

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:01:13,290

2

00:01:13,290 --> 00:01:16,470

We are interviewing Nadine
Lieberman for the Holocaust

3

00:01:16,470 --> 00:01:17,640

Oral History Project.

4

00:01:17,640 --> 00:01:20,760

We're at Temple Beth
Shalom in San Francisco.

5

00:01:20,760 --> 00:01:23,490

It's April 9, 1992.

6

00:01:23,490 --> 00:01:27,780

My name is Peggy Koster, and
with me is Michelle Goldman.

7

00:01:27,780 --> 00:01:31,159

The cameraperson is Kathy Katz.

8

00:01:31,159 --> 00:01:32,610

OK.

9

00:01:32,610 --> 00:01:34,990

Why don't you just start by
telling us your whole story?

10

00:01:34,990 --> 00:01:37,740

Beginning to end.

11

00:01:37,740 --> 00:01:42,690

My earliest recollection is
when I'm about four years old.

12

00:01:42,690 --> 00:01:45,490

We are in Paris, France.

13

00:01:45,490 --> 00:01:52,170
And my parents have come from
Poland and Russia, Lithuania.

14

00:01:52,170 --> 00:01:56,190
My mother was born in Poland
and my father in Lithuania.

15

00:01:56,190 --> 00:01:59,730
He met my mother in Warsaw.

16

00:01:59,730 --> 00:02:03,210
They married, and I
was born in Warsaw.

17

00:02:03,210 --> 00:02:07,740
When I was six months old,
they brought me to France.

18

00:02:07,740 --> 00:02:13,080
And I was told it was a journey
on the train, a long journey.

19

00:02:13,080 --> 00:02:14,680
I was in a little basket.

20

00:02:14,680 --> 00:02:16,440
They passed the border.

21

00:02:16,440 --> 00:02:18,660
And we arrived in France.

22

00:02:18,660 --> 00:02:23,400
It must have been the early 30s.

23

00:02:23,400 --> 00:02:27,090
Then I recall living
in a basement room

24

00:02:27,090 --> 00:02:32,590
in Paris, in very small room.

25

00:02:32,590 --> 00:02:37,260

Mother, and father,
and a brother.

26

00:02:37,260 --> 00:02:41,970

We were two children
at that time.

27

00:02:41,970 --> 00:02:49,710

The district was very
bleak and not very safe.

28

00:02:49,710 --> 00:02:57,220

I was five years old,
and some rough children--

29

00:02:57,220 --> 00:02:59,730

some children were
acting very rough.

30

00:02:59,730 --> 00:03:07,350

And one day, I ran scared,
crying back to my mother.

31

00:03:07,350 --> 00:03:11,190

We then moved to another
district, a district of Paris

32

00:03:11,190 --> 00:03:12,270

called Belleville.

33

00:03:12,270 --> 00:03:14,940

It was a sort of a ghetto.

34

00:03:14,940 --> 00:03:17,340

It was predominantly Jewish.

35

00:03:17,340 --> 00:03:20,370

Many families were living there.

36

00:03:20,370 --> 00:03:28,050

The place we lived was a gray

building, considered modern,

37

00:03:28,050 --> 00:03:29,100
on a small--

38

00:03:29,100 --> 00:03:31,170
on a narrow street.

39

00:03:31,170 --> 00:03:35,070
The street was lined with shops.

40

00:03:35,070 --> 00:03:39,150
There was grocers,
there was butchers,

41

00:03:39,150 --> 00:03:47,040
there were place
called [? douche ?]..

42

00:03:47,040 --> 00:03:51,660
This was, in France, a place
where you could take a bath

43

00:03:51,660 --> 00:03:54,780
or shower for a few francs.

44

00:03:54,780 --> 00:03:57,360
And that was across
our building.

45

00:03:57,360 --> 00:04:00,870
The apartment we lived
consisted of one room

46

00:04:00,870 --> 00:04:03,990
and a small kitchen.

47

00:04:03,990 --> 00:04:08,320
We were on the third floor
of that apartment building.

48

00:04:08,320 --> 00:04:13,290

And that room had few
pieces of furniture.

49
00:04:13,290 --> 00:04:15,090
A strict minimum.

50
00:04:15,090 --> 00:04:17,610
We were very poor.

51
00:04:17,610 --> 00:04:26,280
Another child was born, a boy,
and now, the war had started.

52
00:04:26,280 --> 00:04:30,930
And my father, who was
a glove leather maker,

53
00:04:30,930 --> 00:04:34,155
worked in a small factory.

54
00:04:34,155 --> 00:04:37,260
He used to bring
work at home and work

55
00:04:37,260 --> 00:04:40,110
in a kitchen on a
makeshift table,

56
00:04:40,110 --> 00:04:43,230
cutting gloves, leather gloves.

57
00:04:43,230 --> 00:04:49,650
And one day, we heard they were
rounding up men outside of--

58
00:04:49,650 --> 00:04:52,980
in our street in the district.

59
00:04:52,980 --> 00:04:56,940
And my father was
told not to go out.

60

00:04:56,940 --> 00:04:59,880
But he needed cigarettes.

61
00:04:59,880 --> 00:05:03,330
So for a packet of cigarettes,
he went out the street,

62
00:05:03,330 --> 00:05:09,000
and was taken by the buses,
loaded full with men.

63
00:05:09,000 --> 00:05:12,510
At that time, they
were taking all the men

64
00:05:12,510 --> 00:05:18,030
who were wearing the
yellow stars, were Jewish.

65
00:05:18,030 --> 00:05:22,620
After they taken my father, my
mother and the three children,

66
00:05:22,620 --> 00:05:25,290
we were very poor.

67
00:05:25,290 --> 00:05:28,830
Mother didn't have any income.

68
00:05:28,830 --> 00:05:31,950
She kept our little
place spotless clean

69
00:05:31,950 --> 00:05:35,400
and was saving bread
every day that she

70
00:05:35,400 --> 00:05:40,080
would put in the armoire
between some clean sheets.

71
00:05:40,080 --> 00:05:45,840
The bread were from white

to grayer, grayer, and dark,

72

00:05:45,840 --> 00:05:49,110
as the baker would mix
the bread with sawdust.

73

00:05:49,110 --> 00:05:50,010
It was war.

74

00:05:50,010 --> 00:05:52,890

75

00:05:52,890 --> 00:05:55,590
The skies were gray with smoke.

76

00:05:55,590 --> 00:06:01,500
And there were alerts many time.

77

00:06:01,500 --> 00:06:06,330
And we often went down
to the cave, the cellar,

78

00:06:06,330 --> 00:06:10,890
with our masks, and
blankets, and flashlights.

79

00:06:10,890 --> 00:06:12,600
I recall that.

80

00:06:12,600 --> 00:06:16,620
I must have been eight
or nine years old.

81

00:06:16,620 --> 00:06:18,840
And my two brothers
and my mother, we

82

00:06:18,840 --> 00:06:27,630
often go down to those
cellars until the raids stops.

83

00:06:27,630 --> 00:06:29,790

But the air raid continue.

84

00:06:29,790 --> 00:06:34,380

And it was a
suffocating, hot summer.

85

00:06:34,380 --> 00:06:39,183

Through a Jewish
organization, mother

86

00:06:39,183 --> 00:06:44,010

heard of a place in
the country where

87

00:06:44,010 --> 00:06:48,510

some peasants would accept
some children for a short time

88

00:06:48,510 --> 00:06:55,810

to escape the Paris raids
and the danger there.

89

00:06:55,810 --> 00:07:00,130

So she sent myself and
my youngest brother.

90

00:07:00,130 --> 00:07:02,220

His name was Bertrand.

91

00:07:02,220 --> 00:07:05,520

He was three years old.

92

00:07:05,520 --> 00:07:08,410

And myself and
the little brother

93

00:07:08,410 --> 00:07:11,370

stayed home with mother.

94

00:07:11,370 --> 00:07:13,500

So we went to this farm.

95

00:07:13,500 --> 00:07:17,370
And they stayed in Paris.

96
00:07:17,370 --> 00:07:20,820
One day, mother
came to visit us.

97
00:07:20,820 --> 00:07:25,390
I was very lonesome
for her and my brother.

98
00:07:25,390 --> 00:07:34,230
But my little brother and I, we
had food, and it was healthier.

99
00:07:34,230 --> 00:07:37,380
My mother came to visit us.

100
00:07:37,380 --> 00:07:42,840
And I remember seeing her
on that rainy day come

101
00:07:42,840 --> 00:07:46,950
to the farm.

102
00:07:46,950 --> 00:07:52,860
I hugged her, I kissed
her, and as she left,

103
00:07:52,860 --> 00:07:58,410
I watched her go in that
grayish morning, leaving us,

104
00:07:58,410 --> 00:08:00,570
and I had a premonition.

105
00:08:00,570 --> 00:08:02,070
My heart sank.

106
00:08:02,070 --> 00:08:04,080
I thought I may
never see her again.

107

00:08:04,080 --> 00:08:06,660

108

00:08:06,660 --> 00:08:13,140

So we stay there for
another few weeks.

109

00:08:13,140 --> 00:08:17,280

And one day, some people
brought us back to Paris.

110

00:08:17,280 --> 00:08:22,830

And I was told then that
some time ago, they'd

111

00:08:22,830 --> 00:08:27,000

rounded up women and
children in the ghetto

112

00:08:27,000 --> 00:08:31,500

and taken them to a place
called Vel' d'Hiv, a very

113

00:08:31,500 --> 00:08:39,450

infamous place where they
had collected all the women

114

00:08:39,450 --> 00:08:44,830

and children in Paris
to be sent to the camps.

115

00:08:44,830 --> 00:08:47,880

And my mother and
brother were among them.

116

00:08:47,880 --> 00:08:51,030

This was told by some neighbors.

117

00:08:51,030 --> 00:08:56,040

At that time, when the
truck came in our street,

118

00:08:56,040 --> 00:09:00,660

a witness said mother
went on her knees

119

00:09:00,660 --> 00:09:03,330

on the rough
cobblestone and prayed

120

00:09:03,330 --> 00:09:07,070

that her daughter and
little boy was safe.

121

00:09:07,070 --> 00:09:11,280

122

00:09:11,280 --> 00:09:17,580

This was a very hard
thing to accept.

123

00:09:17,580 --> 00:09:20,580

But I didn't have
time to think, as we

124

00:09:20,580 --> 00:09:25,660

were sheltered from place
to place for the first two

125

00:09:25,660 --> 00:09:27,810

or three months.

126

00:09:27,810 --> 00:09:31,320

I remember a place
in particular,

127

00:09:31,320 --> 00:09:38,100

we were in the room, in a
very poor section of Paris.

128

00:09:38,100 --> 00:09:44,140

And a woman was taking care of
us, seeing that we were fed.

129

00:09:44,140 --> 00:09:50,490

But in the next room, she
was engaging in prostitution.

130
00:09:50,490 --> 00:09:55,200
But the French were good
when they were good.

131
00:09:55,200 --> 00:10:01,290
She saved us, probably,
at that time, our life.

132
00:10:01,290 --> 00:10:04,500
The next place I
remember was staying

133
00:10:04,500 --> 00:10:09,570
with a woman who was
Christian but who

134
00:10:09,570 --> 00:10:13,380
had a Jewish husband in hiding.

135
00:10:13,380 --> 00:10:21,510
She had a retarded son and she
lived in one-room apartment.

136
00:10:21,510 --> 00:10:26,580
The boy was very sick in bed
and drooling all the time.

137
00:10:26,580 --> 00:10:30,720
But I remember she
being very kind to us.

138
00:10:30,720 --> 00:10:36,060
And she had known my
parents during the war

139
00:10:36,060 --> 00:10:41,220
and had told me that all she
could save when she could come

140
00:10:41,220 --> 00:10:46,080

to the apartment was some
crumpled photographs

141
00:10:46,080 --> 00:10:50,250
and a small ring of my mother.

142
00:10:50,250 --> 00:10:55,215
This was all that was left
from that world's family.

143
00:10:55,215 --> 00:11:02,000

144
00:11:02,000 --> 00:11:03,000
Can I stop?

145
00:11:03,000 --> 00:11:09,500

146
00:11:09,500 --> 00:11:10,000
OK.

147
00:11:10,000 --> 00:11:14,000

148
00:11:14,000 --> 00:11:16,770
Her name was Madame Irma
and she was Christian.

149
00:11:16,770 --> 00:11:18,710
She was a good soul.

150
00:11:18,710 --> 00:11:20,840
Her husband was a bookseller.

151
00:11:20,840 --> 00:11:28,700
And in her apartment, I found
many books, French authors--

152
00:11:28,700 --> 00:11:35,120
Maupassant, Pierre Loti,
Emile Zola, Balzac.

153
00:11:35,120 --> 00:11:36,800
And I began to read.

154
00:11:36,800 --> 00:11:39,140
Reading was an escape.

155
00:11:39,140 --> 00:11:42,590
And I was an avid reader.

156
00:11:42,590 --> 00:11:44,630
So the time passed.

157
00:11:44,630 --> 00:11:50,900
And an underground group came
and took my little brother

158
00:11:50,900 --> 00:12:02,660
and I and put us in a house in
a district of Paris called--

159
00:12:02,660 --> 00:12:07,760
on the Rue Lamarck in
the Montmartre district.

160
00:12:07,760 --> 00:12:15,680
We were regrouped in a large
house about 200 children.

161
00:12:15,680 --> 00:12:18,650
There, we had our heads shaved.

162
00:12:18,650 --> 00:12:23,550
They told us it was
to be for cleanliness.

163
00:12:23,550 --> 00:12:26,510
So I was holding my little
brother's hand very tightly.

164
00:12:26,510 --> 00:12:28,460
And we were there.

165
00:12:28,460 --> 00:12:29,870
It was very grim.

166
00:12:29,870 --> 00:12:31,850
There were dormitory.

167
00:12:31,850 --> 00:12:35,870
We spent most of the time in
bed and only had one meal a day.

168
00:12:35,870 --> 00:12:38,840

169
00:12:38,840 --> 00:12:42,530
The stay wasn't very long there
as in the middle of the night

170
00:12:42,530 --> 00:12:46,850
one day, some young
people came in

171
00:12:46,850 --> 00:12:51,560
and took a handful of
children to a waiting truck.

172
00:12:51,560 --> 00:12:55,820
Among those were
myself and my brother.

173
00:12:55,820 --> 00:13:01,010
We were whisked away to another
place to be sheltered again.

174
00:13:01,010 --> 00:13:06,440
Unbeknown to me-- and I
found this to be true later--

175
00:13:06,440 --> 00:13:09,680
they came and round up
the rest of the children

176

00:13:09,680 --> 00:13:12,050
and sent them to the camps.

177
00:13:12,050 --> 00:13:18,830
That place was a step from
the extermination camp.

178
00:13:18,830 --> 00:13:21,680

179
00:13:21,680 --> 00:13:26,350
So again, we were
placed in a home.

180
00:13:26,350 --> 00:13:29,320

181
00:13:29,320 --> 00:13:33,580
And that is where I stayed
with my little brother

182
00:13:33,580 --> 00:13:38,530
until the liberation in 1945.

183
00:13:38,530 --> 00:13:42,340
That was a pleasant memory
because these French people

184
00:13:42,340 --> 00:13:46,260
in the suburb of
Paris were very nice.

185
00:13:46,260 --> 00:13:51,520
And I finished my
education there.

186
00:13:51,520 --> 00:14:00,340
By then, the war was over,
and a Jewish organization

187
00:14:00,340 --> 00:14:01,675
by the name of--

188

00:14:01,675 --> 00:14:05,880

189

00:14:05,880 --> 00:14:06,840

oh, it's escaped me.

190

00:14:06,840 --> 00:14:08,910

It'll come back to me.

191

00:14:08,910 --> 00:14:13,650

We were placed in an
orphanage, boys and girls,

192

00:14:13,650 --> 00:14:20,430

in a district outside Paris
called Boulogne-Saint Cloud.

193

00:14:20,430 --> 00:14:24,780

There were many children
of many nationalities.

194

00:14:24,780 --> 00:14:28,620

Some had came from camps.

195

00:14:28,620 --> 00:14:34,410

And from there, we were
sent to various orphanages

196

00:14:34,410 --> 00:14:36,810

outside Paris.

197

00:14:36,810 --> 00:14:41,490

The place where I was
sent was called Malmaison.

198

00:14:41,490 --> 00:14:46,050

And my brother was in another
place not very far from me.

199

00:14:46,050 --> 00:14:48,920

200

00:14:48,920 --> 00:14:54,080

The orphanage was run by a
lovely, kind woman doctor

201

00:14:54,080 --> 00:14:57,350

by the name of Dr. Wexler.

202

00:14:57,350 --> 00:15:05,210

It consisted in this time of
about 40 boys and about a dozen

203

00:15:05,210 --> 00:15:05,900

girls.

204

00:15:05,900 --> 00:15:08,660

We were in minority.

205

00:15:08,660 --> 00:15:15,930

There was a large house and
about 15 room, dining room,

206

00:15:15,930 --> 00:15:20,930

kitchen, big hall, a
garden, a vegetable garden.

207

00:15:20,930 --> 00:15:24,890

And at the end of the park,
there was a lovely park,

208

00:15:24,890 --> 00:15:27,950

was a large room
with many windows.

209

00:15:27,950 --> 00:15:30,710

This was to be the
girls' dormitory.

210

00:15:30,710 --> 00:15:34,200

The boys were in the main house.

