

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:01:02,490

2
00:01:02,490 --> 00:01:04,209
Going to start with this?

3
00:01:04,209 --> 00:01:06,550
Well, I'm going to
asking you to start

4
00:01:06,550 --> 00:01:09,520
by telling me your name,
your date of birth,

5
00:01:09,520 --> 00:01:10,360
where you were born.

6
00:01:10,360 --> 00:01:12,670
And you might want to
give me your name then

7
00:01:12,670 --> 00:01:14,420
and your name now.

8
00:01:14,420 --> 00:01:15,760
OK.

9
00:01:15,760 --> 00:01:20,600
Well, my name is
Margaret Lambert.

10
00:01:20,600 --> 00:01:25,610
I was born a name
that I hate, Gretl.

11
00:01:25,610 --> 00:01:27,200
It's too Teutonic.

12
00:01:27,200 --> 00:01:29,420
I hate that name--

13
00:01:29,420 --> 00:01:30,710
Gretl Bergman.

14
00:01:30,710 --> 00:01:36,980
And I was born April 12,
1914, in a very small town

15
00:01:36,980 --> 00:01:39,150
in the south of Germany.

16
00:01:39,150 --> 00:01:40,840
And it was a great life.

17
00:01:40,840 --> 00:01:42,055
And what was the town called?

18
00:01:42,055 --> 00:01:42,555
Laupheim.

19
00:01:42,555 --> 00:01:45,450

20
00:01:45,450 --> 00:01:48,600
Tell me a little bit
about that great life.

21
00:01:48,600 --> 00:01:53,970
Well, we had all the
freedom that we needed,

22
00:01:53,970 --> 00:01:56,140
could roam around every place.

23
00:01:56,140 --> 00:01:58,320
Once I had a bicycle
at the age of seven,

24
00:01:58,320 --> 00:02:01,980
I could go into the countryside
and hunt for frogs, and snakes,

25

00:02:01,980 --> 00:02:06,150
and stuff like this--
and lots of friends--

26
00:02:06,150 --> 00:02:09,130
mostly non-Jewish friends.

27
00:02:09,130 --> 00:02:12,570
There was a large Jewish
community in the town,

28
00:02:12,570 --> 00:02:17,280
but due to my love for
sports, most of my friends

29
00:02:17,280 --> 00:02:20,190
were non-Jewish, and
that was never, never,

30
00:02:20,190 --> 00:02:24,240
never a problem until a
certain time in my life.

31
00:02:24,240 --> 00:02:26,830
Tell me about your family.

32
00:02:26,830 --> 00:02:30,730
My father had a
terrific sense of humor,

33
00:02:30,730 --> 00:02:33,570
and I think I
inherited it from him.

34
00:02:33,570 --> 00:02:38,160
And he had a large
factory making hair goods;

35
00:02:38,160 --> 00:02:43,230
hair nets, wigs, some
of them found, even,

36
00:02:43,230 --> 00:02:46,890

their way into the
Metropolitan Opera.

37
00:02:46,890 --> 00:02:51,590
And my mother was--

38
00:02:51,590 --> 00:02:54,960
I don't know she was a
little bit of a kvetch,

39
00:02:54,960 --> 00:02:56,280
if you know what that means.

40
00:02:56,280 --> 00:03:01,000
She was always trying to
get our attention by saying,

41
00:03:01,000 --> 00:03:03,570
oh, have this terrible
headache, and so on, and so on.

42
00:03:03,570 --> 00:03:06,870
And I don't think she was--

43
00:03:06,870 --> 00:03:11,460
she was not a very warm person,
because both I and my two

44
00:03:11,460 --> 00:03:15,300
brothers, we felt that
she was unapproachable.

45
00:03:15,300 --> 00:03:17,640
But we had a good time together.

46
00:03:17,640 --> 00:03:20,100
I had a brother who
was two years older.

47
00:03:20,100 --> 00:03:23,460
Then I got a little
baby brother.

48

00:03:23,460 --> 00:03:26,700
He was 12 years younger, which
embarrassed the heck out of me

49

00:03:26,700 --> 00:03:32,060
because I didn't
think parents should

50

00:03:32,060 --> 00:03:33,600
engage in this sort of stuff.

51

00:03:33,600 --> 00:03:36,600

52

00:03:36,600 --> 00:03:38,370
But we were all
very good friends.

53

00:03:38,370 --> 00:03:41,080
My brother died,
unfortunately, very suddenly,

54

00:03:41,080 --> 00:03:43,830
about 20 years ago
on a pleasure trip.

55

00:03:43,830 --> 00:03:46,320
And my younger brother
I'm in touch with.

56

00:03:46,320 --> 00:03:50,010
And we have a very
good relationship.

57

00:03:50,010 --> 00:03:54,240
Tell me a little bit about
your religious background.

58

00:03:54,240 --> 00:03:57,570
There was no organized
religion in my house.

59

00:03:57,570 --> 00:03:58,900
We ate everything.

60
00:03:58,900 --> 00:04:00,180
We did everything.

61
00:04:00,180 --> 00:04:05,010
We never went to the temple
except on the high holy days.

62
00:04:05,010 --> 00:04:07,980
And I hated it because
I had to wear a hat.

63
00:04:07,980 --> 00:04:13,980
And my father used to say to us,
be a decent human being, that

64
00:04:13,980 --> 00:04:16,329
should be your religion.

65
00:04:16,329 --> 00:04:20,550
And I think he followed
that, and we followed it too.

66
00:04:20,550 --> 00:04:24,240
And religion never
meant anything to me.

67
00:04:24,240 --> 00:04:26,940
And especially
after all the things

68
00:04:26,940 --> 00:04:30,750
that happened
later on, if I ever

69
00:04:30,750 --> 00:04:32,700
had any religious
feelings, I think

70
00:04:32,700 --> 00:04:35,610
I would have lost it pretty

fast after all the things

71

00:04:35,610 --> 00:04:38,440
that happened to Jewish people.

