

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:01:11,420

2

00:01:11,420 --> 00:01:12,830

OK.

3

00:01:12,830 --> 00:01:16,070

My question was what did you do
during that five months there?

4

00:01:16,070 --> 00:01:19,940

At the very beginning, I worked
on the outside on a project

5

00:01:19,940 --> 00:01:22,940

as carrying rocks up small--

6

00:01:22,940 --> 00:01:26,750

not pebbles, but
the cobblestones.

7

00:01:26,750 --> 00:01:29,570

Bringing it up from a
ravine and the crew up there

8

00:01:29,570 --> 00:01:32,330

would carry them right back.

9

00:01:32,330 --> 00:01:37,970

And we had a wooden carrier,
like those two people

10

00:01:37,970 --> 00:01:42,253

would carry with two
handles, four handles, two

11

00:01:42,253 --> 00:01:43,670

from the front,
one from the back.

12

00:01:43,670 --> 00:01:47,000

We'd load up one of
those wooden containers

13
00:01:47,000 --> 00:01:51,260
and we'd march up
the hill, unload it,

14
00:01:51,260 --> 00:01:53,900
and someone else would put it
back and just walk right down

15
00:01:53,900 --> 00:01:55,070
with it.

16
00:01:55,070 --> 00:01:59,150
And this went on like just
to keep us going, perhaps.

17
00:01:59,150 --> 00:02:03,800
And then gradually, the
activity diminished.

18
00:02:03,800 --> 00:02:09,080
And it was less watch of the SS.

19
00:02:09,080 --> 00:02:12,420
And we sensed there
is-- of course,

20
00:02:12,420 --> 00:02:14,540
since we came from
Auschwitz, we knew

21
00:02:14,540 --> 00:02:18,680
that there was the eastern
front was getting very close.

22
00:02:18,680 --> 00:02:23,030
And we did get some
trickles of information--

23
00:02:23,030 --> 00:02:27,060
the eastern front and the

western front, the Allies.

24

00:02:27,060 --> 00:02:28,970

And as I indicated
previously, someone

25

00:02:28,970 --> 00:02:32,780

had a crystal radio in camp,
someone said De Gaulle just

26

00:02:32,780 --> 00:02:35,840

made a speech, Churchill
just made a big speech,

27

00:02:35,840 --> 00:02:37,730

victory is at hand,
and this, and that.

28

00:02:37,730 --> 00:02:42,920

And you become-- as young as
you are, with conditions, you

29

00:02:42,920 --> 00:02:48,450

become aware of news
events and happenings,

30

00:02:48,450 --> 00:02:54,540

and looking towards a goal of
ending this horrible thing,

31

00:02:54,540 --> 00:02:55,440

you know.

32

00:02:55,440 --> 00:02:57,720

So you do become motivated.

33

00:02:57,720 --> 00:02:59,910

But not directly to me.

34

00:02:59,910 --> 00:03:02,280

You would overhear
during the night, other--

35

00:03:02,280 --> 00:03:06,960

like when we were
laying on those bunks.

36

00:03:06,960 --> 00:03:08,790

That's how information drew--

37

00:03:08,790 --> 00:03:14,130

sometimes even Germans
would tell us on the way

38

00:03:14,130 --> 00:03:15,900

in, on the way out.

39

00:03:15,900 --> 00:03:18,240

Or those who came in from--

40

00:03:18,240 --> 00:03:21,180

the older soldiers
at very late--

41

00:03:21,180 --> 00:03:25,630

that don't worry, it's almost
over, something to that effect,

42

00:03:25,630 --> 00:03:26,130

you know.

43

00:03:26,130 --> 00:03:31,140

44

00:03:31,140 --> 00:03:34,040

What were you thinking as
you were taking the stones up

45

00:03:34,040 --> 00:03:35,790

and then someone was
bringing them down.

46

00:03:35,790 --> 00:03:40,230

I mean, how did you keep
motivated to do this?

47
00:03:40,230 --> 00:03:44,560
Motivated because you
were asked to do it

48
00:03:44,560 --> 00:03:46,420
and there was no other choice.

49
00:03:46,420 --> 00:03:50,670
The only thing you would hope
that the day ends quickly

50
00:03:50,670 --> 00:03:53,400
and you get indoors.

51
00:03:53,400 --> 00:03:55,030
Because whenever
you are outdoors,

52
00:03:55,030 --> 00:03:59,280
there's a certain uncertainty
lurks more than indoors.

53
00:03:59,280 --> 00:04:04,710
You cannot communicate
with your fellow worker.

54
00:04:04,710 --> 00:04:07,320
You would probably
whisper or would

55
00:04:07,320 --> 00:04:09,360
talk without moving
your lips, if you can,

56
00:04:09,360 --> 00:04:12,960
like a ventriloquist.

57
00:04:12,960 --> 00:04:15,840
Because there's someone
always there to watch you.

58

00:04:15,840 --> 00:04:19,649

Whether it's a Kapo
or an SS person.

59

00:04:19,649 --> 00:04:23,852

60

00:04:23,852 --> 00:04:26,430

Oh, doesn't matter what job
you were assigned to do,

61

00:04:26,430 --> 00:04:28,490

there was no conversation.

62

00:04:28,490 --> 00:04:31,790

But fortunately, in
that Auschwitz factory,

63

00:04:31,790 --> 00:04:34,400

armaments factory,
you were indoors.

64

00:04:34,400 --> 00:04:36,220

And that was kind of a--

65

00:04:36,220 --> 00:04:39,350

a certain freedom prevailed.

66

00:04:39,350 --> 00:04:44,150

There was no military personnel
in this factory, it was just--

67

00:04:44,150 --> 00:04:49,770

you had civilian
skilled supervisors.

68

00:04:49,770 --> 00:04:53,250

And you could almost see a
human side from them sometimes.

69

00:04:53,250 --> 00:04:57,540

A smile, you know, a
something, or a nod.

70
00:04:57,540 --> 00:05:01,332

71
00:05:01,332 --> 00:05:03,270
And that's the difference.

72
00:05:03,270 --> 00:05:07,990

73
00:05:07,990 --> 00:05:11,260
OK, now, let's see.

74
00:05:11,260 --> 00:05:13,180
We were finally liberated.

75
00:05:13,180 --> 00:05:20,080
OK, as our camp was outlined
with the smell of vapor--

76
00:05:20,080 --> 00:05:21,820
the word was vapor--

77
00:05:21,820 --> 00:05:25,180
the airplane ejected.

78
00:05:25,180 --> 00:05:32,620
And we knew something
is going to happen soon.

79
00:05:32,620 --> 00:05:35,150
This was in April.

80
00:05:35,150 --> 00:05:40,030
And oddly enough, the tanks
that rolled up to the gates

81
00:05:40,030 --> 00:05:44,380
with the American personnel,
American soldiers,

82

00:05:44,380 --> 00:05:49,360
was on the same day
President Roosevelt had died.

83
00:05:49,360 --> 00:05:52,150
This was, was it April 11?

84
00:05:52,150 --> 00:05:54,200
I think it was April 11th.

85
00:05:54,200 --> 00:05:56,200
But we didn't know because
there was immediately

86
00:05:56,200 --> 00:05:59,710
put their flag,
American flag, up,

87
00:05:59,710 --> 00:06:02,020
and they put it
out at half staff.

88
00:06:02,020 --> 00:06:04,390
We didn't know what half
staff mean, even, at least I

89
00:06:04,390 --> 00:06:05,830
didn't know.

90
00:06:05,830 --> 00:06:08,860
But there were some,
amongst these soldiers,

91
00:06:08,860 --> 00:06:13,270
these liberators from the Eighth
Army were Jewish soldiers.

92
00:06:13,270 --> 00:06:15,250
And they asked, who is a Jew?

93
00:06:15,250 --> 00:06:16,840
You know.

94

00:06:16,840 --> 00:06:18,610

They speak Yiddish.

95

00:06:18,610 --> 00:06:21,400

Immediately, I noticed a
guy from Brooklyn there.

96

00:06:21,400 --> 00:06:24,080

And of course, everyone says, I
speak Yiddish, I speak Yiddish,

97

00:06:24,080 --> 00:06:24,580

you know.

98

00:06:24,580 --> 00:06:26,680

And he was surrounded by us.

99

00:06:26,680 --> 00:06:31,090

And he said-- and we were
jumping, we were really joyful.

100

00:06:31,090 --> 00:06:34,000

And he told us about
President Roosevelt,

101

00:06:34,000 --> 00:06:37,750

like we would care at
the moment, you know.

102

00:06:37,750 --> 00:06:39,670

But he said, our
president died today,

103

00:06:39,670 --> 00:06:41,560

you see, that's why
the flag is half mast.

104

00:06:41,560 --> 00:06:42,400

I remember that.

105

00:06:42,400 --> 00:06:44,860

Certain things you

do remember vividly.

106
00:06:44,860 --> 00:06:48,010
You just relive them
as you speak them.

107
00:06:48,010 --> 00:06:49,240
Well, this a moment of joy.

108
00:06:49,240 --> 00:06:51,870

109
00:06:51,870 --> 00:06:52,860
And that was the end.

110
00:06:52,860 --> 00:06:58,540

111
00:06:58,540 --> 00:07:00,010
Can we cut?

112
00:07:00,010 --> 00:07:00,760
Where are we at?

113
00:07:00,760 --> 00:07:03,562
At the-- oh, yeah,
liberation at the gate, OK.

114
00:07:03,562 --> 00:07:08,222

115
00:07:08,222 --> 00:07:09,930
So what are the first
things you remember

116
00:07:09,930 --> 00:07:11,868
happening after you
met with this soldier

117
00:07:11,868 --> 00:07:13,590
and the Americans came?

118

00:07:13,590 --> 00:07:17,730

They told us, you are
free, you are liberated.

119

00:07:17,730 --> 00:07:19,950

And how many are you?

120

00:07:19,950 --> 00:07:22,110

And just want to know about us.

121

00:07:22,110 --> 00:07:25,050

And told us not
to worry anymore.

122

00:07:25,050 --> 00:07:26,850

And then two or
three days later,

123

00:07:26,850 --> 00:07:29,730

we were transferred from these
barracks to the SS casernes,

124

00:07:29,730 --> 00:07:32,400

which was very close,
which is actually

125

00:07:32,400 --> 00:07:34,110

like across the
street, more or less.

126

00:07:34,110 --> 00:07:38,400

Just maybe 200 yards.

127

00:07:38,400 --> 00:07:42,480

And we were really
sleeping in their beds.

128

00:07:42,480 --> 00:07:45,180

And then we were fed unfort--
and the Red Cross came in,

129

00:07:45,180 --> 00:07:46,800

and the UNRRA came
in, followed just

130
00:07:46,800 --> 00:07:50,460
like following right behind
the front lines, you might say.

131
00:07:50,460 --> 00:07:55,650
Of course, I'm kind of
speeding up the sequence here.

132
00:07:55,650 --> 00:07:59,100
And we probably were
fed too rapidly food

133
00:07:59,100 --> 00:08:03,180
that we were not-- because
we were actually starved.

134
00:08:03,180 --> 00:08:06,610
Malnutrition has
set in a long time.

135
00:08:06,610 --> 00:08:09,360
And we started to gobble
down the food, just

136
00:08:09,360 --> 00:08:11,385
swallowing as fast as we could.

137
00:08:11,385 --> 00:08:12,600
Do you remember what you ate?

138
00:08:12,600 --> 00:08:17,070
Yes, I remember it was a--

139
00:08:17,070 --> 00:08:21,240
the GIs brought us
big kettle carriers,

140
00:08:21,240 --> 00:08:23,520
with two big ears on the side.

