

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:04,710

2
00:00:04,710 --> 00:00:07,040
Ready.

3
00:00:07,040 --> 00:00:08,640
OK.

4
00:00:08,640 --> 00:00:12,750
Today is March 1st, 2000.

5
00:00:12,750 --> 00:00:19,890
We're at the home of Ernest
Mehlman, at 4046 Fruitvale

6
00:00:19,890 --> 00:00:22,740
Avenue, in Oakland California.

7
00:00:22,740 --> 00:00:25,290
And we are interviewing
Ernest Mehlman.

8
00:00:25,290 --> 00:00:27,120
Is that how you
want me to write it?

9
00:00:27,120 --> 00:00:30,120
As you have it on
the slate as Ernie.

10
00:00:30,120 --> 00:00:33,570
So how do you want me
to write it on the tape?

11
00:00:33,570 --> 00:00:35,500
What do you prefer
Ernie or Ernest?

12
00:00:35,500 --> 00:00:38,760
Well, Ernie, everybody

calls me Ernie.

13
00:00:38,760 --> 00:00:42,100
But the formal name is Ernest.

14
00:00:42,100 --> 00:00:44,340
And how do you spell it?

15
00:00:44,340 --> 00:00:46,000
E-R-N-E-S-T.

16
00:00:46,000 --> 00:00:46,500
OK.

17
00:00:46,500 --> 00:00:47,970
That's how it is in the records.

18
00:00:47,970 --> 00:00:50,220
But in Europe, I was Ernst--

19
00:00:50,220 --> 00:00:52,200
E-R-N-S-T.

20
00:00:52,200 --> 00:00:52,980
OK.

21
00:00:52,980 --> 00:00:54,380
Maybe we should do it that way.

22
00:00:54,380 --> 00:00:54,880
OK.

23
00:00:54,880 --> 00:00:55,380
OK.

24
00:00:55,380 --> 00:00:56,070
That's what I--

25
00:00:56,070 --> 00:00:59,340
Yeah all right.

26

00:00:59,340 --> 00:01:02,320

Could we have-- my name is
Peter Ryan, interviewer,

27

00:01:02,320 --> 00:01:06,630

and Matt Binder is
doing the videotaping.

28

00:01:06,630 --> 00:01:09,700

Could I ask you where
and when you were born?

29

00:01:09,700 --> 00:01:16,350

I was born in
Belz, Poland, 1914.

30

00:01:16,350 --> 00:01:18,870

And how many people
were in the family?

31

00:01:18,870 --> 00:01:21,780

We were six all
together, mother, father

32

00:01:21,780 --> 00:01:23,250

and four children.

33

00:01:23,250 --> 00:01:26,820

And where were you
age-wise in the four?

34

00:01:26,820 --> 00:01:30,540

The second from the
top, the second oldest.

35

00:01:30,540 --> 00:01:32,430

Who was oldest, another brother?

36

00:01:32,430 --> 00:01:36,840

One brother above me,
and one younger than me,

37

00:01:36,840 --> 00:01:39,690
and that sister who
was the youngest.

38
00:01:39,690 --> 00:01:42,660
And the sister is still alive.

39
00:01:42,660 --> 00:01:43,500
Where does she live?

40
00:01:43,500 --> 00:01:44,760
In San Francisco.

41
00:01:44,760 --> 00:01:48,810

42
00:01:48,810 --> 00:01:50,680
What did your father do?

43
00:01:50,680 --> 00:01:58,600
Well, he worked in a
warehouse packing material.

44
00:01:58,600 --> 00:02:05,390
See that was before
the war, World War II.

45
00:02:05,390 --> 00:02:12,760
And that was the only
occupation I know of.

46
00:02:12,760 --> 00:02:15,250
How big a city was Belz.

47
00:02:15,250 --> 00:02:19,490
Well, I don't know.

48
00:02:19,490 --> 00:02:25,120
I have no recollection of
Belz because I left only

49
00:02:25,120 --> 00:02:27,550

during my infancy.

50

00:02:27,550 --> 00:02:31,180

Then my parents
with my older son,

51

00:02:31,180 --> 00:02:35,200

were moved to Vienna, Austria.

52

00:02:35,200 --> 00:02:39,730

That was during World
War I, for the reason

53

00:02:39,730 --> 00:02:43,750

because, during the
war the battlegrounds

54

00:02:43,750 --> 00:02:48,430

were approximately in the
neighborhood of where we lived.

55

00:02:48,430 --> 00:02:55,510

That was the battleground of
the Russians versus the Germans.

56

00:02:55,510 --> 00:03:01,210

And they were battling
back and forth.

57

00:03:01,210 --> 00:03:08,140

The Russians were coming into
Poland driving out the Germans.

58

00:03:08,140 --> 00:03:10,360

Then there were
counter-attacked by the Germans,

59

00:03:10,360 --> 00:03:12,310

when they were driving
out the Russians.

60

00:03:12,310 --> 00:03:15,580

And it went back and forth,

and that was too much

61
00:03:15,580 --> 00:03:18,050
for my parents.

62
00:03:18,050 --> 00:03:22,190
And so we moved to Vienna,
Austria, because at that time,

63
00:03:22,190 --> 00:03:26,680
Poland was part of the
Austrian Hungarian Empire.

64
00:03:26,680 --> 00:03:29,380
And Poland was
part of the Empire,

65
00:03:29,380 --> 00:03:33,640
so it was easy to move
from Poland to Vienna

66
00:03:33,640 --> 00:03:35,950
and that's where we stayed.

67
00:03:35,950 --> 00:03:39,400
Being part of the
Austrian Hungarian Empire

68
00:03:39,400 --> 00:03:41,250
was it still Poland?

69
00:03:41,250 --> 00:03:41,750
Yes.

70
00:03:41,750 --> 00:03:42,670
It was?

71
00:03:42,670 --> 00:03:43,470
Yes.

72
00:03:43,470 --> 00:03:45,640
OK.

73
00:03:45,640 --> 00:03:49,450
And where did you live
in Austria in Vienna?

74
00:03:49,450 --> 00:03:51,430
In Vienna?

75
00:03:51,430 --> 00:03:54,110
You mean the specific areas?

76
00:03:54,110 --> 00:03:56,010
Well, yeah, the neighborhood.

77
00:03:56,010 --> 00:04:00,520
The neighborhood was the
20th Bezirk it's called.

78
00:04:00,520 --> 00:04:01,510
These are the

79
00:04:01,510 --> 00:04:02,020
Districts?

80
00:04:02,020 --> 00:04:03,580
District, Yeah.

81
00:04:03,580 --> 00:04:06,940
And that's the only
bezirk I remember.

82
00:04:06,940 --> 00:04:08,490
Probably a village.

83
00:04:08,490 --> 00:04:10,750
Now, that wasn't Downtown?

84
00:04:10,750 --> 00:04:17,149
No, no, Downtown was
the first bezirk.

85

00:04:17,149 --> 00:04:17,649
Yeah.

86
00:04:17,649 --> 00:04:19,191
What kind of a
neighborhood was that?

87
00:04:19,191 --> 00:04:20,560
Oh.

88
00:04:20,560 --> 00:04:24,670
It's a working-class
neighborhood, but pretty good.

89
00:04:24,670 --> 00:04:26,020
Mixed?

90
00:04:26,020 --> 00:04:27,280
Jews and non-Jews?

91
00:04:27,280 --> 00:04:29,110
Oh yes indeed.

92
00:04:29,110 --> 00:04:31,210
And what did your
father do there?

93
00:04:31,210 --> 00:04:33,430
My father, in Vienna?

94
00:04:33,430 --> 00:04:37,270
As I mentioned before he
worked in a warehouse,

95
00:04:37,270 --> 00:04:39,220
and he was the
manager over there.

96
00:04:39,220 --> 00:04:41,485
Oh I see, so that was in Vienna?

97
00:04:41,485 --> 00:04:42,070

In Vienna.

98
00:04:42,070 --> 00:04:42,580
Yeah

99
00:04:42,580 --> 00:04:43,180
OK.

100
00:04:43,180 --> 00:04:44,920
What he did in
Poland, I don't know.

101
00:04:44,920 --> 00:04:45,550
OK.

102
00:04:45,550 --> 00:04:48,790
And what kind of living
quarters did you have?

103
00:04:48,790 --> 00:05:00,780
Well, we had two bedroom, and
one bath and the apartment

104
00:05:00,780 --> 00:05:04,530
belonged to the city of
Vienna, because at that time

105
00:05:04,530 --> 00:05:09,390
the city had a huge building
projects because of the housing

106
00:05:09,390 --> 00:05:10,350
shortage.

107
00:05:10,350 --> 00:05:13,830
And they built thousands
and thousands and thousands

108
00:05:13,830 --> 00:05:18,960
of apartments, in
large complexes.

109

00:05:18,960 --> 00:05:23,200

And in one of them,
we lived in there.

110

00:05:23,200 --> 00:05:25,470

Do you remember your
early schooling?

111

00:05:25,470 --> 00:05:26,130

Yes.

112

00:05:26,130 --> 00:05:27,870

Could you describe it?

113

00:05:27,870 --> 00:05:30,600

Well, I went to grammar school.

114

00:05:30,600 --> 00:05:31,470

A public school?

115

00:05:31,470 --> 00:05:33,750

A public school.

116

00:05:33,750 --> 00:05:38,800

Then I went to
the middle school.

117

00:05:38,800 --> 00:05:42,750

And then I graduated
from over there

118

00:05:42,750 --> 00:05:53,280

with good graduate certificates.

119

00:05:53,280 --> 00:05:57,960

I was considered one of the
best in school, in the class.

120

00:05:57,960 --> 00:05:59,940

What were you good at?

121

00:05:59,940 --> 00:06:01,716

Anything.

122
00:06:01,716 --> 00:06:03,240
[LAUGHS] That's modest.

123
00:06:03,240 --> 00:06:04,710
Yes.

124
00:06:04,710 --> 00:06:10,082
I got what we call
sehr gut good.

125
00:06:10,082 --> 00:06:11,970
sehr gut good means, very good.

126
00:06:11,970 --> 00:06:12,600
Very good.

127
00:06:12,600 --> 00:06:14,820
Very good in all subjects.

128
00:06:14,820 --> 00:06:16,410
From all of the teachers.

129
00:06:16,410 --> 00:06:17,580
Did you like school?

130
00:06:17,580 --> 00:06:19,050
Very much so.

131
00:06:19,050 --> 00:06:20,743
Because it was easy for me.

132
00:06:20,743 --> 00:06:22,410
I didn't have to study
at home, whatever

133
00:06:22,410 --> 00:06:25,850
I learned stayed in my brains.

134
00:06:25,850 --> 00:06:28,390

How about your siblings,
were they good in school?

135
00:06:28,390 --> 00:06:30,210
Yes, I would say, Yes.

136
00:06:30,210 --> 00:06:32,130
As good as you?

137
00:06:32,130 --> 00:06:34,420
I would say yes.

138
00:06:34,420 --> 00:06:34,920
OK.

139
00:06:34,920 --> 00:06:38,700

140
00:06:38,700 --> 00:06:41,730
So you finished
the middle school?

141
00:06:41,730 --> 00:06:45,840
The middle school and
then I went to a school

142
00:06:45,840 --> 00:06:49,080
which we call
handelsschule you know,

143
00:06:49,080 --> 00:06:51,780
which was a step higher up.

144
00:06:51,780 --> 00:06:54,420
And what kind of training,
we are getting there?

145
00:06:54,420 --> 00:07:01,440
Getting there to--
business subject.

146
00:07:01,440 --> 00:07:02,010

Business?

147
00:07:02,010 --> 00:07:03,350
Subject, yes.

148
00:07:03,350 --> 00:07:05,370
Were you hoping to
go into business?

149
00:07:05,370 --> 00:07:07,020
Well, at that time.

150
00:07:07,020 --> 00:07:09,120
That was in Vienna,
there was no hope

151
00:07:09,120 --> 00:07:12,600
for an ordinary young
man out of a poor family,

152
00:07:12,600 --> 00:07:17,070
to go into his own
business, unlike here.

153
00:07:17,070 --> 00:07:21,150
Where I went, besides working
for the US government,

154
00:07:21,150 --> 00:07:25,470
I went into my own businesses
apartment house owner.

155
00:07:25,470 --> 00:07:32,940
I invested in real property,
and I still have some of them,

156
00:07:32,940 --> 00:07:34,120
and rented it out.

157
00:07:34,120 --> 00:07:37,030

158

00:07:37,030 --> 00:07:40,470
So what were you hoping to do
as a young man, in Austria?

159
00:07:40,470 --> 00:07:42,210
In Austria?

160
00:07:42,210 --> 00:07:43,890
Just make a living.

161
00:07:43,890 --> 00:07:44,610
Make a living.

162
00:07:44,610 --> 00:07:49,200
Because Austria at that time was
a poor country, not like today.

163
00:07:49,200 --> 00:07:53,790
Today Austria is a
well-to-do country.

164
00:07:53,790 --> 00:07:55,920
But at that time
Austria was poor.

165
00:07:55,920 --> 00:07:59,170

166
00:07:59,170 --> 00:08:01,580
Was your family religious?

167
00:08:01,580 --> 00:08:04,930
My mother was very
religious, orthodox.

168
00:08:04,930 --> 00:08:06,340
My father less so.

169
00:08:06,340 --> 00:08:10,660
My mother was
strictly Kosher but I

170

00:08:10,660 --> 00:08:13,360
doubt very much whether
my father was Kosher,

171
00:08:13,360 --> 00:08:17,950
when he was away on business.

172
00:08:17,950 --> 00:08:19,960
He was away a lot?

173
00:08:19,960 --> 00:08:20,770
Quite a lot, yes.

174
00:08:20,770 --> 00:08:21,410
Travel?

175
00:08:21,410 --> 00:08:23,260
Traveling, yeah.

176
00:08:23,260 --> 00:08:24,940
So you had a Kosher household?

177
00:08:24,940 --> 00:08:26,080
Yes.

178
00:08:26,080 --> 00:08:27,667
When you were in
school, did you have

179
00:08:27,667 --> 00:08:29,500
friends who were both
Jewish and Non-Jewish?

180
00:08:29,500 --> 00:08:31,410
Yes, definitely.

181
00:08:31,410 --> 00:08:32,240
Both.

182
00:08:32,240 --> 00:08:32,740
Both.

183

00:08:32,740 --> 00:08:34,570

We got along extremely well.

184

00:08:34,570 --> 00:08:36,460

And in the neighborhood,
same thing?

185

00:08:36,460 --> 00:08:38,890

The same thing, yeah.

186

00:08:38,890 --> 00:08:42,620

Did you know any anti-Semitism
in Austria, at that time?

187

00:08:42,620 --> 00:08:48,400

I didn't particularly feel
affected by it, although I'm

188

00:08:48,400 --> 00:08:52,120

sure there was anti-Semitism.

189

00:08:52,120 --> 00:08:56,260

And of course it came out
after the so-called Anschluss,

190

00:08:56,260 --> 00:08:59,080

when Hitler came into Austria.

191

00:08:59,080 --> 00:09:03,970

Because all of a sudden, all the
Austrian, Aryan, or Christian

192

00:09:03,970 --> 00:09:08,830

Austrians, all of a
sudden, became Nazis.

193

00:09:08,830 --> 00:09:12,520

Had their Nazi pins
on their lapels,

194

00:09:12,520 --> 00:09:16,490

and didn't want to

know us anymore.

195

00:09:16,490 --> 00:09:19,660

In other words, if they
asked then several would say,

196

00:09:19,660 --> 00:09:21,880

they are victims of Nazism.

197

00:09:21,880 --> 00:09:23,710

That's not true.

198

00:09:23,710 --> 00:09:25,105

They embraced it?

199

00:09:25,105 --> 00:09:28,360

They embraced it
enthusiastically.

200

00:09:28,360 --> 00:09:33,850

And there were more Nazis
than the Nazis themselves.

201

00:09:33,850 --> 00:09:38,230

What year did you get
finished with your school?

202

00:09:38,230 --> 00:09:46,330

I would say it
was in 1932 or so.

203

00:09:46,330 --> 00:09:47,020

32?

204

00:09:47,020 --> 00:09:47,650

Yeah.

205

00:09:47,650 --> 00:09:50,500

And by that time the
Depression had hit Austria?

206

00:09:50,500 --> 00:09:52,930

Oh very much so.

207

00:09:52,930 --> 00:09:55,180

So what kind of work do you do?

208

00:09:55,180 --> 00:09:57,820

209

00:09:57,820 --> 00:10:00,440

First I worked--
over there you had

210

00:10:00,440 --> 00:10:03,160

to start to be an apprentice.

211

00:10:03,160 --> 00:10:06,280

And I got a job with
that company which

212

00:10:06,280 --> 00:10:13,705

sold goods for making dresses.

213

00:10:13,705 --> 00:10:15,310

Which material?

214

00:10:15,310 --> 00:10:16,720

Material, Yes.

215

00:10:16,720 --> 00:10:19,570

And I was a sales
person over there.

216

00:10:19,570 --> 00:10:24,820

But then of course, I went
over to be in an office,

217

00:10:24,820 --> 00:10:36,340

with a company which imported
yarns from abroad, particularly

218

00:10:36,340 --> 00:10:38,560

Belgium.

219
00:10:38,560 --> 00:10:42,332
And of course, imported it
for sale within Austria.

220
00:10:42,332 --> 00:10:43,580
Austria?

221
00:10:43,580 --> 00:10:44,470
Yeah.

222
00:10:44,470 --> 00:10:45,760
To make dress?

223
00:10:45,760 --> 00:10:46,720
To make dresses.

224
00:10:46,720 --> 00:10:48,870
Yes.

225
00:10:48,870 --> 00:10:52,790
Do you remember the
assassination of Dollfuss?

226
00:10:52,790 --> 00:10:53,290
Yes.

227
00:10:53,290 --> 00:10:54,620
And very much so.

228
00:10:54,620 --> 00:10:57,830
Was very much in my
mind at that time

229
00:10:57,830 --> 00:11:01,030
and I've never forgotten it.

230
00:11:01,030 --> 00:11:02,870
What, do you remember?

231
00:11:02,870 --> 00:11:06,190

Well, I remember that
he was shot and left

232
00:11:06,190 --> 00:11:08,455
to bleed to death.

233
00:11:08,455 --> 00:11:11,090

234
00:11:11,090 --> 00:11:18,070
And of course, it was before
the so-called Anschluss,

235
00:11:18,070 --> 00:11:20,380
several years before that.

236
00:11:20,380 --> 00:11:26,080
It was of course,
organized by the Nazis.

237
00:11:26,080 --> 00:11:27,970
Now, they had some
street fighting then.

238
00:11:27,970 --> 00:11:28,730
Didn't they?

239
00:11:28,730 --> 00:11:29,410
Oh Yes.

240
00:11:29,410 --> 00:11:32,110
There was some, Yes, there
were some street fighting.

241
00:11:32,110 --> 00:11:33,375
Did you see any of that?

242
00:11:33,375 --> 00:11:34,750
Were you involved
in any of that?

243
00:11:34,750 --> 00:11:35,250

No.

244

00:11:35,250 --> 00:11:35,860

No.

245

00:11:35,860 --> 00:11:37,780

Did you witness any of it?

246

00:11:37,780 --> 00:11:38,560

No.