211

00:15:34,200 --> 00:15:43,070

So we came to the dormitory

and soon, I found myself

212

00:15:43,070 --> 00:15:52,940

enjoying the relatively
atmosphere of a family

213

00:15:52,940 --> 00:15:54,350

with children my age.

214

00:15:54,350 --> 00:16:00,980

The girls went from 13 to 15
and the boys slightly older.

215

00:16:00,980 --> 00:16:02,570

Each of us had chores.

216

00:16:02,570 --> 00:16:07,010

We had kitchen duty,
we had gardening duty,

217

00:16:07,010 --> 00:16:12,410

and we were sent to
vocational schools.

218

00:16:12,410 --> 00:16:18,890

Most of the girls were sent to
sewing classes and homemaking.

219

00:16:18,890 --> 00:16:24,300

When I was asked by the kind
lady doctor what I want to do,

220

00:16:24,300 --> 00:16:27,380

I didn't want to go into
homemaking or sewing.

221

00:16:27,380 --> 00:16:30,480

I wanted to study art.

222

00:16:30,480 --> 00:16:35,665

So I was put in an art school
to learn drawing and fashion

223
00:16:35,665 --> 00:16:36,165
design.

224
00:16:36,165 --> 00:16:38,780

225
00:16:38,780 --> 00:16:42,500
The school was in a district
of Paris called Montmartre.

226
00:16:42,500 --> 00:16:45,080
And I would take the
bus with other people

227
00:16:45,080 --> 00:16:52,520
early in the morning to go
about 40 miles into Paris.

228
00:16:52,520 --> 00:16:56,840
So I was participating in life
at Malmaison in the orphanage

229
00:16:56,840 --> 00:16:58,340
and studying in Paris.

230
00:16:58,340 --> 00:17:00,890

231
00:17:00,890 --> 00:17:06,829
One day came in our midst a man.

232
00:17:06,829 --> 00:17:10,050
He came from Israel.

233
00:17:10,050 --> 00:17:14,180
He was to indoctrinate
us children

234
00:17:14,180 --> 00:17:19,700
in Hebrew and Jewish history,
to be sent to Israel, then

235

00:17:19,700 --> 00:17:21,770

a new state.

236

00:17:21,770 --> 00:17:24,710

It was in '46.

237

00:17:24,710 --> 00:17:30,680

So beginning Hebrew
lessons and indoctrination.

238

00:17:30,680 --> 00:17:37,100

By then, I had in my
mind that I didn't

239

00:17:37,100 --> 00:17:41,960

want to be living in
Israel in the kibbutz.

240

00:17:41,960 --> 00:17:46,250

Something had happened
a few months before.

241

00:17:46,250 --> 00:17:55,340

A kindly couple from Paris heard
a brother and sister living

242

00:17:55,340 --> 00:17:59,090

in New York were childless.

243

00:17:59,090 --> 00:18:03,590

I was introduced
to them and they

244

00:18:03,590 --> 00:18:05,690

knew I had a little brother.

245

00:18:05,690 --> 00:18:12,080

And I was asked if it would
be a good thing for my brother

246

00:18:12,080 --> 00:18:17,210

to be put for adoption by

this couple in New York.

247

00:18:17,210 --> 00:18:19,590

As I consider everything--

248

00:18:19,590 --> 00:18:23,220

I was a few years

older than him--

249

00:18:23,220 --> 00:18:26,750

and knowing that what life he

would have in this orphanage

250

00:18:26,750 --> 00:18:31,310

and in schooling after the

war, I thought to myself, here

251

00:18:31,310 --> 00:18:34,970

is an opportunity for

him to have a family,

252

00:18:34,970 --> 00:18:37,820

to have good schooling,

be in a new country,

253

00:18:37,820 --> 00:18:40,460

and given a new life.

254

00:18:40,460 --> 00:18:42,920

After an interview

with the people,

255

00:18:42,920 --> 00:18:44,510

which I found very kind.

256

00:18:44,510 --> 00:18:47,270

He was an attorney in

Paris with his wife.

257

00:18:47,270 --> 00:18:51,620

And it was his own sister

who would adopt my brother.

258

00:18:51,620 --> 00:18:55,010

I became good friends with
them and I signed the adoption

259

00:18:55,010 --> 00:18:58,550

paper, being the only relative.

260

00:18:58,550 --> 00:19:04,550

So in 1946, my brother was
put on a boat, the Queen Mary,

261

00:19:04,550 --> 00:19:10,490

and came to New York to
this very fine family

262

00:19:10,490 --> 00:19:12,560

who didn't have any children.

263

00:19:12,560 --> 00:19:14,720

And he lived there with them.

264

00:19:14,720 --> 00:19:18,110

My brother that I wasn't going
to see for almost 10 years.

265

00:19:18,110 --> 00:19:21,850

266

00:19:21,850 --> 00:19:26,580

So the Israel indoctrination
was not for me

267

00:19:26,580 --> 00:19:29,160

because I then had
thought, someday, I

268

00:19:29,160 --> 00:19:31,140

will be reunited
with my brother,

269

00:19:31,140 --> 00:19:33,168

my only living relative.

270
00:19:33,168 --> 00:19:37,160

271
00:19:37,160 --> 00:19:41,750
As the children dispersed--
some went to Israel,

272
00:19:41,750 --> 00:19:45,200
some to schools, and
some on their own--

273
00:19:45,200 --> 00:19:47,600
I, too, was on my own.

274
00:19:47,600 --> 00:19:52,730
I was alone in Paris,
16 years old, all

275
00:19:52,730 --> 00:19:54,680
by myself, no relative.

276
00:19:54,680 --> 00:19:58,420

277
00:19:58,420 --> 00:20:01,210
Some people had
kindly offered me

278
00:20:01,210 --> 00:20:07,990
a maid's room in a district
of Paris called Passy.

279
00:20:07,990 --> 00:20:11,230
And I would have the rent free.

280
00:20:11,230 --> 00:20:14,680
And I would go to my old school.

281
00:20:14,680 --> 00:20:21,370
I was given a small allowance
while I was studying.

282
00:20:21,370 --> 00:20:25,000
So I would go to art
school and come home.

283
00:20:25,000 --> 00:20:30,640
It was a very lonely
existence for that time.

284
00:20:30,640 --> 00:20:35,290
But I knew my brother was safe
and in a happy place in New

285
00:20:35,290 --> 00:20:37,090
York.

286
00:20:37,090 --> 00:20:39,745
And I would hear from
him from time to time.

287
00:20:39,745 --> 00:20:42,520

288
00:20:42,520 --> 00:20:47,590
My life as a student
was very interesting

289
00:20:47,590 --> 00:20:51,860
because at that time in Paris--

290
00:20:51,860 --> 00:20:54,355
it was after the war.

291
00:20:54,355 --> 00:20:59,300

292
00:20:59,300 --> 00:21:05,890
Many Americans come
to Paris on GI bills

293
00:21:05,890 --> 00:21:10,120
to study various

arts and subjects.

294

00:21:10,120 --> 00:21:15,730

295

00:21:15,730 --> 00:21:18,330

Can I stop?

296

00:21:18,330 --> 00:21:20,790

I don't think-- sad.

297

00:21:20,790 --> 00:21:26,230

298

00:21:26,230 --> 00:21:32,770

I remember in Paris,
years before, an episode

299

00:21:32,770 --> 00:21:34,435

that scared me very much.

300

00:21:34,435 --> 00:21:37,620

301

00:21:37,620 --> 00:21:42,540

While we children had to wear
a yellow star in our clothes--

302

00:21:42,540 --> 00:21:46,320

and during the war I had a
coat made of horse blanket

303

00:21:46,320 --> 00:21:49,230

and was wearing wooden shoes.

304

00:21:49,230 --> 00:21:53,670

And as I was walking the
long corridors of the metro,

305

00:21:53,670 --> 00:21:56,490

I heard footsteps behind me.

306

00:21:56,490 --> 00:22:00,420

And I glanced back
and saw two Germans.

307

00:22:00,420 --> 00:22:01,590

And they were running.

308

00:22:01,590 --> 00:22:03,900

And I started running.

309

00:22:03,900 --> 00:22:06,300

Fortunately, they ran past me.

310

00:22:06,300 --> 00:22:11,730

I was holding my arms close
to the star to cover it.

311

00:22:11,730 --> 00:22:13,860

I got so scared
that from that day

312

00:22:13,860 --> 00:22:17,610

on, I never put the
yellow star again.

313

00:22:17,610 --> 00:22:21,480

I tore it off and
maybe saved my life.

314

00:22:21,480 --> 00:22:22,330

I don't know.

315

00:22:22,330 --> 00:22:26,460

But that's a memory
that I recall.

316

00:22:26,460 --> 00:22:33,690

So as a student, not much money,
after the war, Paris was grim.

317

00:22:33,690 --> 00:22:37,020

318
00:22:37,020 --> 00:22:44,850
But I was young and
I went to school.

319
00:22:44,850 --> 00:22:49,590
I liked what I was studying,
very much what I was studying.

320
00:22:49,590 --> 00:22:54,810
I didn't have much
entertainment then.

321
00:22:54,810 --> 00:22:59,520
And one day as I was walking
the Boulevard, the crowded

322
00:22:59,520 --> 00:23:04,140
Boulevard in Paris,
I was very hungry.

323
00:23:04,140 --> 00:23:07,200
My diet at that
time, 16 years old,

324
00:23:07,200 --> 00:23:11,190
consisted of French
fries and sandwiches.

325
00:23:11,190 --> 00:23:16,950
And that's all I could afford.

326
00:23:16,950 --> 00:23:19,290
So I was walking
in the Boulevard

327
00:23:19,290 --> 00:23:25,230
and watching some men
demonstrating a culinary gadget

328
00:23:25,230 --> 00:23:29,160
on a front department store.

329

00:23:29,160 --> 00:23:33,000

And after a while, when
he stopped his speech,

330

00:23:33,000 --> 00:23:37,080

and came over to
me, and asked me if

331

00:23:37,080 --> 00:23:39,900

I would like to have a hot meal.

332

00:23:39,900 --> 00:23:41,460

And I said, yes, I would.

333

00:23:41,460 --> 00:23:43,290

I was very happy.

334

00:23:43,290 --> 00:23:47,430

I didn't think much.

335

00:23:47,430 --> 00:23:52,500

So we're coming into a
very poor section of Paris,

336

00:23:52,500 --> 00:23:55,470

and we climb a dingy
flight of stairs,

337

00:23:55,470 --> 00:23:58,560

and here we are in a room.

338

00:23:58,560 --> 00:24:03,900

And the man started to
proceed in cooking some pork

339

00:24:03,900 --> 00:24:07,380

chops on a petrol lamp.

340

00:24:07,380 --> 00:24:10,680

Suddenly, he
grabbed me and tried

341

00:24:10,680 --> 00:24:12,810
to push me down the floor.

342

00:24:12,810 --> 00:24:17,040
In a reflex I grabbed the
top of the petrol lamp

343

00:24:17,040 --> 00:24:19,560
and threatened him with it.

344

00:24:19,560 --> 00:24:20,700
He backed down.

345

00:24:20,700 --> 00:24:26,500
As he did so, I ran down those
stairs out in the street,

346

00:24:26,500 --> 00:24:27,000
scared.

347

00:24:27,000 --> 00:24:30,420

348

00:24:30,420 --> 00:24:32,160
One had to be very careful.

349

00:24:32,160 --> 00:24:36,960
But not having experience,
not knowing anything,

350

00:24:36,960 --> 00:24:38,160
I acted by instinct.

351

00:24:38,160 --> 00:24:41,370

352

00:24:41,370 --> 00:24:43,230
I resume my studies.

353

00:24:43,230 --> 00:24:50,100
And at that part of my

life, I was attracted

354

00:24:50,100 --> 00:24:54,960

to Saint-Germain-des-PrÃ©s, where
all the students used to go

355

00:24:54,960 --> 00:25:00,120

in a cafe, and sit, and talk
all day and all night about

356

00:25:00,120 --> 00:25:03,990

politics, art, and
life in general.

357

00:25:03,990 --> 00:25:07,140

And I would often
spend nights till 4:00

358

00:25:07,140 --> 00:25:10,050

in the morning in a
little cafe called

359

00:25:10,050 --> 00:25:15,480

Mabillon, very unpretentious,
on Boulevard Saint-Germain.

360

00:25:15,480 --> 00:25:18,840

There, I would sit,
talk with the people,

361

00:25:18,840 --> 00:25:23,070

and have on front of me just
a cup of coffee all night.

362

00:25:23,070 --> 00:25:26,460

You could do that in
Paris in those days.

363

00:25:26,460 --> 00:25:28,650

Then after the closing
of the Mabillon,

364

00:25:28,650 --> 00:25:30,720

at 6:00 in the
morning, I would go

365
00:25:30,720 --> 00:25:34,140
to La Pergola, which
was across the street,

366
00:25:34,140 --> 00:25:36,840
and would have an
onion soup there.

367
00:25:36,840 --> 00:25:41,340
And the place was crowded
always with intellectual,

368
00:25:41,340 --> 00:25:46,290
pseudo-intellectual,
actors, prostitutes, pimps,

369
00:25:46,290 --> 00:25:50,760
all the colorful people
of Paris of that day.

370
00:25:50,760 --> 00:25:55,320
And after that place closed
at 7 o'clock in the morning,

371
00:25:55,320 --> 00:25:58,740
I would go across
the street to a cafe

372
00:25:58,740 --> 00:26:04,650
and have a last cafe creme
while the workmen would drink

373
00:26:04,650 --> 00:26:08,250
their red wines of the day.

374
00:26:08,250 --> 00:26:11,280
Their first red wines.

375
00:26:11,280 --> 00:26:15,000
Then I would go back to my

room and sleep for a few hours

376

00:26:15,000 --> 00:26:18,720

before returning to
the classes of art,

377

00:26:18,720 --> 00:26:22,870

live models in Montparnasse.

378

00:26:22,870 --> 00:26:26,110

In those days, Montparnasse
was very lively.

379

00:26:26,110 --> 00:26:28,800

It had a cosmopolitan crowd.

380

00:26:28,800 --> 00:26:34,800

And I met many
painters and sculptors

381

00:26:34,800 --> 00:26:42,150

in a cafe called La
Coupole and La Rotonde.

382

00:26:42,150 --> 00:26:48,370

I remember meeting ManÃ©-Katz, a
Jewish painter with white hair,

383

00:26:48,370 --> 00:26:53,250

small, and very articulate.

384

00:26:53,250 --> 00:26:57,240

And I saw his work
and I thought he was

385

00:26:57,240 --> 00:27:03,900

sort of tormented and biblical.

386

00:27:03,900 --> 00:27:07,020

And many others which
names escape me.

387

00:27:07,020 --> 00:27:11,000

388

00:27:11,000 --> 00:27:16,070

I was looking forward to go up
to Montmartre in the evening.

389

00:27:16,070 --> 00:27:19,940

It was one of the
liveliest place in Paris.

390

00:27:19,940 --> 00:27:23,660

On top of the Sacré-Coeur was a
little place where people would

391

00:27:23,660 --> 00:27:28,370

dine outside, and
music, accordion.

392

00:27:28,370 --> 00:27:31,880

And I would often go
there in the evening

393

00:27:31,880 --> 00:27:34,820

with friends and artists.

394

00:27:34,820 --> 00:27:40,040

And we would sketch the people
who would have dinner there.

395

00:27:40,040 --> 00:27:44,780

And for a few francs,
tips, I would do portraits

396

00:27:44,780 --> 00:27:48,560

of the people dining there.

397

00:27:48,560 --> 00:27:52,790

And that was rewarding and fun.

398

00:27:52,790 --> 00:27:56,330

So I took into
getting into habits

399

00:27:56,330 --> 00:28:00,200

to go there, and cafes, and
restaurants, and sidewalks,

400

00:28:00,200 --> 00:28:04,580

and make a little bit of money.

401

00:28:04,580 --> 00:28:07,700

And of course,
going to the clubs

402

00:28:07,700 --> 00:28:12,020

with younger people, the
existentialist caves, where

403

00:28:12,020 --> 00:28:14,780

they had jazz
music, and dancing,

404

00:28:14,780 --> 00:28:21,560

and it was an
interesting time for me.

405

00:28:21,560 --> 00:28:23,720

But still, I was very lonesome.

406

00:28:23,720 --> 00:28:35,530

And life seemed to be
just a pattern of sadness.

407

00:28:35,530 --> 00:28:41,620

One day, a group of
young people decided

408

00:28:41,620 --> 00:28:47,140

to go to the south of France and
asked me if I would join them.

409

00:28:47,140 --> 00:28:49,900

Because Paris was very
cold in the winter,

410

00:28:49,900 --> 00:28:53,050

we didn't have
much warm clothes,

411

00:28:53,050 --> 00:28:55,930

and living in that
small one room

412

00:28:55,930 --> 00:28:59,980

was very depressing as I
was looking at the window

413

00:28:59,980 --> 00:29:03,350

and seeing only the
roofs and nothing else.

414

00:29:03,350 --> 00:29:06,650

415

00:29:06,650 --> 00:29:09,580

So we got to a place
called Les Halles.

416

00:29:09,580 --> 00:29:12,380

We were six young people.

417

00:29:12,380 --> 00:29:16,750

And we decided to
get on a truck that

418

00:29:16,750 --> 00:29:21,700

was going across France
to the southern part,

419

00:29:21,700 --> 00:29:25,240

through the French
Riviera, to Nice.