141

00:08:23,520 --> 00:08:27,060

Was a thick soup
they called chow.

142

00:08:27,060 --> 00:08:30,330

And they immediately gave
us green canteens, you know.

143

00:08:30,330 --> 00:08:32,580

And they were flat.

144

00:08:32,580 --> 00:08:33,496

And they poured us.

145

00:08:33,496 --> 00:08:34,954

And if you want
more, come on back.

146

00:08:34,954 --> 00:08:36,600

And we says, we
can't believe it.

147

00:08:36,600 --> 00:08:38,760

You know, is it real, you know?

148

00:08:38,760 --> 00:08:40,020

And we start eating it.

149

00:08:40,020 --> 00:08:42,720

And we all got sick.

150

00:08:42,720 --> 00:08:48,060

Dysentery set in, and typhoid,
and many other diseases

151

00:08:48,060 --> 00:08:54,270

until the medical corps came
in finally and gradually put us

152

00:08:54,270 --> 00:09:00,460

on milk, crackers, and it was
nothing solid food for a while.

153
00:09:00,460 --> 00:09:03,640
We were well taken care of.

154
00:09:03,640 --> 00:09:09,840
And then there was a Jewish
organization called Joint,

155
00:09:09,840 --> 00:09:13,680
J-O-I-N-T. OK.

156
00:09:13,680 --> 00:09:15,660
And they came.

157
00:09:15,660 --> 00:09:20,730
And they immediately interviewed
us to get information.

158
00:09:20,730 --> 00:09:21,540
Where are you from?

159
00:09:21,540 --> 00:09:22,650
Where did you live?

160
00:09:22,650 --> 00:09:24,420
Your parents, your
names, and so on.

161
00:09:24,420 --> 00:09:27,840
Date of birth, relatives
around anywhere, as you know.

162
00:09:27,840 --> 00:09:32,670
And they compiled those
for days, interviews.

163
00:09:32,670 --> 00:09:35,610
Some of us went to the
hospital for a short period

164
00:09:35,610 --> 00:09:38,730
because we were sick.

165
00:09:38,730 --> 00:09:43,680
And of course, we got rid
of our garb, our clothes.

166
00:09:43,680 --> 00:09:49,710
And somehow, we got civilian
clothes, pants, and really

167
00:09:49,710 --> 00:09:55,800
shirts, and hats, whatever
else a person wears.

168
00:09:55,800 --> 00:09:57,460
We start getting soap.

169
00:09:57,460 --> 00:10:01,830
We got toothbrushes,
something that we haven't had.

170
00:10:01,830 --> 00:10:06,300
We didn't know even what it
looked like until we saw it.

171
00:10:06,300 --> 00:10:11,190
And we got a lot of care
rations from the soldiers.

172
00:10:11,190 --> 00:10:13,920
And life really turned.

173
00:10:13,920 --> 00:10:15,120
Hope materialized.

174
00:10:15,120 --> 00:10:18,990

175
00:10:18,990 --> 00:10:23,540
And it was great.

176
00:10:23,540 --> 00:10:35,220
The only thought is where are my

brothers and sisters, parents?

177

00:10:35,220 --> 00:10:36,780

There was a doubt.

178

00:10:36,780 --> 00:10:38,820

But you say, they may be around.

179

00:10:38,820 --> 00:10:42,840

If I did survive, they did.

180

00:10:42,840 --> 00:10:47,560

But time proved otherwise.

181

00:10:47,560 --> 00:10:50,340

How long did you stay in
this camp with the Americans?

182

00:10:50,340 --> 00:10:52,650

Not very long.

183

00:10:52,650 --> 00:10:53,970

You mean outside of--

184

00:10:53,970 --> 00:10:55,260

Yes.

185

00:10:55,260 --> 00:10:58,020

I would say maybe
weeks, three, four weeks

186

00:10:58,020 --> 00:11:02,820

till the advancement of
the armies had passed

187

00:11:02,820 --> 00:11:08,820

and it became more of a
establish of a government that

188

00:11:08,820 --> 00:11:13,020

was supervised by the military.

189

00:11:13,020 --> 00:11:17,010

And they took us
to town on trucks.

190

00:11:17,010 --> 00:11:23,490

And I remember the things
that we shouldn't have done,

191

00:11:23,490 --> 00:11:27,990

just broke windows, and some
of the stores in Weimar.

192

00:11:27,990 --> 00:11:29,190

You know.

193

00:11:29,190 --> 00:11:31,620

It's the soldiers took us there.

194

00:11:31,620 --> 00:11:34,770

Just almost something like
happened in LA, you might say,

195

00:11:34,770 --> 00:11:35,810

just recently, you know.

196

00:11:35,810 --> 00:11:38,680

But I don't know, maybe this
shouldn't be good for tape.

197

00:11:38,680 --> 00:11:39,180

Anyway.

198

00:11:39,180 --> 00:11:41,730

199

00:11:41,730 --> 00:11:44,430

Well, did they tell you to
tell with what intention?

200

00:11:44,430 --> 00:11:45,750

Yeah.

201
00:11:45,750 --> 00:11:47,070
What intention?

202
00:11:47,070 --> 00:11:49,860
Just to parade us through
the German population what

203
00:11:49,860 --> 00:11:51,360
we are like, you know.

204
00:11:51,360 --> 00:11:53,010
And there were Germans
on the streets?

205
00:11:53,010 --> 00:11:53,620
Yes.

206
00:11:53,620 --> 00:11:54,870
And they said, we didn't know.

207
00:11:54,870 --> 00:11:59,940
And they brought the
Germans into camp to look,

208
00:11:59,940 --> 00:12:01,160
see what was on.

209
00:12:01,160 --> 00:12:04,790
And they all cried, and
filed by, and we didn't know,

210
00:12:04,790 --> 00:12:05,900
we didn't know.

211
00:12:05,900 --> 00:12:09,320
They all cried,
especially the women.

212
00:12:09,320 --> 00:12:10,220
And we didn't know.

213

00:12:10,220 --> 00:12:11,390
And they said, terrible.

214
00:12:11,390 --> 00:12:13,160
But we can't believe.

215
00:12:13,160 --> 00:12:14,960
I'm sure they must have known.

216
00:12:14,960 --> 00:12:18,750
Because these people came
out of that camp every day

217
00:12:18,750 --> 00:12:23,300
and went into the city
to work in the city,

218
00:12:23,300 --> 00:12:26,550
to clean the streets
or do other things.

219
00:12:26,550 --> 00:12:28,790
And Buchenwald was not a
camp that was not known.

220
00:12:28,790 --> 00:12:34,020
It was one of the
larger, well-known camps.

221
00:12:34,020 --> 00:12:38,270
So well, what else
could they have done?

222
00:12:38,270 --> 00:12:44,810
So gradually, we kind
of gathered strength

223
00:12:44,810 --> 00:12:46,760
and looked more like humans.

224
00:12:46,760 --> 00:12:49,640

225

00:12:49,640 --> 00:12:55,220

Gradually, we were repatriated
to our respective countries.

226

00:12:55,220 --> 00:12:57,680

A lot of them went to Israel.

227

00:12:57,680 --> 00:13:01,190

Immediately, there was an
Israeli movement there.

228

00:13:01,190 --> 00:13:06,200

Whether it was the
Haganah or the Irgun,

229

00:13:06,200 --> 00:13:07,250

I don't know which one.

230

00:13:07,250 --> 00:13:10,370

Or both, perhaps,
came in the camp.

231

00:13:10,370 --> 00:13:14,620

And there was kind of a
recruitment of some people,

232

00:13:14,620 --> 00:13:20,000

of the Eastern European
Jews, to go to Israel.

233

00:13:20,000 --> 00:13:22,250

And that's how the
famous Exodus, the ship

234

00:13:22,250 --> 00:13:24,350

that ended up in Cyprus.

235

00:13:24,350 --> 00:13:27,890

But there were
other experiences.

236

00:13:27,890 --> 00:13:31,820

After perhaps six, eight
months, that returned.

237
00:13:31,820 --> 00:13:39,380
I was also asked to join
a Zionist organization.

238
00:13:39,380 --> 00:13:42,890
And also trained by Israelis.

239
00:13:42,890 --> 00:13:43,400
We went.

240
00:13:43,400 --> 00:13:46,190
We had camp and
trained by Israelis.

241
00:13:46,190 --> 00:13:52,730
And we went to Marseilles,
the port city of Marseilles.

242
00:13:52,730 --> 00:13:56,030
And we rode out--

243
00:13:56,030 --> 00:13:56,960
excuse me.

244
00:13:56,960 --> 00:14:02,510
We rode out people that came
from the DP camps in Germany

245
00:14:02,510 --> 00:14:04,400
and put them on boats.

246
00:14:04,400 --> 00:14:07,235
There would be a Greek
ship, some distance out.

247
00:14:07,235 --> 00:14:11,360
And we roam out in the
night to those ships.

248

00:14:11,360 --> 00:14:15,200

And they would, the ships
would drop those ladders,

249

00:14:15,200 --> 00:14:18,110

you know, so they can climb up.

250

00:14:18,110 --> 00:14:19,070

That for the men.

251

00:14:19,070 --> 00:14:23,330

For the women, they would make
like what they call a stork

252

00:14:23,330 --> 00:14:33,200

folder, you know, like you
have a sheet of canvas,

253

00:14:33,200 --> 00:14:36,020

and you take the four corners
and tie them together,

254

00:14:36,020 --> 00:14:39,620

and you put them on a lift,
and it pulled the women

255

00:14:39,620 --> 00:14:42,230

with the kids up.

256

00:14:42,230 --> 00:14:45,170

So that was when I was-- or
I have some pictures with me

257

00:14:45,170 --> 00:14:46,590

that I'd be able to show you.

258

00:14:46,590 --> 00:14:49,230

Not of the action, but the
organization I belonged to.

259

00:14:49,230 --> 00:14:54,050

So after, from Weimar,
you moved back to France?

260
00:14:54,050 --> 00:14:56,142
Yeah.

261
00:14:56,142 --> 00:14:58,270
You moved back to Paris?

262
00:14:58,270 --> 00:14:58,810
Yes.

263
00:14:58,810 --> 00:15:06,690
No, actually, we were
quarantined in Normandy.

264
00:15:06,690 --> 00:15:08,970
First, the governments
searched for parents, relatives

265
00:15:08,970 --> 00:15:10,320
where we lived, and so on.

266
00:15:10,320 --> 00:15:12,690
Those who had relatives
surviving, some

267
00:15:12,690 --> 00:15:15,060
escaped to Switzerland,
or other parts of Europe,

268
00:15:15,060 --> 00:15:19,200
or were in the Maquis,
the underground.

269
00:15:19,200 --> 00:15:20,640
Of course, you were reunited.

270
00:15:20,640 --> 00:15:24,390
But those who did not,
the government took care.

271
00:15:24,390 --> 00:15:27,000
They had shelter for you.

272
00:15:27,000 --> 00:15:30,970
And you lived there, you
went to school, and so on.

273
00:15:30,970 --> 00:15:36,450
Also, the organization from
the United States Joint, HIAS,

274
00:15:36,450 --> 00:15:41,820
I remember, also
kept sending things.

275
00:15:41,820 --> 00:15:44,460
Literature, perhaps,
books, prayer books.

276
00:15:44,460 --> 00:15:49,770
And everybody got
involved from the outside.

277
00:15:49,770 --> 00:15:53,070
And from within as well.