247

00:11:38,560 --> 00:11:41,170

Did you understand
what was happening?

248

00:11:41,170 --> 00:11:44,560

I read the newspaper every day.

249

00:11:44,560 --> 00:11:46,430

Was your family
political at all?

250

00:11:46,430 --> 00:11:48,602

No.

251

00:11:48,602 --> 00:11:50,780

Did they vote in Austria?

252

00:11:50,780 --> 00:11:51,280

Yes.

253

00:11:51,280 --> 00:11:56,170

254

00:11:56,170 --> 00:12:00,520

So you had an office job?

255

00:12:00,520 --> 00:12:01,080

Yes.

256

00:12:01,080 --> 00:12:03,220

And how long did you have that?

257

00:12:03,220 --> 00:12:09,610

Until after the
so-called Anschluss.

258

00:12:09,610 --> 00:12:13,600

When a Nazi in uniform
came into the office

259

00:12:13,600 --> 00:12:18,190

and told my boss that
he should discharge

260

00:12:18,190 --> 00:12:21,200

all the Jews in the office.

261

00:12:21,200 --> 00:12:26,830

And I was the only one,
beside one of the two bosses.

262

00:12:26,830 --> 00:12:28,750

One was a Jew too.

263

00:12:28,750 --> 00:12:33,430

And so he had no choice
but tearfully, let me go.

264

00:12:33,430 --> 00:12:38,330

And he says, I'm sorry, I was
told that I must discharge you.

265

00:12:38,330 --> 00:12:41,410

I said that's fine, I
want to leave anyhow.

266

00:12:41,410 --> 00:12:43,960

You'd been in that
work about four years?

267

00:12:43,960 --> 00:12:44,960

At this company?

268

00:12:44,960 --> 00:12:45,460

Yes.

269

00:12:45,460 --> 00:12:46,780

Several years.

270

00:12:46,780 --> 00:12:47,280

Yes.

271

00:12:47,280 --> 00:12:49,900

272

00:12:49,900 --> 00:12:52,670

That must have
been hard for you.

273

00:12:52,670 --> 00:12:56,890

Well, in as much as I
had planned to leave,

274

00:12:56,890 --> 00:12:59,450

it just fit into my schedule.

275

00:12:59,450 --> 00:13:01,390

What kind of plans had you had?

276

00:13:01,390 --> 00:13:04,690

I'd planned, as soon as the
Anschluss arrived, I mean,

277

00:13:04,690 --> 00:13:08,920

was taking place, that
means the marching

278

00:13:08,920 --> 00:13:13,510

in of the Austrian troops,
of the German troops,

279

00:13:13,510 --> 00:13:17,890

I went to the American consulate
to register for an immigration

280

00:13:17,890 --> 00:13:20,680
visa to the United States.

281

00:13:20,680 --> 00:13:24,010
That was, I believe,
practically the day,

282

00:13:24,010 --> 00:13:31,400
or the day after the German
troops marched into Austria.

283

00:13:31,400 --> 00:13:36,970
What did you witness,
regarding the Anschluss?

284

00:13:36,970 --> 00:13:42,190
Well, the arrival of
the German troops,

285

00:13:42,190 --> 00:13:44,530
and of course, all
of a sudden, you

286

00:13:44,530 --> 00:13:53,150
saw the politically army of the
Nazis, like the SR, and the SS,

287

00:13:53,150 --> 00:13:57,553
these were the abbreviation
for the stormtroopers.

288

00:13:57,553 --> 00:14:03,140
And I saw quite a bit of them.

289

00:14:03,140 --> 00:14:05,560
But of course, you tried
to stay away from them.

290

00:14:05,560 --> 00:14:09,460

291

00:14:09,460 --> 00:14:11,870

How would you do that?

292

00:14:11,870 --> 00:14:18,750

Well, if you know that there's
a meeting taking place,

293

00:14:18,750 --> 00:14:19,960

we stayed away from them.

294

00:14:19,960 --> 00:14:20,680

You avoided it?

295

00:14:20,680 --> 00:14:22,360

Yeah, avoided it.

296

00:14:22,360 --> 00:14:23,545

Very much so.

297

00:14:23,545 --> 00:14:27,130

Now you know you lost your
job, how about your father?

298

00:14:27,130 --> 00:14:30,640

He lost his job too.

299

00:14:30,640 --> 00:14:34,390

And your older brother,
was he working?

300

00:14:34,390 --> 00:14:35,395

My older brother?

301

00:14:35,395 --> 00:14:38,290

302

00:14:38,290 --> 00:14:40,250

Yeah, he was working too.

303

00:14:40,250 --> 00:14:46,870

He was working for a very
large clothing store.

304

00:14:46,870 --> 00:14:49,330
And he was salesman over there.

305

00:14:49,330 --> 00:14:50,500
Did he lose his job?

306

00:14:50,500 --> 00:14:52,150
Yes.

307

00:14:52,150 --> 00:14:57,550
Because it was a Jewish company,
was taken over by the Nazis.

308

00:14:57,550 --> 00:15:01,930
So all the Jews working
over there had to go.

309

00:15:01,930 --> 00:15:04,750
So essentially everyone in
the family who was employed,

310

00:15:04,750 --> 00:15:06,030
was suddenly nonemployed?

311

00:15:06,030 --> 00:15:06,900
Nonemployed.

312

00:15:06,900 --> 00:15:07,750
Yes.

313

00:15:07,750 --> 00:15:10,150
That must have been
hard for the family?

314

00:15:10,150 --> 00:15:13,430
Yes it was.

315

00:15:13,430 --> 00:15:15,550
But of course
shortly thereafter,

316

00:15:15,550 --> 00:15:18,670

I said I'm not going
to stay here and wait

317

00:15:18,670 --> 00:15:23,720

for my immigration visa because
it might take quite some time.

318

00:15:23,720 --> 00:15:32,020

And so I thought I'm going
to go first to Switzerland.

319

00:15:32,020 --> 00:15:36,520

That's where my first adventure
began, in Switzerland.

320

00:15:36,520 --> 00:15:39,730

Now, were Austrians allowed
to go to Switzerland?

321

00:15:39,730 --> 00:15:41,710

Well, if they had a visa, Yes.

322

00:15:41,710 --> 00:15:45,190

But if they didn't have a
visa as far as the Nazis were

323

00:15:45,190 --> 00:15:48,250

concerned, they
didn't give a hoot.

324

00:15:48,250 --> 00:15:50,200

But the Swiss did.

325

00:15:50,200 --> 00:15:56,230

If you had a passport, which
the Nazis freely issued.

326

00:15:56,230 --> 00:15:57,490

They wanted people to leave?

327

00:15:57,490 --> 00:15:58,600

To leave.

328
00:15:58,600 --> 00:16:03,880
But we get a letter J at
the top of the passport.

329
00:16:03,880 --> 00:16:11,110
If you had a passport
with that big red letter J

330
00:16:11,110 --> 00:16:14,380
first on the top
of it, the Swiss

331
00:16:14,380 --> 00:16:17,710
wouldn't let you in unless
you got a Swiss visa.

332
00:16:17,710 --> 00:16:20,140
And the Swiss didn't
issue any visas to Jews.

333
00:16:20,140 --> 00:16:23,230

334
00:16:23,230 --> 00:16:26,050
So, how were you able
to get into Switzerland?

335
00:16:26,050 --> 00:16:32,410
Well, first I thought I would be
able to talk to the immigration

336
00:16:32,410 --> 00:16:37,300
officer at the Swiss
border into letting me in,

337
00:16:37,300 --> 00:16:39,100
but I had no success.

338
00:16:39,100 --> 00:16:40,150
Did you try?

339

00:16:40,150 --> 00:16:41,710
I tried.

340
00:16:41,710 --> 00:16:45,550
I took the train to
Basel, Switzerland.

341
00:16:45,550 --> 00:16:47,260
And then I showed
him my passport

342
00:16:47,260 --> 00:16:50,020
and he paged to look for
a reason, then he finally

343
00:16:50,020 --> 00:16:52,430
he said, I can't let you
in, you have no visa.

344
00:16:52,430 --> 00:16:58,080
So I said, well, you know,
it's self-preservation.

345
00:16:58,080 --> 00:17:04,920
If I go back I might be
arrested by the Nazis

346
00:17:04,920 --> 00:17:08,910
and taken to a
concentration camp

347
00:17:08,910 --> 00:17:11,680
and that would probably
be the end of me.

348
00:17:11,680 --> 00:17:15,390
He said I'm sorry, if I let
you in, I could lose my job.

349
00:17:15,390 --> 00:17:16,290
You have to go back.

350
00:17:16,290 --> 00:17:22,290

So I took the train back again,
to the next village in Germany.

351
00:17:22,290 --> 00:17:26,609
And got off, and said if
I can't get in legally,

352
00:17:26,609 --> 00:17:28,950
I'll go in illegally.

353
00:17:28,950 --> 00:17:37,990
Meaning, cross the border and
avoiding the border guards.

354
00:17:37,990 --> 00:17:40,800
How did your family feel
about you leaving and going

355
00:17:40,800 --> 00:17:41,490
to Switzerland?

356
00:17:41,490 --> 00:17:42,750
They gave me their blessing.

357
00:17:42,750 --> 00:17:43,560
They did?

358
00:17:43,560 --> 00:17:44,220
Yes.

359
00:17:44,220 --> 00:17:46,810
Were you the only one in the
family who left out there?

360
00:17:46,810 --> 00:17:47,310
No.

361
00:17:47,310 --> 00:17:51,870

362
00:17:51,870 --> 00:17:59,340
First my-- let me recollect it.

363
00:17:59,340 --> 00:18:02,610
First my younger
brother was arrested

364
00:18:02,610 --> 00:18:06,880
on the street of Vienna and
sent to a concentration camp.

365
00:18:06,880 --> 00:18:07,440
So--

366
00:18:07,440 --> 00:18:08,220
Where did he go?

367
00:18:08,220 --> 00:18:08,880
Do you know?

368
00:18:08,880 --> 00:18:12,330
First to Dacchau then he was
transferred to Buchenwald.

369
00:18:12,330 --> 00:18:16,410
You see, when I
left he was still

370
00:18:16,410 --> 00:18:19,500
in the concentration camp.

371
00:18:19,500 --> 00:18:23,355
And my brother left,
and he was successful.

372
00:18:23,355 --> 00:18:24,390
Your older?

373
00:18:24,390 --> 00:18:28,500
My older brother left,
and he went to France.

374
00:18:28,500 --> 00:18:29,100
France?

375
00:18:29,100 --> 00:18:31,860
And they lived in France.

376
00:18:31,860 --> 00:18:33,600
They let them in?

377
00:18:33,600 --> 00:18:35,650
Yes, they let him
in at that time.

378
00:18:35,650 --> 00:18:38,730
Yes, he said he's a
refugee, so they let him in.

379
00:18:38,730 --> 00:18:45,430
And he lived in a little
city, near the city of Paris.

380
00:18:45,430 --> 00:18:51,720
And I thought I'll go
to Switzerland first.

381
00:18:51,720 --> 00:18:52,660
And so--

382
00:18:52,660 --> 00:18:55,190
Why did you choose Switzerland?

383
00:18:55,190 --> 00:18:56,040
Remember?

384
00:18:56,040 --> 00:18:56,850
Pardon me.

385
00:18:56,850 --> 00:18:59,160
Why did you choose Switzerland?

386
00:18:59,160 --> 00:19:03,780
Because my younger brother,
he visited Switzerland

387

00:19:03,780 --> 00:19:09,810

before the Nazis
came to Austria,

388

00:19:09,810 --> 00:19:13,590

and he made friends
over there in Basel.

389

00:19:13,590 --> 00:19:14,740

We got friends.

390

00:19:14,740 --> 00:19:16,800

There were people
that could help you?

391

00:19:16,800 --> 00:19:17,620

Could help.

392

00:19:17,620 --> 00:19:18,570

Yes.

393

00:19:18,570 --> 00:19:19,980

So you wanted to go Basel.

394

00:19:19,980 --> 00:19:20,760

To Basel.

395

00:19:20,760 --> 00:19:22,590

And then of course,
what I thought

396

00:19:22,590 --> 00:19:29,020

is that, Jews being Jews,
one Jew helps the other.

397

00:19:29,020 --> 00:19:31,290

That's this history
of our survival

398

00:19:31,290 --> 00:19:34,210

for thousands of years.

399

00:19:34,210 --> 00:19:36,840

So I thought, well, we'll
start with Switzerland,

400

00:19:36,840 --> 00:19:38,250

and then go to those friends.

401

00:19:38,250 --> 00:19:42,000

And those friends never
let me down, never.

402

00:19:42,000 --> 00:19:43,960

They were really good friends.

403

00:19:43,960 --> 00:19:45,870

And they are still friends.

404

00:19:45,870 --> 00:19:50,490

Not the elder generation,
but the children.

405

00:19:50,490 --> 00:19:54,600

We still talk to them over the
phone, write to each other,

406

00:19:54,600 --> 00:19:57,180

and visit each other.

407

00:19:57,180 --> 00:19:58,440

They're still in Switzerland?

408

00:19:58,440 --> 00:19:59,860

They're still in Switzerland.

409

00:19:59,860 --> 00:20:01,890

How many people
were there, there?

410

00:20:01,890 --> 00:20:02,730

To help you?

411

00:20:02,730 --> 00:20:04,170
Oh in Switzerland?

412
00:20:04,170 --> 00:20:08,430
Well, in Switzerland,
the greatest

413
00:20:08,430 --> 00:20:11,325
help I got from the Jewish
Federation over there.

414
00:20:11,325 --> 00:20:15,270
And I'll tell you, how come?

415
00:20:15,270 --> 00:20:21,450
When I tried to go to
Switzerland the roundabout way,

416
00:20:21,450 --> 00:20:29,550
avoiding the immigration, I
got caught by the German border

417
00:20:29,550 --> 00:20:30,550
guards.

418
00:20:30,550 --> 00:20:33,210
This is when you first
tried to get into?

419
00:20:33,210 --> 00:20:35,070
Tried to get into, Yes.

420
00:20:35,070 --> 00:20:37,680
I was there with
a friend of mine.

421
00:20:37,680 --> 00:20:43,650
The two of us felt better,
when we're both two of us.

422
00:20:43,650 --> 00:20:45,810
A good friend of mine.

423

00:20:45,810 --> 00:20:48,870

And we were of course, we
were arrested and taken

424

00:20:48,870 --> 00:20:51,480

to the headquarters over there.

425

00:20:51,480 --> 00:20:52,800

And interviewed.

426

00:20:52,800 --> 00:20:55,020

This was on the German
side of the border?

427

00:20:55,020 --> 00:20:57,090

On the German, Yes,
and it was inside.

428

00:20:57,090 --> 00:21:01,200

Just inside the German border.

429

00:21:01,200 --> 00:21:04,440

And the chief over
there, Oh he gave us

430

00:21:04,440 --> 00:21:12,360

hell for attempting to go
in there, until he told

431

00:21:12,360 --> 00:21:15,720

us to take everything
out of our pockets,

432

00:21:15,720 --> 00:21:17,590

to see what we carry in there.

433

00:21:17,590 --> 00:21:21,630

And of course, we carried
just a small amount of money

434

00:21:21,630 --> 00:21:26,430

because there were restrictions

of everybody who leaves.

435

00:21:26,430 --> 00:21:28,020

How much you could take?

436

00:21:28,020 --> 00:21:29,070

How much we could take.

437

00:21:29,070 --> 00:21:33,210

I believe you could take
only 10 German marks.

438

00:21:33,210 --> 00:21:36,270

At that time it
was the equivalent

439

00:21:36,270 --> 00:21:38,940

of 2 and 1/2 dollars.

440

00:21:38,940 --> 00:21:40,860

That's what we
could take out if--

441

00:21:40,860 --> 00:21:43,020

You could have
one meal for that?

442

00:21:43,020 --> 00:21:46,050

Well, maybe one, or if
it would be very full,

443

00:21:46,050 --> 00:21:49,200

it maybe two or
three, it depends.

444

00:21:49,200 --> 00:21:52,770

And so of course when I took
everything out, and put it

445

00:21:52,770 --> 00:21:54,980

on the table as he asked us to.

446

00:21:54,980 --> 00:21:58,680
When he saw that we took our
handkerchief out, and put it

447
00:21:58,680 --> 00:22:02,160
on the table, Oh he got so
mad, and he threw everything

448
00:22:02,160 --> 00:22:03,040
on the floor.

449
00:22:03,040 --> 00:22:06,670
He said, so what do you do?

450
00:22:06,670 --> 00:22:08,730
Put your handkerchief
on the table?

451
00:22:08,730 --> 00:22:14,310
So I apologized, and
put it back again.

452
00:22:14,310 --> 00:22:16,610
Because he said put
everything on the table.

453
00:22:16,610 --> 00:22:18,860
And the handkerchief was a
clean handkerchief, anyhow.

454
00:22:18,860 --> 00:22:22,320

455
00:22:22,320 --> 00:22:24,870
And the room was
occupied with other

456
00:22:24,870 --> 00:22:29,400
of that chief's colleagues.

457
00:22:29,400 --> 00:22:35,730
Then finally, the room,
one after the other left,

458
00:22:35,730 --> 00:22:42,210
of the Chief's colleagues, and
then he was by himself with us.

459
00:22:42,210 --> 00:22:44,440
He became a different man.

460
00:22:44,440 --> 00:22:50,790
He said, I tell you two,
you didn't go the right way.

461
00:22:50,790 --> 00:22:53,950
I'll tell you how to
go into Switzerland.

462
00:22:53,950 --> 00:22:59,250
So he took us to a wall map,
and showed us where we are,

463
00:22:59,250 --> 00:23:01,020
and how we should go.

464
00:23:01,020 --> 00:23:05,010
And when, exactly
when we should start.

465
00:23:05,010 --> 00:23:06,420
You mean like what time of day?

466
00:23:06,420 --> 00:23:09,840
What time of day,
Yeah, of time of day.

467
00:23:09,840 --> 00:23:13,810
And that's exactly what we did.

468
00:23:13,810 --> 00:23:20,490
And he's told us to go
with this particular road,

469
00:23:20,490 --> 00:23:22,020

passing his house.

470

00:23:22,020 --> 00:23:28,560

I mean, the Gestapo
house, or whatever it was.

471

00:23:28,560 --> 00:23:36,210

And goes this way and until
we come to a tram track.

472

00:23:36,210 --> 00:23:41,430

We should wait for the tram,
get on, because the tram only

473

00:23:41,430 --> 00:23:45,450

goes into Switzerland, without
any immigration or border

474

00:23:45,450 --> 00:23:46,140

guards.

475

00:23:46,140 --> 00:23:49,470

Because they only bring
workers, who work in Germany,

476

00:23:49,470 --> 00:23:51,840

back to Switzerland.

477

00:23:51,840 --> 00:23:54,615

That's exactly what we did
and here we got to Basel.

478

00:23:54,615 --> 00:23:57,690

And before we left he
gave us the address

479

00:23:57,690 --> 00:24:00,955

of the Jewish
Federation to go to.

480

00:24:00,955 --> 00:24:05,160

And that's what we did
when we came to the place,

481
00:24:05,160 --> 00:24:06,450
of the others.

