

1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:01:04,640

2  
00:01:04,640 --> 00:01:06,320  
I want to backtrack  
for a moment.

3  
00:01:06,320 --> 00:01:09,400  
Prior to your going  
to Berlin, do you

4  
00:01:09,400 --> 00:01:12,850  
remember any conversation,  
any newspaper articles,

5  
00:01:12,850 --> 00:01:17,650  
any talk of America  
boycotting the Olympics

6  
00:01:17,650 --> 00:01:21,510  
because of what was going  
on already in Germany?

7  
00:01:21,510 --> 00:01:26,220  
At the time we were competing  
in the regional finals and then

8  
00:01:26,220 --> 00:01:29,400  
the finals at Randall's Island.

9  
00:01:29,400 --> 00:01:33,180  
The talk was so  
slight that I truly

10  
00:01:33,180 --> 00:01:39,060  
was not aware of the possibility  
of a boycott of the 1936 Games.

11  
00:01:39,060 --> 00:01:42,330  
It had very little play  
in the press if any.

12

00:01:42,330 --> 00:01:45,360

I don't remember seeing  
it in the newspapers

13

00:01:45,360 --> 00:01:47,850

or hearing it on the radio.

14

00:01:47,850 --> 00:01:52,200

As a matter of actual fact,  
no Jewish organization,

15

00:01:52,200 --> 00:01:58,140

like B'nai B'rith or ADL or  
the American Jewish Congress,

16

00:01:58,140 --> 00:02:02,490

if there was an AJC,  
no Jewish organization

17

00:02:02,490 --> 00:02:08,610

nor any individual ever  
said to me, Marty, don't go.

18

00:02:08,610 --> 00:02:12,480

There was no talk,  
general talk of boycott.

19

00:02:12,480 --> 00:02:14,820

I know now that there  
was a vote taken

20

00:02:14,820 --> 00:02:17,280

involving the AAU,  
the Amateur Athletic

21

00:02:17,280 --> 00:02:19,920

Union, and the American  
Olympic Committee,

22

00:02:19,920 --> 00:02:23,550

and that they voted to go.

23

00:02:23,550 --> 00:02:27,120  
But there was no such  
publicity or promotion

24  
00:02:27,120 --> 00:02:31,170  
such as existed in 1980, when  
the President of the United

25  
00:02:31,170 --> 00:02:35,640  
States, Jimmy Carter, strongly  
recommended that we don't

26  
00:02:35,640 --> 00:02:38,120  
participate in the 1980 games.

27  
00:02:38,120 --> 00:02:43,980  
There was no such popular  
movement at that time in 1936.

28  
00:02:43,980 --> 00:02:46,260  
And you weren't  
aware that there were

29  
00:02:46,260 --> 00:02:48,760  
athletes who had decided  
not to go on their own.

30  
00:02:48,760 --> 00:02:52,740  
I was not aware of any  
athletes who decided not to go.

31  
00:02:52,740 --> 00:02:58,200  
I know now that athletes  
say they decided not to go.

32  
00:02:58,200 --> 00:03:01,890  
There was a fine sprinter whom  
I never met, never ran against,

33  
00:03:01,890 --> 00:03:04,710  
a fellow named Herman  
Neugass of Tulane,

34

00:03:04,710 --> 00:03:08,290  
who determined that he was not  
going to try out for the team.

35  
00:03:08,290 --> 00:03:08,850  
He didn't go.

36  
00:03:08,850 --> 00:03:10,480  
He didn't try out for the team.

37  
00:03:10,480 --> 00:03:13,990  
But I knew that in later years.

38  
00:03:13,990 --> 00:03:16,410  
So this was just not an issue.

39  
00:03:16,410 --> 00:03:19,350  
The fact of going  
or not going was not

40  
00:03:19,350 --> 00:03:22,020  
an issue, not as far  
as I was concerned,

41  
00:03:22,020 --> 00:03:29,260  
nor in terms of the public  
press or the populace generally.

42  
00:03:29,260 --> 00:03:32,660  
We didn't think in  
terms of not going.

43  
00:03:32,660 --> 00:03:36,880  
I want you tell me  
about the trip over,

44  
00:03:36,880 --> 00:03:41,170  
the anticipation, what it  
was like being on the boat.

45  
00:03:41,170 --> 00:03:43,120  
Being on the boat was fun.

46

00:03:43,120 --> 00:03:46,780

Being on the boat was a brand new experience, particularly

47

00:03:46,780 --> 00:03:51,400

for a kid from Brooklyn, or any of us who'd never been abroad.

48

00:03:51,400 --> 00:03:55,000

I'd been no farther North than Boston.

49

00:03:55,000 --> 00:03:57,370

I'd been no farther South than Philadelphia.

50

00:03:57,370 --> 00:04:01,150

And here I was, an 18-year-old kid from Brooklyn,

51

00:04:01,150 --> 00:04:03,070

heading for Europe.

52

00:04:03,070 --> 00:04:07,000

It had been a name, a place my parents came from,

53

00:04:07,000 --> 00:04:10,630

going to Germany and visiting other countries as well.

54

00:04:10,630 --> 00:04:15,070

Our first stop, for example, was in Ireland with a ship,

55

00:04:15,070 --> 00:04:17,350

just stopping there and seeing it in the distance,

56

00:04:17,350 --> 00:04:19,390

and how beautifully green it was.

57

00:04:19,390 --> 00:04:22,120

We stopped in England  
momentarily at Plymouth.

58

00:04:22,120 --> 00:04:26,980

And I couldn't see the Plymouth  
Rock or anything like that,

59

00:04:26,980 --> 00:04:28,450

but it was Plymouth, England.

60

00:04:28,450 --> 00:04:33,640

And then we went across to  
Germany, landed in Hamburg.

61

00:04:33,640 --> 00:04:37,690

And from Hamburg, took the train  
down into the heart of Berlin,

62

00:04:37,690 --> 00:04:39,820

to the huge Bahnhof in Berlin.

63

00:04:39,820 --> 00:04:41,260

What was going on on that boat?

64

00:04:41,260 --> 00:04:42,130

What was the mood?

