

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:57,570

2
00:00:57,570 --> 00:00:58,890
[? Thanks, ?] [INAUDIBLE].

3
00:00:58,890 --> 00:01:00,318
I'll let you know.

4
00:01:00,318 --> 00:01:07,460

5
00:01:07,460 --> 00:01:08,240
OK.

6
00:01:08,240 --> 00:01:11,030
This is the Holocaust Oral
History Project interview

7
00:01:11,030 --> 00:01:14,600
with Maurice Blane taking place
in San Francisco, California,

8
00:01:14,600 --> 00:01:17,490
on April 1, 1993.

9
00:01:17,490 --> 00:01:19,930
My name is Sylvia Prozan,
and the second interviewer

10
00:01:19,930 --> 00:01:22,330
is Richard Kirshman.

11
00:01:22,330 --> 00:01:25,040
Maurice, when and
where were you born?

12
00:01:25,040 --> 00:01:32,470
I was born in July 16, 1922,
in a town called Hayange,

13

00:01:32,470 --> 00:01:38,010

H-A-Y-A-N-G-E, in France.

14

00:01:38,010 --> 00:01:40,140

It's in Lorraine, really,
but it's in France.

15

00:01:40,140 --> 00:01:44,610

I was born in the time was
Lorraine was French, 1922.

16

00:01:44,610 --> 00:01:48,900

Prior to 1914, the
Germans were there.

17

00:01:48,900 --> 00:01:51,330

Your father's name?

18

00:01:51,330 --> 00:01:56,220

My father's name is
Joseph Blankenberg.

19

00:01:56,220 --> 00:02:01,180

Now it sounds strange, but
when I came to this country,

20

00:02:01,180 --> 00:02:03,150

my name was Blankenberg.

21

00:02:03,150 --> 00:02:09,720

I became a citizen of the
United States in July 1950,

22

00:02:09,720 --> 00:02:11,310

three years after I got here.

23

00:02:11,310 --> 00:02:14,040

24

00:02:14,040 --> 00:02:17,220

Coming from France,
being a pastry chef,

25
00:02:17,220 --> 00:02:20,580
I worked in the hotels
where French chefs

26
00:02:20,580 --> 00:02:24,910
were the real people
that ran kitchens.

27
00:02:24,910 --> 00:02:27,120
When I told them my name
was Blankenberg, they said,

28
00:02:27,120 --> 00:02:28,890
you're not French,
you're German.

29
00:02:28,890 --> 00:02:30,960
That's all I needed to hear.

30
00:02:30,960 --> 00:02:34,210
So I got married in 1950.

31
00:02:34,210 --> 00:02:36,870
My wife was an American citizen.

32
00:02:36,870 --> 00:02:39,780
Through her being a citizen,
marrying an American citizen,

33
00:02:39,780 --> 00:02:43,290
I was able to ask
for my citizenship

34
00:02:43,290 --> 00:02:45,720
three years after I came here.

35
00:02:45,720 --> 00:02:48,630
And in front of the judge,
I knew ahead of time

36
00:02:48,630 --> 00:02:49,890

that I could change my name.

37

00:02:49,890 --> 00:02:53,880

So we discussed what I
would change the name to.

38

00:02:53,880 --> 00:02:57,930

I had no relatives, really, to
report or ask, can I do this?

39

00:02:57,930 --> 00:03:00,420

I was the sole survivor.

40

00:03:00,420 --> 00:03:08,370

So I decided Blane, B-L-A-N-E,
which had no real reason.

41

00:03:08,370 --> 00:03:11,280

I can't give you a reason why.

42

00:03:11,280 --> 00:03:13,170

We tried different things.

43

00:03:13,170 --> 00:03:18,360

I tried even Blanchard, which
was something like French

44

00:03:18,360 --> 00:03:20,250

because my French
heritage is still there.

45

00:03:20,250 --> 00:03:22,290

Rather, my parents
weren't from there,

46

00:03:22,290 --> 00:03:26,340

but I was more
inclined to keep this.

47

00:03:26,340 --> 00:03:28,560

And so I became Blane.

48

00:03:28,560 --> 00:03:31,170

My citizen paper,
which I had with me,

49

00:03:31,170 --> 00:03:36,540

shows that I was born Maurice
Blankenberg in France,

50

00:03:36,540 --> 00:03:40,170

and I became Maurice Blane.

51

00:03:40,170 --> 00:03:43,830

Another reason I
have to explain is

52

00:03:43,830 --> 00:03:46,200

when you're working
in these pastry places

53

00:03:46,200 --> 00:03:49,290

with French or
Italian or whatever

54

00:03:49,290 --> 00:03:50,860

and not knowing
that I was Jewish,

55

00:03:50,860 --> 00:03:53,280

I heard a lot of the same thing.

56

00:03:53,280 --> 00:03:57,720

People, antisemite,
that talk badly.

57

00:03:57,720 --> 00:04:00,180

So I had to earn a living.

58

00:04:00,180 --> 00:04:04,960

I was very fortunate I had a
job coming from the other side.

59

00:04:04,960 --> 00:04:07,920

So that prompted me

to change my name.

60

00:04:07,920 --> 00:04:13,270

And I'm, for 43 years, Blane.

61

00:04:13,270 --> 00:04:16,600

And it took me just a
few minutes by the judge

62

00:04:16,600 --> 00:04:18,079

to change it.

63

00:04:18,079 --> 00:04:22,390

Now to the French government,
I'm still Blankenberg.

64

00:04:22,390 --> 00:04:24,460

1989, I was in France.

65

00:04:24,460 --> 00:04:27,370

I went to see a lawyer to
have the name legally changed

66

00:04:27,370 --> 00:04:29,170

to Blane also.

67

00:04:29,170 --> 00:04:35,320

To this day, it's not done
yet because they are very,

68

00:04:35,320 --> 00:04:37,300

how would I say, with red tape.

69

00:04:37,300 --> 00:04:40,030

You have to write letters
to different place

70

00:04:40,030 --> 00:04:43,570

where you were
born, and you have

71

00:04:43,570 --> 00:04:46,360

to make all kinds of things.

72

00:04:46,360 --> 00:04:51,340
And I'm most likely have to stop
on this because that comes in

73

00:04:51,340 --> 00:04:55,420
as we talk, you'll
get to the crux of why

74

00:04:55,420 --> 00:04:57,070
it took so long in France.

75

00:04:57,070 --> 00:04:58,280
It's not finished yet.

76

00:04:58,280 --> 00:04:59,670
OK.

77

00:04:59,670 --> 00:05:01,960
And where was Joseph
Blankenberg from?

78

00:05:01,960 --> 00:05:05,220
Born in Poland.

79

00:05:05,220 --> 00:05:11,320
And the way I was
told as a child,

80

00:05:11,320 --> 00:05:14,470
my father was in
the Russian army,

81

00:05:14,470 --> 00:05:18,740
and I have pictures
of him in the uniform.

82

00:05:18,740 --> 00:05:24,170
And he was-- in
1916, the Germans

83

00:05:24,170 --> 00:05:28,610
got imprisoned in World War
I. And he came to Lorraine

84
00:05:28,610 --> 00:05:31,400
not on his free
will, as a prisoner.

85
00:05:31,400 --> 00:05:33,950
And they put him to work
in the factory, which

86
00:05:33,950 --> 00:05:37,970
is iron ore mill in Lorraine.

87
00:05:37,970 --> 00:05:43,170
And it was a large company
and he worked there.

88
00:05:43,170 --> 00:05:46,160
And after the war was
ended, rather than go back,

89
00:05:46,160 --> 00:05:50,540
he stayed there, had
his wife, my mother,

90
00:05:50,540 --> 00:06:00,890
brought from Poland there,
and I was born there in 1922.

91
00:06:00,890 --> 00:06:07,310
And my parents had a son
born in 1911 in Poland.

92
00:06:07,310 --> 00:06:10,540
And so he was nine years
old when we got there,

93
00:06:10,540 --> 00:06:12,430
when they got there.

94
00:06:12,430 --> 00:06:19,270

And I had a sister born in
1925 and another brother

95
00:06:19,270 --> 00:06:23,020
born in 1933.

96
00:06:23,020 --> 00:06:26,860
So it's a big space
between the first and last.

97
00:06:26,860 --> 00:06:29,040
He was born in 1933.

98
00:06:29,040 --> 00:06:29,540
OK?

99
00:06:29,540 --> 00:06:32,290

100
00:06:32,290 --> 00:06:34,560
Did you know your
Polish grandparents?

101
00:06:34,560 --> 00:06:35,250
No.

102
00:06:35,250 --> 00:06:36,270
Did you ever meet them?

103
00:06:36,270 --> 00:06:37,170
No.

104
00:06:37,170 --> 00:06:43,620
Never even-- I would say,
deep down trying to remember--

105
00:06:43,620 --> 00:06:46,988
no, I don't remember anything.

106
00:06:46,988 --> 00:06:48,030
Did you know their names?

107

00:06:48,030 --> 00:06:48,785

No, nothing.

108

00:06:48,785 --> 00:06:50,410

Do you know what they
did for a living?

109

00:06:50,410 --> 00:06:52,392

No.

110

00:06:52,392 --> 00:06:53,350

What about your mother?

111

00:06:53,350 --> 00:06:54,810

What was her name?

112

00:06:54,810 --> 00:06:59,650

Zissla, which translated in
French for the French people,

113

00:06:59,650 --> 00:07:01,810

was Suzanne.

114

00:07:01,810 --> 00:07:03,970

Zissla became Suzanne.

115

00:07:03,970 --> 00:07:06,280

Hajdenberg was her maiden name.

116

00:07:06,280 --> 00:07:11,410

H-A-J-D-E-N-B-E-R-G.

117

00:07:11,410 --> 00:07:14,230

Her brother was in the
service with my father,

118

00:07:14,230 --> 00:07:17,440

and the two of them came
to Lorraine as prisoners.

119

00:07:17,440 --> 00:07:19,210

Both stayed there.

120
00:07:19,210 --> 00:07:22,480
So that's my uncle, which
was in France and which I saw

121
00:07:22,480 --> 00:07:24,950
a few times even after the war.

122
00:07:24,950 --> 00:07:26,790
He was fortunate.

123
00:07:26,790 --> 00:07:31,680
He escaped the Holocaust.

124
00:07:31,680 --> 00:07:35,437
Do you know what city your
parents' families were from?

125
00:07:35,437 --> 00:07:36,270
What city in Poland?

126
00:07:36,270 --> 00:07:38,340
Warsaw is the only
thing I heard.

127
00:07:38,340 --> 00:07:43,830
My mother, and I guess her
family, had a butcher shop.

128
00:07:43,830 --> 00:07:48,040
She had a butcher shop
in Poland, in Warsaw.

129
00:07:48,040 --> 00:07:49,690
There was no other
town that I can

130
00:07:49,690 --> 00:07:53,150
recall that was ever
brought up to my mind

131

00:07:53,150 --> 00:07:54,970
that I could say, OK,
that's what happened,

132
00:07:54,970 --> 00:07:58,220
and that's what I heard.

133
00:07:58,220 --> 00:08:01,740
Did your father have
any brothers or sisters?

134
00:08:01,740 --> 00:08:02,810
Yes.

135
00:08:02,810 --> 00:08:10,490
The only sister that I do
know came to the United States

136
00:08:10,490 --> 00:08:13,390
pre-World War I.

137
00:08:13,390 --> 00:08:14,050
And her name?

138
00:08:14,050 --> 00:08:17,030

139
00:08:17,030 --> 00:08:21,530
Her maiden name I know was
Blankenberg, but I don't know.

140
00:08:21,530 --> 00:08:26,080
I have no recollection because
I didn't get close to them.

141
00:08:26,080 --> 00:08:30,430
When I came to this country,
I met her and her children

142
00:08:30,430 --> 00:08:34,480
because principally,
a sister of my mother

143

00:08:34,480 --> 00:08:37,780

made papers for me to
come to this country.

144

00:08:37,780 --> 00:08:41,919

And the sister of my
mother came to this country

145

00:08:41,919 --> 00:08:44,960

prior to World War I.

146

00:08:44,960 --> 00:08:47,040

And what was her name?

147

00:08:47,040 --> 00:08:48,480

Her first name?

148

00:08:48,480 --> 00:08:50,740

I say, give me a second.

149

00:08:50,740 --> 00:08:51,780

I'll try to remember.

150

00:08:51,780 --> 00:08:56,400

151

00:08:56,400 --> 00:08:59,250

I haven't spoken or
heard of her in 40 years,

152

00:08:59,250 --> 00:09:01,080

so it's kind of
difficult to remember.

153

00:09:01,080 --> 00:09:02,040

It'll come to me.

154

00:09:02,040 --> 00:09:03,210

I have to just--

155

00:09:03,210 --> 00:09:07,290

because, you know, when you have
an aunt that brought you over,

156
00:09:07,290 --> 00:09:09,480
the husband really
was the one who

157
00:09:09,480 --> 00:09:13,090
made papers for me and tante--

158
00:09:13,090 --> 00:09:14,190
tante something.

159
00:09:14,190 --> 00:09:18,360
I forgot now because there
were tantes all over the place

160
00:09:18,360 --> 00:09:22,950
from my first wife, so Tante
Toiba, Tante this so just

161
00:09:22,950 --> 00:09:25,730
for a second it's kind of--

162
00:09:25,730 --> 00:09:26,370
That's OK.

163
00:09:26,370 --> 00:09:26,870
OK.

164
00:09:26,870 --> 00:09:29,083
What about your names
of your siblings

165
00:09:29,083 --> 00:09:30,500
and your brothers
and your sister?

166
00:09:30,500 --> 00:09:31,000
Right.

167
00:09:31,000 --> 00:09:38,890

My oldest brother was
Bernard, Bernard Blankenberg.

168
00:09:38,890 --> 00:09:44,590
My sister was Regine, which
is Rivka Leah in Jewish.

169
00:09:44,590 --> 00:09:47,020
But Regine is how I knew her.

170
00:09:47,020 --> 00:09:50,760
And smallest born in '33--

171
00:09:50,760 --> 00:09:53,010
they say the smallest,
the youngest, really,

172
00:09:53,010 --> 00:09:55,380
his name was Victor.

173
00:09:55,380 --> 00:09:59,460
And because he was the youngest,
in France, we call them Coco.

174
00:09:59,460 --> 00:10:03,390
Coco, which was-- it
is really a nice name

175
00:10:03,390 --> 00:10:05,790
to call somebody that you like.

176
00:10:05,790 --> 00:10:07,590
Coco.

177
00:10:07,590 --> 00:10:10,980
What did your father
do for a living?

178
00:10:10,980 --> 00:10:18,650
As I was very young, he
worked for the same factory

179

00:10:18,650 --> 00:10:20,630
that he was brought over.

180
00:10:20,630 --> 00:10:24,690
And my mother being
really a business lady,

181
00:10:24,690 --> 00:10:27,140
she had a butcher shop.

182
00:10:27,140 --> 00:10:32,270
We had three or four different
businesses before I was 14.

183
00:10:32,270 --> 00:10:36,470
I'll explain because
we had, at one time,

184
00:10:36,470 --> 00:10:40,400
a restaurant where she did
the cooking that I can recall,

185
00:10:40,400 --> 00:10:42,830
and she was a very good cook.

186
00:10:42,830 --> 00:10:47,150
And we also had a
pushcart, you know.

187
00:10:47,150 --> 00:10:48,510
We used to go--

188
00:10:48,510 --> 00:10:51,170
and I remember there was
no transportation like now.

189
00:10:51,170 --> 00:10:53,960
We just walked 10, 12
miles from one place

190
00:10:53,960 --> 00:10:59,570
to another to sell, you
know, the jeans you're

191
00:10:59,570 --> 00:11:04,880
talking about now, we had
this type of blue clothing,

192
00:11:04,880 --> 00:11:08,120
a denim, that was sold
in France at that time.

193
00:11:08,120 --> 00:11:13,150
And in the weekend, there was
fairs where they sold candy out

194
00:11:13,150 --> 00:11:16,010
of a stand in the street.

195
00:11:16,010 --> 00:11:18,110
That was basically
what they were doing.

196
00:11:18,110 --> 00:11:22,520
And I'm talking about
this the year '32 to '36

197
00:11:22,520 --> 00:11:25,730
that I can say that.

198
00:11:25,730 --> 00:11:28,430
After this, I went
to work, finished

199
00:11:28,430 --> 00:11:30,830
school at the age of 14.

200
00:11:30,830 --> 00:11:36,870
I went to work in a
bakery as an apprentice.

201
00:11:36,870 --> 00:11:39,990
Tell me about your
mother's restaurant.

202

00:11:39,990 --> 00:11:45,180
Well, the thing I do recall
it was in a small town,

203
00:11:45,180 --> 00:11:50,640
and it wasn't anything
like a restaurant here.

204
00:11:50,640 --> 00:11:54,240
It was more like a
coffee shop, so to speak,

205
00:11:54,240 --> 00:11:59,020
with tables that were not
like-- let's say that you're

206
00:11:59,020 --> 00:12:00,090
going to a restaurant.

207
00:12:00,090 --> 00:12:01,830
You have table for
four, a table for two.

208
00:12:01,830 --> 00:12:06,900
This was long tables
and community food.

209
00:12:06,900 --> 00:12:11,320
It was not kosher, had
nothing to do with that.

210
00:12:11,320 --> 00:12:14,670
It was strictly
for working people

211
00:12:14,670 --> 00:12:16,950
that lived in the neighborhood.

212
00:12:16,950 --> 00:12:18,950
It wasn't a fancy restaurant.

213
00:12:18,950 --> 00:12:24,220
Now remember, I tried to

recall when I was under 14,

214

00:12:24,220 --> 00:12:27,370
and that's what I can recall.

215

00:12:27,370 --> 00:12:34,630
And the town was called
Knutange, K-N-U-T-A-N-G-E.

216

00:12:34,630 --> 00:12:39,130
It was just about 10 miles from
where I was born in Hayange.

217

00:12:39,130 --> 00:12:42,100
My schooling was in a
town called Thionville,

218

00:12:42,100 --> 00:12:49,440
T-H-I-O-N-V-I-L-L-E. Thionville.

219

00:12:49,440 --> 00:12:51,180
You lived in Hayange,
and your mother

220

00:12:51,180 --> 00:12:52,863
had a restaurant in
this other place?

221

00:12:52,863 --> 00:12:54,030
No, that's where I was born.

222

00:12:54,030 --> 00:12:55,155
That's where you were born.

223

00:12:55,155 --> 00:12:57,740
But we moved where we
had the restaurant.

224

00:12:57,740 --> 00:13:00,300
There was always an apartment
in the back of wherever

225

00:13:00,300 --> 00:13:03,060
we had a business, so we
lived in the same place

226
00:13:03,060 --> 00:13:07,085
where we had a business.

227
00:13:07,085 --> 00:13:08,710
During this time,
your father was still

228
00:13:08,710 --> 00:13:09,668
working at the factory?

229
00:13:09,668 --> 00:13:13,030
No, he had stopped,
and we ran it.

230
00:13:13,030 --> 00:13:15,280
My folks ran the
restaurant together.

231
00:13:15,280 --> 00:13:16,960
He had stopped working
in the factory.

232
00:13:16,960 --> 00:13:19,420
What kind of meals
would they serve?

233
00:13:19,420 --> 00:13:22,240
Very difficult to explain
because I live here

234
00:13:22,240 --> 00:13:23,170
over 40 years.

235
00:13:23,170 --> 00:13:24,610
I know French food.

236
00:13:24,610 --> 00:13:25,510
I know American food.

237

00:13:25,510 --> 00:13:29,210

But I couldn't tell you what
was really served, you know?

238

00:13:29,210 --> 00:13:29,710

Food.

239

00:13:29,710 --> 00:13:31,780

You know, it could have
been potatoes and--

240

00:13:31,780 --> 00:13:34,960

not steaks because they
didn't have that much food.

241

00:13:34,960 --> 00:13:36,910

She was preparing--
sometimes she

242

00:13:36,910 --> 00:13:43,020

had gefilte fish or something
like that, that I can recall.

243

00:13:43,020 --> 00:13:46,500

It was not just Jewish people
that were in that town.

244

00:13:46,500 --> 00:13:47,460

There was very few.

245

00:13:47,460 --> 00:13:49,560

Some friends of my
folks that I know,

246

00:13:49,560 --> 00:13:52,470

even Polish friends that
were non-Jews, that would

247

00:13:52,470 --> 00:13:55,390

come in the place and eat.

248

00:13:55,390 --> 00:13:58,920

But that's basically
something that's

249
00:13:58,920 --> 00:14:03,330
way out of my mind to remember
because remember, what

250
00:14:03,330 --> 00:14:08,040
I'm saying now was before 1936.

251
00:14:08,040 --> 00:14:11,310
So we're talking
about almost 60 years.

252
00:14:11,310 --> 00:14:14,550
And so I can't remember.

253
00:14:14,550 --> 00:14:17,610
Can you remember what your
living arrangements were like

254
00:14:17,610 --> 00:14:19,644
and these apartments
that you had in the back?

255
00:14:19,644 --> 00:14:20,897
No.

256
00:14:20,897 --> 00:14:22,230
Anything about the butcher shop?

257
00:14:22,230 --> 00:14:22,730
No.

258
00:14:22,730 --> 00:14:24,272
I could-- The butcher
shop in Poland?

259
00:14:24,272 --> 00:14:24,772
No.

260
00:14:24,772 --> 00:14:25,830

I've never been there.

261
00:14:25,830 --> 00:14:27,480
Did your mother have a
butcher shop in France?

262
00:14:27,480 --> 00:14:27,980
No.

263
00:14:27,980 --> 00:14:31,570

264
00:14:31,570 --> 00:14:33,040
How many Jews were there?

265
00:14:33,040 --> 00:14:34,720
Could you count the
number of families

266
00:14:34,720 --> 00:14:38,290
or was it a few thousand?

267
00:14:38,290 --> 00:14:42,550
How large was the
village where you lived?

268
00:14:42,550 --> 00:14:44,620
It is very difficult to
answer that question.

269
00:14:44,620 --> 00:14:45,370
I wouldn't know.

270
00:14:45,370 --> 00:14:47,950

271
00:14:47,950 --> 00:14:52,660
But I made my Bar Mitzvah there.

272
00:14:52,660 --> 00:15:01,210
And there was a situation
prior to the Nazis

273
00:15:01,210 --> 00:15:04,210
because at that time in
France, there was no Nazis.

274
00:15:04,210 --> 00:15:10,540
But there was Jewish
families and my parents--

275
00:15:10,540 --> 00:15:14,050
Now again, I don't
want you to feel funny

276
00:15:14,050 --> 00:15:15,010
what I'm going to say.

277
00:15:15,010 --> 00:15:19,180
I just tell you what
I thought at the time.

278
00:15:19,180 --> 00:15:23,830
My impression as a kid was
that we were more or less

279
00:15:23,830 --> 00:15:26,890
considered like
second-class citizens

280
00:15:26,890 --> 00:15:28,560
by the Jewish community.

281
00:15:28,560 --> 00:15:31,080

282
00:15:31,080 --> 00:15:34,710
Now if I explain this,
most of the Jewish

283
00:15:34,710 --> 00:15:37,500
wanted the people that
live in these towns

284

00:15:37,500 --> 00:15:43,530
were either Alsatian, born maybe
three or four generations there

285
00:15:43,530 --> 00:15:44,370
already.

286
00:15:44,370 --> 00:15:46,830
And they were the upper class.

287
00:15:46,830 --> 00:15:49,170
My folks were working people.

288
00:15:49,170 --> 00:15:50,730
They weren't very rich.

289
00:15:50,730 --> 00:15:54,180
I would say we were even poor.

290
00:15:54,180 --> 00:16:01,290
And when I went for my Bar
Mitzvah, I remember the rabbi

291
00:16:01,290 --> 00:16:03,930
and whoever it was,
I remember, you know,

292
00:16:03,930 --> 00:16:06,810
we talked about holidays,
which is coming next week.

293
00:16:06,810 --> 00:16:12,270
There was the holiday
that's usually just Purim,

294
00:16:12,270 --> 00:16:15,960
which is before
Christmas and New Year's.

295
00:16:15,960 --> 00:16:18,990
And so I used to
go at the temple,

296

00:16:18,990 --> 00:16:24,270
and we had these shacks, like,
with fruit and vegetables

297

00:16:24,270 --> 00:16:25,620
in the back.

298

00:16:25,620 --> 00:16:27,150
And I remember that.

299

00:16:27,150 --> 00:16:32,640
But I felt kind of funny because
I was in a Catholic school

300

00:16:32,640 --> 00:16:35,130
because that's the
only school there was.

301

00:16:35,130 --> 00:16:38,550
And I heard the Catholic
prayers every day.

302

00:16:38,550 --> 00:16:41,790
It was automatic.

303

00:16:41,790 --> 00:16:43,440
And then I went to--

304

00:16:43,440 --> 00:16:46,110
became my bar mitzvah.

305

00:16:46,110 --> 00:16:48,450
It clashed.

306

00:16:48,450 --> 00:16:50,430
You know when
you're a young kid,

307

00:16:50,430 --> 00:16:52,080
you don't know which
way you're going.

308

00:16:52,080 --> 00:16:54,990

And it had nothing to do with
the Holocaust at that time.

309

00:16:54,990 --> 00:16:59,380

This is my background,
how I had to face life.

310

00:16:59,380 --> 00:17:00,450

Which way am I?

311

00:17:00,450 --> 00:17:02,230

Who am I?

312

00:17:02,230 --> 00:17:07,690

My parents never really
gave you an upbringing

313

00:17:07,690 --> 00:17:10,210

of being religious or not.

314

00:17:10,210 --> 00:17:13,450

It was pretty loose.

315

00:17:13,450 --> 00:17:18,940

So there I am, 1936, finishing--

316

00:17:18,940 --> 00:17:22,869

I had a certificat
d'etudes, it was

317

00:17:22,869 --> 00:17:30,280

called in French, which is the
equivalent in here high school.