482
00:24:06,450 --> 00:24:12,360
They embraced us like we were
their own, long, lost sons.

483
00:24:12,360 --> 00:24:16,470
And they gave us a room
to stay, and they gave us

484
00:24:16,470 --> 00:24:19,080
coupons for meals.

485
00:24:19,080 --> 00:24:22,350
And now this friend of yours,
tell us a little about him?

486
00:24:22,350 --> 00:24:24,520
Was he from your school friend?

487
00:24:24,520 --> 00:24:25,350
Or?

488
00:24:25,350 --> 00:24:26,280
Yeah, he was.

489
00:24:26,280 --> 00:24:29,010

490
00:24:29,010 --> 00:24:31,090
I believe we went
to the same schools,

491
00:24:31,090 --> 00:24:34,890
but I don't believe we
went to the same class.

492
00:24:34,890 --> 00:24:37,590
But we are about the
same age together.

493
00:24:37,590 --> 00:24:43,140
And he was also successful in
coming to the United States

494
00:24:43,140 --> 00:24:43,770
later on.

495
00:24:43,770 --> 00:24:48,630
But he stayed in New York,
until he passed away.

496
00:24:48,630 --> 00:24:50,820
How long had you been
friends at that time?

497
00:24:50,820 --> 00:24:51,990
Oh several years.

498
00:24:51,990 --> 00:24:53,530
Several years.

499
00:24:53,530 --> 00:24:54,930
Yeah he was a good friend.

500
00:24:54,930 --> 00:24:56,460
Very fine friend.

501
00:24:56,460 --> 00:24:58,980
So the Jewish Federation
really came through?

502
00:24:58,980 --> 00:25:00,810
Oh very much so.

503
00:25:00,810 --> 00:25:02,370
And where was this, in Basel?

504
00:25:02,370 --> 00:25:03,360
In Basel.

505

00:25:03,360 --> 00:25:08,370

The very same city I
want to go into legally,

506

00:25:08,370 --> 00:25:12,540

but they required me to go
to the police and register.

507

00:25:12,540 --> 00:25:17,760

I registered, went
back, that was it.

508

00:25:17,760 --> 00:25:19,050

Until such time--

509

00:25:19,050 --> 00:25:22,570

Did they see your passport?

510

00:25:22,570 --> 00:25:23,070

Of course.

511

00:25:23,070 --> 00:25:24,750

And they didn't--

512

00:25:24,750 --> 00:25:32,076

No the Basel police then they
just registered as it was.

513

00:25:32,076 --> 00:25:39,255

They are accustomed to do so,
if you want to live there,

514

00:25:39,255 --> 00:25:42,270

whether you are
legally or illegally,

515

00:25:42,270 --> 00:25:43,673

you have to register.

516

00:25:43,673 --> 00:25:45,090

Now could you work
in Switzerland?

517

00:25:45,090 --> 00:25:46,290

Were you allowed to?

518

00:25:46,290 --> 00:25:47,970

No, not at all.

519

00:25:47,970 --> 00:25:52,330

If they catch you working,
they would send you right back.

520

00:25:52,330 --> 00:25:55,770

And that's why the Jewish
Federation over there

521

00:25:55,770 --> 00:25:59,430

had to support us because
we could not work.

522

00:25:59,430 --> 00:26:02,050

We were not permitted to work.

523

00:26:02,050 --> 00:26:04,680

What kind of living
arrangement did you have?

524

00:26:04,680 --> 00:26:09,910

Oh we had a nice room.

525

00:26:09,910 --> 00:26:14,700

We got enough coupons
to buy the food.

526

00:26:14,700 --> 00:26:18,690

And it was small, and
then of course, we

527

00:26:18,690 --> 00:26:20,910

had plenty of free time.

528

00:26:20,910 --> 00:26:24,750

In Switzerland -- and Basel,
it's a beautiful city.

529

00:26:24,750 --> 00:26:28,140

And as far as we knew,
this was friends,

530

00:26:28,140 --> 00:26:30,480

we know they were
all very friendly,

531

00:26:30,480 --> 00:26:34,245

and often invited us
to their home, often.

532

00:26:34,245 --> 00:26:37,020

533

00:26:37,020 --> 00:26:42,960

And we had as you would say,
a fairly comfortable living

534

00:26:42,960 --> 00:26:43,980

over there.

535

00:26:43,980 --> 00:26:46,900

Now, were you in contact
with your family?

536

00:26:46,900 --> 00:26:47,610

Yes.

537

00:26:47,610 --> 00:26:50,490

And what did you know about
what was happening to them?

538

00:26:50,490 --> 00:26:53,130

Well, of course what
was happening to them,

539

00:26:53,130 --> 00:26:57,220

we knew either through letters
or through the newspapers.

540

00:26:57,220 --> 00:27:03,120
And then of course when the
so-called Kristallnacht came,

541
00:27:03,120 --> 00:27:07,710
I don't know if you know at
the time, in November 1938,

542
00:27:07,710 --> 00:27:13,450
I felt my sister, the youngest
of the siblings is still there,

543
00:27:13,450 --> 00:27:15,990
we have to get her out of there.

544
00:27:15,990 --> 00:27:19,510
We have to get out of there
as quickly as possible.

545
00:27:19,510 --> 00:27:22,410
Now, one brother, your older
brother had gotten out?

546
00:27:22,410 --> 00:27:23,190
He got out.

547
00:27:23,190 --> 00:27:24,060
In France?

548
00:27:24,060 --> 00:27:24,900
He was in France.

549
00:27:24,900 --> 00:27:27,180
And your other brother was
in the concentration camp?

550
00:27:27,180 --> 00:27:28,600
Concentration camp.

551
00:27:28,600 --> 00:27:30,270
And I was in Basel.

552

00:27:30,270 --> 00:27:33,280

So I went to my Swiss
friend and said,

553

00:27:33,280 --> 00:27:35,580

I have to get my
sister over here.

554

00:27:35,580 --> 00:27:41,410

Knowing that to get a visa is,
legitimately is impossible.

555

00:27:41,410 --> 00:27:45,990

We have to get her out
in a different way.

556

00:27:45,990 --> 00:27:49,050

And they right away
said, will help you.

557

00:27:49,050 --> 00:27:51,450

Ernest, how old was she then?

558

00:27:51,450 --> 00:27:53,390

She was 18 years of age.

559

00:27:53,390 --> 00:27:53,940

18?

560

00:27:53,940 --> 00:27:55,020

Yes.

561

00:27:55,020 --> 00:27:56,430

18.

562

00:27:56,430 --> 00:27:58,860

So how were they going to help?

563

00:27:58,860 --> 00:28:00,420

Very interesting.

564

00:28:00,420 --> 00:28:04,740

They had to enlist a German on
the other side of the border,

565
00:28:04,740 --> 00:28:06,600
the German border.

566
00:28:06,600 --> 00:28:11,280
The German was a
locomotive engineer,

567
00:28:11,280 --> 00:28:13,860
he worked for the
German railroad,

568
00:28:13,860 --> 00:28:17,940
and he said, Yes, I'll help.

569
00:28:17,940 --> 00:28:21,450
And this help also
consisted of keeping her

570
00:28:21,450 --> 00:28:25,260
in his own home for
a couple of days

571
00:28:25,260 --> 00:28:27,900
until he felt that
this is the right day

572
00:28:27,900 --> 00:28:31,480
to bring her into Switzerland.

573
00:28:31,480 --> 00:28:41,400
And so he gave my Swiss friends
the plan, together on such

574
00:28:41,400 --> 00:28:45,010
and such a train in Germany.

575
00:28:45,010 --> 00:28:47,110
The train would go
from Vienna to Germany?

576

00:28:47,110 --> 00:28:52,830

From Vienna to Germany,
because the travel was free.

577

00:28:52,830 --> 00:28:55,065

Austria and Germany,
one country,

578

00:28:55,065 --> 00:28:58,755

you didn't need any visas
because the Anschluss,

579

00:28:58,755 --> 00:29:02,410

means, was one country.

580

00:29:02,410 --> 00:29:05,430

So she got into that
very particular train

581

00:29:05,430 --> 00:29:08,970

she was told to go into.

582

00:29:08,970 --> 00:29:15,720

And someone is going to contact
her, right on the train,

583

00:29:15,720 --> 00:29:19,200

to tell her when to
get out of the train.

584

00:29:19,200 --> 00:29:22,830

Because the plan was
to stop the train

585

00:29:22,830 --> 00:29:26,160

in the middle of Switzerland,
because the train had

586

00:29:26,160 --> 00:29:30,600

to go through a certain
area, which was Switzerland,

587

00:29:30,600 --> 00:29:36,720
to go into the German
part again, it was a tank.

588
00:29:36,720 --> 00:29:41,070
And so when this
particular spot arrived,

589
00:29:41,070 --> 00:29:48,030
she was expected by
another Swiss friend who

590
00:29:48,030 --> 00:29:52,080
would then take her into Basel.

591
00:29:52,080 --> 00:29:54,960
And so that Swiss
friend who organized

592
00:29:54,960 --> 00:30:02,880
it, and the locomotive man, was
not only the German, but also

593
00:30:02,880 --> 00:30:05,850
the Swiss friend's father.

594
00:30:05,850 --> 00:30:11,660
Except that one lived in Basel,
the other one lived in Germany.

595
00:30:11,660 --> 00:30:12,202
[PHONE RINGS]

596
00:30:12,202 --> 00:30:13,530
Can I answer?

597
00:30:13,530 --> 00:30:19,810

598
00:30:19,810 --> 00:30:22,120
OK.

599

00:30:22,120 --> 00:30:29,020

Well, that man stopped the
whole train, my sister got off,

600

00:30:29,020 --> 00:30:37,180

was received by a young
woman, a Swiss girl.

601

00:30:37,180 --> 00:30:40,675

And they went to Basel.

602

00:30:40,675 --> 00:30:43,370

They registered with
the Swiss police,

603

00:30:43,370 --> 00:30:47,710

which was the requirement of
the Jewish community over there.

604

00:30:47,710 --> 00:30:51,430

You must register
with the Basel police.

605

00:30:51,430 --> 00:30:54,760

And there she stayed
for several years

606

00:30:54,760 --> 00:30:59,110

in Basel, until I helped
her to get to the United

607

00:30:59,110 --> 00:31:01,450

States, the legal way.

608

00:31:01,450 --> 00:31:06,820

[LAUGHS] Yeah.

609

00:31:06,820 --> 00:31:14,080

Now, of course, my sister
and I were in Basel.

610

00:31:14,080 --> 00:31:18,130

We felt we have to do something

for my younger brother, who

611
00:31:18,130 --> 00:31:21,440
is in concentration camp,
we have to get him out.

612
00:31:21,440 --> 00:31:22,510
He was still there?

613
00:31:22,510 --> 00:31:23,720
Oh he was still there.

614
00:31:23,720 --> 00:31:25,930
How long had he been, in?

615
00:31:25,930 --> 00:31:30,490
Well, he was arrested,
shortly after the Germans

616
00:31:30,490 --> 00:31:33,070
came into Austria.

617
00:31:33,070 --> 00:31:37,030
He was arrested by the
Nazis, but the Austrian Nazis

618
00:31:37,030 --> 00:31:42,590
of course, and turned
over to the Germans.

619
00:31:42,590 --> 00:31:53,080
I felt the Austrians were worse,
much worse than the Germans.

620
00:31:53,080 --> 00:31:56,920
And I was questioned,
at the border guard,

621
00:31:56,920 --> 00:32:02,590
when I was arrested first,
"Is it true what I hear that

622

00:32:02,590 --> 00:32:05,560
the Jews have a hard
time in Vienna?"

623
00:32:05,560 --> 00:32:09,160
I said yes indeed,
very hard time.

624
00:32:09,160 --> 00:32:13,330
In other words, he wanted to
know how things are going over

625
00:32:13,330 --> 00:32:17,110
there, and I had confirmed it.

626
00:32:17,110 --> 00:32:25,990
And so we started writing
letters to England,

627
00:32:25,990 --> 00:32:28,250
to get him into England.

628
00:32:28,250 --> 00:32:31,990
The war hasn't broken out yet.

629
00:32:31,990 --> 00:32:40,100
And we wrote dozens
and dozens of letters.

630
00:32:40,100 --> 00:32:41,900
Now, one of the
conditions for getting out

631
00:32:41,900 --> 00:32:43,490
of the concentration
camp is you had

632
00:32:43,490 --> 00:32:46,050
to show them that there was
some place you could go?

633
00:32:46,050 --> 00:32:46,820
That's correct.

634
00:32:46,820 --> 00:32:48,998
And so you wanted to get
some kind of residence

635
00:32:48,998 --> 00:32:49,790
in England for him.

636
00:32:49,790 --> 00:32:50,900
In England for him.

637
00:32:50,900 --> 00:32:52,130
OK.

638
00:32:52,130 --> 00:32:54,580
And so, we wrote
and wrote and wrote.

639
00:32:54,580 --> 00:32:59,610
We received no
particular answer.

640
00:32:59,610 --> 00:33:03,140
So we felt we'll have
to go a different way.

641
00:33:03,140 --> 00:33:06,020
Let's get him to go to China.

642
00:33:06,020 --> 00:33:09,170
Because when you go to
China, you don't need a visa.

643
00:33:09,170 --> 00:33:13,070
All you need is a ship
ticket, to get onto a ship,

644
00:33:13,070 --> 00:33:14,570
and get out of it.

645
00:33:14,570 --> 00:33:21,050
Get a way in China, you're free

to go, particular Shanghai.

646

00:33:21,050 --> 00:33:24,140

And so we appealed to a Swiss
friend to loan us the money

647

00:33:24,140 --> 00:33:26,510

because we were poor.

648

00:33:26,510 --> 00:33:30,180

And he said fine, we'll loan
you the money and at that time

649

00:33:30,180 --> 00:33:33,545

a ship ticket to China,
from Switzerland.

650

00:33:33,545 --> 00:33:38,000

It wasn't cheap, but
they loaned us the money

651

00:33:38,000 --> 00:33:40,970

and we bought the ship ticket.

652

00:33:40,970 --> 00:33:45,200

We sent the ship tickets to--

653

00:33:45,200 --> 00:33:48,050

no wait a second no, we
didn't send it to my mother,

654

00:33:48,050 --> 00:33:52,200

she was still living in Vienna.

655

00:33:52,200 --> 00:33:56,360

But in the meantime,
we got the answer

656

00:33:56,360 --> 00:34:00,860

from one of the Swiss recipient
of one of our letters,

657

00:34:00,860 --> 00:34:06,636
and he said, I'm going to
help your brother get out.

658
00:34:06,636 --> 00:34:09,850
And that meant to
come here and he--

659
00:34:09,850 --> 00:34:11,260
To come to Switzerland?

660
00:34:11,260 --> 00:34:14,163
Not to, no, to come to England.

661
00:34:14,163 --> 00:34:14,830
To come England?

662
00:34:14,830 --> 00:34:15,280
To England.

663
00:34:15,280 --> 00:34:17,113
You got an answer from
one of those letters.

664
00:34:17,113 --> 00:34:18,940
Yeah, one of those letters.

665
00:34:18,940 --> 00:34:21,250
How did you get the
names of people?

666
00:34:21,250 --> 00:34:23,760
We got it out of a
telephone directory.

667
00:34:23,760 --> 00:34:24,429
Huh, just--

668
00:34:24,429 --> 00:34:24,929
Yeah.

669
00:34:24,929 --> 00:34:26,440

Just the telephone directory.

670

00:34:26,440 --> 00:34:28,120

Did you pick Jewish names?

671

00:34:28,120 --> 00:34:31,020

Well, we picked names which--

672

00:34:31,020 --> 00:34:34,090

yeah, I would say yes.

673

00:34:34,090 --> 00:34:36,190

First we went to the
telephone directory

674

00:34:36,190 --> 00:34:39,235

to pick names with the
name of Mehlman, our name,

675

00:34:39,235 --> 00:34:41,449

but we found very,
very few of them.

676

00:34:41,449 --> 00:34:43,310

We found even fewer
here in America.

677

00:34:43,310 --> 00:34:46,460

You tried to look the telephone,
you find one more Melhman

678

00:34:46,460 --> 00:34:51,040

in the telephone directory,
in the city of the East Bay.

679

00:34:51,040 --> 00:34:53,050

So it didn't work,
to use that name?

680

00:34:53,050 --> 00:34:53,679

Yeah.

681

00:34:53,679 --> 00:34:56,920

That name didn't work
so, but it did work

682

00:34:56,920 --> 00:35:05,320

because he appealed to the
British authorities over there

683

00:35:05,320 --> 00:35:08,840

to issue a visa to my
brother and they did.

684

00:35:08,840 --> 00:35:11,830

They send it to my
mother in Vienna.

685

00:35:11,830 --> 00:35:15,430

And she went to the Gestapo
over there and said,

686

00:35:15,430 --> 00:35:17,060

he can go to England.

687

00:35:17,060 --> 00:35:18,700

So they said OK.

688

00:35:18,700 --> 00:35:23,990

We will notify the
camp, to release him.

689

00:35:23,990 --> 00:35:29,860

And after that he has to leave
within 24 hours, or 48 hours.

690

00:35:29,860 --> 00:35:33,670

And so my brother was
released, came back.

691

00:35:33,670 --> 00:35:38,440

As soon as he came back,
he grabbed a few clothes

692

00:35:38,440 --> 00:35:42,320

and right away he
went to England.

693
00:35:42,320 --> 00:35:43,930
How old was he then?

694
00:35:43,930 --> 00:35:49,180
He was born in 1916, and
that happened in 1930--

695
00:35:49,180 --> 00:35:53,125
I believe in 1939,
before the war began.

696
00:35:53,125 --> 00:35:55,700

697
00:35:55,700 --> 00:35:58,720
And so he went over there
and he lived over there

698
00:35:58,720 --> 00:36:01,315
and became a British citizen.

699
00:36:01,315 --> 00:36:04,480
You see.

700
00:36:04,480 --> 00:36:10,130
And eventually, he wanted
to come to us, to America,

701
00:36:10,130 --> 00:36:11,500
and we helped him.

702
00:36:11,500 --> 00:36:14,970

703
00:36:14,970 --> 00:36:19,305
Prepared affidavits of support,
and we were legal residents

704
00:36:19,305 --> 00:36:23,448

here, and he eventually
came here too.

705
00:36:23,448 --> 00:36:25,890
To The United States,
and lived in Oakland,

706
00:36:25,890 --> 00:36:28,095
about two blocks away.

707
00:36:28,095 --> 00:36:31,020
So all four of you at
that point were out?

708
00:36:31,020 --> 00:36:32,610
All four of us were out, Yes.

709
00:36:32,610 --> 00:36:34,800
And your mother and
father were in Vienna?

710
00:36:34,800 --> 00:36:37,080
My mother and father
were in Vienna.

711
00:36:37,080 --> 00:36:42,570
And they eventually
went to France.

712
00:36:42,570 --> 00:36:43,710
When?

713
00:36:43,710 --> 00:36:48,480
It was just before
the war started.

714
00:36:48,480 --> 00:36:51,830
And there was no problem
getting out to freedom?

715
00:36:51,830 --> 00:36:55,080
No, my brother arranged it,
that they would get to France.

716
00:36:55,080 --> 00:36:56,310
The one who was in France?

717
00:36:56,310 --> 00:36:57,990
In France, Yeah.