65

00:04:42,130 --> 00:04:46,130

People were, I assume,  
fairly excited.

66

00:04:46,130 --> 00:04:49,010

All of us were pleased  
at having made the team.

67

00:04:49,010 --> 00:04:51,440

And the boat was wide open.

68

00:04:51,440 --> 00:04:55,190

In those days, a huge  
ship like the Manhattan

69

00:04:55,190 --> 00:04:58,280  
had different classes,  
first class, second class,

70

00:04:58,280 --> 00:05:01,250  
cabin class, or  
whatever, steerage even.

71

00:05:01,250 --> 00:05:02,840  
But we had the run of the boat.

72

00:05:02,840 --> 00:05:08,690  
And we ate in what amounted to  
the second class dining room.

73

00:05:08,690 --> 00:05:11,850  
We were not in the top  
categories of dining room.

74

00:05:11,850 --> 00:05:15,720  
We had huge menus  
to choose from.

75

00:05:15,720 --> 00:05:18,260  
We were not given  
training table food.

76

00:05:18,260 --> 00:05:21,100  
We selected our own foods.

77

00:05:21,100 --> 00:05:24,440  
There was a fellow  
on the team named

78

00:05:24,440 --> 00:05:31,010  
Tarzan Brown, a Narragansett  
Indian from Maine who'd never

79

00:05:31,010 --> 00:05:33,920  
seen a menu like this before.

80

00:05:33,920 --> 00:05:36,290

And Tarzan was a  
marathon runner.

81

00:05:36,290 --> 00:05:39,260

He weighed perhaps 130 pounds--

82

00:05:39,260 --> 00:05:42,140

A great marathon runner, he'd  
won the Boston Marathon--

83

00:05:42,140 --> 00:05:43,640

on the team.

84

00:05:43,640 --> 00:05:46,370

And we had this huge menu.

85

00:05:46,370 --> 00:05:51,170

And every meal, every day,  
he ate the menu from top

86

00:05:51,170 --> 00:05:52,220

to bottom.

87

00:05:52,220 --> 00:05:56,240

I mean, six out appetizers,  
and two or three soups,

88

00:05:56,240 --> 00:05:58,490

and four main courses.

89

00:05:58,490 --> 00:06:00,920

In those six days,  
on the ship, he

90

00:06:00,920 --> 00:06:04,280

might have put on  
between 10 and 11 pounds.

91

00:06:04,280 --> 00:06:06,170

He ran the first  
mile of the marathon,



92

00:06:06,170 --> 00:06:11,120

and then he sat by the  
wayside and gave it all up.

93

00:06:11,120 --> 00:06:13,700

How were you spending  
your time on the boat?

94

00:06:13,700 --> 00:06:19,220

We spend our time on the  
boat talking, working out,

95

00:06:19,220 --> 00:06:23,150

calisthenics mostly, jogging  
up and down on some of the very

96

00:06:23,150 --> 00:06:26,590

short straightaways on deck.

97

00:06:26,590 --> 00:06:29,270

There was no facility  
to really work out

98

00:06:29,270 --> 00:06:32,900

the way we would ordinarily on  
a cinder track or a clay track,

99

00:06:32,900 --> 00:06:35,510

certainly no quarter  
mile track aboard ship.

100

00:06:35,510 --> 00:06:40,190

But we stretched, we jogged,  
we walked, we did exercises,

101

00:06:40,190 --> 00:06:42,800

and we talked, and we read.

102

00:06:42,800 --> 00:06:48,650

And generally it was a group  
of guys having a good time

103

00:06:48,650 --> 00:06:49,500  
together.

104  
00:06:49,500 --> 00:06:51,680  
There were women on  
the team as well,

105  
00:06:51,680 --> 00:06:55,670  
but I guess I was not  
involved nor interested in any

106  
00:06:55,670 --> 00:06:56,540  
of the women.

107  
00:06:56,540 --> 00:07:00,170  
I had a girlfriend who  
later became my wife.

108  
00:07:00,170 --> 00:07:03,020  
Was there any  
special camaraderie

109  
00:07:03,020 --> 00:07:05,990  
amongst the few Jewish  
athletes on the boat?

110  
00:07:05,990 --> 00:07:09,470  
There was no special camaraderie  
amongst the Jewish athletes,

111  
00:07:09,470 --> 00:07:13,190  
except a warm friendship that  
I developed with a baseball

112  
00:07:13,190 --> 00:07:16,760  
player Herman Goldberg, who  
was a catcher on the exhibition

113  
00:07:16,760 --> 00:07:17,870  
baseball team.

114  
00:07:17,870 --> 00:07:20,930  
There was no international

baseball competition.

115  
00:07:20,930 --> 00:07:23,420  
America was practically the  
only place where baseball

116  
00:07:23,420 --> 00:07:25,380  
was played in those days.

117  
00:07:25,380 --> 00:07:28,490  
So it was a demonstration,  
an exhibition team,

118  
00:07:28,490 --> 00:07:31,310  
and he was on the team,  
and on the Olympic team,

119  
00:07:31,310 --> 00:07:33,620  
Herman was, a  
catcher on the team.

120  
00:07:33,620 --> 00:07:35,540  
We hit it off very nicely.

121  
00:07:35,540 --> 00:07:39,860  
But usually with the athletes  
from the different sports,

122  
00:07:39,860 --> 00:07:44,510  
the track athletes stayed  
together, the gymnasts

123  
00:07:44,510 --> 00:07:46,760  
were together, the  
swimmers were together.

124  
00:07:46,760 --> 00:07:49,040  
Not that we didn't  
fraternize with each other,

125  
00:07:49,040 --> 00:07:51,360  
but we had much more in  
common with each other.

126  
00:07:51,360 --> 00:07:54,740  
And so we were buddies  
amongst our own teammates

127  
00:07:54,740 --> 00:07:56,272  
within the Olympic team.

128  
00:07:56,272 --> 00:07:58,730  
And when you say you talked a  
lot, what did you talk about?

129  
00:07:58,730 --> 00:08:02,510  
What it was going to be  
like in Berlin competing or?