278
00:15:53,070 --> 00:15:57,330
And we were issued
IDs that we were

279
00:15:57,330 --> 00:15:59,490
returning prisoners of war.

280
00:15:59,490 --> 00:16:00,930
And we had priorities.

281
00:16:00,930 --> 00:16:04,950
Going to a movie or
staying in line somewhere,

282
00:16:04,950 --> 00:16:08,100
which I have the card with me.

283
00:16:08,100 --> 00:16:09,690

I saved that.

284
00:16:09,690 --> 00:16:12,810
I have my ration tickets
with me, the post-war ration

285
00:16:12,810 --> 00:16:16,380
tickets, and so on.

286
00:16:16,380 --> 00:16:19,860
So we were quite-- the French
government was very fair,

287
00:16:19,860 --> 00:16:22,020
treated us well.

288
00:16:22,020 --> 00:16:25,020
And of course, as I
indicated in the beginning

289
00:16:25,020 --> 00:16:26,790
that I had relatives
in the United States.

290
00:16:26,790 --> 00:16:29,610
I had two uncles and one aunt.

291
00:16:29,610 --> 00:16:31,830
Those were two
brothers of my mother

292
00:16:31,830 --> 00:16:34,770
and one sister of my mother.

293
00:16:34,770 --> 00:16:37,620
Somehow, my aunt
found me on a list

294
00:16:37,620 --> 00:16:39,930
that was published by
some Jewish organization

295

00:16:39,930 --> 00:16:43,690
here in San Francisco.

296
00:16:43,690 --> 00:16:47,160
And she sent a letter
and asked for a picture

297
00:16:47,160 --> 00:16:51,870
and a description, if
I knew certain people.

298
00:16:51,870 --> 00:16:54,810
She wanted to make sure that
I am the right person that she

299
00:16:54,810 --> 00:16:56,610
thought of.

300
00:16:56,610 --> 00:16:59,705
And I knew that I
had aunts and uncles

301
00:16:59,705 --> 00:17:01,830
because I remember some
relatives were visiting us.

302
00:17:01,830 --> 00:17:04,390
But I was very young.

303
00:17:04,390 --> 00:17:05,223
I didn't know where.

304
00:17:05,223 --> 00:17:06,932
I didn't know what it
was, San Francisco.

305
00:17:06,932 --> 00:17:08,790
Had an uncle in San
Francisco, in Oakland,

306
00:17:08,790 --> 00:17:14,160
Los Angeles, and Oakland, New
Jersey, Paterson, New Jersey.

307
00:17:14,160 --> 00:17:16,859
And I just didn't remember
or know what city.

308
00:17:16,859 --> 00:17:19,050
But I knew they lived
in the United States.

309
00:17:19,050 --> 00:17:21,720

310
00:17:21,720 --> 00:17:25,710
And my aunt sent
this letter to me.

311
00:17:25,710 --> 00:17:30,000
And she says, if you can take
a photo, send the photo to me.

312
00:17:30,000 --> 00:17:36,570
And tell us about your parents,
you know, and your family.

313
00:17:36,570 --> 00:17:39,600
And this letter was given
to me during a lunch

314
00:17:39,600 --> 00:17:42,903
period when I was living in
a town with 60 other boys.

315
00:17:42,903 --> 00:17:44,820
And the rector of the
house informed me, said,

316
00:17:44,820 --> 00:17:47,850
I want to see you in
my office after lunch.

317
00:17:47,850 --> 00:17:51,330
I have some mail for you.

318

00:17:51,330 --> 00:17:54,170

And he read a letter
in English fluent to me

319

00:17:54,170 --> 00:17:56,370

and interpreted
immediately into French.

320

00:17:56,370 --> 00:18:00,351

And he said, your aunt
is asking for you.

321

00:18:00,351 --> 00:18:03,870

That did you know you had an
aunt in the United States?

322

00:18:03,870 --> 00:18:06,180

And I said, I knew that
I had relatives, yes.

323

00:18:06,180 --> 00:18:09,120

My parents often spoke of
their brothers and sisters.

324

00:18:09,120 --> 00:18:13,750

And I had some uncle came
to visit in the early '30s

325

00:18:13,750 --> 00:18:14,430

or mid '30s.

326

00:18:14,430 --> 00:18:17,700

327

00:18:17,700 --> 00:18:22,082

So we took pictures immediately.

328

00:18:22,082 --> 00:18:24,750

And the rector took
me to a studio.

329

00:18:24,750 --> 00:18:29,550

At that time, I lived in a
chateau on a suburb of Paris.

330
00:18:29,550 --> 00:18:34,110
Was Fontenay-aux-Roses,
about 10 kilometers.

331
00:18:34,110 --> 00:18:36,240
And he took me to
the local photo shop.

332
00:18:36,240 --> 00:18:40,620

333
00:18:40,620 --> 00:18:44,070
And I remember, he said,
let's go have a nice haircut

334
00:18:44,070 --> 00:18:45,750
before you take this picture.

335
00:18:45,750 --> 00:18:48,158
And put a nice, clean shirt on.

336
00:18:48,158 --> 00:18:49,200
And would you like a tie?

337
00:18:49,200 --> 00:18:52,190
And he took off his tie
and put it on me, you know.

338
00:18:52,190 --> 00:18:54,180
And said, your aunt
has never seen you,

339
00:18:54,180 --> 00:18:55,715
you have to make
a good impression.

340
00:18:55,715 --> 00:18:59,520
I didn't know what he was
talking about, you know.

341
00:18:59,520 --> 00:19:01,710
So that was done,
sent the picture.

342
00:19:01,710 --> 00:19:05,340
And more or less, he dictated
the letter and said me.

343
00:19:05,340 --> 00:19:07,860
But he read it to me,
he said, is this OK?

344
00:19:07,860 --> 00:19:10,650
And whatever I could fill in
about my parents, my brothers,

345
00:19:10,650 --> 00:19:13,500
and sister, I fell in.

346
00:19:13,500 --> 00:19:16,650
And good enough, my
aunt responded quickly.

347
00:19:16,650 --> 00:19:19,440
She said, she's
going to make papers,

348
00:19:19,440 --> 00:19:21,990
affidavits so I'd come
to the United States

349
00:19:21,990 --> 00:19:24,630
if I'd like to do that.

350
00:19:24,630 --> 00:19:26,340
Well, I became very excited.

351
00:19:26,340 --> 00:19:29,520
But I had hoped
that I would locate

352
00:19:29,520 --> 00:19:32,080

some of my immediate family.

353

00:19:32,080 --> 00:19:35,310

Because I did have
cousins that did escape

354

00:19:35,310 --> 00:19:38,820

to Switzerland that came back.

355

00:19:38,820 --> 00:19:40,090

And I was in touch with them.

356

00:19:40,090 --> 00:19:42,240

They also located me.

357

00:19:42,240 --> 00:19:46,200

And some, after the war,
there were various sheets

358

00:19:46,200 --> 00:19:50,220

with names in post
offices, offices,

359

00:19:50,220 --> 00:19:53,250

on a kiosk where you bought
your newspapers, just about

360

00:19:53,250 --> 00:19:53,750

everywhere.

361

00:19:53,750 --> 00:19:55,545

And the newspapers
had it published.

362

00:19:55,545 --> 00:19:57,900

The writing was
totally run of names,

363

00:19:57,900 --> 00:20:01,470

just like perhaps you might
recall the prisoners of war

364

00:20:01,470 --> 00:20:04,320
were taken, and they were
read who was detained

365
00:20:04,320 --> 00:20:07,680
who was missing, and so on.

366
00:20:07,680 --> 00:20:10,310
That's how it was.

367
00:20:10,310 --> 00:20:16,010
And my cousin from Lyon,
from southern France,

368
00:20:16,010 --> 00:20:17,180
sent another letter.

369
00:20:17,180 --> 00:20:19,790
Before my aunt, I must say.

370
00:20:19,790 --> 00:20:21,860
Because I was in
touch with them.

371
00:20:21,860 --> 00:20:25,024
They had just come
back from Switzerland.

372
00:20:25,024 --> 00:20:27,260
And there were
young people, they

373
00:20:27,260 --> 00:20:31,000
had one child, which is the
dean of the University of Lyon

374
00:20:31,000 --> 00:20:33,170
today.

375
00:20:33,170 --> 00:20:38,450
And I went to stay with them
for a while, for just maybe 10

376

00:20:38,450 --> 00:20:40,910
days, two weeks.

377

00:20:40,910 --> 00:20:44,810
And we reminisced
and talked things.

378

00:20:44,810 --> 00:20:49,310
And I was getting older by the
day, in terms of experience.

379

00:20:49,310 --> 00:20:53,610
And you learn things so
rapidly through the conditions,

380

00:20:53,610 --> 00:20:54,110
you know.

381

00:20:54,110 --> 00:20:56,800

382

00:20:56,800 --> 00:21:01,160
And I didn't quite know
what to do with that.

383

00:21:01,160 --> 00:21:05,390
I wanted to come to the
United States and naturally.

384

00:21:05,390 --> 00:21:10,670
As other kids in the
house that I lived in

385

00:21:10,670 --> 00:21:12,260
had the same experiences.

386

00:21:12,260 --> 00:21:17,510
And some as far as Australia,
South America, and they all

387

00:21:17,510 --> 00:21:18,530
were ready to go.

388
00:21:18,530 --> 00:21:22,550
And I decided to come here.

389
00:21:22,550 --> 00:21:26,820
And I had a wonderful
person, my aunt and uncle.

390
00:21:26,820 --> 00:21:31,210

391
00:21:31,210 --> 00:21:33,280
OK, let's cut, thank you.

392
00:21:33,280 --> 00:21:34,300
Call it again.

393
00:21:34,300 --> 00:21:35,870
OK, go ahead.

394
00:21:35,870 --> 00:21:36,940
OK.

395
00:21:36,940 --> 00:21:44,851
I've counted 43 cousins,
and second cousins,

396
00:21:44,851 --> 00:21:47,720
and so on that I have
in the United States.

397
00:21:47,720 --> 00:21:49,160
Yeah.

398
00:21:49,160 --> 00:21:51,830
And my wife is a
native San Franciscan,

399
00:21:51,830 --> 00:21:53,780
but it's a very small family.

400

00:21:53,780 --> 00:21:56,510
Her parents came from Russia.

401
00:21:56,510 --> 00:21:57,410
We met here.

402
00:21:57,410 --> 00:22:01,100

403
00:22:01,100 --> 00:22:04,820
How long were you in this--

404
00:22:04,820 --> 00:22:10,550
how long after liberation was
it before you came to America?

405
00:22:10,550 --> 00:22:13,460
Oh, I came in '48.

406
00:22:13,460 --> 00:22:17,720
Yeah, on February
8, 1948, I came.

407
00:22:17,720 --> 00:22:19,520
So mostly, it was [INAUDIBLE]?

408
00:22:19,520 --> 00:22:21,470
Yes, I went back to school.

409
00:22:21,470 --> 00:22:28,130
And whatever schooling I had in
Europe was probably post-war.

410
00:22:28,130 --> 00:22:29,780
And minimal before the war.

411
00:22:29,780 --> 00:22:33,290

412
00:22:33,290 --> 00:22:37,610
And so how long after
your aunt's letter coming?

413
00:22:37,610 --> 00:22:40,070
Oh, that took about--

414
00:22:40,070 --> 00:22:44,090
see, my parents were
not citizens of France

415
00:22:44,090 --> 00:22:45,830
because they were Polish.

416
00:22:45,830 --> 00:22:48,410
And citizenship in
France, I guess,

417
00:22:48,410 --> 00:22:52,190
must have been difficult, or
they didn't care, or whatever.