420

00:29:25,240 --> 00:29:29,740

So early morning, we
all got into Les Halles,

421

00:29:29,740 --> 00:29:33,160
a district of Paris where
they used to sell foods

422
00:29:33,160 --> 00:29:39,670
and where they had all
the markets of Paris.

423
00:29:39,670 --> 00:29:42,580
And we hopped on a truck.

424
00:29:42,580 --> 00:29:46,780
And we began-- the empty
truck was coming back full

425
00:29:46,780 --> 00:29:50,440
of oranges from the Provence.

426
00:29:50,440 --> 00:30:00,760
And we drove down the whole
day to the south of France.

427
00:30:00,760 --> 00:30:02,560
I don't remember
the trip too much.

428
00:30:02,560 --> 00:30:08,000
I slept most of the time because
I had worked and I was tired.

429
00:30:08,000 --> 00:30:10,750
But when I woke up,
I saw the blue sky

430
00:30:10,750 --> 00:30:14,600
and the smell of mimosa,
and I thought to myself,

431
00:30:14,600 --> 00:30:15,790
this is paradise.

432
00:30:15,790 --> 00:30:19,810
It is not the grim

and bleak Paris, gray.

433
00:30:19,810 --> 00:30:21,760
It is paradise.

434
00:30:21,760 --> 00:30:25,040
This is where I want to live.

435
00:30:25,040 --> 00:30:29,140
So when we got out
of the truck in Nice,

436
00:30:29,140 --> 00:30:34,750
I thought, I want to live there
and I want to paint there.

437
00:30:34,750 --> 00:30:41,960
And so I began to
start a new life.

438
00:30:41,960 --> 00:30:44,620
Well, I lived in
the south of France.

439
00:30:44,620 --> 00:30:45,991
Can you start again?

440
00:30:45,991 --> 00:30:48,520
Because the camera wasn't--

441
00:30:48,520 --> 00:30:50,352
I lived in the south.

442
00:30:50,352 --> 00:30:51,234
One more question.

443
00:30:51,234 --> 00:30:53,000
Can you stop it for moment?

444
00:30:53,000 --> 00:30:57,440
A preview of a very
important book.

445
00:30:57,440 --> 00:30:58,760
So I'm going to condense it.

446
00:30:58,760 --> 00:30:59,260
OK.

447
00:30:59,260 --> 00:31:02,240

448
00:31:02,240 --> 00:31:05,900
I lived for the next 10
years in the south of France,

449
00:31:05,900 --> 00:31:09,950
doing various artistic work
and traveling in Europe.

450
00:31:09,950 --> 00:31:13,940

451
00:31:13,940 --> 00:31:27,720
I came to America in
1956: and I stayed

452
00:31:27,720 --> 00:31:31,620
with my brother, who had
become a fine young man, who

453
00:31:31,620 --> 00:31:33,900
was enlisted in the Navy.

454
00:31:33,900 --> 00:31:39,210
And later on, he had a Naval
appointment, Naval Academy

455
00:31:39,210 --> 00:31:44,700
appointment, and finished
the Naval Academy in 1962.

456
00:31:44,700 --> 00:31:47,220
Then he enlisted

in the Air Force.

457

00:31:47,220 --> 00:31:53,490

And it became a career man and
a colonel after his retirement.

458

00:31:53,490 --> 00:31:55,155

He's presently living in Europe.

459

00:31:55,155 --> 00:31:57,900

460

00:31:57,900 --> 00:32:00,840

I came to America in 1956.

461

00:32:00,840 --> 00:32:10,050

And after a brief stay in New
York, I came to San Francisco

462

00:32:10,050 --> 00:32:15,660

shortly after I married,
and came upon a nice family.

463

00:32:15,660 --> 00:32:19,020

464

00:32:19,020 --> 00:32:21,480

My father-in-law was a
doctor and the mother-in-law

465

00:32:21,480 --> 00:32:22,410

was a nurse.

466

00:32:22,410 --> 00:32:26,730

They only had one son,
and he was my husband.

467

00:32:26,730 --> 00:32:31,510

We had a son and the
marriage lasted five years.

468

00:32:31,510 --> 00:32:35,490

And then I divorced.

469

00:32:35,490 --> 00:32:39,070

Many, many reasons.

470

00:32:39,070 --> 00:32:43,770

So here I am by myself
at the age of 36,

471

00:32:43,770 --> 00:32:48,030

with a little boy,
six years old.

472

00:32:48,030 --> 00:32:53,040

And I thought to myself,
I want to raise my son

473

00:32:53,040 --> 00:32:59,100

and I want to resume my
artwork and my travel.

474

00:32:59,100 --> 00:33:06,790

So I applied to
several ships company

475

00:33:06,790 --> 00:33:12,540

because I wanted to
combine traveling and art.

476

00:33:12,540 --> 00:33:15,390

And I wanted to make one
trip around the world.

477

00:33:15,390 --> 00:33:16,680

This was my dream.

478

00:33:16,680 --> 00:33:21,510

It's been my dream ever since
I was younger to do that,

479

00:33:21,510 --> 00:33:23,880

for inspiration.

480

00:33:23,880 --> 00:33:28,260

So one ship company
answered me and offered me

481

00:33:28,260 --> 00:33:31,890

a trip around the world
in exchange of my talent.

482

00:33:31,890 --> 00:33:34,560

By then I was fluent
in four languages--

483

00:33:34,560 --> 00:33:37,500

French, Spanish,
Italian, and English.

484

00:33:37,500 --> 00:33:42,180

And I could teach art as
I already had degrees.

485

00:33:42,180 --> 00:33:49,830

They offered me the job in
exchange of my teaching,

486

00:33:49,830 --> 00:33:51,595

the passenger on world cruises.

487

00:33:51,595 --> 00:33:54,114

488

00:33:54,114 --> 00:33:59,490

Well, I was so good,
according to their directors,

489

00:33:59,490 --> 00:34:05,440

that they kept me off
and on for 12 years.

490

00:34:05,440 --> 00:34:06,450

And I traveled.

491

00:34:06,450 --> 00:34:08,380

And my dream came true.

492

00:34:08,380 --> 00:34:11,610

I saw the world, I
painted, had art shows.

493

00:34:11,610 --> 00:34:17,790

My son was in a private school
having a good education.

494

00:34:17,790 --> 00:34:20,219

And I would see him
on summer vacation.

495

00:34:20,219 --> 00:34:25,770

And later, when I was home,
half of the time at sea,

496

00:34:25,770 --> 00:34:27,150

and half of the time at home.

497

00:34:27,150 --> 00:34:30,570

498

00:34:30,570 --> 00:34:36,300

When my son was 20 years
old, I was introduced

499

00:34:36,300 --> 00:34:38,940

to a very fine gentleman.

500

00:34:38,940 --> 00:34:41,370

Being a widow for--
being divorced

501

00:34:41,370 --> 00:34:48,120

for 15, 16 years, this very
nice Jewish gentleman, Mr.

502

00:34:48,120 --> 00:34:50,310

Lieberman.

503

00:34:50,310 --> 00:34:54,330
Older than me by
almost a generation,

504
00:34:54,330 --> 00:34:57,240
could have been the
father I never had.

505
00:34:57,240 --> 00:34:58,380
But so kind.

506
00:34:58,380 --> 00:35:02,490
And we had so much
understanding.

507
00:35:02,490 --> 00:35:07,060
He was so interested in me
and my life and loved me.

508
00:35:07,060 --> 00:35:08,310
We got married.

509
00:35:08,310 --> 00:35:11,850
My son was very pleased
with me because he thought

510
00:35:11,850 --> 00:35:16,020
it wasn't proper for
me to always travel

511
00:35:16,020 --> 00:35:18,030
and I should be married.

512
00:35:18,030 --> 00:35:21,780
He was very proper young man.

513
00:35:21,780 --> 00:35:26,640
And through having seen
his grandparents a lot,

514
00:35:26,640 --> 00:35:30,090
had developed a lot of
empathy for older people.

515
00:35:30,090 --> 00:35:34,320
And a good view in general.

516
00:35:34,320 --> 00:35:36,990
So I was married
and was very happy.

517
00:35:36,990 --> 00:35:40,920
I was living in a beautiful
home, I had a studio,

518
00:35:40,920 --> 00:35:46,840
I was painting, and it
was a wonderful life.

519
00:35:46,840 --> 00:35:50,460
My husband and I would travel.

520
00:35:50,460 --> 00:35:54,190
And I had art shows in
the south of France,

521
00:35:54,190 --> 00:35:56,230
where I was a student.

522
00:35:56,230 --> 00:36:01,620
I was able to realize
a wonderful dream.

523
00:36:01,620 --> 00:36:06,610
And one day, when I was working
at an exhibit in Europe,

524
00:36:06,610 --> 00:36:10,170
my husband died
of a heart attack.

525
00:36:10,170 --> 00:36:14,500
We had been married
almost nine years.

526

00:36:14,500 --> 00:36:20,880
So here I am, a widow, and I
have to start all over again.

527
00:36:20,880 --> 00:36:27,690
I came back to San Francisco
and have been painting.

528
00:36:27,690 --> 00:36:32,550
And seeing that my son
had married a lovely girl,

529
00:36:32,550 --> 00:36:36,870
first a boy was born, and
it was a wonderful miracle.

530
00:36:36,870 --> 00:36:39,150
I was overjoyed.

531
00:36:39,150 --> 00:36:43,560
And a year and a half later,
a little girl was born.

532
00:36:43,560 --> 00:36:45,240
And I was so overjoyed.

533
00:36:45,240 --> 00:36:48,960
I went to Israel, and
went to see the monument

534
00:36:48,960 --> 00:36:54,120
to the Holocaust, and saw
some of my childhood friends

535
00:36:54,120 --> 00:36:58,480
who were in Malmaison,
who had emigrated there.

536
00:36:58,480 --> 00:37:00,370
So it was a wonderful reunion.

537
00:37:00,370 --> 00:37:04,350
It was emotional

and very nostalgic.

538

00:37:04,350 --> 00:37:08,790

And so at that point, I had
everything upon my return.

539

00:37:08,790 --> 00:37:12,420

Although I was alone, a
widow, I was not lonesome.

540

00:37:12,420 --> 00:37:17,400

I had my son, my grandchildren,
my daughter-in-law,

541

00:37:17,400 --> 00:37:20,325

and everything was fine.

542

00:37:20,325 --> 00:37:22,920

543

00:37:22,920 --> 00:37:29,780

And then returning to
Europe, shortly after,

544

00:37:29,780 --> 00:37:34,590

I visited my brother
and my sister-in-law.

545

00:37:34,590 --> 00:37:39,230

And while I was coming back
on the plane, a presentiment,

546

00:37:39,230 --> 00:37:43,760

again, a feeling, a
premonition, something.

547

00:37:43,760 --> 00:37:46,010

I was scared on the plane.

548

00:37:46,010 --> 00:37:48,540

I came home and
the next morning,

549

00:37:48,540 --> 00:37:54,050

my son came, call me, and
came, and got me, and said,

550

00:37:54,050 --> 00:37:57,990

we lost Ashley, our
little daughter.

551

00:37:57,990 --> 00:38:00,170

And the sky fell.

552

00:38:00,170 --> 00:38:02,150

And there was no
word to describe

553

00:38:02,150 --> 00:38:03,940

the tragedy what happened.

554

00:38:03,940 --> 00:38:06,630

555

00:38:06,630 --> 00:38:14,180

And so I don't know the way I--

556

00:38:14,180 --> 00:38:17,100

I don't know what happened
next, but it was a nightmare.

557

00:38:17,100 --> 00:38:20,990

The worst one that one can have.

558

00:38:20,990 --> 00:38:23,480

And one go on living.

559

00:38:23,480 --> 00:38:30,020

And here I am, 5 months after
the tragedy, telling the story,

560

00:38:30,020 --> 00:38:33,770

and not knowing what
the future has in store.

561

00:38:33,770 --> 00:38:39,250

But to go on to the best of
one's ability, day by day.

562

00:38:39,250 --> 00:38:44,790

563

00:38:44,790 --> 00:38:49,600

OK, thank you for the story.

564

00:38:49,600 --> 00:38:52,010

And now we have some questions.

565

00:38:52,010 --> 00:38:54,740

566

00:38:54,740 --> 00:38:58,970

I'd like to start with
your real early life.

567

00:38:58,970 --> 00:39:00,370

Now, when exactly were you born?

568

00:39:00,370 --> 00:39:07,900

569

00:39:07,900 --> 00:39:12,340

I was born in 1932 in Poland.

570

00:39:12,340 --> 00:39:13,765

Do you remember the town?

571

00:39:13,765 --> 00:39:14,265

Warsaw.

572

00:39:14,265 --> 00:39:18,780

573

00:39:18,780 --> 00:39:22,260

And you moved to France
within six months?

574
00:39:22,260 --> 00:39:23,460
Yes.

575
00:39:23,460 --> 00:39:26,348
Now, when you talk about going
over the border in a basket,

576
00:39:26,348 --> 00:39:28,890
it sounds kind of like they had
to sneak you over the border.

577
00:39:28,890 --> 00:39:29,598
Is that the case?

578
00:39:29,598 --> 00:39:31,230
Yes, yes.

579
00:39:31,230 --> 00:39:34,020
Why did they have to do that?

580
00:39:34,020 --> 00:39:38,520
Because at that time, they
would let many people out

581
00:39:38,520 --> 00:39:40,320
from Poland or Russia.

582
00:39:40,320 --> 00:39:46,950
But my father had been schooled
in Vilna, Lithuania, which

583
00:39:46,950 --> 00:39:49,320
is a university town.

584
00:39:49,320 --> 00:39:52,200
And certain privileged
Jewish people

585
00:39:52,200 --> 00:39:56,460
were allowed to
travel if they could

586
00:39:56,460 --> 00:40:03,090
provide the proof that they
were going for studying.

587
00:40:03,090 --> 00:40:07,320
And as a couple, maybe they
couldn't bring children.

588
00:40:07,320 --> 00:40:12,480
So that probably was the reason
that they brought me over.

589
00:40:12,480 --> 00:40:15,480

590
00:40:15,480 --> 00:40:17,350
Did you ever see
your grandparents

591
00:40:17,350 --> 00:40:19,920
in Lithuania and Poland?

592
00:40:19,920 --> 00:40:26,640
No, but I remember
a sculpture head

593
00:40:26,640 --> 00:40:31,290
that my father talked
to me about that

594
00:40:31,290 --> 00:40:37,110
was done of his father.

595
00:40:37,110 --> 00:40:39,900
And somehow, I have
an image in my mind

596
00:40:39,900 --> 00:40:43,635
of an old man with a beard.

597
00:40:43,635 --> 00:40:46,980

598
00:40:46,980 --> 00:40:49,940
And I was named after him.

599
00:40:49,940 --> 00:40:55,400
My real Hebrew name
in Poland is Shimona.

600
00:40:55,400 --> 00:40:58,730
My grandfather's
name was Shimon.

601
00:40:58,730 --> 00:41:04,350
And so as a girl,
that was my name.

602
00:41:04,350 --> 00:41:06,170
My real name is Shimon--

603
00:41:06,170 --> 00:41:08,780
Shimona.

604
00:41:08,780 --> 00:41:13,540
S-H-I-M-O-N-A.

605
00:41:13,540 --> 00:41:16,540
Why did your parents
leave Poland?

606
00:41:16,540 --> 00:41:19,420
Because they wanted
to be in Paris,

607
00:41:19,420 --> 00:41:24,280
the very choice of
the city and country

608
00:41:24,280 --> 00:41:33,220
means that they wanted to
educate themselves and be

609

00:41:33,220 --> 00:41:35,020
more--

610
00:41:35,020 --> 00:41:42,130
be educated people rather
than to go to a smaller town

611
00:41:42,130 --> 00:41:44,930
or Israel.

612
00:41:44,930 --> 00:41:48,940
But did that have anything to
do with Hitler at that time?

613
00:41:48,940 --> 00:41:52,030
Yes, yes, because
they had pogroms

614
00:41:52,030 --> 00:41:56,410
in Russia and Lithuania.

615
00:41:56,410 --> 00:41:58,960
Definitely that.

616
00:41:58,960 --> 00:42:02,302
In 1932?

617
00:42:02,302 --> 00:42:03,760
Did you ever hear
your parents talk

618
00:42:03,760 --> 00:42:10,570
much about Hitler and Nazis
when you-- before the war?

619
00:42:10,570 --> 00:42:17,110
I remember one thing in
particular that struck me.

620
00:42:17,110 --> 00:42:20,470
As my father was working
in our apartment,

621

00:42:20,470 --> 00:42:22,480

he had written in the wall--

622

00:42:22,480 --> 00:42:30,490

on the wall that as

early as '35 or '36

623

00:42:30,490 --> 00:42:32,485

that they would be killing Jews.

624

00:42:32,485 --> 00:42:36,250

625

00:42:36,250 --> 00:42:40,690

It was prophesied.

626

00:42:40,690 --> 00:42:46,810

I remember seeing on the wall

some things to that effect.

627

00:42:46,810 --> 00:42:48,610

What wall was this?

628

00:42:48,610 --> 00:42:50,057

Of our kitchen.

629

00:42:50,057 --> 00:42:51,640

Your father just

wrote it on the wall?

630

00:42:51,640 --> 00:42:55,210

631

00:42:55,210 --> 00:42:59,980

How did-- it sounds like he

was very affected by what he

632

00:42:59,980 --> 00:43:02,530

could perceive coming to pass.