72

00:04:38,440 --> 00:04:41,850
So even though your family
clearly was not very religious,

73

00:04:41,850 --> 00:04:46,800
did you identify with
being a Jew as a girl?

74

00:04:46,800 --> 00:04:50,940
Well, only in the fact
that I was Jewish.

75

00:04:50,940 --> 00:04:54,630
And I had to go to
temple twice a year.

76

00:04:54,630 --> 00:04:58,110
But it didn't make
any difference

77

00:04:58,110 --> 00:04:59,250
because nobody cared.

78

00:04:59,250 --> 00:05:01,080
I was the only girl in my class.

79

00:05:01,080 --> 00:05:02,940
And I was the only
Jew in my class.

80

00:05:02,940 --> 00:05:07,230
And there was never, never
an unpleasant moment.

81

00:05:07,230 --> 00:05:10,110
And you didn't think
of yourself as a Jew.

82

00:05:10,110 --> 00:05:14,900

You thought of yourself
as a German, I think.

83

00:05:14,900 --> 00:05:17,900

So you never experienced
anti-Semitic feelings

84

00:05:17,900 --> 00:05:20,180

before Hitler
arrived on the scene?

85

00:05:20,180 --> 00:05:21,630

No, only once.

86

00:05:21,630 --> 00:05:26,580

I said some neighbor boy called
me a dirty Jew or something.

87

00:05:26,580 --> 00:05:27,800

And I beat him up.

88

00:05:27,800 --> 00:05:30,270

And I was never bothered again.

89

00:05:30,270 --> 00:05:33,830

So that was it.

90

00:05:33,830 --> 00:05:39,890

So the events of 1933 and
onward must have come as a shock

91

00:05:39,890 --> 00:05:40,400

to you?

92

00:05:40,400 --> 00:05:42,830

It most certainly did?

93

00:05:42,830 --> 00:05:44,850

It was terrible.

94

00:05:44,850 --> 00:05:49,370

I mean, from one day to the other, there was like a wall.

95

00:05:49,370 --> 00:05:52,250

One day you were a respected citizen.

96

00:05:52,250 --> 00:05:56,270

The next day you were a tenth rate citizen.

97

00:05:56,270 --> 00:06:00,710

You were excluded from everything, all German life.

98

00:06:00,710 --> 00:06:03,230

You were banned from all public places;

99

00:06:03,230 --> 00:06:08,390

no theaters, no restaurants, no swimming pools.

100

00:06:08,390 --> 00:06:11,510

You couldn't go anyplace, and you could not associate

101

00:06:11,510 --> 00:06:14,528

with non-Jewish people.

102

00:06:14,528 --> 00:06:16,070

Actually, I want to get back to that.

103

00:06:16,070 --> 00:06:17,660

But I want to--

104

00:06:17,660 --> 00:06:20,720

I haven't asked you that much about your athletic life.

105

00:06:20,720 --> 00:06:25,760

And I want to talk about that
a little bit before 1933.

106
00:06:25,760 --> 00:06:28,580
When I was about
six years old, there

107
00:06:28,580 --> 00:06:32,630
was this little
club in that town.

108
00:06:32,630 --> 00:06:38,090
And you could go as often as
you wanted in the afternoon,

109
00:06:38,090 --> 00:06:40,880
or in the evening, whoever was
ready there, the older people

110
00:06:40,880 --> 00:06:43,940
helped the younger people
how to do certain things.

111
00:06:43,940 --> 00:06:45,800
And it was great.

112
00:06:45,800 --> 00:06:47,090
You just went there.

113
00:06:47,090 --> 00:06:49,490
I could go there
unescorted because it

114
00:06:49,490 --> 00:06:51,260
was close to my house.

115
00:06:51,260 --> 00:06:54,020
And I'd spent some time there.

116
00:06:54,020 --> 00:06:56,240
And I was happy as a lark.

117

00:06:56,240 --> 00:06:57,480
What did you do there?

118
00:06:57,480 --> 00:06:58,970
Well, we did gymnastics.

119
00:06:58,970 --> 00:07:00,050
We did running.

120
00:07:00,050 --> 00:07:04,250
We did whatever, you know?

121
00:07:04,250 --> 00:07:06,320
There was a lot of
gymnastics involved.

122
00:07:06,320 --> 00:07:11,150
And they worked on the
parallel bars, which I hated.

123
00:07:11,150 --> 00:07:13,040
I hated that stuff
because I wasn't good

124
00:07:13,040 --> 00:07:16,370
at it, because my legs
were too long, I guess.

125
00:07:16,370 --> 00:07:19,280
But they instructed
us, the older people.

126
00:07:19,280 --> 00:07:22,520
And it was a terrific
relationship.

127
00:07:22,520 --> 00:07:25,010
They would take us out
Sundays to go swimming.

128
00:07:25,010 --> 00:07:28,960
And it was really very nice.

129

00:07:28,960 --> 00:07:32,050

What did you like about sports?

130

00:07:32,050 --> 00:07:33,860

I just loved it.

131

00:07:33,860 --> 00:07:34,780

You just loved what?

132

00:07:34,780 --> 00:07:38,530

I loved everything that had
to do with physical activity.

133

00:07:38,530 --> 00:07:40,270

I love to climb.

134

00:07:40,270 --> 00:07:41,440

I love to run.

135

00:07:41,440 --> 00:07:47,290

I just love to be outdoors.

136

00:07:47,290 --> 00:07:48,010

I skated.

137

00:07:48,010 --> 00:07:48,880

I swam.

138

00:07:48,880 --> 00:07:50,350

Nobody ever taught me anything.

139

00:07:50,350 --> 00:07:51,160

I played tennis.

140

00:07:51,160 --> 00:07:52,840

I played ping-pong.

141

00:07:52,840 --> 00:07:54,940

Nobody ever taught me anything.

142

00:07:54,940 --> 00:07:56,500
I was a natural athlete.