418
00:22:52,190 --> 00:22:56,120
So therefore, I was not born in
France, so I was not a citizen,

419
00:22:56,120 --> 00:22:56,840
either.

420
00:22:56,840 --> 00:23:02,810
So I could not immigrate
under a French quota.

421
00:23:02,810 --> 00:23:06,350
Nor could I immigrate
on a Polish quota

422
00:23:06,350 --> 00:23:11,090
because my parents have
abandoned Polish citizenship,

423
00:23:11,090 --> 00:23:13,910
hoping that they would--
you had to abandon.

424

00:23:13,910 --> 00:23:16,770
Some countries you can
have dual citizenship.

425
00:23:16,770 --> 00:23:20,570
Apparently, it seems to me
that you couldn't at that time.

426
00:23:20,570 --> 00:23:23,300
I don't think my parents
would have wanted

427
00:23:23,300 --> 00:23:25,100
to have Polish citizenship
because I don't

428
00:23:25,100 --> 00:23:26,225
think they were very happy.

429
00:23:26,225 --> 00:23:28,220
Antisemitism was rampant.

430
00:23:28,220 --> 00:23:31,670
That's why most of my aunts and
uncles, most of my relatives

431
00:23:31,670 --> 00:23:34,640
had left Poland.

432
00:23:34,640 --> 00:23:35,480
But they were not.

433
00:23:35,480 --> 00:23:42,800
So I came on a opened quota,
what they call those days,

434
00:23:42,800 --> 00:23:46,150
or stateless.

435
00:23:46,150 --> 00:23:48,950
And I had to wait more
than anyone else did

436

00:23:48,950 --> 00:23:51,410
that claimed a country.

437

00:23:51,410 --> 00:23:56,950
So it took probably from
'44 to '48 to come here.

438

00:23:56,950 --> 00:23:59,870
So her letter came
soon after you were?

439

00:23:59,870 --> 00:24:05,050
No, her letter came when
I lived in this house.

440

00:24:05,050 --> 00:24:06,580
See, I was a teenager.

441

00:24:06,580 --> 00:24:10,090
And we lived in a
house subsidized

442

00:24:10,090 --> 00:24:14,950
by the French government and
some other organizations,

443

00:24:14,950 --> 00:24:19,390
like the Joint, or
the UNRRA, perhaps.

444

00:24:19,390 --> 00:24:24,400
And we went to school from there
and were well taken care of.

445

00:24:24,400 --> 00:24:27,580
And a letter came to that
house that I lived in.

446

00:24:27,580 --> 00:24:32,240
And I emigrated from that house.

447

00:24:32,240 --> 00:24:35,650

So did you want to or have an opportunity to return to Paris?

448

00:24:35,650 --> 00:24:37,600

Oh, I've been back several times, yeah.

449

00:24:37,600 --> 00:24:39,282

But at that time, you didn't.

450

00:24:39,282 --> 00:24:41,150

Or you did?

451

00:24:41,150 --> 00:24:41,885

I didn't what?

452

00:24:41,885 --> 00:24:43,510

At the time before you came to America,

453

00:24:43,510 --> 00:24:45,970

did you have an opportunity to return to your parents'

454

00:24:45,970 --> 00:24:47,410

home, your original home?

455

00:24:47,410 --> 00:24:48,730

Oh, yes.

456

00:24:48,730 --> 00:24:52,833

I just-- we went and looked, and other people were living in it.

457

00:24:52,833 --> 00:24:55,375

And nothing could be done in the store or whatever, you know,

458

00:24:55,375 --> 00:24:57,700

just was a totally different store.

459

00:24:57,700 --> 00:25:00,790

460

00:25:00,790 --> 00:25:04,360

There was ravaged by the
Germans during the occupation.

461

00:25:04,360 --> 00:25:05,880

Because they knew
where Jews lived

462

00:25:05,880 --> 00:25:09,460

and where Jews had
businesses, you know.

463

00:25:09,460 --> 00:25:12,790

464

00:25:12,790 --> 00:25:15,010

It was really almost
scary to go back,

465

00:25:15,010 --> 00:25:19,960

to know that you're not going
to find anybody there, you know.

466

00:25:19,960 --> 00:25:23,920

So it was kind of
an emotional trip,

467

00:25:23,920 --> 00:25:26,020

you might say, to
go back and look,

468

00:25:26,020 --> 00:25:29,020

and knock at the door, someone
that would open up the door

469

00:25:29,020 --> 00:25:32,570

and it wouldn't be
your mom or your dad.

470

00:25:32,570 --> 00:25:34,210

Did you knock on the door?

471

00:25:34,210 --> 00:25:35,230

No, I did not.

472

00:25:35,230 --> 00:25:39,040

I just-- I guess we
were probably supervised

473

00:25:39,040 --> 00:25:43,420

by people
professionally, that they

474

00:25:43,420 --> 00:25:47,800

knew that what they were doing
in terms of emotional behavior.

475

00:25:47,800 --> 00:25:48,493

Pardon me?

476

00:25:48,493 --> 00:25:49,660

You went with a group, then?

477

00:25:49,660 --> 00:25:52,613

Yeah, we did go by the house.

478

00:25:52,613 --> 00:25:53,530

I looked at the house.

479

00:25:53,530 --> 00:25:54,280

And I looked.

480

00:25:54,280 --> 00:25:56,913

I have pictures that
I brought with me.

481

00:25:56,913 --> 00:25:58,330

Whenever you want
me to show them,

482

00:25:58,330 --> 00:26:00,910

I can be glad to show to you.

483
00:26:00,910 --> 00:26:03,270
OK.

484
00:26:03,270 --> 00:26:04,080
Six seconds.

485
00:26:04,080 --> 00:26:08,620

486
00:26:08,620 --> 00:26:09,390
OK.

487
00:26:09,390 --> 00:26:11,050
So a little more about France.

488
00:26:11,050 --> 00:26:13,980
Do you remember after the war
when you were in this home

489
00:26:13,980 --> 00:26:17,320
the general attitude of
Gentiles towards Jewish people

490
00:26:17,320 --> 00:26:18,580
at this point?

491
00:26:18,580 --> 00:26:24,100
I think sympathetic because
we were considered as orphans.

492
00:26:24,100 --> 00:26:26,620
And I did not
encounter the issue

493
00:26:26,620 --> 00:26:30,100
of being Jewish or not Jewish.

494
00:26:30,100 --> 00:26:40,690
Probably at individual moments
in town or something like that.

495

00:26:40,690 --> 00:26:45,520

We were-- the government
gave us a little pin

496

00:26:45,520 --> 00:26:51,940

to wear in our lapel or on our
shirt, which was a barbed wire

497

00:26:51,940 --> 00:26:54,895

thing, clipped, looked like
a barbed wire, you know.

498

00:26:54,895 --> 00:26:58,480

And that would identify
you as a prisoner of war.

499

00:26:58,480 --> 00:27:00,652

And they would look at
us, god, these young guys

500

00:27:00,652 --> 00:27:01,360

weren't soldiers.

501

00:27:01,360 --> 00:27:07,150

They didn't think of
as Jews DPs, you know.

502

00:27:07,150 --> 00:27:09,097

But as, they would
only look, these

503

00:27:09,097 --> 00:27:10,930

are too young to be so
that these are phony,

504

00:27:10,930 --> 00:27:11,980

these are fake.

505

00:27:11,980 --> 00:27:13,480

And then would say,
they're probably

506

00:27:13,480 --> 00:27:16,120

Jews or somebody, [INAUDIBLE],,
or something to that effect,

507

00:27:16,120 --> 00:27:17,080

you know.

508

00:27:17,080 --> 00:27:18,400

But minimal, really.

509

00:27:18,400 --> 00:27:20,560

I wouldn't want to
make an issue on it.

510

00:27:20,560 --> 00:27:22,120

Really not.

511

00:27:22,120 --> 00:27:24,580

Did you have any sense of
your own Jewish identity

512

00:27:24,580 --> 00:27:26,672

having changed at that
point because of the war

513

00:27:26,672 --> 00:27:27,880

and because of the Holocaust?

514

00:27:27,880 --> 00:27:29,016

Change?

515

00:27:29,016 --> 00:27:30,790

Those are good questions, yeah.

516

00:27:30,790 --> 00:27:32,350

Make you feel stronger?

517

00:27:32,350 --> 00:27:37,450

Well, I always felt
that I'm a Jew, yeah.

518

00:27:37,450 --> 00:27:41,020

I never-- our family
was not assimilated.

519
00:27:41,020 --> 00:27:43,480
We were practicing Jews.

520
00:27:43,480 --> 00:27:48,850
And really observant Jews.

521
00:27:48,850 --> 00:27:51,450

522
00:27:51,450 --> 00:27:53,350
My uncles and aunts
were likewise.

523
00:27:53,350 --> 00:27:56,020

524
00:27:56,020 --> 00:27:58,750
Yes, perhaps there was
a certain awareness

525
00:27:58,750 --> 00:28:03,310
because we were in contact
with Israeli groups.

526
00:28:03,310 --> 00:28:06,280
We went on outings.

527
00:28:06,280 --> 00:28:09,670
And I don't recall momentarily
the organization that I

528
00:28:09,670 --> 00:28:14,590
was kind of enlisted or joined.

529
00:28:14,590 --> 00:28:18,550
But I know we were like the Boy
Scouts or the only Boy Scouts.

530
00:28:18,550 --> 00:28:20,830

We wore short pants,
we wore fillers

531
00:28:20,830 --> 00:28:23,350
with blue shirts and the red.

532
00:28:23,350 --> 00:28:27,370
I think it was a
Ben Gurion's party,

533
00:28:27,370 --> 00:28:31,036
was a Ben Gurion's type of a--

534
00:28:31,036 --> 00:28:32,620
I can't compare it
to anything here

535
00:28:32,620 --> 00:28:35,890
in the United States other
than the Boy Scouts, you know.

536
00:28:35,890 --> 00:28:39,220
And we had outings,
we had camp outs.

537
00:28:39,220 --> 00:28:45,290
But as I said, the aim
was to get us to Israel.

538
00:28:45,290 --> 00:28:50,560
And if I wouldn't have had any
relatives in the United States,

539
00:28:50,560 --> 00:28:54,670
I probably most likely
would have gone to Israel.

540
00:28:54,670 --> 00:28:59,050
Or maybe stayed in France,
but I have strong feelings.

541
00:28:59,050 --> 00:29:05,050
A lot of kids that lived

with us, we lived with,

542
00:29:05,050 --> 00:29:06,580
did go to Israel.

543
00:29:06,580 --> 00:29:10,150
And I had a friend
of mine, he just

544
00:29:10,150 --> 00:29:13,150
visited me about
three years ago, he

545
00:29:13,150 --> 00:29:15,940
lives in the Negev desert.

546
00:29:15,940 --> 00:29:21,880
And he's got somewhere in
the military installation.

547
00:29:21,880 --> 00:29:24,920
He's a scientist, you know.

548
00:29:24,920 --> 00:29:25,420
OK.

549
00:29:25,420 --> 00:29:29,990
And he came with his wife,
and son lives in Philadelphia.

550
00:29:29,990 --> 00:29:34,900
So he was a youngster, a
young person from France

551
00:29:34,900 --> 00:29:36,250
that would go to Israel.

552
00:29:36,250 --> 00:29:39,220
A lot of young people
went to Israel.

553
00:29:39,220 --> 00:29:41,950

In the early days, there was a
very strong idealistic feeling

554
00:29:41,950 --> 00:29:43,720
towards Israel.