718
00:36:57,990 --> 00:37:01,140
Because he had in
the meantime enlisted

719
00:37:01,140 --> 00:37:04,570
to serve in the
French Foreign Legion

720
00:37:04,570 --> 00:37:07,290
and so he could go
and says, I'm going

721
00:37:07,290 --> 00:37:09,960
to be one of the
French soldiers,

722
00:37:09,960 --> 00:37:13,350
I would like my parents
to come to France.

723
00:37:13,350 --> 00:37:18,660
So they gave them a
visa to come to France.

724
00:37:18,660 --> 00:37:19,920
So when did they come?

725
00:37:19,920 --> 00:37:25,260
They come before the
war began, in 1939.

726
00:37:25,260 --> 00:37:27,820
And they came to Ajon.

727
00:37:27,820 --> 00:37:31,680

That was the province which
was willing to receive them,

728

00:37:31,680 --> 00:37:35,640
because each province in France
had its own rules pertaining

729

00:37:35,640 --> 00:37:37,470
to refugees.

730

00:37:37,470 --> 00:37:40,300
And in Ajon is a city,
they could live with us.

731

00:37:40,300 --> 00:37:42,360
I mean, in this province.

732

00:37:42,360 --> 00:37:45,870
Now, what were you
doing in Switzerland

733

00:37:45,870 --> 00:37:47,730
during all this time?

734

00:37:47,730 --> 00:37:53,160
Well, in Switzerland,
all of a sudden,

735

00:37:53,160 --> 00:38:01,290
a group of Jewish refugees,
by such and such a name,

736

00:38:01,290 --> 00:38:06,690
had to report to a certain place
to be taken to a labor camp,

737

00:38:06,690 --> 00:38:09,150
and I was one of them.

738

00:38:09,150 --> 00:38:13,920
But it was a penal institution.

739

00:38:13,920 --> 00:38:17,970
And the name was Dietersberg.

740
00:38:17,970 --> 00:38:19,310
It was actually a prison?

741
00:38:19,310 --> 00:38:20,910
A prison.

742
00:38:20,910 --> 00:38:22,950
And what were you to do there?

743
00:38:22,950 --> 00:38:26,640
It was in winter,
shoveling snow.

744
00:38:26,640 --> 00:38:29,580
That's the only thing we
could do, shoveling snow.

745
00:38:29,580 --> 00:38:33,100
And shoveling amount of
snow here to put it there,

746
00:38:33,100 --> 00:38:35,820
and then of course
put it back again.

747
00:38:35,820 --> 00:38:37,275
Because they wanted us to work.

748
00:38:37,275 --> 00:38:40,650

749
00:38:40,650 --> 00:38:45,480
And of course, after a few
weeks, or maybe two or three

750
00:38:45,480 --> 00:38:49,110
months, I felt that's not life.

751
00:38:49,110 --> 00:38:52,320

Now how far were
there from Belgium?

752
00:38:52,320 --> 00:39:01,260
Oh I would say, it was
still within Basel land.

753
00:39:01,260 --> 00:39:04,590
So in Switzerland itself,
is comparatively small

754
00:39:04,590 --> 00:39:10,380
geographically, and so I
don't know the exact mileage

755
00:39:10,380 --> 00:39:11,550
between one and the other.

756
00:39:11,550 --> 00:39:13,240
But it was too far away.

757
00:39:13,240 --> 00:39:15,160
Were you able to
see your sister?

758
00:39:15,160 --> 00:39:15,660
No.

759
00:39:15,660 --> 00:39:17,820
You had to stay there?

760
00:39:17,820 --> 00:39:20,250
You had no visiting rights also.

761
00:39:20,250 --> 00:39:23,010
And they didn't have any
visiting rights to see you?

762
00:39:23,010 --> 00:39:24,420
To see me, no.

763
00:39:24,420 --> 00:39:26,130

Your sister was still in Basel?

764

00:39:26,130 --> 00:39:27,637

What was she doing?

765

00:39:27,637 --> 00:39:28,390

In Basel.

766

00:39:28,390 --> 00:39:28,890

Yes.

767

00:39:28,890 --> 00:39:31,920

She became my housemate.

768

00:39:31,920 --> 00:39:34,950

Because that was the
only shortage there was.

769

00:39:34,950 --> 00:39:39,120

If someone wanted to hire you as
a housemate, it was all right.

770

00:39:39,120 --> 00:39:42,930

Would they pay you?

771

00:39:42,930 --> 00:39:45,600

Pay you?

772

00:39:45,600 --> 00:39:46,200

Food and

773

00:39:46,200 --> 00:39:46,980

Food and--

774

00:39:46,980 --> 00:39:52,440

775

00:39:52,440 --> 00:39:54,420

I'll be with you in a sec.

776

00:39:54,420 --> 00:39:58,830

Get some -- a good [INAUDIBLE]

777

00:39:58,830 --> 00:40:01,800

I just wanted to ask
if you had any idea why

778

00:40:01,800 --> 00:40:04,290

that German
policeman helped you?

779

00:40:04,290 --> 00:40:07,290

780

00:40:07,290 --> 00:40:11,460

Because we probably gave him the
right answers of the question

781

00:40:11,460 --> 00:40:12,720

he asked?

782

00:40:12,720 --> 00:40:15,150

He asked the other man,
'What was your dad doing?'

783

00:40:15,150 --> 00:40:19,140

He said, he was
a city policeman.

784

00:40:19,140 --> 00:40:20,400

So that was a good answer.

785

00:40:20,400 --> 00:40:22,200

Which he was.

786

00:40:22,200 --> 00:40:23,855

What was my dad doing?

787

00:40:23,855 --> 00:40:26,130

I said he was a warehouse man.

788

00:40:26,130 --> 00:40:29,970

In other words, we

were not the big shots.

789

00:40:29,970 --> 00:40:33,840

We were just poor people.

790

00:40:33,840 --> 00:40:40,440

And the only regret I had
is, that after the war,

791

00:40:40,440 --> 00:40:46,290

I could reciprocate with giving
help to those who helped me.

792

00:40:46,290 --> 00:40:49,860

And I forgot this
particular man.

793

00:40:49,860 --> 00:40:51,910

And what help could I give them?

794

00:40:51,910 --> 00:40:55,890

I gave them food, which
was in short supply

795

00:40:55,890 --> 00:40:59,460

in the French occupied
part of Germany,

796

00:40:59,460 --> 00:41:01,770

once they were defeated.

797

00:41:01,770 --> 00:41:05,580

And of course the locomotive
engineer, of course

798

00:41:05,580 --> 00:41:09,480

could come with a truck,
trunk loads of food.

799

00:41:09,480 --> 00:41:13,330

Because in the army, I
became the first Sergeant

800

00:41:13,330 --> 00:41:17,310
of the company, and of course
I had commissary privileges.

801

00:41:17,310 --> 00:41:23,640
I went to the army
commissary, purchased the food

802

00:41:23,640 --> 00:41:28,860
I know they are most in
need of, and brought it,

803

00:41:28,860 --> 00:41:31,360
put it all in the trunk
and brought it to them.

804

00:41:31,360 --> 00:41:34,260
And believe you me,
it was a God-sent.

805

00:41:34,260 --> 00:41:35,490
He had survived?

806

00:41:35,490 --> 00:41:36,690
Oh he had survived.

807

00:41:36,690 --> 00:41:43,440
I even got him, the French
to give him an exit visa

808

00:41:43,440 --> 00:41:48,630
to go to Switzerland, whenever
he wanted to, back and forth.

809

00:41:48,630 --> 00:41:53,010
Because he needed medical
help, and he couldn't get it

810

00:41:53,010 --> 00:41:56,560
over there, because
lack of doctors,

811

00:41:56,560 --> 00:42:00,930
lack of medical
prescriptions, medication.

812
00:42:00,930 --> 00:42:04,560
And in Switzerland
everything was available.

813
00:42:04,560 --> 00:42:08,130
So you sought him
out, and helped him?

814
00:42:08,130 --> 00:42:09,930
And helped him, yes.

815
00:42:09,930 --> 00:42:12,000
Was he surprised?

816
00:42:12,000 --> 00:42:17,260
Well, no, because I told his
son what I'm going to do.

817
00:42:17,260 --> 00:42:22,650
And he in turn notified him,
so when he saw me first,

818
00:42:22,650 --> 00:42:24,840
and I was still in uniform.

819
00:42:24,840 --> 00:42:26,130
Did you remember you?

820
00:42:26,130 --> 00:42:26,940
Of course.

821
00:42:26,940 --> 00:42:27,720
Yes?

822
00:42:27,720 --> 00:42:29,310
Oh wait a second.

823
00:42:29,310 --> 00:42:32,490

No this man never met me,
at that time, the first time

824
00:42:32,490 --> 00:42:41,160
I came, because the locomotive
engineer, he didn't even see--

825
00:42:41,160 --> 00:42:44,580
he saw my sister, but not me.

826
00:42:44,580 --> 00:42:45,240
I see.

827
00:42:45,240 --> 00:42:49,500
But of course, coming in uniform
was identification enough,

828
00:42:49,500 --> 00:42:51,240
because his son
notified him that I'm

829
00:42:51,240 --> 00:42:53,520
going to come and visit him.

830
00:42:53,520 --> 00:42:57,180
So he doesn't get shocked
that an American soldier's

831
00:42:57,180 --> 00:42:59,820
coming maybe to arrest him.

832
00:42:59,820 --> 00:43:01,260
Yeah.

833
00:43:01,260 --> 00:43:08,460
And so of course I unloaded the
food and continued on to Basel.

834
00:43:08,460 --> 00:43:19,980
Because in Basel, I had my
sister living down there.

835

00:43:19,980 --> 00:43:21,460

Yeah, see.

836

00:43:21,460 --> 00:43:24,450

837

00:43:24,450 --> 00:43:30,690

Well, anyhow in Dietersberg,
I didn't like the job I got.

838

00:43:30,690 --> 00:43:32,940

And the strict
discipline when you

839

00:43:32,940 --> 00:43:38,190

were sitting at the
table, in the mess hall,

840

00:43:38,190 --> 00:43:40,980

you couldn't whisper a sound.

841

00:43:40,980 --> 00:43:46,740

If you made a sound right
away, the boss over there,

842

00:43:46,740 --> 00:43:49,670

the chief over there would
say, leave the table.

843

00:43:49,670 --> 00:43:52,946

You went to bed hungry.

844

00:43:52,946 --> 00:43:54,460

So you couldn't talk?

845

00:43:54,460 --> 00:43:55,470

You couldn't talk.

846

00:43:55,470 --> 00:43:58,230

The only time you could
talk when you were outside

847

00:43:58,230 --> 00:44:00,930
and it was evening time.

848
00:44:00,930 --> 00:44:03,255
You went back to
your place to sleep.

849
00:44:03,255 --> 00:44:04,740
Well--

850
00:44:04,740 --> 00:44:08,180
This is when you
met Arnold, Mark?

851
00:44:08,180 --> 00:44:09,030
No.

852
00:44:09,030 --> 00:44:11,040
He was in a different camp.

853
00:44:11,040 --> 00:44:11,700
Yeah.

854
00:44:11,700 --> 00:44:20,370
I met him, Arnold Mark, I
believe I met here in America.

855
00:44:20,370 --> 00:44:20,975
In America?

856
00:44:20,975 --> 00:44:22,740
In America, Yeah.

857
00:44:22,740 --> 00:44:24,930
And I met him just
a short while ago,

858
00:44:24,930 --> 00:44:30,450
during the services of my
wife of 51 years, you know.

859
00:44:30,450 --> 00:44:31,920

Well, anyhow--

860
00:44:31,920 --> 00:44:33,640
So how long are you
in this labor camp?

861
00:44:33,640 --> 00:44:36,150
Oh I don't remember
the exact time,

862
00:44:36,150 --> 00:44:40,620
but it must have been
about, at least two months.

863
00:44:40,620 --> 00:44:42,820
And you decided
this is not good?

864
00:44:42,820 --> 00:44:44,310
It's not good.

865
00:44:44,310 --> 00:44:46,050
No future.

866
00:44:46,050 --> 00:44:49,590
Because I expected the war to
last a long and long, long time

867
00:44:49,590 --> 00:44:56,140
because the German army is the
almost invincible at that time.

868
00:44:56,140 --> 00:44:58,610
And so I escaped
from over there.

869
00:44:58,610 --> 00:45:01,260
Now the war had already started?

870
00:45:01,260 --> 00:45:04,560
No I don't believe so.

871

00:45:04,560 --> 00:45:06,300
The war hasn't started yet.

872
00:45:06,300 --> 00:45:10,170
I escaped and went to Basel
and went to my Swiss friends.

873
00:45:10,170 --> 00:45:13,320
And the housed me,
until I could arrange

874
00:45:13,320 --> 00:45:18,240
for my brother in France,
to smuggle me into France.

875
00:45:18,240 --> 00:45:21,210
How did you arrange that?

876
00:45:21,210 --> 00:45:24,540
Well, I communicated with him.

877
00:45:24,540 --> 00:45:27,750
Probably by mail.

878
00:45:27,750 --> 00:45:33,450
And right away he organized
it with the Swiss men,

879
00:45:33,450 --> 00:45:36,480
for money of course,
at that time,

880
00:45:36,480 --> 00:45:38,340
to smuggle me into France.

881
00:45:38,340 --> 00:45:41,040
Did you want to go to
where your brother was?

882
00:45:41,040 --> 00:45:44,310
Yes, but over there,
he couldn't because he

883

00:45:44,310 --> 00:45:45,810

lived too close
to Paris, and they

884

00:45:45,810 --> 00:45:49,980

closed any further
acceptance of refugees.

885

00:45:49,980 --> 00:45:54,930

So he told me I should
go to a different place.

886

00:45:54,930 --> 00:46:00,960

And I believe the name of the
city I went to was Amiens.

887

00:46:00,960 --> 00:46:01,630

And there.

888

00:46:01,630 --> 00:46:04,320

I was accepted as a refugee.

889

00:46:04,320 --> 00:46:08,550

And stayed there until I
was interned, by the French,

890

00:46:08,550 --> 00:46:12,180

after the war broke out.

891

00:46:12,180 --> 00:46:14,430

And of course the
French interned

892

00:46:14,430 --> 00:46:19,000

everybody who came in with an
Austrian or German passport,

893

00:46:19,000 --> 00:46:20,970

regardless of religion.

894

00:46:20,970 --> 00:46:23,220

Although you might

imagine that the Jews

895

00:46:23,220 --> 00:46:25,020
were friends of the French.

896

00:46:25,020 --> 00:46:28,500
Because they considered
you a friend of the enemy?

897

00:46:28,500 --> 00:46:31,740
A friend of enemy, Yes.

898

00:46:31,740 --> 00:46:36,420
But the guards, the French
soldiers who guarded us,

899

00:46:36,420 --> 00:46:37,410
thought differently.

900

00:46:37,410 --> 00:46:40,500
They knew better, that we are
not friends of the Germans,

901

00:46:40,500 --> 00:46:42,090
we are friends of the French.

902

00:46:42,090 --> 00:46:44,880
And they treated us loyally.

903

00:46:44,880 --> 00:46:46,680
What camp for you were you in?

904

00:46:46,680 --> 00:46:54,330
It was a camp, it was a
vacated barn, a row of barns,

905

00:46:54,330 --> 00:46:59,110
where the animals were
concentrated in one or two

906

00:46:59,110 --> 00:46:59,610
barns.

907
00:46:59,610 --> 00:47:04,920
And we were to use
the other barns.

908
00:47:04,920 --> 00:47:09,000
And all we had was lying
on straw and with blankets.

909
00:47:09,000 --> 00:47:13,230
But it was warm, and we got
plenty of food at that time.

910
00:47:13,230 --> 00:47:14,160
It was the beginning--

911
00:47:14,160 --> 00:47:15,060
What year was this?

912
00:47:15,060 --> 00:47:17,180
It was in 39.

913
00:47:17,180 --> 00:47:18,360
1939.

914
00:47:18,360 --> 00:47:19,200
Yes.

915
00:47:19,200 --> 00:47:20,760
That was winter.

916
00:47:20,760 --> 00:47:23,250
No, not quite winter yet.

917
00:47:23,250 --> 00:47:26,460
Not quite winter yet.

918
00:47:26,460 --> 00:47:29,490
And pretty soon, because
they had a lack of manpower

919

00:47:29,490 --> 00:47:33,600
to harvest the
fields, they recruited

920
00:47:33,600 --> 00:47:37,350
us to help with the harvest.

921
00:47:37,350 --> 00:47:38,745
I gladly went.

922
00:47:38,745 --> 00:47:42,240
And I went, and that farmer
he picked us up every day

923
00:47:42,240 --> 00:47:48,000
from that particular internment
camp, took us to his farm,

924
00:47:48,000 --> 00:47:52,140
and we were harvesting
sugar beets.

925
00:47:52,140 --> 00:47:54,360
And he was very
satisfied with us.

926
00:47:54,360 --> 00:47:58,110
And so he came back every
time, every day, he came back.

927
00:47:58,110 --> 00:48:01,020
And he wanted just us, there
were several other people,

928
00:48:01,020 --> 00:48:03,960
because we proved
to be good farmers,

929
00:48:03,960 --> 00:48:05,640
harvesting the sugar beets.

930
00:48:05,640 --> 00:48:06,540
Did he feed you?

931
00:48:06,540 --> 00:48:07,320
Oh Yes.

932
00:48:07,320 --> 00:48:09,180
And then royally.

933
00:48:09,180 --> 00:48:10,480
Very good.

934
00:48:10,480 --> 00:48:14,880
We went back to camp, and so
we had no particular hardship.

935
00:48:14,880 --> 00:48:19,806
And on Saturdays and Sundays,

936
00:48:19,806 --> 00:48:21,250
You didn't have to work?

937
00:48:21,250 --> 00:48:22,820
We didn't have to work.

938
00:48:22,820 --> 00:48:26,510
The guard said, would
you like to go to town?

939
00:48:26,510 --> 00:48:28,350
I said, fine, we go to town.

940
00:48:28,350 --> 00:48:31,940
So we went, not Paris,
but the village.

941
00:48:31,940 --> 00:48:34,640
So he took us down
and he said, well,

942
00:48:34,640 --> 00:48:38,150
I give you so-and-so
many hours to be away,

943

00:48:38,150 --> 00:48:41,540

wherever you want to go, but
you must be back at this time.

944

00:48:41,540 --> 00:48:43,490

And so we were
back at this time,

945

00:48:43,490 --> 00:48:46,800

and went back to
the internment camp.

946

00:48:46,800 --> 00:48:52,010

Well, the time came when my
visa finally came through,

947

00:48:52,010 --> 00:48:55,470

so a French officer
came to me and said,

948

00:48:55,470 --> 00:49:02,510

we got an immigration
visa, for you to pick up.

949

00:49:02,510 --> 00:49:06,240

We were notified that
one is available for you,

950

00:49:06,240 --> 00:49:08,240

so you can pick it up.

951

00:49:08,240 --> 00:49:11,030

And we'll take you down
to the American consulate,

952

00:49:11,030 --> 00:49:11,900

to pick it up.

953

00:49:11,900 --> 00:49:13,415

So they took me down.

954

00:49:13,415 --> 00:49:15,300

Your visa to America?