143
00:07:56,500 --> 00:07:58,780
And whatever I started
to do, I did well

144
00:07:58,780 --> 00:08:01,520
without being
instructed in anything.

145
00:08:01,520 --> 00:08:03,430
So it was the--

146
00:08:03,430 --> 00:08:07,680
I liked it better than
mathematics, let me tell you.

147
00:08:07,680 --> 00:08:08,680
And you were good at it?

148
00:08:08,680 --> 00:08:13,600
And I was good at it, without
working very hard at it.

149
00:08:13,600 --> 00:08:18,370
Did sports start playing a very
significant role in your life?

150
00:08:18,370 --> 00:08:22,420
Well, once I got
to be in the age

151
00:08:22,420 --> 00:08:26,170
where I got to be
noticing boys, it

152
00:08:26,170 --> 00:08:29,350
became a very important
thing in my life

153
00:08:29,350 --> 00:08:32,470
because that was the

social life then.

154
00:08:32,470 --> 00:08:34,390
You went to the gym.

155
00:08:34,390 --> 00:08:38,169
And the boy you had your
eye on walked you home.

156
00:08:38,169 --> 00:08:39,789
And that was a big deal.

157
00:08:39,789 --> 00:08:41,740
And that was very good.

158
00:08:41,740 --> 00:08:45,680

159
00:08:45,680 --> 00:08:49,070
Was sports important
in Germany growing up?

160
00:08:49,070 --> 00:08:50,600
Yes.

161
00:08:50,600 --> 00:08:54,350
I think there was hardly the
smallest little village that

162
00:08:54,350 --> 00:08:57,770
didn't have some
kind of sports going.

163
00:08:57,770 --> 00:09:00,980
It just was a soccer club.

164
00:09:00,980 --> 00:09:05,970
They play soccer and
team sports more.

165
00:09:05,970 --> 00:09:08,900
But there were very few

places where there was nothing

166
00:09:08,900 --> 00:09:09,890
going on.

167
00:09:09,890 --> 00:09:12,740
And that was a very
important thing.

168
00:09:12,740 --> 00:09:17,180
And once I got a little
older, maybe 14 or so,

169
00:09:17,180 --> 00:09:21,360
we used to go to other little
towns and compete there.

170
00:09:21,360 --> 00:09:22,850
And that was really
a lot of fun.

171
00:09:22,850 --> 00:09:24,530
And you met a lot of new people.

172
00:09:24,530 --> 00:09:27,950
And it was great.

173
00:09:27,950 --> 00:09:30,680
Were there a lot of sporting
clubs and all that sort

174
00:09:30,680 --> 00:09:32,600
of thing for students?

175
00:09:32,600 --> 00:09:34,580
Oh yes, has nothing
to do with the school,

176
00:09:34,580 --> 00:09:36,270
as a matter of fact.

177
00:09:36,270 --> 00:09:38,180

I think that's why I
hated school so much.

178
00:09:38,180 --> 00:09:41,540
Because whenever I came
into school on Monday,

179
00:09:41,540 --> 00:09:43,790
the teachers would
make fun of me and say,

180
00:09:43,790 --> 00:09:46,100
oh, you must have had
a tough weekend again?

181
00:09:46,100 --> 00:09:49,440
Maybe you've-- playing
field handball or something.

182
00:09:49,440 --> 00:09:52,955
And why don't you pay more
attention to your lessons?

183
00:09:52,955 --> 00:09:55,640
And I think that turned me
off more than anything else.

184
00:09:55,640 --> 00:09:58,220
And I turned more to
sports then instead of--

185
00:09:58,220 --> 00:10:00,110
less the way they
thought I would.

186
00:10:00,110 --> 00:10:14,730

187
00:10:14,730 --> 00:10:18,030
In talking about how much you
loved sports and you were good

188
00:10:18,030 --> 00:10:22,845

at them, did it ever
occur to you that--

189
00:10:22,845 --> 00:10:25,140
were you thinking about
a future in athletics?

190
00:10:25,140 --> 00:10:28,890
Were you thinking in terms
of Olympic competition?

191
00:10:28,890 --> 00:10:32,170
I don't believe so at that time.

192
00:10:32,170 --> 00:10:34,140
That came much later, really.

193
00:10:34,140 --> 00:10:37,980
But when I was quite small,
maybe 10, 12 years old,

194
00:10:37,980 --> 00:10:39,360
I had made up my mind.

195
00:10:39,360 --> 00:10:43,470
I will be a physical
education teacher or a coach.

196
00:10:43,470 --> 00:10:48,750
And I knew exactly where to
go; to Berlin and study there.

197
00:10:48,750 --> 00:10:51,930
And it didn't work out that
way because by the time

198
00:10:51,930 --> 00:10:55,290
I was ready for it, I
wasn't accepted anymore.

199
00:10:55,290 --> 00:10:59,340
But I always wanted
to be in sports.

200
00:10:59,340 --> 00:11:01,290
Not necessarily
competitively but--

201
00:11:01,290 --> 00:11:05,160
No, just teaching, and
the coaching, and the--

202
00:11:05,160 --> 00:11:10,400
you know, later on, once I
got too old to do it myself.

203
00:11:10,400 --> 00:11:13,970
So you weren't thinking about
competitions and the Olympics?

204
00:11:13,970 --> 00:11:16,970
I actually need you to say that
as a full thought as opposed

205
00:11:16,970 --> 00:11:18,830
to just responding to me.

206
00:11:18,830 --> 00:11:21,650
Well, I don't
think that I really

207
00:11:21,650 --> 00:11:23,180
thought about the Olympics.

208
00:11:23,180 --> 00:11:25,970
I don't even think I knew
much about the Olympics.