318

00:17:30,280 --> 00:17:33,910

But at 14, that's what you get.

319

00:17:33,910 --> 00:17:35,680

After this, you
should go to a lycee,

320

00:17:35,680 --> 00:17:39,190

which is to go further,
like a college, afterwards.

321

00:17:39,190 --> 00:17:43,890

And I was told it's
best to learn a trade.

322

00:17:43,890 --> 00:17:45,890

It's always helpful.

323

00:17:45,890 --> 00:17:51,880

So I went in the bakery business
in the town of Metz, M-E-T-Z.

324

00:17:51,880 --> 00:17:59,090

And in that town, the owner of
the bakery had a contract that

325

00:17:59,090 --> 00:18:02,500

we signed that I was going to
work for him for three years

326

00:18:02,500 --> 00:18:06,280

for room and board,
no remuneration,

327

00:18:06,280 --> 00:18:10,917

which was norm at the time.

328

00:18:10,917 --> 00:18:12,000

So I went to work for him.

329

00:18:12,000 --> 00:18:15,380

He never knew I was Jewish.

330

00:18:15,380 --> 00:18:20,510

And naturally, you go
through hard times,

331

00:18:20,510 --> 00:18:24,440

but it didn't affect me

that he knew or didn't know.

332

00:18:24,440 --> 00:18:26,206

He didn't ask me,
I didn't tell him.

333

00:18:26,206 --> 00:18:28,390

That's it.

334

00:18:28,390 --> 00:18:31,600

And I worked there
for three years.

335

00:18:31,600 --> 00:18:35,740

In 1939, I was going
to leave and go

336

00:18:35,740 --> 00:18:41,200

to work on the steamship
as a pastry chef.

337

00:18:41,200 --> 00:18:46,210

Now the war broke out,
changed everything.

338

00:18:46,210 --> 00:18:54,010

And August '45, not '45, '40.

339

00:18:54,010 --> 00:18:54,820

No, '39.

340

00:18:54,820 --> 00:18:57,770

August '39, the war broke out.

341

00:18:57,770 --> 00:19:02,680

And my father naturally
was too old to be drafted.

342

00:19:02,680 --> 00:19:04,510

He wasn't even French.

343

00:19:04,510 --> 00:19:05,830

He was still Polish.

344

00:19:05,830 --> 00:19:09,100

I became a French
citizen by naturalization

345

00:19:09,100 --> 00:19:12,370

in 1934, '35, which
I didn't know.

346

00:19:12,370 --> 00:19:15,010

I got papers that
when I had to--

347

00:19:15,010 --> 00:19:20,800

Now in the past years, to find
out if I was I was born there,

348

00:19:20,800 --> 00:19:24,490

you still are not a citizen
even though you're born there.

349

00:19:24,490 --> 00:19:29,410

So I found out I was
naturalized in the '30s either

350

00:19:29,410 --> 00:19:34,960

because my oldest brother became
a French citizen or whatever.

351

00:19:34,960 --> 00:19:38,210

That was all a surprise to me.

352

00:19:38,210 --> 00:19:42,800

Now in 1939, when
the war broke out,

353

00:19:42,800 --> 00:19:52,460

my oldest brother was married,
and which she was not Jewish.

354

00:19:52,460 --> 00:19:55,890

Her folks came from

Dijon in Burgundy.

355

00:19:55,890 --> 00:19:59,640

So the whole family, we
had to more or less leave.

356

00:19:59,640 --> 00:20:00,870

We were evacuated.

357

00:20:00,870 --> 00:20:05,460

We were very close to the German
border and the Maginot Line.

358

00:20:05,460 --> 00:20:08,490

So before anything
happened-- the real war

359

00:20:08,490 --> 00:20:11,190

was started in May
1940 when France

360

00:20:11,190 --> 00:20:13,350

was invaded by the Germans.

361

00:20:13,350 --> 00:20:16,800

But prior to this, we all
went to Dijon, Burgundy.

362

00:20:16,800 --> 00:20:21,000

And in September 1940,
we were in Dijon.

363

00:20:21,000 --> 00:20:27,430

And I called Dijon my adoptive
town because at that time,

364

00:20:27,430 --> 00:20:29,020

I was already 18.

365

00:20:29,020 --> 00:20:31,040

I made friends.

366

00:20:31,040 --> 00:20:33,610
I was paid for what I was doing.

367
00:20:33,610 --> 00:20:38,110
So I thought this was
more or less my youth.

368
00:20:38,110 --> 00:20:39,910
I had nothing to look back.

369
00:20:39,910 --> 00:20:42,550
Lorraine was never a
place that I would go back

370
00:20:42,550 --> 00:20:44,560
to say my place of birth.

371
00:20:44,560 --> 00:20:45,700
I've gone back.

372
00:20:45,700 --> 00:20:46,910
Nothing changed.

373
00:20:46,910 --> 00:20:50,230
It's always been half
German, half French.

374
00:20:50,230 --> 00:20:51,550
It's very simple.

375
00:20:51,550 --> 00:20:56,480
The people are either very
French or they're German.

376
00:20:56,480 --> 00:20:59,390
It's a very funny
situation, Lorraine.

377
00:20:59,390 --> 00:21:04,910
In Alsace, they speak a
patois, which is German.

378

00:21:04,910 --> 00:21:07,250

So they have a tendency
to be more German.

379

00:21:07,250 --> 00:21:11,270

The Lorraine people fought
in World War II, saved Jews,

380

00:21:11,270 --> 00:21:17,010

made a lot of patriotic
gestures for France.

381

00:21:17,010 --> 00:21:20,520

But again, I had two strikes
against me at all time.

382

00:21:20,520 --> 00:21:22,920

Because I was born there,
I was not a real French.

383

00:21:22,920 --> 00:21:23,770

I was a Jew.

384

00:21:23,770 --> 00:21:25,220

That's another strike.

385

00:21:25,220 --> 00:21:29,910

Now the reason I say this
is as we went on in the war,

386

00:21:29,910 --> 00:21:32,580

and the Germans were
there, our situation

387

00:21:32,580 --> 00:21:36,210

became kind of
not here nor there

388

00:21:36,210 --> 00:21:39,120

because we were in Dijon
more or less like refugees.

389

00:21:39,120 --> 00:21:40,890

But I worked.

390

00:21:40,890 --> 00:21:42,390

My father didn't work anymore.

391

00:21:42,390 --> 00:21:45,300

My brother worked,
and my younger sister

392

00:21:45,300 --> 00:21:46,680

was to go to school.

393

00:21:46,680 --> 00:21:53,125

She was born in 1925, so
she was 14 in 1939, 14, 15.

394

00:21:53,125 --> 00:21:55,890

You know, she was
still going to school.

395

00:21:55,890 --> 00:22:04,150

Now I get to that situation
where the Germans come in.

396

00:22:04,150 --> 00:22:06,580

All the Jews had to--

397

00:22:06,580 --> 00:22:11,230

see in Europe, in France
also, you have identity cards.

398

00:22:11,230 --> 00:22:14,125

Here we have a driver's
license or social security,

399

00:22:14,125 --> 00:22:15,310

and that's all they ask you.

400

00:22:15,310 --> 00:22:20,315

In Europe, you have identity
card that gives your name

401

00:22:20,315 --> 00:22:23,510
and even gives your religion.

402
00:22:23,510 --> 00:22:25,990
So when the Germans
came, they said, OK,

403
00:22:25,990 --> 00:22:30,430
all the Jews have to get
ration cards for food,

404
00:22:30,430 --> 00:22:32,340
have to register.

405
00:22:32,340 --> 00:22:35,661
My folks registered, I did not.

406
00:22:35,661 --> 00:22:37,480
And I tell you why I didn't.

407
00:22:37,480 --> 00:22:43,530
I never thought I would have a
problem with food for myself.

408
00:22:43,530 --> 00:22:46,380
Working in a bakery or
working in the food business,

409
00:22:46,380 --> 00:22:47,700
I'll always have food.

410
00:22:47,700 --> 00:22:52,410
I never got rationed
food to go in a bakery,

411
00:22:52,410 --> 00:22:56,610
buy bread, or go to the
grocery to buy butter or sugar,

412
00:22:56,610 --> 00:22:58,690
whatever.

413

00:22:58,690 --> 00:23:03,740
And so the three years I had
been gone as an apprentice,

414
00:23:03,740 --> 00:23:06,390
I wasn't really
close to my family.

415
00:23:06,390 --> 00:23:09,950
The fact is that they
lived a certain life.

416
00:23:09,950 --> 00:23:18,710
I had three years of an owner
that put in a discipline in me

417
00:23:18,710 --> 00:23:19,520
for the work.

418
00:23:19,520 --> 00:23:20,310
She has a kid.

419
00:23:20,310 --> 00:23:22,430
The Jewish kids are
always very spoiled.

420
00:23:22,430 --> 00:23:23,660
I was spoiled.

421
00:23:23,660 --> 00:23:28,010
I could do whatever I
want at home, you know.

422
00:23:28,010 --> 00:23:31,490
My sister was the oldest
girl of the three, so

423
00:23:31,490 --> 00:23:33,497
my father that's her favorite.

424
00:23:33,497 --> 00:23:34,830
I was the favorite of my mother.

425

00:23:34,830 --> 00:23:36,620

My oldest brother
was already gone.

426

00:23:36,620 --> 00:23:40,190

Then the young one when he
came, everybody liked him.

427

00:23:40,190 --> 00:23:43,330

He's the youngest, you see.

428

00:23:43,330 --> 00:23:49,210

Now so I became more or
less at the age of 17, 18--

429

00:23:49,210 --> 00:23:53,560

when I got to Dijon, I
made some friends my age.

430

00:23:53,560 --> 00:23:56,290

I remember going out
with a hat on my head.

431

00:23:56,290 --> 00:24:00,230

I was a-- now when you
say 17, you're a kid.

432

00:24:00,230 --> 00:24:01,870

At that time, I
thought I was grown up.

433

00:24:01,870 --> 00:24:07,020

I was a man, you know, although
you learn that's not true.

434

00:24:07,020 --> 00:24:11,430

So what happened is
I worked in a place

435

00:24:11,430 --> 00:24:15,120

that basically I
was making cookies,

436

00:24:15,120 --> 00:24:18,750

and the product that was
made in this place I worked

437

00:24:18,750 --> 00:24:20,340

was called pain d'epice.

438

00:24:20,340 --> 00:24:23,280

Pain d'epice is like a honey
cake, Jewish honey cake,

439

00:24:23,280 --> 00:24:26,610

but it's a specialty of
Dijon, with the mustard.

440

00:24:26,610 --> 00:24:30,320

And that pain d'epice is
strictly a Dijon specialty.

441

00:24:30,320 --> 00:24:33,840

So I worked there, and I
had to be there at 6:00.

442

00:24:33,840 --> 00:24:40,360

In February of 1942, the Germans
were already there since '40,

443

00:24:40,360 --> 00:24:41,640

you see.

444

00:24:41,640 --> 00:24:46,280

They come to the house around
7 o'clock and take my father.

445

00:24:46,280 --> 00:24:47,600

He was registered.

446

00:24:47,600 --> 00:24:50,780

But they knew of me
and asked where I was.

447

00:24:50,780 --> 00:24:53,480

They said that I wasn't living
there, which wasn't true.

448
00:24:53,480 --> 00:24:55,550
I was gone working.

449
00:24:55,550 --> 00:24:56,840
So he was taken.

450
00:24:56,840 --> 00:24:58,730
The neighbors came
to the place where

451
00:24:58,730 --> 00:25:01,490
I worked and told me to
not to go home because they

452
00:25:01,490 --> 00:25:03,360
were looking for me.

453
00:25:03,360 --> 00:25:07,160
So I don't recall
exactly how it happened,

454
00:25:07,160 --> 00:25:09,860
but some people
in the underground

455
00:25:09,860 --> 00:25:18,140
put me that evening on a train
that was empty rail train that

456
00:25:18,140 --> 00:25:22,460
came from Germany and went to
Lyon, which was nonoccupied,

457
00:25:22,460 --> 00:25:25,820
see that portion of
France was not occupied.

458
00:25:25,820 --> 00:25:31,790
And so they had
sealed-off wagons empty,

459
00:25:31,790 --> 00:25:33,630
and they put me in there.

460
00:25:33,630 --> 00:25:34,130
That's it.

461
00:25:34,130 --> 00:25:34,720
The way I was.

462
00:25:34,720 --> 00:25:35,220
That's it.

463
00:25:35,220 --> 00:25:38,600
I went in there to the
nonoccupied where the Germans

464
00:25:38,600 --> 00:25:40,410
weren't.

465
00:25:40,410 --> 00:25:42,750
And this is February 1942.

466
00:25:42,750 --> 00:25:47,550
In July '42, I was going to be
20, so I wasn't exactly 20 yet.

467
00:25:47,550 --> 00:25:49,860
And inside, there was
four or five guys.

468
00:25:49,860 --> 00:25:52,200
Some were in French
military uniform,

469
00:25:52,200 --> 00:25:54,460
some were in civilian clothes.

470
00:25:54,460 --> 00:26:00,720
And there was just like a
material laying on the floor.

471

00:26:00,720 --> 00:26:01,980

So we laid down.

472

00:26:01,980 --> 00:26:05,460

And as we get to the border,

I could hear the boots

473

00:26:05,460 --> 00:26:08,440

of the Germans outside.

474

00:26:08,440 --> 00:26:10,390

But we went through, no problem.

475

00:26:10,390 --> 00:26:13,990

We get to the other

side where the line--

476

00:26:13,990 --> 00:26:16,610

the French flag was flying

at the railway station,

477

00:26:16,610 --> 00:26:18,400

so I knew there's no Germans.

478

00:26:18,400 --> 00:26:22,310

Where the Germans were, there

was no French flag flying.

479

00:26:22,310 --> 00:26:25,950

And so when I got

there, the logical thing

480

00:26:25,950 --> 00:26:31,560

was to go to the town of Lyon,

which is a large town for work.

481

00:26:31,560 --> 00:26:32,730

As I got to the station--

482

00:26:32,730 --> 00:26:35,420

483

00:26:35,420 --> 00:26:36,180
you need water.

484

00:26:36,180 --> 00:26:40,530
OK-- as I got to the
town, I'm looking around.

485

00:26:40,530 --> 00:26:44,090
I see military,
French military guys,

486

00:26:44,090 --> 00:26:47,630
and these posters posted
that the Vichy government

487

00:26:47,630 --> 00:26:53,210
is drafting anybody
born between 1920, 1922,

488

00:26:53,210 --> 00:26:55,850
in the youth camp
in green uniform.

489

00:26:55,850 --> 00:26:58,580
I figured that's just
got to be the Germans.

490

00:26:58,580 --> 00:27:00,883
But the military
guys talked to me,

491

00:27:00,883 --> 00:27:02,300
and they said,
where are you from.

492

00:27:02,300 --> 00:27:04,460
I said, born in Lorraine,
but I come from Dijon.

493

00:27:04,460 --> 00:27:07,310
And they said, look, if you
want to escape the Germans, you

494

00:27:07,310 --> 00:27:08,600
enlist in the army.

495

00:27:08,600 --> 00:27:11,210
After you go through
your training,

496

00:27:11,210 --> 00:27:13,180
you have a choice
where you want to go.

497

00:27:13,180 --> 00:27:15,330
So I said, well, I
want to go to Africa.

498

00:27:15,330 --> 00:27:16,580
Why do I want to go to Africa?

499

00:27:16,580 --> 00:27:19,220
I figure from Africa
to get to Gibraltar

500

00:27:19,220 --> 00:27:21,860
and join the French
forces in England.

501

00:27:21,860 --> 00:27:25,940
And remember, I'm talking like
a 20-year-old at the time.

502

00:27:25,940 --> 00:27:30,410
My destiny wasn't to go there
because I never made it.

503

00:27:30,410 --> 00:27:33,230
But I enlisted in the army for
three years, the French army.

504

00:27:33,230 --> 00:27:37,038

505

00:27:37,038 --> 00:27:38,950

Now.

506
00:27:38,950 --> 00:27:45,420
(video logistics) OK.

507
00:27:45,420 --> 00:27:46,590
All right.

508
00:27:46,590 --> 00:27:54,510
In 1942, my father was
taken by the Germans.

509
00:27:54,510 --> 00:28:00,330
I really had no idea because
the situation at that time

510
00:28:00,330 --> 00:28:03,660
wasn't as fluid as now
with communication.

511
00:28:03,660 --> 00:28:08,100
You knew who in Germany was
the bad guys, but you didn't--

512
00:28:08,100 --> 00:28:10,880
I wasn't aware there
was concentration camps.

513
00:28:10,880 --> 00:28:12,550
I had no idea.

514
00:28:12,550 --> 00:28:17,160
They took my father strictly
because he was a Jew regardless

515
00:28:17,160 --> 00:28:22,720
of what he did in life, but
they just took the people.

516
00:28:22,720 --> 00:28:26,130
Now when I got to
the army in Lyon,

517

00:28:26,130 --> 00:28:29,550

and I enlisted
for three years, I

518

00:28:29,550 --> 00:28:35,500

realized that I have
some time in October

519

00:28:35,500 --> 00:28:40,240

to be shipped to a town
called Blida in Algeria.

520

00:28:40,240 --> 00:28:44,450

And from there, I was going
to try to do something.

521

00:28:44,450 --> 00:28:46,560

I had no idea what.

522

00:28:46,560 --> 00:28:57,150

Now my sister stayed in Dijon,
and she met a pastry chef that

523

00:28:57,150 --> 00:29:01,310

was a friend of mine, non-Jew.

524

00:29:01,310 --> 00:29:03,885

My mother always
complained to me, why

525

00:29:03,885 --> 00:29:05,010

don't you take your sister?

526

00:29:05,010 --> 00:29:08,270

You go out with your buddies
although there was the war,

527

00:29:08,270 --> 00:29:10,140

and your sister
is always at home.

528

00:29:10,140 --> 00:29:11,178

She never goes out.

529

00:29:11,178 --> 00:29:12,470
So I took her one time with me.

530

00:29:12,470 --> 00:29:16,370
She met this fellow,
Marcel, which--

531

00:29:16,370 --> 00:29:20,320
and she was 16 and 1/2,
she got married to him.

532

00:29:20,320 --> 00:29:21,230
OK?

533

00:29:21,230 --> 00:29:25,460
Now when they took
my father, my mother

534

00:29:25,460 --> 00:29:27,080
lived with the little boy.

535

00:29:27,080 --> 00:29:28,680
Remember he was born in '33.

536

00:29:28,680 --> 00:29:32,880
That's '42, so he
was nine years old.

537

00:29:32,880 --> 00:29:36,690
I go in the army, and
the only communication

538

00:29:36,690 --> 00:29:40,560
we had between the two
zones was open postcards.

539

00:29:40,560 --> 00:29:42,940
For the censure, you
couldn't write letters.

540

00:29:42,940 --> 00:29:45,870
You could have a
postcard, and the censure

541
00:29:45,870 --> 00:29:48,000
could read what you wrote.

542
00:29:48,000 --> 00:29:52,650
So I got this in July in
the army from my sister

543
00:29:52,650 --> 00:29:56,370
that they took my mother, and
she took the little brother

544
00:29:56,370 --> 00:29:58,960
with her.

545
00:29:58,960 --> 00:30:00,690
So that was another shocker.

546
00:30:00,690 --> 00:30:03,000
See, the father, I figured
he was in the army.

547
00:30:03,000 --> 00:30:07,140
If they took him to work to
Germany, he might survive.

548
00:30:07,140 --> 00:30:09,720
Unbeknownst to me, he
never lived 24 hours

549
00:30:09,720 --> 00:30:12,480
because when you
reach a certain age,

550
00:30:12,480 --> 00:30:16,320
they were automatically
eliminated.

551
00:30:16,320 --> 00:30:21,000
So when they took my mother,

it was a greater shock

552

00:30:21,000 --> 00:30:22,470

because it's a woman, you know?

553

00:30:22,470 --> 00:30:27,300

You don't realize

the way the mind

554

00:30:27,300 --> 00:30:31,350

of the Germans work, those

particular Nazis that

555

00:30:31,350 --> 00:30:33,460

do this work.

556

00:30:33,460 --> 00:30:39,180

So here I am ready

to go to Africa.

557

00:30:39,180 --> 00:30:44,700

One day in September of

1942, the American troops

558

00:30:44,700 --> 00:30:54,750

land in Africa, which is in,

not Algeria, but in Morocco.

559

00:30:54,750 --> 00:30:56,700

As soon as that

happened, the Germans

560

00:30:56,700 --> 00:30:59,790

crushed the nonoccupied

zone, go all the way

561

00:30:59,790 --> 00:31:03,330

down to the Mediterranean,

and the French flee in Toulon

562

00:31:03,330 --> 00:31:05,070

scuttled.

563

00:31:05,070 --> 00:31:10,290

I, in the army at that
time in Lyon, had to go.

564

00:31:10,290 --> 00:31:15,870

They send us to guard against
the Underground, the basic post

565

00:31:15,870 --> 00:31:17,790

office, gas factory,
and everything,

566

00:31:17,790 --> 00:31:23,010

that there is no terrorist act.

567

00:31:23,010 --> 00:31:26,530

But when we went, that was
before even the Germans

568

00:31:26,530 --> 00:31:27,910

came down.

569

00:31:27,910 --> 00:31:34,450

And here were a group of 12 guys
in this gas factory like PG&E,

570

00:31:34,450 --> 00:31:40,540

let's say, and people come to
us and say, listen, the Germans

571

00:31:40,540 --> 00:31:42,790

are in your depot.

572

00:31:42,790 --> 00:31:43,840

You better not go back.

573

00:31:43,840 --> 00:31:45,970

You're going to be
taken as prisoners.

574

00:31:45,970 --> 00:31:50,530

And they give us this

jean-type long thing,

575

00:31:50,530 --> 00:31:52,000
like mechanics, you know?

576

00:31:52,000 --> 00:31:53,860
We wore this.

577

00:31:53,860 --> 00:31:57,070
The sergeant and the corporal
had families in town.

578

00:31:57,070 --> 00:31:58,300
They left us flat.

579

00:31:58,300 --> 00:31:59,890
We were some guys.

580

00:31:59,890 --> 00:32:06,200
And that was September,
October of 1942.

581

00:32:06,200 --> 00:32:07,840
So what happened at that time--

582

00:32:07,840 --> 00:32:09,730
I forgot to mention
one more thing.

583

00:32:09,730 --> 00:32:14,110
When I got to the army,
maybe three weeks later,

584

00:32:14,110 --> 00:32:17,440
one of my buddies in Dijon,
which was non-Jewish,

585

00:32:17,440 --> 00:32:20,650
came and wanted to
enlist with me because we

586

00:32:20,650 --> 00:32:23,660

were so close friends.

587

00:32:23,660 --> 00:32:24,780

He went to the Air Force.

588

00:32:24,780 --> 00:32:26,750

He had flat feet, so he
went to the Air Force.

589

00:32:26,750 --> 00:32:28,280

But we stayed buddies.

590

00:32:28,280 --> 00:32:30,680

Naturally, he had
his family in Dijon.

591

00:32:30,680 --> 00:32:31,730

He went back.

592

00:32:31,730 --> 00:32:33,410

Where was I going to go?

593

00:32:33,410 --> 00:32:36,078

I went back to Dijon
to get my sister

594

00:32:36,078 --> 00:32:37,120

to tell me what happened.

595

00:32:37,120 --> 00:32:40,290

596

00:32:40,290 --> 00:32:44,260

So what happened,
I get back, and I

597

00:32:44,260 --> 00:32:50,780

recall that at that time,
the Laval government--

598

00:32:50,780 --> 00:32:52,760

now we get back just

before Christmas,

599

00:32:52,760 --> 00:32:57,440
and we got a thousand francs
for a premium of enlistment.

600

00:32:57,440 --> 00:33:00,480
And a thousand francs at that
time was pretty good money.

601

00:33:00,480 --> 00:33:04,460
So we had a good party and
right after the first year,

602

00:33:04,460 --> 00:33:10,870
'43, we get a notice
from the government--

603

00:33:10,870 --> 00:33:12,700
you didn't finish
your enlistment.

604

00:33:12,700 --> 00:33:15,280
You have to go work in Germany.

605

00:33:15,280 --> 00:33:22,320
To finish off your enlistment,
you go as a laborer in Germany.

606

00:33:22,320 --> 00:33:23,830
Now I wasn't that stupid.

607

00:33:23,830 --> 00:33:25,900
I realized, where was I born?

608

00:33:25,900 --> 00:33:28,420
Automatically, they put
me in the German army

609

00:33:28,420 --> 00:33:30,310
if I'm not Jewish.

610

00:33:30,310 --> 00:33:33,090
Being Jewish, I go to the camp.

611
00:33:33,090 --> 00:33:40,530
So I had met a fellow in
1940 when we got there, 1939,

612
00:33:40,530 --> 00:33:42,320
when we got to Dijon.

613
00:33:42,320 --> 00:33:45,560
I was already telling you the
type of person who wanted to go

614
00:33:45,560 --> 00:33:52,580
to Gibraltar to join de Gaulle,
and I was already taking

615
00:33:52,580 --> 00:33:57,170
prÃ©paration militaire, which
means preparing me because I

616
00:33:57,170 --> 00:33:57,803
wasn't stupid.

617
00:33:57,803 --> 00:33:59,220
If I knew something
ahead of time,

618
00:33:59,220 --> 00:34:02,360
I might become a
sergeant or an officer

619
00:34:02,360 --> 00:34:05,450
rather than a regular soldier.

620
00:34:05,450 --> 00:34:10,730
So I learned the Morse code, the
gun that they had at the time.

621
00:34:10,730 --> 00:34:13,159
It was just like the
preparation in case

622
00:34:13,159 --> 00:34:15,230
I was going to get drafted.

