned in
Gurs, in the camp of Gurs.

1031
01:04:49,270 --> 01:04:49,900
Oh, he was?

1032
01:04:49,900 --> 01:04:52,240
Yes.

1033
01:04:52,240 --> 01:04:53,050
When was that?

1034
01:04:53,050 --> 01:04:58,480

1035
01:04:58,480 --> 01:05:00,760
That was before I was picked--

1036
01:05:00,760 --> 01:05:03,760
before we were picked up.

1037
01:05:03,760 --> 01:05:07,090
He was freed again after that.

1038
01:05:07,090 --> 01:05:09,070
He was let go.

1039
01:05:09,070 --> 01:05:12,130
So he was picked up from
nice and put in Gurs?

1040
01:05:12,130 --> 01:05:13,283
Mm-hm.

1041
01:05:13,283 --> 01:05:14,200
And your mother then--

1042
01:05:14,200 --> 01:05:16,900
He first came back
to Nice after that.

1043
01:05:16,900 --> 01:05:18,220
Your stepmother was not?

1044
01:05:18,220 --> 01:05:18,965
Hm?

1045

01:05:18,965 --> 01:05:20,590

Your stepmother was
not interned there?

1046

01:05:20,590 --> 01:05:22,100

No, no.

1047

01:05:22,100 --> 01:05:27,670

For some reason, they
needed some workers there

1048

01:05:27,670 --> 01:05:30,430

or something like that.

1049

01:05:30,430 --> 01:05:34,060

But that still didn't scare him
enough, when he was picked up?

1050

01:05:34,060 --> 01:05:37,120

Well, then any thought
of going to Spain,

1051

01:05:37,120 --> 01:05:41,870

but again, as I said
before, he missed the boat.

1052

01:05:41,870 --> 01:05:45,505

Did the SS take him to
Gurs or was it the French?

1053

01:05:45,505 --> 01:05:46,625

No, French, French.

1054

01:05:46,625 --> 01:05:47,320

It was?

1055

01:05:47,320 --> 01:05:48,323

Yeah.

1056

01:05:48,323 --> 01:05:49,240

How long was he there?

1057
01:05:49,240 --> 01:05:51,490
And the French got him out.

1058
01:05:51,490 --> 01:05:52,480
Oh, I don't know.

1059
01:05:52,480 --> 01:05:58,140

1060
01:05:58,140 --> 01:06:01,200
I don't know when that was.

1061
01:06:01,200 --> 01:06:03,060
Did he talk about what
it was like there?

1062
01:06:03,060 --> 01:06:08,800

1063
01:06:08,800 --> 01:06:16,840
Yeah, it was like a
military discipline.

1064
01:06:16,840 --> 01:06:19,720
I heard that-- did he
go there in the winter?

1065
01:06:19,720 --> 01:06:20,740
No?

1066
01:06:20,740 --> 01:06:21,638
I think so.

1067
01:06:21,638 --> 01:06:22,180
I don't know.

1068
01:06:22,180 --> 01:06:25,800
Because I heard that the
conditions were pretty bad.

1069

01:06:25,800 --> 01:06:28,840

1070

01:06:28,840 --> 01:06:32,630

A lot of people got
sick, got typhus.

1071

01:06:32,630 --> 01:06:35,850

I don't know what
happened there.

1072

01:06:35,850 --> 01:06:36,720

He came back.

1073

01:06:36,720 --> 01:06:44,600

He came back, and he made
up his mind to get going.

1074

01:06:44,600 --> 01:06:46,070

It was just too late.

1075

01:06:46,070 --> 01:06:48,950

Yeah, it was too late.

1076

01:06:48,950 --> 01:06:56,400

So you were deported
from Nice to Paris.

1077

01:06:56,400 --> 01:06:56,900

Yeah.

1078

01:06:56,900 --> 01:07:01,170

1079

01:07:01,170 --> 01:07:04,910

And then to Auschwitz, right?

1080

01:07:04,910 --> 01:07:07,940

Then to Auschwitz, and
there we were separated.

1081

01:07:07,940 --> 01:07:10,090

They got loaded on a
truck, and, of course,

1082
01:07:10,090 --> 01:07:13,820
that went right to
the gas chambers.

1083
01:07:13,820 --> 01:07:15,276
Were they ill?

1084
01:07:15,276 --> 01:07:16,550
Hm?

1085
01:07:16,550 --> 01:07:20,060
What was their physical
condition then?

1086
01:07:20,060 --> 01:07:22,250
I didn't know.

1087
01:07:22,250 --> 01:07:23,920
There was an SS man.