955

00:49:15,300 --> 00:49:15,800

Visa, Yes.

956

00:49:15,800 --> 00:49:18,650

957

00:49:18,650 --> 00:49:20,630

It was--

958

00:49:20,630 --> 00:49:22,190

What time of year was this?

959

00:49:22,190 --> 00:49:27,810

It was already during
the war, and that was,

960

00:49:27,810 --> 00:49:30,900

I would say, in 1940.

961

00:49:30,900 --> 00:49:32,180

Early 40s?

962

00:49:32,180 --> 00:49:33,500

Early 40s, Yes.

963

00:49:33,500 --> 00:49:35,240

Early 40s.

964

00:49:35,240 --> 00:49:37,490

Early 40s before
France was invaded?

965

00:49:37,490 --> 00:49:40,160

They'd just invaded it.

966

00:49:40,160 --> 00:49:43,710

And so it was, we couldn't
leave from Le Havre anymore,

967

00:49:43,710 --> 00:49:45,770
which was the nearest port.

968
00:49:45,770 --> 00:49:49,310
We had to go to a port
called Saint-nazaire

969
00:49:49,310 --> 00:49:51,290
in Southern France.

970
00:49:51,290 --> 00:49:56,210
And so a German soldier
was assigned to guard me,

971
00:49:56,210 --> 00:50:00,770
to take me to the port,
take me on board ship.

972
00:50:00,770 --> 00:50:04,610
Then he would say to
me, "You are free."

973
00:50:04,610 --> 00:50:08,450
France was already
occupied then?

974
00:50:08,450 --> 00:50:11,780
The northern part
was already invaded,

975
00:50:11,780 --> 00:50:15,350
but the southern part
was not occupied as yet.

976
00:50:15,350 --> 00:50:18,440
It became, as you
know, Vichy France.

977
00:50:18,440 --> 00:50:20,640
But you're saying a
German guard took you to--

978
00:50:20,640 --> 00:50:23,160

No, no, not a German
guard, a French guard.

979
00:50:23,160 --> 00:50:26,210
If I said German guard, it
was wrong, a French guard.

980
00:50:26,210 --> 00:50:27,710
OK.

981
00:50:27,710 --> 00:50:29,160
And they said you are free.

982
00:50:29,160 --> 00:50:32,180
And so the ship--

983
00:50:32,180 --> 00:50:34,220
What was the ship?

984
00:50:34,220 --> 00:50:38,780
The ship's name,
I remembered it,

985
00:50:38,780 --> 00:50:42,770
it was a French ship,
passenger liner.

986
00:50:42,770 --> 00:50:46,160
A regular passenger ship.

987
00:50:46,160 --> 00:50:50,780
And he took me to the
ship and apparently,

988
00:50:50,780 --> 00:50:55,640
the Jewish community apparently
arranged for the ticket.

989
00:50:55,640 --> 00:50:58,010
Because I didn't have
a ticket on me but

990

00:50:58,010 --> 00:51:02,000
they must have sent it
on to the ship itself.

991
00:51:02,000 --> 00:51:04,595
Because no one asked
me for any tickets.

992
00:51:04,595 --> 00:51:07,520

993
00:51:07,520 --> 00:51:13,865
So it arrived in New
York, sometimes in May.

994
00:51:13,865 --> 00:51:16,460

995
00:51:16,460 --> 00:51:23,880
May 1940.

996
00:51:23,880 --> 00:51:27,110
So that was the time
of the invasion?

997
00:51:27,110 --> 00:51:27,620
Yes.

998
00:51:27,620 --> 00:51:29,550
And France didn't
last very well?

999
00:51:29,550 --> 00:51:30,560
No, did not.

1000
00:51:30,560 --> 00:51:36,800
The Maginot line was built
for practically no purpose.

1001
00:51:36,800 --> 00:51:40,190
Because the Germans just
circumvented the Maginot line,

1002

00:51:40,190 --> 00:51:46,520
and went into France,
through Holland and Belgium.

1003

00:51:46,520 --> 00:51:49,760
The guards didn't
turn backwards?

1004

00:51:49,760 --> 00:51:50,870
Pardon me?

1005

00:51:50,870 --> 00:51:53,580
The Maginot Line guns only
the faced towards Germany?

1006

00:51:53,580 --> 00:51:56,400
Faced towards Germany, Yeah.

1007

00:51:56,400 --> 00:51:59,150
And when they came from behind,
they couldn't turn them around?

1008

00:51:59,150 --> 00:52:03,410
[LAUGHS] But it was a
stupid Maginot line.

1009

00:52:03,410 --> 00:52:05,960
And billions of dollars
were spent on it

1010

00:52:05,960 --> 00:52:09,020
to guard the French border.

1011

00:52:09,020 --> 00:52:13,490
But they forgot that
the French border stops

1012

00:52:13,490 --> 00:52:17,300
at the line of Belgium and
Holland, but the Germans said,

1013

00:52:17,300 --> 00:52:18,830

they don't care.

1014
00:52:18,830 --> 00:52:21,410
If they want to
invade France, they

1015
00:52:21,410 --> 00:52:27,830
go around the Maginot line, and
that's exactly what they did.

1016
00:52:27,830 --> 00:52:30,920
So you arrived in
New York in May 1940?

1017
00:52:30,920 --> 00:52:32,330
May 1940.

1018
00:52:32,330 --> 00:52:33,920
And did you know anyone?

1019
00:52:33,920 --> 00:52:35,570
Yes.

1020
00:52:35,570 --> 00:52:40,130
The person who sponsored me,
a distant cousin of mine.

1021
00:52:40,130 --> 00:52:41,240
On what side?

1022
00:52:41,240 --> 00:52:43,970
Your father, your mother?

1023
00:52:43,970 --> 00:52:45,090
That's a good question.

1024
00:52:45,090 --> 00:52:48,150
I've never been able to
find out the relationship.

1025
00:52:48,150 --> 00:52:51,980
It may have been only an

imaginary relationship,

1026
00:52:51,980 --> 00:52:55,940
just to issue me
affidavit of support.

1027
00:52:55,940 --> 00:52:59,030
Because at that time it was
thought, if it's a relative,

1028
00:52:59,030 --> 00:53:02,900
it has more weight.

1029
00:53:02,900 --> 00:53:08,030
But he treated me like
I was his own son.

1030
00:53:08,030 --> 00:53:09,110
Where did he live?

1031
00:53:09,110 --> 00:53:12,950
In New York, in Manhattan,
on Delancey Street,

1032
00:53:12,950 --> 00:53:14,810
a very well known street.

1033
00:53:14,810 --> 00:53:15,440
Oh Yes.

1034
00:53:15,440 --> 00:53:16,310
Yeah.

1035
00:53:16,310 --> 00:53:20,360
And I stayed there
for about, from May

1036
00:53:20,360 --> 00:53:25,378
through the end of June.

1037
00:53:25,378 --> 00:53:28,480
And I got a little

job, but then when

1038

00:53:28,480 --> 00:53:33,880

I got a job, the Union, which
found out I got a job, said,

1039

00:53:33,880 --> 00:53:37,090

you have to be a Union member to
work in this particular place.

1040

00:53:37,090 --> 00:53:40,960

So I said, fine,
I'll become a member.

1041

00:53:40,960 --> 00:53:43,930

So I was questioned,
do you know?

1042

00:53:43,930 --> 00:53:47,770

Have you ever worked
in this particular job?

1043

00:53:47,770 --> 00:53:51,280

It was making picture
frames, that was the product

1044

00:53:51,280 --> 00:53:54,850

that particular job provided.

1045

00:53:54,850 --> 00:53:58,600

And so I said, no but of course,
I'm learning, I'm learning.

1046

00:53:58,600 --> 00:54:02,600

So they said no way, in
order to be a union member,

1047

00:54:02,600 --> 00:54:04,510

you must know that job.

1048

00:54:04,510 --> 00:54:07,090

So we can't accept you.

1049

00:54:07,090 --> 00:54:14,080

I said, well, how can
I become experienced

1050

00:54:14,080 --> 00:54:15,370

and that if you don't let me.

1051

00:54:15,370 --> 00:54:18,860

He says, well, that's
your responsibility.

1052

00:54:18,860 --> 00:54:23,110

So from then on I wasn't very
keen about the unions at all,

1053

00:54:23,110 --> 00:54:24,580

and still am not.

1054

00:54:24,580 --> 00:54:27,520

Although I became a union member
when I worked for the Federal

1055

00:54:27,520 --> 00:54:29,560

government.

1056

00:54:29,560 --> 00:54:33,520

But it was a different
union of course.

1057

00:54:33,520 --> 00:54:37,180

Well, anyhow, so I decided
I'll go to San Francisco.

1058

00:54:37,180 --> 00:54:38,260

Why?

1059

00:54:38,260 --> 00:54:41,680

Because I saw in
Vienna a picture,

1060

00:54:41,680 --> 00:54:47,530

which was called San Francisco,

which Jeanette McDonald, Eddie

1061
00:54:47,530 --> 00:54:48,430
Nelson,

1062
00:54:48,430 --> 00:54:48,970
Clark Gable.

1063
00:54:48,970 --> 00:54:52,000
Clark Gable, Spencer
Tracy, and so on.

1064
00:54:52,000 --> 00:54:53,050
And the earthquake.

1065
00:54:53,050 --> 00:54:54,170
And the earthquake.

1066
00:54:54,170 --> 00:54:56,220
And I was so impressed with it.

1067
00:54:56,220 --> 00:55:00,580
That when I saw the
picture, I had dreams

1068
00:55:00,580 --> 00:55:02,120
of going to San Francisco.

1069
00:55:02,120 --> 00:55:04,000
And here I had the chance.

1070
00:55:04,000 --> 00:55:06,490
So I took a bus.

1071
00:55:06,490 --> 00:55:09,430
cousins said, "Why do you
want to go to San Francisco.

1072
00:55:09,430 --> 00:55:10,660
Here you have a room.

1073

00:55:10,660 --> 00:55:11,950
You have board.

1074
00:55:11,950 --> 00:55:13,640
And you'll get another job.

1075
00:55:13,640 --> 00:55:15,820
So why go to San Francisco?"

1076
00:55:15,820 --> 00:55:20,240
So I told him, "I want
to go to San Francisco."

1077
00:55:20,240 --> 00:55:22,210
And I went.

1078
00:55:22,210 --> 00:55:22,930
Took a bus.

1079
00:55:22,930 --> 00:55:25,210
It took four days
and four nights,

1080
00:55:25,210 --> 00:55:28,790
and I enjoyed
every minute of it.

1081
00:55:28,790 --> 00:55:34,600
And I arrived in San
Francisco in July of 1940.

1082
00:55:34,600 --> 00:55:37,090
And it was cold
in San Francisco.

1083
00:55:37,090 --> 00:55:39,085
[? And ?] [? last ?]
I had New York.

1084
00:55:39,085 --> 00:55:42,190
And I had my warm clothes
all in my luggage.

1085

00:55:42,190 --> 00:55:46,360

When I got off the bus it was
so cold, I remember so well.

1086

00:55:46,360 --> 00:55:51,070

I said, well, I
have to get a room.

1087

00:55:51,070 --> 00:55:53,980

So I went to the
Jewish community,

1088

00:55:53,980 --> 00:55:55,630

said, where can I
go and get a room?

1089

00:55:55,630 --> 00:55:59,200

And they said, we
have a Russian lady,

1090

00:55:59,200 --> 00:56:02,050

she came after
World War one here,

1091

00:56:02,050 --> 00:56:04,240

and she rents are the
rooms to refugees.

1092

00:56:04,240 --> 00:56:11,740

So she rented me a room, I
believe for about \$5 a week.

1093

00:56:11,740 --> 00:56:16,090

A furnished room, including
all the utilities paid for.

1094

00:56:16,090 --> 00:56:23,470

And here is the start of
my life here in America,

1095

00:56:23,470 --> 00:56:26,800

until the army drafted me.

1096

00:56:26,800 --> 00:56:28,090

When?

1097

00:56:28,090 --> 00:56:31,390

The army draft me in March 41.

1098

00:56:31,390 --> 00:56:37,390

By lottery, I was chosen
to report to the board,

1099

00:56:37,390 --> 00:56:40,090

to the draft board.

1100

00:56:40,090 --> 00:56:41,980

And of course
before that, we all

1101

00:56:41,980 --> 00:56:46,510

had to register between
such and such age.

1102

00:56:46,510 --> 00:56:48,970

And of course I registered,
and I was drafted.

1103

00:56:48,970 --> 00:56:53,860

And I didn't mind
going into the army.

1104

00:56:53,860 --> 00:56:58,870

Because I felt it's my war,
more than anybody else's war,

1105

00:56:58,870 --> 00:57:05,430

because they are fighting
the Nazis, a great evil.

1106

00:57:05,430 --> 00:57:07,510

Where did you get your training?

1107

00:57:07,510 --> 00:57:09,940

I got my training,

I was inducted

1108
00:57:09,940 --> 00:57:16,360
in San Francisco, sent to Camp
Roberts in Central California,

1109
00:57:16,360 --> 00:57:18,460
where they got my training.

1110
00:57:18,460 --> 00:57:26,440
And instead of sending
me out to the field,

1111
00:57:26,440 --> 00:57:29,350
they felt we need you
here, the Training Center.

1112
00:57:29,350 --> 00:57:33,580
Because we gave you a
test, that's my theory,

1113
00:57:33,580 --> 00:57:37,270
you came out very well.

1114
00:57:37,270 --> 00:57:40,438
And we like to put you
in the finance office.

1115
00:57:40,438 --> 00:57:41,230
The finance office?

1116
00:57:41,230 --> 00:57:43,330
Army finance office.

1117
00:57:43,330 --> 00:57:46,180
To pay the troops
and pay the camps.

1118
00:57:46,180 --> 00:57:52,660
They kept me there for several
years, until about, from 1940

1119

00:57:52,660 --> 00:57:56,170
to about 1943.

1120
00:57:56,170 --> 00:57:59,510
Until I got tired and said,
I want to go overseas.

1121
00:57:59,510 --> 00:58:02,740
So I went to the finance
officer who was a Colonel,

1122
00:58:02,740 --> 00:58:05,020
and says I like to
transfer, I want

1123
00:58:05,020 --> 00:58:07,570
to be transferred to Europe.

1124
00:58:07,570 --> 00:58:09,010
So he says "Are you crazy?"

1125
00:58:09,010 --> 00:58:11,170
You can stay here for
the rest of your life.

1126
00:58:11,170 --> 00:58:12,430
Why do you want--

1127
00:58:12,430 --> 00:58:14,110
I said, I want to go.

1128
00:58:14,110 --> 00:58:19,360
So he said, well, if you
insist, I'll give you a release.

1129
00:58:19,360 --> 00:58:23,510
So the next assignment,
guess where they me to?

1130
00:58:23,510 --> 00:58:28,830
To the University of Illinois,
to stay over there, what for?

1131

00:58:28,830 --> 00:58:31,950

They want to put me in
the intelligence corps,

1132

00:58:31,950 --> 00:58:35,466

and I should brush
up on my German.

1133

00:58:35,466 --> 00:58:37,720

What do I need to brush up?

1134

00:58:37,720 --> 00:58:39,650

German was my native tongue.

1135

00:58:39,650 --> 00:58:41,040

I could read and write.

1136

00:58:41,040 --> 00:58:44,430

But all my schools
were in Vienna.

1137

00:58:44,430 --> 00:58:46,650

And in Vienna they
had very good schools.

1138

00:58:46,650 --> 00:58:49,260

1139

00:58:49,260 --> 00:58:51,060

And so I stayed there
for several months

1140

00:58:51,060 --> 00:58:57,840

until I was sent to France.

1141

00:58:57,840 --> 00:59:01,560

At that time the invasion
has just to taken place.

1142

00:59:01,560 --> 00:59:06,400

On June the 6th 1944.

1143

00:59:06,400 --> 00:59:11,290

And I came to France,
and then of course,

1144

00:59:11,290 --> 00:59:14,460

and finally, Luxembourg.

1145

00:59:14,460 --> 00:59:15,960

What was your job there?

1146

00:59:15,960 --> 00:59:19,500

Well, at that
time, I was already

1147

00:59:19,500 --> 00:59:23,010

a sergeant at that time.

1148

00:59:23,010 --> 00:59:31,890

And the job was to
prepare, to send broadcasts

1149

00:59:31,890 --> 00:59:37,440

to the German soldiers,
to give up their fight.

1150

00:59:37,440 --> 00:59:40,890

And also to print
leaflets, to give them free

1151

00:59:40,890 --> 00:59:43,950

passes to come
back to our lines,

1152

00:59:43,950 --> 00:59:47,280

where we'll treat them
well, and for them the war

1153

00:59:47,280 --> 00:59:50,910

will be over, until
the war is really over.

1154

00:59:50,910 --> 00:59:53,850

And then we'll send
them back home again.

1155
00:59:53,850 --> 00:59:58,290
And of course, then
we took prisoners

1156
00:59:58,290 --> 01:00:01,990
to interrogate them,
in other words,

1157
01:00:01,990 --> 01:00:04,725
those were for
intelligence purposes.

1158
01:00:04,725 --> 01:00:09,030

1159
01:00:09,030 --> 01:00:17,520
Our headquarters, where
the headquarter chief was,

1160
01:00:17,520 --> 01:00:19,110
guess who?

1161
01:00:19,110 --> 01:00:20,655
General Eisenhower.

1162
01:00:20,655 --> 01:00:25,110
We were under his command.

1163
01:00:25,110 --> 01:00:30,240
And of course, later on,
I became a first sergeant,

1164
01:00:30,240 --> 01:00:34,500
because the first sergeant of
my company, he got very ill,

1165
01:00:34,500 --> 01:00:37,530
and they had to send him
back to the United States

1166

01:00:37,530 --> 01:00:39,360
for treatment.

1167

01:00:39,360 --> 01:00:46,080
And so the company
commander, appointed

1168

01:00:46,080 --> 01:00:48,570
me the first sergeant.

1169

01:00:48,570 --> 01:00:53,370
And the first sergeant that
I had, with me, and under me,

1170

01:00:53,370 --> 01:00:55,890
140 enlisted men.

1171

01:00:55,890 --> 01:01:01,380
Would you actually to do
some of the interrogations?

1172

01:01:01,380 --> 01:01:04,470
Well, no.

1173

01:01:04,470 --> 01:01:08,940
Because of the first sergeant,
I was just the coordinator.

1174

01:01:08,940 --> 01:01:13,650
Coordinating for
all the activities.

1175

01:01:13,650 --> 01:01:20,610
And of course I
made many friends.

1176

01:01:20,610 --> 01:01:26,580
And I always considered
myself very lucky.

1177

01:01:26,580 --> 01:01:30,240
It goes up to this day.

1178
01:01:30,240 --> 01:01:35,610
Because when I came to this
country, and as a civilian,

1179
01:01:35,610 --> 01:01:40,140
I had already a wife
whom I met in Hamburg.

1180
01:01:40,140 --> 01:01:43,080
And you can her over there.

1181
01:01:43,080 --> 01:01:45,480
We were married for 51 years.

1182
01:01:45,480 --> 01:01:47,310
She was a wonderful woman.

1183
01:01:47,310 --> 01:01:48,720
Wonderful wife.