623
00:34:15,230 --> 00:34:17,159
I was 17 in '39.

624
00:34:17,159 --> 00:34:18,770
So I wasn't drafted till 18.

625
00:34:18,770 --> 00:34:21,560
But the Germans came,
I wasn't drafted.

626
00:34:21,560 --> 00:34:23,870
So I called this guy,
and he was working--

627
00:34:23,870 --> 00:34:25,370
while the Germans
were there, he was

628
00:34:25,370 --> 00:34:28,370
working at a place
called the prefecture.

629
00:34:28,370 --> 00:34:32,090
Prefecture is not a city hall.

630
00:34:32,090 --> 00:34:33,440
It's above.

631
00:34:33,440 --> 00:34:38,170
It's not the capitol, but it's
each section had a prefecture.

632
00:34:38,170 --> 00:34:40,610
In the prefecture Dijon,
he was working there,

633
00:34:40,610 --> 00:34:41,530
I went to see him.

634
00:34:41,530 --> 00:34:44,060
I simply told him,
this is the case.

635
00:34:44,060 --> 00:34:45,320
I'm born in Lorraine.

636
00:34:45,320 --> 00:34:47,150
They don't know I'm Jewish.

637
00:34:47,150 --> 00:34:49,580
They took me to the German army.

638
00:34:49,580 --> 00:34:53,239
But being Jewish, they're
going to put me in a camp.

639
00:34:53,239 --> 00:34:56,690
So he said, you can
be very useful to me.

640
00:34:56,690 --> 00:35:00,890
We have a way for you to work.

641
00:35:00,890 --> 00:35:03,770
We're going to-- instead
of taken into Germany,

642
00:35:03,770 --> 00:35:09,770
we're going to put a requisition
for you to work in a restaurant

643
00:35:09,770 --> 00:35:14,440
strictly for the
German soldiers, which

644
00:35:14,440 --> 00:35:15,850
was near the railway station.

645
00:35:15,850 --> 00:35:18,520
And it was a town--

646
00:35:18,520 --> 00:35:21,250
coming from Germany going
to the African corps,

647
00:35:21,250 --> 00:35:23,198
the Germans had to stop there.

648
00:35:23,198 --> 00:35:25,240
They didn't have to stop,
but they stopped there.

649
00:35:25,240 --> 00:35:28,630
And the only place, because
they had no French money,

650
00:35:28,630 --> 00:35:31,150
they had to eat in
that particular place.

651
00:35:31,150 --> 00:35:33,190
By the way, I worked there.

652
00:35:33,190 --> 00:35:35,980
And what we used to do, I
used to-- and the cooks,

653
00:35:35,980 --> 00:35:39,640
we ate better than
the Germans because we

654
00:35:39,640 --> 00:35:41,320
could fix what we wanted.

655
00:35:41,320 --> 00:35:44,530
And for them, it
used to be one dish.

656
00:35:44,530 --> 00:35:46,360
For each dish,
they had a ticket.

657

00:35:46,360 --> 00:35:49,330

They gave me the tickets,
I put them in the office,

658

00:35:49,330 --> 00:35:52,000

but I counted them, and
I reported to this guy

659

00:35:52,000 --> 00:35:53,950

how many dishes we
served that day.

660

00:35:53,950 --> 00:35:56,210

That's all I have to do.

661

00:35:56,210 --> 00:36:00,320

Somehow, I don't know, there
was somebody that worked there

662

00:36:00,320 --> 00:36:02,390

that was a girlfriend of mine.

663

00:36:02,390 --> 00:36:04,280

She had nothing to do with it.

664

00:36:04,280 --> 00:36:06,015

But I mentioned I
had a girlfriend.

665

00:36:06,015 --> 00:36:08,390

But you know when you're that
age, you're a little cocky.

666

00:36:08,390 --> 00:36:10,340

I must have said something.

667

00:36:10,340 --> 00:36:12,470

Somebody heard.

668

00:36:12,470 --> 00:36:15,560

And one morning, my brother--

669

00:36:15,560 --> 00:36:18,800
the oldest brother was hidden.

670
00:36:18,800 --> 00:36:21,260
He didn't register either,
so he was with his wife,

671
00:36:21,260 --> 00:36:22,305
which was Catholic.

672
00:36:22,305 --> 00:36:23,930
And they had two
children by that time.

673
00:36:23,930 --> 00:36:26,750
One born in '40,
one born in '41.

674
00:36:26,750 --> 00:36:29,720
There was about, like,
12 months, 11, 12 months

675
00:36:29,720 --> 00:36:32,220
difference between the two.

676
00:36:32,220 --> 00:36:35,090
So I went-- before going
to work, I have to explain.

677
00:36:35,090 --> 00:36:37,250
In those days, in this
particular kitchen,

678
00:36:37,250 --> 00:36:40,070
I worked from 7:00 in
the morning till 1:00.

679
00:36:40,070 --> 00:36:41,870
Then I came back at
4 o'clock and work

680
00:36:41,870 --> 00:36:44,150
a few hours for the evening.

681
00:36:44,150 --> 00:36:46,760
And so before going to
work, I went to see him.

682
00:36:46,760 --> 00:36:49,405
And from his window
where he lived

683
00:36:49,405 --> 00:36:50,780
on the third or
fourth floor, you

684
00:36:50,780 --> 00:36:54,740
could see train filled
with French guys

685
00:36:54,740 --> 00:37:00,650
my age going to Germany
as working people.

686
00:37:00,650 --> 00:37:03,590
They were either drafted
or on their free will,

687
00:37:03,590 --> 00:37:05,790
they had no other way to work.

688
00:37:05,790 --> 00:37:07,430
And he says, watch
out where you are.

689
00:37:07,430 --> 00:37:08,430
It's kind of dangerous.

690
00:37:08,430 --> 00:37:11,200
You know you shouldn't do that.

691
00:37:11,200 --> 00:37:15,050
That was the last message
I heard from my brother.

692

00:37:15,050 --> 00:37:17,240

I went to work maybe
50 minutes later.

693

00:37:17,240 --> 00:37:21,950

Some German field gendarmerie
with these big dog tags--

694

00:37:21,950 --> 00:37:24,230

I had a big thing said
gendarmerie-- they picked me

695

00:37:24,230 --> 00:37:26,680

up.

696

00:37:26,680 --> 00:37:29,795

And I'm taken to the Gestapo.

697

00:37:29,795 --> 00:37:31,920

Naturally, I didn't know
where it was, the Gestapo,

698

00:37:31,920 --> 00:37:33,930

but I found it was the Gestapo.

699

00:37:33,930 --> 00:37:37,290

And I heard some guys scream.

700

00:37:37,290 --> 00:37:40,260

They were being beaten.

701

00:37:40,260 --> 00:37:42,410

And here I am.

702

00:37:42,410 --> 00:37:44,910

I get into an
office, and there's

703

00:37:44,910 --> 00:37:47,250

a guy behind the
desk, an officer.

704

00:37:47,250 --> 00:37:51,300

And he looks at me
and he says, [GERMAN]..

705

00:37:51,300 --> 00:37:53,040

What was I going to say, no?

706

00:37:53,040 --> 00:37:53,910

He asked me.

707

00:37:53,910 --> 00:37:54,420

He knows.

708

00:37:54,420 --> 00:37:55,800

Otherwise, he does not ask me.

709

00:37:55,800 --> 00:37:57,000

I said yes.

710

00:37:57,000 --> 00:37:58,410

Nothing happened to me.

711

00:37:58,410 --> 00:38:03,020

They took me to the jail
in this town, took--

712

00:38:03,020 --> 00:38:07,970

in that jail for the purpose
of shipping me to Drancy,

713

00:38:07,970 --> 00:38:10,850

which was the departure
port for people

714

00:38:10,850 --> 00:38:13,310

gone to Germany, the Jews.

715

00:38:13,310 --> 00:38:17,270

I was in a prison
that was loaded full,

716

00:38:17,270 --> 00:38:18,680

and we were in the workshop.

717

00:38:18,680 --> 00:38:24,620

They put up beds three high,
and I was in that workshop.

718

00:38:24,620 --> 00:38:26,870

And I guess it was
about a couple of weeks

719

00:38:26,870 --> 00:38:35,170

and then some civilian French
guys, police, picked us up

720

00:38:35,170 --> 00:38:38,890

to take a train,
like, at midnight,

721

00:38:38,890 --> 00:38:41,680

that was going to
Paris and from Paris,

722

00:38:41,680 --> 00:38:43,820

to go to the suburb
of Paris, was

723

00:38:43,820 --> 00:38:46,240

the place where they put
all the Jews together

724

00:38:46,240 --> 00:38:47,308

to be sent to Germany.

725

00:38:47,308 --> 00:38:49,100

The French didn't know
where they're going.

726

00:38:49,100 --> 00:38:51,520

They knew they had to bring
me to that particular place

727

00:38:51,520 --> 00:38:56,530

with another fellow that they

picked up in the Underground.

728

00:38:56,530 --> 00:38:58,780

He was in the woods,
they picked him up,

729

00:38:58,780 --> 00:39:05,120

and he was put in prison, and
the two of us went to Paris.

730

00:39:05,120 --> 00:39:10,470

What I did because even
then, I was already

731

00:39:10,470 --> 00:39:13,860

thinking, before I
leave, whoever I knew

732

00:39:13,860 --> 00:39:15,460

should know what happened to me.

733

00:39:15,460 --> 00:39:17,580

So I asked the French
police guy, could you

734

00:39:17,580 --> 00:39:21,520

have my girlfriend, she
lives just in this place,

735

00:39:21,520 --> 00:39:24,600

tell her that I'm
leaving for Paris.

736

00:39:24,600 --> 00:39:27,220

And she came with her mother.

737

00:39:27,220 --> 00:39:30,310

She wasn't Jewish, naturally.

738

00:39:30,310 --> 00:39:31,930

The reason I bring
her up because it's

739

00:39:31,930 --> 00:39:35,740

very important to realize
when I got to Germany--

740

00:39:35,740 --> 00:39:40,930

and I got first to Drancy, and
there was hundreds of people--

741

00:39:40,930 --> 00:39:43,120

the first thing the
Germans did, they said--

742

00:39:43,120 --> 00:39:45,640

743

00:39:45,640 --> 00:39:49,120

they gave us a paper, and they
said, you give us your money.

744

00:39:49,120 --> 00:39:51,700

We're going to
convert it into zlotys

745

00:39:51,700 --> 00:39:57,130

because you're going to work
in the factories in Poland.

746

00:39:57,130 --> 00:39:58,750

My mind was working already.

747

00:39:58,750 --> 00:40:00,820

I'm going to be
underneath in the mines.

748

00:40:00,820 --> 00:40:01,750

I'll be warm.

749

00:40:01,750 --> 00:40:03,790

The winter cold wasn't for me.

750

00:40:03,790 --> 00:40:04,570

I'll be fine.

751
00:40:04,570 --> 00:40:07,990
You know, I always took this
lighter than it really--

752
00:40:07,990 --> 00:40:11,140
I never looked at the
danger because when you're

753
00:40:11,140 --> 00:40:14,300
a young guy, the
family is gone, what

754
00:40:14,300 --> 00:40:16,030
do we have to lose
more than one life?

755
00:40:16,030 --> 00:40:16,570
That's it.

756
00:40:16,570 --> 00:40:19,220
So I never worry too much.

757
00:40:19,220 --> 00:40:23,360
Before we left, the
Germans said, to every--

758
00:40:23,360 --> 00:40:25,130
it was these wagons that said--

759
00:40:25,130 --> 00:40:27,680

760
00:40:27,680 --> 00:40:30,620
it was 12 horses and 40 people.

761
00:40:30,620 --> 00:40:33,890
That was World War I. They used
these for transporting troops,

762
00:40:33,890 --> 00:40:37,820
so that opened doors like this,

and they put people in there.

763

00:40:37,820 --> 00:40:42,080
Before leaving, they assembled
in front of every wagon.

764

00:40:42,080 --> 00:40:45,080
There was a German and
an interpreter that said,

765

00:40:45,080 --> 00:40:47,930
whoever escapes
from this, we want--

766

00:40:47,930 --> 00:40:49,460
this man, his wife,
and his children

767

00:40:49,460 --> 00:40:52,660
will be shot if somebody
tries to escape.

768

00:40:52,660 --> 00:40:56,690
Naturally, the biggest worrier
was that guy with his family.

769

00:40:56,690 --> 00:40:58,490
He didn't let anybody escape.

770

00:40:58,490 --> 00:41:00,620
He screamed if somebody
was trying to escape.

771

00:41:00,620 --> 00:41:02,540
Anyway, we had
nobody that escaped.

772

00:41:02,540 --> 00:41:06,170
I went from Paris to go to
Germany to the hometown where

773

00:41:06,170 --> 00:41:07,070
I was born.

774
00:41:07,070 --> 00:41:07,810
I could see it.

775
00:41:07,810 --> 00:41:10,130
I realized where I was.

776
00:41:10,130 --> 00:41:13,310
We were on the train for
three days and three nights.

777
00:41:13,310 --> 00:41:16,010
All we got was some
bread from the Red Cross.

778
00:41:16,010 --> 00:41:17,360
We had nothing to drink.

779
00:41:17,360 --> 00:41:18,700
There was all the people.

780
00:41:18,700 --> 00:41:20,360
They got sick.

781
00:41:20,360 --> 00:41:24,500
When we reached the place
that was called Hindenburg,

782
00:41:24,500 --> 00:41:30,230
there was the border
between Germany and Poland.

783
00:41:30,230 --> 00:41:35,120
And we left December
the 7th, and we reached

784
00:41:35,120 --> 00:41:38,120
there December the 10th, 1943.

785
00:41:38,120 --> 00:41:41,120
And, really, some
time in October,

786
00:41:41,120 --> 00:41:42,710
I was taken by the Germans.

787
00:41:42,710 --> 00:41:45,380
So between October
and December the 10th,

788
00:41:45,380 --> 00:41:48,860
I was in custody left and right.

789
00:41:48,860 --> 00:41:53,350
My sister at that
time was pregnant.

790
00:41:53,350 --> 00:41:57,520
And I didn't know when I
left if I ever would know

791
00:41:57,520 --> 00:42:01,290
if she had a boy or a girl.

792
00:42:01,290 --> 00:42:01,790
OK.

793
00:42:01,790 --> 00:42:07,040
So I get to this camp and
then the reality hits you.

794
00:42:07,040 --> 00:42:11,680
There's German green
uniform opening the door

795
00:42:11,680 --> 00:42:15,760
and starting with a whip to
whip the people off the train.

796
00:42:15,760 --> 00:42:18,520
And you get to--

797
00:42:18,520 --> 00:42:20,910
there's snow on the ground.

798

00:42:20,910 --> 00:42:26,650

And naturally, as I said before,
languages was part of my life

799

00:42:26,650 --> 00:42:30,270

because even where I was born,
we took two hours of German

800

00:42:30,270 --> 00:42:34,230

every week in school, so
I could understand German.

801

00:42:34,230 --> 00:42:38,550

They were saying, women
and children on one side,

802

00:42:38,550 --> 00:42:40,600

and the men on the other side.

803

00:42:40,600 --> 00:42:42,050

So we had a line.

804

00:42:42,050 --> 00:42:48,210

There was a guy on a
little hill, not high,

805

00:42:48,210 --> 00:42:51,660

maybe 10 feet above
that he could see down

806

00:42:51,660 --> 00:42:54,420

in front of the cattle
that was coming to him.

807

00:42:54,420 --> 00:42:58,850

And all they wanted us to
say, the age and profession.

808

00:42:58,850 --> 00:43:01,080

So I got to the place.

809

00:43:01,080 --> 00:43:06,340
I said, cook, 20.

810
00:43:06,340 --> 00:43:07,810
This way.

811
00:43:07,810 --> 00:43:11,050
There was 1,100
people on this train.

812
00:43:11,050 --> 00:43:13,600
The whole train
had 1,100 people.

813
00:43:13,600 --> 00:43:17,660
By that evening, there
were 300 that went to work.

814
00:43:17,660 --> 00:43:21,550
And at that time,
they took us on trucks

815
00:43:21,550 --> 00:43:29,650
and drove us to which
became Buna-Monowitz,

816
00:43:29,650 --> 00:43:37,270
and there, the reality
of the atrocity

817
00:43:37,270 --> 00:43:42,540
really hit me because we got
there in the back of a barrack

818
00:43:42,540 --> 00:43:44,820
and we had no
baggage, no nothing.

819
00:43:44,820 --> 00:43:47,700
We just had our clothes,
and it's winter.

820
00:43:47,700 --> 00:43:48,840

There's a young guy.

821

00:43:48,840 --> 00:43:52,410
He couldn't have been-- more a
soldier, military, with a whip.

822

00:43:52,410 --> 00:43:56,310
And he starts to holler and whip
around, take all your clothes

823

00:43:56,310 --> 00:43:59,430
off, take your
shoes and your belt.

824

00:43:59,430 --> 00:44:00,810
Naked in the snow.

825

00:44:00,810 --> 00:44:03,630
You know it takes
a little thinking.

826

00:44:03,630 --> 00:44:06,150
We did this, and we
went into the barrack,

827

00:44:06,150 --> 00:44:11,770
and they clipped every bit
of hair we had on our body,

828

00:44:11,770 --> 00:44:14,050
and put--

829

00:44:14,050 --> 00:44:19,520
it smelled like petroleum
because the biggest thing,

830

00:44:19,520 --> 00:44:22,880
the fear of the Germans
was the typhus, which

831

00:44:22,880 --> 00:44:26,540
had to do with lice.

832

00:44:26,540 --> 00:44:28,370

And as you got in
there-- and I had

833

00:44:28,370 --> 00:44:30,290

been in the army,
so I looked at some

834

00:44:30,290 --> 00:44:32,900

of these guys, the
Polish guy, the people

835

00:44:32,900 --> 00:44:36,350

that have been hardened
already, and they start laughing

836

00:44:36,350 --> 00:44:40,220

at seeing these new recruits
coming in and say, where you

837

00:44:40,220 --> 00:44:42,440

from, where you from?

838

00:44:42,440 --> 00:44:44,960

And when they clipped
and they did this,

839

00:44:44,960 --> 00:44:49,430

we had to go under
a shower, hot water

840

00:44:49,430 --> 00:44:53,550

and out in the snow
completely wet.

841

00:44:53,550 --> 00:44:56,130

Now I can't see.

842

00:44:56,130 --> 00:44:57,370

I have no mirror.

843

00:44:57,370 --> 00:45:01,540

When I saw the guys around me
with no hair and some of them

844
00:45:01,540 --> 00:45:07,980
had wife and children, I have
been expressing my feelings

845
00:45:07,980 --> 00:45:12,420
on the face of these guys.

846
00:45:12,420 --> 00:45:15,360
Like, did you ever look
in the eyes of a cow?

847
00:45:15,360 --> 00:45:17,040
A human being has emotions.

848
00:45:17,040 --> 00:45:19,560
When you're sad,
you'll see in the eyes.

849
00:45:19,560 --> 00:45:21,750
If you're smiling,
you're happy, you'll see.

850
00:45:21,750 --> 00:45:24,000
The cow, there is no expression.

851
00:45:24,000 --> 00:45:27,300
That's how these guys
became expressionless.

852
00:45:27,300 --> 00:45:32,160
The eyes were dead because
they realized if to him, they

853
00:45:32,160 --> 00:45:34,260
do this, what if they
did the same thing

854
00:45:34,260 --> 00:45:37,250
to the children and the women?

855

00:45:37,250 --> 00:45:41,000

What we know since, that
they put them, instead

856

00:45:41,000 --> 00:45:43,100

of in the shower, with gas.

857

00:45:43,100 --> 00:45:44,930

They were finished,
into the oven.

858

00:45:44,930 --> 00:45:46,460

Where I was, was no ovens.

859

00:45:46,460 --> 00:45:52,080

We were like a distance of
Millbrae to San Francisco,

860

00:45:52,080 --> 00:45:55,560

between, let's say San Francisco
is Auschwitz, Buna-Monowitz

861

00:45:55,560 --> 00:45:56,910

was like Millbrae.

862

00:45:56,910 --> 00:46:01,280

So we could see the
smokestacks and naturally

863

00:46:01,280 --> 00:46:06,500

with the people that were there,
you get to know a lot of things

864

00:46:06,500 --> 00:46:09,200

that you don't
realize that you have.

865

00:46:09,200 --> 00:46:14,250

Everybody, like a mix from all
over the world, that are there.

866

00:46:14,250 --> 00:46:19,350

There was even an American that
was in the streets of Nice.

867
00:46:19,350 --> 00:46:21,150
And there was a raffle.

868
00:46:21,150 --> 00:46:23,580
A raffle is where they
pick up young guys.

869
00:46:23,580 --> 00:46:26,010
And this particular guy,
they put him in the hallway,

870
00:46:26,010 --> 00:46:27,900
had his trousers down,
he was circumcised.

871
00:46:27,900 --> 00:46:29,460
He wasn't even Jewish.

872
00:46:29,460 --> 00:46:33,080
Was circumcised, woop,
they sent him to Auschwitz.

873
00:46:33,080 --> 00:46:35,030
And I met him there.

874
00:46:35,030 --> 00:46:39,650
Now this is just an aside,
just a commentary of how you

875
00:46:39,650 --> 00:46:41,840
get to see different situation.

876
00:46:41,840 --> 00:46:44,060
The particular
camp that I was in,

877
00:46:44,060 --> 00:46:48,260
Buna-Monowitz, there must
have been at least 80 barracks

878

00:46:48,260 --> 00:46:51,670
that held 120 people.

879

00:46:51,670 --> 00:46:55,690
It was three lines
of beds three high.

880

00:46:55,690 --> 00:46:58,780
So there was 40 here,
40 here, and 40 here.

881

00:46:58,780 --> 00:47:01,510
Now the figure, approximate.

882

00:47:01,510 --> 00:47:03,820
I was in the middle.

883

00:47:03,820 --> 00:47:09,010
Now every week, once a week,
they clipped your hair,

884

00:47:09,010 --> 00:47:10,810
clipped you under the arm.

885

00:47:10,810 --> 00:47:17,170
And whoever did this got a
soup, extra soup, extra food.

886

00:47:17,170 --> 00:47:19,630
And also the ones that
went to the kitchen, there

887

00:47:19,630 --> 00:47:23,740
was thermos, high thermos
with soup in there.

888

00:47:23,740 --> 00:47:27,220
That's all we've got, some
soup and some dark bread.

889

00:47:27,220 --> 00:47:29,920
So I used to go and

pick up the soup,

890

00:47:29,920 --> 00:47:32,380

clean the kettles just to
have a little more to eat.

891

00:47:32,380 --> 00:47:34,450

Because I was
strong enough and I

892

00:47:34,450 --> 00:47:36,730

have a bone structure
that was big,

893

00:47:36,730 --> 00:47:41,860

so I didn't show skinny
situation right away.

894

00:47:41,860 --> 00:47:47,860

But every month or two, a
German officer would come

895

00:47:47,860 --> 00:47:51,400

and you had to parade in
front of him from one aisle,

896

00:47:51,400 --> 00:47:57,310

naked, from an aisle and show
your back to him and go out.

897

00:47:57,310 --> 00:48:02,200

Whoever you could see the bones
of your behind sticking out,

898

00:48:02,200 --> 00:48:05,650

they were taken
away to the ovens.

899

00:48:05,650 --> 00:48:09,220

Now that never occurred
to me because, as I said,

900

00:48:09,220 --> 00:48:12,850

I always had thick bones,
and it did help me.

901
00:48:12,850 --> 00:48:18,210
I happened to get an abscess
from the guy that clipped me,

902
00:48:18,210 --> 00:48:19,710
and it wasn't very clean.

903
00:48:19,710 --> 00:48:21,480
So I couldn't work.

904
00:48:21,480 --> 00:48:22,530
I couldn't lift my arm.

905
00:48:22,530 --> 00:48:26,730
We had to make the
beds in the barracks.

906
00:48:26,730 --> 00:48:31,800
And there was-- the head of
the barrack was called kapo,

907
00:48:31,800 --> 00:48:36,930
K-A-P-O. And the kapo usually--

908
00:48:36,930 --> 00:48:40,200
I say usually-- was either
a criminal or conscientious

909
00:48:40,200 --> 00:48:42,690
objector that didn't
want to go in the army.

910
00:48:42,690 --> 00:48:45,370
Anyway, it was a guy
that used to be in jail.

911
00:48:45,370 --> 00:48:49,350
He was in charge there,
so some were pretty mean.

912

00:48:49,350 --> 00:48:55,492

And so when I had this,
and I was in the middle,

913

00:48:55,492 --> 00:48:57,450

I had some friends that
helped me make the bed,

914

00:48:57,450 --> 00:48:59,130

but they said they can't.

915

00:48:59,130 --> 00:49:01,500

They're also very tired.

916

00:49:01,500 --> 00:49:04,020

So finally I decided
I have to go to--

917

00:49:04,020 --> 00:49:07,800

and my job was to work outside
in the snow in the winter.

918

00:49:07,800 --> 00:49:09,480

We had to dig holes.

919

00:49:09,480 --> 00:49:14,400

They were making a hole
to put synthetic gas.

920

00:49:14,400 --> 00:49:17,460

They were making synthetic
gasoline without a coal,

921

00:49:17,460 --> 00:49:21,300

and they wanted to make some
containers into the ground.

922

00:49:21,300 --> 00:49:22,620

We couldn't really work.

923

00:49:22,620 --> 00:49:24,960

You had no way with

a pick and shovel

924

00:49:24,960 --> 00:49:29,190
to make holes in the snow, and
so you did this to keep warm.

925

00:49:29,190 --> 00:49:32,490
By noon and when it thawed
out, the hole closed up again.

926

00:49:32,490 --> 00:49:35,350
So we were not very
useful at work.

927

00:49:35,350 --> 00:49:39,090
Anyway, I get to this situation
where this is bothering me.