555
00:29:43,720 --> 00:29:47,800
Especially, we had no
parents and nobody else.

556
00:29:47,800 --> 00:29:55,270
You kind of felt more at
home with your own people,

557
00:29:55,270 --> 00:29:56,650
I would think, yeah.

558
00:29:56,650 --> 00:29:58,370
There's no doubt about it.

559
00:29:58,370 --> 00:29:58,870
Yeah.

560
00:29:58,870 --> 00:30:05,018

561
00:30:05,018 --> 00:30:06,560
Why did you choose
to come to America

562
00:30:06,560 --> 00:30:09,050
rather than staying with
your cousins in France?

563
00:30:09,050 --> 00:30:11,780
Well, because my
relatives-- my aunts,

564
00:30:11,780 --> 00:30:18,020
my uncles, and I must
say, curiosity, too.

565

00:30:18,020 --> 00:30:21,830

Just how we were
impressed with the GIs.

566

00:30:21,830 --> 00:30:23,480

They had everything.

567

00:30:23,480 --> 00:30:26,670

Just the stories they told
us, America has everything,

568

00:30:26,670 --> 00:30:27,170

you know.

569

00:30:27,170 --> 00:30:29,430

Which is true, America
has everything.

570

00:30:29,430 --> 00:30:32,660

It's a great country,
can't deny it.

571

00:30:32,660 --> 00:30:35,420

Sometimes the people
that run it, I question.

572

00:30:35,420 --> 00:30:37,280

But other than
that, it's probably

573

00:30:37,280 --> 00:30:40,560

the greatest in the world.

574

00:30:40,560 --> 00:30:43,190

But after I came, I became--

575

00:30:43,190 --> 00:30:47,300

kind of a nostalgia set in.

576

00:30:47,300 --> 00:30:51,320

Because you missed your friends,
your milieu, your circle,

577

00:30:51,320 --> 00:30:53,010
your activities.

578

00:30:53,010 --> 00:30:56,840
My aunt and uncle
were elder people.

579

00:30:56,840 --> 00:30:58,850
They had two sons
were-- one was married

580

00:30:58,850 --> 00:31:01,760
and one was a student that
just returned from World War

581

00:31:01,760 --> 00:31:03,380
II in the Pacific.

582

00:31:03,380 --> 00:31:08,630
And went to San Francisco
State University on Buchanan,

583

00:31:08,630 --> 00:31:11,390
you're probably too
young to remember.

584

00:31:11,390 --> 00:31:13,370
So I was kind of--

585

00:31:13,370 --> 00:31:14,670
and my aunt really babied me.

586

00:31:14,670 --> 00:31:17,690
She was a kind person,
so was my uncle.

587

00:31:17,690 --> 00:31:20,150
And they were well-to-do,
they lived on Nob Hill,

588

00:31:20,150 --> 00:31:21,817
on top on Nob Hill,

right in [INAUDIBLE]

589
00:31:21,817 --> 00:31:23,930
with Grace Cathedral.

590
00:31:23,930 --> 00:31:28,140
And they were known
in the community.

591
00:31:28,140 --> 00:31:32,130
And I had everything.

592
00:31:32,130 --> 00:31:36,180
Everything except-- I became a
member of the Jewish Community

593
00:31:36,180 --> 00:31:40,410
Center on the Presidio
in California.

594
00:31:40,410 --> 00:31:44,040
My aunt had-- she thought
of everything, you know.

595
00:31:44,040 --> 00:31:47,285
Somehow, I kept going
to the French Center.

596
00:31:47,285 --> 00:31:48,420
And where was that?

597
00:31:48,420 --> 00:31:52,530
St. Mary's Church on California
Street and Grant Avenue.

598
00:31:52,530 --> 00:31:54,485
Because I could communicate.

599
00:31:54,485 --> 00:31:56,610
When I came the United
States, I did speak English.

600

00:31:56,610 --> 00:31:58,140
I went to Berlitz.

601
00:31:58,140 --> 00:32:00,780
Because everything was in
the making to coming here.

602
00:32:00,780 --> 00:32:01,980
So I had to.

603
00:32:01,980 --> 00:32:03,375
I was advised by my cousins.

604
00:32:03,375 --> 00:32:05,900

605
00:32:05,900 --> 00:32:07,260
And I spoke--

606
00:32:07,260 --> 00:32:11,040
I could communicate
well, you know.

607
00:32:11,040 --> 00:32:13,740
But I had some
non-Jewish friends

608
00:32:13,740 --> 00:32:15,900
from this Catholic center.

609
00:32:15,900 --> 00:32:17,860
And I felt comfortable there.

610
00:32:17,860 --> 00:32:21,570
And later on, I brought them
to the Jewish Community Center

611
00:32:21,570 --> 00:32:22,215
for a dance.

612
00:32:22,215 --> 00:32:24,480
It was a Saturday night.

613
00:32:24,480 --> 00:32:27,840
So the thought of Jews and
non-Jews was not at that time

614
00:32:27,840 --> 00:32:29,220
there.

615
00:32:29,220 --> 00:32:32,235
But nevertheless, there's
always going to be a question.

616
00:32:32,235 --> 00:32:37,290

617
00:32:37,290 --> 00:32:40,383
I was thinking-- you
talked about when

618
00:32:40,383 --> 00:32:42,300
you were in the camps,
you were always watched

619
00:32:42,300 --> 00:32:45,380
and always being watched
when you were outside.

620
00:32:45,380 --> 00:32:46,100
That's right.

621
00:32:46,100 --> 00:32:49,340
Did you-- after the
war, after liberation,

622
00:32:49,340 --> 00:32:52,752
did you find yourself with
any kind of new behaviors?

623
00:32:52,752 --> 00:32:54,210
Like feeling like
you were watched?

624

00:32:54,210 --> 00:32:59,840
Yeah, just a bird out of the
cage, just flapping the wings

625
00:32:59,840 --> 00:33:02,540
and chirping.

626
00:33:02,540 --> 00:33:07,610
Want to see, want to do things,
things that we couldn't do

627
00:33:07,610 --> 00:33:08,840
or we shouldn't have done.

628
00:33:08,840 --> 00:33:10,820
You know, up to mischief.

629
00:33:10,820 --> 00:33:12,290
You know, boys are boys.

630
00:33:12,290 --> 00:33:16,260
And you know, I don't mean
mischief in term of mischief

631
00:33:16,260 --> 00:33:18,230
to do bad things, you know.

632
00:33:18,230 --> 00:33:20,780
I would break the curfew from
the house and stay out late,

633
00:33:20,780 --> 00:33:21,590
you know.

634
00:33:21,590 --> 00:33:24,590
We'd go to a movie, and the
first thing we would hit girls,

635
00:33:24,590 --> 00:33:27,656
you know.

636
00:33:27,656 --> 00:33:30,020

In France, you would whistle.

637

00:33:30,020 --> 00:33:31,670

You know, you'd tss.

638

00:33:31,670 --> 00:33:34,840

So we were alive,
very much so, yeah.

639

00:33:34,840 --> 00:33:37,880

Didn't think.

640

00:33:37,880 --> 00:33:38,930

It's very powerful.

641

00:33:38,930 --> 00:33:40,520

You didn't look back.

642

00:33:40,520 --> 00:33:43,610

And you don't think what
you just went through.

643

00:33:43,610 --> 00:33:45,080

You came out of it.

644

00:33:45,080 --> 00:33:52,400

And you, again, you ride with
the flow of everyday thing,

645

00:33:52,400 --> 00:33:53,840

everyday occurrence.

646

00:33:53,840 --> 00:33:56,820

647

00:33:56,820 --> 00:33:59,280

It's a new world, you know.

648

00:33:59,280 --> 00:34:02,910

Yes, you do things and
so, when you go to bed.

649

00:34:02,910 --> 00:34:04,075

You look up on the ceiling.

650

00:34:04,075 --> 00:34:04,575

Of course.

651

00:34:04,575 --> 00:34:07,880

652

00:34:07,880 --> 00:34:12,260

But you can never
wipe that clear.

653

00:34:12,260 --> 00:34:15,030

654

00:34:15,030 --> 00:34:16,909

But we did what young
people were doing.

655

00:34:16,909 --> 00:34:24,480

656

00:34:24,480 --> 00:34:25,409

What else can I say?

657

00:34:25,409 --> 00:34:28,949

658

00:34:28,949 --> 00:34:31,409

All instinctively.

659

00:34:31,409 --> 00:34:33,870

Just instinctively.

660

00:34:33,870 --> 00:34:35,120

The world was wide open.

661

00:34:35,120 --> 00:34:37,940

662

00:34:37,940 --> 00:34:40,130

And you talked a little
bit before the interview

663

00:34:40,130 --> 00:34:46,050

about separating your feelings
or your memories after the war.

664

00:34:46,050 --> 00:34:48,110

Well, this was the
experience that,

665

00:34:48,110 --> 00:34:50,374

when you came to the
United States here--

666

00:34:50,374 --> 00:34:55,460

and my aunt and relatives
introduced me to friends,

667

00:34:55,460 --> 00:34:58,310

to neighbors.

668

00:34:58,310 --> 00:35:02,000

And there were many, my
aunt had a lot of friends.

669

00:35:02,000 --> 00:35:04,630

And the only thing
I could hear my ear

670

00:35:04,630 --> 00:35:07,560

is he's a refugee,
isn't he nice?

671

00:35:07,560 --> 00:35:08,840

He's a refugee.

672

00:35:08,840 --> 00:35:11,710

I don't blame these
people because that's

673

00:35:11,710 --> 00:35:13,550
the way they
perceived and that's

674
00:35:13,550 --> 00:35:16,100
the way they
understand the refugee.

675
00:35:16,100 --> 00:35:19,070
And somehow, it just
hit me the wrong way,

676
00:35:19,070 --> 00:35:24,320
just like a refugees is
someone like you refuse someone

677
00:35:24,320 --> 00:35:25,800
to be with, you know?

678
00:35:25,800 --> 00:35:27,530
In essence, that what it was.

679
00:35:27,530 --> 00:35:31,730
That's the word refugee is.

680
00:35:31,730 --> 00:35:35,210
We were refused by
the German government

681
00:35:35,210 --> 00:35:40,550
as citizens, as human
beings, you know.

682
00:35:40,550 --> 00:35:44,800
So I would interpret
this as being a refugee.

683
00:35:44,800 --> 00:35:45,950
OK.

684
00:35:45,950 --> 00:35:49,040
And that just didn't
ring well with me.

685
00:35:49,040 --> 00:35:52,970
And it kind of
gave you a stigma.

686
00:35:52,970 --> 00:35:55,760
Or he's from a DP
camp or something

687
00:35:55,760 --> 00:35:57,170
like that, displaced person.

688
00:35:57,170 --> 00:35:59,750

689
00:35:59,750 --> 00:36:04,280
Reminds me somewhat today,
politically speaking, someone

690
00:36:04,280 --> 00:36:07,640
referred there on
welfare people, you know.

691
00:36:07,640 --> 00:36:09,350
You see, it just kind of--

692
00:36:09,350 --> 00:36:12,290
you put a label on somebody.

693
00:36:12,290 --> 00:36:14,060
Probably was they
didn't mean any harm.

694
00:36:14,060 --> 00:36:16,220
I'm sure they didn't mean any.

695
00:36:16,220 --> 00:36:19,070
But it just didn't
go well with me.

696
00:36:19,070 --> 00:36:22,400
So I thought, if

I can separate, I

697

00:36:22,400 --> 00:36:24,410
brought some European clothes.