130  
00:08:02,510 --> 00:08:07,220  
We didn't talk about what  
Europe was going to be like.

131  
00:08:07,220 --> 00:08:09,740  
We talked mostly about America.

132  
00:08:09,740 --> 00:08:13,160  
We talked about  
baseball and football

133  
00:08:13,160 --> 00:08:16,430  
and particularly  
about track and field.

134  
00:08:16,430 --> 00:08:17,360  
We told stories.

135  
00:08:17,360 --> 00:08:19,010  
We swapped yarns.

136  
00:08:19,010 --> 00:08:22,910  
We were-- how can  
I say it best--

137  
00:08:22,910 --> 00:08:25,820

a bunch of guys who  
enjoyed each other.

138  
00:08:25,820 --> 00:08:28,400  
We had enormous  
respect for each other.

139  
00:08:28,400 --> 00:08:31,040  
And I, as one of the  
younger fellows on the team,

140  
00:08:31,040 --> 00:08:33,590  
looked up to some of the  
older men, who were not

141  
00:08:33,590 --> 00:08:36,929  
only older but bigger  
and stronger than I.

142  
00:08:36,929 --> 00:08:40,429  
And it was just a  
very pleasant time,

143  
00:08:40,429 --> 00:08:43,860  
a group of young men  
being with each other,

144  
00:08:43,860 --> 00:08:50,270  
enjoying the sea voyage,  
enjoying each other's company.

145  
00:08:50,270 --> 00:08:52,550  
Did you think about  
the fact that you

146  
00:08:52,550 --> 00:08:55,370  
were representing the United  
States in the Olympics?

147  
00:08:55,370 --> 00:08:58,760

148  
00:08:58,760 --> 00:09:02,200

It's rather unusual  
for me or any athlete

149  
00:09:02,200 --> 00:09:06,070  
to say that we  
represented America.

150  
00:09:06,070 --> 00:09:10,720  
I didn't feel as though  
I represented the USA.

151  
00:09:10,720 --> 00:09:12,550  
I represented me.

152  
00:09:12,550 --> 00:09:16,180  
I was glad I was on the team.

153  
00:09:16,180 --> 00:09:18,190  
It was a goal I had sought.

154  
00:09:18,190 --> 00:09:21,910  
It was an achievement for me.

155  
00:09:21,910 --> 00:09:23,380  
It was an individual thing.

156  
00:09:23,380 --> 00:09:27,220  
After all, the Olympic  
games, in theory,

157  
00:09:27,220 --> 00:09:33,370  
and I strongly believe this,  
are for the individual,

158  
00:09:33,370 --> 00:09:35,890  
for the excellence  
of the individual.

159  
00:09:35,890 --> 00:09:39,490  
And theoretically, though  
we wear national uniforms,

160

00:09:39,490 --> 00:09:41,800  
we don't represent the  
different countries

161  
00:09:41,800 --> 00:09:43,750  
whose uniforms we wear.

162  
00:09:43,750 --> 00:09:47,470  
We represent athletics,  
we represent sports--

163  
00:09:47,470 --> 00:09:51,650  
we compete in sports  
for sports' sake.

164  
00:09:51,650 --> 00:09:55,370  
The competition  
is all important.

165  
00:09:55,370 --> 00:09:57,760  
Winning is not important.

166  
00:09:57,760 --> 00:10:01,850  
Baron de Coubertin, who founded  
the modern Olympic games,

167  
00:10:01,850 --> 00:10:04,280  
insisted, has been  
quoted many times

168  
00:10:04,280 --> 00:10:08,120  
as saying, winning is not the  
goal of the Olympic games,

169  
00:10:08,120 --> 00:10:12,440  
taking part, participating, is  
what the Olympic games are all

170  
00:10:12,440 --> 00:10:13,440  
about.

171  
00:10:13,440 --> 00:10:16,250  
So it wasn't as though

we were going there

172  
00:10:16,250 --> 00:10:19,280  
to win for the United States.

173  
00:10:19,280 --> 00:10:21,080  
That was a thought  
that was perhaps

174  
00:10:21,080 --> 00:10:22,590  
in the back of our minds.

175  
00:10:22,590 --> 00:10:24,590  
It was not a conscious thought.

176  
00:10:24,590 --> 00:10:29,360  
We were going there as athletes,  
not necessarily as Americans.

177  
00:10:29,360 --> 00:10:33,590  
I was going there as a Jewish  
American athlete, but as

178  
00:10:33,590 --> 00:10:35,480  
an athlete basically.

179  
00:10:35,480 --> 00:10:39,945  
A Jew, an American,  
and an athlete.

180  
00:10:39,945 --> 00:10:41,320  
What's the reality  
of what you're

181  
00:10:41,320 --> 00:10:45,370  
saying, that there  
are, theoretically,

182  
00:10:45,370 --> 00:10:48,400  
no national lines-- there are  
no politics in the Olympics.

183



00:10:48,400 --> 00:10:52,460  
I mean, that certainly  
isn't my perception.

184  
00:10:52,460 --> 00:10:55,550  
People say that there are  
politics in the Olympic games.

185  
00:10:55,550 --> 00:10:57,380  
I say hogwash.

186  
00:10:57,380 --> 00:10:59,790  
I say nonsense.

187  
00:10:59,790 --> 00:11:02,160  
Where does politics  
fit in When you

188  
00:11:02,160 --> 00:11:06,780  
run 100 meters or 1,500  
meters or put the shot

189  
00:11:06,780 --> 00:11:09,030  
or even played basketball  
against each other?

190  
00:11:09,030 --> 00:11:11,440  
What politics are involved?

191  
00:11:11,440 --> 00:11:13,620  
The first man across  
the finish line

192  
00:11:13,620 --> 00:11:17,310  
wins, no matter what the race.

193  
00:11:17,310 --> 00:11:21,690  
The man who puts the shot a  
longer distance than any other

194  
00:11:21,690 --> 00:11:24,840  
is the gold medal winner,  
or spins the discus,

195  
00:11:24,840 --> 00:11:27,630  
or throws the javelin,  
or whatever the event.