928

00:49:39,090 --> 00:49:41,100
I can't lift my arm.

929

00:49:41,100 --> 00:49:42,570
And I go to the infirmary.

930

00:49:42,570 --> 00:49:46,020
And I was always told,
you go to the infirmary,

931

00:49:46,020 --> 00:49:47,700
we're never going
to see you again.

932

00:49:47,700 --> 00:49:49,200
They don't want to
take care of you.

933

00:49:49,200 --> 00:49:51,570
They're going to give you
a needle, and you're dead.

934

00:49:51,570 --> 00:49:53,880
I had no choice.

935

00:49:53,880 --> 00:49:58,420

So I went, and to this
day, I hate hospitals.

936

00:49:58,420 --> 00:50:01,060

I can't see sick situation.

937

00:50:01,060 --> 00:50:05,050

But I went in, and
there's a German prisoner

938

00:50:05,050 --> 00:50:06,650

that talked to me.

939

00:50:06,650 --> 00:50:09,820

And he gave me some
black stuff to put on

940

00:50:09,820 --> 00:50:14,090

and the next day instead
of go to work, I went back.

941

00:50:14,090 --> 00:50:16,790

He was one of the greatest
surgeons of Berlin.

942

00:50:16,790 --> 00:50:18,580

Jewish.

943

00:50:18,580 --> 00:50:19,840

He told me so.

944

00:50:19,840 --> 00:50:25,430

And so, he put me on a
table, and he said to me,

945

00:50:25,430 --> 00:50:28,330

[GERMAN] to grit my teeth.

946

00:50:28,330 --> 00:50:30,560

And look, he cut it.

947

00:50:30,560 --> 00:50:32,610

There's no bandage.

948

00:50:32,610 --> 00:50:34,950

He gave me what we have
as toilet paper here.

949

00:50:34,950 --> 00:50:36,000

You know that band.

950

00:50:36,000 --> 00:50:38,460

He put this around, that paper.

951

00:50:38,460 --> 00:50:40,632

And I didn't stay
in the infirmary.

952

00:50:40,632 --> 00:50:41,340

I didn't want to.

953

00:50:41,340 --> 00:50:43,170

I went back to the barracks.

954

00:50:43,170 --> 00:50:45,390

And I could see
people of authority

955

00:50:45,390 --> 00:50:47,790

have to show meanness
for one reason

956

00:50:47,790 --> 00:50:49,260

or another for discipline.

957

00:50:49,260 --> 00:50:52,170

When I got back there and
all the people were gone,

958

00:50:52,170 --> 00:50:55,560

it was just me and him,
that guy that was a criminal

959

00:50:55,560 --> 00:50:56,670

was very nice to me.

960

00:50:56,670 --> 00:50:58,920

He talked to me, and he
said to me, don't worry.

961

00:50:58,920 --> 00:51:01,710

When you get better, you're
not going to go work outside.

962

00:51:01,710 --> 00:51:04,410

I put you to work in
inside the factory.

963

00:51:04,410 --> 00:51:05,670

You'll be away from the coal.

964

00:51:05,670 --> 00:51:08,500

965

00:51:08,500 --> 00:51:09,490

Fine.

966

00:51:09,490 --> 00:51:14,040

I worked with a
German civilian that

967

00:51:14,040 --> 00:51:17,710

had a long, white face, pale.

968

00:51:17,710 --> 00:51:19,317

His name was Schultz.

969

00:51:19,317 --> 00:51:21,400

You're going to say, how
do you know he's Schultz?

970

00:51:21,400 --> 00:51:25,480

Well, because Schultz,
you got the former guy

971

00:51:25,480 --> 00:51:27,970

in the government

here was Schultz.

972

00:51:27,970 --> 00:51:32,370

Eisenhower, General Eisenhower,

before he was president,

973

00:51:32,370 --> 00:51:34,410

I made ice cream

for him in New York.

974

00:51:34,410 --> 00:51:38,430

And his aide-de-camp,

his captain, was Schultz.

975

00:51:38,430 --> 00:51:40,380

So the name Schultz

stayed with me.

976

00:51:40,380 --> 00:51:43,080

You know what this

Schultz did for me?

977

00:51:43,080 --> 00:51:45,810

His kit with the

tools, he brought

978

00:51:45,810 --> 00:51:48,930

me boiled potatoes that

he, during the night,

979

00:51:48,930 --> 00:51:53,700

got in the field and boiled them

for me and brought them to me.

980

00:51:53,700 --> 00:51:55,770

But he never let me

eat in front of him.

981

00:51:55,770 --> 00:51:57,510

He had to go hide on top.

982

00:51:57,510 --> 00:52:02,820

You know the job we did
was insulate pipes so

983

00:52:02,820 --> 00:52:07,090

that insulation was glass wall,
and that pretty much was rough.

984

00:52:07,090 --> 00:52:09,780

So I hid up there and one day
came up, and we got to talk.

985

00:52:09,780 --> 00:52:13,240

He says to me, do you know
why I gave you the potatoes?

986

00:52:13,240 --> 00:52:14,550

I don't know you.

987

00:52:14,550 --> 00:52:18,210

But you know, when I was
in occupation in France,

988

00:52:18,210 --> 00:52:20,850

I had some French
farmers that invited me

989

00:52:20,850 --> 00:52:24,360

to their house to have a
good dinner and some wine.

990

00:52:24,360 --> 00:52:26,290

That's how I want to repay them.

991

00:52:26,290 --> 00:52:28,350

That's how I got
potatoes from him.

992

00:52:28,350 --> 00:52:30,960

So you see, in the
worst of situation,

993

00:52:30,960 --> 00:52:35,670
there are some people that you
cannot say everybody is 100%

994
00:52:35,670 --> 00:52:38,370
bad or 100% good.

995
00:52:38,370 --> 00:52:44,640
Now I came to that situation
because my setup in the camp

996
00:52:44,640 --> 00:52:51,120
was such that every day
was a day you survived.

997
00:52:51,120 --> 00:52:54,810
People disappeared
because they were skinny,

998
00:52:54,810 --> 00:52:57,880
and they couldn't work anymore.

999
00:52:57,880 --> 00:52:59,760
The hunger was something.

1000
00:52:59,760 --> 00:53:01,800
You dream about food.

1001
00:53:01,800 --> 00:53:04,420
You couldn't-- there
was nothing else.

1002
00:53:04,420 --> 00:53:05,910
What are you going to think of?

1003
00:53:05,910 --> 00:53:07,060
Survival?

1004
00:53:07,060 --> 00:53:09,270
You're just like
a-- you know what

1005

00:53:09,270 --> 00:53:13,050
they call-- the Germans called
people that were very skinny?

1006
00:53:13,050 --> 00:53:14,780
Muselmann.

1007
00:53:14,780 --> 00:53:18,240
In French, muselmann
means a Muslim.

1008
00:53:18,240 --> 00:53:21,780
But in German,
muselmann means a person

1009
00:53:21,780 --> 00:53:27,060
that is near death or so skinny,
they call him a muselmann.

1010
00:53:27,060 --> 00:53:31,410
I had this situation where I
was in the middle of three beds.

1011
00:53:31,410 --> 00:53:35,160
Above me was a Russian soldier,
prisoner that was there.

1012
00:53:35,160 --> 00:53:38,640
And the bottom was a
professor, Jewish professor

1013
00:53:38,640 --> 00:53:41,630
from Salonica, Greece.

1014
00:53:41,630 --> 00:53:42,960
I don't speak Russian.

1015
00:53:42,960 --> 00:53:44,810
I don't speak Greek.

1016
00:53:44,810 --> 00:53:49,310
But like I talk now, I
think of talking of recipes,

1017
00:53:49,310 --> 00:53:51,530
of bakery goods I was making.

1018
00:53:51,530 --> 00:53:54,380
So I start to talk,
and I find out

1019
00:53:54,380 --> 00:53:58,640
this professor from
Greece speaks French,

1020
00:53:58,640 --> 00:54:00,900
and he speaks Spanish.

1021
00:54:00,900 --> 00:54:05,250
The soldier that
was above, in 1936

1022
00:54:05,250 --> 00:54:09,390
was in Spain during
the revolution

1023
00:54:09,390 --> 00:54:15,180
with the Russian army in the
brigade that went to Spain,

1024
00:54:15,180 --> 00:54:17,010
so he understood Spanish.

1025
00:54:17,010 --> 00:54:21,240
Now I made rum baba in my
mind and talked to the guy.

1026
00:54:21,240 --> 00:54:22,710
He talked to the Russian.

1027
00:54:22,710 --> 00:54:25,830
The Russian said to the
guy, tell him after the war,

1028
00:54:25,830 --> 00:54:28,260

I come to work for him in Paris.

1029
00:54:28,260 --> 00:54:31,000
You know, this is
anecdotes of how you try

1030
00:54:31,000 --> 00:54:33,970
to survive by saying or doing.

1031
00:54:33,970 --> 00:54:38,370
And sometimes, you have
people that used to smoke.

1032
00:54:38,370 --> 00:54:42,120
They would give up the piece
of bread to get a cigarette.

1033
00:54:42,120 --> 00:54:43,560
I had no problem
with this, but we

1034
00:54:43,560 --> 00:54:46,710
had-- you know I didn't see a
piece of soap for 22 months?

1035
00:54:46,710 --> 00:54:49,530

1036
00:54:49,530 --> 00:54:53,070
How we got up in the morning,
we washed, we picked up sand.

1037
00:54:53,070 --> 00:54:55,440
We had no hair, so we--

1038
00:54:55,440 --> 00:54:57,570
the skin.

1039
00:54:57,570 --> 00:55:02,340
My worst situation was
on a New Year's Eve,

1040

00:55:02,340 --> 00:55:08,640
must have been '43,
Christmas or New Year's Eve.

1041
00:55:08,640 --> 00:55:10,200
We're supposed to go to work.

1042
00:55:10,200 --> 00:55:14,540
And the guys, the
guards were all drunk.

1043
00:55:14,540 --> 00:55:17,150
And here there were
some French guys,

1044
00:55:17,150 --> 00:55:19,520
there were Jewish guys
that were with me.

1045
00:55:19,520 --> 00:55:23,120
And we got-- we got to
sing because what are we

1046
00:55:23,120 --> 00:55:24,230
going to do?

1047
00:55:24,230 --> 00:55:27,530
They were gone, so we sang
to keep our morale up.

1048
00:55:27,530 --> 00:55:30,890
In the snow, we're walking
back from the work,

1049
00:55:30,890 --> 00:55:33,270
back we're walking to camp.

1050
00:55:33,270 --> 00:55:36,660
So this is the low point
where you're so sad.

1051
00:55:36,660 --> 00:55:41,102
I had many a days where

I saw people laying dead.

1052
00:55:41,102 --> 00:55:42,560
I looked up in the
sky, and I said,

1053
00:55:42,560 --> 00:55:47,370
if there's a God, why,
why, why, why is this?

1054
00:55:47,370 --> 00:55:50,700
Now, again, I'm out
of context, really,

1055
00:55:50,700 --> 00:55:51,840
if you want to look at it.

1056
00:55:51,840 --> 00:55:54,660
I just speak as things
come to my mind.

1057
00:55:54,660 --> 00:55:56,040
All these things I kept.

1058
00:55:56,040 --> 00:55:59,300
I never really talked about it.

1059
00:55:59,300 --> 00:56:01,040
I was lucky.

1060
00:56:01,040 --> 00:56:03,620
When I got back in 1945--

1061
00:56:03,620 --> 00:56:06,490
first of all, before I got
back, I have to explain.

1062
00:56:06,490 --> 00:56:09,260
We were so close to the
Russians that we could

1063
00:56:09,260 --> 00:56:13,040

hear the artillery in Breslau.

1064

00:56:13,040 --> 00:56:17,780

They were bombarding the town.

1065

00:56:17,780 --> 00:56:23,240

And so I always say,
union makes force.

1066

00:56:23,240 --> 00:56:24,390

I never work alone.

1067

00:56:24,390 --> 00:56:26,180

I always buddies around me.

1068

00:56:26,180 --> 00:56:28,340

So we were, some
French guys together.

1069

00:56:28,340 --> 00:56:32,060

I have it with me maybe
a dozen names of people

1070

00:56:32,060 --> 00:56:34,640

that while we're in camp
hoping we come back.

1071

00:56:34,640 --> 00:56:36,650

If somebody comes
back, you have the name

1072

00:56:36,650 --> 00:56:39,150

to inform the family
that they were there

1073

00:56:39,150 --> 00:56:40,910

and if they didn't
come back, we're

1074

00:56:40,910 --> 00:56:42,890

the last one that saw them.

1075

00:56:42,890 --> 00:56:44,990
But I have these names.

1076
00:56:44,990 --> 00:56:46,010
I wrote them out.

1077
00:56:46,010 --> 00:56:48,830

1078
00:56:48,830 --> 00:56:55,780
The worst part of the
camp came towards '45.

1079
00:56:55,780 --> 00:57:00,380
End of January, February '45,
the Russians were approaching,

1080
00:57:00,380 --> 00:57:03,200
and we had to evacuate.

1081
00:57:03,200 --> 00:57:05,278
Now you see a bunch of
guys were saying, well,

1082
00:57:05,278 --> 00:57:06,320
we're going to play sick.

1083
00:57:06,320 --> 00:57:08,030
We're going to
stay here, and then

1084
00:57:08,030 --> 00:57:09,890
the Russians going to free us.

1085
00:57:09,890 --> 00:57:12,140
But then we said, wait a minute.

1086
00:57:12,140 --> 00:57:14,690
Maybe the Germans don't
want to see any survivors,

1087
00:57:14,690 --> 00:57:17,060

and they're going
to shoot everybody.

1088
00:57:17,060 --> 00:57:20,340
So we went with the
horde like cattle.

1089
00:57:20,340 --> 00:57:21,290
We left.

1090
00:57:21,290 --> 00:57:23,540
We walked.

1091
00:57:23,540 --> 00:57:28,200
At that time, the able men,
Germans, were already gone.

1092
00:57:28,200 --> 00:57:31,880
They had the old guard, people
in their 60s, guarding us.

1093
00:57:31,880 --> 00:57:36,800
They put a sack with food
to carry and we're walking,

1094
00:57:36,800 --> 00:57:39,020
pitch black, you know.

1095
00:57:39,020 --> 00:57:43,140
The planes, Russian plane, would
come and bombard around there,

1096
00:57:43,140 --> 00:57:44,430
so there was no light.

1097
00:57:44,430 --> 00:57:45,680
And we were walking.

1098
00:57:45,680 --> 00:57:48,450
And some of the old
guys couldn't carry it.

1099

00:57:48,450 --> 00:57:51,260

So they said, you
carry it for me.

1100

00:57:51,260 --> 00:57:53,060

So let's assume I got it.

1101

00:57:53,060 --> 00:57:54,650

The guy next to me took it away.

1102

00:57:54,650 --> 00:57:55,707

We took all the food out.

1103

00:57:55,707 --> 00:57:57,290

The guy didn't know
who he gave it to.

1104

00:57:57,290 --> 00:58:00,560

We all looked the same.

1105

00:58:00,560 --> 00:58:02,510

He never knew who
he gave the sack.

1106

00:58:02,510 --> 00:58:04,970

So but I said,
they were old guys.

1107

00:58:04,970 --> 00:58:07,470

We arrived to a place.

1108

00:58:07,470 --> 00:58:10,860

It's like a station
where there's a railroad,

1109

00:58:10,860 --> 00:58:12,190

and there's a station.

1110

00:58:12,190 --> 00:58:17,170

So it's so cold in January '45.

1111

00:58:17,170 --> 00:58:22,110

Remember, I had no underwear,
no socks, wooden shoes

1112
00:58:22,110 --> 00:58:26,470
with material, and we're going.

1113
00:58:26,470 --> 00:58:28,010
We try to go to a door.

1114
00:58:28,010 --> 00:58:28,600
It's locked.

1115
00:58:28,600 --> 00:58:31,720
It's full of people
from the camps.

1116
00:58:31,720 --> 00:58:32,650
We go to a window.

1117
00:58:32,650 --> 00:58:34,330
I try to open.

1118
00:58:34,330 --> 00:58:38,740
A fist comes out and hits you
so that you don't get in there.

1119
00:58:38,740 --> 00:58:40,450
So we were three guys.

1120
00:58:40,450 --> 00:58:42,730
In the dark we saw
like a little hill

1121
00:58:42,730 --> 00:58:44,500
to protect us from the wind.

1122
00:58:44,500 --> 00:58:46,570
We lay down in the snow.

1123
00:58:46,570 --> 00:58:49,450
When we woke up in
daytime, we realized

1124
00:58:49,450 --> 00:58:52,570
we are laying on the
top a pile of coal that

1125
00:58:52,570 --> 00:58:53,650
was for the engines.

1126
00:58:53,650 --> 00:58:58,530
We slept on the coal,
and we survived this.

1127
00:58:58,530 --> 00:59:03,670
Now in January of '45,
they're evacuating us,

1128
00:59:03,670 --> 00:59:05,290
and we're leaving.

1129
00:59:05,290 --> 00:59:08,750
Here's where we
were, Buna-Monowitz.

1130
00:59:08,750 --> 00:59:14,290
We go to Czechoslovakia,
Austria, back into Germany.

1131
00:59:14,290 --> 00:59:17,170
It took us one week
before we could get off

1132
00:59:17,170 --> 00:59:22,300
the train because most of
the camps wouldn't accept us.

1133
00:59:22,300 --> 00:59:24,850
There was no room, no food.

1134
00:59:24,850 --> 00:59:28,180
And here we are, nothing to eat.

1135
00:59:28,180 --> 00:59:32,230

Now the union is the strength.

1136
00:59:32,230 --> 00:59:33,520
We were on the side.

1137
00:59:33,520 --> 00:59:35,920
Let's say this is the
wagon, and the height

1138
00:59:35,920 --> 00:59:42,120
was about 6 and 1/2 feet, open.

1139
00:59:42,120 --> 00:59:47,160
Now against the wall, the
three of us were protected.

1140
00:59:47,160 --> 00:59:49,590
The weak guys fall asleep.

1141
00:59:49,590 --> 00:59:51,150
Three, four guys fall on top.

1142
00:59:51,150 --> 00:59:53,490
Every morning, we
peeled the dead,

1143
00:59:53,490 --> 00:59:56,880
threw them overboard all over
Germany, all over the place.

1144
00:59:56,880 --> 01:00:00,060
Now before we left that camp,
we got-- from a warehouse,

1145
01:00:00,060 --> 01:00:04,800
we found some cans
of Argentine beef.

1146
01:00:04,800 --> 01:00:05,880
It's called bully beef.

1147
01:00:05,880 --> 01:00:09,060

It's like corned beef in cans.

1148
01:00:09,060 --> 01:00:13,650
So we ate that before we
left, and we kept the cans.

1149
01:00:13,650 --> 01:00:15,450
I had no more belt.
I had a string.

1150
01:00:15,450 --> 01:00:18,920
I took the string with a
hole we made in the can,

1151
01:00:18,920 --> 01:00:22,200
and whenever the
train slowed down,

1152
01:00:22,200 --> 01:00:29,470
I went on the shoulder of a
guy, and I was there like this.

1153
01:00:29,470 --> 01:00:31,330
I went fishing for snow.

1154
01:00:31,330 --> 01:00:33,820
Food, after three days,
your stomach closes.

1155
01:00:33,820 --> 01:00:37,300
There's no way you're
going to be feeling hunger.

1156
01:00:37,300 --> 01:00:38,620
The stomach is closed.

1157
01:00:38,620 --> 01:00:42,310
But your body requires water.

1158
01:00:42,310 --> 01:00:44,970
So what we did,
we ate this, and I

1159

01:00:44,970 --> 01:00:46,470

remember saying
to the guy, that's

1160

01:00:46,470 --> 01:00:48,180

better than whipped cream.

1161

01:00:48,180 --> 01:00:50,970

Because it's snow, looks
like whipped cream.

1162

01:00:50,970 --> 01:00:56,600

And we ate this until
maybe three to four days

1163

01:00:56,600 --> 01:01:01,870

after we passed Austria,
I am going fishing,

1164

01:01:01,870 --> 01:01:04,210

and I didn't throw it very far.

1165

01:01:04,210 --> 01:01:06,367

Now in my mind, I'm looking
here and I said, well,

1166

01:01:06,367 --> 01:01:07,450

I don't want to be greedy.

1167

01:01:07,450 --> 01:01:08,620

I'm going back.

1168

01:01:08,620 --> 01:01:09,700

And I looked back.

1169

01:01:09,700 --> 01:01:11,710

There's this gunner
3 feet from me.

1170

01:01:11,710 --> 01:01:14,950

The guy is like this
with a gun at my head.

1171
01:01:14,950 --> 01:01:18,183
I grabbed the thing on the top
myself, he shot, and missed me.

1172
01:01:18,183 --> 01:01:19,600
Now if I was greedy,
and I was go,

1173
01:01:19,600 --> 01:01:23,470
go, I would have never
known what hit me.

1174
01:01:23,470 --> 01:01:25,810
I shook for a good 10 minutes.

1175
01:01:25,810 --> 01:01:29,540
I had no more can,
and we continued.

1176
01:01:29,540 --> 01:01:31,040
Now this is the--

1177
01:01:31,040 --> 01:01:38,600
at that time, there was a
story about the people that

1178
01:01:38,600 --> 01:01:43,670
were off a ship, and
they were on a raft.

1179
01:01:43,670 --> 01:01:46,520
And they got so bad, they
had nothing to eat, nothing.

1180
01:01:46,520 --> 01:01:48,230
So I'm thinking about this.

1181
01:01:48,230 --> 01:01:50,100
That's what happened to us.

1182
01:01:50,100 --> 01:01:51,500

We reached a place.

1183

01:01:51,500 --> 01:01:54,410

I don't remember where it
was, some place in Germany.

1184

01:01:54,410 --> 01:01:56,510

And there's a railway station.

1185

01:01:56,510 --> 01:02:00,140

And there's four
lines of trains.

1186

01:02:00,140 --> 01:02:02,390

We're in the extreme outside.

1187

01:02:02,390 --> 01:02:04,190

Here's the German Red Cross.

1188

01:02:04,190 --> 01:02:05,420

They see us.

1189

01:02:05,420 --> 01:02:08,180

They don't give a damn because
they are feeding soldiers

1190

01:02:08,180 --> 01:02:09,200

on this side.

1191

01:02:09,200 --> 01:02:15,250

On the other side, there's
a field and like a ravine.

1192

01:02:15,250 --> 01:02:17,500

So they go around
and they say, we

1193

01:02:17,500 --> 01:02:20,540

want to take all the dead
bodies off the train.

1194

01:02:20,540 --> 01:02:22,750

We need volunteers to
carry these dead bodies

1195
01:02:22,750 --> 01:02:25,270
into the ravine.

1196
01:02:25,270 --> 01:02:26,770
My legs were so bad.

1197
01:02:26,770 --> 01:02:28,835
I decide, well, maybe
I should go down.

1198
01:02:28,835 --> 01:02:30,460
And you see, it's
about 6 and 1/2 feet.

1199
01:02:30,460 --> 01:02:31,700
I can't lift myself.

1200
01:02:31,700 --> 01:02:33,370
I can't get out.

1201
01:02:33,370 --> 01:02:34,420
So I stayed.

1202
01:02:34,420 --> 01:02:37,780
The ones that went out, they
put one guy here, one guy here,

1203
01:02:37,780 --> 01:02:40,000
and the other guy
left, had the legs.

1204
01:02:40,000 --> 01:02:41,260
They threw this thing in.

1205
01:02:41,260 --> 01:02:43,850
When they were all in, they
shot everybody that went out,

1206
01:02:43,850 --> 01:02:45,910

threw them all in.

1207
01:02:45,910 --> 01:02:50,810
So you see, on that train,
I escaped death twice.

1208
01:02:50,810 --> 01:02:53,030
Now, OK.

1209
01:02:53,030 --> 01:02:54,680
We go on.

1210
01:02:54,680 --> 01:02:58,070
Two weeks in that train, we
finally reached a place called

1211
01:02:58,070 --> 01:03:05,760
Dora, D-O-R-A. And
that had non-Jews, 90%.

1212
01:03:05,760 --> 01:03:09,360
It had a lot of
French and Russians.

1213
01:03:09,360 --> 01:03:11,640
And they were
making the V1 rocket

1214
01:03:11,640 --> 01:03:15,760
in that place, the shell.

1215
01:03:15,760 --> 01:03:18,490
And they were in the pine trees.

1216
01:03:18,490 --> 01:03:20,410
Inside all the
barracks were the guys

1217
01:03:20,410 --> 01:03:22,810
were inside the pine trees.

1218
01:03:22,810 --> 01:03:28,450

And the factory was a horseshoe
shape inside the ground,

1219
01:03:28,450 --> 01:03:32,347
and it was covered with
fake trees, rubber trees.

1220
01:03:32,347 --> 01:03:34,930
And when a train came to pick
up the shells, they lifted this.

1221
01:03:34,930 --> 01:03:37,750
The train would go in and
go out some place else.

1222
01:03:37,750 --> 01:03:41,370
So now with this U2
plane, they would

1223
01:03:41,370 --> 01:03:42,600
have gotten it right away.

1224
01:03:42,600 --> 01:03:44,770
But at that time, they
never knew where the factory

1225
01:03:44,770 --> 01:03:48,660
was, the Allied forces.

1226
01:03:48,660 --> 01:03:50,900
So I'm going in there.

1227
01:03:50,900 --> 01:03:52,850
The three guys, we're together.

1228
01:03:52,850 --> 01:03:56,060
And we're so weak,
we hardly can move.

1229
01:03:56,060 --> 01:03:57,770
But I shake it off.

1230

01:03:57,770 --> 01:04:00,500
I went, and I eat
snow from the ground.

1231
01:04:00,500 --> 01:04:06,140
And as we're walking up a hill
into the pine trees, I hear--

1232
01:04:06,140 --> 01:04:08,970
I said, I thought I
was hallucinating.