209
00:11:25,970 --> 00:11:29,900
You know, we lived in this
small, hick town that did

210
00:11:29,900 --> 00:11:32,030
have a newspaper,
but I think it was

211
00:11:32,030 --> 00:11:34,940
more important to see that
the chickens laid the eggs

212
00:11:34,940 --> 00:11:37,350
or whatever, then--

213
00:11:37,350 --> 00:11:40,670
or they would report
the sports results

214
00:11:40,670 --> 00:11:43,540
of what happened in that
town but nothing, really.

215
00:11:43,540 --> 00:11:45,680
You didn't get much information.

216
00:11:45,680 --> 00:11:48,110
There wasn't any
television, of course.

217
00:11:48,110 --> 00:11:50,640
And the radio came much later.

218
00:11:50,640 --> 00:11:53,690
So I don't think that I
knew much about the Olympics

219
00:11:53,690 --> 00:11:56,010
until I got a lot older.

220
00:11:56,010 --> 00:11:58,550
Actually, I think you just said
there wasn't much television

221
00:11:58,550 --> 00:12:00,080
and the radio came later.

222
00:12:00,080 --> 00:12:01,230
There was no television.

223

00:12:01,230 --> 00:12:03,110

There was no
television, of course.

224

00:12:03,110 --> 00:12:05,060

No television whatsoever.

225

00:12:05,060 --> 00:12:07,280

And radio also came--

226

00:12:07,280 --> 00:12:09,860

that wasn't there
when I was very small.

227

00:12:09,860 --> 00:12:13,240

228

00:12:13,240 --> 00:12:16,870

And there was nothing
different at that stage

229

00:12:16,870 --> 00:12:18,340

about being a Jewish athlete?

230

00:12:18,340 --> 00:12:20,980

None whatsoever.

231

00:12:20,980 --> 00:12:24,070

I've said this so many times
that there was absolutely

232

00:12:24,070 --> 00:12:31,210

no difference between the Jewish
people and the Gentiles people.

233

00:12:31,210 --> 00:12:33,460

There were not that many
Jewish people doing sports,

234

00:12:33,460 --> 00:12:35,800

let's face it,
especially not girls.

235

00:12:35,800 --> 00:12:40,690

But I never felt any different.

236

00:12:40,690 --> 00:12:43,270

I mean, we would go Sundays--

237

00:12:43,270 --> 00:12:46,370

go to a nice swimming hole

and go swimming in the--

238

00:12:46,370 --> 00:12:49,330

I, very often, was the

only Jewish person going.

239

00:12:49,330 --> 00:12:51,730

So there was nothing.

240

00:12:51,730 --> 00:12:55,960

I felt perfectly comfortable.

241

00:12:55,960 --> 00:12:58,600

Were your parents or your

brothers athletic also?

242

00:12:58,600 --> 00:12:59,890

No.

243

00:12:59,890 --> 00:13:00,760

Nobody.

244

00:13:00,760 --> 00:13:01,400

Nobody.

245

00:13:01,400 --> 00:13:04,780

I don't know where I got

it from, I really don't.

246

00:13:04,780 --> 00:13:07,120

But my brothers

liked to watch it,

247

00:13:07,120 --> 00:13:11,290

but they didn't do
much by themselves.

248

00:13:11,290 --> 00:13:12,880

I mean, my brother--

249

00:13:12,880 --> 00:13:18,160

my older brother skied a
little bit, but nothing very--

250

00:13:18,160 --> 00:13:21,730

not like I. I mean, I was
possessed, I think, by sports.

251

00:13:21,730 --> 00:13:30,330

252

00:13:30,330 --> 00:13:34,260

You started to talk about
when things began changing

253

00:13:34,260 --> 00:13:37,380

for you as a young athlete.

254

00:13:37,380 --> 00:13:40,500

And I'd like you to talk
about that a little bit more.

255

00:13:40,500 --> 00:13:42,810

When did it start
becoming difficult

256

00:13:42,810 --> 00:13:47,500

for you to continue
the way you were?

257

00:13:47,500 --> 00:13:51,820

In the spring of 1933.

258

00:13:51,820 --> 00:13:53,780

It was just around my birthday.

259

00:13:53,780 --> 00:13:56,620

And it was not a very
nice birthday present.

260

00:13:56,620 --> 00:13:59,950

I got a letter from
my sports club.

261

00:13:59,950 --> 00:14:04,900

You are no longer welcome
here because you're Jewish,

262

00:14:04,900 --> 00:14:05,710

Heil Hitler.

263

00:14:05,710 --> 00:14:07,070

And that was the end of that.

264

00:14:07,070 --> 00:14:09,280

So they just threw
me out of the club.

265

00:14:09,280 --> 00:14:11,770

And that was the end
of my sports career

266

00:14:11,770 --> 00:14:13,870

as far as that was concerned.

267

00:14:13,870 --> 00:14:17,620

There was no Jewish
sports per se in the town

268

00:14:17,620 --> 00:14:19,690

because everything
was always mixed up.

269

00:14:19,690 --> 00:14:23,380

There was-- everybody
did things together.

270

00:14:23,380 --> 00:14:30,010
But we were just locked
out of everything.

271
00:14:30,010 --> 00:14:33,670
All the Jews were thrown
out of the sports club.

272
00:14:33,670 --> 00:14:35,590
You couldn't go to restaurants.

273
00:14:35,590 --> 00:14:39,310
I mean, Jews were excluded
from all German life.

274
00:14:39,310 --> 00:14:41,450
That started in 1933.

275
00:14:41,450 --> 00:14:43,960
And it was a horrible time.

276
00:14:43,960 --> 00:14:48,220
There was one Jewish
restaurant in that town.

277
00:14:48,220 --> 00:14:50,350
And everybody congregated there.

278
00:14:50,350 --> 00:14:52,980
And everybody commiserated.

279
00:14:52,980 --> 00:14:53,980
What are we going to do?

280
00:14:53,980 --> 00:14:55,330
What's going to happen here?

281
00:14:55,330 --> 00:14:58,480
And it was a horrible life.