1088
01:07:23,920 --> 01:07:26,570

1089
01:07:26,570 --> 01:07:30,670
When we were herded out
of the cattle wagons,

1090
01:07:30,670 --> 01:07:35,920
there was an SS man,
and he just pointed.

1091
01:07:35,920 --> 01:07:40,480
So my parents this way
and for me that way.

1092
01:07:40,480 --> 01:07:45,590
And you didn't have any idea
then what was happening at all?

1093

01:07:45,590 --> 01:07:47,870
I smelled it.

1094
01:07:47,870 --> 01:07:50,540
I smelled it.

1095
01:07:50,540 --> 01:07:51,590
It was sickening.

1096
01:07:51,590 --> 01:07:55,214

1097
01:07:55,214 --> 01:07:57,170
They didn't have to
tell me anything there.

1098
01:07:57,170 --> 01:08:01,660

1099
01:08:01,660 --> 01:08:05,400
So you were on
these cattle cars.

1100
01:08:05,400 --> 01:08:09,000
You were deported on
cattle cars out of Paris.

1101
01:08:09,000 --> 01:08:11,800
Was it Paris or Drancy?

1102
01:08:11,800 --> 01:08:12,720
Paris.

1103
01:08:12,720 --> 01:08:14,010
Oh, it was from Paris.

1104
01:08:14,010 --> 01:08:16,520
From Paris, yes.

1105
01:08:16,520 --> 01:08:20,120
And these cattle cars--
we were sealed in them.

1106
01:08:20,120 --> 01:08:23,250
The conditions were horrible.

1107
01:08:23,250 --> 01:08:26,609
I don't have to describe it.

1108
01:08:26,609 --> 01:08:29,700
That's pretty well-established.

1109
01:08:29,700 --> 01:08:33,600

1110
01:08:33,600 --> 01:08:36,569
But you were still
with your parents then?

1111
01:08:36,569 --> 01:08:38,970
Yeah.

1112
01:08:38,970 --> 01:08:42,450
And everyone else on the
cattle car with you--

1113
01:08:42,450 --> 01:08:44,710
they were all from Nice?

1114
01:08:44,710 --> 01:08:45,840
They were all from--

1115
01:08:45,840 --> 01:08:48,060
no, they were all from France.

1116
01:08:48,060 --> 01:08:49,290
Oh, OK.

1117
01:08:49,290 --> 01:08:50,880
So you--

1118
01:08:50,880 --> 01:08:52,409
This was a collection camp.

1119

01:08:52,409 --> 01:08:54,240

They came from various regions.

1120

01:08:54,240 --> 01:08:55,950

Were there young
children on there?

1121

01:08:55,950 --> 01:08:58,260

Some of them were
young children.

1122

01:08:58,260 --> 01:08:58,970

Families?

1123

01:08:58,970 --> 01:09:00,330

Families, yes.

1124

01:09:00,330 --> 01:09:05,160

1125

01:09:05,160 --> 01:09:09,540

And then how many
days did the trip

1126

01:09:09,540 --> 01:09:13,330

take from Paris to Auschwitz?

1127

01:09:13,330 --> 01:09:31,470

1128

01:09:31,470 --> 01:09:34,850

I guess four days.

1129

01:09:34,850 --> 01:09:38,270

Was that the summertime
when you were deported?

1130

01:09:38,270 --> 01:09:40,475

What time of year was it?

1131

01:09:40,475 --> 01:09:45,420
It must have been in the fall
because the temperatures were

1132
01:09:45,420 --> 01:09:46,680
moderate.

1133
01:09:46,680 --> 01:09:47,359
Thank God.

1134
01:09:47,359 --> 01:09:50,300

1135
01:09:50,300 --> 01:09:52,370
Were there people who
died on that trip?

1136
01:09:52,370 --> 01:09:53,120
Yes.

1137
01:09:53,120 --> 01:09:54,050
There were?

1138
01:09:54,050 --> 01:09:58,120
From starvation?

1139
01:09:58,120 --> 01:10:05,680
Starvation, and they were
too crowded conditions.

1140
01:10:05,680 --> 01:10:09,780

1141
01:10:09,780 --> 01:10:11,280
And there a horrible stench.

1142
01:10:11,280 --> 01:10:15,410

1143
01:10:15,410 --> 01:10:20,610
So when you go to the
camp, you are separated,

1144
01:10:20,610 --> 01:10:21,810
and where did you go?