1233
01:04:08,970 --> 01:04:10,640
I hear French.

1234
01:04:10,640 --> 01:04:11,360
French?

1235
01:04:11,360 --> 01:04:12,170
What's going on?

1236
01:04:12,170 --> 01:04:13,400
Where am I?

1237
01:04:13,400 --> 01:04:14,775
I went to the barrack.

1238
01:04:14,775 --> 01:04:17,150
The head of the barrack was
a French from the Underground

1239
01:04:17,150 --> 01:04:18,950
from France.

1240
01:04:18,950 --> 01:04:20,660
And we tell them who we are.

1241
01:04:20,660 --> 01:04:23,000
We are Jews from
Auschwitz, and we're here.

1242
01:04:23,000 --> 01:04:25,160

He says to us, don't follow.

1243

01:04:25,160 --> 01:04:29,110
Where you're going now, they're
going to exterminate you.

1244

01:04:29,110 --> 01:04:33,460
Somehow, he incorporated
us three into that barrack,

1245

01:04:33,460 --> 01:04:35,710
and we stayed in that barrack.

1246

01:04:35,710 --> 01:04:37,930
And we had to go to work,
and we stayed there.

1247

01:04:37,930 --> 01:04:39,730
And we never went to no--

1248

01:04:39,730 --> 01:04:42,160
they said we were going
up to a shower place.

1249

01:04:42,160 --> 01:04:45,370
Turns out everybody that
went up there was liquidated.

1250

01:04:45,370 --> 01:04:47,710
They had no food for them.

1251

01:04:47,710 --> 01:04:50,800
Because I heard-- that's
why I stay with French

1252

01:04:50,800 --> 01:04:54,060
because my life was saved there.

1253

01:04:54,060 --> 01:04:58,200
So what happened is, we
went to work in a factory,

1254

01:04:58,200 --> 01:05:04,040
and it was machine tool.

1255
01:05:04,040 --> 01:05:06,530
They were making pieces
to get that rocket.

1256
01:05:06,530 --> 01:05:07,640
I'm not a mechanic.

1257
01:05:07,640 --> 01:05:08,700
I don't know anything.

1258
01:05:08,700 --> 01:05:11,300
So the guys told me,
look, you take a rag,

1259
01:05:11,300 --> 01:05:13,670
and you just go
around and clean.

1260
01:05:13,670 --> 01:05:17,180
To keep busy, I was looking
what kind of machine--

1261
01:05:17,180 --> 01:05:20,450
you know, like
you look at a car.

1262
01:05:20,450 --> 01:05:23,450
It's called a Renault.
This is called a Chevy.

1263
01:05:23,450 --> 01:05:26,000
All the machine have the
place where they're from.

1264
01:05:26,000 --> 01:05:27,560
There was a machine
from America,

1265
01:05:27,560 --> 01:05:29,750
from England, from Italy.

1266
01:05:29,750 --> 01:05:34,120
And that was my way
of not getting bored.

1267
01:05:34,120 --> 01:05:35,410
I'm cleaning.

1268
01:05:35,410 --> 01:05:43,750
We are going into January,
February, March early April.

1269
01:05:43,750 --> 01:05:46,630
All of a sudden, we see maybe
hundreds of planes coming by.

1270
01:05:46,630 --> 01:05:48,010
American.

1271
01:05:48,010 --> 01:05:50,730
And they come in to
bomb into Germany.

1272
01:05:50,730 --> 01:05:53,960
The next day, we're at work.

1273
01:05:53,960 --> 01:05:56,640
There's a whole bunch
of Germans that come.

1274
01:05:56,640 --> 01:05:59,530
So the aisles in that
horseshoe were this way,

1275
01:05:59,530 --> 01:06:01,810
and that rail truck were here.

1276
01:06:01,810 --> 01:06:02,890
They put a platform.

1277
01:06:02,890 --> 01:06:06,700
All kinds of big-shot

German military were there,

1278

01:06:06,700 --> 01:06:11,290

and they picked up
maybe 40 Russians.

1279

01:06:11,290 --> 01:06:13,210

And they read a
list, blah blah blah.

1280

01:06:13,210 --> 01:06:14,860

Sabotage.

1281

01:06:14,860 --> 01:06:16,630

There was some sabotage.

1282

01:06:16,630 --> 01:06:24,770

And what they do, there is
crane with a wood this thick.

1283

01:06:24,770 --> 01:06:29,450

They put four guys with a
noose and lift the crane.

1284

01:06:29,450 --> 01:06:34,930

And then, the 40 guys got,
not really hanged, strangled.

1285

01:06:34,930 --> 01:06:38,800

And as we're standing here,
the entrance was over there,

1286

01:06:38,800 --> 01:06:40,900

and they were here.

1287

01:06:40,900 --> 01:06:42,760

They say we have
to parade in front.

1288

01:06:42,760 --> 01:06:44,860

And as we go back,
they were hitting us,

1289

01:06:44,860 --> 01:06:47,200

saying, this is for sabotage,
this is for sabotage.

1290

01:06:47,200 --> 01:06:50,530

We go on the other side,
maybe a couple of hundred.

1291

01:06:50,530 --> 01:06:54,430

Then they say, everybody back
to work, except the first 50.

1292

01:06:54,430 --> 01:06:55,690

Stay there.

1293

01:06:55,690 --> 01:06:58,750

I was among the first 50.

1294

01:06:58,750 --> 01:07:00,790

I figured maybe
it's our turn now.

1295

01:07:00,790 --> 01:07:05,860

Turns out we had to take
the bodies off this noose

1296

01:07:05,860 --> 01:07:08,560

and carry them to
the trucks out.

1297

01:07:08,560 --> 01:07:12,820

I was-- you know, there is
in France, a superstition--

1298

01:07:12,820 --> 01:07:15,160

hangman's noose
brings good luck.

1299

01:07:15,160 --> 01:07:17,260

I'm holding a body
that's still warm.

1300

01:07:17,260 --> 01:07:19,930
What I'm thinking is, the noose
is going to bring me luck.

1301
01:07:19,930 --> 01:07:23,080
It just shows you you're
dehumanized to a point

1302
01:07:23,080 --> 01:07:26,710
that you do things you don't
realize or think about things

1303
01:07:26,710 --> 01:07:28,960
that are not human, even.

1304
01:07:28,960 --> 01:07:35,858
So what happened, sure enough,
we had three guys getting this,

1305
01:07:35,858 --> 01:07:36,900
and we went back to work.

1306
01:07:36,900 --> 01:07:38,250
They didn't bother us.

1307
01:07:38,250 --> 01:07:43,290
You have to realize,
this is April 1945.

1308
01:07:43,290 --> 01:07:46,743
All of a sudden, the
Allied forces approaching.

1309
01:07:46,743 --> 01:07:48,910
I don't know if they're
Russian or they're American.

1310
01:07:48,910 --> 01:07:52,560
I don't recall except
we have to evacuate.

1311
01:07:52,560 --> 01:07:55,380
So there's a hill on

this side, and there's

1312

01:07:55,380 --> 01:07:57,030

another side this way.

1313

01:07:57,030 --> 01:07:57,990

We had no choice.

1314

01:07:57,990 --> 01:07:59,880

We're told to go up the hill.

1315

01:07:59,880 --> 01:08:03,480

And remember, at that
time, all the able army

1316

01:08:03,480 --> 01:08:04,810

guys were not there anymore.

1317

01:08:04,810 --> 01:08:08,800

It was all home guard, all the
guys that couldn't care less.

1318

01:08:08,800 --> 01:08:10,770

They were German,
but they really--

1319

01:08:10,770 --> 01:08:12,503

they knew the end was there.

1320

01:08:12,503 --> 01:08:13,920

The ones that went
into the valley

1321

01:08:13,920 --> 01:08:20,069

were liberated within 24 hours
by parachutist, American.

1322

01:08:20,069 --> 01:08:24,040

We went on the
hill, and we walked.

1323

01:08:24,040 --> 01:08:28,430

And we are the three guys
together, and we were walking.

1324
01:08:28,430 --> 01:08:34,920
And all of a sudden, there's
no more guards around.

1325
01:08:34,920 --> 01:08:36,300
They disappeared.

1326
01:08:36,300 --> 01:08:39,060
So we figured, well,
what are we going to do?

1327
01:08:39,060 --> 01:08:42,750
So we get to a couple
of houses, farmhouses,

1328
01:08:42,750 --> 01:08:46,770
and among the German
countryside with pine trees,

1329
01:08:46,770 --> 01:08:48,029
and we asked for food.

1330
01:08:48,029 --> 01:08:53,100
So they had, like, a
silo, not a silo, a barn,

1331
01:08:53,100 --> 01:09:00,189
and there was potatoes, and
there was a smoked ham hanging.

1332
01:09:00,189 --> 01:09:03,399
So, you know, the three of
us, we built a fire with wood,

1333
01:09:03,399 --> 01:09:05,740
and here we are, we
put in the potatoes.

1334
01:09:05,740 --> 01:09:07,859
We fixed some

potatoes, and we eat

1335

01:09:07,859 --> 01:09:10,029

that stuff that was very salty.

1336

01:09:10,029 --> 01:09:14,529

And I happened to have

a scar that I collected

1337

01:09:14,529 --> 01:09:17,529

in another place

from the Germans,

1338

01:09:17,529 --> 01:09:23,140

and so it was never

properly taken care.

1339

01:09:23,140 --> 01:09:28,090

All of a sudden, I get

enema, which is my forehead

1340

01:09:28,090 --> 01:09:29,350

starts to swell up.

1341

01:09:29,350 --> 01:09:31,510

My eyes were almost closed.

1342

01:09:31,510 --> 01:09:33,609

For three days, I

was like delirious.

1343

01:09:33,609 --> 01:09:37,779

And this is end

of April of 1945,

1344

01:09:37,779 --> 01:09:43,229

and it was unusually warm

in Germany at that time.

1345

01:09:43,229 --> 01:09:46,620

And sure enough,

where do we land?

1346

01:09:46,620 --> 01:09:49,729

Ravensbrück.

1347

01:09:49,729 --> 01:09:55,280

You see German, I mean, women--

1348

01:09:55,280 --> 01:09:57,860

well, I thought I saw
muselmann men, skinny,

1349

01:09:57,860 --> 01:10:03,910

but the women, legs are almost
like this, almost like this.

1350

01:10:03,910 --> 01:10:06,460

And you know, if you didn't--

1351

01:10:06,460 --> 01:10:08,560

nobody told you, you never
realize it's a woman.

1352

01:10:08,560 --> 01:10:10,870

You know there's nothing
that shows it's a woman.

1353

01:10:10,870 --> 01:10:15,400

There's nothing feminine
in the body that's walking.

1354

01:10:15,400 --> 01:10:18,910

And we get the Red Cross,
International Red Cross,

1355

01:10:18,910 --> 01:10:19,930

to give us packages.

1356

01:10:19,930 --> 01:10:22,030

Well, we know the end was near.

1357

01:10:22,030 --> 01:10:25,510

Most of the buddies
I had passed away.

1358
01:10:25,510 --> 01:10:28,300
They disappeared in
the last three months.

1359
01:10:28,300 --> 01:10:31,780
From the time we left
Auschwitz, I would say 50%,

1360
01:10:31,780 --> 01:10:35,770
60% of the people that survived
everything were finished

1361
01:10:35,770 --> 01:10:39,430
in that period of time
either because of the hunger

1362
01:10:39,430 --> 01:10:42,690
or because of something
happened to them.

1363
01:10:42,690 --> 01:10:47,010

1364
01:10:47,010 --> 01:10:49,890
Now in my story,
there are some parts

1365
01:10:49,890 --> 01:10:55,380
that I missed because I looked
like going through where

1366
01:10:55,380 --> 01:10:58,410
I was at a particular time.

1367
01:10:58,410 --> 01:11:02,580
In that period of time we
got the Red Cross packages,

1368
01:11:02,580 --> 01:11:07,800
and I had that enema, we were
in a place called Adolf Hitler

1369

01:11:07,800 --> 01:11:08,550

Kaserne.

1370

01:11:08,550 --> 01:11:10,110

There were no more
Germans around.

1371

01:11:10,110 --> 01:11:11,760

That was the depot
called Adolf Hitler,

1372

01:11:11,760 --> 01:11:13,110

but there was no Germans.

1373

01:11:13,110 --> 01:11:15,210

It was all prisoners.

1374

01:11:15,210 --> 01:11:17,290

And we did see a guy.

1375

01:11:17,290 --> 01:11:18,960

We rested there,
and all of a sudden,

1376

01:11:18,960 --> 01:11:22,050

I hear somebody in
the hallway, everybody

1377

01:11:22,050 --> 01:11:25,130

from the western zone, out.

1378

01:11:25,130 --> 01:11:26,730

The rest stays here.

1379

01:11:26,730 --> 01:11:29,063

The other buddies are sleeping,
so I said to them, look,

1380

01:11:29,063 --> 01:11:30,105

we're supposed to go out.

1381

01:11:30,105 --> 01:11:30,890
We go to France.

1382
01:11:30,890 --> 01:11:32,900
We are western.

1383
01:11:32,900 --> 01:11:38,840
Sure enough, big, black
GIs on trucks pick us up,

1384
01:11:38,840 --> 01:11:42,410
and we are brought
to a particular place

1385
01:11:42,410 --> 01:11:45,190
near the Holland border.

1386
01:11:45,190 --> 01:11:48,030
And that's where we
get Red Cross packages.

1387
01:11:48,030 --> 01:11:50,110
The first thing I
looked at the packages.

1388
01:11:50,110 --> 01:11:53,590
It has margarine,
it has cigarettes,

1389
01:11:53,590 --> 01:11:55,900
it has sugar, milk powder.

1390
01:11:55,900 --> 01:11:58,330
Being a baker-- there was rice--

1391
01:11:58,330 --> 01:12:00,610
I was going to make
a rice pudding.

1392
01:12:00,610 --> 01:12:03,640
Rice, sugar, milk powder,
and here I am fixing.

1393

01:12:03,640 --> 01:12:06,100

While I'm doing this, somebody
is stealing my package,

1394

01:12:06,100 --> 01:12:08,920

and I started
crying like a baby.

1395

01:12:08,920 --> 01:12:14,600

My package was stolen by those
guys that were in the camp.

1396

01:12:14,600 --> 01:12:15,920

You know what?

1397

01:12:15,920 --> 01:12:21,560

Maybe a dozen guys of that
group died from diarrhea.

1398

01:12:21,560 --> 01:12:23,900

Within 48 hours, they were dead.

1399

01:12:23,900 --> 01:12:27,140

The intestines are
not lined anymore.

1400

01:12:27,140 --> 01:12:30,330

I couldn't even-- I never
got anything in the package.

1401

01:12:30,330 --> 01:12:34,040

In other words to say,
I was saved again.

1402

01:12:34,040 --> 01:12:38,070

I would have maybe gorged
myself with that food,

1403

01:12:38,070 --> 01:12:40,340

and who knows what would
have happened to me?

1404

01:12:40,340 --> 01:12:43,850

But I was very unhappy
that it happened to me.

1405

01:12:43,850 --> 01:12:49,010

Sure enough, they got us
to the border of Holland,

1406

01:12:49,010 --> 01:12:52,010

and before we went
on the train, we

1407

01:12:52,010 --> 01:12:54,320

stayed one night in
this particular camp.

1408

01:12:54,320 --> 01:12:58,280

And at that time, they would
be afraid of lice, too.

1409

01:12:58,280 --> 01:13:02,460

They put DDT under the arms.

1410

01:13:02,460 --> 01:13:05,010

Red Cross-- I'll
have to explain,

1411

01:13:05,010 --> 01:13:09,030

that was after May the 8th where
the war had already stopped.

1412

01:13:09,030 --> 01:13:15,180

And sure enough, the
last guys in 1945,

1413

01:13:15,180 --> 01:13:20,430

from that Dora camp, guys
that went off to fight,

1414

01:13:20,430 --> 01:13:24,060

was a brigade, Charlemagne,
speaking French

1415

01:13:24,060 --> 01:13:26,520
that enlisted with the Nazis.

1416
01:13:26,520 --> 01:13:32,220
So we heard the French go
up fighting the Russians.

1417
01:13:32,220 --> 01:13:36,950
Now when we got to
the border, Holland,

1418
01:13:36,950 --> 01:13:40,220
everybody that was not
German that enlisted,

1419
01:13:40,220 --> 01:13:43,700
they put a swastika
tattooed here.

1420
01:13:43,700 --> 01:13:47,660
So when the Red Cross
had us put up the arm,

1421
01:13:47,660 --> 01:13:49,220
there wasn't a swastika.

1422
01:13:49,220 --> 01:13:52,602
They started to hit because
the nurse would give a signal.

1423
01:13:52,602 --> 01:13:53,810
They started to hit this guy.

1424
01:13:53,810 --> 01:13:58,190
They're trying to sneak in
back into France or to Europe

1425
01:13:58,190 --> 01:14:02,460
with the non-Nazis, so they
had him in the barrack.

1426
01:14:02,460 --> 01:14:05,720
They were like prisoners.

1427
01:14:05,720 --> 01:14:08,060
Now whatever happened
is, the next morning,

1428
01:14:08,060 --> 01:14:10,270
they all disappeared.

1429
01:14:10,270 --> 01:14:12,120
The guys around me
were saying, well,

1430
01:14:12,120 --> 01:14:15,580
the Americans let them go.

1431
01:14:15,580 --> 01:14:17,140
It made no difference to me.

1432
01:14:17,140 --> 01:14:20,140
I would have never known
that they put swastikas

1433
01:14:20,140 --> 01:14:23,560
under there, the ones that
enlisted in the German army.

1434
01:14:23,560 --> 01:14:27,490
But they were from
Spain and from France.

1435
01:14:27,490 --> 01:14:29,110
There's always
mercenaries that go

1436
01:14:29,110 --> 01:14:31,750
fight for one cause or another.

1437
01:14:31,750 --> 01:14:33,400
Anyway, here I am.

1438
01:14:33,400 --> 01:14:34,450
The war is over.

1439
01:14:34,450 --> 01:14:36,790
I get back to France.

1440
01:14:36,790 --> 01:14:39,850
And at the border, the
French had a strict control

1441
01:14:39,850 --> 01:14:40,720
of everybody.

1442
01:14:40,720 --> 01:14:46,390
So I got a paper where
I was, and they gave us

1443
01:14:46,390 --> 01:14:51,010
like a khaki clothing
and 200 francs.

1444
01:14:51,010 --> 01:14:54,340
And I was in the town of
Lille, the north of France.

1445
01:14:54,340 --> 01:14:56,860
My first purchase was,
there was a pushcart

1446
01:14:56,860 --> 01:15:01,360
with cherries in the street,
about a kilo of cherries,

1447
01:15:01,360 --> 01:15:02,440
my first purchase.

1448
01:15:02,440 --> 01:15:03,520
Where do I go?

1449
01:15:03,520 --> 01:15:06,090
Back to Dijon.

1450
01:15:06,090 --> 01:15:12,890
I found out that my youngest

brother was taken in 44,

1451

01:15:12,890 --> 01:15:17,070
and my sister had a girl.

1452

01:15:17,070 --> 01:15:22,050
And they picked her up while
she was nursing the baby,

1453

01:15:22,050 --> 01:15:23,850
and the husband was Catholic.

1454

01:15:23,850 --> 01:15:28,570
He went to the Germans
and said, at least

1455

01:15:28,570 --> 01:15:32,110
let us stay here till
she feeds my child.

1456

01:15:32,110 --> 01:15:34,690
So when they let her go,
they took my little brother

1457

01:15:34,690 --> 01:15:37,880
in '44, which is 11.

1458

01:15:37,880 --> 01:15:41,900
And her, the baby,
and the husband

1459

01:15:41,900 --> 01:15:45,650
escaped into the farmland,
and they never were taken.

1460

01:15:45,650 --> 01:15:47,220
She was never taken.

1461

01:15:47,220 --> 01:15:50,120
Neither was her daughter.

1462

01:15:50,120 --> 01:15:51,650

When I come back
and I hear this,

1463
01:15:51,650 --> 01:15:54,410
that they took my little
brother, the buddy that

1464
01:15:54,410 --> 01:15:57,710
enlisted in the French army with
me and was in the Air Force--

1465
01:15:57,710 --> 01:16:01,520
we were like
brothers to this day.

1466
01:16:01,520 --> 01:16:06,340
To this day, we're
still friends.

1467
01:16:06,340 --> 01:16:09,820
His mother, when I got to
his place, his mother saw me.

1468
01:16:09,820 --> 01:16:13,690
They said, we never
expected you back anymore.

1469
01:16:13,690 --> 01:16:17,780
Anyway, through him, I found
out there was an office--

1470
01:16:17,780 --> 01:16:21,010
I think it was the HIAS--

1471
01:16:21,010 --> 01:16:23,170
that took care of these things.

1472
01:16:23,170 --> 01:16:25,270
And we found out a
guy that was taken,

1473
01:16:25,270 --> 01:16:28,270
the 40-year-old that was taken

with him, was at the hospital.

1474
01:16:28,270 --> 01:16:29,540
Came back.

1475
01:16:29,540 --> 01:16:30,490
So I went to see him.

1476
01:16:30,490 --> 01:16:32,020
I said, where were you?

1477
01:16:32,020 --> 01:16:35,230
The same camp where I was.

1478
01:16:35,230 --> 01:16:37,330
If I was barrack
number 20, he must

1479
01:16:37,330 --> 01:16:40,140
have been barrack number 48.

1480
01:16:40,140 --> 01:16:42,205
He was that close to
me, and I never knew.

1481
01:16:42,205 --> 01:16:45,070
He never came back.

1482
01:16:45,070 --> 01:16:46,930
Never came back.

1483
01:16:46,930 --> 01:16:53,220
And so, I found out my
sister had a daughter.

1484
01:16:53,220 --> 01:16:57,060
And the French government
got me the-- now

1485
01:16:57,060 --> 01:17:00,960
we're looking at
after the war where,

1486
01:17:00,960 --> 01:17:04,570
you know, what is the future?

1487
01:17:04,570 --> 01:17:08,750
You have to become steel,
not to be emotional.

1488
01:17:08,750 --> 01:17:10,120
You're all alone.

1489
01:17:10,120 --> 01:17:14,110
The sister that escaped
with her husband

1490
01:17:14,110 --> 01:17:16,510
was in the French army
in the post office

1491
01:17:16,510 --> 01:17:20,620
in Germany, in the center in
Germany with her daughter.

1492
01:17:20,620 --> 01:17:23,770
And the husband was
in the army, too.

1493
01:17:23,770 --> 01:17:25,510
And so I was in Dijon.

1494
01:17:25,510 --> 01:17:30,040
This friend of mine,
Paul, was all I had.

1495
01:17:30,040 --> 01:17:34,670
And my brother, the older one--

1496
01:17:34,670 --> 01:17:36,860
actually, that's
all-- when I saw

1497
01:17:36,860 --> 01:17:40,870

him and I got taken
a few hours after, he

1498
01:17:40,870 --> 01:17:43,600
decided to leave the city
and he went to a village.

1499
01:17:43,600 --> 01:17:47,800
In small villages, everybody is
nosy, wants to know who he was

1500
01:17:47,800 --> 01:17:48,880
and what he was.

1501
01:17:48,880 --> 01:17:52,420
And he was denounced
by the farmers,

1502
01:17:52,420 --> 01:17:54,610
and the Germans
came in to where he

1503
01:17:54,610 --> 01:17:58,300
lived in an apartment, shot
him in front of the two kids

1504
01:17:58,300 --> 01:18:01,870
that were 3 and 4.

1505
01:18:01,870 --> 01:18:04,180
Two daughters alive in France.

1506
01:18:04,180 --> 01:18:10,540
The wife passed away at the age
of 80-something two years ago.

1507
01:18:10,540 --> 01:18:13,660
Now this is a chapter
that I had even

1508
01:18:13,660 --> 01:18:16,900
skipped over because I was
talking of what happened to me.

1509
01:18:16,900 --> 01:18:20,480
But in between, this
brother was all that--

1510
01:18:20,480 --> 01:18:22,940
except my sister.

1511
01:18:22,940 --> 01:18:24,830
1947.

1512
01:18:24,830 --> 01:18:27,800
But everything happens
by accident to me.

1513
01:18:27,800 --> 01:18:32,760
My destiny is
written, why I'm here.

1514
01:18:32,760 --> 01:18:35,070
When the French
government, after the war,

1515
01:18:35,070 --> 01:18:40,050
realized I needed to get
rehabilitated physically

1516
01:18:40,050 --> 01:18:45,240
and everything else, they put
me in a town called [Place name]

1517
01:18:45,240 --> 01:18:47,395
which is the center--

1518
01:18:47,395 --> 01:18:48,550
not far from Vichy.

1519
01:18:48,550 --> 01:18:51,270
It's a place where you
drink certain waters,

1520
01:18:51,270 --> 01:18:53,240

and it helps you.

1521

01:18:53,240 --> 01:18:58,650

I get to this place, and it
has maybe 50 to 80 people--

1522

01:18:58,650 --> 01:19:00,150

I can't recall exactly--

1523

01:19:00,150 --> 01:19:03,600

from Hungary, from Poland,
from Spain, not from Spain,

1524

01:19:03,600 --> 01:19:07,380

from Greece, all
refugees that eventually

1525

01:19:07,380 --> 01:19:08,730

not going to stay in France.

1526

01:19:08,730 --> 01:19:12,060

They go either to Israel
or to the United States.

1527

01:19:12,060 --> 01:19:16,460

I met this guy go to the United
States, and we got friendly.

1528

01:19:16,460 --> 01:19:20,300

What happens to me is, I
have no way to find work.

1529

01:19:20,300 --> 01:19:22,610

What am I going to do?