633

00:43:02,530 --> 00:43:04,660

How did that affect
his personality

634
00:43:04,660 --> 00:43:07,250
And how he was in the family?

635
00:43:07,250 --> 00:43:09,820
How he treated your
mother, how he treated you.

636
00:43:09,820 --> 00:43:11,390
My mother was religious.

637
00:43:11,390 --> 00:43:13,840
She would light the
candles on Shabbat.

638
00:43:13,840 --> 00:43:18,700

639
00:43:18,700 --> 00:43:25,510
She was a very wonderful
woman, very maternal.

640
00:43:25,510 --> 00:43:27,880
My father had a--

641
00:43:27,880 --> 00:43:30,580

642
00:43:30,580 --> 00:43:32,990
well, I was so young.

643
00:43:32,990 --> 00:43:35,230
I don't remember much about him.

644
00:43:35,230 --> 00:43:39,190
But he was good-looking,
dashing man.

645
00:43:39,190 --> 00:43:43,150
And one day, when I was

very small, I remember,

646

00:43:43,150 --> 00:43:46,300

he took me for an outing
in the icy streets of Paris

647

00:43:46,300 --> 00:43:47,710

in the winter.

648

00:43:47,710 --> 00:43:49,640

I fell and I hurt my leg.

649

00:43:49,640 --> 00:43:53,020

And he took me up in
his arm and brought me

650

00:43:53,020 --> 00:43:56,290

to a warm restaurant
where people knew him,

651

00:43:56,290 --> 00:43:58,160

a Jewish restaurant.

652

00:43:58,160 --> 00:43:59,980

They knew him, they
liked them, and there

653

00:43:59,980 --> 00:44:05,770

was laughter and music, and he
could have been a popular man.

654

00:44:05,770 --> 00:44:10,705

Maybe he had a lot
of charm and wit.

655

00:44:10,705 --> 00:44:14,170

And he was artistic,
too, as he would design

656

00:44:14,170 --> 00:44:17,590

the gloves, the leather gloves.

657

00:44:17,590 --> 00:44:18,430
He designed them.

658
00:44:18,430 --> 00:44:21,160
So he had some artistic.

659
00:44:21,160 --> 00:44:25,150
But he had to make a living
for a family, a wife and three

660
00:44:25,150 --> 00:44:27,840
children.

661
00:44:27,840 --> 00:44:32,460
What did he study
when he was in Poland?

662
00:44:32,460 --> 00:44:35,190
In Lithuania, in Vilna,
at the university,

663
00:44:35,190 --> 00:44:36,090
I think he studied--

664
00:44:36,090 --> 00:44:39,970

665
00:44:39,970 --> 00:44:44,830
he studied Judaism,
I think, and a lot.

666
00:44:44,830 --> 00:44:47,020
And philosophy.

667
00:44:47,020 --> 00:44:51,370

668
00:44:51,370 --> 00:44:55,780
I found this later, looking
through some photography,

669
00:44:55,780 --> 00:44:59,320

seeing numerals.

670

00:44:59,320 --> 00:45:05,170

Could have been studying
Kabbalah and other things

671

00:45:05,170 --> 00:45:08,680

because in those days, they
studied all these things

672

00:45:08,680 --> 00:45:11,830

in the temples.

673

00:45:11,830 --> 00:45:15,220

Did your mother
have a profession?

674

00:45:15,220 --> 00:45:17,860

She was a beautiful woman
and when she was very young

675

00:45:17,860 --> 00:45:19,810

in Poland, she used to dance.

676

00:45:19,810 --> 00:45:20,990

She was a ballet dancer.

677

00:45:20,990 --> 00:45:28,380

678

00:45:28,380 --> 00:45:32,580

And she took me often to see
theater, when I was young,

679

00:45:32,580 --> 00:45:39,360

to some Vaudeville show in
Paris before the war, when

680

00:45:39,360 --> 00:45:40,200

I was very young.

681

00:45:40,200 --> 00:45:41,790

And I enjoyed that.

682
00:45:41,790 --> 00:45:45,120
She loved the theater.

683
00:45:45,120 --> 00:45:47,710
Did you worry about the war
before it actually happened?

684
00:45:47,710 --> 00:45:51,090
You, personally?

685
00:45:51,090 --> 00:45:53,720
At the time, were you aware?

686
00:45:53,720 --> 00:45:55,570
Yes.

687
00:45:55,570 --> 00:46:02,770
I was aware because when I
returned from that peasant

688
00:46:02,770 --> 00:46:06,220
home, and they told me
that the whole building,

689
00:46:06,220 --> 00:46:13,330
there were many Jewish family
taken away, I was scared.

690
00:46:13,330 --> 00:46:19,190
And I didn't want to be any
place where there was danger.

691
00:46:19,190 --> 00:46:27,610
But I was too young to know that
some underground people took

692
00:46:27,610 --> 00:46:32,110
care of us, my brother
and I, my little brother.

693

00:46:32,110 --> 00:46:36,110

Because there was no way I
could take care of myself.

694

00:46:36,110 --> 00:46:39,250

695

00:46:39,250 --> 00:46:41,395

What was the first
year of the war like?

696

00:46:41,395 --> 00:46:44,020

You know, the Phoney War?

697

00:46:44,020 --> 00:46:45,980

I was too young
to remember that.

698

00:46:45,980 --> 00:46:51,700

All I remember are the raids,
the dark sky, the siren,

699

00:46:51,700 --> 00:46:56,500

darkening of the
windows, no lights.

700

00:46:56,500 --> 00:47:01,320

Food coupons, rationing.

701

00:47:01,320 --> 00:47:03,820

I remember that because
the bread my mother saved.

702

00:47:03,820 --> 00:47:10,520

703

00:47:10,520 --> 00:47:12,790

It's just no childhood.

704

00:47:12,790 --> 00:47:15,300

It was horrible.

705

00:47:15,300 --> 00:47:16,000
Was horrible.

706
00:47:16,000 --> 00:47:19,590
We wore the same dresses
all the time, same clothes.

707
00:47:19,590 --> 00:47:25,050

708
00:47:25,050 --> 00:47:27,970
But my mother was a
very dignified person.

709
00:47:27,970 --> 00:47:29,700
She would always keep us clean.

710
00:47:29,700 --> 00:47:35,220
She would be very
resourceful, very resourceful.

711
00:47:35,220 --> 00:47:40,560
And I remember she used to
take us to the park not far

712
00:47:40,560 --> 00:47:43,110
from our apartment building.

713
00:47:43,110 --> 00:47:48,150
She would take with her a
big basket full of casserole,

714
00:47:48,150 --> 00:47:49,200
full of hot food.

715
00:47:49,200 --> 00:47:50,940
And we would eat in the park.

716
00:47:50,940 --> 00:47:52,830
Hot food from the casserole.

717
00:47:52,830 --> 00:47:54,840

She would make
potatoes and tomato.

718
00:47:54,840 --> 00:47:57,360
And instead of eating just--

719
00:47:57,360 --> 00:48:01,280
we would eat hot food.

720
00:48:01,280 --> 00:48:03,380
There was no sandwich,
no such a thing.

721
00:48:03,380 --> 00:48:07,150
We would just eat like
in the old countries.

722
00:48:07,150 --> 00:48:08,330
I remember that.

723
00:48:08,330 --> 00:48:10,700
There was not-- it
was a pleasant memory,

724
00:48:10,700 --> 00:48:14,305
sitting in the park on a bench
and eating out of a casserole.

725
00:48:14,305 --> 00:48:20,900
It was same food we eat at
home, but it was in fresh air.

726
00:48:20,900 --> 00:48:24,050

727
00:48:24,050 --> 00:48:25,710
She was conscious of our health.

728
00:48:25,710 --> 00:48:29,450

729
00:48:29,450 --> 00:48:31,790

Were you kosher?

730

00:48:31,790 --> 00:48:34,880

No, I don't remember that.

731

00:48:34,880 --> 00:48:38,990

But she would light the
candles, say the blessings.

732

00:48:38,990 --> 00:48:44,030

But I never kept a religion
after I left Malmaison.

733

00:48:44,030 --> 00:48:47,540

We were religious there.

734

00:48:47,540 --> 00:48:51,530

My first husband was half-Jewish
and my second husband

735

00:48:51,530 --> 00:48:53,240

was Jewish.

736

00:48:53,240 --> 00:48:55,200

But the father of my son was--

737

00:48:55,200 --> 00:48:57,230

his mother was Christian.

738

00:48:57,230 --> 00:48:58,350

His father was Jewish.

739

00:48:58,350 --> 00:49:00,590

He had a Jewish grandmother.

740

00:49:00,590 --> 00:49:01,610

But he had no.

741

00:49:01,610 --> 00:49:05,630

742

00:49:05,630 --> 00:49:10,910

My son was raised
of his own belief,

743

00:49:10,910 --> 00:49:13,670

whatever he believes is good.

744

00:49:13,670 --> 00:49:14,870

He knows who he is.

745

00:49:14,870 --> 00:49:15,800

He knows he's Jewish.

746

00:49:15,800 --> 00:49:17,780

But whatever he practiced.

747

00:49:17,780 --> 00:49:20,000

His wife is Christian.

748

00:49:20,000 --> 00:49:24,020

In view of this tragedy that
the Christian religion has

749

00:49:24,020 --> 00:49:31,340

helped them because what
they believe sustained them.

750

00:49:31,340 --> 00:49:33,590

Which isn't for me.

751

00:49:33,590 --> 00:49:34,520

Doesn't work for me.

752

00:49:34,520 --> 00:49:39,770

753

00:49:39,770 --> 00:49:41,490

Did you kind of--

754

00:49:41,490 --> 00:49:42,740

do you believe there is a God?

755

00:49:42,740 --> 00:49:45,200

Or like how did the Holocaust
affect your belief in God?

756

00:49:45,200 --> 00:49:48,350

757

00:49:48,350 --> 00:49:50,690

Yes, I believe in God.

758

00:49:50,690 --> 00:49:52,280

Definitely.

759

00:49:52,280 --> 00:49:55,520

I believe I was
saved for a purpose.

760

00:49:55,520 --> 00:49:58,140

761

00:49:58,140 --> 00:50:00,360

Has to be a purpose.

762

00:50:00,360 --> 00:50:02,040

But I was so close.

763

00:50:02,040 --> 00:50:07,425

I was mercifully,
unbelievably close.

764

00:50:07,425 --> 00:50:10,590

765

00:50:10,590 --> 00:50:13,350

And I was spared.

766

00:50:13,350 --> 00:50:14,160

A miracle.

767

00:50:14,160 --> 00:50:16,670

768
00:50:16,670 --> 00:50:19,810
But there's a tragedy,
there's a miracle.

769
00:50:19,810 --> 00:50:23,230
It seemed to go hand in hand.

770
00:50:23,230 --> 00:50:24,880
There is an understanding now.

771
00:50:24,880 --> 00:50:27,970
I understand that
where is a miracle,

772
00:50:27,970 --> 00:50:30,280
there's a tragedy again.

773
00:50:30,280 --> 00:50:33,940
Which it happened again.

774
00:50:33,940 --> 00:50:38,095
Miracle of birth, the
tragedy of death, of a child.

775
00:50:38,095 --> 00:50:43,580

776
00:50:43,580 --> 00:50:46,030
Pattern of life
shouldn't be like that.

777
00:50:46,030 --> 00:50:47,630
You shouldn't be expecting.

778
00:50:47,630 --> 00:50:50,800

779
00:50:50,800 --> 00:50:53,830
You don't want to
think you're expecting,

780

00:50:53,830 --> 00:50:57,400

you just want to go on living,
and living the best you can.

781

00:50:57,400 --> 00:51:01,680

782

00:51:01,680 --> 00:51:04,440

I'd like to go back and
ask you some questions

783

00:51:04,440 --> 00:51:06,770

about your hiding places.

784

00:51:06,770 --> 00:51:10,880

Now, the first one
was a farmhouse?

785

00:51:10,880 --> 00:51:14,510

I think the first one,
we were in a room.

786

00:51:14,510 --> 00:51:20,900

And I was so young, I just
remember a woman, middle age.

787

00:51:20,900 --> 00:51:23,750

And she was--

788

00:51:23,750 --> 00:51:28,760

I understood later that she
was engaged in prostitution.

789

00:51:28,760 --> 00:51:33,440

And she would save children
at the same time in France.

790

00:51:33,440 --> 00:51:36,650

That we were not the only one.

791

00:51:36,650 --> 00:51:40,290

And then this other lady--

792
00:51:40,290 --> 00:51:41,730
Let me--

793
00:51:41,730 --> 00:51:43,052
Sure.

794
00:51:43,052 --> 00:51:44,330
--finish my thought.

795
00:51:44,330 --> 00:51:45,140
The first person.

796
00:51:45,140 --> 00:51:47,040
Now, she lived alone?

797
00:51:47,040 --> 00:51:48,470
She lived alone.

798
00:51:48,470 --> 00:51:50,210
In what kind of a
house, how big was it?

799
00:51:50,210 --> 00:51:51,320
It was not a house.

800
00:51:51,320 --> 00:51:54,320
It was just two rooms.

801
00:51:54,320 --> 00:51:57,690
One room with a big bed.

802
00:51:57,690 --> 00:52:00,740
And I think the other room was
some kind of a living room.

803
00:52:00,740 --> 00:52:05,660
We children slept in the
big bed, my brother and I.

804
00:52:05,660 --> 00:52:08,390

And she was in the other
room while she was hiding

805
00:52:08,390 --> 00:52:10,520
us, probably a short time.

806
00:52:10,520 --> 00:52:12,200
And she had her--

807
00:52:12,200 --> 00:52:14,360
we heard noises of--

808
00:52:14,360 --> 00:52:18,720
I heard noises of
men all the time.

809
00:52:18,720 --> 00:52:26,458
And I was told later, as I
understood when I became older.

810
00:52:26,458 --> 00:52:29,000
Was it just you and your brother
or were there other children

811
00:52:29,000 --> 00:52:29,690
at that time?

812
00:52:29,690 --> 00:52:35,215
Just my brother and I. But
she had shelter other people.

813
00:52:35,215 --> 00:52:38,970
How did you find
to spend your time?

814
00:52:38,970 --> 00:52:40,770
I don't recall very much.

815
00:52:40,770 --> 00:52:42,830
I think we went to school.

816
00:52:42,830 --> 00:52:44,750

There was a school.

817

00:52:44,750 --> 00:52:48,380

How did they explain
your presence

818

00:52:48,380 --> 00:52:53,180

so that you wouldn't be
suspected of being Jewish?

819

00:52:53,180 --> 00:52:55,460

They didn't question.

820

00:52:55,460 --> 00:52:56,730

They didn't question.

821

00:52:56,730 --> 00:52:59,390

There was certain hours
we could go to school

822

00:52:59,390 --> 00:53:02,400

and learn something.

823

00:53:02,400 --> 00:53:04,490

This was before the
occupation, right?

824

00:53:04,490 --> 00:53:06,320

Yes.

825

00:53:06,320 --> 00:53:10,190

Oh, no, this was during
the occupation, yes.

826

00:53:10,190 --> 00:53:16,110

You could see Nazis everywhere,
and SS, and you walk in Paris.

827

00:53:16,110 --> 00:53:18,230

And as I said, I
went to the metro,

828

00:53:18,230 --> 00:53:20,180
and they were following me.

829
00:53:20,180 --> 00:53:22,580
You had to wear a yellow.

830
00:53:22,580 --> 00:53:23,420
Star.

831
00:53:23,420 --> 00:53:26,030
We had four years of occupation.

832
00:53:26,030 --> 00:53:27,815
And those were my
formative years.

833
00:53:27,815 --> 00:53:32,920

834
00:53:32,920 --> 00:53:35,800
Do you know how they supported
you while you were there?

835
00:53:35,800 --> 00:53:38,560
No, I think they were--

836
00:53:38,560 --> 00:53:39,790
now, I remember.

837
00:53:39,790 --> 00:53:42,430
The group that took care
of the children that

838
00:53:42,430 --> 00:53:45,610
escaped the roundup
were called the Joints,

839
00:53:45,610 --> 00:53:48,460
the Joint Jewish
Committee-something.

840
00:53:48,460 --> 00:53:50,770

And they were spon--

841
00:53:50,770 --> 00:53:54,550
they received money,
probably, from wealthy people

842
00:53:54,550 --> 00:53:58,090
from all over the world
to save the children.

843
00:53:58,090 --> 00:54:01,150
The thing was
saving the children,

844
00:54:01,150 --> 00:54:03,830
as many children as possible.

845
00:54:03,830 --> 00:54:06,430
So that's why they
paid those people.

846
00:54:06,430 --> 00:54:09,940
They paid those
people to shelter us.

847
00:54:09,940 --> 00:54:11,830
They paid those people.

848
00:54:11,830 --> 00:54:14,230
That I know.

849
00:54:14,230 --> 00:54:18,582
You see, they had to pay them
for the food, and you know.

850
00:54:18,582 --> 00:54:19,290
What did you eat?

851
00:54:19,290 --> 00:54:22,120
What kind of food
did they feed you?

852

00:54:22,120 --> 00:54:24,910
Whatever was there at that time.

853
00:54:24,910 --> 00:54:27,100
The last place, when
the liberation came,

854
00:54:27,100 --> 00:54:30,130
we are fairly well because the
people had a little garden.

855
00:54:30,130 --> 00:54:34,150
And I remember working
digging potatoes.