1145
01:10:21,810 --> 01:10:27,910

1146
01:10:27,910 --> 01:10:33,470
The first thing I
noticed, we were

1147
01:10:33,470 --> 01:10:38,870
stripped of all
clothing, all belongings.

1148
01:10:38,870 --> 01:10:42,710

1149
01:10:42,710 --> 01:10:46,250
Next thing, I got
the number tattooed.

1150
01:10:46,250 --> 01:10:50,060
That was done right away?

1151
01:10:50,060 --> 01:10:52,340
Then we were told to
go into the sauna.

1152
01:10:52,340 --> 01:10:55,930

1153
01:10:55,930 --> 01:11:04,920
So our heads were shaved
and all this other stuff,

1154
01:11:04,920 --> 01:11:09,480
cleansed with
kerosene or something.

1155
01:11:09,480 --> 01:11:13,100

1156
01:11:13,100 --> 01:11:16,550
I don't know what went on
then, some chemical that

1157
01:11:16,550 --> 01:11:17,720
smelled like kerosene.

1158
01:11:17,720 --> 01:11:18,910
It was awful.

1159
01:11:18,910 --> 01:11:20,070
It was like a shower.

1160
01:11:20,070 --> 01:11:23,740

1161
01:11:23,740 --> 01:11:32,350
And then they dried us off and
gave us some rags to put on,

1162
01:11:32,350 --> 01:11:35,975
were not fitting well at
all, and wooden shoes--

1163
01:11:35,975 --> 01:11:39,470

1164
01:11:39,470 --> 01:11:41,410
And you were at--

1165
01:11:41,410 --> 01:11:41,910
--clogs.

1166
01:11:41,910 --> 01:11:46,902

1167
01:11:46,902 --> 01:11:53,450
I had your-- you
were at Auschwitz

1168

01:11:53,450 --> 01:11:54,920
for the remainder of the war?

1169
01:11:54,920 --> 01:11:57,890
No, no, no.

1170
01:11:57,890 --> 01:11:59,870
Do you have any
experiences that you

1171
01:11:59,870 --> 01:12:02,690
want to talk about
there in particular?

1172
01:12:02,690 --> 01:12:09,500
Well, some representative
of the Siemens Works

1173
01:12:09,500 --> 01:12:18,940
came, and they were both
recruiting officers, civilians,

1174
01:12:18,940 --> 01:12:21,800
by the name of--

1175
01:12:21,800 --> 01:12:30,260
one was H-A-N-K-E, Hanke, and
the other one was Jungdorff,

1176
01:12:30,260 --> 01:12:39,380
J-U-N-G-D-O-R-F-F. And they were
representative of the Siemens

1177
01:12:39,380 --> 01:12:43,790
Works, and they were
looking for mechanics.

1178
01:12:43,790 --> 01:12:46,560

1179
01:12:46,560 --> 01:13:01,030
And they asked me to do
certain things, to explain--

1180
01:13:01,030 --> 01:13:08,230
to read a vernier
scale on calipers

1181
01:13:08,230 --> 01:13:17,480
and to identify mechanics
tools and things like that.

1182
01:13:17,480 --> 01:13:21,070
And they were satisfied,
and they were hiring me

1183
01:13:21,070 --> 01:13:28,700
on the spot, and
from that moment

1184
01:13:28,700 --> 01:13:32,150
on, I was treated fairly well.

1185
01:13:32,150 --> 01:13:35,390

1186
01:13:35,390 --> 01:13:37,040
Did you leave the camp?

1187
01:13:37,040 --> 01:13:41,195
We left the camp, and we were
transferred to a little--

1188
01:13:41,195 --> 01:13:46,220

1189
01:13:46,220 --> 01:13:56,050
it used to be a tire factory,
brake factory, a brake factory,

1190
01:13:56,050 --> 01:14:01,270
abandoned, of course, abandoned
brake factory near the Elbe

1191
01:14:01,270 --> 01:14:11,120

River which was taken over
by the Siemens people.

1192
01:14:11,120 --> 01:14:19,550
And they were giving us
lathes, and drilling presses,

1193
01:14:19,550 --> 01:14:28,620
and all these tools to
make jigs for producing

1194
01:14:28,620 --> 01:14:39,000
electrical components like
switch components, contacts,

1195
01:14:39,000 --> 01:14:42,090
and things like that.

1196
01:14:42,090 --> 01:14:43,750
So we had the tools.

1197
01:14:43,750 --> 01:14:47,040
I don't know where they got
them from, but we had the tools.

1198
01:14:47,040 --> 01:14:49,455
And they were pretty good,
too, were pretty good quality.