1530

01:19:22,610 --> 01:19:26,480

So I recalled in the '30s,
when we were in Hayange,

1531

01:19:26,480 --> 01:19:34,450

my mother's sister sent us
passage on a boat, a ship,

1532

01:19:34,450 --> 01:19:35,920
to go to United States.

1533

01:19:35,920 --> 01:19:37,900
My parents didn't go.

1534

01:19:37,900 --> 01:19:43,940
But being a kid that at that
time, I was a Boy Scout.

1535

01:19:43,940 --> 01:19:46,690
I watched stamps.

1536

01:19:46,690 --> 01:19:49,870
I took the stamp for the
United States and collect it.

1537

01:19:49,870 --> 01:19:54,240
The envelope stayed
stuck in my mind.

1538

01:19:54,240 --> 01:19:59,700
The name of the husband
of my aunt was Packard.

1539

01:19:59,700 --> 01:20:01,950
Williams Avenue, Brooklyn.

1540

01:20:01,950 --> 01:20:06,610
Williams was a connection,
William Powell.

1541

01:20:06,610 --> 01:20:09,230
Not the actor.

1542

01:20:09,230 --> 01:20:14,330
William Powell-Baden, the
head that made the Boy Scouts,

1543

01:20:14,330 --> 01:20:15,370
the former--

1544

01:20:15,370 --> 01:20:18,040

the guy that initiated
the Boy Scouts.

1545

01:20:18,040 --> 01:20:21,250

So I send a letter in French,
which my aunt didn't speak

1546

01:20:21,250 --> 01:20:25,180

French, and I said that I was--

1547

01:20:25,180 --> 01:20:27,970

I forgot what I said
except it took a month,

1548

01:20:27,970 --> 01:20:31,620

I got an answer, half English
half Italian, couple of words

1549

01:20:31,620 --> 01:20:32,440

in French.

1550

01:20:32,440 --> 01:20:34,570

Neighbors, Italian
neighbors, helped

1551

01:20:34,570 --> 01:20:36,400

to understand what
the letter was.

1552

01:20:36,400 --> 01:20:42,370

She knew I was alive, and she
worked out some papers for me.

1553

01:20:42,370 --> 01:20:45,280

Naturally, in my life in
France, my life in Brooklyn,

1554

01:20:45,280 --> 01:20:49,490

was another episode of
where it's kind of odd.

1555

01:20:49,490 --> 01:20:51,880

I remember getting
a suit that looked

1556

01:20:51,880 --> 01:20:53,530

like when you look
at the old movies,

1557

01:20:53,530 --> 01:20:55,840

all these gangsters
wore the striped suits.

1558

01:20:55,840 --> 01:20:59,680

For \$45, they bought me
a suit, and there I was.

1559

01:20:59,680 --> 01:21:02,500

The first person I meet
in the street walking

1560

01:21:02,500 --> 01:21:07,060

is a Black man coming
towards me, and he is drunk.

1561

01:21:07,060 --> 01:21:08,380

And he starts cursing me.

1562

01:21:08,380 --> 01:21:09,490

I don't understand a word.

1563

01:21:09,490 --> 01:21:11,020

I cursed him back in French.

1564

01:21:11,020 --> 01:21:11,740

We cursed.

1565

01:21:11,740 --> 01:21:13,420

I went my way, he went his way.

1566

01:21:13,420 --> 01:21:16,960

That was my first
impression of Brooklyn.

1567

01:21:16,960 --> 01:21:20,530
But I was in the section where
Danny Kaye used to-- was born.

1568

01:21:20,530 --> 01:21:24,160
You know, I forgot the
name of that section.

1569

01:21:24,160 --> 01:21:27,362
Anyway, New Lots
was the station.

1570

01:21:27,362 --> 01:21:30,852
New Lots, the "I"
or "T" line in the--

1571

01:21:30,852 --> 01:21:32,560
but I stayed there
three months with them

1572

01:21:32,560 --> 01:21:35,740
because three days after I
was there, I went to the city,

1573

01:21:35,740 --> 01:21:40,900
and there's a French
club, culinary,

1574

01:21:40,900 --> 01:21:42,887
that was formed in World
War I because a lot

1575

01:21:42,887 --> 01:21:44,470
of these French guys
that came to work

1576

01:21:44,470 --> 01:21:48,700
in the cooks or restaurant,
they had split shift.

1577

01:21:48,700 --> 01:21:50,680
And in the afternoon,
a lot of people

1578
01:21:50,680 --> 01:21:53,180
tried to sell them the
Brooklyn Bridge or something,

1579
01:21:53,180 --> 01:21:54,940
so they formed this
club so the guys

1580
01:21:54,940 --> 01:21:57,760
had a place where they could
read their paper or a magazine

1581
01:21:57,760 --> 01:21:58,600
from France.

1582
01:21:58,600 --> 01:21:59,650
So I went to see them.

1583
01:21:59,650 --> 01:22:02,012
Somebody in France
told me to go see them.

1584
01:22:02,012 --> 01:22:03,470
I could have worked
two days later.

1585
01:22:03,470 --> 01:22:05,303
I could have worked in
the big hotels, which

1586
01:22:05,303 --> 01:22:07,660
I did, but a little later.

1587
01:22:07,660 --> 01:22:12,100
And little by little, this
fellow that I met in that place

1588
01:22:12,100 --> 01:22:16,840
in France recuperating, I got
in touch with him in New York.

1589

01:22:16,840 --> 01:22:20,980
And he had a funny
situation with him

1590
01:22:20,980 --> 01:22:24,460
where he was a tailor
by trade, but he

1591
01:22:24,460 --> 01:22:27,880
was with an orchestra
on the ships, cruises,

1592
01:22:27,880 --> 01:22:30,290
South America from Poland.

1593
01:22:30,290 --> 01:22:32,530
And he comes back
in '39 on a cruise

1594
01:22:32,530 --> 01:22:34,240
when the Germans
have-- and he's there.

1595
01:22:34,240 --> 01:22:35,480
So he survived.

1596
01:22:35,480 --> 01:22:39,040
Guess he lost his whole family,
but he had family in New York.

1597
01:22:39,040 --> 01:22:41,200
And he meets this lady that
went to school with him

1598
01:22:41,200 --> 01:22:43,210
in Poland that was a widow.

1599
01:22:43,210 --> 01:22:45,850
So he invited me to
his wedding, and that's

1600
01:22:45,850 --> 01:22:50,860
where I met my wife in

'47, on June the 7th, 1947.

1601
01:22:50,860 --> 01:22:52,180
That I'll never forget.

1602
01:22:52,180 --> 01:22:56,910
And we got married
July the 3rd, 1948.

1603
01:22:56,910 --> 01:23:00,040
Now she had no folks
anymore, but the grandmother

1604
01:23:00,040 --> 01:23:04,060
and some uncles and
aunts and so forth.

1605
01:23:04,060 --> 01:23:05,063
And we were suited.

1606
01:23:05,063 --> 01:23:06,730
I didn't speak English,
she didn't speak

1607
01:23:06,730 --> 01:23:08,390
much French, a little bit.

1608
01:23:08,390 --> 01:23:11,830
And when we met, I
took her to a movie,

1609
01:23:11,830 --> 01:23:14,710
and I knew that my life--

1610
01:23:14,710 --> 01:23:16,330
all my life, I was by myself.

1611
01:23:16,330 --> 01:23:19,570
But you got to remember
that I'm talking about 1947.

1612
01:23:19,570 --> 01:23:21,310

I was 25.

1613
01:23:21,310 --> 01:23:24,070
And when you are 17, you
think you're grown up.

1614
01:23:24,070 --> 01:23:28,120
Naturally, five years
later, you think even more.

1615
01:23:28,120 --> 01:23:29,500
You have to look for a future.

1616
01:23:29,500 --> 01:23:32,160
Some roots, you need roots.

1617
01:23:32,160 --> 01:23:34,080
You need to build something.

1618
01:23:34,080 --> 01:23:36,980
And that's how I started.

1619
01:23:36,980 --> 01:23:41,540
But again, the period
of all the things

1620
01:23:41,540 --> 01:23:47,150
I tell you had to be erased from
my mind, and it wasn't easy.

1621
01:23:47,150 --> 01:23:49,410
I had-- in the beginning
of my marriage,

1622
01:23:49,410 --> 01:23:52,910
my wife would tell me I
would dream and wake up

1623
01:23:52,910 --> 01:23:55,010
screaming about the camp.

1624
01:23:55,010 --> 01:23:57,220

But when I thought
of-- it was funny.

1625
01:23:57,220 --> 01:23:59,120
The only thing I
remember dreaming

1626
01:23:59,120 --> 01:24:01,850
is the Germans
with these helmets

1627
01:24:01,850 --> 01:24:04,370
with the point from
World War I and bayonets

1628
01:24:04,370 --> 01:24:09,320
in the trenches, which was World
War I. That was in my dreams.

1629
01:24:09,320 --> 01:24:11,930
But I'm talking about the
first years I was back.

1630
01:24:11,930 --> 01:24:15,290
But then, as I
explained, my wife

1631
01:24:15,290 --> 01:24:17,870
was a Giant's fan in New York.

1632
01:24:17,870 --> 01:24:19,700
I became a Giant's fan.

1633
01:24:19,700 --> 01:24:21,860
Leo Durocher was the manager.

1634
01:24:21,860 --> 01:24:23,630
What more could I ask?

1635
01:24:23,630 --> 01:24:26,930
So in 1950, '51, when the
Giants won the pennant

1636

01:24:26,930 --> 01:24:29,420

with Bobby Thomson

hitting the home run,

1637

01:24:29,420 --> 01:24:33,290

my son learned papa and

mama and then Bobby Thomson.

1638

01:24:33,290 --> 01:24:39,060

That's the three words he knew

when he was a year old in '51.

1639

01:24:39,060 --> 01:24:40,920

And I'm a Giants fan ever since.

1640

01:24:40,920 --> 01:24:45,020

I'm in California more or

less because of the Giants.

1641

01:24:45,020 --> 01:24:48,740

But you see, you need something

to take all the bitterness out

1642

01:24:48,740 --> 01:24:52,290

of life, so you go

with building a future.

1643

01:24:52,290 --> 01:24:54,530

I was never afraid

to work because I

1644

01:24:54,530 --> 01:24:57,740

was put into this

discipline of work

1645

01:24:57,740 --> 01:25:01,170

where it becomes not a drudgery.

1646

01:25:01,170 --> 01:25:04,850

It becomes a pleasure if you

do something with a heart

1647

01:25:04,850 --> 01:25:05,810
that you like.

1648
01:25:05,810 --> 01:25:07,640
Baking was something
I liked to do.

1649
01:25:07,640 --> 01:25:09,800
I worked crazy hours.

1650
01:25:09,800 --> 01:25:12,620
My wife worked in the store.

1651
01:25:12,620 --> 01:25:17,360
Now as you see, and I'm talking
about what happened to me,

1652
01:25:17,360 --> 01:25:21,050
I never figured
I would lose her.

1653
01:25:21,050 --> 01:25:24,710
We worked for 35 years together,
and the last place I had

1654
01:25:24,710 --> 01:25:26,630
was in South San Francisco.

1655
01:25:26,630 --> 01:25:29,210
I had Mrs. Allison's cookies.

1656
01:25:29,210 --> 01:25:31,160
It used to be an old
firm by that name,

1657
01:25:31,160 --> 01:25:32,660
and I was making granola.

1658
01:25:32,660 --> 01:25:36,390
I perfected a
granola for Oroweat.

1659

01:25:36,390 --> 01:25:40,160
The granola brand that they
sell, I perfected for them.

1660
01:25:40,160 --> 01:25:43,550
And the guy that got touch
with me, we were buddies.

1661
01:25:43,550 --> 01:25:46,160
He would want a contract.

1662
01:25:46,160 --> 01:25:49,790
I had a \$200,000 contract
every three months with him.

1663
01:25:49,790 --> 01:25:53,090
And we sold
truckloads of granola.

1664
01:25:53,090 --> 01:25:54,920
One ounce goes in
a loaf of bread,

1665
01:25:54,920 --> 01:26:00,870
but they buy truckloads
to go to all the Oroweats.

1666
01:26:00,870 --> 01:26:05,310
OK, so what happened,
we decided in 1983 we'd

1667
01:26:05,310 --> 01:26:08,520
try to sell it because
we had worked enough.

1668
01:26:08,520 --> 01:26:12,280
And so I had a
buyer, a French guy.

1669
01:26:12,280 --> 01:26:16,810
And in a period just
maybe six months before,

1670

01:26:16,810 --> 01:26:18,460
she happened to have a problem.

1671
01:26:18,460 --> 01:26:21,260
In her family, she
lost family members

1672
01:26:21,260 --> 01:26:25,090
from heart attacks, high blood
pressure, and stuff like this.

1673
01:26:25,090 --> 01:26:27,490
But we worked-- for 20
years I think we went twice

1674
01:26:27,490 --> 01:26:30,100
to the doctor for checkups.

1675
01:26:30,100 --> 01:26:31,780
That's it.

1676
01:26:31,780 --> 01:26:35,050
Because if you have a
headache, you go to sleep,

1677
01:26:35,050 --> 01:26:36,280
the next morning it's gone.

1678
01:26:36,280 --> 01:26:38,890
The mind is the biggest healer.

1679
01:26:38,890 --> 01:26:43,750
If you say to yourself, I
can't be sick, I can't be sick,

1680
01:26:43,750 --> 01:26:46,417
I can't afford
it, I got to work.

1681
01:26:46,417 --> 01:26:47,500
What do you think happens?

1682

01:26:47,500 --> 01:26:48,970
You heal.

1683
01:26:48,970 --> 01:26:50,170
Don't ask me why.

1684
01:26:50,170 --> 01:26:51,040
How come?

1685
01:26:51,040 --> 01:26:53,890
It's the strong belief
that you have to be strong,

1686
01:26:53,890 --> 01:26:56,680
that you have an obligation.

1687
01:26:56,680 --> 01:26:59,530
The people working,
customers, so forth.

1688
01:26:59,530 --> 01:27:02,300
And my wife was the same.

1689
01:27:02,300 --> 01:27:08,500
So on Friday of the last
week of November, just

1690
01:27:08,500 --> 01:27:11,140
after Thanksgiving,
these people are

1691
01:27:11,140 --> 01:27:13,690
supposed to come to the house.

1692
01:27:13,690 --> 01:27:16,030
And I had put champagne
in the refrigerator.

1693
01:27:16,030 --> 01:27:19,450
The people were going to
buy my place, French people.

1694

01:27:19,450 --> 01:27:21,790

The night of Thursday
or Friday, she

1695

01:27:21,790 --> 01:27:24,340

wakes up in the middle
of the night telling me,

1696

01:27:24,340 --> 01:27:27,220

I have to go to the bathroom,
I can't open my eyes.

1697

01:27:27,220 --> 01:27:29,700

That's what she says, and
she has her eyes closed.

1698

01:27:29,700 --> 01:27:32,720

1699

01:27:32,720 --> 01:27:37,920

So my son called an ambulance.

1700

01:27:37,920 --> 01:27:40,580

1701

01:27:40,580 --> 01:27:44,330

And sure enough, they come,
take her to the hospital,

1702

01:27:44,330 --> 01:27:51,110

and they told me at 2:00 in the
morning, no way, can't survive.

1703

01:27:51,110 --> 01:27:52,110

It went into the brain.

1704

01:27:52,110 --> 01:27:57,320

She had a hemorrhage,
cerebral hemorrhage.

1705

01:27:57,320 --> 01:28:00,170

The only thing was
about a year earlier,

1706

01:28:00,170 --> 01:28:02,040
she had something happen to her.

1707

01:28:02,040 --> 01:28:05,420
We took her to the doctor, and
he said high blood pressure

1708

01:28:05,420 --> 01:28:06,950
and gave her pills.

1709

01:28:06,950 --> 01:28:10,340
And over the years, I think
she didn't take them the way

1710

01:28:10,340 --> 01:28:13,160
she should have taken them,
and that's how it happened.

1711

01:28:13,160 --> 01:28:16,590
But you know, what
I went through,

1712

01:28:16,590 --> 01:28:19,650
I thought we are supposed
to be invincible.

1713

01:28:19,650 --> 01:28:22,710
Who's going to do the
worst that I went through?

1714

01:28:22,710 --> 01:28:24,990
Couldn't happen to me anymore.

1715

01:28:24,990 --> 01:28:28,142
I simplify my
explanation now, but I

1716

01:28:28,142 --> 01:28:30,600
couldn't realize that something
could have happened to her,

1717

01:28:30,600 --> 01:28:33,540
and it happened so fast
that while he was telling me

1718
01:28:33,540 --> 01:28:36,330
this Thursday, the Friday
I had to go back to work.

1719
01:28:36,330 --> 01:28:39,750
And orders to go out, truckloads
of merchandise had to go out.

1720
01:28:39,750 --> 01:28:43,110
My son was with me, helped
me out, and I sold it.

1721
01:28:43,110 --> 01:28:45,990
End of December, I
sold the business.

1722
01:28:45,990 --> 01:28:49,890
And I was really
in a frame of mind

1723
01:28:49,890 --> 01:28:51,750
that I want to drop everything.

1724
01:28:51,750 --> 01:28:54,210
I closed my life insurance.

1725
01:28:54,210 --> 01:28:56,920
I had a house in San Mateo.

1726
01:28:56,920 --> 01:28:59,850
I didn't sell it, but I
went to France in January.

1727
01:28:59,850 --> 01:29:04,990
My friend Paul from France came.

1728
01:29:04,990 --> 01:29:08,770
Overnight, he flew from
France to meet with me.

1729

01:29:08,770 --> 01:29:11,350

He knew her because we had
gone to see him in '58.

1730

01:29:11,350 --> 01:29:17,740

I took my wife to Dijon to
meet my friends and everything.

1731

01:29:17,740 --> 01:29:20,703

Anyway, so what happened, I
go to France and what do I do?

1732

01:29:20,703 --> 01:29:22,870

I go to the South of France,
and I stayed in a place

1733

01:29:22,870 --> 01:29:24,220

where I had been with her.

1734

01:29:24,220 --> 01:29:26,440

I couldn't stay
one day and I left.

1735

01:29:26,440 --> 01:29:30,340

And here I am on a bus on
the Riviera, Nice, Monaco,

1736

01:29:30,340 --> 01:29:33,790

and I'm in a bus
crying by myself

1737

01:29:33,790 --> 01:29:37,450

because of the situation,
how this happened to her.

1738

01:29:37,450 --> 01:29:41,680

And it was not the day before or
the day after it happened her.

1739

01:29:41,680 --> 01:29:43,900

That was about a month later.

1740

01:29:43,900 --> 01:29:46,600

So I said, it won't help
me to stay in France.

1741

01:29:46,600 --> 01:29:47,900

I have nothing there.

1742

01:29:47,900 --> 01:29:49,960

So I came back here.

1743

01:29:49,960 --> 01:29:55,660

And I had a good friend
that had a restaurant called

1744

01:29:55,660 --> 01:30:00,730

French Guy, [Place name]
restaurant by the Hilton Hotel.

1745

01:30:00,730 --> 01:30:04,330

And he decided to
open a bread place--

1746

01:30:04,330 --> 01:30:07,960

baguettes, French bread,
and called Delice de France.

1747

01:30:07,960 --> 01:30:12,370

And he had it open just
about a year when I met him.

1748

01:30:12,370 --> 01:30:15,310

And he says, I could
use your expertise.

1749

01:30:15,310 --> 01:30:17,810

You want to go with
me, form a corporation?

1750

01:30:17,810 --> 01:30:21,100

I said, look, I don't
think I am interested.

1751

01:30:21,100 --> 01:30:23,810
But as it goes on, I said,
I had to do something.

1752
01:30:23,810 --> 01:30:27,740
I wasn't able to do just hang
around and not do anything.

1753
01:30:27,740 --> 01:30:32,070
So I went with his son and
three bakers, French people,

1754
01:30:32,070 --> 01:30:36,850
and we opened this
business in 1985.

1755
01:30:36,850 --> 01:30:41,530
And what happened is
that over the years

1756
01:30:41,530 --> 01:30:44,830
that I worked in the
camp, when I left,

1757
01:30:44,830 --> 01:30:48,940
I never realized, except
before I left in '47,

1758
01:30:48,940 --> 01:30:50,980
there was rumors
people were telling me

1759
01:30:50,980 --> 01:30:53,050
that there's going
to be some reparation

1760
01:30:53,050 --> 01:30:55,493
from the German people
towards the people

1761
01:30:55,493 --> 01:30:56,410
that were in the camp.

1762

01:30:56,410 --> 01:31:00,340
IG Farben Industry is where
I worked in this place.

1763
01:31:00,340 --> 01:31:08,910
So they were going to give me
some kind of a compensation.

1764
01:31:08,910 --> 01:31:10,470
But, you know, I went to work.

1765
01:31:10,470 --> 01:31:12,780
I had a bakery in 1952.

1766
01:31:12,780 --> 01:31:15,570
My wife and I, we opened the
first bakery in New Jersey.

1767
01:31:15,570 --> 01:31:18,990
And I always worked hard.

1768
01:31:18,990 --> 01:31:20,040
We saved up money.

1769
01:31:20,040 --> 01:31:23,280
I bought some mutual
funds in 1952.

1770
01:31:23,280 --> 01:31:28,080
So I am in the business
of saving and building

1771
01:31:28,080 --> 01:31:30,720
a nest egg over these years.

1772
01:31:30,720 --> 01:31:35,790
Fortunately, when we went to
France one time in December,

1773
01:31:35,790 --> 01:31:39,300
I felt-- because I went in
July for summer vacation,

1774

01:31:39,300 --> 01:31:40,360
offices are closed.

1775

01:31:40,360 --> 01:31:42,190
Nobody can give me
any information.

1776

01:31:42,190 --> 01:31:45,780
I go for Christmas, and I met
this fellow that had come here,

1777

01:31:45,780 --> 01:31:47,100
visit his daughter.

1778

01:31:47,100 --> 01:31:50,170
So he says, when you come
to France, come to see me.

1779

01:31:50,170 --> 01:31:52,260
And so I tell him,
look, I got to go.

1780

01:31:52,260 --> 01:31:53,410
That was in Dijon.

1781

01:31:53,410 --> 01:31:55,380
I got to go to Paris to
find out what happened

1782

01:31:55,380 --> 01:31:58,910
to possibility of compensation.

1783

01:31:58,910 --> 01:32:02,190
So he sent me to the veterans'
organization in Paris

1784

01:32:02,190 --> 01:32:05,190
and within 24 hours,
they take an X-ray of me,

1785

01:32:05,190 --> 01:32:08,970
and I get 100% disability

from the French government.

1786

01:32:08,970 --> 01:32:13,580

That is 1979, 30 years later.

1787

01:32:13,580 --> 01:32:17,710

When it first got into
effect was in 1949.

1788

01:32:17,710 --> 01:32:19,510

This is 1979.

1789

01:32:19,510 --> 01:32:22,367

And OK, they said to me, where
were you all these years?

1790

01:32:22,367 --> 01:32:23,575

I said, in the United States.

1791

01:32:23,575 --> 01:32:24,720

I was working.

1792

01:32:24,720 --> 01:32:26,470

Wasn't going to wait
for a hundred dollars

1793

01:32:26,470 --> 01:32:29,080

a month that you're going
to give me compensation.

1794

01:32:29,080 --> 01:32:32,050

Turns out it was a
thousand a month.

1795

01:32:32,050 --> 01:32:35,740

So for 30 years, I
couldn't get back pay.

1796

01:32:35,740 --> 01:32:39,762

So I figured it's
\$150,000 Heck, I'm OK.

1797

01:32:39,762 --> 01:32:40,720
I don't need the money.

1798
01:32:40,720 --> 01:32:42,730
I got my own, anyway.

1799
01:32:42,730 --> 01:32:46,420
But the doctors there
check everything else.

1800
01:32:46,420 --> 01:32:48,110
French have a way--

1801
01:32:48,110 --> 01:32:49,900
if you could do a
favor to someone,

1802
01:32:49,900 --> 01:32:53,240
they pay you back
some way or another.

1803
01:32:53,240 --> 01:32:56,800
So this guy takes me to this
doctor, Dr. [Personal name]

1804
01:32:56,800 --> 01:32:58,740
and he says to me,
look you got this.

1805
01:32:58,740 --> 01:33:00,470
And I go, I don't have this.

1806
01:33:00,470 --> 01:33:01,750
I'm not having heart trouble.

1807
01:33:01,750 --> 01:33:03,490
You're going to have someday.

1808
01:33:03,490 --> 01:33:04,320
You're plastic.

1809
01:33:04,320 --> 01:33:06,070

You're not going to
have it now but later.

1810
01:33:06,070 --> 01:33:07,000
He marked all these.

1811
01:33:07,000 --> 01:33:11,500
I had 15 disabilities,
which didn't exist.

1812
01:33:11,500 --> 01:33:13,420
Some, yes.

1813
01:33:13,420 --> 01:33:16,930
Chronic bronchitis, that I have
since the time I went to work

1814
01:33:16,930 --> 01:33:20,680
in a bakery and after the camp.

1815
01:33:20,680 --> 01:33:23,860
So here I am in '79.

1816
01:33:23,860 --> 01:33:24,700
I go to France.

1817
01:33:24,700 --> 01:33:29,020
Since '79, I must have gone
a dozen times to France.

1818
01:33:29,020 --> 01:33:34,960
And in France, I would live
like a king because my pension,

1819
01:33:34,960 --> 01:33:38,650
if I travel on the
train, I need a guide.

1820
01:33:38,650 --> 01:33:41,320
When you're 100%
disabled, the guide

1821

01:33:41,320 --> 01:33:43,780
can help two years or 80 years.

1822
01:33:43,780 --> 01:33:44,950
He's your guide.

1823
01:33:44,950 --> 01:33:48,220
Two people, 25% each
pay on the train.

1824
01:33:48,220 --> 01:33:51,230
Go to Paris, to Nice,
pay 25% for each.