196  
00:11:27,630 --> 00:11:30,810  
There are no politics  
amongst the athletes.

197  
00:11:30,810 --> 00:11:34,530  
You talk about politics  
amongst the nations, certainly.

198  
00:11:34,530 --> 00:11:37,590  
But not as far as the  
Olympic games are concerned.

199  
00:11:37,590 --> 00:11:41,130  
They don't exist  
politics are not involved

200  
00:11:41,130 --> 00:11:45,400  
in terms of winning and losing.

201  
00:11:45,400 --> 00:11:46,910  
[NON-ENGLISH SPEECH] right?

202  
00:11:46,910 --> 00:11:50,470

203  
00:11:50,470 --> 00:11:57,450  
Well, clearly nations have  
used those gold medals

204  
00:11:57,450 --> 00:11:58,650  
in a political framework.

205  
00:11:58,650 --> 00:11:59,970  
I don't believe that at all.

206  
00:11:59,970 --> 00:12:05,340  
I don't believe that

having medal winners

207  
00:12:05,340 --> 00:12:07,950  
for a particular  
country means anything

208  
00:12:07,950 --> 00:12:10,950  
to that country in  
terms of anything

209  
00:12:10,950 --> 00:12:13,290  
important, anything solid.

210  
00:12:13,290 --> 00:12:17,400  
After all, the East Germans  
were terrific, as long

211  
00:12:17,400 --> 00:12:20,070  
as East Germany  
insisted, and they

212  
00:12:20,070 --> 00:12:24,930  
sought and worked hard to  
develop great Olympic athletes.

213  
00:12:24,930 --> 00:12:28,830  
And the Soviet Union won  
many, many medals, dominated

214  
00:12:28,830 --> 00:12:30,690  
a couple of Olympic Games.

215  
00:12:30,690 --> 00:12:35,160  
And certainly the  
Italians to some extent

216  
00:12:35,160 --> 00:12:39,780  
won many Olympic events, as  
well as other fascist countries

217  
00:12:39,780 --> 00:12:43,350  
doing well and centered their  
interest in the Olympic games.

218  
00:12:43,350 --> 00:12:46,440  
And where is the  
Soviet Union today?

219  
00:12:46,440 --> 00:12:48,870  
Where are the East  
Germans today?

220  
00:12:48,870 --> 00:12:51,240  
Where is Nazi Germany today?

221  
00:12:51,240 --> 00:12:53,110  
They just don't exist anymore.

222  
00:12:53,110 --> 00:12:56,100  
And Nazi Germany won  
more medals in the '36

223  
00:12:56,100 --> 00:13:00,120  
games than the United  
States did, 33 to 26.

224  
00:13:00,120 --> 00:13:02,730  
Although they won  
medals for dressage,

225  
00:13:02,730 --> 00:13:05,760  
and for pistol shooting, and  
rifle shooting, and things

226  
00:13:05,760 --> 00:13:08,440  
like that.

227  
00:13:08,440 --> 00:13:11,070  
I don't see the importance  
of international athletics

228  
00:13:11,070 --> 00:13:13,230  
in terms of politics at all.

229  
00:13:13,230 --> 00:13:15,700

They say that the  
governments use it,

230  
00:13:15,700 --> 00:13:18,750  
but even the successful  
Olympic teams

231  
00:13:18,750 --> 00:13:22,920  
like Germany, and East  
Germany, and the Soviet Union,

232  
00:13:22,920 --> 00:13:24,090  
where are they?

233  
00:13:24,090 --> 00:13:26,490  
What good did it do them?

234  
00:13:26,490 --> 00:13:30,030  
Well, except-- and I don't  
necessarily need to belabor

235  
00:13:30,030 --> 00:13:30,750  
this--

236  
00:13:30,750 --> 00:13:38,130  
for that in 1936  
Germany's success

237  
00:13:38,130 --> 00:13:40,500  
is not only in  
presenting the Olympics

238  
00:13:40,500 --> 00:13:42,720  
but in also winning  
a lot of medals

239  
00:13:42,720 --> 00:13:45,540  
may have been an encouragement,  
may have spurred them

240  
00:13:45,540 --> 00:13:51,880  
on in ways at that time.

241

00:13:51,880 --> 00:13:56,920

Many people say that  
the '36 Olympic games

242

00:13:56,920 --> 00:14:01,090

were the Nazi Olympics or  
Hitler's Olympic Games.

243

00:14:01,090 --> 00:14:05,200

I say they were Jesse  
Owens's Olympic games.

244

00:14:05,200 --> 00:14:11,800

The myth of Nazi Aryan supremacy  
was smashed to smithereens

245

00:14:11,800 --> 00:14:15,880

by the great non-Aryan  
athletes, black athletes,

246

00:14:15,880 --> 00:14:19,930

wonderful black athletes, won  
the 100, the 200, the 400,

247

00:14:19,930 --> 00:14:23,920

the 800, the long  
jump, the high jump,

248

00:14:23,920 --> 00:14:26,710

medalled in many  
other events as well.

249

00:14:26,710 --> 00:14:30,730

It was the Olympic Games  
of Jesse Owens, not of

250

00:14:30,730 --> 00:14:32,110

Adolf Hitler.

251

00:14:32,110 --> 00:14:36,280

Jesse was idolized by  
the German population.

252

00:14:36,280 --> 00:14:38,140

He couldn't walk  
into the stadium

253

00:14:38,140 --> 00:14:41,350

using the regular players'  
entrance into the stadium.

254

00:14:41,350 --> 00:14:43,960

He had to be secreted  
into the stadium.

255

00:14:43,960 --> 00:14:46,570

He had to use a secret  
entrance to get in.

256

00:14:46,570 --> 00:14:53,080

Otherwise he'd been mobbed by  
the idolizing German population

257

00:14:53,080 --> 00:14:56,800

or whoever the spectators were--  
and they were mostly Germans--

258

00:14:56,800 --> 00:14:59,350

in the 120,000 seat stadium.

259

00:14:59,350 --> 00:15:02,590

It was Jesse Owens's Olympics  
as far as I was concerned

260

00:15:02,590 --> 00:15:04,810

and I think as far as  
the world was concerned.