1199
01:14:49,455 --> 01:14:53,050

1200
01:14:53,050 --> 01:14:56,410
Did you live--

1201
01:14:56,410 --> 01:14:57,400
Yes.

1202
01:14:57,400 --> 01:15:11,680
We had bunk beds with
mattresses and bedding,

1203

01:15:11,680 --> 01:15:24,670
and we had horsehair covers
and pillows, strangely enough.

1204
01:15:24,670 --> 01:15:27,740

1205
01:15:27,740 --> 01:15:29,990
It was-- that's why I say.

1206
01:15:29,990 --> 01:15:34,520
You see, I don't open
my mouth too wide

1207
01:15:34,520 --> 01:15:37,880
because I don't have this
experience that others had.

1208
01:15:37,880 --> 01:15:42,620
Oh, well, you had enough.

1209
01:15:42,620 --> 01:15:44,030
I had enough.

1210
01:15:44,030 --> 01:15:49,910
But compared to what
others experienced,

1211
01:15:49,910 --> 01:15:52,840
I was pretty well-treated.

1212
01:15:52,840 --> 01:15:55,540

1213
01:15:55,540 --> 01:15:58,330
We had good food.

1214
01:15:58,330 --> 01:15:58,960
We had--

1215
01:15:58,960 --> 01:16:00,040
You had enough?

1216
01:16:00,040 --> 01:16:01,390
--sausage.

1217
01:16:01,390 --> 01:16:04,780
We had cheeses.

1218
01:16:04,780 --> 01:16:08,470
We had-- you name it.

1219
01:16:08,470 --> 01:16:10,300
I was pretty well-nourished.

1220
01:16:10,300 --> 01:16:12,190
I couldn't complain.

1221
01:16:12,190 --> 01:16:14,500
And you spent the
duration of the war there?

1222
01:16:14,500 --> 01:16:17,300
Potato soup and so
on and so forth.

1223
01:16:17,300 --> 01:16:28,210
Well, this arrangement
went on until the Russians

1224
01:16:28,210 --> 01:16:32,930
came uncomfortably
close to Auschwitz.

1225
01:16:32,930 --> 01:16:35,810
That was in-- when was it?

1226
01:16:35,810 --> 01:16:40,660
February or March
of '46, was it?

1227
01:16:40,660 --> 01:16:42,385
'45.

1228
01:16:42,385 --> 01:16:42,885
'45.

1229
01:16:42,885 --> 01:16:45,440

1230
01:16:45,440 --> 01:16:46,610
And we had to leave.

1231
01:16:46,610 --> 01:16:50,280

1232
01:16:50,280 --> 01:16:52,580
We had to leave in a hurry.

1233
01:16:52,580 --> 01:16:58,250
I had to abandon everything,
and we went to Dachau.

1234
01:16:58,250 --> 01:17:00,890

1235
01:17:00,890 --> 01:17:01,940
How did you get there?

1236
01:17:01,940 --> 01:17:04,730

1237
01:17:04,730 --> 01:17:08,450
We were transported
again in cattle wagons,

1238
01:17:08,450 --> 01:17:11,940
but there was one difference.

1239
01:17:11,940 --> 01:17:17,440
We could take our belongings
and our food along.

1240
01:17:17,440 --> 01:17:20,740
And the trip took

only about a day.

1241

01:17:20,740 --> 01:17:23,830

1242

01:17:23,830 --> 01:17:34,070

We spend about, oh, I would
say five days in Dachau

1243

01:17:34,070 --> 01:17:40,040

before two recruiting officers
from Siemens found us again.

1244

01:17:40,040 --> 01:17:44,630

1245

01:17:44,630 --> 01:17:50,510

And we were again singled
out, and this time we

1246

01:17:50,510 --> 01:17:57,890

were transported by
truck, a military convoy

1247

01:17:57,890 --> 01:18:03,140

to Berlin, Siemensstadt,
their main factory there.

1248

01:18:03,140 --> 01:18:06,360

1249

01:18:06,360 --> 01:18:17,310

And that's where we continued
doing our own little thing,

1250

01:18:17,310 --> 01:18:22,670

except that every time
the Allies laid down

1251

01:18:22,670 --> 01:18:30,260

one of those bomb carpets we
had to go into the bunkers,

1252

01:18:30,260 --> 01:18:33,250
into the shelters.

1253

01:18:33,250 --> 01:18:38,070
In the work-- this
was an Arbeitslager.

1254

01:18:38,070 --> 01:18:40,430
This was not a
concentration camp.

1255

01:18:40,430 --> 01:18:42,860
This was a work camp.