856
00:54:34,150 --> 00:54:36,100
I remember helping them.

857
00:54:36,100 --> 00:54:39,490
Because they had a garden,
and a large garden.

858
00:54:39,490 --> 00:54:41,740
And they had two other children.

859
00:54:41,740 --> 00:54:43,300
But we ate, we ate well.

860
00:54:43,300 --> 00:54:48,390
I was 13 years old or
something like that.

861
00:54:48,390 --> 00:54:52,820
One of the difficulties
that some of the children

862
00:54:52,820 --> 00:54:54,440
who were hidden in France--

863
00:54:54,440 --> 00:54:56,210
maybe in other countries, too--

864

00:54:56,210 --> 00:55:00,440
had after the war was that
when a lot of their parents

865
00:55:00,440 --> 00:55:04,280
came back, the children
had been raised--

866
00:55:04,280 --> 00:55:06,380
and they had to be raised
in Christian tradition

867
00:55:06,380 --> 00:55:11,720
so that the neighbors would
suspect that they were Jewish.

868
00:55:11,720 --> 00:55:15,170
And especially the
very young ones had--

869
00:55:15,170 --> 00:55:17,580
their only perception
was Christian perception.

870
00:55:17,580 --> 00:55:20,120
So when the parents
came back from the war--

871
00:55:20,120 --> 00:55:22,550
Not many, not many.

872
00:55:22,550 --> 00:55:23,270
Yeah.

873
00:55:23,270 --> 00:55:24,440
Not many.

874
00:55:24,440 --> 00:55:29,480
And the children, for example,
they did not impose anything.

875
00:55:29,480 --> 00:55:31,400
We went to church with them.

876
00:55:31,400 --> 00:55:34,400
But we didn't have to do
confirmation, no, we didn't.

877
00:55:34,400 --> 00:55:36,590
They did not.

878
00:55:36,590 --> 00:55:38,300
Yes, we had to sing the prayers.

879
00:55:38,300 --> 00:55:40,490
We had to do this
to be with them.

880
00:55:40,490 --> 00:55:43,890
But it didn't stay
after us because--

881
00:55:43,890 --> 00:55:46,160
they didn't stay with
us because then we

882
00:55:46,160 --> 00:55:47,690
were placed in Jewish homes.

883
00:55:47,690 --> 00:55:51,170
And in Malmaison, they
had a Jewish tradition.

884
00:55:51,170 --> 00:55:55,160
They had Sabbath, they
had this man from Israel,

885
00:55:55,160 --> 00:55:56,660
they had some
other people coming

886
00:55:56,660 --> 00:56:00,230
to lecture us, and tell us
that we should go to work

887

00:56:00,230 --> 00:56:02,270
in kibbutz, and this was what.

888
00:56:02,270 --> 00:56:04,890
And most of the people,
most of the children

889
00:56:04,890 --> 00:56:07,070
went because they
had nobody left.

890
00:56:07,070 --> 00:56:10,640
Some with relatives,
maybe, stayed.

891
00:56:10,640 --> 00:56:14,480
And some, like myself,
choose to stay there

892
00:56:14,480 --> 00:56:16,041
and be by themselves.

893
00:56:16,041 --> 00:56:22,980

894
00:56:22,980 --> 00:56:25,260
But we did have a
choice, which I'm

895
00:56:25,260 --> 00:56:27,720
eternally grateful
from that woman doctor.

896
00:56:27,720 --> 00:56:31,920
Because she did not force us.

897
00:56:31,920 --> 00:56:38,862
We were indoctrinated, but
we were not forced, you know?

898
00:56:38,862 --> 00:56:40,630
We still had a choice.

899

00:56:40,630 --> 00:56:42,840

There was a choice.

900

00:56:42,840 --> 00:56:49,980

But the grim years during
the war, as I recall--

901

00:56:49,980 --> 00:56:52,580

there was something else
I wanted to tell you.

902

00:56:52,580 --> 00:56:57,550

903

00:56:57,550 --> 00:57:06,850

While living in-- yes, we
were taken by the groups,

904

00:57:06,850 --> 00:57:08,470

the underground groups.

905

00:57:08,470 --> 00:57:11,150

They were not always
Jewish people.

906

00:57:11,150 --> 00:57:13,060

They were Christian people.

907

00:57:13,060 --> 00:57:15,010

And they wanted to
save the children.

908

00:57:15,010 --> 00:57:17,860

They're the ones who
would take us and put us

909

00:57:17,860 --> 00:57:21,010

into different homes.

910

00:57:21,010 --> 00:57:21,850

Christian people.

911

00:57:21,850 --> 00:57:23,980
Because they could move freely.

912

00:57:23,980 --> 00:57:26,680
But I guess they were also paid.

913

00:57:26,680 --> 00:57:29,920
And some were volunteers.

914

00:57:29,920 --> 00:57:35,530
But many, many people,
children, mother, and all family

915

00:57:35,530 --> 00:57:41,110
wiped up at that big raffle
in Paris at the Vel' d'Hiv.

916

00:57:41,110 --> 00:57:43,480
It was a miracle that
I was not there when

917

00:57:43,480 --> 00:57:45,880
the knock came on the door.

918

00:57:45,880 --> 00:57:48,430
That was the first miracle.

919

00:57:48,430 --> 00:57:51,940
And of course, then the miracle
I was always a step ahead.

920

00:57:51,940 --> 00:57:54,530
When they shaved our
heads in that house,

921

00:57:54,530 --> 00:57:57,700
it was to be sent
to camp, to be put

922

00:57:57,700 --> 00:58:02,950
in those train, those
wagons, those clothes,

923
00:58:02,950 --> 00:58:05,230
those sealed wagons.

924
00:58:05,230 --> 00:58:07,060
Many died in those wagons.

925
00:58:07,060 --> 00:58:09,370
We were prepared to go there.

926
00:58:09,370 --> 00:58:12,010
If that group didn't come
in the middle of the night

927
00:58:12,010 --> 00:58:15,340
and took a handful of us,
and I was-- my brother

928
00:58:15,340 --> 00:58:20,710
and I weren't among them,
I wouldn't be here today.

929
00:58:20,710 --> 00:58:23,530
Do you know very much
about that place,

930
00:58:23,530 --> 00:58:26,020
where they had the 200 children
and they shaved your head?

931
00:58:26,020 --> 00:58:27,400
It was Rue Lamarck.

932
00:58:27,400 --> 00:58:30,490
It was the designated place.

933
00:58:30,490 --> 00:58:32,530
Designated for what?

934
00:58:32,530 --> 00:58:37,360
They wanted to round up
Jewish children under the SS.

935
00:58:37,360 --> 00:58:38,830
So that the SS ran it?

936
00:58:38,830 --> 00:58:39,460
Oh, yeah.

937
00:58:39,460 --> 00:58:41,320
I mean, the SS is supervising.

938
00:58:41,320 --> 00:58:44,050
They were run by,
probably, French.

939
00:58:44,050 --> 00:58:46,090
But they were working.

940
00:58:46,090 --> 00:58:48,390
I mean, they were told.

941
00:58:48,390 --> 00:58:50,620
They were told.

942
00:58:50,620 --> 00:58:52,360
Who was told what?

943
00:58:52,360 --> 00:58:53,110
Those people.

944
00:58:53,110 --> 00:58:54,865
There's many
documentation in Paris.

945
00:58:54,865 --> 00:58:58,930
And I even haven't
been in the archives.

946
00:58:58,930 --> 00:59:02,170
But there were, I think,
more than one place

947

00:59:02,170 --> 00:59:06,640
like that that they had found
orphaned children, Jewish,

948
00:59:06,640 --> 00:59:10,510
and they would bring
them in a house

949
00:59:10,510 --> 00:59:15,640
and keep them there
until there was a train

950
00:59:15,640 --> 00:59:22,180
to take them to Germany, to
the camps, to the gas chamber.

951
00:59:22,180 --> 00:59:26,860
And while they were there,
people who were informed--

952
00:59:26,860 --> 00:59:28,780
there was always informant--

953
00:59:28,780 --> 00:59:32,512
say, let's save some
children, as much as we can.

954
00:59:32,512 --> 00:59:34,720
So that's how you felt having
somebody have to come.

955
00:59:34,720 --> 00:59:38,680

956
00:59:38,680 --> 00:59:40,690
So it was collaborators
who ran this house?

957
00:59:40,690 --> 00:59:41,500
Collaborators, yes.

958
00:59:41,500 --> 00:59:45,340
But somehow or

other, there were--

959

00:59:45,340 --> 00:59:47,620

like how did these people
manage to come and save

960

00:59:47,620 --> 00:59:50,440

small groups of people if
collaborators ran the house?

961

00:59:50,440 --> 00:59:54,500

It was always a question,
probably, paying off

962

00:59:54,500 --> 00:59:57,860

or change of heart.

963

00:59:57,860 --> 01:00:00,100

You know, they were
risking their lives

964

01:00:00,100 --> 01:00:03,850

because if they knew
they would be saving,

965

01:00:03,850 --> 01:00:06,610

they would be sent themselves.

966

01:00:06,610 --> 01:00:10,300

They were doing it at the
risk of their own life.

967

01:00:10,300 --> 01:00:12,520

Now, another thing
that I want to tell you

968

01:00:12,520 --> 01:00:14,890

that's rather important is--

969

01:00:14,890 --> 01:00:19,030

I don't know if you've heard of
the village in central France

970

01:00:19,030 --> 01:00:21,190
called Chambon.

971

01:00:21,190 --> 01:00:22,030
There were-.

972

01:00:22,030 --> 01:00:24,670
There was a program
on Bill Moyers

973

01:00:24,670 --> 01:00:27,250
called Weapon of the Spirit.

974

01:00:27,250 --> 01:00:37,320
And that program was catered
to a whole village, where

975

01:00:37,320 --> 01:00:39,990
all the habitants,
500 habitants,

976

01:00:39,990 --> 01:00:42,660
of a small village in
the center of France

977

01:00:42,660 --> 01:00:48,810
sheltered 500 or 1,000
Jews during the war.

978

01:00:48,810 --> 01:00:54,780
And a baby was born
there during the war.

979

01:00:54,780 --> 01:00:59,970
And that man came to America,
and 50 years later, went back

980

01:00:59,970 --> 01:01:01,590
and told a story.

981

01:01:01,590 --> 01:01:05,400
How his parents were there,

escaped, and how he was born.

982

01:01:05,400 --> 01:01:08,010

And everybody there
was Protestant,

983

01:01:08,010 --> 01:01:09,750

they were Huguenots.

984

01:01:09,750 --> 01:01:12,360

And they believed that
you have to help anybody,

985

01:01:12,360 --> 01:01:14,450

to the risk of their own life.

986

01:01:14,450 --> 01:01:17,340

As a matter of fact, I have the
tape, if you'd like to see it.

987

01:01:17,340 --> 01:01:18,630

I will bring it to you.

988

01:01:18,630 --> 01:01:20,640

I have the tape.

989

01:01:20,640 --> 01:01:24,060

And it's a remarkable tape.

990

01:01:24,060 --> 01:01:29,640

But not only that, a group of
us children went there to camp.

991

01:01:29,640 --> 01:01:33,750

And there are still
photographs of myself

992

01:01:33,750 --> 01:01:39,810

and a group of children
from Malmaison on that tape.

993

01:01:39,810 --> 01:01:42,600

Now, that was when that
you when to that camp?

994
01:01:42,600 --> 01:01:45,330
During the stay in Malmaison
during the 2 and 1/2,

995
01:01:45,330 --> 01:01:47,340
three years that we
stayed in Malmaison.

996
01:01:47,340 --> 01:01:48,680
After the war?

997
01:01:48,680 --> 01:01:52,650
Yes, right after the war.

998
01:01:52,650 --> 01:01:55,650
And then that village
was made famous.

999
01:01:55,650 --> 01:01:59,180
But still, after the war,
there were a lot of, you know,

1000
01:01:59,180 --> 01:02:02,160
sentiment against
Jews, and you know.

1001
01:02:02,160 --> 01:02:04,960
But there, every single
person, you were safe.

1002
01:02:04,960 --> 01:02:06,685
You were.

1003
01:02:06,685 --> 01:02:07,560
They saved you.

1004
01:02:07,560 --> 01:02:09,600
I have the document.

1005

01:02:09,600 --> 01:02:13,410
And it's part of my history
because there is a photograph

1006
01:02:13,410 --> 01:02:16,800
of the children and of the--

1007
01:02:16,800 --> 01:02:17,970
we were young scouts.

1008
01:02:17,970 --> 01:02:20,310
It used to be a scout meeting.

1009
01:02:20,310 --> 01:02:22,290
Boy scout and girl
scout meeting.

1010
01:02:22,290 --> 01:02:25,110
That's how I
happened to be there.

1011
01:02:25,110 --> 01:02:26,550
A group of us.

1012
01:02:26,550 --> 01:02:28,140
So that was after the war?

1013
01:02:28,140 --> 01:02:31,170
Yes because our group was
called Hashomer, which

1014
01:02:31,170 --> 01:02:33,960
is Hebrew for group, you know.

1015
01:02:33,960 --> 01:02:36,120
Hashomer Hatzair.

1016
01:02:36,120 --> 01:02:38,250
Hashomer.

1017
01:02:38,250 --> 01:02:41,400
We went to the

camp in Le Chambon,

1018
01:02:41,400 --> 01:02:44,745
which is part of the
Weapon of the Spirit story.

1019
01:02:44,745 --> 01:02:47,810

1020
01:02:47,810 --> 01:02:50,620
Did you get to meet many of
the people from Le Chambon?

1021
01:02:50,620 --> 01:02:52,000
No, unfortunately.

1022
01:02:52,000 --> 01:02:55,150
Because we stayed outside
of the village, we camped.

1023
01:02:55,150 --> 01:02:57,500
We camped, we had tents.

1024
01:02:57,500 --> 01:02:58,450
We camped.

1025
01:02:58,450 --> 01:02:59,650
But I remember.

1026
01:02:59,650 --> 01:03:01,450
I remember that time.

1027
01:03:01,450 --> 01:03:04,630
And I'm very proud to
have been part of that.

1028
01:03:04,630 --> 01:03:07,990
I mean, even, you
know, a little remote.

1029
01:03:07,990 --> 01:03:11,260
But those peoples

were incredible,

1030

01:03:11,260 --> 01:03:12,535
to the risk of their own life.

1031

01:03:12,535 --> 01:03:16,670

1032

01:03:16,670 --> 01:03:20,120

Did you ever hear that
your father was taken?

1033

01:03:20,120 --> 01:03:22,100

Yes.

1034

01:03:22,100 --> 01:03:25,595

It was right beginning
of the war, in '41.

1035

01:03:25,595 --> 01:03:28,740

1036

01:03:28,740 --> 01:03:33,200

He was a very
incredible, stubborn man.

1037

01:03:33,200 --> 01:03:36,510

And he said, nobody's
going to take me.

1038

01:03:36,510 --> 01:03:38,430

I'm just going for a
packet of cigarettes.

1039

01:03:38,430 --> 01:03:39,080

We begged him.

1040

01:03:39,080 --> 01:03:40,580

We begged him.

1041

01:03:40,580 --> 01:03:42,590

Mother, the neighbors.

1042

01:03:42,590 --> 01:03:45,980
They're rounding up men in the
street, they're having buses.

1043

01:03:45,980 --> 01:03:49,820
Those French buses,
green buses, full of men.

1044

01:03:49,820 --> 01:03:52,160
They're bringing them
to a place called

1045

01:03:52,160 --> 01:03:56,150
Rancy, a camp outside Paris.

1046

01:03:56,150 --> 01:03:58,380
Infamous place.

1047

01:03:58,380 --> 01:04:00,620
And he had to go
get his cigarettes.

1048

01:04:00,620 --> 01:04:03,036
And we never saw him again.

1049

01:04:03,036 --> 01:04:05,960
Do you know what
happened to him?

1050

01:04:05,960 --> 01:04:08,180
No, but in the
book that I have, I

1051

01:04:08,180 --> 01:04:10,490
know which convoy
he was sent to.

1052

01:04:10,490 --> 01:04:14,060
I know which camp because
it's all recorded.

1053

01:04:14,060 --> 01:04:16,460
Where was he sent?

1054
01:04:16,460 --> 01:04:19,130
I guess in Auschwitz.

1055
01:04:19,130 --> 01:04:23,180
They all were sent to
Auschwitz from France, I guess.

1056
01:04:23,180 --> 01:04:26,923
When your mother returned
from that visit to you,

1057
01:04:26,923 --> 01:04:29,090
and you knew it was the
last time you would see her?

1058
01:04:29,090 --> 01:04:30,860
I just had a feeling.

1059
01:04:30,860 --> 01:04:32,660
It was just a feeling.

1060
01:04:32,660 --> 01:04:34,160
You know, I just--

1061
01:04:34,160 --> 01:04:36,840
it was terrible.

1062
01:04:36,840 --> 01:04:38,610
I couldn't have
her stay with me.

1063
01:04:38,610 --> 01:04:41,450
And I couldn't go with her.

1064
01:04:41,450 --> 01:04:42,290
She came alone.

1065
01:04:42,290 --> 01:04:44,250
My brother was in Paris.

1066
01:04:44,250 --> 01:04:48,050
She came to see us, my
little brother and I.

1067
01:04:48,050 --> 01:04:50,030
What year was that,
do you remember?

1068
01:04:50,030 --> 01:04:56,930
Like '42, 10 years old
or something like that.