1825
01:33:51,230 --> 01:33:55,270
You take a plane from Paris
to any French possession,

1826
01:33:55,270 --> 01:33:57,910
you pay 50% for two.

1827
01:33:57,910 --> 01:34:00,070
Here, it doesn't
count from here.

1828
01:34:00,070 --> 01:34:02,110
Here is the United States.

1829
01:34:02,110 --> 01:34:04,660
Anyway, so I kept in touch.

1830
01:34:04,660 --> 01:34:07,450
I'm in the French
consulate here.

1831
01:34:07,450 --> 01:34:11,020
And coming to the
situation, '85,

1832
01:34:11,020 --> 01:34:16,230
I was getting my pension,
like my social security here,

1833

01:34:16,230 --> 01:34:19,170
in a bank in France, in Paris.

1834

01:34:19,170 --> 01:34:25,080
The bank that France
has, Bank of the West,

1835

01:34:25,080 --> 01:34:28,860
was bought by the French
Banque Nationale de Paris.

1836

01:34:28,860 --> 01:34:32,130
That's the bank that
has Bank of the West.

1837

01:34:32,130 --> 01:34:35,950
And this lady that handles
international transactions,

1838

01:34:35,950 --> 01:34:37,740
she would bring
me my money here.

1839

01:34:37,740 --> 01:34:39,240
She knew my wife.

1840

01:34:39,240 --> 01:34:41,100
And I went there one time.

1841

01:34:41,100 --> 01:34:42,450
I took her out for lunch.

1842

01:34:42,450 --> 01:34:45,750
And I said, that's the woman
I'm going to have for myself.

1843

01:34:45,750 --> 01:34:49,710
And sure enough, we
got married in '86.

1844

01:34:49,710 --> 01:34:52,257
And she has-- I have a family.

1845
01:34:52,257 --> 01:34:54,090
She has her father, her
mother in their 80s.

1846
01:34:54,090 --> 01:34:59,100
They're Sephardic Jews
from Morocco, from Tangier.

1847
01:34:59,100 --> 01:35:03,190
And she has two sisters here.

1848
01:35:03,190 --> 01:35:05,560
One of their husband
was in Tampa.

1849
01:35:05,560 --> 01:35:08,350
His name is Werner.

1850
01:35:08,350 --> 01:35:10,380
Fischstein.

1851
01:35:10,380 --> 01:35:11,950
No.

1852
01:35:11,950 --> 01:35:13,900
Werner and Esther.

1853
01:35:13,900 --> 01:35:15,190
And he was in the camp.

1854
01:35:15,190 --> 01:35:16,060
He's German.

1855
01:35:16,060 --> 01:35:18,130
He's got a thick German accent.

1856
01:35:18,130 --> 01:35:21,130
And she has another sister
that lives in Nevada.

1857

01:35:21,130 --> 01:35:23,560

Her husband is
also a German Jew.

1858

01:35:23,560 --> 01:35:25,960

Jewish people, you know,
they are very religious,

1859

01:35:25,960 --> 01:35:28,120

more than I ever will be.

1860

01:35:28,120 --> 01:35:30,310

Not because I've got against--

1861

01:35:30,310 --> 01:35:33,010

I have nothing against
it, but I don't know.

1862

01:35:33,010 --> 01:35:34,460

There's something
holding me back.

1863

01:35:34,460 --> 01:35:37,570

And I think if I
really analyze it,

1864

01:35:37,570 --> 01:35:43,170

it's because the rabbi that
I went for my Bar Mitzvah

1865

01:35:43,170 --> 01:35:45,730

looked at me like I was
a second-class citizen,

1866

01:35:45,730 --> 01:35:47,910

and it was a scar on me.

1867

01:35:47,910 --> 01:35:50,250

Unfortunately, I'm
quite sure none

1868

01:35:50,250 --> 01:35:53,850

of these people that were there

in 1940 when the Germans came

1869
01:35:53,850 --> 01:35:55,080
survived.

1870
01:35:55,080 --> 01:35:57,300
The man must have been
in his 60s at the time.

1871
01:35:57,300 --> 01:36:00,030
If the Germans came,
none of them survived.

1872
01:36:00,030 --> 01:36:02,100
But the reason
I'm saying this is

1873
01:36:02,100 --> 01:36:05,100
because there are some
scars that you don't really

1874
01:36:05,100 --> 01:36:07,050
believe that's the reason.

1875
01:36:07,050 --> 01:36:11,400
But somehow, my
wife was also people

1876
01:36:11,400 --> 01:36:14,110
that were cantors in New York.

1877
01:36:14,110 --> 01:36:19,200
Her maiden name was Rabinowitz,
which is son of Rabbi.

1878
01:36:19,200 --> 01:36:20,430
Rabinowitz.

1879
01:36:20,430 --> 01:36:24,200
And she had an uncle that was
a cantor, and he passed away.

1880

01:36:24,200 --> 01:36:28,320
So when I got married
with her in 1948,

1881
01:36:28,320 --> 01:36:33,060
I more or less was looked
upon like, you know,

1882
01:36:33,060 --> 01:36:35,040
it's not like nowadays.

1883
01:36:35,040 --> 01:36:40,560
The women are more
free to decide and give

1884
01:36:40,560 --> 01:36:42,820
the orders, which I don't care.

1885
01:36:42,820 --> 01:36:45,570
I got a woman that gives the
orders, but I do what i want,

1886
01:36:45,570 --> 01:36:46,800
anyway.

1887
01:36:46,800 --> 01:36:51,900
Anyway, coming back to the
situation of my first wife,

1888
01:36:51,900 --> 01:36:52,860
I had a bakery.

1889
01:36:52,860 --> 01:36:55,270
See, I couldn't
say for Passover,

1890
01:36:55,270 --> 01:36:57,020
I'm going to close and
not make any bread.

1891
01:36:57,020 --> 01:36:58,920
There was no Jews around me.

1892

01:36:58,920 --> 01:37:03,580

So I didn't really
follow anything.

1893

01:37:03,580 --> 01:37:07,270

But time goes on.

1894

01:37:07,270 --> 01:37:10,180

You get to a situation
where you realize

1895

01:37:10,180 --> 01:37:14,350

someone has to think
what is life all about?

1896

01:37:14,350 --> 01:37:16,330

Who are you?

1897

01:37:16,330 --> 01:37:21,110

And I realize when I
talked about my situation

1898

01:37:21,110 --> 01:37:23,380

and I say I was in the
bakery back in '36,

1899

01:37:23,380 --> 01:37:25,750

I said, well, I came
with the dinosaurs

1900

01:37:25,750 --> 01:37:29,470

because 1936, talk to
someone about 1936,

1901

01:37:29,470 --> 01:37:32,860

I was making croissant
in France in 1936.

1902

01:37:32,860 --> 01:37:37,780

And all these years, my
idea of a book of my story

1903

01:37:37,780 --> 01:37:42,370
would have the title of A Cat
has Nine Lives, A Human Being

1904
01:37:42,370 --> 01:37:43,740
has More.

1905
01:37:43,740 --> 01:37:44,380
Why?

1906
01:37:44,380 --> 01:37:45,610
Because you don't realize.

1907
01:37:45,610 --> 01:37:48,490
You try to cross the street,
you can get hit by a car.

1908
01:37:48,490 --> 01:37:50,110
That happens very often.

1909
01:37:50,110 --> 01:37:52,640
This morning, Herb
Cain had an article.

1910
01:37:52,640 --> 01:37:54,252
This woman didn't see the car.

1911
01:37:54,252 --> 01:37:55,210
She crossed the street.

1912
01:37:55,210 --> 01:37:59,890
She got hit, and she got a
jaywalking ticket for \$120.

1913
01:37:59,890 --> 01:38:02,120
So you see, she
didn't get killed.

1914
01:38:02,120 --> 01:38:05,180
But it can happen
any place, any time.

1915

01:38:05,180 --> 01:38:08,350

But when I hit 70,
things changed in me.

1916

01:38:08,350 --> 01:38:11,270

1917

01:38:11,270 --> 01:38:16,220

Basically, the philosophy
at this moment I have is,

1918

01:38:16,220 --> 01:38:20,630

if I see the year 2000, I'll be
the happiest guy in the world.

1919

01:38:20,630 --> 01:38:24,230

Anything after that is already--

1920

01:38:24,230 --> 01:38:26,420

since '45 is bonus, anyway.

1921

01:38:26,420 --> 01:38:29,870

But the year 2000 to me is a--

1922

01:38:29,870 --> 01:38:32,960

because I know, between
now and the year 2000,

1923

01:38:32,960 --> 01:38:37,160

there'll be so many
new things in medicine.

1924

01:38:37,160 --> 01:38:39,380

Look at the communications
we have right now.

1925

01:38:39,380 --> 01:38:42,810

What happened in
Bosnia last night,

1926

01:38:42,810 --> 01:38:45,170

you see it at home
the same night

1927
01:38:45,170 --> 01:38:47,630
because it's the
nine-hour difference.

1928
01:38:47,630 --> 01:38:51,890
There's so many things that are
different from the time of '36.

1929
01:38:51,890 --> 01:38:53,780
That's why I said
a dinosaur of '36.

1930
01:38:53,780 --> 01:38:55,647
There was no television.

1931
01:38:55,647 --> 01:38:57,230
Look what happened
with the telephone.

1932
01:38:57,230 --> 01:38:58,520
I have a cordless telephone.

1933
01:38:58,520 --> 01:38:59,600
I go from room to room.

1934
01:38:59,600 --> 01:39:02,120
I go to bathroom, I take
the telephone with me.

1935
01:39:02,120 --> 01:39:05,330
You know, that shows you
how things are different,

1936
01:39:05,330 --> 01:39:09,200
how much you have to
realize that you have--

1937
01:39:09,200 --> 01:39:13,880
that there's people that were
over there never got to enjoy,

1938

01:39:13,880 --> 01:39:15,950
not to realize all these people.

1939
01:39:15,950 --> 01:39:18,230
Not me, a little
baker that was making

1940
01:39:18,230 --> 01:39:22,940
eclairs or croissant, but the
guys that were well educated.

1941
01:39:22,940 --> 01:39:25,780
I'm thinking about that
doctor that opened--

1942
01:39:25,780 --> 01:39:28,970
he was one of the greatest
surgeons of Berlin, I was told.

1943
01:39:28,970 --> 01:39:31,400
I don't even know
what his name was,

1944
01:39:31,400 --> 01:39:33,620
but he was was in
the camp, and he was

1945
01:39:33,620 --> 01:39:36,290
performing what he knew best.

1946
01:39:36,290 --> 01:39:38,660
And the German at least
didn't finish him off.

1947
01:39:38,660 --> 01:39:41,070
They knew they needed
people to work.

1948
01:39:41,070 --> 01:39:44,540
So if he saved them to go
to work, they let them live.

1949
01:39:44,540 --> 01:39:46,610

What happened to these
people, I never know.

1950
01:39:46,610 --> 01:39:51,140
But it just shows you everybody
went through a period of life

1951
01:39:51,140 --> 01:39:58,700
where, for good or for bad, what
occurs now is the nine lives.

1952
01:39:58,700 --> 01:40:00,710
I must have two left, I guess.

1953
01:40:00,710 --> 01:40:02,720
Seven have gone through.

1954
01:40:02,720 --> 01:40:04,130
But they can take--

1955
01:40:04,130 --> 01:40:08,790
each one can take another
20 years, I guess.

1956
01:40:08,790 --> 01:40:12,120
I'll let you ask me
another question.

1957
01:40:12,120 --> 01:40:13,950
Let's go back to
your Bar Mitzvah.

1958
01:40:13,950 --> 01:40:15,150
OK.

1959
01:40:15,150 --> 01:40:16,560
[INAUDIBLE]

1960
01:40:16,560 --> 01:40:19,620
Can you remember anything
specific about that night?

1961

01:40:19,620 --> 01:40:20,280
No.

1962
01:40:20,280 --> 01:40:24,900
The only thing I can remember
being on a like a podium,

1963
01:40:24,900 --> 01:40:26,790
and they opened the Torah.

1964
01:40:26,790 --> 01:40:30,450
And I had like a
pointy thing, and I

1965
01:40:30,450 --> 01:40:35,290
read this in
Hebrew, which I took

1966
01:40:35,290 --> 01:40:37,540
maybe six months of training.

1967
01:40:37,540 --> 01:40:39,940
And there was a time
I could remember

1968
01:40:39,940 --> 01:40:43,570
the first few sentences,
but I don't remember.

1969
01:40:43,570 --> 01:40:47,530
Nothing besides this
except that happened

1970
01:40:47,530 --> 01:40:52,330
between the age of 13 and
14, so it had to be 1935.

1971
01:40:52,330 --> 01:40:55,470
I went to work in August of '36.

1972
01:40:55,470 --> 01:41:01,230
June, the school closed and in
August, I went to work in Metz,

1973
01:41:01,230 --> 01:41:03,980
and Gaston [INAUDIBLE]
was my boss.

1974
01:41:03,980 --> 01:41:10,610
He never knew anything about my
situation except at one time,

1975
01:41:10,610 --> 01:41:13,430
he beat me, and I
said, I'm not going

1976
01:41:13,430 --> 01:41:19,580
to stay there because we had to
heat the bakery oven with coke.

1977
01:41:19,580 --> 01:41:20,750
That was in the basement.

1978
01:41:20,750 --> 01:41:25,100
And I brought up the coke,
and at 6 o'clock at night,

1979
01:41:25,100 --> 01:41:27,620
we heat the oven, put
the dampers at 8:00.

1980
01:41:27,620 --> 01:41:29,860
The next morning, we could bake.

1981
01:41:29,860 --> 01:41:32,590
One Monday morning, I had been--

1982
01:41:32,590 --> 01:41:37,330
I was working seven days a week,
and the seventh day, a half

1983
01:41:37,330 --> 01:41:39,610
a day, I was going by bus home.

1984
01:41:39,610 --> 01:41:43,450

My mother cleaned my clothes.

1985

01:41:43,450 --> 01:41:47,530

I missed the last that
night, the last bus,

1986

01:41:47,530 --> 01:41:49,332

and I had to take
the next morning

1987

01:41:49,332 --> 01:41:51,790

that instead of being at work
at 6:00, I got there at 7:00.

1988

01:41:51,790 --> 01:41:52,900

He was pretty mad.

1989

01:41:52,900 --> 01:41:56,860

He sent me down the
basement to pick up

1990

01:41:56,860 --> 01:42:00,715

some debris of-- you see
the eggs at this time

1991

01:42:00,715 --> 01:42:05,560

were in a big wooden crate,
a thousand eggs at a time.

1992

01:42:05,560 --> 01:42:07,360

And it was hay in between.

1993

01:42:07,360 --> 01:42:10,540

So when you picked up egg, they
was hay that would fall around,

1994

01:42:10,540 --> 01:42:11,830

so he had me pick it up.

1995

01:42:11,830 --> 01:42:13,340

There was a broken glass.

1996

01:42:13,340 --> 01:42:15,730

I had to pick this
up for the garbage.

1997

01:42:15,730 --> 01:42:19,730

He found a couple of pieces of
coke, and then he slapped me.

1998

01:42:19,730 --> 01:42:23,900

So when I had to make a delivery
to a [? cold ?] spot that we

1999

01:42:23,900 --> 01:42:27,110

had, I didn't go
back to the place,

2000

01:42:27,110 --> 01:42:29,960

and I got somebody
to a phone, and I

2001

01:42:29,960 --> 01:42:31,790

called my parents
that had no phone,

2002

01:42:31,790 --> 01:42:33,890

but somebody in the
store had a phone.

2003

01:42:33,890 --> 01:42:35,390

My father came over.

2004

01:42:35,390 --> 01:42:39,410

And my father-- the guy said
to my father very sorry.

2005

01:42:39,410 --> 01:42:41,900

So I realized my
father was agreeing

2006

01:42:41,900 --> 01:42:44,210

with him, so I figured,
well, what am I going to do?

2007

01:42:44,210 --> 01:42:46,160
So I stayed, and
things got better

2008
01:42:46,160 --> 01:42:49,740
because I learned a
long time ago, too,

2009
01:42:49,740 --> 01:42:51,240
in the period I was
in this country,

2010
01:42:51,240 --> 01:42:55,590
if you find a bully that's
trying to do you something,

2011
01:42:55,590 --> 01:42:57,570
you show that you're not afraid.

2012
01:42:57,570 --> 01:42:59,250
The bully gets smaller.

2013
01:42:59,250 --> 01:43:02,100
He is not as bad.

2014
01:43:02,100 --> 01:43:03,990
For a good reason
as he realizes he

2015
01:43:03,990 --> 01:43:07,670
has somebody that's
not afraid of him.

2016
01:43:07,670 --> 01:43:11,510
Because the reason I
learned this, too, in 1949,

2017
01:43:11,510 --> 01:43:13,820
when I was working
in New York City,

2018
01:43:13,820 --> 01:43:17,120
I worked in a pastry shop,

was called Madame Eva.

2019

01:43:17,120 --> 01:43:19,610

And Madame Eva was
dead for a long time,

2020

01:43:19,610 --> 01:43:21,650

but her husband ran that place.

2021

01:43:21,650 --> 01:43:25,520

And the head baker was a
German that was never married.

2022

01:43:25,520 --> 01:43:29,660

He was like living
in a room and board,

2023

01:43:29,660 --> 01:43:31,400

and he never would
say good morning.

2024

01:43:31,400 --> 01:43:32,510

Nothing.

2025

01:43:32,510 --> 01:43:35,730

One morning, I come in, and
he's giving me a hard time.

2026

01:43:35,730 --> 01:43:37,202

And he was, oh,
[GRUNTS] like this.

2027

01:43:37,202 --> 01:43:39,410

So I took the rolling pin,
I knocked it on the table,

2028

01:43:39,410 --> 01:43:44,210

and I said, look, where I
come from, even the pigs go,

2029

01:43:44,210 --> 01:43:44,990

[SNORTS].

2030

01:43:44,990 --> 01:43:47,060

You don't even say good
morning, but the pigs

2031

01:43:47,060 --> 01:43:48,575

in our place, they
say, [SNORTS]..

2032

01:43:48,575 --> 01:43:49,750

That's good morning.

2033

01:43:49,750 --> 01:43:51,230

So the guy started laughing.

2034

01:43:51,230 --> 01:43:52,690

He never was mad with me.

2035

01:43:52,690 --> 01:43:55,130

He became a very good friend.

2036

01:43:55,130 --> 01:43:57,860

But he wanted to influence
the people because he

2037

01:43:57,860 --> 01:43:59,240

was a big-shot German.

2038

01:43:59,240 --> 01:44:00,920

Ho, ho, ho.

2039

01:44:00,920 --> 01:44:04,670

So I just knocked the
rolling pin on the table

2040

01:44:04,670 --> 01:44:06,950

and said, look,
enough is enough.

2041

01:44:06,950 --> 01:44:08,180

And he changed.

2042

01:44:08,180 --> 01:44:11,090

And he realized that
you're not going to get--

2043

01:44:11,090 --> 01:44:14,480

that I'm talking about
30 years ago or more.

2044

01:44:14,480 --> 01:44:18,260

Nowadays, a guy takes a knife
out if you give them the lip,

2045

01:44:18,260 --> 01:44:18,810

you know.

2046

01:44:18,810 --> 01:44:20,480

It's not the same life.

2047

01:44:20,480 --> 01:44:22,400

But when I was younger,
I wasn't afraid.

2048

01:44:22,400 --> 01:44:25,100

If I survived where I was,
why would I be afraid?

2049

01:44:25,100 --> 01:44:28,610

Nothing can happen to me except
if it happens, it happens.

2050

01:44:28,610 --> 01:44:29,900

I'm ready.

2051

01:44:29,900 --> 01:44:32,510

Whatever happens, I'm ready.

2052

01:44:32,510 --> 01:44:35,600

Now after the Bar Mitzvah,
what is the next question?

2053

01:44:35,600 --> 01:44:37,160

Where was it held?

2054

01:44:37,160 --> 01:44:40,690

In Thionville, the town
where I went to school.

2055

01:44:40,690 --> 01:44:42,460

What facility?

2056

01:44:42,460 --> 01:44:44,500

At a synagogue.

2057

01:44:44,500 --> 01:44:47,140

Did you have any
family attending that?

2058

01:44:47,140 --> 01:44:49,286

Father and mother, that's it.

2059

01:44:49,286 --> 01:44:50,170

And your brothers?

2060

01:44:50,170 --> 01:44:52,120

Nobody else.

2061

01:44:52,120 --> 01:44:53,020

I have to explain.

2062

01:44:53,020 --> 01:44:55,960

My uncle, which is
my mother's brother

2063

01:44:55,960 --> 01:44:59,410

that was a prisoner
of war with my father,

2064

01:44:59,410 --> 01:45:03,270

lived about 30 miles away, but
families sometimes have feuds,

2065

01:45:03,270 --> 01:45:05,170

and they didn't get along fine.

2066

01:45:05,170 --> 01:45:07,180

So they didn't
talk to each other.

2067

01:45:07,180 --> 01:45:11,830

But I met him after the
war, and he was very proud.

2068

01:45:11,830 --> 01:45:14,680

He passed away when
he was in his 70s.

2069

01:45:14,680 --> 01:45:18,820

He lost a son that
was taken, my age.

2070

01:45:18,820 --> 01:45:23,080

I have a picture here
where I am in a mock car.

2071

01:45:23,080 --> 01:45:24,970

It was like in a fair.

2072

01:45:24,970 --> 01:45:27,145

You have the front of
a wooden cardboard,

2073

01:45:27,145 --> 01:45:28,360

and it looks like a car.

2074

01:45:28,360 --> 01:45:29,320

I'm driving.

2075

01:45:29,320 --> 01:45:33,880

My sister's next to me, and
my two cousins, boy and girl,

2076

01:45:33,880 --> 01:45:34,880

in the back.

2077

01:45:34,880 --> 01:45:37,460

I must have been about 10.

2078

01:45:37,460 --> 01:45:41,030

So that's the remembrance
of the closest relation,

2079

01:45:41,030 --> 01:45:44,210

but there wasn't a big ceremony.

2080

01:45:44,210 --> 01:45:48,630

You got to remember,
we're talking about 1935.

2081

01:45:48,630 --> 01:45:51,860

We didn't have that
much to say, OK, we're

2082

01:45:51,860 --> 01:45:55,580

going to make a big deal about
it, not like what you see now

2083

01:45:55,580 --> 01:45:58,590

here where you invite a
couple of hundred people,

2084

01:45:58,590 --> 01:46:00,000

and everybody brings presents.

2085

01:46:00,000 --> 01:46:03,788

There was no such
thing at that time.

2086

01:46:03,788 --> 01:46:06,350

Where did you get
the feeling that you

2087

01:46:06,350 --> 01:46:08,580

were being treated as
a second-class citizen

2088

01:46:08,580 --> 01:46:09,430

by the other Jews?

2089

01:46:09,430 --> 01:46:11,810

Were there people in school or--

2090

01:46:11,810 --> 01:46:12,360

No.

2091

01:46:12,360 --> 01:46:12,860

No.

2092

01:46:12,860 --> 01:46:15,860

It's very difficult

to pinpoint it,

2093

01:46:15,860 --> 01:46:19,160

but it's something that

is in the back of my mind.

2094

01:46:19,160 --> 01:46:20,300

I might be wrong.

2095

01:46:20,300 --> 01:46:23,150

Maybe it's just an

imagination I had.

2096

01:46:23,150 --> 01:46:25,850

But you see, you

get this feeling

2097

01:46:25,850 --> 01:46:29,220

when my folks, first

of all, were in France,

2098

01:46:29,220 --> 01:46:31,910

and they didn't speak

the language too close.

2099

01:46:31,910 --> 01:46:33,410

I was born there.

2100

01:46:33,410 --> 01:46:35,150

I went to school.

2101

01:46:35,150 --> 01:46:39,440

And my father and mother
spoke Yiddish between them

2102
01:46:39,440 --> 01:46:43,940
and sometimes Polish
because they're from there.

2103
01:46:43,940 --> 01:46:48,960
Now if I had some
friends that came over,

2104
01:46:48,960 --> 01:46:51,890
Jewish people that
were from there--

2105
01:46:51,890 --> 01:46:54,380
Now remember, one thing
what I'm saying right now,

2106
01:46:54,380 --> 01:46:55,940
don't hold it against me.

2107
01:46:55,940 --> 01:47:02,230
I can't remember 100%
what now I say I felt

2108
01:47:02,230 --> 01:47:04,930
like a second-class citizen.

2109
01:47:04,930 --> 01:47:11,590
It's because if you
read history of people,

2110
01:47:11,590 --> 01:47:13,810
should it be Black or
the Irish that came here

2111
01:47:13,810 --> 01:47:18,040
after the famine in Ireland,
I came from a family that

2112
01:47:18,040 --> 01:47:18,950
came from Poland.

2113
01:47:18,950 --> 01:47:20,530
I was born there,
but they weren't

2114
01:47:20,530 --> 01:47:24,560
looked upon like people.

2115
01:47:24,560 --> 01:47:28,090
They were looked at like
second-class citizen

2116
01:47:28,090 --> 01:47:30,460
in the sense because
they were from Poland.

2117
01:47:30,460 --> 01:47:35,200
There is such a snobbery that
exists among Jews as well

2118
01:47:35,200 --> 01:47:40,000
as among other people where,
if you're not from there,

2119
01:47:40,000 --> 01:47:43,290
you're considered not the elite.

2120
01:47:43,290 --> 01:47:45,180
There's guys that
I'm talking about,

2121
01:47:45,180 --> 01:47:46,980
like the rabbi or the
people in the wine

2122
01:47:46,980 --> 01:47:53,550
business, in that town were
usually people that had wealth.

2123
01:47:53,550 --> 01:47:59,700
And they more or
less not like now--

2124

01:47:59,700 --> 01:48:03,300

I get-- my wife gets the
Jewish bulletin at home.