1256

01:18:42,860 --> 01:18:47,740
So at that time, we had to go
hurriedly back to the work camp

1257

01:18:47,740 --> 01:18:52,210
and go into the bunkers
because Siemens itself had

1258

01:18:52,210 --> 01:18:55,030
only bunkers enough for
their own employees,

1259

01:18:55,030 --> 01:18:57,070
so we had to go back.

1260

01:18:57,070 --> 01:18:59,855
And we had to share these
bunkers with the SS.

1261

01:18:59,855 --> 01:19:04,240

1262

01:19:04,240 --> 01:19:05,800
But again, they left us alone.

1263

01:19:05,800 --> 01:19:08,500

1264

01:19:08,500 --> 01:19:11,740

They were human beings.

1265

01:19:11,740 --> 01:19:12,820

They left us alone.

1266

01:19:12,820 --> 01:19:17,520

1267

01:19:17,520 --> 01:19:24,325

And there was one bunker next
to ours that was only SS.

1268

01:19:24,325 --> 01:19:27,220

1269

01:19:27,220 --> 01:19:33,670

We didn't-- and one of
those bombs really hit hard.

1270

01:19:33,670 --> 01:19:37,930

I was standing near the
door, and I felt the impact

1271

01:19:37,930 --> 01:19:43,360

from the air rushing in,
the sudden air pressure.

1272

01:19:43,360 --> 01:19:47,530

Well, the bunker next to
ours got a direct hit,

1273

01:19:47,530 --> 01:19:53,260

and when they dug these--

1274

01:19:53,260 --> 01:20:03,130

when they got all these
bodies out, one guy had a gun.

1275

01:20:03,130 --> 01:20:06,550

1276

01:20:06,550 --> 01:20:09,730

The thing was turned around
and looked like a trumpet, one

1277

01:20:09,730 --> 01:20:13,210

of those French horns.

1278

01:20:13,210 --> 01:20:14,800

That's what the impact--

1279

01:20:14,800 --> 01:20:17,320

Is that the most
terrifying thing

1280

01:20:17,320 --> 01:20:20,080

that you experience,
the bombing?

1281

01:20:20,080 --> 01:20:21,790

Well, it stood out in my mind.

1282

01:20:21,790 --> 01:20:24,390

1283

01:20:24,390 --> 01:20:27,240

So we had to--

1284

01:20:27,240 --> 01:20:30,720

there were lots of incendiary
bombs they dropped, and they

1285

01:20:30,720 --> 01:20:34,140

never exploded, these pencils--

1286

01:20:34,140 --> 01:20:41,970

they were octagonal in
shape, and they had a pin.

1287

01:20:41,970 --> 01:20:46,110

And the idea was, when
these things dropped down,

1288

01:20:46,110 --> 01:20:52,845

the pin got pushed in,
and flames spilled out,

1289

01:20:52,845 --> 01:20:56,310

and the flame got out.

1290

01:20:56,310 --> 01:20:59,850

And they had us--

1291

01:20:59,850 --> 01:21:02,760

they had us pick up those
things, those things that

1292

01:21:02,760 --> 01:21:10,020

did not go off, and just hold
them away from us, push the pin

1293

01:21:10,020 --> 01:21:11,690

and let them flame out.

1294

01:21:11,690 --> 01:21:14,400

1295

01:21:14,400 --> 01:21:16,530

Oh, so were little?

1296

01:21:16,530 --> 01:21:18,810

They were small bombs?

1297

01:21:18,810 --> 01:21:22,140

No, they were these
incendiary bombs,

1298

01:21:22,140 --> 01:21:24,240

and the incendiary bombs are--

1299

01:21:24,240 --> 01:21:30,630

they look like gigantic
pencils with a pin at the end.

1300

01:21:30,630 --> 01:21:31,810
They make you do that?

1301
01:21:31,810 --> 01:21:36,600
They made us do that to
neutralize those things,

1302
01:21:36,600 --> 01:21:38,880
get all the stuff out.

1303
01:21:38,880 --> 01:21:41,460
Now, actually, when the
flame gets thrown out,

1304
01:21:41,460 --> 01:21:44,070
these things don't get hot.

1305
01:21:44,070 --> 01:21:47,700
The flame is far enough
away from these pencils.

1306
01:21:47,700 --> 01:21:49,390
So no one got killed doing that?

1307
01:21:49,390 --> 01:21:50,910
No one got killed doing that.

1308
01:21:50,910 --> 01:21:54,030
We went into a neutral area.