1069
01:04:56,930 --> 01:05:00,290
Why do you think she didn't
make more steps to hide herself

1070
01:05:00,290 --> 01:05:01,700
from the [INAUDIBLE]?

1071
01:05:01,700 --> 01:05:04,730
Nobody thought they would
take women and children.

1072
01:05:04,730 --> 01:05:05,990
Nobody.

1073
01:05:05,990 --> 01:05:11,080
They thought, well, they
just want the Jews, the men.

1074
01:05:11,080 --> 01:05:13,880
But then why did she hide
you and your little brother?

1075
01:05:13,880 --> 01:05:14,960
It wasn't hiding.

1076
01:05:14,960 --> 01:05:21,380
It's because she wanted us to
have the best air and food.

1077

01:05:21,380 --> 01:05:23,720

She worried about our
welfare, otherwise

1078

01:05:23,720 --> 01:05:28,250

she would have hidden
the other brother.

1079

01:05:28,250 --> 01:05:34,880

She worried about-- she wanted
us to get away from the war.

1080

01:05:34,880 --> 01:05:40,190

And never thought that they
would take women, babies,

1081

01:05:40,190 --> 01:05:42,950

women, babies, grandmother--

1082

01:05:42,950 --> 01:05:47,780

everybody, all the
rest of the people.

1083

01:05:47,780 --> 01:05:49,760

All the rest of the people.

1084

01:05:49,760 --> 01:05:52,520

And the collaborators, the
concierge of the building

1085

01:05:52,520 --> 01:05:54,710

would say-- well, they
would come, they'd say,

1086

01:05:54,710 --> 01:05:56,200

do you have Jews here?

1087

01:05:56,200 --> 01:05:57,050

Yes.

1088

01:05:57,050 --> 01:06:00,050

And of course, it
was a ghetto so they

1089
01:06:00,050 --> 01:06:01,970
gave the name, the floor.

1090
01:06:01,970 --> 01:06:04,190
They knock on the
door and you had

1091
01:06:04,190 --> 01:06:06,200
to go with what you had on you.

1092
01:06:06,200 --> 01:06:09,560
Perhaps you had to a
small bag or a suitcase,

1093
01:06:09,560 --> 01:06:10,400
whatever you had.

1094
01:06:10,400 --> 01:06:12,620
And pretty soon, that
was discarded, too.

1095
01:06:12,620 --> 01:06:16,700
Because the condition at
that Vel' d'Hiv was horrible,

1096
01:06:16,700 --> 01:06:19,640
there was a book about it.

1097
01:06:19,640 --> 01:06:23,660
It was just a horrible thing,
where they rounded people there

1098
01:06:23,660 --> 01:06:26,105
before putting them
on those trains.

1099
01:06:26,105 --> 01:06:27,530
Is that Von d'Hiv?

1100
01:06:27,530 --> 01:06:28,760
Vel' d'Hiv.

1101
01:06:28,760 --> 01:06:32,480
It's the Velodrome d'Hiver.

1102
01:06:32,480 --> 01:06:34,700
That's an abbreviation for the--

1103
01:06:34,700 --> 01:06:39,830
it was a place where they
used to have bike races.

1104
01:06:39,830 --> 01:06:41,210
Velodrome d'Hiver.

1105
01:06:41,210 --> 01:06:43,460
Winter bike races.

1106
01:06:43,460 --> 01:06:47,600
A huge place, thousands
and thousands of people.

1107
01:06:47,600 --> 01:06:49,880
Some died there
because then they

1108
01:06:49,880 --> 01:06:55,980
had babies with no water, no
food, old people, children,

1109
01:06:55,980 --> 01:06:57,950
old men, old.

1110
01:06:57,950 --> 01:07:01,160
They were taking first
younger men or, you know, men.

1111
01:07:01,160 --> 01:07:03,890
Then everybody-- older
men, women, children,

1112
01:07:03,890 --> 01:07:07,400
everyone in Paris.

1113
01:07:07,400 --> 01:07:09,830
And in many places
in France, too.

1114
01:07:09,830 --> 01:07:16,540

1115
01:07:16,540 --> 01:07:19,300
You said, in one
place that you stayed,

1116
01:07:19,300 --> 01:07:22,370
you had to stay in
bed most of the day.

1117
01:07:22,370 --> 01:07:25,900
Yes, they would tell
us, now you have

1118
01:07:25,900 --> 01:07:30,040
to fast because it's
a Jewish religion.

1119
01:07:30,040 --> 01:07:33,740
So we stayed in bed
because they gave us,

1120
01:07:33,740 --> 01:07:36,410
I think, something to eat
in the middle of the day

1121
01:07:36,410 --> 01:07:37,510
and that's it.

1122
01:07:37,510 --> 01:07:38,627
And water.

1123
01:07:38,627 --> 01:07:40,210
That was the Gestapo-run
place, right?

1124

01:07:40,210 --> 01:07:42,970
I'm sure, I'm sure.

1125
01:07:42,970 --> 01:07:44,590
You know, we barely--

1126
01:07:44,590 --> 01:07:47,230
we had our heads shaved.

1127
01:07:47,230 --> 01:07:48,790
We had our heads shaved.

1128
01:07:48,790 --> 01:07:50,860
I don't even think we
had our own clothes.

1129
01:07:50,860 --> 01:07:52,720
We had some kind of pajamas.

1130
01:07:52,720 --> 01:07:55,840

1131
01:07:55,840 --> 01:07:58,440
That was the scariest time.

1132
01:07:58,440 --> 01:08:00,860
What was the name of that place?

1133
01:08:00,860 --> 01:08:04,900
It was in Lamarck
on Rue des Saules.

1134
01:08:04,900 --> 01:08:05,920
Rue des Saules.

1135
01:08:05,920 --> 01:08:08,530
But everybody knows
the place as Lamarck.

1136
01:08:08,530 --> 01:08:10,330
I haven't been
able to investigate

1137
01:08:10,330 --> 01:08:13,330
that because going back to
the past, I go to Paris.

1138
01:08:13,330 --> 01:08:16,590
But I haven't even
been to the monument.

1139
01:08:16,590 --> 01:08:18,330
There is a museum.

1140
01:08:18,330 --> 01:08:20,270
I must go there.

1141
01:08:20,270 --> 01:08:22,241
I must go there.

1142
01:08:22,241 --> 01:08:25,149
How long were you at
the prostitute's house?

1143
01:08:25,149 --> 01:08:26,140
A short time.

1144
01:08:26,140 --> 01:08:27,790
And why did you leave there?

1145
01:08:27,790 --> 01:08:29,000
Was this temporary?

1146
01:08:29,000 --> 01:08:30,069
Yes, yes.

1147
01:08:30,069 --> 01:08:33,580
Because it was an
immediate place.

1148
01:08:33,580 --> 01:08:34,750
People were scared.

1149

01:08:34,750 --> 01:08:35,710
People were scared.

1150
01:08:35,710 --> 01:08:40,270
Because if they had found the
Jewish people in any homes,

1151
01:08:40,270 --> 01:08:44,140
they would take you
with them to the wagon,

1152
01:08:44,140 --> 01:08:47,229
to the concentration camp.

1153
01:08:47,229 --> 01:08:50,620
But maybe the woman had a
heart, or she was greedy,

1154
01:08:50,620 --> 01:08:54,069
or she was just.

1155
01:08:54,069 --> 01:08:57,550
And some people, I
understand some churches

1156
01:08:57,550 --> 01:09:00,609
were hiding Jewish children.

1157
01:09:00,609 --> 01:09:05,020
But the churches, you
see, were a giveaway

1158
01:09:05,020 --> 01:09:08,620
because the Nazis would come
there and would say, you know,

1159
01:09:08,620 --> 01:09:10,270
you have Jewish children.

1160
01:09:10,270 --> 01:09:13,060
Because they took priesthood
to the concentration camp,

1161

01:09:13,060 --> 01:09:15,340

many priests and nuns.

1162

01:09:15,340 --> 01:09:22,899

So they figure, a prostitute,
if she maybe has Germans there,

1163

01:09:22,899 --> 01:09:28,270

maybe if she has German
soldiers or officers there,

1164

01:09:28,270 --> 01:09:31,149

she wouldn't-- she would think
that she has a couple children

1165

01:09:31,149 --> 01:09:33,399

of her own.

1166

01:09:33,399 --> 01:09:35,439

Do you recall any Germans?

1167

01:09:35,439 --> 01:09:37,300

Well, I heard a lot of voices.

1168

01:09:37,300 --> 01:09:40,428

Strange, strange languages.

1169

01:09:40,428 --> 01:09:42,220

Did she tell you you
had to be real quiet--

1170

01:09:42,220 --> 01:09:42,939

Yes.

1171

01:09:42,939 --> 01:09:45,185

--and not tell about that
you were Jewish and stuff?

1172

01:09:45,185 --> 01:09:45,819

Yes.

1173

01:09:45,819 --> 01:09:49,396
How did that-- the forced
silence about, you know,

1174
01:09:49,396 --> 01:09:53,330
the secrecy-- how did that,
being forced to be secretive,

1175
01:09:53,330 --> 01:09:53,920
affect you?

1176
01:09:53,920 --> 01:09:56,155
I didn't know any better.

1177
01:09:56,155 --> 01:09:58,300
To children, was like a game.

1178
01:09:58,300 --> 01:10:01,480
You don't talk, you don't say
anything, you just be quiet.

1179
01:10:01,480 --> 01:10:03,310
You be quiet.

1180
01:10:03,310 --> 01:10:05,740
Because it's-- you
know, you be quiet.

1181
01:10:05,740 --> 01:10:10,750
They didn't tell us too much
because we would be scared.

1182
01:10:10,750 --> 01:10:12,373
So we thought it was a game.

1183
01:10:12,373 --> 01:10:13,540
And I had my little brother.

1184
01:10:13,540 --> 01:10:16,750
And I said, now, you
be quiet because--

1185

01:10:16,750 --> 01:10:19,420
and they wouldn't probably go
there because they would think,

1186
01:10:19,420 --> 01:10:20,650
well, she's a prostitute.

1187
01:10:20,650 --> 01:10:26,680
She has people from the streets,
French people, men, you know.

1188
01:10:26,680 --> 01:10:29,980
And they would--
she would hide us.

1189
01:10:29,980 --> 01:10:32,450
That we were hiding.

1190
01:10:32,450 --> 01:10:34,690
I mean, it's an
incredible thing.

1191
01:10:34,690 --> 01:10:36,790
It was very close.

1192
01:10:36,790 --> 01:10:37,960
That was.

1193
01:10:37,960 --> 01:10:40,590
Well, I was safer, actually,
there than in that house

1194
01:10:40,590 --> 01:10:41,590
with the other children.

1195
01:10:41,590 --> 01:10:45,280

1196
01:10:45,280 --> 01:10:48,850
But they probably needed to
hide other children there, also.

1197

01:10:48,850 --> 01:10:50,485
So they moved us rather fast.

1198
01:10:50,485 --> 01:10:53,410

1199
01:10:53,410 --> 01:10:56,030
Then you went from there
to the Gestapo-run place?

1200
01:10:56,030 --> 01:10:59,620
No, I went to that lady, that
woman, that Christian woman

1201
01:10:59,620 --> 01:11:01,430
with a retarded child.

1202
01:11:01,430 --> 01:11:02,800
She was Christian.

1203
01:11:02,800 --> 01:11:04,390
So they didn't bother her.

1204
01:11:04,390 --> 01:11:06,100
But they were looking
for her husband.

1205
01:11:06,100 --> 01:11:07,270
But he was never there.

1206
01:11:07,270 --> 01:11:09,040
I never saw him.

1207
01:11:09,040 --> 01:11:10,180
But I saw his books.

1208
01:11:10,180 --> 01:11:13,780
And I saw this
photograph of him.

1209
01:11:13,780 --> 01:11:16,790
And she was sympathetic

because her husband was Jewish.

1210

01:11:16,790 --> 01:11:20,350

So she would-- she
had known my parents.

1211

01:11:20,350 --> 01:11:22,390

She had known them.

1212

01:11:22,390 --> 01:11:24,280

Were the neighbors
dangerous there?

1213

01:11:24,280 --> 01:11:25,245

Very, very.

1214

01:11:25,245 --> 01:11:28,960

The concierge, especially.

1215

01:11:28,960 --> 01:11:31,420

They're the ones who went
to the apartment and robbed

1216

01:11:31,420 --> 01:11:34,150

everything.

1217

01:11:34,150 --> 01:11:38,650

Because when I came
back, there was nothing.

1218

01:11:38,650 --> 01:11:39,520

I couldn't get in.

1219

01:11:39,520 --> 01:11:44,050

You know, what a child
would go to an apartment?

1220

01:11:44,050 --> 01:11:46,330

We had some furniture.

1221

01:11:46,330 --> 01:11:47,830

The only thing

she could salvage,

1222

01:11:47,830 --> 01:11:52,990

she said that the concierge
let her go and get

1223

01:11:52,990 --> 01:11:54,790

some photographs in her hands.

1224

01:11:54,790 --> 01:11:58,180

Just that's all she could take.

1225

01:11:58,180 --> 01:12:00,250

Didn't they suspect
that they were--

1226

01:12:00,250 --> 01:12:02,970

she was hiding you
when she did that?

1227

01:12:02,970 --> 01:12:07,070

No, she probably said that she
wanted to keep it for herself.

1228

01:12:07,070 --> 01:12:09,640

Because if she said she wanted
clothes or something else,

1229

01:12:09,640 --> 01:12:10,750

she probably would have.

1230

01:12:10,750 --> 01:12:14,460

1231

01:12:14,460 --> 01:12:16,740

She was a good woman, good soul.

1232

01:12:16,740 --> 01:12:19,800

I've got a few photographs,
thanks to her, of my mother.

1233

01:12:19,800 --> 01:12:22,170

I don't have any
photo of my father.

1234
01:12:22,170 --> 01:12:25,470
I just have my mother, my other
brother, and my little brother,

1235
01:12:25,470 --> 01:12:26,640
and myself.

1236
01:12:26,640 --> 01:12:31,530
And a picture of me as a baby
with my mother in Poland.

1237
01:12:31,530 --> 01:12:33,870
And one of her as a young woman.

1238
01:12:33,870 --> 01:12:35,940
Three pictures, it's all I have.

1239
01:12:35,940 --> 01:12:39,810
And a small ring of my mother.

1240
01:12:39,810 --> 01:12:42,210
How long did you
stay with that lady?

1241
01:12:42,210 --> 01:12:46,050
Short time, a couple months.

1242
01:12:46,050 --> 01:12:48,360
Again, because?

1243
01:12:48,360 --> 01:12:52,200
Again, because they were
looking for her husband.

1244
01:12:52,200 --> 01:12:55,110
But I never saw him.

1245
01:12:55,110 --> 01:12:57,210
Even apparently after

the war was over?

1246

01:12:57,210 --> 01:12:59,460

No, I just never, ever--

1247

01:12:59,460 --> 01:13:01,620

I was always thinking of her.

1248

01:13:01,620 --> 01:13:05,040

I've always thought, what
happened to the retarded boy?

1249

01:13:05,040 --> 01:13:05,970

What happened to her?

1250

01:13:05,970 --> 01:13:08,340

Her name was Moskowitz.

1251

01:13:08,340 --> 01:13:10,650

Irma, Irma.

1252

01:13:10,650 --> 01:13:13,695

And nothing.

1253

01:13:13,695 --> 01:13:18,130

1254

01:13:18,130 --> 01:13:19,300

How did she support you?

1255

01:13:19,300 --> 01:13:20,800

Or how was she given
money for this?

1256

01:13:20,800 --> 01:13:22,910

I think she was
receiving a little money.

1257

01:13:22,910 --> 01:13:23,920

She would buy food.

1258

01:13:23,920 --> 01:13:29,080

And we would-- she had
a nice, clean table.

1259

01:13:29,080 --> 01:13:31,900

1260

01:13:31,900 --> 01:13:35,710

But then we were
taken away again.

1261

01:13:35,710 --> 01:13:38,362

Were the neighbors
dangerous there?

1262

01:13:38,362 --> 01:13:43,090

No, I think it was sort of
a hotel residence apartment.

1263

01:13:43,090 --> 01:13:45,940

And in a poor district, again.

1264

01:13:45,940 --> 01:13:48,690

But it was clean.

1265

01:13:48,690 --> 01:13:50,220

How did they explain
your presence?

1266

01:13:50,220 --> 01:13:52,360

What did they say?

1267

01:13:52,360 --> 01:13:53,830

Relatives.

1268

01:13:53,830 --> 01:13:55,720

Relatives.

1269

01:13:55,720 --> 01:13:58,540

In those days, people lived
very close to themselves.

1270

01:13:58,540 --> 01:14:02,170
They didn't socialize
too much during the war

1271
01:14:02,170 --> 01:14:03,730
and the occupation.

1272
01:14:03,730 --> 01:14:08,590

1273
01:14:08,590 --> 01:14:12,350
So then you went
to the SS place.

1274
01:14:12,350 --> 01:14:14,200
And then after that
to your last one?

1275
01:14:14,200 --> 01:14:16,810
And then after that, yes.

1276
01:14:16,810 --> 01:14:21,130
They put us outside
of Paris in this--

1277
01:14:21,130 --> 01:14:29,770
it wasn't a farm, but
it was a suburb home.

1278
01:14:29,770 --> 01:14:33,470
And that was pleasant because
they had two other children.