282
00:14:58,480 --> 00:15:00,340
Was any of this anticipated?

283
00:15:00,340 --> 00:15:03,250
Did you know much about Hitler?

284
00:15:03,250 --> 00:15:08,440
I don't think it was
anticipated in the realm the way

285
00:15:08,440 --> 00:15:09,040
it happened.

286
00:15:09,040 --> 00:15:11,770

287
00:15:11,770 --> 00:15:15,508
Once he became Chancellor,
then you started to--

288
00:15:15,508 --> 00:15:17,800
Sorry, can you just say, once
Hitler became Chancellor?

289
00:15:17,800 --> 00:15:20,140
Once Hitler became
Chancellor, you

290
00:15:20,140 --> 00:15:22,180
started to worry a
little bit, you know?

291
00:15:22,180 --> 00:15:24,700
But everybody thought this is--

292
00:15:24,700 --> 00:15:26,050
this is going to blow over.

293
00:15:26,050 --> 00:15:27,610
He's not going to last.

294
00:15:27,610 --> 00:15:33,550
As a matter of fact, I had
been accepted at the University

295
00:15:33,550 --> 00:15:38,470
for Physical Education in
Berlin for the spring semester.

296
00:15:38,470 --> 00:15:41,020
And I wrote them a letter
saying that I was Jewish,

297
00:15:41,020 --> 00:15:44,200
and would it be advisable
for me to come just then?

298
00:15:44,200 --> 00:15:48,160
And they wrote me a letter
back literally saying

299
00:15:48,160 --> 00:15:52,000
wait until this
thing blows over.

300
00:15:52,000 --> 00:15:55,840
So everybody thought this
is not going to last.

301
00:15:55,840 --> 00:16:00,970
But once Hitler
had taken hold, you

302
00:16:00,970 --> 00:16:02,520
were just afraid for your life.

303
00:16:02,520 --> 00:16:06,700
If you disobeyed or
whether it was a Jew

304
00:16:06,700 --> 00:16:09,850
or whether it was a
Gentile, you did exactly

305
00:16:09,850 --> 00:16:14,250
as you were told like
in a real dictatorship.

306

00:16:14,250 --> 00:16:15,780

I want you to
expand a little bit

307

00:16:15,780 --> 00:16:19,260

on how your life changed from
what you were excluded from

308

00:16:19,260 --> 00:16:21,060

and how that felt,
because I'm really

309

00:16:21,060 --> 00:16:26,100

trying to understand what it
was like for a teenage girl all

310

00:16:26,100 --> 00:16:29,460

of a sudden having her
life completely just turned

311

00:16:29,460 --> 00:16:31,620

upside down in a way.

312

00:16:31,620 --> 00:16:34,050

It was a terrible,
terrible time.

313

00:16:34,050 --> 00:16:36,450

it was almost-- you
couldn't understand.

314

00:16:36,450 --> 00:16:37,710

Why did this happen?

315

00:16:37,710 --> 00:16:40,650

Why aren't those people
associating with us anymore?

316

00:16:40,650 --> 00:16:42,570

I mean, some of
the friends stayed

317

00:16:42,570 --> 00:16:48,390
with us but only in a way--

318

00:16:48,390 --> 00:16:51,578
they couldn't be caught to come
to our house, for instance.

319

00:16:51,578 --> 00:16:53,370
They had to come in
the middle of the night

320

00:16:53,370 --> 00:16:57,630
and sneak in the back door if
they wanted to visit with us.

321

00:16:57,630 --> 00:17:01,140
But a lot of them did change.

322

00:17:01,140 --> 00:17:03,390
They went the other way, and
they figured, well, maybe

323

00:17:03,390 --> 00:17:06,690
Hitler is our God from now on.

324

00:17:06,690 --> 00:17:09,210
And we'll stay with him.

325

00:17:09,210 --> 00:17:11,970
But it was very bad.

326

00:17:11,970 --> 00:17:14,130
We didn't know what
to do with ourselves.

327

00:17:14,130 --> 00:17:15,390
You couldn't go anywhere.

328

00:17:15,390 --> 00:17:17,260
You couldn't go
into a restaurant.

329

00:17:17,260 --> 00:17:20,790

You couldn't go into a movie,
and especially in a small town.

330

00:17:20,790 --> 00:17:23,790

A large town, I guess, you
could dare to go to a movie

331

00:17:23,790 --> 00:17:25,650

every once in a while
or a restaurant,

332

00:17:25,650 --> 00:17:27,069

but not in a small town.

333

00:17:27,069 --> 00:17:30,480

Everybody knew everybody else,
and you just didn't do it.

334

00:17:30,480 --> 00:17:36,270

And if you did it, I'm sure
you would be punished according

335

00:17:36,270 --> 00:17:40,560

to Hitler's creed or whatever.

336

00:17:40,560 --> 00:17:43,800

Did you feel betrayed
by friends and--

337

00:17:43,800 --> 00:17:45,240

Yes, some of them.

338

00:17:45,240 --> 00:17:46,860

There was a girl
next door to me,

339

00:17:46,860 --> 00:17:49,590

we grew up together as babies.

340

00:17:49,590 --> 00:17:52,080

We were together

every single day.

341

00:17:52,080 --> 00:17:56,190

She ate in our house more times
than she ate in her own house.

342

00:17:56,190 --> 00:18:00,990

And as soon as Hitler came in,
she didn't know me anymore.

343

00:18:00,990 --> 00:18:02,850

That was it.

344

00:18:02,850 --> 00:18:06,750

She had the chance to sneak into
the house just like everybody--

345

00:18:06,750 --> 00:18:08,250

other friends that--

346

00:18:08,250 --> 00:18:09,900

she never made that attempt.

347

00:18:09,900 --> 00:18:13,140

And maybe two years
ago, she wrote me

348

00:18:13,140 --> 00:18:16,990

a letter; the first time
I ever heard from her.

349

00:18:16,990 --> 00:18:21,390

My dear, darling, you
know, stuff like this.