1309
01:21:54,030 --> 01:21:58,860
As a matter of fact,
they had a whole stack

1310
01:21:58,860 --> 01:22:09,570
full of potatoes for us, for
the kitchen, raw potatoes.

1311
01:22:09,570 --> 01:22:13,140
And we amused ourselves
to discharge these things

1312

01:22:13,140 --> 01:22:19,060
against the potatoes so we
had some nice roasted potatoes

1313
01:22:19,060 --> 01:22:19,650
for dinner.

1314
01:22:19,650 --> 01:22:26,880

1315
01:22:26,880 --> 01:22:28,830
No, we didn't--

1316
01:22:28,830 --> 01:22:33,268
I personally didn't
suffer too much with my--

1317
01:22:33,268 --> 01:22:34,310
Where were you liberated?

1318
01:22:34,310 --> 01:22:36,210
--my skills.

1319
01:22:36,210 --> 01:22:41,160
Well, then Berlin got too hot.

1320
01:22:41,160 --> 01:22:44,490
The Siemens complex
was destroyed.

1321
01:22:44,490 --> 01:22:51,210
Our work camp was destroyed,
and they ferried us up

1322
01:22:51,210 --> 01:22:54,330
to Oranienburg
concentration camp,

1323
01:22:54,330 --> 01:22:57,360
back to the concentration camp.

1324
01:22:57,360 --> 01:23:01,140

Now, that was already the
latter days of the Nazi era,

1325
01:23:01,140 --> 01:23:07,740
and most people saw
the light, that this

1326
01:23:07,740 --> 01:23:14,960
was an untenable situation,
and the Germans were done for,

1327
01:23:14,960 --> 01:23:19,740
and it was only
a matter of time.

1328
01:23:19,740 --> 01:23:23,910
So they prepared us--

1329
01:23:23,910 --> 01:23:26,310
again, no hardships.

1330
01:23:26,310 --> 01:23:34,080
They prepared us for and march
to the Mecklenburg region,

1331
01:23:34,080 --> 01:23:42,795
and we were supposed to board
a Red Cross ship in Bremen.

1332
01:23:42,795 --> 01:23:45,570

1333
01:23:45,570 --> 01:23:49,020
But we had to walk over there.

1334
01:23:49,020 --> 01:23:56,640
And the order came to
march us into a forest

1335
01:23:56,640 --> 01:23:58,550
and to machine gun
us all to death.

1336

01:23:58,550 --> 01:24:02,465

1337

01:24:02,465 --> 01:24:02,965

Luckily--

1338

01:24:02,965 --> 01:24:03,970

You knew that?

1339

01:24:03,970 --> 01:24:05,400

Yes, yes.

1340

01:24:05,400 --> 01:24:08,140

The SS told us.

1341

01:24:08,140 --> 01:24:15,040

We got the orders to shoot you all, but we refuse to do that.

1342

01:24:15,040 --> 01:24:18,610

We don't want to do that.

1343

01:24:18,610 --> 01:24:25,400

Orders, orders-- nobody checks on these orders as the war

1344

01:24:25,400 --> 01:24:25,900

is over.

1345

01:24:25,900 --> 01:24:27,205

The war is finished.

1346

01:24:27,205 --> 01:24:29,170

So this was April, probably?

1347

01:24:29,170 --> 01:24:35,650

This was in April of '45, yes.

1348

01:24:35,650 --> 01:24:38,710

So they were afraid at that point of retaliation.

1349
01:24:38,710 --> 01:24:39,880
And they were afraid--

1350
01:24:39,880 --> 01:24:41,950
it was that point
of retaliation.

1351
01:24:41,950 --> 01:24:44,890
They said, to hell
with these orders.

1352
01:24:44,890 --> 01:24:46,090
We just march on.

1353
01:24:46,090 --> 01:24:48,190
Let's go.

1354
01:24:48,190 --> 01:24:58,000
So we go, and we went to
that one forested area

1355
01:24:58,000 --> 01:25:04,070
full of foxholes for the
night to bed ourselves down

1356
01:25:04,070 --> 01:25:07,240
in one of the foxholes.

1357
01:25:07,240 --> 01:25:11,890
We had our-- at that time,
our hair was starting to grow,

1358
01:25:11,890 --> 01:25:16,480
and we had our--

1359
01:25:16,480 --> 01:25:18,970
we took our blankets
along and all that.

1360
01:25:18,970 --> 01:25:23,320
And we were pretty

well-organized in there.

1361
01:25:23,320 --> 01:25:27,850
And in the morning,
we looked around.

1362
01:25:27,850 --> 01:25:31,165
No SS, no German officers.