1279
01:14:33,470 --> 01:14:34,810
And there was a French couple.

1280
01:14:34,810 --> 01:14:38,110
And they paid them, the
underground, the Joint.

1281
01:14:38,110 --> 01:14:39,760
And we went to school.

1282

01:14:39,760 --> 01:14:42,130

They wanted us to go to
school like everybody.

1283

01:14:42,130 --> 01:14:45,130

And we used to go to church.

1284

01:14:45,130 --> 01:14:47,570

I don't know what they
explained who we were,

1285

01:14:47,570 --> 01:14:49,884

but nobody bothered.

1286

01:14:49,884 --> 01:14:54,250

Did they teach you all the
things about Christianity

1287

01:14:54,250 --> 01:14:57,160

before they actually
took you to church?

1288

01:14:57,160 --> 01:14:59,230

No.

1289

01:14:59,230 --> 01:15:02,600

They just say, you sing the Ave
Maria, and all these things.

1290

01:15:02,600 --> 01:15:07,450

And I sang like everybody
else, and went to the mass

1291

01:15:07,450 --> 01:15:10,285

on Christmas, that
sort of thing.

1292

01:15:10,285 --> 01:15:12,400

I finished my
schooling, and that's

1293

01:15:12,400 --> 01:15:13,750

when the liberation came.

1294

01:15:13,750 --> 01:15:18,320

And then when they put
us in that first home,

1295

01:15:18,320 --> 01:15:23,740

we knew we were Jewish, we knew
that we had lost everybody.

1296

01:15:23,740 --> 01:15:25,060

All the children were the same.

1297

01:15:25,060 --> 01:15:26,710

They had lost their family.

1298

01:15:26,710 --> 01:15:27,910

They came from all over.

1299

01:15:27,910 --> 01:15:33,480

1300

01:15:33,480 --> 01:15:35,220

This is after the war?

1301

01:15:35,220 --> 01:15:36,780

This is right
after the war, yes.

1302

01:15:36,780 --> 01:15:39,390

Do you remember what
suburb that was?

1303

01:15:39,390 --> 01:15:43,200

Yes, it was a suburb
of Aulnay-sous-Bois.

1304

01:15:43,200 --> 01:15:44,280

Aulnay-sous-Bois.

1305

01:15:44,280 --> 01:15:46,073

It's called Aulnay-sous-Bois.

1306
01:15:46,073 --> 01:15:49,390

1307
01:15:49,390 --> 01:15:50,780
What did the husband do?

1308
01:15:50,780 --> 01:15:53,200
How did they get?

1309
01:15:53,200 --> 01:15:55,750
Very nice man, nice woman.

1310
01:15:55,750 --> 01:15:57,710
They had two children.

1311
01:15:57,710 --> 01:16:02,680
I remember the name up to
10 years ago, but I forgot.

1312
01:16:02,680 --> 01:16:04,390
Did you ever see
them after the war?

1313
01:16:04,390 --> 01:16:06,745
No.

1314
01:16:06,745 --> 01:16:09,470
No, unfortunately, no.

1315
01:16:09,470 --> 01:16:11,600
I had never even been
there to that place.

1316
01:16:11,600 --> 01:16:13,610
I probably wouldn't recognize.

1317
01:16:13,610 --> 01:16:16,160
But I know that the
neighbors were people

1318

01:16:16,160 --> 01:16:18,050
who worked in marketplaces.

1319
01:16:18,050 --> 01:16:23,880
They were fruit
sellers so we had food.

1320
01:16:23,880 --> 01:16:29,150
But I don't know
what happened when

1321
01:16:29,150 --> 01:16:33,590
I was in Malmaison after the
war, when I stayed there.

1322
01:16:33,590 --> 01:16:35,900
Because of the
early malnutrition,

1323
01:16:35,900 --> 01:16:40,850
I developed scars in my legs.

1324
01:16:40,850 --> 01:16:42,530
Because I had scabs.

1325
01:16:42,530 --> 01:16:47,640
I had contracted
because of malnutrition.

1326
01:16:47,640 --> 01:16:51,890
And I still to this day have
scars from early malnutrition.

1327
01:16:51,890 --> 01:16:55,000

1328
01:16:55,000 --> 01:16:58,780
So that is a
reminder of the war.

1329
01:16:58,780 --> 01:17:00,905
Were they able to get extra
coupons, ration coupons

1330
01:17:00,905 --> 01:17:03,250
for you?

1331
01:17:03,250 --> 01:17:06,400
I guess, yes, they were able to.

1332
01:17:06,400 --> 01:17:08,710
How big was that house?

1333
01:17:08,710 --> 01:17:10,250
It was a fair-sized house.

1334
01:17:10,250 --> 01:17:14,440
It was two floors.

1335
01:17:14,440 --> 01:17:17,980
It was pleasant in the suburb,
they were middle-class people.

1336
01:17:17,980 --> 01:17:20,520

1337
01:17:20,520 --> 01:17:22,210
But they had good hearts.

1338
01:17:22,210 --> 01:17:27,420
Some people had
Christian hearts.

1339
01:17:27,420 --> 01:17:30,240
Was the house near any German
installations or any Germans?

1340
01:17:30,240 --> 01:17:34,500
No, no, no, no,
there was no Germans.

1341
01:17:34,500 --> 01:17:35,910
This was outside Paris.

1342

01:17:35,910 --> 01:17:41,160
And suburbs, they were
mostly middle-class workers,

1343
01:17:41,160 --> 01:17:42,150
factory workers.

1344
01:17:42,150 --> 01:17:44,850

1345
01:17:44,850 --> 01:17:49,110
But the factory were not around.

1346
01:17:49,110 --> 01:17:51,060
Was it easier for
you because you

1347
01:17:51,060 --> 01:17:53,677
were a native French
speaker than it

1348
01:17:53,677 --> 01:17:56,260
would have been for children who
were brought later to France?

1349
01:17:56,260 --> 01:17:57,690
Oh, yes, definitely.

1350
01:17:57,690 --> 01:18:01,050
We spoke-- I spoke
French, no accent.

1351
01:18:01,050 --> 01:18:04,680
Of course, if children had come
from Poland and couldn't speak,

1352
01:18:04,680 --> 01:18:06,930
they immediately spotted those.

1353
01:18:06,930 --> 01:18:10,778
And it was probably
more dangerous,

1354

01:18:10,778 --> 01:18:11,820
the people wouldn't want.

1355

01:18:11,820 --> 01:18:15,000
But I was schooled
in French very early.

1356

01:18:15,000 --> 01:18:18,450
I went to school
and spoke French.

1357

01:18:18,450 --> 01:18:21,150
My mother had an accent,
of course, my father, too.

1358

01:18:21,150 --> 01:18:24,960
But not my brother, not us.

1359

01:18:24,960 --> 01:18:26,400
I mean, not I.

1360

01:18:26,400 --> 01:18:28,740
Did they speak Polish
or Jewish at home?

1361

01:18:28,740 --> 01:18:30,840
My mother, yes.

1362

01:18:30,840 --> 01:18:33,750
Polish, Russian, Jewish.

1363

01:18:33,750 --> 01:18:35,250
So did you learn any of them?

1364

01:18:35,250 --> 01:18:37,020
Yes.

1365

01:18:37,020 --> 01:18:40,190
My first language was Polish.

1366

01:18:40,190 --> 01:18:41,730

A little Jewish, too.

1367

01:18:41,730 --> 01:18:42,840

And of course, French.

1368

01:18:42,840 --> 01:18:46,850

1369

01:18:46,850 --> 01:18:48,720

And Russian.

1370

01:18:48,720 --> 01:18:51,180

If your father was so
worried about Hitler

1371

01:18:51,180 --> 01:18:56,040

that he wrote on the wall what
Hitler was going to do in '36.

1372

01:18:56,040 --> 01:19:00,780

Unpredictable, he was
an unpredictable man.

1373

01:19:00,780 --> 01:19:02,850

He was very learned.

1374

01:19:02,850 --> 01:19:06,660

I found in the back of a
photograph of my mother

1375

01:19:06,660 --> 01:19:09,688

some numbers, you
know, like seven.

1376

01:19:09,688 --> 01:19:10,230

Seven, seven.

1377

01:19:10,230 --> 01:19:12,545

You know, like
Kabbalah, the numbers.

1378

01:19:12,545 --> 01:19:15,660

1379
01:19:15,660 --> 01:19:16,350
But he couldn't.

1380
01:19:16,350 --> 01:19:19,300

1381
01:19:19,300 --> 01:19:23,500
I'm surprised that
your mother seemed

1382
01:19:23,500 --> 01:19:28,180
to think that they wouldn't
harm women and children,

1383
01:19:28,180 --> 01:19:30,140
having had this experience
with your father.

1384
01:19:30,140 --> 01:19:34,030
Yes, but she was
not so schooled.

1385
01:19:34,030 --> 01:19:35,150
She was not so schooled.

1386
01:19:35,150 --> 01:19:37,300
She was a practical woman.

1387
01:19:37,300 --> 01:19:43,340
And she was not suspicious.

1388
01:19:43,340 --> 01:19:45,310
She was naive, a little naive.

1389
01:19:45,310 --> 01:19:48,040
Seems like she just
didn't believe it.

1390
01:19:48,040 --> 01:19:48,803
Like many.

1391
01:19:48,803 --> 01:19:49,720
She didn't believe it.

1392
01:19:49,720 --> 01:19:53,230
A lot of people left Paris
and went to the southern part

1393
01:19:53,230 --> 01:19:58,060
and went to different
parts to escape, to hide.

1394
01:19:58,060 --> 01:19:59,650
But you had to have money, also.

1395
01:19:59,650 --> 01:20:04,125
Maybe she did believe but she
didn't have the means to hide.

1396
01:20:04,125 --> 01:20:05,500
She didn't have
the means and she

1397
01:20:05,500 --> 01:20:10,510
didn't have to know-how
with three children.

1398
01:20:10,510 --> 01:20:15,010
Millions, she was caught
in a web, caught in a web

1399
01:20:15,010 --> 01:20:16,555
like millions, six millions.

1400
01:20:16,555 --> 01:20:21,450

1401
01:20:21,450 --> 01:20:25,530
How did you deal after the
war with the emotions of--

1402
01:20:25,530 --> 01:20:26,760

with all the emotions?

1403
01:20:26,760 --> 01:20:28,350
I denied everything.

1404
01:20:28,350 --> 01:20:32,370
I denied because I
never had any proofs.

1405
01:20:32,370 --> 01:20:39,760
And I had denied up until
maybe as far as even 10,

1406
01:20:39,760 --> 01:20:41,910
15 years ago.

1407
01:20:41,910 --> 01:20:43,770
But I didn't deny
last year, when

1408
01:20:43,770 --> 01:20:45,880
I saw their name in the book.

1409
01:20:45,880 --> 01:20:47,490
My mother was 30 years old.

1410
01:20:47,490 --> 01:20:52,770
She was born in 1902, 1912.

1411
01:20:52,770 --> 01:20:53,580
1912.

1412
01:20:53,580 --> 01:20:56,460
She was 30 years old in '42.

1413
01:20:56,460 --> 01:21:01,260
My father was about
10 years older.

1414
01:21:01,260 --> 01:21:05,640
I have the dates of
their birth in the book,

1415
01:21:05,640 --> 01:21:08,160
where they were born.

1416
01:21:08,160 --> 01:21:15,460
So that is the loss.

1417
01:21:15,460 --> 01:21:18,790
What happened about 15 years ago
that helped you stop denying?

1418
01:21:18,790 --> 01:21:26,980
I say 15, but it's maybe later.

1419
01:21:26,980 --> 01:21:29,470
Probably when my first
grandchild was born,

1420
01:21:29,470 --> 01:21:32,420
I would say.

1421
01:21:32,420 --> 01:21:36,920
No, it's probably four years
ago that I accepted it there.

1422
01:21:36,920 --> 01:21:37,420
You know.

1423
01:21:37,420 --> 01:21:39,280
Because not knowing anything.

1424
01:21:39,280 --> 01:21:42,580
I mean, knowing there in
the book, but not knowing

1425
01:21:42,580 --> 01:21:48,280
was like knowing and
not knowing, you know.

1426
01:21:48,280 --> 01:21:52,250
Did you try to find
out after the war?

1427
01:21:52,250 --> 01:21:54,370
No.

1428
01:21:54,370 --> 01:21:56,320
It would have been too painful.

1429
01:21:56,320 --> 01:22:00,550
Actually, the attorney whose
sister adopted my brother

1430
01:22:00,550 --> 01:22:02,020
made some inquiry.

1431
01:22:02,020 --> 01:22:06,205
But he says, after so
many years, no, there's--

1432
01:22:06,205 --> 01:22:09,770

1433
01:22:09,770 --> 01:22:12,710
we never received a penny
from the French government

1434
01:22:12,710 --> 01:22:13,590
as retribution.

1435
01:22:13,590 --> 01:22:16,190
Neither my brother,
neither I. We

1436
01:22:16,190 --> 01:22:20,180
were entitled to
retribution by the Germans.

1437
01:22:20,180 --> 01:22:21,960
And we never got a cent.

1438
01:22:21,960 --> 01:22:23,960
I would call it blood money.

1439

01:22:23,960 --> 01:22:27,890

Many of the children
that I knew had received

1440

01:22:27,890 --> 01:22:30,080

money, some quite a bit.

1441

01:22:30,080 --> 01:22:32,240

Some pensioned.

1442

01:22:32,240 --> 01:22:37,670

But I never made any
effort or never acquired.

1443

01:22:37,670 --> 01:22:39,860

My brother was in
America, a new life.

1444

01:22:39,860 --> 01:22:42,990

I had come to this
country, a new life.

1445

01:22:42,990 --> 01:22:46,310

I didn't want nothing from them.

1446

01:22:46,310 --> 01:22:53,770

1447

01:22:53,770 --> 01:22:57,690

What was the orphanage
like after the war?

1448

01:22:57,690 --> 01:22:58,680

Excuse me.

1449

01:22:58,680 --> 01:23:01,630

Taking a bit.

1450

01:23:01,630 --> 01:23:04,780

It was a pleasant place
where many young people

1451

01:23:04,780 --> 01:23:09,070

lived together in a
kibbutz atmosphere.

1452

01:23:09,070 --> 01:23:14,650

But there was warm camaraderie.

1453

01:23:14,650 --> 01:23:17,966

It was the first family feeling.

1454

01:23:17,966 --> 01:23:21,610

1455

01:23:21,610 --> 01:23:24,610

But it wasn't ideal.

1456

01:23:24,610 --> 01:23:26,590

It wasn't ideal.

1457

01:23:26,590 --> 01:23:27,750

We had to find ourselves.

1458

01:23:27,750 --> 01:23:28,990

We were teenagers.

1459

01:23:28,990 --> 01:23:31,150

We had to find ourselves.

1460

01:23:31,150 --> 01:23:33,730

What was the
indoctrination like?

1461

01:23:33,730 --> 01:23:36,000

It was pretty stern.

1462

01:23:36,000 --> 01:23:37,270

What did they do?

1463

01:23:37,270 --> 01:23:42,230

They would teach us Hebrew,
talk to us about Israel.

1464
01:23:42,230 --> 01:23:43,870
It was good for some people.

1465
01:23:43,870 --> 01:23:45,310
I'm sure.

1466
01:23:45,310 --> 01:23:47,830
But many returned
after 10 years.

1467
01:23:47,830 --> 01:23:49,480
They didn't like it.

1468
01:23:49,480 --> 01:23:52,900
Because within themselves,
they had conflict.

1469
01:23:52,900 --> 01:23:54,650
Within groups, the Israel.

1470
01:23:54,650 --> 01:23:56,110
So they did have conflict.

1471
01:23:56,110 --> 01:23:57,340
Meaning?

1472
01:23:57,340 --> 01:24:02,590
Meaning that they didn't agree
politically like they do now,

1473
01:24:02,590 --> 01:24:07,900
even among themselves, among
the Jews, like they do now.

1474
01:24:07,900 --> 01:24:10,670
They were the ultra-religious,
they were the middlemen,

1475
01:24:10,670 --> 01:24:11,950
they were the reform ones.

1476

01:24:11,950 --> 01:24:15,190

1477

01:24:15,190 --> 01:24:19,620

Did they ever try to help
while you were in the orphanage

1478

01:24:19,620 --> 01:24:21,310

or actually, any time after?

1479

01:24:21,310 --> 01:24:24,100

Has anybody ever
tried to help you

1480

01:24:24,100 --> 01:24:27,174

deal with the pain of the time?

1481

01:24:27,174 --> 01:24:30,100

Or has everybody just--

1482

01:24:30,100 --> 01:24:31,600

life goes on.

1483

01:24:31,600 --> 01:24:34,840

Life goes on.

1484

01:24:34,840 --> 01:24:37,120

We were survivors and
that's what we did.

1485

01:24:37,120 --> 01:24:39,220

Just live the best we could.

1486

01:24:39,220 --> 01:24:43,130

1487

01:24:43,130 --> 01:24:45,590

That was the best
revenge, just live.

1488

01:24:45,590 --> 01:24:47,870

Just try to.

1489

01:24:47,870 --> 01:24:52,460

Many of my friends from
Malmaison have done very well.

1490

01:24:52,460 --> 01:24:56,180

They're grandparents
of many grandchildren.

1491

01:24:56,180 --> 01:24:59,940

Some live in Israel,
some live in France.

1492

01:24:59,940 --> 01:25:01,238

They did very well.