698

00:36:24,410 --> 00:36:26,360
You know, just didn't
want to wear it.

699

00:36:26,360 --> 00:36:29,762
I said, I'll blend
in as quick as I can.

700

00:36:29,762 --> 00:36:34,760
Don't forget, I was 17,
and I could think a little

701

00:36:34,760 --> 00:36:39,210
differently due to
experiences and so on.

702

00:36:39,210 --> 00:36:40,800
And that's what I wanted.

703

00:36:40,800 --> 00:36:44,330
That's why I kind of
really pushed it aside.

704

00:36:44,330 --> 00:36:47,930
I said, a lot of people that
I knew that came from Europe,

705

00:36:47,930 --> 00:36:51,950
they were also the camps,
just wallowed in it,

706

00:36:51,950 --> 00:36:55,360
if I may say that.

707

00:36:55,360 --> 00:36:58,010
And somehow, I just
couldn't see it.

708

00:36:58,010 --> 00:37:00,550

709

00:37:00,550 --> 00:37:02,380

Don't forget, It's great, yeah.

710

00:37:02,380 --> 00:37:05,770

And know what you went
through, be aware of it.

711

00:37:05,770 --> 00:37:08,440

And if you can help it to
not let it happen again,

712

00:37:08,440 --> 00:37:10,210

wherever it might be.

713

00:37:10,210 --> 00:37:11,110

Yes.

714

00:37:11,110 --> 00:37:13,660

Contribute to that cause.

715

00:37:13,660 --> 00:37:20,140

But just to kind of
live it day and night,

716

00:37:20,140 --> 00:37:23,410

I just didn't want to do it.

717

00:37:23,410 --> 00:37:29,452

And many times, my wife asked
me things very apologetically.

718

00:37:29,452 --> 00:37:34,630

719

00:37:34,630 --> 00:37:36,330

I'd say, oh, yes, sure.

720

00:37:36,330 --> 00:37:40,000

721
00:37:40,000 --> 00:37:43,840
Other people would throw a
lot of sympathy, you know.

722
00:37:43,840 --> 00:37:52,500
And I felt like a
unfortunate person.

723
00:37:52,500 --> 00:37:56,310
Kind of a saying in Yiddish,
maybe even in German,

724
00:37:56,310 --> 00:37:57,450
a nebbish.

725
00:37:57,450 --> 00:37:58,945
You hear of that expression?

726
00:37:58,945 --> 00:38:00,570
And I didn't want
that type of feeling.

727
00:38:00,570 --> 00:38:03,150
I just didn't want
to feel that way.

728
00:38:03,150 --> 00:38:06,360

729
00:38:06,360 --> 00:38:09,480
Maybe I was wrong, I don't know.

730
00:38:09,480 --> 00:38:14,970
But that came
instinctively enough.

731
00:38:14,970 --> 00:38:22,710
And a few other things
that related to me that oh,

732

00:38:22,710 --> 00:38:27,610
if you go to the bathroom,
we pull this thing

733
00:38:27,610 --> 00:38:29,130
so the water would.

734
00:38:29,130 --> 00:38:31,830
I says, god, I'm not
coming from a jungle.

735
00:38:31,830 --> 00:38:33,550
I said, god, I want to go back.

736
00:38:33,550 --> 00:38:35,550
Well, these were
people that came--

737
00:38:35,550 --> 00:38:39,180
my aunt came here in
the early, early 1900s,

738
00:38:39,180 --> 00:38:42,060
before the earthquake.

739
00:38:42,060 --> 00:38:45,810
You know, she had
visions of the past.

740
00:38:45,810 --> 00:38:47,940
And she was not unkind.

741
00:38:47,940 --> 00:38:50,160
She was just trying
to be helpful, perhaps

742
00:38:50,160 --> 00:38:53,680
put it to me in her own way.

743
00:38:53,680 --> 00:38:58,110
And I understand now
differently than then, you see.

744

00:38:58,110 --> 00:39:02,080

And I remember when I
arrived in San Francisco.

745

00:39:02,080 --> 00:39:07,500

And my aunt came to pick
me up from the train.

746

00:39:07,500 --> 00:39:12,150

I came with Southern Pacific
cross-country from New Jersey.

747

00:39:12,150 --> 00:39:16,350

I spent there about maybe
three weeks with my cousins.

748

00:39:16,350 --> 00:39:19,950

My uncle in New Jersey
had passed on since.

749

00:39:19,950 --> 00:39:22,890

So with one of his
daughters, I stayed.

750

00:39:22,890 --> 00:39:24,690

And they gave me
excellent time, showed me

751

00:39:24,690 --> 00:39:27,746

New York, which I heard
so much about, you know.

752

00:39:27,746 --> 00:39:31,290

And they really toured.

753

00:39:31,290 --> 00:39:34,530

And then my aunt kept calling
every night, send him out,

754

00:39:34,530 --> 00:39:36,870

we want him here.

755

00:39:36,870 --> 00:39:38,745

Don't worry, he'll be
there in another week.

756

00:39:38,745 --> 00:39:40,230

An my aunt said, a week?

757

00:39:40,230 --> 00:39:43,050

She says, send him tomorrow.

758

00:39:43,050 --> 00:39:46,430

I was welcomed.

759

00:39:46,430 --> 00:39:50,410

So these people
meant well, you know.

760

00:39:50,410 --> 00:39:54,040

And I really felt
good about that.

761

00:39:54,040 --> 00:39:59,740

But in other ways, I
could probably deal better

762

00:39:59,740 --> 00:40:03,550

with all my cousin, the son of
my aunt took me San Francisco.

763

00:40:03,550 --> 00:40:07,810

And he is more of
the idealistic type.

764

00:40:07,810 --> 00:40:12,520

And he showed me the America
is not the country of gold

765

00:40:12,520 --> 00:40:14,320

that you might dream about.

766

00:40:14,320 --> 00:40:17,170

I don't know if this is
suitable for this tape or not.

767
00:40:17,170 --> 00:40:26,680
Because he took me to areas
where you had street people

768
00:40:26,680 --> 00:40:28,360
then, you know.

769
00:40:28,360 --> 00:40:30,160
And he said, this
is part of America,

770
00:40:30,160 --> 00:40:32,250
too, you know, he said.

771
00:40:32,250 --> 00:40:34,180
What could I say, you know?

772
00:40:34,180 --> 00:40:35,720
He said, not everything here is.

773
00:40:35,720 --> 00:40:40,540
I says, fine, I want to see
everything on both sides.

774
00:40:40,540 --> 00:40:41,680
So I cannot say.

775
00:40:41,680 --> 00:40:43,983
But like I say,
living with my aunt,

776
00:40:43,983 --> 00:40:45,400
which was the most
gracious person

777
00:40:45,400 --> 00:40:55,150
on this earth, and my uncle,
in the affluent, well-to-do,

778
00:40:55,150 --> 00:41:02,050
and financially just on

property on top of the hill,

779

00:41:02,050 --> 00:41:02,950
top of Nob Hill.

780

00:41:02,950 --> 00:41:05,776

781

00:41:05,776 --> 00:41:08,770
But I somehow am an
independent person.

782

00:41:08,770 --> 00:41:11,350
And I wanted to be
independent, you know.

783

00:41:11,350 --> 00:41:17,990
And I missed was
friendship, the environment.

784

00:41:17,990 --> 00:41:21,160
But time takes its course.

785

00:41:21,160 --> 00:41:24,160
And as you go on.

786

00:41:24,160 --> 00:41:29,410

787

00:41:29,410 --> 00:41:34,240
I met my wife, my
future wife to be then.

788

00:41:34,240 --> 00:41:36,946
And we married.

789

00:41:36,946 --> 00:41:42,580
And we have three
children, grown adults.

790

00:41:42,580 --> 00:41:45,500
It's great.

791
00:41:45,500 --> 00:41:49,750
Yeah, I had those
moments that I have

792
00:41:49,750 --> 00:41:51,620
strong feelings for France.

793
00:41:51,620 --> 00:41:53,590
I just enjoy going there.

794
00:41:53,590 --> 00:41:56,090
Yeah, I have all
my relatives there.

795
00:41:56,090 --> 00:41:59,770
Got a number of cousins
and second cousins.

796
00:41:59,770 --> 00:42:03,710
And everyone reads
like who is who.

797
00:42:03,710 --> 00:42:07,390
One is a dean of the university.

798
00:42:07,390 --> 00:42:12,070
One daughter is-- the youngest
one is going to be an attorney.

799
00:42:12,070 --> 00:42:14,650
Supposedly she's clerking
like the Supreme Court here,

800
00:42:14,650 --> 00:42:18,880
she's already clerking for
somebody, as I understand.

801
00:42:18,880 --> 00:42:22,870
And one daughter's a journalist
for a very prominent paper

802

00:42:22,870 --> 00:42:25,690
in Paris.

803
00:42:25,690 --> 00:42:29,390
And one is an architect.

804
00:42:29,390 --> 00:42:32,450
One is a city planner.

805
00:42:32,450 --> 00:42:34,060
And so on.

806
00:42:34,060 --> 00:42:35,780
And I go back, we
have a reunion,

807
00:42:35,780 --> 00:42:37,590
and we really enjoy
seeing each other.

808
00:42:37,590 --> 00:42:40,610
And it's a good
conversation, good wine.

809
00:42:40,610 --> 00:42:43,820

810
00:42:43,820 --> 00:42:48,830
You talk a little bit, too,
outside the interview about

811
00:42:48,830 --> 00:42:51,425
whether or not you shared your
experiences with your children.

812
00:42:51,425 --> 00:42:58,070

813
00:42:58,070 --> 00:43:00,950
Basically, I'm an
emotional person.

814

00:43:00,950 --> 00:43:03,800

That's where I introvert
from my extrovert.

815

00:43:03,800 --> 00:43:06,560

816

00:43:06,560 --> 00:43:09,170

And I don't think
that they wanted

817

00:43:09,170 --> 00:43:15,650

to kind of put me in
a mood of reliving

818

00:43:15,650 --> 00:43:19,490

those moments of my past.

819

00:43:19,490 --> 00:43:22,160

Although my daughter's
probably the most intellectual

820

00:43:22,160 --> 00:43:24,320

of the three.

821

00:43:24,320 --> 00:43:27,080

Obviously, she's a
professor and she

822

00:43:27,080 --> 00:43:31,290

does a lot of research in
developmental psychology.

823

00:43:31,290 --> 00:43:33,470

So we could wrap it a
little bit better then.

824

00:43:33,470 --> 00:43:35,090

She's got a way
about it that she

825

00:43:35,090 --> 00:43:39,720

can approach it with a different

angle than the boys do,

826
00:43:39,720 --> 00:43:40,940
you know.

827
00:43:40,940 --> 00:43:43,400
I think the boys
shy away from it.

828
00:43:43,400 --> 00:43:45,410
Not that they
don't want to know.

829
00:43:45,410 --> 00:43:50,770
It's just that it would put them
in a different mood, you know.

830
00:43:50,770 --> 00:43:54,040
And I think that's
what is, probably.

831
00:43:54,040 --> 00:43:57,820
But here and there, you
get questions indirectly.

832
00:43:57,820 --> 00:44:00,730
Like I give an example,
my son was in Munich,

833
00:44:00,730 --> 00:44:04,130
and he had dinner
in a beer hall.

834
00:44:04,130 --> 00:44:07,540
There were a brawl, some drunks.

835
00:44:07,540 --> 00:44:11,350
And all of a sudden, he
sees these four policemen

836
00:44:11,350 --> 00:44:13,000
marching in.

837

00:44:13,000 --> 00:44:14,703

And suddenly, he got scared.