1184
01:01:48,720 --> 01:01:50,710
How did you meet her in Hamburg?

1185
01:01:50,710 --> 01:02:01,480
Well, when a job opened up in
Hamburg, after the war ended,

1186
01:02:01,480 --> 01:02:04,860
We had a military
government over there.

1187
01:02:04,860 --> 01:02:06,750
A US military government.

1188
01:02:06,750 --> 01:02:11,410
And I became an employee, I
transferred from a military

1189
01:02:11,410 --> 01:02:13,920
to civilian status.

1190

01:02:13,920 --> 01:02:17,100

And worked over there
is a civilian employee.

1191

01:02:17,100 --> 01:02:20,910

And I was assigned to duty
in the British occupied part

1192

01:02:20,910 --> 01:02:28,260

of Germany, to organize
the payment of obligations

1193

01:02:28,260 --> 01:02:32,130

we had against former
German prisoners,

1194

01:02:32,130 --> 01:02:35,220

who were our prisoners,
and who worked for us.

1195

01:02:35,220 --> 01:02:39,180

Because the Geneva
Convention required that,

1196

01:02:39,180 --> 01:02:44,910

if we employ German prisoners,
we have to pay them.

1197

01:02:44,910 --> 01:02:48,956

And they pay was \$1 a day.

1198

01:02:48,956 --> 01:02:52,140

And when they were
discharged to go home,

1199

01:02:52,140 --> 01:02:55,110

we gave them
certificates, indicating

1200

01:02:55,110 --> 01:02:57,120

the number of days
they worked for us,

1201

01:02:57,120 --> 01:03:01,410
and we owe them the applicable
amount of \$1 per day.

1202

01:03:01,410 --> 01:03:04,860
And we were to pay them
through the German banks.

1203

01:03:04,860 --> 01:03:08,220
My job was to organize it
through the German banks.

1204

01:03:08,220 --> 01:03:11,700
It was the Reichsbank, German
Reichsbank at that time.

1205

01:03:11,700 --> 01:03:13,410
To pay them.

1206

01:03:13,410 --> 01:03:22,500
And that job of course
lasted about a year.

1207

01:03:22,500 --> 01:03:24,900
Most Germans came with
their certificates,

1208

01:03:24,900 --> 01:03:29,190
and were paid at that
time, in German marks.

1209

01:03:29,190 --> 01:03:31,750
But some Germans were
very smart, and said,

1210

01:03:31,750 --> 01:03:34,800
I'm not going to change
my dollar certificates,

1211

01:03:34,800 --> 01:03:38,700
against German marks, God
knows what's going to happen.

1212

01:03:38,700 --> 01:03:41,280

Because the German
marks in the meantime,

1213

01:03:41,280 --> 01:03:46,740

became less and less in value
as compared to the dollar.

1214

01:03:46,740 --> 01:03:48,840

They wanted to take
their money in dollars.

1215

01:03:48,840 --> 01:03:50,310

They wanted their
money in dollars.

1216

01:03:50,310 --> 01:03:53,880

But at that time, we
couldn't pay them in dollars,

1217

01:03:53,880 --> 01:03:54,930

and we never did.

1218

01:03:54,930 --> 01:04:00,690

But when the German
currency reform came,

1219

01:04:00,690 --> 01:04:03,255

then of course the German
marks all of a sudden

1220

01:04:03,255 --> 01:04:06,660

became a very valuable currency.

1221

01:04:06,660 --> 01:04:12,450

And they exchanged it,
for the good German marks.

1222

01:04:12,450 --> 01:04:17,820

The marks which are
now in circulation.

1223

01:04:17,820 --> 01:04:19,320

When did that
happen, do you know?

1224

01:04:19,320 --> 01:04:29,370

Well, my job over there was I
believe from 1937, no not, 47,

1225

01:04:29,370 --> 01:04:31,020

48, I believe.

1226

01:04:31,020 --> 01:04:32,790

It must have been in 48.

1227

01:04:32,790 --> 01:04:34,320

And you were in Hamburg?

1228

01:04:34,320 --> 01:04:35,040

In Hamburg.

1229

01:04:35,040 --> 01:04:35,550

Yes.

1230

01:04:35,550 --> 01:04:37,360

And how did you meet your wife?

1231

01:04:37,360 --> 01:04:42,750

Well, we needed a help in
my office, so we hired her.

1232

01:04:42,750 --> 01:04:48,570

So I was my wife's boss, of
course, later on after we met,

1233

01:04:48,570 --> 01:04:49,640

she was my boss.

1234

01:04:49,640 --> 01:04:52,910

[LAUGHS] But she--

1235

01:04:52,910 --> 01:04:54,600

Now, she was from where?

1236
01:04:54,600 --> 01:04:55,890
From Hamburg.

1237
01:04:55,890 --> 01:04:57,330
She was born in Hamburg.

1238
01:04:57,330 --> 01:04:58,500
She was German?

1239
01:04:58,500 --> 01:04:59,370
She was German.

1240
01:04:59,370 --> 01:05:02,190

1241
01:05:02,190 --> 01:05:04,170
But at that time
I didn't know it,

1242
01:05:04,170 --> 01:05:06,120
and she apparently
didn't know it.

1243
01:05:06,120 --> 01:05:08,640
Her father was half Jewish.

1244
01:05:08,640 --> 01:05:11,550
But he hid his ethnicity.

1245
01:05:11,550 --> 01:05:12,570
She what?

1246
01:05:12,570 --> 01:05:13,380
He hid.

1247
01:05:13,380 --> 01:05:15,150
Oh he hid that.

1248
01:05:15,150 --> 01:05:16,770
He hid it.

1249
01:05:16,770 --> 01:05:21,250
Because she was born in
Copenhagen. Copenhagen,

1250
01:05:21,250 --> 01:05:23,700
Denmark.

1251
01:05:23,700 --> 01:05:28,170
So my wife was over
there, a quarter Jew.

1252
01:05:28,170 --> 01:05:30,660
Which of course later
on, when I found out,

1253
01:05:30,660 --> 01:05:32,625
pleased me, because
I'm Jewish myself.

1254
01:05:32,625 --> 01:05:36,150

1255
01:05:36,150 --> 01:05:39,750
And we got married in Berlin.

1256
01:05:39,750 --> 01:05:42,240
We had a big wedding
at that time.

1257
01:05:42,240 --> 01:05:46,080
And invited mostly
American guests, of course

1258
01:05:46,080 --> 01:05:49,950
some German guests as well.

1259
01:05:49,950 --> 01:05:55,230
Because I acquired German
friends as well, because not

1260
01:05:55,230 --> 01:05:58,410

every German was a Nazi.

1261
01:05:58,410 --> 01:06:01,290
Although I would say
that they might have

1262
01:06:01,290 --> 01:06:06,450
belonged to the party, but
more for economic reasons,

1263
01:06:06,450 --> 01:06:07,830
than maybe otherwise.

1264
01:06:07,830 --> 01:06:12,120

1265
01:06:12,120 --> 01:06:14,300
And of course,
the Germans as you

1266
01:06:14,300 --> 01:06:19,760
know this, like all the
people involved in the war,

1267
01:06:19,760 --> 01:06:21,140
suffered a great deal.

1268
01:06:21,140 --> 01:06:23,150
Because the
destruction the Germans

1269
01:06:23,150 --> 01:06:28,040
went through, but greater
than the destruction

1270
01:06:28,040 --> 01:06:28,910
to other countries.

1271
01:06:28,910 --> 01:06:35,120
Because we were concentrating
our attacks on the Germans

1272

01:06:35,120 --> 01:06:41,360
with great strength,
as you know.

1273
01:06:41,360 --> 01:06:44,270
The constant bombings, where the
British were bombing by night,

1274
01:06:44,270 --> 01:06:47,510
and the Americans were bombing
the big cities by daytime.

1275
01:06:47,510 --> 01:06:50,690
The only city which was
saved, for a certain reason,

1276
01:06:50,690 --> 01:06:52,250
was Heidelberg.

1277
01:06:52,250 --> 01:06:56,030
Because it was to
become the headquarters

1278
01:06:56,030 --> 01:07:01,790
of the American army
upon the occupation.

1279
01:07:01,790 --> 01:07:04,970
And what happened to your older
brother who was in France?

1280
01:07:04,970 --> 01:07:10,520
Well, he was in fact, he was he
was sent to Africa, over there.

1281
01:07:10,520 --> 01:07:12,470
But the French
Foreign Legion was not

1282
01:07:12,470 --> 01:07:17,430
engaged in any of those
combats against the British.

1283

01:07:17,430 --> 01:07:21,410

So he never saw
any military action

1284

01:07:21,410 --> 01:07:25,460

and when the war was over,
he came back to France.

1285

01:07:25,460 --> 01:07:27,620

And of course, due
to the fact that he

1286

01:07:27,620 --> 01:07:30,320

was a member of
the Foreign Legion,

1287

01:07:30,320 --> 01:07:33,710

he was entitled to French
citizenship which he became.

1288

01:07:33,710 --> 01:07:35,450

He became a French citizen.

1289

01:07:35,450 --> 01:07:36,350

And stayed there?

1290

01:07:36,350 --> 01:07:38,810

And stayed there,
until such time

1291

01:07:38,810 --> 01:07:43,220

as he felt he should go
back to Vienna, Austria,

1292

01:07:43,220 --> 01:07:45,470

where he used to live.

1293

01:07:45,470 --> 01:07:46,345

He wanted to go back?

1294

01:07:46,345 --> 01:07:46,845

Yes.

1295

01:07:46,845 --> 01:07:48,020

And he went back to Vienna.

1296

01:07:48,020 --> 01:07:48,830

He went back?

1297

01:07:48,830 --> 01:07:49,337

Yes.

1298

01:07:49,337 --> 01:07:49,920

How about you?

1299

01:07:49,920 --> 01:07:51,740

Did you want to go
back to Austria?

1300

01:07:51,740 --> 01:07:52,550

Never.

1301

01:07:52,550 --> 01:07:54,560

Did you want to
go back to visit?

1302

01:07:54,560 --> 01:07:55,160

To visit?

1303

01:07:55,160 --> 01:07:57,530

Yes, and I visited
very few times.

1304

01:07:57,530 --> 01:07:59,240

When did the first time?

1305

01:07:59,240 --> 01:08:03,140

The first time it was in 1977.

1306

01:08:03,140 --> 01:08:05,460

And what was that like for you?

1307

01:08:05,460 --> 01:08:08,870

Well, it was such as,

how could I possibly ever

1308
01:08:08,870 --> 01:08:10,010
have lived here?

1309
01:08:10,010 --> 01:08:14,380
Except at that time, when I
lived, I as a young fella,

1310
01:08:14,380 --> 01:08:18,350
I had a wonderful girlfriend.

1311
01:08:18,350 --> 01:08:24,049
And that was the only fond
memory I had of Vienna.

1312
01:08:24,049 --> 01:08:26,840
And of course, I stayed
there for about two weeks

1313
01:08:26,840 --> 01:08:28,939
and I went back to America.

1314
01:08:28,939 --> 01:08:32,390
And the second time I came
back because my older brother

1315
01:08:32,390 --> 01:08:33,740
passed away.

1316
01:08:33,740 --> 01:08:39,529
And I wanted to be there
before he passed away,

1317
01:08:39,529 --> 01:08:44,149
but unfortunately,
due to some problems

1318
01:08:44,149 --> 01:08:48,830
with the plane who was to
take me back to Vienna,

1319

01:08:48,830 --> 01:08:53,990
we had to postpone
my ride by one day,

1320
01:08:53,990 --> 01:08:56,720
by the time I came down
there he just had passed away

1321
01:08:56,720 --> 01:08:59,060
without seeing us.

1322
01:08:59,060 --> 01:09:01,010
But we could attend the funeral.

1323
01:09:01,010 --> 01:09:05,120
That was my sister, and
I, we travelled together.

1324
01:09:05,120 --> 01:09:07,819
And what happened
to your sister?

1325
01:09:07,819 --> 01:09:09,979
Oh my sister?

1326
01:09:09,979 --> 01:09:14,330
Well, I wanted them
to come to America.

1327
01:09:14,330 --> 01:09:16,700
When we left off,
she was in Basel?

1328
01:09:16,700 --> 01:09:18,410
She was in Basel.

1329
01:09:18,410 --> 01:09:23,810
And she applied for a visa,
but she was so far behind in,

1330
01:09:23,810 --> 01:09:26,960
because that time there
was a quota system,

1331
01:09:26,960 --> 01:09:34,010
that to get a visa,
was a waiting period.

1332
01:09:34,010 --> 01:09:35,930
A great waiting period.

1333
01:09:35,930 --> 01:09:39,240
So I said maybe I can
help, and at that time,

1334
01:09:39,240 --> 01:09:41,930
I still in uniform.

1335
01:09:41,930 --> 01:09:45,620
I was a first sergeant with
six stripes on my arms,

1336
01:09:45,620 --> 01:09:47,359
in both arms.

1337
01:09:47,359 --> 01:09:50,810
So I went to the
American consulate

1338
01:09:50,810 --> 01:09:55,460
over there, in
Zurich, and requested

1339
01:09:55,460 --> 01:09:58,710
that she be given a visa.

1340
01:09:58,710 --> 01:10:01,470
So they looked up her
file and they said, well,

1341
01:10:01,470 --> 01:10:05,120
we could give your
sister a visa,

1342
01:10:05,120 --> 01:10:09,560

but her husband
is way behind it.

1343
01:10:09,560 --> 01:10:13,280
So I told the council,
I said, if you

1344
01:10:13,280 --> 01:10:18,800
can't give it to her
husband, she won't go either.

1345
01:10:18,800 --> 01:10:24,140
Because in the meantime,
they had a young boy.

1346
01:10:24,140 --> 01:10:29,150
So the council went
back to his own room,

1347
01:10:29,150 --> 01:10:31,730
probably discussed
it with someone,

1348
01:10:31,730 --> 01:10:33,770
and then he came
back and says, well

1349
01:10:33,770 --> 01:10:37,770
we have decided to
give both of you visa.

1350
01:10:37,770 --> 01:10:39,440
So that's what happened.

1351
01:10:39,440 --> 01:10:42,770
And they came to
the United States,

1352
01:10:42,770 --> 01:10:46,250
a year before I came back from
Europe, to the United States.

1353
01:10:46,250 --> 01:10:51,200

So when I came back
from my European tours

1354

01:10:51,200 --> 01:10:54,500
she was already in New York,
living in New York for one

1355

01:10:54,500 --> 01:10:55,550
year.

1356

01:10:55,550 --> 01:10:58,040
So she came in what, like 47?

1357

01:10:58,040 --> 01:10:58,970
47.

1358

01:10:58,970 --> 01:11:01,775
So she lived the whole
war out in Switzerland?

1359

01:11:01,775 --> 01:11:03,260
In Switzerland, Yes.

1360

01:11:03,260 --> 01:11:06,980
And your younger brother went
to England after he got out

1361

01:11:06,980 --> 01:11:08,210
of the concentration camp?

1362

01:11:08,210 --> 01:11:08,970
That's right.

1363

01:11:08,970 --> 01:11:12,990
He went and stayed there,
became a British citizen.

1364

01:11:12,990 --> 01:11:15,130
And then of course,
eventually he said,

1365

01:11:15,130 --> 01:11:18,510

I want to join my family.

1366

01:11:18,510 --> 01:11:22,230

Meaning, me, my sister.

1367

01:11:22,230 --> 01:11:25,310

Had your sister to
come out here, by then?

1368

01:11:25,310 --> 01:11:27,240

By the time, Yeah she was.

1369

01:11:27,240 --> 01:11:29,770

Yes she was already here.

1370

01:11:29,770 --> 01:11:34,830

Not in San Francisco,
but in New York.

1371

01:11:34,830 --> 01:11:40,080

And so when I came here,
I bought this house,

1372

01:11:40,080 --> 01:11:42,240

because I couldn't
find a place to stay.

1373

01:11:42,240 --> 01:11:43,590

We had a rent control.

1374

01:11:43,590 --> 01:11:46,410

Do you know what
rent control means?

1375

01:11:46,410 --> 01:11:50,040

You can't find a place
to stay as a tenant.

1376

01:11:50,040 --> 01:11:55,440

You had to buy one,
or you were homeless.

1377

01:11:55,440 --> 01:11:59,790

So I said to myself,
well, I saved enough money

1378

01:11:59,790 --> 01:12:02,670

for a down payment,
I'll buy a home.

1379

01:12:02,670 --> 01:12:04,680

So we traveled
around neighborhoods

1380

01:12:04,680 --> 01:12:07,080

and I came to this house.

1381

01:12:07,080 --> 01:12:11,400

And it was advertised by
the owner, an attorney.

1382

01:12:11,400 --> 01:12:16,050

So I rang the doorbell, walked
into, they showed me the place.

1383

01:12:16,050 --> 01:12:16,800

I liked it.

1384

01:12:16,800 --> 01:12:23,790

I called up my wife who stayed
temporarily, in Mill Valley.

1385

01:12:23,790 --> 01:12:26,350

She came out here
and she saw it too.

1386

01:12:26,350 --> 01:12:29,310

She liked and we bought it.

1387

01:12:29,310 --> 01:12:30,450

This was when?

1388

01:12:30,450 --> 01:12:39,030

This was at the
beginning of 1949.

1389
01:12:39,030 --> 01:12:42,250
And what happened
to your parents?

1390
01:12:42,250 --> 01:12:47,400
Well, my parents in Ajon.

1391
01:12:47,400 --> 01:12:57,860
My mother came to
England after the war.

1392
01:12:57,860 --> 01:13:03,220
But my father was betrayed
by a Frenchman to the Nazis.

1393
01:13:03,220 --> 01:13:08,140
When the Nazis were still
the bosses in Vichy France.

1394
01:13:08,140 --> 01:13:12,680
And he was taken to Auschwitz,
and over there he perished.

1395
01:13:12,680 --> 01:13:16,990
And we got a statement
from the Red Cross

1396
01:13:16,990 --> 01:13:20,560
indicating when he died,
the exact date, you

1397
01:13:20,560 --> 01:13:22,930
know the Germans
are very thorough.

1398
01:13:22,930 --> 01:13:24,580
The exact date he died.

1399
01:13:24,580 --> 01:13:28,970
And he died of cardiac arrest.

1400

01:13:28,970 --> 01:13:31,860
You know what it means,
after you're gassed,

1401
01:13:31,860 --> 01:13:32,860
your heart stops.

1402
01:13:32,860 --> 01:13:37,960
So the consequences, you
have a cardiac arrest.

1403
01:13:37,960 --> 01:13:40,570
That was the cause of death.

1404
01:13:40,570 --> 01:13:42,580
When was that, do you know?

1405
01:13:42,580 --> 01:13:46,660
Well, my sister, she got
this certificate, that

1406
01:13:46,660 --> 01:13:50,110
was well, about
three, four years ago,

1407
01:13:50,110 --> 01:13:51,970
she got the certificate.

1408
01:13:51,970 --> 01:13:56,440
She inquired about it and they
answered her, and sent her

1409
01:13:56,440 --> 01:13:58,270
that particular paper.

1410
01:13:58,270 --> 01:14:00,910
When did he go to Auschwitz?

1411
01:14:00,910 --> 01:14:03,980
That was shortly
after he was arrested.