1363
01:25:31,165 --> 01:25:33,670

1364
01:25:33,670 --> 01:25:39,670
And there was a clearing-- in
a far clearing, I saw a rider,

1365
01:25:39,670 --> 01:25:42,370
man on horseback.

1366
01:25:42,370 --> 01:25:46,900
It turned out to be a Russian
soldier on reconnaissance.

1367
01:25:46,900 --> 01:25:50,020

1368
01:25:50,020 --> 01:25:54,400
So they discovered
us, and they took us

1369
01:25:54,400 --> 01:26:01,920
into a gigantic farmhouse
with a barnyard and whatnot.

1370
01:26:01,920 --> 01:26:05,880
And the Russian
colonel, who turned out

1371
01:26:05,880 --> 01:26:11,750
to be a medical doctor,
spoke a good English--

1372

01:26:11,750 --> 01:26:14,850
well, who spoke a good
German at that time,

1373
01:26:14,850 --> 01:26:16,530
spook a good German
at that time.

1374
01:26:16,530 --> 01:26:28,570
And he said, look,
you're free, but if you

1375
01:26:28,570 --> 01:26:33,970
want to do yourself a
favor, don't eat right away

1376
01:26:33,970 --> 01:26:35,830
anything that comes into sight.

1377
01:26:35,830 --> 01:26:38,800
I know you are hungry.

1378
01:26:38,800 --> 01:26:46,600
We will give you some thin
soup, and we'll gradually

1379
01:26:46,600 --> 01:26:52,540
increase your diet to where
your stomachs can digest it

1380
01:26:52,540 --> 01:26:55,210
because if you eat you die.

1381
01:26:55,210 --> 01:26:57,750

1382
01:26:57,750 --> 01:26:59,990
That's what the colonel said.

1383
01:26:59,990 --> 01:27:01,810
He said, you'll get
sick, and you'll die.

1384

01:27:01,810 --> 01:27:06,050

1385

01:27:06,050 --> 01:27:11,240

And we were a couple of
days with the Russians,

1386

01:27:11,240 --> 01:27:14,930

and they fed us pretty well.

1387

01:27:14,930 --> 01:27:18,050

They gave us no solid food
for the first two days,

1388

01:27:18,050 --> 01:27:20,330

and then they started
out with a slice of bread

1389

01:27:20,330 --> 01:27:24,830

here a little over
there and so on.

1390

01:27:24,830 --> 01:27:32,920

No, but somehow I reacted--

1391

01:27:32,920 --> 01:27:34,660

I came down with dysentery.

1392

01:27:34,660 --> 01:27:38,070

1393

01:27:38,070 --> 01:27:45,728

So then the Russians said,
well, we have no ill facilities.

1394

01:27:45,728 --> 01:27:46,520

I'll tell you what.

1395

01:27:46,520 --> 01:27:48,420

We'll deliver you
to the British.

1396

01:27:48,420 --> 01:27:52,010

They have a field lab
a field infirmary,

1397

01:27:52,010 --> 01:27:56,990

and they can get you
back, straightened out.

1398

01:27:56,990 --> 01:28:03,110

So they put me on what the
Russians called an ambulance

1399

01:28:03,110 --> 01:28:11,530

and got me over to the border
lines, which weren't far away.

1400

01:28:11,530 --> 01:28:18,020

And there I spent
about three weeks

1401

01:28:18,020 --> 01:28:21,080

on a diet of all
horse meat hamburgers.

1402

01:28:21,080 --> 01:28:25,080

1403

01:28:25,080 --> 01:28:31,300

I gained weight at the
rate of 3 pounds a day.

1404

01:28:31,300 --> 01:28:34,520

1405

01:28:34,520 --> 01:28:35,970

I was simply emaciated.

1406

01:28:35,970 --> 01:28:38,550

So even though you think
you were treated so well,

1407

01:28:38,550 --> 01:28:40,170

you were emaciated?

1408
01:28:40,170 --> 01:28:41,520
I got three things.

1409
01:28:41,520 --> 01:28:42,870
I got sulfa drugs.

1410
01:28:42,870 --> 01:28:48,840
I got aspirin, and I got
more meat hamburgers,

1411
01:28:48,840 --> 01:28:53,460
horse meat hamburgers,
all horse meat hamburgers.

1412
01:28:53,460 --> 01:28:55,710
That's how they put
me back on my feet.

1413
01:28:55,710 --> 01:29:00,910

1414
01:29:00,910 --> 01:29:04,060
And then I was
repatriated to France

1415
01:29:04,060 --> 01:29:06,910
because everybody went
where he was taken from.