838

00:44:14,703 --> 00:44:15,370

He told me that.

839

00:44:15,370 --> 00:44:18,320

You see, that had some
kind of an impact.

840

00:44:18,320 --> 00:44:21,020

I mean, he related it to me.

841

00:44:21,020 --> 00:44:22,690

And this was, what,
two years ago.

842

00:44:22,690 --> 00:44:25,540

843

00:44:25,540 --> 00:44:29,530

My son's daughter-- sister,
or my sister-in-law,

844

00:44:29,530 --> 00:44:32,230

is married to Wolfgang Brendel.

845

00:44:32,230 --> 00:44:35,320

He's a baritone, very
prominent baritone in Europe.

846

00:44:35,320 --> 00:44:36,730

He came here to San Francisco.

847

00:44:36,730 --> 00:44:39,130

He sang in San
Francisco many times.

848

00:44:39,130 --> 00:44:42,610

And he was a good friend of
Adler, the former director

849

00:44:42,610 --> 00:44:44,800
that's deceased now.

850

00:44:44,800 --> 00:44:46,120
He's not Jewish, she's Jewish.

851

00:44:46,120 --> 00:44:48,430
But he's a great person.

852

00:44:48,430 --> 00:44:54,130
And the family is
Jewish, from New York.

853

00:44:54,130 --> 00:44:57,400

854

00:44:57,400 --> 00:44:59,380
OK.

855

00:44:59,380 --> 00:45:03,200
So they travel often
to Europe to see them.

856

00:45:03,200 --> 00:45:07,630
And he sings in
various opera houses.

857

00:45:07,630 --> 00:45:08,500
So then they fly in.

858

00:45:08,500 --> 00:45:10,030
My son works for the airlines.

859

00:45:10,030 --> 00:45:12,400
So just all he has to
do is like you take

860

00:45:12,400 --> 00:45:14,920
a bus or something, or a taxi.

861

00:45:14,920 --> 00:45:16,412

And they are right there.

862

00:45:16,412 --> 00:45:17,620

They take the kids with them.

863

00:45:17,620 --> 00:45:20,350

864

00:45:20,350 --> 00:45:21,760

So he has this--

865

00:45:21,760 --> 00:45:24,730

although he never
had an experience,

866

00:45:24,730 --> 00:45:28,630

but just probably
what he read, heard,

867

00:45:28,630 --> 00:45:31,570

and seen probably in school,
high school, or college,

868

00:45:31,570 --> 00:45:32,860

whatever.

869

00:45:32,860 --> 00:45:36,670

He has this subconscious
feeling of--

870

00:45:36,670 --> 00:45:39,220

871

00:45:39,220 --> 00:45:42,220

and rightfully so-- you have
a, quite a resurgence now,

872

00:45:42,220 --> 00:45:43,035

in Germany, of--

873

00:45:43,035 --> 00:45:45,612

874
00:45:45,612 --> 00:45:46,570
what do they call them?

875
00:45:46,570 --> 00:45:48,520
I can't think of the name.

876
00:45:48,520 --> 00:45:49,900
The shaved, the--

877
00:45:49,900 --> 00:45:50,620
Skinheads.

878
00:45:50,620 --> 00:45:52,180
--skinheads, yeah.

879
00:45:52,180 --> 00:45:56,050
And they have a leader that
advocates the same violence

880
00:45:56,050 --> 00:46:01,540
as Hitler did or
Hitler's cohorts.

881
00:46:01,540 --> 00:46:05,470
Of course, they're directing
it towards the foreigners.

882
00:46:05,470 --> 00:46:07,750
Jews are not natives
of Germany, you know.

883
00:46:07,750 --> 00:46:10,780
We well know that.

884
00:46:10,780 --> 00:46:15,520
You said you sort of decided
on or felt that you didn't

885
00:46:15,520 --> 00:46:17,420
want to tell your children.

886

00:46:17,420 --> 00:46:19,060

You didn't make a
choice to tell them.

887

00:46:19,060 --> 00:46:23,093

I didn't make a choice to make,
to say, Paul, Mark, sit down,

888

00:46:23,093 --> 00:46:24,760

come here, I want to
tell you something.

889

00:46:24,760 --> 00:46:26,080

You know, I didn't do that.

890

00:46:26,080 --> 00:46:30,580

891

00:46:30,580 --> 00:46:33,280

Now, I remember that
during the war, my dad,

892

00:46:33,280 --> 00:46:39,010

which was in World
War I, a soldier,

893

00:46:39,010 --> 00:46:40,780

and he told us stories.

894

00:46:40,780 --> 00:46:41,920

We were isolated.

895

00:46:41,920 --> 00:46:44,740

After 5 o'clock, we
couldn't leave the house.

896

00:46:44,740 --> 00:46:46,960

Someone had to keep
us entertained.

897

00:46:46,960 --> 00:46:50,350

We were four kids, you know.

898
00:46:50,350 --> 00:46:52,450
So my dad related when
he was taken prisoner,

899
00:46:52,450 --> 00:46:57,910
and how he parted with my mother
unexpectedly, and all that.

900
00:46:57,910 --> 00:47:02,110
So it was a different time.

901
00:47:02,110 --> 00:47:04,460
It was a different experience.

902
00:47:04,460 --> 00:47:09,940
And it's kind of morbid
to tell horrible stories

903
00:47:09,940 --> 00:47:13,990
to, maybe, people
that aren't mature yet

904
00:47:13,990 --> 00:47:16,690
to absorb the impact of it.

905
00:47:16,690 --> 00:47:20,270

906
00:47:20,270 --> 00:47:22,400
Whether they were,
I really cannot say.

907
00:47:22,400 --> 00:47:27,000
But they were just like any
other average American kid,

908
00:47:27,000 --> 00:47:28,355
youngster, young person.

909
00:47:28,355 --> 00:47:30,678

910
00:47:30,678 --> 00:47:32,720
They played instruments--
one played the trumpet,

911
00:47:32,720 --> 00:47:34,610
one played the
clarinet, the piano.

912
00:47:34,610 --> 00:47:37,895
And my daughter had
other things going.

913
00:47:37,895 --> 00:47:42,290
More of she was a historian of
San Francisco for the school.

914
00:47:42,290 --> 00:47:45,380
You know, she always did
research, and this, and that.

915
00:47:45,380 --> 00:47:50,570
And so they were
preoccupied, perhaps.

916
00:47:50,570 --> 00:47:58,460
To distract them with a
sudden story of my past

917
00:47:58,460 --> 00:48:00,770
would be like hitting
someone with a sledgehammer,

918
00:48:00,770 --> 00:48:04,190
if my expression
is right, you know.

919
00:48:04,190 --> 00:48:10,130
But everything in
due time evolves.

920
00:48:10,130 --> 00:48:11,960
And perhaps this is the time.

921
00:48:11,960 --> 00:48:12,890
And it's not too late.

922
00:48:12,890 --> 00:48:19,060

923
00:48:19,060 --> 00:48:21,130
We touched on the question
a little bit earlier.

924
00:48:21,130 --> 00:48:26,680
But in more general
terms, in what

925
00:48:26,680 --> 00:48:30,400
ways has this
experience affected

926
00:48:30,400 --> 00:48:31,825
your sense of being Jewish?

927
00:48:31,825 --> 00:48:34,430

928
00:48:34,430 --> 00:48:36,720
Or your family being Jewish?

929
00:48:36,720 --> 00:48:41,280
Well, being Jewish has
not affected me whatsoever

930
00:48:41,280 --> 00:48:42,270
in this country.

931
00:48:42,270 --> 00:48:45,180
Nor do I remember my
brief stay after the war,

932
00:48:45,180 --> 00:48:49,560
which I can say brief, as
only was a number of years.

933
00:48:49,560 --> 00:48:52,653
You do get antisemitic
remarks here and there.

934
00:48:52,653 --> 00:48:54,195
You're not going to
escape from that.

935
00:48:54,195 --> 00:48:57,270

936
00:48:57,270 --> 00:48:58,814
It's inevitable.

937
00:48:58,814 --> 00:49:01,780

938
00:49:01,780 --> 00:49:06,340
Just in the workplace,
you'll hear it occasionally.

939
00:49:06,340 --> 00:49:09,010
Just like the Blacks, you
hear remarks about them.

940
00:49:09,010 --> 00:49:13,480
Once someone knows you
are a Jew, you are a Jew.

941
00:49:13,480 --> 00:49:18,940
And sooner or later, if someone
is not bright or intelligent,

942
00:49:18,940 --> 00:49:24,310
will drop something that's
derogatory towards you.

943
00:49:24,310 --> 00:49:25,610
I expect it.

944
00:49:25,610 --> 00:49:26,770

It doesn't bother me.

945

00:49:26,770 --> 00:49:28,900

And I'm not going
to reciprocate.

946

00:49:28,900 --> 00:49:31,510

And I just let it
fly by and that's it.

947

00:49:31,510 --> 00:49:35,140

But there's times that you have
to take a stand and answer.

948

00:49:35,140 --> 00:49:40,810

And I had certain experiences
where I did take stands,

949

00:49:40,810 --> 00:49:43,240

you know, and responded to it.

950

00:49:43,240 --> 00:49:45,880

Just like anyone
else would, perhaps.

951

00:49:45,880 --> 00:49:48,730

But to say that that
made me a stronger

952

00:49:48,730 --> 00:49:51,880

Jew because I suffered,
I'm just as same,

953

00:49:51,880 --> 00:49:53,350

probably as I would have been.

954

00:49:53,350 --> 00:49:57,190

955

00:49:57,190 --> 00:50:00,520

I am not going to
cry to the world,

956

00:50:00,520 --> 00:50:08,170

say, because of that, I
should be treated differently.

957

00:50:08,170 --> 00:50:09,190

No.

958

00:50:09,190 --> 00:50:14,050

It was a tragedy in history,
in contemporary history.

959

00:50:14,050 --> 00:50:18,130

We can read books of past, of
the Romans, the gladiators,

960

00:50:18,130 --> 00:50:21,480

and Colosseum, treating the
Christians with lions, and all

961

00:50:21,480 --> 00:50:21,980

that.

962

00:50:21,980 --> 00:50:24,610

It's just history.

963

00:50:24,610 --> 00:50:28,080

We can take it as
fiction or not.

964

00:50:28,080 --> 00:50:30,700

But we survived it,
we are witnesses.

965

00:50:30,700 --> 00:50:35,620

This will support your
project probably, hopefully.

966

00:50:35,620 --> 00:50:42,220

That we are here to give
testimony to what happened.

967

00:50:42,220 --> 00:50:46,450

We had a link to this
current, recent history.

968
00:50:46,450 --> 00:50:48,580
This Northern Ireland.

969
00:50:48,580 --> 00:50:51,490
This can say, those
who weren't there it's

970
00:50:51,490 --> 00:50:54,550
just, again, a story
to them, depending

971
00:50:54,550 --> 00:50:56,590
how serious they take it.

972
00:50:56,590 --> 00:50:58,420
Some take it quite serious.

973
00:50:58,420 --> 00:51:02,320
Some will just
take it in passing.

974
00:51:02,320 --> 00:51:10,140
But I think you're doing a
great job by perpetuating this.

975
00:51:10,140 --> 00:51:13,810
And that people could
see it visually.

976
00:51:13,810 --> 00:51:17,350
And with audiovisual.

977
00:51:17,350 --> 00:51:17,850
OK.

978
00:51:17,850 --> 00:51:19,058
And I think it's a great job.

979
00:51:19,058 --> 00:51:20,250

That's why I'm here.