350

00:18:21,390 --> 00:18:25,110

And I'm so happy to
finally find your address.

351

00:18:25,110 --> 00:18:29,220

And the good times we had
together and stuff like this.

352

00:18:29,220 --> 00:18:30,180

And I wrote her back.

353

00:18:30,180 --> 00:18:31,590

I said, yes, it was a good time.

354

00:18:31,590 --> 00:18:34,110

But you didn't think so then
because you didn't know me

355

00:18:34,110 --> 00:18:35,380

anymore.

356

00:18:35,380 --> 00:18:37,662

That was the end
of that friendship.

357

00:18:37,662 --> 00:18:39,120

How did you make
sense of all this?

358

00:18:39,120 --> 00:18:41,076

Can I just make a quick
lighting adjustment?

359

00:18:41,076 --> 00:18:44,920

We heard this stuff
so many times.

360

00:18:44,920 --> 00:18:45,420

We ready?

361

00:18:45,420 --> 00:18:46,500

Five seconds.

362

00:18:46,500 --> 00:18:48,120

OK.

363

00:18:48,120 --> 00:18:50,190

How much more on the tape?

364

00:18:50,190 --> 00:18:51,528
Ten minutes.

365
00:18:51,528 --> 00:18:52,390
OK.

366
00:18:52,390 --> 00:18:52,890
Rolling.

367
00:18:52,890 --> 00:18:54,252
Whenever you're ready.

368
00:18:54,252 --> 00:18:56,750
OK, I think when we stopped,
you were talking a little bit

369
00:18:56,750 --> 00:18:58,880
about how life changed in '33.

370
00:18:58,880 --> 00:19:04,060
And, as much as you
can, give me a picture

371
00:19:04,060 --> 00:19:07,640
of what that was like.

372
00:19:07,640 --> 00:19:10,940
It is absolutely
impossible for anybody

373
00:19:10,940 --> 00:19:13,010
who hasn't gone
through this what

374
00:19:13,010 --> 00:19:18,470
it was like to be
among friends one day,

375
00:19:18,470 --> 00:19:21,830
and the next day you would pass
that same friend in the street

376

00:19:21,830 --> 00:19:24,770
and you wouldn't even say hello
to each other because you were

377
00:19:24,770 --> 00:19:28,130
not-- some, you, were
not allowed to do it,

378
00:19:28,130 --> 00:19:30,500
or some were afraid to do it.

379
00:19:30,500 --> 00:19:34,340
But you just passed your
friends up and walked right on.

380
00:19:34,340 --> 00:19:37,070
And, for instance,
my younger brother

381
00:19:37,070 --> 00:19:41,895
is 12 years younger
than I, and all the kids

382
00:19:41,895 --> 00:19:43,520
from the neighborhood
were his friends.

383
00:19:43,520 --> 00:19:46,490
They played together,
all non-Jewish children,

384
00:19:46,490 --> 00:19:48,140
and they all played together.

385
00:19:48,140 --> 00:19:54,590
And all of a sudden, after 1933,
they started to beat him up.

386
00:19:54,590 --> 00:19:58,160
And on his way to school, he
had to go to a Jewish school

387
00:19:58,160 --> 00:20:00,920

because the other schools
would not take him.

388
00:20:00,920 --> 00:20:04,370

And on the way to
school, they beat him up.

389
00:20:04,370 --> 00:20:07,100

And I would walk him to
school as often as I could.

390
00:20:07,100 --> 00:20:09,140

And they wouldn't beat
him when I was there,

391
00:20:09,140 --> 00:20:13,820

but they would call him and me
all kinds of horrible names.

392
00:20:13,820 --> 00:20:15,260

And they would spit at us.

393
00:20:15,260 --> 00:20:18,770

And I wouldn't dare to
touch those children.

394
00:20:18,770 --> 00:20:23,180

Because, if I had touched
a non-Jewish child,

395
00:20:23,180 --> 00:20:25,040

I would have been in
a concentration camp

396
00:20:25,040 --> 00:20:26,660

the next day.

397
00:20:26,660 --> 00:20:29,780

So we really vegetated.

398
00:20:29,780 --> 00:20:33,230

There was nothing to
do except worrying

399

00:20:33,230 --> 00:20:35,120

what's going to happen.

400

00:20:35,120 --> 00:20:39,260

My brother was working
for Universal Pictures.

401

00:20:39,260 --> 00:20:41,930

And they had a studio in Berlin.

402

00:20:41,930 --> 00:20:42,860

Your older brother?

403

00:20:42,860 --> 00:20:44,000

My older brother.

404

00:20:44,000 --> 00:20:49,160

And they closed up because
they saw what was coming.

405

00:20:49,160 --> 00:20:50,823

And they closed up,
and he came home

406

00:20:50,823 --> 00:20:52,490

because there was
nothing for him to do.

407

00:20:52,490 --> 00:20:57,180

So he started to work in
my father's factory, tried

408

00:20:57,180 --> 00:21:03,500

to make himself useful there
because he couldn't find a job,

409

00:21:03,500 --> 00:21:06,500

of course, nobody
would employ you.

410

00:21:06,500 --> 00:21:10,740

Gentile people were not allowed
to buy in Jewish stores,

411
00:21:10,740 --> 00:21:12,030
for instance.

412
00:21:12,030 --> 00:21:14,870
If somebody got
caught doing that,

413
00:21:14,870 --> 00:21:17,630
they would take their
pictures and hang them up

414
00:21:17,630 --> 00:21:20,240
at the city hall.

415
00:21:20,240 --> 00:21:24,110
I mean, they really
meant business.

416
00:21:24,110 --> 00:21:29,370
You were absolutely
excluded from everything.

417
00:21:29,370 --> 00:21:31,290
As a family, did
you talk about this?

418
00:21:31,290 --> 00:21:34,050
Did you try to make sense of it?