261

00:15:04,810 --> 00:15:08,920

And it certainly proved  
that this Aryan business

262

00:15:08,920 --> 00:15:11,920

of supremacy was ridiculous.

263

00:15:11,920 --> 00:15:14,950  
These were non-Aryans winning  
the most important events.

264  
00:15:14,950 --> 00:15:18,610

265  
00:15:18,610 --> 00:15:22,730  
Let's go back to your story now.

266  
00:15:22,730 --> 00:15:26,200  
So you had this  
terrific boat ride over.

267  
00:15:26,200 --> 00:15:31,380  
And tell me about your  
arrival, and getting

268  
00:15:31,380 --> 00:15:33,520  
to Berlin, and all of that.

269  
00:15:33,520 --> 00:15:37,180  
We arrived at the Bahnhof  
in Berlin at midday,

270  
00:15:37,180 --> 00:15:38,495  
and a huge crowd was there--

271  
00:15:38,495 --> 00:15:39,370  
Let me just stop you.

272  
00:15:39,370 --> 00:15:42,070  
You arrived on the  
boat in Hamburg, yes?

273  
00:15:42,070 --> 00:15:42,760  
Yes.

274  
00:15:42,760 --> 00:15:44,590  
Was there anybody  
there to greet you?

275



00:15:44,590 --> 00:15:45,830  
We went right to the train.

276  
00:15:45,830 --> 00:15:46,330  
OK.

277  
00:15:46,330 --> 00:15:50,270

278  
00:15:50,270 --> 00:15:51,560  
Nothing happened [INAUDIBLE].

279  
00:15:51,560 --> 00:15:54,870  
All right.

280  
00:15:54,870 --> 00:15:56,730  
There was a huge  
crowd waiting for us

281  
00:15:56,730 --> 00:16:00,780  
at the Bahnhof in Berlin,  
this huge railroad station.

282  
00:16:00,780 --> 00:16:05,430  
Newspapermen, camera people with  
the newsreels, photographers,

283  
00:16:05,430 --> 00:16:09,960  
fans, officials of all sorts,  
uniforms of all sorts--

284  
00:16:09,960 --> 00:16:13,140  
huge crowd waiting on the  
platform when we arrived.

285  
00:16:13,140 --> 00:16:17,220  
And as we got off the train and  
milled about on the platform,

286  
00:16:17,220 --> 00:16:19,320  
I felt a tap on my shoulder.

287

00:16:19,320 --> 00:16:21,630  
And I turned and saw  
a smallish looking

288  
00:16:21,630 --> 00:16:25,200  
young man in his mid-20s,  
obviously an American

289  
00:16:25,200 --> 00:16:27,870  
as soon as he talked to  
me, and he said to me,

290  
00:16:27,870 --> 00:16:29,070  
are you Marty Glickman?

291  
00:16:29,070 --> 00:16:29,910  
I said, yes.

292  
00:16:29,910 --> 00:16:31,650  
He said, you're  
Jewish, aren't you?

293  
00:16:31,650 --> 00:16:34,860  
I said, yes, I am,  
slightly taken aback.

294  
00:16:34,860 --> 00:16:37,770  
I said, why do you ask?

295  
00:16:37,770 --> 00:16:39,420  
He said, well I'm Jewish also.

296  
00:16:39,420 --> 00:16:41,010  
I said, you're Jewish?

297  
00:16:41,010 --> 00:16:42,540  
What are you doing here?

298  
00:16:42,540 --> 00:16:45,610  
He says, I'm going to med  
school here in Berlin.

299

00:16:45,610 --> 00:16:48,510  
I said, you're going to  
med school here in Germany?

300  
00:16:48,510 --> 00:16:49,740  
He said, yes.

301  
00:16:49,740 --> 00:16:52,800  
I couldn't get into an  
American med school.

302  
00:16:52,800 --> 00:16:56,670  
So the feeling I had of  
Berlin being very much

303  
00:16:56,670 --> 00:17:00,060  
like New York in  
it's antisemitism

304  
00:17:00,060 --> 00:17:05,849  
or its lack of antisemitism was  
similar to New York and Berlin.

305  
00:17:05,849 --> 00:17:09,270  
It was the same sort of  
city, I thought, particularly

306  
00:17:09,270 --> 00:17:12,480  
as a result of this conversation  
with this young man going

307  
00:17:12,480 --> 00:17:13,210  
to med school.

308  
00:17:13,210 --> 00:17:17,720  
What did he tell you about the  
political climate in Germany

309  
00:17:17,720 --> 00:17:18,829  
as a Jew?

310  
00:17:18,829 --> 00:17:21,740  
I asked him, what was

it like for you as a Jew

311  
00:17:21,740 --> 00:17:22,500  
here in Germany?

312  
00:17:22,500 --> 00:17:26,359  
He says, well, in Berlin,  
I go practically unnoticed.

313  
00:17:26,359 --> 00:17:28,820  
Nobody knows that I'm Jewish.

314  
00:17:28,820 --> 00:17:30,980  
I'm going to med school here.

315  
00:17:30,980 --> 00:17:36,050  
In the shtetls, in the  
smaller cities around Germany,

316  
00:17:36,050 --> 00:17:37,370  
there are problems.

317  
00:17:37,370 --> 00:17:38,900  
But now, during  
the Olympic Games

318  
00:17:38,900 --> 00:17:43,130  
and leading up to the Olympic  
Games, everything is quiet.

319  
00:17:43,130 --> 00:17:46,730  
Nothing seems to be going  
on in terms of antisemitism.

320  
00:17:46,730 --> 00:17:50,210  
And as far as my being here in  
Berlin, I'm just like anybody

321  
00:17:50,210 --> 00:17:51,110  
else here in Berlin.

322  
00:17:51,110 --> 00:17:53,660

I'm going to med school.

323

00:17:53,660 --> 00:17:56,750  
All of these people who greeted  
you at the train station

324

00:17:56,750 --> 00:17:59,000  
in Berlin, were they  
carrying swastikas?

325

00:17:59,000 --> 00:18:00,620  
Was there any of that?