980

00:51:20,250 --> 00:51:23,820

And I really-- if I can be
of any help in the future.

981

00:51:23,820 --> 00:51:25,620

I don't know anybody
that I can talk to.

982

00:51:25,620 --> 00:51:28,180

And I have friends.

983

00:51:28,180 --> 00:51:32,310

Well, I have mostly
friends that have escaped.

984

00:51:32,310 --> 00:51:36,570

Some went to
different countries.

985

00:51:36,570 --> 00:51:39,300

We just had a weekend with
some friends in Carmel

986

00:51:39,300 --> 00:51:41,640

that are from Vienna.

987

00:51:41,640 --> 00:51:46,350

They were fortunate to escape
to England just before '39.

988

00:51:46,350 --> 00:51:51,420

But still, it was leaving your
home and all your possessions,

989

00:51:51,420 --> 00:51:57,480

and just go, as something that
we here in the United States

990

00:51:57,480 --> 00:51:59,165

have never experienced.

991

00:51:59,165 --> 00:52:00,540

And we don't know
what it's like.

992

00:52:00,540 --> 00:52:03,060

993

00:52:03,060 --> 00:52:07,110

So on that respect,
I know people,

994

00:52:07,110 --> 00:52:09,630

if you're interested
in that type of format,

995

00:52:09,630 --> 00:52:11,540

I could just
recommend or advice.

996

00:52:11,540 --> 00:52:12,040

You know.

997

00:52:12,040 --> 00:52:17,520

But people from camp,
mostly, since I have not

998

00:52:17,520 --> 00:52:21,330

been affiliated with any groups
in the past, I don't know.

999

00:52:21,330 --> 00:52:26,070

Except I have some
friends in Ohio,

1000

00:52:26,070 --> 00:52:29,280

as I indicated, and
some friends in Israel

1001

00:52:29,280 --> 00:52:32,310

that we've been together in
that home, in the same home.

1002

00:52:32,310 --> 00:52:36,166

1003

00:52:36,166 --> 00:52:38,090

John, did you have
some questions?

1004

00:52:38,090 --> 00:52:41,858

1005

00:52:41,858 --> 00:52:44,230

Maybe it's good to--
did you have a question?

1006

00:52:44,230 --> 00:52:45,790

I mean.

1007

00:52:45,790 --> 00:52:46,720

If you do, go on.

1008

00:52:46,720 --> 00:52:47,440

Feel comfortable.

1009

00:52:47,440 --> 00:52:50,560

I'll be glad to respond.

1010

00:52:50,560 --> 00:52:53,120

If you're not tired,
I'm certainly not tired.

1011

00:52:53,120 --> 00:52:54,370

Yeah.

1012

00:52:54,370 --> 00:52:56,006

You talked somewhat about how--

1013

00:52:56,006 --> 00:52:58,048

well, actually, let me
not go quite the same way.

1014

00:52:58,048 --> 00:53:00,650

How do you think your

experience during the war

1015
00:53:00,650 --> 00:53:03,770
has affected the
course of your life

1016
00:53:03,770 --> 00:53:08,660
otherwise than religiously,
in terms of your career?

1017
00:53:08,660 --> 00:53:11,390
Well, I would say,
basically, that it affected

1018
00:53:11,390 --> 00:53:14,180
me is probably education.

1019
00:53:14,180 --> 00:53:19,850
Because I had very little
education before the war.

1020
00:53:19,850 --> 00:53:20,905
I was very young.

1021
00:53:20,905 --> 00:53:25,460

1022
00:53:25,460 --> 00:53:27,870
After the war, when
I came to the--

1023
00:53:27,870 --> 00:53:30,110
oh, I did go to school.

1024
00:53:30,110 --> 00:53:31,940
It was just with
continuous interruptions.

1025
00:53:31,940 --> 00:53:35,120
There was no continuity
in my education, you see.

1026

00:53:35,120 --> 00:53:39,620
Then I did go to Commerce
High, summer school

1027
00:53:39,620 --> 00:53:42,410
here on Venice Avenue.

1028
00:53:42,410 --> 00:53:43,900
And then I went
to State, briefly.

1029
00:53:43,900 --> 00:53:46,910
San Francisco State, briefly.

1030
00:53:46,910 --> 00:53:49,460
To say that, to a
formal education,

1031
00:53:49,460 --> 00:53:51,710
perhaps, as you
people have, you know.

1032
00:53:51,710 --> 00:53:55,790
And it was a degree
I do not have.

1033
00:53:55,790 --> 00:53:59,690
In retrospect, I could
have and I should have.

1034
00:53:59,690 --> 00:54:02,210
But that's speculative
because I married.

1035
00:54:02,210 --> 00:54:04,100
I came in '48.

1036
00:54:04,100 --> 00:54:05,510
1950, I was married.

1037
00:54:05,510 --> 00:54:07,880
In 1952, we had a child.

1038

00:54:07,880 --> 00:54:14,180

So there was no time for
to go to school, really.

1039

00:54:14,180 --> 00:54:18,830

And I read a great deal.

1040

00:54:18,830 --> 00:54:23,330

I probably self-taught, perhaps.

1041

00:54:23,330 --> 00:54:26,450

And I just followed current
events, world affairs,

1042

00:54:26,450 --> 00:54:33,380

and Jewish affairs, community
affairs, whatever else.

1043

00:54:33,380 --> 00:54:42,590

But I don't have a BMA,
PhD, whatever else you want.

1044

00:54:42,590 --> 00:54:47,630

And that I really
find most missing,

1045

00:54:47,630 --> 00:54:52,040

that I don't have a formal
education as someone here

1046

00:54:52,040 --> 00:54:55,400

would have gone four
years or continued on

1047

00:54:55,400 --> 00:54:56,870

with higher education.

1048

00:54:56,870 --> 00:55:01,330

1049

00:55:01,330 --> 00:55:04,780

But other than that, I really--

1050
00:55:04,780 --> 00:55:08,040
Sounds like career, perhaps,
or how you relate with people.

1051
00:55:08,040 --> 00:55:09,960
Oh, relating with
people, I'm great, yeah.

1052
00:55:09,960 --> 00:55:11,970
I get along, have friends,
we get along great.

1053
00:55:11,970 --> 00:55:20,250
I have no problems because
of my past, not at all.

1054
00:55:20,250 --> 00:55:22,740
Not problems, so much, I'm
thinking about is just--

1055
00:55:22,740 --> 00:55:23,630
Behavioral pattern?

1056
00:55:23,630 --> 00:55:24,130
Behavior?

1057
00:55:24,130 --> 00:55:27,080
--not problems, but just how
does that make you relate?

1058
00:55:27,080 --> 00:55:29,130
Does it make you
more compassionate?

1059
00:55:29,130 --> 00:55:32,010
Does it make you more angry?

1060
00:55:32,010 --> 00:55:34,350
Well, probably
both, I would say.

1061

00:55:34,350 --> 00:55:37,380
Angry because the
world let it happen.

1062
00:55:37,380 --> 00:55:41,730
And in many instances, it
continues in various areas

1063
00:55:41,730 --> 00:55:44,880
in the world today.

1064
00:55:44,880 --> 00:55:50,580
And let's see, I got part
of your question answered.

1065
00:55:50,580 --> 00:55:51,315
Compassionate.

1066
00:55:51,315 --> 00:55:51,940
And compassion.

1067
00:55:51,940 --> 00:55:52,690
Or whatever, yeah.

1068
00:55:52,690 --> 00:55:53,710
Of course.

1069
00:55:53,710 --> 00:55:55,020
To those people.

1070
00:55:55,020 --> 00:55:56,458
Let's take Iraq, for instance.

1071
00:55:56,458 --> 00:55:57,500
They're innocent victims.

1072
00:55:57,500 --> 00:55:58,530
They're human.

1073
00:55:58,530 --> 00:56:01,980
They suffer because of one man.

1074

00:56:01,980 --> 00:56:05,400

You know, the
Kurds, the Shiites.

1075

00:56:05,400 --> 00:56:10,930

Even in Israel, there's a
problem has to be solved.

1076

00:56:10,930 --> 00:56:14,340

You know, the Palestinians
are suffering.

1077

00:56:14,340 --> 00:56:18,000

They turned on by propaganda.

1078

00:56:18,000 --> 00:56:19,140

It could be solved.

1079

00:56:19,140 --> 00:56:20,310

There's so much land there.

1080

00:56:20,310 --> 00:56:22,770

Israel's just a little
speck in the area.

1081

00:56:22,770 --> 00:56:26,730

There's so much land that
they could be absorbed in,

1082

00:56:26,730 --> 00:56:31,950

and be prosperity there, in
wealth and health, you name it.

1083

00:56:31,950 --> 00:56:35,470

But it's the political world
is turned this to a tinderbox,

1084

00:56:35,470 --> 00:56:36,420

you know.

1085

00:56:36,420 --> 00:56:39,570

And that is where you

get angry sometimes.

1086
00:56:39,570 --> 00:56:43,800
Because maybe I'm more up
to understand situations

1087
00:56:43,800 --> 00:56:45,170
like that, you know.

1088
00:56:45,170 --> 00:56:51,850
Or it might be-- or Tiananmen
Square, for instance, in China.

1089
00:56:51,850 --> 00:56:53,010
I hope I'm not political.

1090
00:56:53,010 --> 00:56:56,700
I'm just expressing
my human feelings here

1091
00:56:56,700 --> 00:57:01,620
as the awareness of freedom of
everyone who wants to be free.

1092
00:57:01,620 --> 00:57:03,660
I have expression.

1093
00:57:03,660 --> 00:57:06,430
Self-expression is so important.

1094
00:57:06,430 --> 00:57:08,850
Otherwise, you just
can't do a thing.

1095
00:57:08,850 --> 00:57:09,480
You cannot.

1096
00:57:09,480 --> 00:57:11,160
If you can't speak
up, you're enslaved.

1097
00:57:11,160 --> 00:57:14,980

1098
00:57:14,980 --> 00:57:17,290
I hope you answered
your question.

1099
00:57:17,290 --> 00:57:19,790
Yeah.

1100
00:57:19,790 --> 00:57:22,890
If you have any
others, keep going.

1101
00:57:22,890 --> 00:57:24,960
And I can ask a million,
but maybe we should.

1102
00:57:24,960 --> 00:57:27,540
Yeah, it's really
about time to stop.

1103
00:57:27,540 --> 00:57:29,695
OK.

1104
00:57:29,695 --> 00:57:30,570
Thank you very much--

1105
00:57:30,570 --> 00:57:30,960
Sure, this is it.

1106
00:57:30,960 --> 00:57:32,220
--for working with us today.

1107
00:57:32,220 --> 00:57:32,720
Yeah.

1108
00:57:32,720 --> 00:57:34,250
This is the end
of this interview.

1109
00:57:34,250 --> 00:57:34,750
OK.

1110
00:57:34,750 --> 00:57:37,060
I have several areas
I want to cover--

1111
00:57:37,060 --> 00:57:37,800
Great.

1112
00:57:37,800 --> 00:57:38,550
--next time.

1113
00:57:38,550 --> 00:57:41,370
Just call me, let's set
up a date, an appointment,

1114
00:57:41,370 --> 00:57:43,530
and suitable for both of us.

1115
00:57:43,530 --> 00:57:44,550
We shall do it.

1116
00:57:44,550 --> 00:57:45,460
Yes, good.

1117
00:57:45,460 --> 00:57:45,960
OK.

1118
00:57:45,960 --> 00:57:48,200
We appreciate that.

1119
00:57:48,200 --> 00:59:48,480