419
00:21:34,050 --> 00:21:36,300
I don't remember that really.

420
00:21:36,300 --> 00:21:40,320
I think we were just into
ourselves more or less.

421
00:21:40,320 --> 00:21:42,870
Everybody was
worrying on their own,

422

00:21:42,870 --> 00:21:46,050

but I don't think it was
discussed all that much.

423

00:21:46,050 --> 00:21:51,105

Until I finally decided
that this was no life.

424

00:21:51,105 --> 00:21:55,440

From the Spring of 1933,
then, finally, in the Fall,

425

00:21:55,440 --> 00:21:56,910

I said, I have to
get out of here.

426

00:21:56,910 --> 00:21:58,870

I can't live like this.

427

00:21:58,870 --> 00:22:02,040

And I decided to go to England.

428

00:22:02,040 --> 00:22:04,380

And my parents
agreed to it that I

429

00:22:04,380 --> 00:22:07,050

would go to England
because it was

430

00:22:07,050 --> 00:22:12,540

a life of just
vegetating, and talking

431

00:22:12,540 --> 00:22:14,100

about the same thing over--

432

00:22:14,100 --> 00:22:17,220

what is going to happen to us--
talking the same thing over

433

00:22:17,220 --> 00:22:20,250

and over again, and not
to come to any result.

434
00:22:20,250 --> 00:22:24,840
I mean, nobody would know
what was going to happen.

435
00:22:24,840 --> 00:22:26,970
In this period then,
did you essentially

436
00:22:26,970 --> 00:22:29,640
have to give up your athletics?

437
00:22:29,640 --> 00:22:30,780
Oh, yes.

438
00:22:30,780 --> 00:22:37,320
We did try to straighten
out an old potato acre

439
00:22:37,320 --> 00:22:41,970
that somebody had given us, one
of our Jewish families there.

440
00:22:41,970 --> 00:22:43,980
And then we ran there.

441
00:22:43,980 --> 00:22:46,080
And I started the
field handball,

442
00:22:46,080 --> 00:22:48,930
which is the same as
football, except it's

443
00:22:48,930 --> 00:22:52,350
like a combination of
basketball and football.

444
00:22:52,350 --> 00:22:56,320
And I coached them.

445

00:22:56,320 --> 00:22:59,100

And it takes in 11
people, I think.

446

00:22:59,100 --> 00:23:00,990

I was the only girl on the team.

447

00:23:00,990 --> 00:23:03,710

And I shot the only
goal the first time.

448

00:23:03,710 --> 00:23:04,950

We lost seven to one.

449

00:23:04,950 --> 00:23:07,270

And I shot the only goal.

450

00:23:07,270 --> 00:23:11,520

But, after a while,
everybody got tired of this.

451

00:23:11,520 --> 00:23:13,230

The same people every day.

452

00:23:13,230 --> 00:23:15,810

It was horrible.

453

00:23:15,810 --> 00:23:18,150

They had an orchestra there.

454

00:23:18,150 --> 00:23:21,360

I mean, there were many Jewish
people who played the violin.

455

00:23:21,360 --> 00:23:26,070

And we played a little
music, but there really

456

00:23:26,070 --> 00:23:28,260

wasn't anything to do, so.

457

00:23:28,260 --> 00:23:32,070
And your father was able
to remain in business?

458
00:23:32,070 --> 00:23:37,050
For the time being, yes,
because he did a lot of business

459
00:23:37,050 --> 00:23:38,920
with the United
States and England.

460
00:23:38,920 --> 00:23:40,620
Can you say my
father instead of he?

461
00:23:40,620 --> 00:23:44,250
My father did a lot of business
with England and the United

462
00:23:44,250 --> 00:23:45,210
States.

463
00:23:45,210 --> 00:23:49,110
And the Germans desperately
needed the foreign currency

464
00:23:49,110 --> 00:23:49,810
to come in.

465
00:23:49,810 --> 00:23:54,040
So they were already preparing
for the war effort I suppose.

466
00:23:54,040 --> 00:23:58,150
And that's why they
left him on for a while.

467
00:23:58,150 --> 00:24:01,140
But then after several
years, he was just

468
00:24:01,140 --> 00:24:02,880

like a figurehead on there.

469

00:24:02,880 --> 00:24:06,840

And the Nazis took over.

470

00:24:06,840 --> 00:24:11,100

But he couldn't leave because
they took a passport away.

471

00:24:11,100 --> 00:24:14,460

So he was stuck until
a certain time came

472

00:24:14,460 --> 00:24:16,950

when he was able to get out.

473

00:24:16,950 --> 00:24:23,060

474

00:24:23,060 --> 00:24:26,260

You said that you decided
you wanted to go to England.

475

00:24:26,260 --> 00:24:27,650

This was just you alone?

476

00:24:27,650 --> 00:24:28,990

Yes.

477

00:24:28,990 --> 00:24:32,960

Why don't you tell me a
little bit about that, please?

478

00:24:32,960 --> 00:24:37,700

I could not stand
the life that we had.

479

00:24:37,700 --> 00:24:40,850

And my brother was working
my father's business,

480

00:24:40,850 --> 00:24:42,740

but I had nothing to do.

481
00:24:42,740 --> 00:24:46,730
And my mother tried to teach
me how to be a housewife,

482
00:24:46,730 --> 00:24:49,310
cooking, and
washing, and ironing.

483
00:24:49,310 --> 00:24:51,080
That wasn't my deal.

484
00:24:51,080 --> 00:24:54,770
So I decided, or my parents
decided, I would go to England

485
00:24:54,770 --> 00:24:59,030
and find a school comparable
to the one in Berlin that

486
00:24:59,030 --> 00:25:00,500
didn't take me.

487
00:25:00,500 --> 00:25:02,660
And that's where I went in--

488
00:25:02,660 --> 00:25:11,930
I think it was in
October of 1933.

489
00:25:11,930 --> 00:25:12,755
It was OK.