326

00:18:00,620 --> 00:18:06,140  
There was a huge number  
of uniformed individuals.

327

00:18:06,140 --> 00:18:09,950  
I noticed, and we commented  
about it, my teammates and I,

328

00:18:09,950 --> 00:18:14,450  
about the fact that there seemed  
to be no men under the age

329

00:18:14,450 --> 00:18:16,700  
of approximately 35--

330

00:18:16,700 --> 00:18:20,750  
no young men-- who were not  
in one uniform or another.

331

00:18:20,750 --> 00:18:24,050  
They were wearing  
either gray, or green,

332

00:18:24,050 --> 00:18:27,020  
or brown in one  
uniform or another.

333

00:18:27,020 --> 00:18:30,890  
No young men in street  
clothes, in civilian attire,

334  
00:18:30,890 --> 00:18:33,200  
except those who  
are older than 35

335  
00:18:33,200 --> 00:18:37,430  
or obviously older than the  
age that we athletes were.

336  
00:18:37,430 --> 00:18:39,620  
Everyone seemed  
to be in uniform.

337  
00:18:39,620 --> 00:18:43,670  
As for banners and flags,  
they were all over the place

338  
00:18:43,670 --> 00:18:45,710  
and dominated by the swastika.

339  
00:18:45,710 --> 00:18:47,570  
The swastika was all over.

340  
00:18:47,570 --> 00:18:51,740  
On virtually every other banner  
we saw there was a swastika.

341  
00:18:51,740 --> 00:18:53,630  
But this was '36.

342  
00:18:53,630 --> 00:18:58,130  
This was before we really got  
to know what the swastika truly

343  
00:18:58,130 --> 00:18:59,000  
meant.

344  
00:18:59,000 --> 00:19:01,730  
This was two years  
before Kristallnacht.

345  
00:19:01,730 --> 00:19:04,760

This was three years before  
the outbreak of the war.

346  
00:19:04,760 --> 00:19:07,280  
It was five years  
before the United States

347  
00:19:07,280 --> 00:19:09,020  
was involved in the war.

348  
00:19:09,020 --> 00:19:12,290  
So the swastika and  
those German flags,

349  
00:19:12,290 --> 00:19:16,100  
the black and red and  
white of the German flags,

350  
00:19:16,100 --> 00:19:20,660  
didn't mean very much to us  
except as a form of decoration.

351  
00:19:20,660 --> 00:19:24,560  
And it wasn't sort of an  
unnerving amount of patriotism?

352  
00:19:24,560 --> 00:19:30,230

353  
00:19:30,230 --> 00:19:33,830  
I've never been asked about  
the patriotism exhibited

354  
00:19:33,830 --> 00:19:37,450  
by the Germans at that time.

355  
00:19:37,450 --> 00:19:43,820  
It was a natural thing to  
see all these German flags.

356  
00:19:43,820 --> 00:19:47,330  
But flags of other Nations  
were exhibited as well.

357  
00:19:47,330 --> 00:19:50,000  
They rimmed the stadium,  
they were on the streets--

358  
00:19:50,000 --> 00:19:54,030  
there were many  
flags, mostly German.

359  
00:19:54,030 --> 00:19:58,890  
Most of those German flags  
contained the swastika.

360  
00:19:58,890 --> 00:20:02,640  
There seemed to be no  
outward display of patriotism

361  
00:20:02,640 --> 00:20:07,020  
except when Hitler  
walked into the stadium.

362  
00:20:07,020 --> 00:20:10,800  
He would walk into his  
box overlooking the field,

363  
00:20:10,800 --> 00:20:16,590  
and I was perhaps 50 to 75  
feet away from Hitler's box,

364  
00:20:16,590 --> 00:20:20,280  
and he'd walk in, and  
the stands would rise,

365  
00:20:20,280 --> 00:20:25,890  
and you'd hear it in unison,  
sieg heil, sieg heil, all

366  
00:20:25,890 --> 00:20:29,070  
together-- this huge  
sound reverberating

367  
00:20:29,070 --> 00:20:30,360  
through the stadium.



368  
00:20:30,360 --> 00:20:33,720  
That was the patriotism,  
the German patriotism

369  
00:20:33,720 --> 00:20:38,190  
I saw, sieg heil with  
120,000 people shouting it--

370  
00:20:38,190 --> 00:20:40,680  
or most of the 120,000 people.

371  
00:20:40,680 --> 00:20:43,410  
But that same shout  
of sieg heil was

372  
00:20:43,410 --> 00:20:46,500  
matched by the sound  
of Jesse Owens's name.

373  
00:20:46,500 --> 00:20:49,710  
Every time Owens  
came on the track,

374  
00:20:49,710 --> 00:20:52,710  
and he was on frequently because  
he ran in four different races,

375  
00:20:52,710 --> 00:20:56,250  
and qualifying times, and  
qualifying races for all those

376  
00:20:56,250 --> 00:20:59,400  
races, every time Jesse  
appeared on the track,

377  
00:20:59,400 --> 00:21:03,240  
the crowd would yell,  
"oh-vens," "oh-vens."

378  
00:21:03,240 --> 00:21:06,090  
the W in German as  
pronounced as a V,

379

00:21:06,090 --> 00:21:08,940  
and they would shout, with  
the same amount of fervor

380

00:21:08,940 --> 00:21:14,190  
it seemed, for Jesse as  
they sounded for sieg heil--

381

00:21:14,190 --> 00:21:16,380  
"oh-vens," "oh-vens."

382

00:21:16,380 --> 00:21:20,310  
It was a remarkable thing to  
see this marvelous black athlete

383

00:21:20,310 --> 00:21:23,640  
saluted by 120,000 Germans.

384

00:21:23,640 --> 00:21:25,020  
That's a great story.

385

00:21:25,020 --> 00:21:29,340  
Though when Owens wasn't  
coming out of the field,

386

00:21:29,340 --> 00:21:33,630  
was there anything alarming  
about this sieg heil in unison,

387

00:21:33,630 --> 00:21:34,620  
120,000?