1412

01:14:03,980 --> 01:14:14,080

It must have been, I
would indicate in 1943.

1413

01:14:14,080 --> 01:14:18,250

Because the French, unlike
what you might hear,

1414

01:14:18,250 --> 01:14:20,950

they were collaborators
with the Nazis.

1415

01:14:20,950 --> 01:14:23,980

1416

01:14:23,980 --> 01:14:26,500

After the war was
over, everybody

1417

01:14:26,500 --> 01:14:28,660

claims they were in the Maquis.

1418

01:14:28,660 --> 01:14:30,160

Maquis was underground.

1419

01:14:30,160 --> 01:14:32,770

But it's not true.

1420

01:14:32,770 --> 01:14:34,420

Now, how come they
took your father

1421

01:14:34,420 --> 01:14:35,870

and they didn't
take your mother?

1422

01:14:35,870 --> 01:14:37,630

At the time they
wanted only men.

1423

01:14:37,630 --> 01:14:40,362

1424

01:14:40,362 --> 01:14:41,320

So they left her alone?

1425

01:14:41,320 --> 01:14:42,770

They left her alone.

1426

01:14:42,770 --> 01:14:44,070

They knew where she was.

1427

01:14:44,070 --> 01:14:44,860

Oh Yes.

1428

01:14:44,860 --> 01:14:46,210

And they left her alone?

1429

01:14:46,210 --> 01:14:47,120

They left her alone.

1430

01:14:47,120 --> 01:14:47,620

Yeah.

1431

01:14:47,620 --> 01:14:48,860

All during the time they

1432

01:14:48,860 --> 01:14:50,440

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

1433

01:14:50,440 --> 01:14:51,400

--people off?

1434

01:14:51,400 --> 01:14:52,090

That's right.

1435

01:14:52,090 --> 01:14:58,650

1436

01:14:58,650 --> 01:15:01,285

You had a very nice
girlfriend in Vienna before?

1437

01:15:01,285 --> 01:15:01,785

Yes.

1438

01:15:01,785 --> 01:15:02,670

A very nice girl.

1439

01:15:02,670 --> 01:15:04,890

Did you ever find out
what happened to her?

1440

01:15:04,890 --> 01:15:05,580

Yes, yes.

1441

01:15:05,580 --> 01:15:09,300

I found that she was still
living in the same place.

1442

01:15:09,300 --> 01:15:19,550

And when I visited in Vienna,
my older brother, I visited her.

1443

01:15:19,550 --> 01:15:25,770

And of course, in the meantime
her mother had passed away.

1444

01:15:25,770 --> 01:15:34,740

And she had married in the
meantime, someone else.

1445

01:15:34,740 --> 01:15:36,140

Was she Jewish or not?

1446

01:15:36,140 --> 01:15:38,380

No, she was not Jewish.

1447

01:15:38,380 --> 01:15:41,310

She was born in Vienna,
although her parents

1448

01:15:41,310 --> 01:15:45,420

were from Czechoslovakia.

1449

01:15:45,420 --> 01:15:48,720
And of course, she lived
from a small pension

1450
01:15:48,720 --> 01:15:55,280
she got from the government,
because her husband,

1451
01:15:55,280 --> 01:15:58,380
he was killed in
action, during the war.

1452
01:15:58,380 --> 01:16:02,226

1453
01:16:02,226 --> 01:16:04,107
He was in the German army?

1454
01:16:04,107 --> 01:16:05,440
Yeah, either German or Austrian.

1455
01:16:05,440 --> 01:16:08,010
Well, at that time they
were all German armies.

1456
01:16:08,010 --> 01:16:13,660

1457
01:16:13,660 --> 01:16:18,340
And she has a son
who lives in Germany.

1458
01:16:18,340 --> 01:16:22,600
And just a few years ago,
about three or four years ago,

1459
01:16:22,600 --> 01:16:25,840
the son wrote me a letter
that she had passed away.

1460
01:16:25,840 --> 01:16:30,980
Although before she passed
away, when I met her,

1461
01:16:30,980 --> 01:16:35,040
I felt she lives in poverty,
I'm going to support her.

1462
01:16:35,040 --> 01:16:40,180
So each and every month, I
sent her a \$100 money order.

1463
01:16:40,180 --> 01:16:42,880
Because at that time I
could well afford it.

1464
01:16:42,880 --> 01:16:45,430

1465
01:16:45,430 --> 01:16:51,760
When you go back to
Austria, do you feel at all

1466
01:16:51,760 --> 01:16:53,810
that that's part of you?

1467
01:16:53,810 --> 01:16:54,370
No.

1468
01:16:54,370 --> 01:16:54,870
No?

1469
01:16:54,870 --> 01:16:56,410
No.

1470
01:16:56,410 --> 01:17:02,150
Except the following, I'm
getting an Austrian pension,

1471
01:17:02,150 --> 01:17:04,200
being a survivor.

1472
01:17:04,200 --> 01:17:06,740

1473

01:17:06,740 --> 01:17:09,230

And so each and
every three months

1474

01:17:09,230 --> 01:17:16,940

I get a notification from
my bank that such a check,

1475

01:17:16,940 --> 01:17:21,740

and such and such an amount,
its average is about,

1476

01:17:21,740 --> 01:17:25,370

depending on the currency
fluctuation, about six

1477

01:17:25,370 --> 01:17:28,430

to seven hundred
dollars a month,

1478

01:17:28,430 --> 01:17:32,600

has been deposited to
my account, you see.

1479

01:17:32,600 --> 01:17:35,370

That's the only connection
I have with Austria.

1480

01:17:35,370 --> 01:17:38,360

And then now and then they
send me a very nice letter

1481

01:17:38,360 --> 01:17:43,730

in which they fully admit
the horrible time the Jews,

1482

01:17:43,730 --> 01:17:45,470

and other victims had.

1483

01:17:45,470 --> 01:17:48,470

And how much they regret it.

1484

01:17:48,470 --> 01:17:53,780

And of course, the fact
is, they can't do more

1485

01:17:53,780 --> 01:17:57,590

than giving us support.

1486

01:17:57,590 --> 01:17:59,780

Giving us a pension.

1487

01:17:59,780 --> 01:18:07,190

I've been receiving the pension
now for the last 21 years.

1488

01:18:07,190 --> 01:18:14,120

Because the pension began at
the age of 65 and I'm now 86.

1489

01:18:14,120 --> 01:18:16,190

You have to be 65
to be eligible?

1490

01:18:16,190 --> 01:18:18,050

To be eligible, but--

1491

01:18:18,050 --> 01:18:20,240

So they're treating it
like social security?

1492

01:18:20,240 --> 01:18:24,650

Yes but they added, but inasmuch
as I left as a young man,

1493

01:18:24,650 --> 01:18:29,060

they added on, so
many extra years to it

1494

01:18:29,060 --> 01:18:35,120

for the entitlement in
order to give me an amount.

1495

01:18:35,120 --> 01:18:43,010

Because when I left Austria my

social security contributions

1496

01:18:43,010 --> 01:18:45,590

amounted to only
a very few years,

1497

01:18:45,590 --> 01:18:50,240

and you needed just like
here, you need 40 quarters.

1498

01:18:50,240 --> 01:18:53,420

And then also you need
many more quarters.

1499

01:18:53,420 --> 01:18:58,930

So they added that on an account
of being a victim of Nazism.

1500

01:18:58,930 --> 01:19:01,880

Now, how did that start, did
you have to apply for that?

1501

01:19:01,880 --> 01:19:03,560

Yes, you applied for it.

1502

01:19:03,560 --> 01:19:05,510

And they accepted it right away?

1503

01:19:05,510 --> 01:19:10,000

Well, they accepted it,
but they accepted it

1504

01:19:10,000 --> 01:19:13,310

with such a small amount,
because they based it

1505

01:19:13,310 --> 01:19:15,080

on what you earned before.

1506

01:19:15,080 --> 01:19:18,500

And through a very
complicated formula.

1507

01:19:18,500 --> 01:19:21,560

I just got such a small
amount, and I said, well,

1508

01:19:21,560 --> 01:19:24,770

that's ridiculous, that's
what you call a pension?

1509

01:19:24,770 --> 01:19:27,680

That's pocket money.

1510

01:19:27,680 --> 01:19:31,130

And so I fought them, and
I was successful in having

1511

01:19:31,130 --> 01:19:36,770

them raise it to the regular,
normal rate I expected,

1512

01:19:36,770 --> 01:19:38,300

you see.

1513

01:19:38,300 --> 01:19:42,080

And each and every year,
there's inflation advances,

1514

01:19:42,080 --> 01:19:43,910

they increase the pension.

1515

01:19:43,910 --> 01:19:47,570

And in fact they increased
it by just a good amount,

1516

01:19:47,570 --> 01:19:53,150

because they felt that
if I need help, now

1517

01:19:53,150 --> 01:19:58,790

because I'm sick, or
old That they'll give me

1518

01:19:58,790 --> 01:20:02,330

an additional \$300 a month.

1519

01:20:02,330 --> 01:20:09,350

So I filled out the
application form,

1520

01:20:09,350 --> 01:20:13,580

and they send me back a letter
says, we have approved it.

1521

01:20:13,580 --> 01:20:22,370

Normally they would require
a doctor to verify it,

1522

01:20:22,370 --> 01:20:27,170

but in my case because my own
doctor of Kaiser Hospital,

1523

01:20:27,170 --> 01:20:30,590

wrote down, what I have.

1524

01:20:30,590 --> 01:20:33,205

And the fact that I'm
aged, they didn't even

1525

01:20:33,205 --> 01:20:37,660

require the Austrian
so-called [INAUDIBLE],,

1526

01:20:37,660 --> 01:20:39,440

a doctor whom they hired.

1527

01:20:39,440 --> 01:20:41,570

To evaluate.

1528

01:20:41,570 --> 01:20:43,110

To evaluate.

1529

01:20:43,110 --> 01:20:48,710

How do you feel about America?

1530

01:20:48,710 --> 01:20:50,450

Great country.

1531

01:20:50,450 --> 01:20:51,840

Paradise.

1532

01:20:51,840 --> 01:20:55,460

Do I need to tell your more?

1533

01:20:55,460 --> 01:20:56,405

Beautiful country.

1534

01:20:56,405 --> 01:20:59,010

1535

01:20:59,010 --> 01:21:01,175

Did your wife have any
trouble leaving Germany

1536

01:21:01,175 --> 01:21:02,240

and coming living here.

1537

01:21:02,240 --> 01:21:05,180

No, she was a war bride.

1538

01:21:05,180 --> 01:21:07,470

Meaning, because
I was a soldier,

1539

01:21:07,470 --> 01:21:12,680

and I married in Germany, she
fell into the war bride act,

1540

01:21:12,680 --> 01:21:17,450

to come here without
any difficulties.

1541

01:21:17,450 --> 01:21:18,590

Did she want to come here?

1542

01:21:18,590 --> 01:21:22,260

Oh she wanted to live with me.

1543

01:21:22,260 --> 01:21:24,830

First of all, she
never was married.

1544

01:21:24,830 --> 01:21:29,660

Secondly, it was
a great hardship

1545

01:21:29,660 --> 01:21:32,120

to live in Germany,
at that time.

1546

01:21:32,120 --> 01:21:33,470

Because people were hungry.

1547

01:21:33,470 --> 01:21:36,440

Because the Allied
forces made sure

1548

01:21:36,440 --> 01:21:41,630

that the Germans get
their share of hardship,

1549

01:21:41,630 --> 01:21:44,250

they created around the world.

1550

01:21:44,250 --> 01:21:48,930

And so food was in short supply
until the currency reform.

1551

01:21:48,930 --> 01:21:51,570

After the currency reform,
then of course the money

1552

01:21:51,570 --> 01:21:54,870

could buy anything
you wanted to buy.

1553

01:21:54,870 --> 01:21:56,970

Did she leave family in Germany?

1554

01:21:56,970 --> 01:21:57,660

Her father.

1555

01:21:57,660 --> 01:22:00,300

1556

01:22:00,300 --> 01:22:02,788

Was that hard for her,
to leave her father?

1557

01:22:02,788 --> 01:22:03,288

No.

1558

01:22:03,288 --> 01:22:05,790

Because he has remarried.

1559

01:22:05,790 --> 01:22:11,700

And the new wife of his
didn't want her around.

1560

01:22:11,700 --> 01:22:15,600

Although she did live with
her father, personally,

1561

01:22:15,600 --> 01:22:17,880

but she had a room of her own.

1562

01:22:17,880 --> 01:22:24,570

But she wasn't welcome into the
same household as her father.

1563

01:22:24,570 --> 01:22:29,440

And the father told her, listen,
confine your coming to us,

1564

01:22:29,440 --> 01:22:32,430

to a very few visits.

1565

01:22:32,430 --> 01:22:35,300

Because he was very much
in love with his wife, who

1566

01:22:35,300 --> 01:22:39,210

was a lot younger than he was.

1567

01:22:39,210 --> 01:22:48,330

And he felt he had to abide
by the rules of his new wife.

1568

01:22:48,330 --> 01:22:52,500

And so she suffered from this.

1569

01:22:52,500 --> 01:22:55,310

But she got used to it
when she came to America.

1570

01:22:55,310 --> 01:23:01,292

They were even on warmer terms
than at the time they left.

1571

01:23:01,292 --> 01:23:05,010

We even asked him to
come and visit us.

1572

01:23:05,010 --> 01:23:06,660

Did he come?

1573

01:23:06,660 --> 01:23:07,530

No.

1574

01:23:07,530 --> 01:23:11,070

And we told him we're going
to send him an airplane ticket

1575

01:23:11,070 --> 01:23:12,630

to come here.

1576

01:23:12,630 --> 01:23:16,930

So he said, if I can't afford
an airplane ticket myself,

1577

01:23:16,930 --> 01:23:19,500

which I can't, I won't come.

1578

01:23:19,500 --> 01:23:20,700

He was too proud.

1579

01:23:20,700 --> 01:23:25,330

1580

01:23:25,330 --> 01:23:28,130

How do you feel
about being Jewish?

1581

01:23:28,130 --> 01:23:30,340

I feel good.

1582

01:23:30,340 --> 01:23:33,155

Very good.

1583

01:23:33,155 --> 01:23:40,240

And I support the-- in fact, I
just wrote my annual donation

1584

01:23:40,240 --> 01:23:43,990

check to the Jewish Federation.

1585

01:23:43,990 --> 01:23:50,020

To the Federation for the Jewish
family and Children's Services.

1586

01:23:50,020 --> 01:23:52,870

1587

01:23:52,870 --> 01:23:58,360

When I leave here I'm taking it
to the post office to mail it.

1588

01:23:58,360 --> 01:24:01,720

You got a lot of help from
them, you want to support them?

1589

01:24:01,720 --> 01:24:03,310

I support them.

1590

01:24:03,310 --> 01:24:08,050

Believe you me, I tried my

very best to support them

1591

01:24:08,050 --> 01:24:11,530
with thousands of
dollars each year.

1592

01:24:11,530 --> 01:24:17,710
Because I felt if I
don't support them,

1593

01:24:17,710 --> 01:24:19,390
where they're going
to get the money?

1594

01:24:19,390 --> 01:24:23,370
And how did the
Jewish nation survive?

1595

01:24:23,370 --> 01:24:26,440
So you feel very
strongly about that?

1596

01:24:26,440 --> 01:24:27,370
Very much.

1597

01:24:27,370 --> 01:24:29,560
Although I'm not a
very religious Jew,

1598

01:24:29,560 --> 01:24:34,570
but when it comes to
this portion of it,

1599

01:24:34,570 --> 01:24:38,080
I defend my Jewishness greatly.

1600

01:24:38,080 --> 01:24:41,230
And then my wife passed
away a month ago,

1601

01:24:41,230 --> 01:24:47,770
and although she wasn't Jewish,
she wanted to be cremated.

1602
01:24:47,770 --> 01:24:56,440
So I've purchased a crypt in a
mausoleum at a Jewish cemetery,

1603
01:24:56,440 --> 01:24:59,800
where her ashes will
be laid into the crypt,

1604
01:24:59,800 --> 01:25:03,730
and when I go, which
eventually of course I will,

1605
01:25:03,730 --> 01:25:05,020
that I'll join her.

1606
01:25:05,020 --> 01:25:09,370
Because the crypt is
for an ordinary coffin.

1607
01:25:09,370 --> 01:25:13,090
And an ordinary coffin plus
that little box with ashes,

1608
01:25:13,090 --> 01:25:15,760
fit into the crypt very well.

1609
01:25:15,760 --> 01:25:20,935
And the placement services
took place on Tuesday.

1610
01:25:20,935 --> 01:25:25,350

1611
01:25:25,350 --> 01:25:27,360
Do you have children?

1612
01:25:27,360 --> 01:25:28,255
Two daughters.

1613
01:25:28,255 --> 01:25:29,280
Two daughters.

1614
01:25:29,280 --> 01:25:32,050
Are they Jewish?

1615
01:25:32,050 --> 01:25:34,830
Are they religious?

1616
01:25:34,830 --> 01:25:36,700
Not particularly.

1617
01:25:36,700 --> 01:25:40,360

1618
01:25:40,360 --> 01:25:41,570
Are they married?

1619
01:25:41,570 --> 01:25:42,070
Yes.

1620
01:25:42,070 --> 01:25:44,950
Well, one is now widowed.

1621
01:25:44,950 --> 01:25:52,360
Her husband, he was only 52,
he developed a brain cancer.

1622
01:25:52,360 --> 01:25:57,390
And within a few short
months, he passed away.

1623
01:25:57,390 --> 01:26:02,320
And the other one
is still married.

1624
01:26:02,320 --> 01:26:05,590
And she lives in Tahoe.

1625
01:26:05,590 --> 01:26:09,040
When the bell rang, I
thought it's my daughter.

1626

01:26:09,040 --> 01:26:12,430

But in fact, she
comes unannounced,

1627

01:26:12,430 --> 01:26:14,380

because she has keys.

1628

01:26:14,380 --> 01:26:15,530

of course, my daughter.

1629

01:26:15,530 --> 01:26:20,230

But this gentleman, he
is one of my best friend.

1630

01:26:20,230 --> 01:26:24,040

We used to be partners in the
real estate business together.

1631

01:26:24,040 --> 01:26:29,140

Yeah, we bought properties which
particularly needed fixing up.

1632

01:26:29,140 --> 01:26:31,920

And he being a fire
captain, he had

1633

01:26:31,920 --> 01:26:36,340

on the fireman and colleagues
who had various skills.

1634

01:26:36,340 --> 01:26:42,220

And this fireman he had to work
24 hours on duty and 48 hours

1635

01:26:42,220 --> 01:26:43,160

off.

1636

01:26:43,160 --> 01:26:48,220

So they had plenty of
time to do the work,

1637

01:26:48,220 --> 01:26:50,130

and they did excellent work.

1638
01:26:50,130 --> 01:26:53,850

1639
01:26:53,850 --> 01:26:56,430
Do you think there could
be another Holocaust?

1640
01:26:56,430 --> 01:26:58,110
I doubt it very much.

1641
01:26:58,110 --> 01:26:58,800
Tell me why?

1642
01:26:58,800 --> 01:27:01,710

1643
01:27:01,710 --> 01:27:02,760
What is your thinking?

1644
01:27:02,760 --> 01:27:06,030
That Holocaust in our country?