490
00:25:12,755 --> 00:25:15,920

491
00:25:15,920 --> 00:25:17,792
It was a very weird time too.

492
00:25:17,792 --> 00:25:20,000
I mean, I was very friendly

with the girls in school.

493

00:25:20,000 --> 00:25:22,100

I couldn't find a school
that I wanted to go to;

494

00:25:22,100 --> 00:25:23,120

physical education.

495

00:25:23,120 --> 00:25:24,950

So I went to school
to learn English.

496

00:25:24,950 --> 00:25:28,370

I figured, better than nothing.

497

00:25:28,370 --> 00:25:30,620

And it was OK.

498

00:25:30,620 --> 00:25:33,530

They had a track program.

499

00:25:33,530 --> 00:25:36,050

And they immediately
took me into it.

500

00:25:36,050 --> 00:25:37,670

And I competed for them.

501

00:25:37,670 --> 00:25:39,830

And won everything in sight.

502

00:25:39,830 --> 00:25:43,220

Whatever I did, whether it was
running, or jumping, or discus,

503

00:25:43,220 --> 00:25:45,530

or whatever it was.

504

00:25:45,530 --> 00:25:49,250

And in the school,
I was a big shot.

505
00:25:49,250 --> 00:25:54,890
However, what was very
odd, I was very friendly

506
00:25:54,890 --> 00:25:56,615
with the girls and--

507
00:25:56,615 --> 00:25:58,040
some of the girls--

508
00:25:58,040 --> 00:26:02,030
I was never once invited
to anybody's house.

509
00:26:02,030 --> 00:26:03,890
Now, why, I do not know.

510
00:26:03,890 --> 00:26:07,430
Maybe I was considered German.

511
00:26:07,430 --> 00:26:10,140
I was somehow
discriminated against,

512
00:26:10,140 --> 00:26:12,860
even though I tried to get
away from discrimination.

513
00:26:12,860 --> 00:26:15,320
And I went to England,
but somehow, I

514
00:26:15,320 --> 00:26:17,240
was discriminated against.

515
00:26:17,240 --> 00:26:20,210
I mean, when foreigners
came to Laupheim,

516
00:26:20,210 --> 00:26:21,800
we made these

people comfortable.

517
00:26:21,800 --> 00:26:25,280
And they were our friends
and they came to our houses.

518
00:26:25,280 --> 00:26:26,420
Not in England.

519
00:26:26,420 --> 00:26:31,720
Not once in nine months,
10 months, 11 months

520
00:26:31,720 --> 00:26:34,610
was I invited into
anybody's house.

521
00:26:34,610 --> 00:26:36,830
That really hurt.

522
00:26:36,830 --> 00:26:39,120
Were there other
Jews in the school?

523
00:26:39,120 --> 00:26:40,280
I'm sure there were.

524
00:26:40,280 --> 00:26:43,520
But, then again, I didn't
pay much attention to it.

525
00:26:43,520 --> 00:26:47,510
I did not seek out other
Jews to be my friends.

526
00:26:47,510 --> 00:26:49,340
I was just friendly
with all the kids.

527
00:26:49,340 --> 00:26:55,460

528

00:26:55,460 --> 00:26:58,230
So you competed.

529
00:26:58,230 --> 00:26:59,750
You kept up your athletics.

530
00:26:59,750 --> 00:27:01,730
Yes, and it was heaven.

531
00:27:01,730 --> 00:27:03,560
It was heaven.

532
00:27:03,560 --> 00:27:06,380
It wasn't much of a
program they had in school,

533
00:27:06,380 --> 00:27:09,320
but it was nice to be back too.

534
00:27:09,320 --> 00:27:10,700
They only did it--

535
00:27:10,700 --> 00:27:12,710
no, we did it outdoors too.

536
00:27:12,710 --> 00:27:19,280
And then in June
of 1934, I competed

537
00:27:19,280 --> 00:27:21,770
in the British Championships.

538
00:27:21,770 --> 00:27:23,400
And I won.

539
00:27:23,400 --> 00:27:27,680
And that was a really big
deal because then already,

540
00:27:27,680 --> 00:27:32,910
I felt like it was so
satisfying to me to win this.

541
00:27:32,910 --> 00:27:35,920
And I was sure this would
be known in Germany.

542
00:27:35,920 --> 00:27:39,140
It was like a revenge
kind of thing.

543
00:27:39,140 --> 00:27:40,220
There, you see?

544
00:27:40,220 --> 00:27:43,430
I'm a Jew, but I've won
the British Championship.

545
00:27:43,430 --> 00:27:49,235
So I was really very,
very happy about that.

546
00:27:49,235 --> 00:27:51,290
In what events were you?

547
00:27:51,290 --> 00:27:52,430
High jumping.

548
00:27:52,430 --> 00:27:55,430
That was my big
event, high jumping.

549
00:27:55,430 --> 00:27:59,720
Thanks to my long legs and
my big feet, I suppose.

550
00:27:59,720 --> 00:28:02,720
I had great success in it.

551
00:28:02,720 --> 00:28:06,300
And it was very interesting.

552
00:28:06,300 --> 00:28:08,870
My English was

atrocious, of course.

553

00:28:08,870 --> 00:28:11,810

And the other girls
didn't bother much with me

554

00:28:11,810 --> 00:28:13,190

because I was an outsider.

555

00:28:13,190 --> 00:28:16,730

So it was kind of lonely,
but it didn't matter.

556

00:28:16,730 --> 00:28:19,340

I won and that was--
my father came over.

557

00:28:19,340 --> 00:28:21,820

I'm going to stop you here
because we need to change tape.

558

00:28:21,820 --> 00:28:24,140

I do want you to pick
up with this story.

559

00:28:24,140 --> 00:28:24,650

OK.

560

00:28:24,650 --> 00:28:25,190

OK?

561

00:28:25,190 --> 00:28:26,740

Yeah.

562

00:28:26,740 --> 00:30:25,000