388

00:21:34,620 --> 00:21:36,870  
I don't know how many people  
are actually shouting it,

389

00:21:36,870 --> 00:21:41,010  
but what seemed like  
the entire stadium.

390

00:21:41,010 --> 00:21:43,770

I never felt as though there  
was anything alarming in terms

391  
00:21:43,770 --> 00:21:48,730  
of the sieg heil, a feeling  
of fear or anything like that.

392  
00:21:48,730 --> 00:21:52,410  
It was almost as  
though we in the States

393  
00:21:52,410 --> 00:21:58,260  
were singing the National  
anthem or stating the Pledge

394  
00:21:58,260 --> 00:22:00,300  
of Allegiance to our flag.

395  
00:22:00,300 --> 00:22:02,700  
It was fairly brief.

396  
00:22:02,700 --> 00:22:06,630  
Hitler would walk in with  
an entourage of Goring,

397  
00:22:06,630 --> 00:22:09,480  
and Goebbels, and Hesse,  
and Himmler, and Streicher,

398  
00:22:09,480 --> 00:22:13,590  
and take their seats in this  
box with Hitler in the middle,

399  
00:22:13,590 --> 00:22:15,750  
slightly forward of  
the rest of the group,

400  
00:22:15,750 --> 00:22:20,910  
and Goring with his resplendent,  
outlandish uniforms,

401  
00:22:20,910 --> 00:22:26,250  
wildly decorative, and

Goebbels that rat-like face,

402  
00:22:26,250 --> 00:22:27,360  
and the rest.

403  
00:22:27,360 --> 00:22:31,310  
Hesse with that very  
dark beard that he had.

404  
00:22:31,310 --> 00:22:32,970  
They sat there.

405  
00:22:32,970 --> 00:22:37,350  
And Hitler particularly  
was extremely nervous

406  
00:22:37,350 --> 00:22:39,360  
when German athletes ran.

407  
00:22:39,360 --> 00:22:42,300  
He'd sit in this seat  
and rub his thighs

408  
00:22:42,300 --> 00:22:45,930  
and move back and  
forth as I'm doing now.

409  
00:22:45,930 --> 00:22:51,660  
And he was obviously very  
much involved in the race.

410  
00:22:51,660 --> 00:22:57,270  
And I thought he was nervous  
for his own athletes.

411  
00:22:57,270 --> 00:23:00,480  
When other athletes competed,  
he just sat there quietly

412  
00:23:00,480 --> 00:23:01,950  
and observed.

413

00:23:01,950 --> 00:23:05,430  
He was thrilled,  
overjoyed, smiled,

414  
00:23:05,430 --> 00:23:08,640  
when German athletes went  
to the winning podium.

415  
00:23:08,640 --> 00:23:11,640  
When the black athletes  
went to the winning podium,

416  
00:23:11,640 --> 00:23:13,290  
Hitler was gone.

417  
00:23:13,290 --> 00:23:16,590  
As soon as a Black  
athlete won his gold medal

418  
00:23:16,590 --> 00:23:19,050  
and was going to the  
podium to receive it,

419  
00:23:19,050 --> 00:23:20,370  
the box would empty out.

420  
00:23:20,370 --> 00:23:23,220  
Hitler's box would empty  
out, they'd all be gone,

421  
00:23:23,220 --> 00:23:26,190  
and they would not pay homage  
to the great black athletes who

422  
00:23:26,190 --> 00:23:26,790  
were there.

423  
00:23:26,790 --> 00:23:28,890  
They stayed for  
the white athletes,

424  
00:23:28,890 --> 00:23:31,670  
but they left for

the black athletes.

425

00:23:31,670 --> 00:23:35,253

I'm going to fix your Band-Aid.

426

00:23:35,253 --> 00:23:36,522

[INAUDIBLE]

427

00:23:36,522 --> 00:23:38,450

Marty, your tie--

428

00:23:38,450 --> 00:23:39,390

Oh, it's coming--

429

00:23:39,390 --> 00:23:42,228

Thank you.

430

00:23:42,228 --> 00:23:43,328

Are we rolling?

431

00:23:43,328 --> 00:23:44,120

We're back rolling.

432

00:23:44,120 --> 00:23:44,620

OK.

433

00:23:44,620 --> 00:23:48,390

434

00:23:48,390 --> 00:23:48,890

OK.

435

00:23:48,890 --> 00:23:50,640

Now I want to know a  
little bit about what

436

00:23:50,640 --> 00:23:56,460

it was like being in Germany,  
the Olympic Village what

437

00:23:56,460 --> 00:23:58,350

that was like.

438

00:23:58,350 --> 00:24:03,600

Did you take little side trips  
into town or into other areas

439

00:24:03,600 --> 00:24:05,193

as a tourist?

440

00:24:05,193 --> 00:24:07,110

If you can tell me a  
little bit about the mood

441

00:24:07,110 --> 00:24:11,040

before the Olympics.

442

00:24:11,040 --> 00:24:14,190

The event I was supposed to  
run, the 400 meter relay,

443

00:24:14,190 --> 00:24:18,570

was one of the last events on  
the track and field program.

444

00:24:18,570 --> 00:24:21,030

The trials came on  
the penultimate day,

445

00:24:21,030 --> 00:24:24,060

and the final day of the  
games for track and field

446

00:24:24,060 --> 00:24:26,280

was the final of  
the 400 meter run.

447

00:24:26,280 --> 00:24:29,580

So I had plenty of time, and  
so did the other athletes,

448

00:24:29,580 --> 00:24:32,640

except for fellows like  
Jesse Owens and one

449

00:24:32,640 --> 00:24:35,460  
or two others who competed  
in several events.

450

00:24:35,460 --> 00:24:39,690  
I had plenty of time to go into  
Berlin during the morning hours

451

00:24:39,690 --> 00:24:42,450  
usually or late in the  
afternoon, after the afternoon

452

00:24:42,450 --> 00:24:43,870  
events took place.

453

00:24:43,870 --> 00:24:47,110  
And I had my freedom  
throughout Berlin.