1645
01:27:06,030 --> 01:27:07,560
Oh during the World--

1646
01:27:07,560 --> 01:27:09,540
Oh throughout the
world, there are plenty

1647
01:27:09,540 --> 01:27:13,380
of Holocaust in other nations.

1648
01:27:13,380 --> 01:27:16,440
Look at Rwanda.

1649
01:27:16,440 --> 01:27:19,230
Look at Kosovo.

1650
01:27:19,230 --> 01:27:22,860
Why not here?

1651
01:27:22,860 --> 01:27:29,610
Because we're too much
rooted in our democracy

1652
01:27:29,610 --> 01:27:35,430
and the laws of the land,
and the Constitution.

1653
01:27:35,430 --> 01:27:38,370
That's why I think
it will never happen.

1654
01:27:38,370 --> 01:27:41,220

1655
01:27:41,220 --> 01:27:44,130
And of course, we
don't let anybody

1656
01:27:44,130 --> 01:27:47,600
forget that it did happen.

1657
01:27:47,600 --> 01:27:49,440
You think that's important?

1658
01:27:49,440 --> 01:27:51,720
Yes.

1659
01:27:51,720 --> 01:27:55,450
How did you feel
about doing this tape?

1660
01:27:55,450 --> 01:27:57,240
I feel comfortable.

1661
01:27:57,240 --> 01:27:59,760
What you thought about
it, when I called you.

1662
01:27:59,760 --> 01:28:03,720
Yeah, I don't feel any--

because I consider myself lucky

1663

01:28:03,720 --> 01:28:06,100

all the time, all the time.

1664

01:28:06,100 --> 01:28:12,150

I was lucky I was
imprisoned, I was interned.

1665

01:28:12,150 --> 01:28:15,510

I had always good jobs,
and made good money.

1666

01:28:15,510 --> 01:28:19,280

1667

01:28:19,280 --> 01:28:20,950

What more do you want?

1668

01:28:20,950 --> 01:28:24,270

And I had a happy married life.

1669

01:28:24,270 --> 01:28:28,140

I went with my wife in
no less than 18 cruises.

1670

01:28:28,140 --> 01:28:30,690

1671

01:28:30,690 --> 01:28:34,260

And provided her with
a good living too.

1672

01:28:34,260 --> 01:28:38,100

And I never wanted to
work outside the home.

1673

01:28:38,100 --> 01:28:40,980

I wanted to raise
the two children.

1674

01:28:40,980 --> 01:28:42,462

Stay home.

1675

01:28:42,462 --> 01:28:43,990

And that's what she did.

1676

01:28:43,990 --> 01:28:46,120

She only did

voluntarily, particularly

1677

01:28:46,120 --> 01:28:50,430

with Kaiser Hospital,

Kaiser Permanente.

1678

01:28:50,430 --> 01:28:52,300

She had her own

car which she would

1679

01:28:52,300 --> 01:28:55,770

drive down to her volunteer

work at least twice a week,

1680

01:28:55,770 --> 01:28:58,990

for four hours and

then come back.

1681

01:28:58,990 --> 01:29:00,730

So you feel blessed

in your life?

1682

01:29:00,730 --> 01:29:02,790

Very much so.

1683

01:29:02,790 --> 01:29:06,480

And to have a good

sister, good daughters,

1684

01:29:06,480 --> 01:29:08,020

wonderful grandchildren.

1685

01:29:08,020 --> 01:29:09,810

Five of them.

1686

01:29:09,810 --> 01:29:13,836
Three boys and two girls.

1687
01:29:13,836 --> 01:29:17,220
And I love them all.

1688
01:29:17,220 --> 01:29:19,260
Is there anything that
you would like to add,

1689
01:29:19,260 --> 01:29:20,730
to what we've talked about?

1690
01:29:20,730 --> 01:29:24,370

1691
01:29:24,370 --> 01:29:30,550
Well, that is, the
gratefulness that you're

1692
01:29:30,550 --> 01:29:33,580
interested in getting
the histories of people

1693
01:29:33,580 --> 01:29:39,370
who experienced the Holocaust,
because eventually everybody

1694
01:29:39,370 --> 01:29:39,940
dies.

1695
01:29:39,940 --> 01:29:43,570
It may be this is a
small contribution

1696
01:29:43,570 --> 01:29:46,840
of keeping what happened alive.

1697
01:29:46,840 --> 01:29:50,410
Although my story
greatly differs

1698

01:29:50,410 --> 01:29:54,400
from some of the
Holocaust survivors,

1699
01:29:54,400 --> 01:30:01,360
who were survivors from
German concentration camps,

1700
01:30:01,360 --> 01:30:03,880
death camps.

1701
01:30:03,880 --> 01:30:10,180
And Oh we saw many times on TV,
who were rescued by the Allied

1702
01:30:10,180 --> 01:30:12,790
forces, as skeletons.

1703
01:30:12,790 --> 01:30:18,460
And survived and
became good citizens.

1704
01:30:18,460 --> 01:30:21,250
Did your brother ever talk
to you about his experience

1705
01:30:21,250 --> 01:30:23,050
in the camp?

1706
01:30:23,050 --> 01:30:24,280
Oh Yes.

1707
01:30:24,280 --> 01:30:26,680
He gave me some
advice, if we ever

1708
01:30:26,680 --> 01:30:28,720
get into a camp what to do.

1709
01:30:28,720 --> 01:30:33,580
Just don't be an
outstanding man,

1710

01:30:33,580 --> 01:30:38,650
just make yourself invisible.

1711

01:30:38,650 --> 01:30:41,350
You don't want to be noted.

1712

01:30:41,350 --> 01:30:45,900

1713

01:30:45,900 --> 01:30:47,670
And he survived that way?

1714

01:30:47,670 --> 01:30:48,840
He survived that way.

1715

01:30:48,840 --> 01:30:51,648
Yes.

1716

01:30:51,648 --> 01:30:55,890
Did it have a bad effect
on him, do you think?

1717

01:30:55,890 --> 01:30:57,420
No.

1718

01:30:57,420 --> 01:31:00,600
He became a successful
real estate man.

1719

01:31:00,600 --> 01:31:01,260
Yeah.

1720

01:31:01,260 --> 01:31:04,110
So you all went
into real estate?

1721

01:31:04,110 --> 01:31:07,380
My sister, my brother, and me.

1722

01:31:07,380 --> 01:31:12,240
But I as an investor,

they as brokers.

1723

01:31:12,240 --> 01:31:14,190

As an investor they
needed a license.

1724

01:31:14,190 --> 01:31:21,220

1725

01:31:21,220 --> 01:31:25,660

Well, Ernest, on behalf of the
Holocaust Oral History Project,

1726

01:31:25,660 --> 01:31:28,900

I want to thank you
tremendously for being

1727

01:31:28,900 --> 01:31:30,460

willing to do this interview.

1728

01:31:30,460 --> 01:31:32,560

And for doing such
a wonderful job.

1729

01:31:32,560 --> 01:31:35,150

Well, thank you very much.

1730

01:31:35,150 --> 01:31:36,280

I'm glad to hear it.

1731

01:31:36,280 --> 01:31:39,700

1732

01:31:39,700 --> 01:31:44,190

OK I didn't record any of that,
so, OK start anywhere you want

1733

01:31:44,190 --> 01:31:45,740

and then just put that one in

1734

01:31:45,740 --> 01:31:46,428

Good.

1735
01:31:46,428 --> 01:31:47,720
[INAUDIBLE] I'm going to do it.

1736
01:31:47,720 --> 01:31:54,340
These are the pictures, which
were displayed at the services.

1737
01:31:54,340 --> 01:32:02,410
At the occasion of my
wife passing and this

1738
01:32:02,410 --> 01:32:04,930
is my wife, Inga.

1739
01:32:04,930 --> 01:32:08,080
Her maiden name was
Trier, Inga Trier.

1740
01:32:08,080 --> 01:32:10,840
And next to her is myself.

1741
01:32:10,840 --> 01:32:16,810
And this was the wedding,
after wedding pictures.

1742
01:32:16,810 --> 01:32:19,630
Would those pictures be
when you were in Hamburg?

1743
01:32:19,630 --> 01:32:20,330
In Hamburg.

1744
01:32:20,330 --> 01:32:20,830
Yes.

1745
01:32:20,830 --> 01:32:25,270
No, these are
pictures in Berlin.

1746
01:32:25,270 --> 01:32:28,180
Because we got

married in Berlin.

1747
01:32:28,180 --> 01:32:32,930
And these are the
witnesses to the wedding.

1748
01:32:32,930 --> 01:32:37,750
He's he was an Army Major,
and this was a German citizen,

1749
01:32:37,750 --> 01:32:40,270
a businessman.

1750
01:32:40,270 --> 01:32:45,980
And of course, over there,
right at the corner,

1751
01:32:45,980 --> 01:32:48,340
is my wife clapping.

1752
01:32:48,340 --> 01:32:51,130
She was at a baseball
game somewhere.

1753
01:32:51,130 --> 01:32:52,420
She had a candlestick.

1754
01:32:52,420 --> 01:32:53,920
That looked like candlestick.

1755
01:32:53,920 --> 01:32:56,500
Yeah that's right.

1756
01:32:56,500 --> 01:32:57,060
And--

1757
01:32:57,060 --> 01:32:58,870
Did she like baseball?

1758
01:32:58,870 --> 01:33:01,300
Oh she loved it.

1759

01:33:01,300 --> 01:33:02,200

And of course,

1760

01:33:02,200 --> 01:33:05,030

She looks like

she's in a fur coat?

1761

01:33:05,030 --> 01:33:05,530

Yeah.

1762

01:33:05,530 --> 01:33:08,050

It's so cold there out.

1763

01:33:08,050 --> 01:33:13,180

Now, this is my wife's

father on the horse.

1764

01:33:13,180 --> 01:33:16,630

He was quite a wealthy man,

because his job over there

1765

01:33:16,630 --> 01:33:19,330

was selling wholesale oil.

1766

01:33:19,330 --> 01:33:23,830

Buying oil from oil

companies and selling it.

1767

01:33:23,830 --> 01:33:25,960

And this is him again.

1768

01:33:25,960 --> 01:33:29,440

And that's Ingrid's [INAUDIBLE]

1769

01:33:29,440 --> 01:33:31,600

This is him again now.

1770

01:33:31,600 --> 01:33:34,450

This is your wife's father.

1771

01:33:34,450 --> 01:33:41,110

OK, and then over
here, this her brother.

1772
01:33:41,110 --> 01:33:45,340
That is [? Ingrid ?] my wife,
her mother and her father.

1773
01:33:45,340 --> 01:33:46,150
Again

1774
01:33:46,150 --> 01:33:48,280
It takes me a while to shift.

1775
01:33:48,280 --> 01:33:50,140
OK so now I'll point again.

1776
01:33:50,140 --> 01:33:50,650
Yeah.

1777
01:33:50,650 --> 01:33:54,430
That's my wife's
mother, and her father.

1778
01:33:54,430 --> 01:33:56,080
And her.

1779
01:33:56,080 --> 01:33:57,460
And of course her.

1780
01:33:57,460 --> 01:33:58,060
OK.

1781
01:33:58,060 --> 01:34:04,530
And this is the same picture
you find here enlarged.

1782
01:34:04,530 --> 01:34:11,194
And of course here, it's me
again, at an office in Hamburg.

1783
01:34:11,194 --> 01:34:16,450
OK, there's a little bit glare

there, but Yes, I can see.

1784
01:34:16,450 --> 01:34:16,950
All right.

1785
01:34:16,950 --> 01:34:19,450
Can we move on?

1786
01:34:19,450 --> 01:34:21,850
Yeah, just like that, perfect.

1787
01:34:21,850 --> 01:34:23,420
And of course my first--

1788
01:34:23,420 --> 01:34:24,850
What are you doing there?

1789
01:34:24,850 --> 01:34:27,550
In Hamburg, there we were--

1790
01:34:27,550 --> 01:34:28,860
You were still in the army?

1791
01:34:28,860 --> 01:34:29,980
I was still in the--

1792
01:34:29,980 --> 01:34:33,160
No, at that time
no more but we had

1793
01:34:33,160 --> 01:34:34,990
to wear the army
uniform because we

1794
01:34:34,990 --> 01:34:36,510
didn't have civilian clothes.

1795
01:34:36,510 --> 01:34:37,760
We just took of the insignias.

1796
01:34:37,760 --> 01:34:40,810

1797
01:34:40,810 --> 01:34:42,557
Next to it is my wife again,

1798
01:34:42,557 --> 01:34:43,390
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

1799
01:34:43,390 --> 01:34:48,400
[SIDE CONVERSATION]

1800
01:34:48,400 --> 01:34:52,210
OK, lean it, lean it back
there, lean it forward.

1801
01:34:52,210 --> 01:34:56,660
Further, further, further, keep
going, keep going, keep going.

1802
01:34:56,660 --> 01:34:58,210
I'll tell you when to stop.

1803
01:34:58,210 --> 01:35:00,760
There, OK.

1804
01:35:00,760 --> 01:35:02,560
And what year is that?

1805
01:35:02,560 --> 01:35:06,370
It was probably in
1948, in Germany.

1806
01:35:06,370 --> 01:35:06,895
In Germany.

1807
01:35:06,895 --> 01:35:07,740
In Germany, Yes.

1808
01:35:07,740 --> 01:35:12,100
And then of course I didn't
take the Volkswagen along

1809

01:35:12,100 --> 01:35:14,650

because I knew at
that time here, we

1810

01:35:14,650 --> 01:35:17,890

didn't have any services
for a Volkswagen.

1811

01:35:17,890 --> 01:35:22,090

If it would need parts or
services, no, where would I go?

1812

01:35:22,090 --> 01:35:27,280

So I sold it again and bought
a Nash, an American car.

1813

01:35:27,280 --> 01:35:29,750

And of course over there--

1814

01:35:29,750 --> 01:35:30,560

The large one?

1815

01:35:30,560 --> 01:35:32,380

The larger one here.

1816

01:35:32,380 --> 01:35:35,577

That's my wife too.

1817

01:35:35,577 --> 01:35:37,660

Let me move this over, a
little bit closer to you.

1818

01:35:37,660 --> 01:35:38,160

Yeah.

1819

01:35:38,160 --> 01:35:44,470

1820

01:35:44,470 --> 01:35:48,070

And there's one of, you and
your wife, holding hands.

1821

01:35:48,070 --> 01:35:49,960

And they're over
there, holding hands.

1822

01:35:49,960 --> 01:35:50,815

Whats that?

1823

01:35:50,815 --> 01:35:52,000

A gun?

1824

01:35:52,000 --> 01:35:58,450

That was, probably, maybe
one of the cruises were made.

1825

01:35:58,450 --> 01:36:02,200

And of course the picture
right above, represents.

1826

01:36:02,200 --> 01:36:04,480

sent.

1827

01:36:04,480 --> 01:36:07,210

Represents of course,
not only my wife,

1828

01:36:07,210 --> 01:36:11,920

but to some of the
members of the family,

1829

01:36:11,920 --> 01:36:19,600

and myself, and I believe one
of my daughters, and my nephew,

1830

01:36:19,600 --> 01:36:22,850

at the very right
hand the corner.

1831

01:36:22,850 --> 01:36:24,580

OK.

1832

01:36:24,580 --> 01:36:28,390

Now, those below are

my five grandchildren.

1833

01:36:28,390 --> 01:36:32,120

The right hand
corner, down below.

1834

01:36:32,120 --> 01:36:33,970

The bottom line.

1835

01:36:33,970 --> 01:36:36,760

Two girls, and three boys.

1836

01:36:36,760 --> 01:36:40,690

One of the boys, the
very uppermost pictured,

1837

01:36:40,690 --> 01:36:43,450

is my oldest grandson,
and he's now in the army,

1838

01:36:43,450 --> 01:36:46,510

and stationed in Alaska.

1839

01:36:46,510 --> 01:36:53,170

Yeah This is my wife
again, over there.

1840

01:36:53,170 --> 01:36:54,390

What was doing she doing?

1841

01:36:54,390 --> 01:36:56,190

Oh with a grandchild?

1842

01:36:56,190 --> 01:36:59,460

Yes, she holds the
grandchild, and the grandchild

1843

01:36:59,460 --> 01:37:02,190

is the lowest
picture over there,

1844

01:37:02,190 --> 01:37:07,200

Jennifer is her name,
the youngest grandchild.

1845
01:37:07,200 --> 01:37:11,280
Now these are my two daughters
when they were little girl's.

1846
01:37:11,280 --> 01:37:13,125
Martha and June.

1847
01:37:13,125 --> 01:37:19,060

1848
01:37:19,060 --> 01:37:21,925
This of course is
Inga again, my wife.

1849
01:37:21,925 --> 01:37:32,230

1850
01:37:32,230 --> 01:37:36,100
Now, this picture
presents my wife,

1851
01:37:36,100 --> 01:37:43,882
my late brother's wife Hanzi
[Personal name] and my mother.

1852
01:37:43,882 --> 01:37:49,590
It was taken here,
probably in Oakland.

1853
01:37:49,590 --> 01:37:54,998
In here, because we
have similar pictures.

1854
01:37:54,998 --> 01:38:03,070
That was my mother,
my wife, and I

1855
01:38:03,070 --> 01:38:10,630
believe my sister,
my younger brother,

1856
01:38:10,630 --> 01:38:12,685
and my sister's husband.

1857
01:38:12,685 --> 01:38:16,267

1858
01:38:16,267 --> 01:38:18,160
And then right next to it?

1859
01:38:18,160 --> 01:38:20,950
And next to it it's an
old picture of my wife

1860
01:38:20,950 --> 01:38:25,330
here, with German friends.

1861
01:38:25,330 --> 01:38:26,700
I don't know their names.

1862
01:38:26,700 --> 01:38:33,870

1863
01:38:33,870 --> 01:38:36,780
Now, I'm going to get
a frame here, and then

1864
01:38:36,780 --> 01:38:38,565
hang it up in my bedroom.

1865
01:38:38,565 --> 01:38:40,812
[MUSIC PLAYING]

1866
01:38:40,812 --> 01:41:18,678

1867
01:41:18,678 --> 01:41:24,700
They all are collecting together
all the images and symbols

1868
01:41:24,700 --> 01:41:28,450

in time makes it very
rich, and these people just

1869
01:41:28,450 --> 01:41:30,880
sit down and make this
doll in the afternoon.

1870
01:41:30,880 --> 01:41:39,670

1871
01:41:39,670 --> 01:41:42,270
What gestures to create
hands and things.

1872
01:41:42,270 --> 01:41:44,320
Yeah.

1873
01:41:44,320 --> 01:41:45,175
That's true.

1874
01:41:45,175 --> 01:41:47,050
And what kind of mood
they wanted to give it.

1875
01:41:47,050 --> 01:47:05,930

1876
01:47:05,930 --> 01:47:07,940
Thanks for letting
me stay in here.

1877
01:47:07,940 --> 01:47:10,190
Oh sure.

1878
01:47:10,190 --> 01:47:12,270
Are you ready.

1879
01:47:12,270 --> 01:47:12,770
OK.

1880
01:47:12,770 --> 01:47:15,840

1881

01:47:15,840 --> 01:47:17,990

Sidetracks.

1882

01:47:17,990 --> 01:54:04,118