1416
01:29:06,910 --> 01:29:13,580

1417
01:29:13,580 --> 01:29:16,740
Did you go back to Paris?

1418
01:29:16,740 --> 01:29:25,600
Yes, we went back to Paris on
the first stop, and there we--

1419
01:29:25,600 --> 01:29:28,070

and they welcomed us as heroes.

1420

01:29:28,070 --> 01:29:31,030

1421

01:29:31,030 --> 01:29:38,280

And we were quartered in
one of the luxury hotels.

1422

01:29:38,280 --> 01:29:39,280

I think it was the Ritz.

1423

01:29:39,280 --> 01:29:41,830

I don't know.

1424

01:29:41,830 --> 01:29:47,950

And we were given clothes,
and things to wear,

1425

01:29:47,950 --> 01:29:51,805

and my first haircut.

1426

01:29:51,805 --> 01:29:58,370

1427

01:29:58,370 --> 01:30:10,370

And after this died down,
I went back to nice,

1428

01:30:10,370 --> 01:30:14,613

and I reclaimed
my old apartment.

1429

01:30:14,613 --> 01:30:15,905

The books were gone, of course.

1430

01:30:15,905 --> 01:30:19,020

1431

01:30:19,020 --> 01:30:34,440

And I lived there for a year
before I came down with the--

1432
01:30:34,440 --> 01:30:37,380

1433
01:30:37,380 --> 01:30:40,080
well, the diagnosis
was water on the lungs.

1434
01:30:40,080 --> 01:30:46,050

1435
01:30:46,050 --> 01:30:59,560
I went to the hospital, and
they found that I had water.

1436
01:30:59,560 --> 01:31:00,220
I don't know.

1437
01:31:00,220 --> 01:31:04,240
They took one of those big,
gigantic syringes, those horse

1438
01:31:04,240 --> 01:31:10,060
syringe, a big needle,
a heavy gauge needle.

1439
01:31:10,060 --> 01:31:13,270
And the doctor felt
me between the ribs

1440
01:31:13,270 --> 01:31:20,290
and just jabbed that thing into
the lungs and pulled out water,

1441
01:31:20,290 --> 01:31:23,680
pulled the water
out of my lungs.

1442
01:31:23,680 --> 01:31:28,550
And thank God the
water was clear,

1443

01:31:28,550 --> 01:31:32,450
so there was no evidence
of tuberculosis.

1444
01:31:32,450 --> 01:31:35,190

1445
01:31:35,190 --> 01:31:40,020
But they put me into a ward
together with tubercular

1446
01:31:40,020 --> 01:31:50,700
patients, so in order to prevent
me from catching tuberculosis,

1447
01:31:50,700 --> 01:31:57,660
they injected me with an
aspirin solution, a sugar

1448
01:31:57,660 --> 01:32:02,020
solution of aspirin,
500 milligrams a day,

1449
01:32:02,020 --> 01:32:04,320
three times a day.

1450
01:32:04,320 --> 01:32:07,110
They reduced it to
200 twice a day,

1451
01:32:07,110 --> 01:32:16,080
and then I came out of it,
no evidence of tuberculosis.

1452
01:32:16,080 --> 01:32:18,880
And, well, here I am.

1453
01:32:18,880 --> 01:32:21,900
When did you emigrate to the US?

1454
01:32:21,900 --> 01:32:27,830
In 1947.

1455

01:32:27,830 --> 01:32:33,770

As a matter of fact,
it was May 4, 1947,

1456

01:32:33,770 --> 01:32:45,870

and I landed at LaGuardia on
a regular immigration visa.

1457

01:32:45,870 --> 01:32:47,730

My uncle furnished
the affidavit.

1458

01:32:47,730 --> 01:32:53,830

1459

01:32:53,830 --> 01:32:55,720

Can we just--

1460

01:32:55,720 --> 01:33:02,260

I'd like to-- you told me your
father's birth date and birth

1461

01:33:02,260 --> 01:33:06,310

place already, and he
had a university degree,

1462

01:33:06,310 --> 01:33:12,010

and his background.

1463

01:33:12,010 --> 01:33:15,100

Do you know what your
step-mother's birth date was?

1464

01:33:15,100 --> 01:33:21,992

1465

01:33:21,992 --> 01:33:22,700

Approximate year?

1466

01:33:22,700 --> 01:33:25,340

No, but I could find.

1467

01:33:25,340 --> 01:33:28,270

I can find out.

1468

01:33:28,270 --> 01:33:31,000