454

00:24:47,110 --> 00:24:49,320  
I could hitch a  
ride if I chose to,

455

00:24:49,320 --> 00:24:52,110  
get aboard a bus or a  
trolley, or whatever,

456

00:24:52,110 --> 00:24:54,700  
because I was wearing  
an Olympic uniform.

457

00:24:54,700 --> 00:24:57,690  
And I had Olympic identification  
of all sorts on me.

458

00:24:57,690 --> 00:25:00,130  
And it was beautiful.

459

00:25:00,130 --> 00:25:01,080  
It was lovely.

460



00:25:01,080 --> 00:25:04,546  
I walked along Unter den Linden.

461  
00:25:04,546 --> 00:25:06,570  
I thought that  
Under den Linden--

462  
00:25:06,570 --> 00:25:10,440  
later I went to Paris and walked  
along the Champs-Élysées--

463  
00:25:10,440 --> 00:25:13,770  
I believed then that the  
Champs-Élysées was not

464  
00:25:13,770 --> 00:25:16,680  
as attractive as Unter  
den Linden in Berlin.

465  
00:25:16,680 --> 00:25:19,590  
But that was my own  
personal feeling about it.

466  
00:25:19,590 --> 00:25:22,560  
The Olympic Village  
was a beautiful campus

467  
00:25:22,560 --> 00:25:26,340  
of bungalows and  
low-lying houses

468  
00:25:26,340 --> 00:25:30,870  
which housed the various  
teams of the Olympic Games.

469  
00:25:30,870 --> 00:25:34,530  
And it was like  
a college campus.

470  
00:25:34,530 --> 00:25:39,480  
Slightly rolling low hills and  
dotted with these bungalows

471

00:25:39,480 --> 00:25:41,100  
and different buildings there.

472  
00:25:41,100 --> 00:25:42,270  
There was a practice track.

473  
00:25:42,270 --> 00:25:45,570  
There was a swimming area,  
an indoor Natatorium.

474  
00:25:45,570 --> 00:25:49,020  
And we worked out at  
the practice track.

475  
00:25:49,020 --> 00:25:51,990  
The single most important  
thing I got from the Games

476  
00:25:51,990 --> 00:25:55,890  
was the fact that the  
other athletes of the world

477  
00:25:55,890 --> 00:25:59,670  
were just like me, and  
I was just like they.

478  
00:25:59,670 --> 00:26:02,730  
I worked out with  
Hungarian athletes,

479  
00:26:02,730 --> 00:26:06,330  
and Romanian athletes,  
and British athletes,

480  
00:26:06,330 --> 00:26:08,370  
French, Japanese athletes.

481  
00:26:08,370 --> 00:26:11,880  
We had many things in  
common, the things involving

482  
00:26:11,880 --> 00:26:13,590  
our sports.

483  
00:26:13,590 --> 00:26:17,250  
And I jogged alongside of  
the different athletes.

484  
00:26:17,250 --> 00:26:20,820  
I walked alongside of  
them in the village.

485  
00:26:20,820 --> 00:26:23,010  
We dined separately.

486  
00:26:23,010 --> 00:26:27,450  
Each team had its own portion  
of the dining room and rooms.

487  
00:26:27,450 --> 00:26:29,850  
But we were with  
each other, and we

488  
00:26:29,850 --> 00:26:32,730  
enjoyed each other's presence  
even though we couldn't

489  
00:26:32,730 --> 00:26:35,730  
communicate very well with  
most of the teams of the world,

490  
00:26:35,730 --> 00:26:37,590  
because I didn't  
speak their language

491  
00:26:37,590 --> 00:26:38,730  
and they didn't speak mine.

492  
00:26:38,730 --> 00:26:41,520  
I talk to the English  
of course and talk

493  
00:26:41,520 --> 00:26:44,760  
to those who spoke English.

494

00:26:44,760 --> 00:26:47,130  
There was one Finn, a  
great Finnish athlete,

495  
00:26:47,130 --> 00:26:49,380  
named Gunnar Hockert.

496  
00:26:49,380 --> 00:26:52,620  
Gunnar was the 5,000  
meter champion,

497  
00:26:52,620 --> 00:26:55,310  
a young man in  
his early 20s, who

498  
00:26:55,310 --> 00:26:58,530  
was a beautiful blonde,  
blue-eyed, apple-cheeked young

499  
00:26:58,530 --> 00:27:00,270  
man, and a great, great runner.

500  
00:27:00,270 --> 00:27:01,770  
He won the gold medal.

501  
00:27:01,770 --> 00:27:03,330  
And he spoke good English.

502  
00:27:03,330 --> 00:27:05,310  
And we spent a  
great deal of time

503  
00:27:05,310 --> 00:27:07,590  
with Gunnar, because  
he liked being

504  
00:27:07,590 --> 00:27:10,350  
with the American athletes,  
he liked speaking English,

505  
00:27:10,350 --> 00:27:12,120  
and we liked Gunnar.

506

00:27:12,120 --> 00:27:14,430

And to my shock  
and horror, he was

507

00:27:14,430 --> 00:27:17,010

killed in the  
Russian-Finnish war

508

00:27:17,010 --> 00:27:19,980

just a few years after  
the Olympic Games.

509

00:27:19,980 --> 00:27:23,550

But knowing him and  
knowing the other athletes,

510

00:27:23,550 --> 00:27:27,510

even just being with them for  
this limited amount of time,

511

00:27:27,510 --> 00:27:30,310

made me feel like one of them.

512

00:27:30,310 --> 00:27:32,820

And I think they  
felt like one of us.

513

00:27:32,820 --> 00:27:37,740

It was a wonderful education for  
all of us and me particularly.

514

00:27:37,740 --> 00:27:40,020

Did you mingle with  
German athletes?

515

00:27:40,020 --> 00:27:42,870

The German athletes usually  
stayed to themselves.

516

00:27:42,870 --> 00:27:45,690

The German athletes  
worked out together,

517

00:27:45,690 --> 00:27:47,640

worked out by themselves.

518

00:27:47,640 --> 00:27:50,700

They weren't as free,

as loose, as easy

519

00:27:50,700 --> 00:27:53,810

as athletes from other

countries of the world.

520

00:27:53,810 --> 00:29:56,000