1493

01:25:01,238 --> 01:25:02,030

As you said, they--

1494

01:25:02,030 --> 01:25:03,170

Do you keep in contact?

1495

01:25:03,170 --> 01:25:05,180

I keep in contact, yes.

1496

01:25:05,180 --> 01:25:07,680

I saw them last
year, some of them.

1497

01:25:07,680 --> 01:25:09,230

I know of what they're doing.

1498

01:25:09,230 --> 01:25:12,700

1499

01:25:12,700 --> 01:25:16,030

Some had tragedy, some had,
oh, nothing but happiness

1500

01:25:16,030 --> 01:25:19,740

and good luck after that.

1501
01:25:19,740 --> 01:25:22,510
You said that you
received an allowance

1502
01:25:22,510 --> 01:25:23,920
when you were in Passy.

1503
01:25:23,920 --> 01:25:27,760
By the-- that was funded
by the Jewish Joint.

1504
01:25:27,760 --> 01:25:28,420
By the Joint.

1505
01:25:28,420 --> 01:25:29,140
Yes.

1506
01:25:29,140 --> 01:25:30,910
And what school did
you go to in Paris?

1507
01:25:30,910 --> 01:25:36,680
I went to art school in
Montparnasse, in Beaux-Arts.

1508
01:25:36,680 --> 01:25:37,180
Yeah.

1509
01:25:37,180 --> 01:25:40,460

1510
01:25:40,460 --> 01:25:42,150
And they paid for your school?

1511
01:25:42,150 --> 01:25:43,760
No, no.

1512
01:25:43,760 --> 01:25:47,450
You had to pay each time you
went for the models, to sit.

1513

01:25:47,450 --> 01:25:49,700

And you had to pay
for your material.

1514

01:25:49,700 --> 01:25:51,560

You had to pay for everything.

1515

01:25:51,560 --> 01:25:56,390

But that's what you had a
small allowance to help you.

1516

01:25:56,390 --> 01:25:59,830

But for the rest of
it, you had for food.

1517

01:25:59,830 --> 01:26:01,640

So I was doing
those sketches out.

1518

01:26:01,640 --> 01:26:08,480

And that's how I was making
my living, as an artist,

1519

01:26:08,480 --> 01:26:11,600

a real artist life.

1520

01:26:11,600 --> 01:26:12,100

OK.

1521

01:26:12,100 --> 01:26:15,510

1522

01:26:15,510 --> 01:26:16,010

Yeah.

1523

01:26:16,010 --> 01:26:18,940

1524

01:26:18,940 --> 01:26:19,995

Belleville.

1525

01:26:19,995 --> 01:26:20,620
Oh, Belleville.

1526
01:26:20,620 --> 01:26:21,880
Belle ville.

1527
01:26:21,880 --> 01:26:25,390
Belleville, didn't
hear you correctly.

1528
01:26:25,390 --> 01:26:27,060
There was a ghetto.

1529
01:26:27,060 --> 01:26:30,220
And you said Mabillon?

1530
01:26:30,220 --> 01:26:31,330
Mabillon.

1531
01:26:31,330 --> 01:26:33,790
It's the name of a
cafe in Saint-Germain.

1532
01:26:33,790 --> 01:26:34,540
Can you spell it?

1533
01:26:34,540 --> 01:26:37,960
M-A-B-I-L-L-O-N.

1534
01:26:37,960 --> 01:26:40,360
And the artist was Manâ©-Katz?

1535
01:26:40,360 --> 01:26:43,630
Manâ©-Katz, very
well-known Jewish artist.

1536
01:26:43,630 --> 01:26:44,310
Manâ©-Katz.

1537
01:26:44,310 --> 01:26:46,150
He paints biblic.

1538

01:26:46,150 --> 01:26:51,610

M-A-N-Ä%, with an
accent, dash Katz.

1539

01:26:51,610 --> 01:26:53,520

I'm learning.

1540

01:26:53,520 --> 01:26:55,000

He died not long ago.

1541

01:26:55,000 --> 01:26:57,690

But he's in museums
and everything.

1542

01:26:57,690 --> 01:26:59,370

Very well-known in the--

1543

01:26:59,370 --> 01:27:03,480

like Chagal, Jewish
artist, same type.

1544

01:27:03,480 --> 01:27:05,760

And Madame Yama?

1545

01:27:05,760 --> 01:27:07,650

You mentioned a madame.

1546

01:27:07,650 --> 01:27:09,420

Madame Irma.

1547

01:27:09,420 --> 01:27:10,500

Irma, Irma.

1548

01:27:10,500 --> 01:27:16,700

I-R-M-A.

1549

01:27:16,700 --> 01:27:19,220

The camp your father
was sent to, was that--

1550

01:27:19,220 --> 01:27:20,210

Auschwitz.

1551
01:27:20,210 --> 01:27:21,530
No, Drancy.

1552
01:27:21,530 --> 01:27:22,550
Drancy.

1553
01:27:22,550 --> 01:27:23,060
It was.

1554
01:27:23,060 --> 01:27:23,780
OK.

1555
01:27:23,780 --> 01:27:27,690
I just want to make it
easier for the transcriber.

1556
01:27:27,690 --> 01:27:28,610
Darancy?

1557
01:27:28,610 --> 01:27:37,460
Drancy, D-R-A-N-C-Y.

1558
01:27:37,460 --> 01:27:40,920
Did you hear about the
camps when you were--

1559
01:27:40,920 --> 01:27:43,940
when you were in hiding?

1560
01:27:43,940 --> 01:27:44,900
No.

1561
01:27:44,900 --> 01:27:46,100
You never heard anything.

1562
01:27:46,100 --> 01:27:47,270
How did you find out?

1563
01:27:47,270 --> 01:27:49,250

Later.

1564
01:27:49,250 --> 01:27:50,130
Later.

1565
01:27:50,130 --> 01:27:50,630
How?

1566
01:27:50,630 --> 01:27:53,820

1567
01:27:53,820 --> 01:27:55,410
When I could read the newspaper.

1568
01:27:55,410 --> 01:27:58,130

1569
01:27:58,130 --> 01:27:59,120
When you could read?

1570
01:27:59,120 --> 01:28:02,990
Read the newspaper,
when I was in Malmaison.

1571
01:28:02,990 --> 01:28:07,280
Before that, they kept
the paper away from you?

1572
01:28:07,280 --> 01:28:09,733
Nobody talked about it.

1573
01:28:09,733 --> 01:28:10,400
They were taken.

1574
01:28:10,400 --> 01:28:13,450

1575
01:28:13,450 --> 01:28:16,610
They were taken to concentration
camps, we knew that.

1576

01:28:16,610 --> 01:28:19,690

But we didn't-- we had
no idea what it was.

1577

01:28:19,690 --> 01:28:23,610

1578

01:28:23,610 --> 01:28:29,830

Concentration in French is a
place where they gather people.

1579

01:28:29,830 --> 01:28:34,270

So they didn't-- we didn't talk
about gas chamber or horror

1580

01:28:34,270 --> 01:28:34,770

things.

1581

01:28:34,770 --> 01:28:38,320

1582

01:28:38,320 --> 01:28:40,506

Did you hear of Natzweiler?

1583

01:28:40,506 --> 01:28:42,280

Did you hear of Natzweiler?

1584

01:28:42,280 --> 01:28:43,180

Who's that?

1585

01:28:43,180 --> 01:28:44,150

Those were the camps.

1586

01:28:44,150 --> 01:28:44,980

I believe it was in France.

1587

01:28:44,980 --> 01:28:45,647

Maybe I'm wrong.

1588

01:28:45,647 --> 01:28:46,490

Natzweiler?

1589

01:28:46,490 --> 01:28:46,990

Yeah.

1590

01:28:46,990 --> 01:28:48,595

No, never heard of it.

1591

01:28:48,595 --> 01:28:50,680

It's on the French border
if it's not in France.

1592

01:28:50,680 --> 01:28:52,750

What did you think
happened to these people

1593

01:28:52,750 --> 01:28:54,880

when they went to the
concentration camps,

1594

01:28:54,880 --> 01:28:55,510

to the centers?

1595

01:28:55,510 --> 01:28:58,470

1596

01:28:58,470 --> 01:29:01,112

Well, what we thought--

1597

01:29:01,112 --> 01:29:02,820

children, we thought
they would keep them

1598

01:29:02,820 --> 01:29:04,110

until the end of the war.

1599

01:29:04,110 --> 01:29:08,610

Our biggest preoccupation
was the war.

1600

01:29:08,610 --> 01:29:10,125

The war, the actual fighting.

1601

01:29:10,125 --> 01:29:15,890

1602

01:29:15,890 --> 01:29:17,600

That was what we were.

1603

01:29:17,600 --> 01:29:19,770

You know, the war.

1604

01:29:19,770 --> 01:29:21,890

But Paris wasn't bombed.

1605

01:29:21,890 --> 01:29:24,890

Oh, yes, Paris had alerts.

1606

01:29:24,890 --> 01:29:27,110

Outside Paris did, yes.

1607

01:29:27,110 --> 01:29:32,900

Outside in the country,
they threw some bombs.

1608

01:29:32,900 --> 01:29:35,045

People died on the
road trying to escape.

1609

01:29:35,045 --> 01:29:39,110

1610

01:29:39,110 --> 01:29:44,030

And what do you think they did
in the resistance in France?

1611

01:29:44,030 --> 01:29:47,070

Blowing up trains
and things like that.

1612

01:29:47,070 --> 01:29:54,290

There were plenty of resistance
blowing up trains with Germans.

1613

01:29:54,290 --> 01:29:56,510

All you see in the
films, it's true.

1614
01:29:56,510 --> 01:29:59,050

1615
01:29:59,050 --> 01:30:00,580
How did you cope after the war?

1616
01:30:00,580 --> 01:30:02,920
Since then, how have
you coped in your life

1617
01:30:02,920 --> 01:30:03,850
with these memories?

1618
01:30:03,850 --> 01:30:12,080

1619
01:30:12,080 --> 01:30:14,540
Well, there's been
many wars since.

1620
01:30:14,540 --> 01:30:16,340
Small wars, different wars.

1621
01:30:16,340 --> 01:30:20,820
And for people who have--

1622
01:30:20,820 --> 01:30:23,820
I don't know anybody who
has never really felt

1623
01:30:23,820 --> 01:30:25,350
any effect of the war.

1624
01:30:25,350 --> 01:30:29,310
Everybody has,
directly or indirectly.

1625
01:30:29,310 --> 01:30:33,230
And the Holocaust

is the worst thing

1626

01:30:33,230 --> 01:30:34,480
that happened in this century.

1627

01:30:34,480 --> 01:30:39,350

1628

01:30:39,350 --> 01:30:42,530
There are many Holocausts.

1629

01:30:42,530 --> 01:30:45,770
The Armenian had a terrible
Holocaust, too, I was told.

1630

01:30:45,770 --> 01:30:48,710
And there's many things.

1631

01:30:48,710 --> 01:30:54,190
But this many people,
and just for religious.

1632

01:30:54,190 --> 01:30:58,000
It's incomprehensible.

1633

01:30:58,000 --> 01:31:00,580
We should never let
anything like that happen.

1634

01:31:00,580 --> 01:31:03,730
We should never
even have people,

1635

01:31:03,730 --> 01:31:07,000
you know, mentioning anything.

1636

01:31:07,000 --> 01:31:09,550
It just has to stay
for a generation.

1637

01:31:09,550 --> 01:31:12,300

1638
01:31:12,300 --> 01:31:15,870
We should have survivors
of survivors of survivors.

1639
01:31:15,870 --> 01:31:19,140
And on and on.

1640
01:31:19,140 --> 01:31:23,700
And we certainly don't
forget the Christian martyr

1641
01:31:23,700 --> 01:31:26,080
to the lions to this day.

1642
01:31:26,080 --> 01:31:29,970
So we should never
forget the Holocaust.

1643
01:31:29,970 --> 01:31:31,560
That's what I have to say.

1644
01:31:31,560 --> 01:31:34,460

1645
01:31:34,460 --> 01:31:38,570
Do you think it's affected
the memories and the emotions?

1646
01:31:38,570 --> 01:31:40,880
Do you think they've
affected your marriages

1647
01:31:40,880 --> 01:31:45,500
or any other relationships?

1648
01:31:45,500 --> 01:31:48,410
It's affected--
you're not really--

1649
01:31:48,410 --> 01:31:50,630
I don't feel like I'm--

1650
01:31:50,630 --> 01:31:53,420
in a way, I'm singled out.

1651
01:31:53,420 --> 01:31:57,350
But I'm singled out
also for survivor.

1652
01:31:57,350 --> 01:32:00,770
So one balances the other.

1653
01:32:00,770 --> 01:32:01,745
It's part of life.

1654
01:32:01,745 --> 01:32:04,770

1655
01:32:04,770 --> 01:32:07,900
Some people have more
tragic life than others.

1656
01:32:07,900 --> 01:32:09,510
Do you think it
made you stronger?

1657
01:32:09,510 --> 01:32:10,797
Yes.

1658
01:32:10,797 --> 01:32:11,880
And more sure of yourself?

1659
01:32:11,880 --> 01:32:13,140
But weaker also.

1660
01:32:13,140 --> 01:32:14,250
Weaker also.

1661
01:32:14,250 --> 01:32:15,690
Both.

1662
01:32:15,690 --> 01:32:18,500

In what respect?

1663
01:32:18,500 --> 01:32:20,460
Because I just--

1664
01:32:20,460 --> 01:32:23,350

1665
01:32:23,350 --> 01:32:26,140
I'm in terrible grief
of that other tragedy,

1666
01:32:26,140 --> 01:32:29,200
my other tragedy.

1667
01:32:29,200 --> 01:32:37,880
So being vulnerable,
it's what all humans are.

1668
01:32:37,880 --> 01:32:39,290
Nobody's superhuman.

1669
01:32:39,290 --> 01:32:44,340

1670
01:32:44,340 --> 01:32:48,660
We just fight or we
give up, that's all.

1671
01:32:48,660 --> 01:32:50,850
What do you think
about the revisionists?

1672
01:32:50,850 --> 01:32:51,990
What is that?

1673
01:32:51,990 --> 01:32:55,590
The people who are denying
the Holocaust ever happened.

1674
01:32:55,590 --> 01:32:56,193
They're sick.

1675
01:32:56,193 --> 01:32:56,985
They have problems.

1676
01:32:56,985 --> 01:33:02,110

1677
01:33:02,110 --> 01:33:04,000
They're sick.

1678
01:33:04,000 --> 01:33:07,420
You wanted to deny
it for so long.

1679
01:33:07,420 --> 01:33:10,150
No, it's not-- it
wasn't a denial.

1680
01:33:10,150 --> 01:33:16,360
It was like not having
any proof so you

1681
01:33:16,360 --> 01:33:18,790
were brought into the world
and your parents disappear.

1682
01:33:18,790 --> 01:33:23,020
You know where they disappeared
but you never had any proof.

1683
01:33:23,020 --> 01:33:25,360
So it was not really
a denial, it was just

1684
01:33:25,360 --> 01:33:27,235
an ignorance of the fact.

1685
01:33:27,235 --> 01:33:30,980

1686
01:33:30,980 --> 01:33:36,695
I knew what had happened to them

but I didn't have the proofs.

1687
01:33:36,695 --> 01:33:39,850
You understand that?

1688
01:33:39,850 --> 01:33:41,470
Plus, there's a whole
different thing,

1689
01:33:41,470 --> 01:33:44,410
I mean, of people
who are denying it.

1690
01:33:44,410 --> 01:33:46,090
Yes, definitely.

1691
01:33:46,090 --> 01:33:50,680
I didn't deny it for
rejection in my mind.

1692
01:33:50,680 --> 01:33:53,830
I knew I was a
miracle, I was spared.

1693
01:33:53,830 --> 01:33:56,620
And as I grew older, that
miracle became more apparent.

1694
01:33:56,620 --> 01:33:59,880

1695
01:33:59,880 --> 01:34:02,930
But I don't know what to
say about those people.

1696
01:34:02,930 --> 01:34:04,640
They're sick.

1697
01:34:04,640 --> 01:34:09,590
And that's it, they're sick.

1698
01:34:09,590 --> 01:34:11,630

It's a disease.

1699

01:34:11,630 --> 01:34:13,215

Like many diseases in society.

1700

01:34:13,215 --> 01:34:17,160

1701

01:34:17,160 --> 01:34:21,010

Does it worry you that they
might gain political power?

1702

01:34:21,010 --> 01:34:21,510

Yes.

1703

01:34:21,510 --> 01:34:24,460

1704

01:34:24,460 --> 01:34:28,870

But that's why we're doing this.

1705

01:34:28,870 --> 01:34:32,570

And we should be
doing more of that.

1706

01:34:32,570 --> 01:34:34,700

And I'm just very--

1707

01:34:34,700 --> 01:34:38,300

1708

01:34:38,300 --> 01:34:44,180

my small contribution,
my help, whatever.

1709

01:34:44,180 --> 01:34:47,510

So you've got my vote on it.

1710

01:34:47,510 --> 01:34:50,030

1711

01:34:50,030 --> 01:34:51,180

Thank you very much.

1712

01:34:51,180 --> 01:34:52,472

We really appreciate your time.

1713

01:34:52,472 --> 01:34:53,690

You're welcome.

1714

01:34:53,690 --> 01:34:57,190

Thank both of you and you, too.

1715

01:34:57,190 --> 01:35:57,000