2125

01:48:03,300 --> 01:48:04,890

And I looked at
this, and I see there

2126

01:48:04,890 --> 01:48:08,440

are loans for
no-interest for people

2127

01:48:08,440 --> 01:48:10,350

that come from Russia
now and all that stuff.

2128

01:48:10,350 --> 01:48:12,660

That didn't exist in those days.

2129

01:48:12,660 --> 01:48:16,230

They had themselves prejudices.

2130

01:48:16,230 --> 01:48:19,650

Again, I cannot say
exactly why, how come.

2131

01:48:19,650 --> 01:48:21,810

That's what stuck in my mind.

2132

01:48:21,810 --> 01:48:25,620

That's what I felt
then, and I still

2133

01:48:25,620 --> 01:48:28,800

feel now although I
don't have any grudge.

2134

01:48:28,800 --> 01:48:29,910

That's the way they were.

2135

01:48:29,910 --> 01:48:32,160

You can't change that.

2136
01:48:32,160 --> 01:48:38,190
Now among all this talking
is strictly what I feel.

2137
01:48:38,190 --> 01:48:41,220
I could be very well
wrong and that they

2138
01:48:41,220 --> 01:48:42,420
didn't feel it that way.

2139
01:48:42,420 --> 01:48:46,410
But that's what they gave me
the feeling, that maybe it

2140
01:48:46,410 --> 01:48:53,160
was my own feeling of second
class because we had no money.

2141
01:48:53,160 --> 01:48:54,690
We were not wealthy.

2142
01:48:54,690 --> 01:48:59,220
I could never have
had people say, well--

2143
01:48:59,220 --> 01:49:01,560
although if you look at
some of the pictures,

2144
01:49:01,560 --> 01:49:03,570
I wasn't bad looking
when I was young.

2145
01:49:03,570 --> 01:49:06,600
I could have got married
with anybody there.

2146
01:49:06,600 --> 01:49:09,630
But I could not
see that closeness

2147

01:49:09,630 --> 01:49:15,810

between classes in the years
of '30s, in the '30s, see?

2148

01:49:15,810 --> 01:49:18,270

And that's why I've
mentioned that.

2149

01:49:18,270 --> 01:49:21,370

That doesn't mean that
I hate it or something.

2150

01:49:21,370 --> 01:49:27,360

It's more or less not a shyness
but a feeling of exclusion,

2151

01:49:27,360 --> 01:49:31,780

that I was not
included in the group.

2152

01:49:31,780 --> 01:49:36,490

That's how I felt because, first
of all, I went to work at 14.

2153

01:49:36,490 --> 01:49:38,790

Well, maybe the kids
that these rich people

2154

01:49:38,790 --> 01:49:43,393

had, he was helping in the
store, he would go play games,

2155

01:49:43,393 --> 01:49:44,310

or he was [INAUDIBLE].

2156

01:49:44,310 --> 01:49:45,360

I went to work.

2157

01:49:45,360 --> 01:49:48,000

I worked seven days a week.

2158

01:49:48,000 --> 01:49:50,880

And, as I said, I
didn't know better.

2159
01:49:50,880 --> 01:49:54,990
But I was lucky that I
persevered the three years.

2160
01:49:54,990 --> 01:49:59,460
Then in the army, so when I came
to Germany, it wasn't so hard.

2161
01:49:59,460 --> 01:50:03,373
I got through hardships
before, so I could take it.

2162
01:50:03,373 --> 01:50:05,040
First of all, I had
no wife, no children

2163
01:50:05,040 --> 01:50:08,070
to worry about when I got there.

2164
01:50:08,070 --> 01:50:12,810
So, as I said, you got
to be lucky to survive.

2165
01:50:12,810 --> 01:50:16,410
But you also have
to be like steel,

2166
01:50:16,410 --> 01:50:21,570
forged to mentally endure
all of these things, which

2167
01:50:21,570 --> 01:50:23,250
I've done, and I never--

2168
01:50:23,250 --> 01:50:27,870
I'm not regretting a minute
of what happened to me prior

2169
01:50:27,870 --> 01:50:31,380
to World War II

because I realize,

2170

01:50:31,380 --> 01:50:35,040

thanks to this hard work,
it helped me in the future.

2171

01:50:35,040 --> 01:50:39,690

It helped me build up
something and an ethic of work

2172

01:50:39,690 --> 01:50:42,570

where I see some
people nowadays,

2173

01:50:42,570 --> 01:50:43,980

especially young people--

2174

01:50:43,980 --> 01:50:45,630

I have a son who's 43, OK?

2175

01:50:45,630 --> 01:50:48,230

2176

01:50:48,230 --> 01:50:48,920

He works.

2177

01:50:48,920 --> 01:50:52,970

He has graduated from
Santa Barbara University.

2178

01:50:52,970 --> 01:50:56,150

And he was going to be
a teacher and actually,

2179

01:50:56,150 --> 01:50:59,570

with Vietnam and all
this, he never got this.

2180

01:50:59,570 --> 01:51:01,760

But he's very
intelligent in the sense

2181

01:51:01,760 --> 01:51:05,530
that he learned the
health food business.

2182
01:51:05,530 --> 01:51:10,960
So he's been working in
this for the last 10 years.

2183
01:51:10,960 --> 01:51:16,030
And his boss had
to close his door.

2184
01:51:16,030 --> 01:51:17,620
He hasn't worked since October.

2185
01:51:17,620 --> 01:51:18,730
He's not worried about it.

2186
01:51:18,730 --> 01:51:19,960
I would go crazy.

2187
01:51:19,960 --> 01:51:22,580
At 43, not to work?

2188
01:51:22,580 --> 01:51:25,120
He's married with this
lady for about 20 years.

2189
01:51:25,120 --> 01:51:26,920
They have no children.

2190
01:51:26,920 --> 01:51:32,130
And I saw him last week, and
I talked to him on the phone

2191
01:51:32,130 --> 01:51:34,170
yesterday that I
was coming here.

2192
01:51:34,170 --> 01:51:38,100
And his birthday is April
27, 1950, he was born,

2193

01:51:38,100 --> 01:51:39,780
so he's going to be 43.

2194

01:51:39,780 --> 01:51:45,000
So I said, for his birthday,
we're going to go out,

2195

01:51:45,000 --> 01:51:51,750
so he says, OK, I think after my
birthday, I'll go back to work.

2196

01:51:51,750 --> 01:51:54,430
That again is a mentality
that's different.

2197

01:51:54,430 --> 01:51:55,530
I have nothing against it.

2198

01:51:55,530 --> 01:51:59,490
If he saved enough money,
then that's his life.

2199

01:51:59,490 --> 01:52:01,060
More power to him.

2200

01:52:01,060 --> 01:52:06,650
But I'll give you an example
of what happened in '35, '36.

2201

01:52:06,650 --> 01:52:10,250
The Depression that you had
here, we had the reverberation.

2202

01:52:10,250 --> 01:52:11,870
We had it there, too.

2203

01:52:11,870 --> 01:52:17,120
So you cannot realize some
of the feelings I had at that

2204

01:52:17,120 --> 01:52:18,640
time.

2205
01:52:18,640 --> 01:52:21,050
And what is now is
completely different.

2206
01:52:21,050 --> 01:52:25,930
You have to have opinions
fit to the occasion.

2207
01:52:25,930 --> 01:52:28,625
In other words, if nowadays
things like myself,

2208
01:52:28,625 --> 01:52:29,500
it doesn't bother me.

2209
01:52:29,500 --> 01:52:32,320
I realize we lived
a different life.

2210
01:52:32,320 --> 01:52:34,970
Things are completely different.

2211
01:52:34,970 --> 01:52:39,290
Therefore, maybe I would
have to be born in 1950,

2212
01:52:39,290 --> 01:52:41,270
my life would have
been so much different,

2213
01:52:41,270 --> 01:52:43,180
maybe weaker of character.

2214
01:52:43,180 --> 01:52:44,820
I don't know.

2215
01:52:44,820 --> 01:52:51,550
Again, this is my
thoughts and my belief.

2216
01:52:51,550 --> 01:52:54,310

There you were about the
time of your Bar Mitzvah

2217
01:52:54,310 --> 01:52:56,240
wondering who you were.

2218
01:52:56,240 --> 01:52:58,390
What conclusions at that
time did you come to?

2219
01:52:58,390 --> 01:53:00,940
The conclusion is very simple.

2220
01:53:00,940 --> 01:53:04,850
Once you go to work and you
get involved with something,

2221
01:53:04,850 --> 01:53:11,290
it's just like a kid that
is invited into a studio.

2222
01:53:11,290 --> 01:53:13,400
There's a guy painting.

2223
01:53:13,400 --> 01:53:17,360
And the guy says, OK, take some
paint and create something.

2224
01:53:17,360 --> 01:53:22,390
My creation was putting
egg wash on croissant.

2225
01:53:22,390 --> 01:53:23,920
That was, to me, a creation.

2226
01:53:23,920 --> 01:53:27,160
I felt like this is
something that I never would

2227
01:53:27,160 --> 01:53:30,910
have thought I'd be able to do.

2228

01:53:30,910 --> 01:53:34,360

As I went along, I
made liqueur candies.

2229

01:53:34,360 --> 01:53:35,320

I made pralines.

2230

01:53:35,320 --> 01:53:38,800

I made so many things
that I created.

2231

01:53:38,800 --> 01:53:40,180

Unfortunately, you eat it.

2232

01:53:40,180 --> 01:53:42,430

There's nothing lasting.

2233

01:53:42,430 --> 01:53:47,230

But I tell you, I'll
explain this situation.

2234

01:53:47,230 --> 01:53:49,120

When after the
war, the government

2235

01:53:49,120 --> 01:53:52,360

sent me to this
hotel to recuperate.

2236

01:53:52,360 --> 01:53:54,528

The first thing I did,
I went in the kitchen,

2237

01:53:54,528 --> 01:53:56,320

and I asked the guys,
do you have some eggs

2238

01:53:56,320 --> 01:53:57,790

and some sugar and some flour?

2239

01:53:57,790 --> 01:53:59,020

Yes.

2240

01:53:59,020 --> 01:54:00,160

There was 80 people.

2241

01:54:00,160 --> 01:54:01,970

I made eclairs for everybody.

2242

01:54:01,970 --> 01:54:03,010

So I was a buddy.

2243

01:54:03,010 --> 01:54:04,660

Everybody liked me.

2244

01:54:04,660 --> 01:54:06,490

That was in 1945.

2245

01:54:06,490 --> 01:54:08,560

Nobody had eclairs.

2246

01:54:08,560 --> 01:54:13,270

But you know, that was my
way of creating something,

2247

01:54:13,270 --> 01:54:17,260

and I felt like everybody
was friendly with me.

2248

01:54:17,260 --> 01:54:23,320

In 1946, I went to Paris, and
I got to work in a bakery.

2249

01:54:23,320 --> 01:54:26,750

The fellow was Jewish, and he
was working during the day,

2250

01:54:26,750 --> 01:54:29,280

making French baguettes.

2251

01:54:29,280 --> 01:54:31,920

It was behind the
opera in Paris.

2252

01:54:31,920 --> 01:54:35,580
And I used to go at 8 o'clock
at night till 8 o'clock

2253
01:54:35,580 --> 01:54:39,330
in the morning by myself,
and I made a thousand eclairs

2254
01:54:39,330 --> 01:54:42,290
during the night all by myself.

2255
01:54:42,290 --> 01:54:45,050
He used to buy in the
black market some sugar.

2256
01:54:45,050 --> 01:54:49,080
But for bread, baguettes, you
need flour, yeast, and water,

2257
01:54:49,080 --> 01:54:50,780
a little salt. That's it.

2258
01:54:50,780 --> 01:54:54,560
So he made fresh bread at
10 o'clock and at 2 o'clock.

2259
01:54:54,560 --> 01:54:58,280
And at 8 o'clock at
night, I come from--

2260
01:54:58,280 --> 01:55:02,540
some Jewish organization
sent me to a villa

2261
01:55:02,540 --> 01:55:04,400
between Paris and Versailles.

2262
01:55:04,400 --> 01:55:06,200
They had orphans.

2263
01:55:06,200 --> 01:55:10,070
The parents got
killed during the war.

2264
01:55:10,070 --> 01:55:12,950
We had to ration books
even after the war.

2265
01:55:12,950 --> 01:55:14,230
I used to go to Versailles.

2266
01:55:14,230 --> 01:55:17,220
I had a bicycle with a
little cart in the back.

2267
01:55:17,220 --> 01:55:20,780
I used to buy bread in the
bakery, maybe 20 loaves

2268
01:55:20,780 --> 01:55:22,310
of bread, and bring it there.

2269
01:55:22,310 --> 01:55:25,310
I would work from 7:00 in
the morning till about 2:00,

2270
01:55:25,310 --> 01:55:26,810
then I would take
a nap, and then

2271
01:55:26,810 --> 01:55:30,590
I go into Paris, work at
night, three nights a week.

2272
01:55:30,590 --> 01:55:34,040
I remember getting one franc
for each éclair I made.

2273
01:55:34,040 --> 01:55:36,643
He sold them for 11 francs.

2274
01:55:36,643 --> 01:55:38,810
But you've got to remember,
it's not the same thing.

2275

01:55:38,810 --> 01:55:43,640

This represents--
400 francs was \$1.

2276

01:55:43,640 --> 01:55:50,010

So I got a thousand eclairs,
I got a thousand francs.

2277

01:55:50,010 --> 01:55:55,250

So if \$1 was 400, that
was \$2.50 equivalent.

2278

01:55:55,250 --> 01:55:58,130

But you have to
remember, that's 1946.

2279

01:55:58,130 --> 01:56:00,410

It was 1946.

2280

01:56:00,410 --> 01:56:05,630

So you see, my feeling
was although it was tough,

2281

01:56:05,630 --> 01:56:06,770

I created something.

2282

01:56:06,770 --> 01:56:08,270

I learned something.

2283

01:56:08,270 --> 01:56:13,280

It gave me a philosophy of being
creative, to enjoy what you do.

2284

01:56:13,280 --> 01:56:15,920

That's why I worked at
the Waldorf Astoria Hotel

2285

01:56:15,920 --> 01:56:19,460

in New York in 1949.

2286

01:56:19,460 --> 01:56:24,110

And General Eisenhower
was in Paris,

2287
01:56:24,110 --> 01:56:26,450
and they sent a
plane over to get

2288
01:56:26,450 --> 01:56:29,640
from the Waldorf sides of beef.

2289
01:56:29,640 --> 01:56:32,990
And I was in charge of
the ice cream production.

2290
01:56:32,990 --> 01:56:36,230
So I made ice cream
for General Eisenhower

2291
01:56:36,230 --> 01:56:37,730
before he was president.

2292
01:56:37,730 --> 01:56:43,760
And I had to write on each
box, care of Captain Schultz,

2293
01:56:43,760 --> 01:56:46,340
aide-de-camp,
General Eisenhower.

2294
01:56:46,340 --> 01:56:49,130
And that would be
packed in dry ice

2295
01:56:49,130 --> 01:56:52,590
and shipped before
there was jets.

2296
01:56:52,590 --> 01:56:56,680
That was 1949, 1950.

2297
01:56:56,680 --> 01:56:58,330
Yeah, 1950.

2298
01:56:58,330 --> 01:57:00,070

So you see, I created.

2299

01:57:00,070 --> 01:57:04,300

It was something that, first
of all, I worked in the bakery.

2300

01:57:04,300 --> 01:57:07,840

There was
around-the-clock people.

2301

01:57:07,840 --> 01:57:11,650

And as I worked there
with the French guy,

2302

01:57:11,650 --> 01:57:13,370

and the chef was French.

2303

01:57:13,370 --> 01:57:15,435

He's the guy that told
me, you're not French,

2304

01:57:15,435 --> 01:57:17,010

you're German.

2305

01:57:17,010 --> 01:57:19,270

So, you know, he
was very bright.

2306

01:57:19,270 --> 01:57:21,640

That was the only thing to
tell me that I was German.

2307

01:57:21,640 --> 01:57:24,820

I hated it because
I wasn't German.

2308

01:57:24,820 --> 01:57:27,900

And so what happened,
he comes to me one day.

2309

01:57:27,900 --> 01:57:32,230

He says, look, the hotel was
sold to the Hilton chain,

2310
01:57:32,230 --> 01:57:34,272
and they want to manufacture
their own ice cream.

2311
01:57:34,272 --> 01:57:35,688
Do you know how
to make ice cream?

2312
01:57:35,688 --> 01:57:36,310
I said, sure.

2313
01:57:36,310 --> 01:57:37,990
I learned in France.

2314
01:57:37,990 --> 01:57:40,870
Three quarts by hand,
that's what I learned.

2315
01:57:40,870 --> 01:57:42,580
This they put it machinery.

2316
01:57:42,580 --> 01:57:47,260
I made 500 gallons of ice cream
every day, six days a week.

2317
01:57:47,260 --> 01:57:50,020
We had banquet room
for 5,000 people.

2318
01:57:50,020 --> 01:57:53,800
And I realized I made
\$100,000 of profit

2319
01:57:53,800 --> 01:57:57,100
in one year for the hotel.

2320
01:57:57,100 --> 01:58:00,730
The first year I did it, I kept
book and everything. \$100,000

2321
01:58:00,730 --> 01:58:02,442

in 1951.

2322

01:58:02,442 --> 01:58:05,490

So I said, I've got to go
in business for myself.

2323

01:58:05,490 --> 01:58:09,210

I was making \$80 a week,
but I had two meals,

2324

01:58:09,210 --> 01:58:10,680

and I had two
bottles of beer that

2325

01:58:10,680 --> 01:58:13,378

were given to me, which I
didn't drink at the time.

2326

01:58:13,378 --> 01:58:14,670

So I gave it to the other guys.

2327

01:58:14,670 --> 01:58:17,490

But, anyway, to give
you a story that as soon

2328

01:58:17,490 --> 01:58:21,680

as I came to this country,
there is such a thing as you--

2329

01:58:21,680 --> 01:58:23,820

there's a metaphor for Moses.

2330

01:58:23,820 --> 01:58:25,230

You change.

2331

01:58:25,230 --> 01:58:28,170

The little guy that felt
second-class citizen, that

2332

01:58:28,170 --> 01:58:31,320

was shy, that
couldn't see anything

2333

01:58:31,320 --> 01:58:35,860
happen to him because he had
no means to become somebody.

2334

01:58:35,860 --> 01:58:38,780
So I was going to enlist
in the army, like I said,

2335

01:58:38,780 --> 01:58:39,970
during the war.

2336

01:58:39,970 --> 01:58:42,940
But when I came to this country,
I said, there's nothing that--

2337

01:58:42,940 --> 01:58:45,240
who's going to stop me?

2338

01:58:45,240 --> 01:58:47,320
If you're willing to work--

2339

01:58:47,320 --> 01:58:50,070
My wife at that time,
we get married in '48,

2340

01:58:50,070 --> 01:58:54,300
she worked for a fur company
on 7th Avenue in New York.

2341

01:58:54,300 --> 01:58:56,490
Big guy.

2342

01:58:56,490 --> 01:58:58,260
He liked my work so much.

2343

01:58:58,260 --> 01:58:59,070
I needed money.

2344

01:58:59,070 --> 01:59:01,450
He advanced us \$5,000.

2345

01:59:01,450 --> 01:59:04,140
He vouched for me whatever loan
the bank was going to give me.

2346
01:59:04,140 --> 01:59:07,590
So I got a \$3,000 from the bank,
and I opened my first business

2347
01:59:07,590 --> 01:59:10,800
in 1952, '52, New Jersey.

2348
01:59:10,800 --> 01:59:14,310
Was called Maurice's
Pastry Shop.

2349
01:59:14,310 --> 01:59:17,520
And, you know, once
I got a business,

2350
01:59:17,520 --> 01:59:19,870
I started to learn what
business is all about.

2351
01:59:19,870 --> 01:59:23,040
You've got to make pumpkin
pie for Thanksgiving.

2352
01:59:23,040 --> 01:59:26,310
I never had seen
this in my life.

2353
01:59:26,310 --> 01:59:29,970
And I finished off in San
Jose having the bakery

2354
01:59:29,970 --> 01:59:34,030
where I made 1,500 pumpkin
pies for Thanksgiving.

2355
01:59:34,030 --> 01:59:37,360
Life has levels.

2356
01:59:37,360 --> 01:59:40,840

If you have any
kind of ambition,

2357
01:59:40,840 --> 01:59:46,090
you go from one level to
another one gradually.

2358
01:59:46,090 --> 01:59:49,670
My first bakery, I
had \$8,000 to set up.

2359
01:59:49,670 --> 01:59:53,140
I stayed there till
I had no more debts.

2360
01:59:53,140 --> 01:59:55,330
Then I realized, what else?

2361
01:59:55,330 --> 01:59:58,780
I have no more debts, but
I didn't have a house.

2362
01:59:58,780 --> 02:00:00,820
Back East, there
wasn't such a thing

2363
02:00:00,820 --> 02:00:05,020
that you could put down \$10,000
or \$2,000 and buy a house.

2364
02:00:05,020 --> 02:00:08,230
So I lived in an
apartment, which is OK.

2365
02:00:08,230 --> 02:00:14,340
And when the Giants left,
and I had no more debts,

2366
02:00:14,340 --> 02:00:16,440
my wife and I went
to France in '58.

2367
02:00:16,440 --> 02:00:20,410

When I came back, I said, if
somebody came and said to me,

2368
02:00:20,410 --> 02:00:22,380
I want to buy your place,
how much do you want?

2369
02:00:22,380 --> 02:00:23,310
I know already.

2370
02:00:23,310 --> 02:00:26,870
\$20,000, \$10,000 down.

2371
02:00:26,870 --> 02:00:30,650
Would you believe somebody
came in January of 1959

2372
02:00:30,650 --> 02:00:34,550
and did exactly ask me how
much I wanted for the bakery?

2373
02:00:34,550 --> 02:00:35,510
And I sold it.

2374
02:00:35,510 --> 02:00:40,340
In February '59, we took
a brand-new station wagon,

2375
02:00:40,340 --> 02:00:43,250
Plymouth, went cross country.

2376
02:00:43,250 --> 02:00:45,230
My wife had some
cousin in Phoenix, no,

2377
02:00:45,230 --> 02:00:48,870
an aunt in Phoenix, some
cousins in Los Angeles.

2378
02:00:48,870 --> 02:00:52,700
So we went cross country,
and in Los Angeles,

2379

02:00:52,700 --> 02:00:57,440

I could have worked for
Romanoff in Los Angeles

2380

02:00:57,440 --> 02:00:58,790

as a pastry chef.

2381

02:00:58,790 --> 02:01:02,540

But when I got to Los
Angeles, the smog was so bad.

2382

02:01:02,540 --> 02:01:08,300

So sure enough, the magnet was
pulling me to San Francisco.

2383

02:01:08,300 --> 02:01:12,560

So we went up and
somehow, we went

2384

02:01:12,560 --> 02:01:17,090

to Patterson, which is way in
the boondocks, into San Jose.

2385

02:01:17,090 --> 02:01:20,600

We took the 99 to go up.

2386

02:01:20,600 --> 02:01:23,120

Tracy, we turned around,
which is not like now.

2387

02:01:23,120 --> 02:01:25,220

It used to be minor roads.

2388

02:01:25,220 --> 02:01:27,500

Now you got 5 that
goes up and everything.

2389

02:01:27,500 --> 02:01:31,080

And we lined up in San Jose.

2390

02:01:31,080 --> 02:01:35,470

Went from San Jose

to San Francisco,

2391

02:01:35,470 --> 02:01:39,070

and there was a
bakery called Blooms,

2392

02:01:39,070 --> 02:01:40,510

which doesn't exist anymore.

2393

02:01:40,510 --> 02:01:44,992

But in '59, the guy that was
working there, he says, OK,

2394

02:01:44,992 --> 02:01:45,700

can you decorate?

2395

02:01:45,700 --> 02:01:46,600

I said, sure.

2396

02:01:46,600 --> 02:01:47,680

OK, decorate this cake.

2397

02:01:47,680 --> 02:01:49,030

Well, let's do this.

2398

02:01:49,030 --> 02:01:50,980

And I did it.

2399

02:01:50,980 --> 02:01:52,567

I used to live in San Jose.

2400

02:01:52,567 --> 02:01:54,400

To go to San Francisco,
I wasn't interested.

2401

02:01:54,400 --> 02:01:56,500

So I didn't take the job.

2402

02:01:56,500 --> 02:01:59,320

But in San Jose, I
found a place that

2403

02:01:59,320 --> 02:02:03,030

had bakery goods that
looked like a Frenchman was

2404

02:02:03,030 --> 02:02:04,920

with that profession.

2405

02:02:04,920 --> 02:02:08,670

So I asked the people, is
there some French guy in here?

2406

02:02:08,670 --> 02:02:09,450

Yeah.

2407

02:02:09,450 --> 02:02:10,260

He's off today.

2408

02:02:10,260 --> 02:02:11,160

Why don't you come
back tomorrow?

2409

02:02:11,160 --> 02:02:11,760

He'll be here.

2410

02:02:11,760 --> 02:02:13,460

So I see him.

2411

02:02:13,460 --> 02:02:17,120

And he says to me, you
know, I'm busy right now.

2412

02:02:17,120 --> 02:02:20,750

Why don't you drop
by at 6 o'clock.

2413

02:02:20,750 --> 02:02:23,040

Here's my address where I live.

2414

02:02:23,040 --> 02:02:24,570

OK, we were brand new.

2415

02:02:24,570 --> 02:02:26,580
We found some realty guy.

2416
02:02:26,580 --> 02:02:29,190
He had converted his
garage where he lived,

2417
02:02:29,190 --> 02:02:31,570
and he was renting
for \$125 a month.

2418
02:02:31,570 --> 02:02:32,550
Good rent district.

2419
02:02:32,550 --> 02:02:33,300
All furnished.

2420
02:02:33,300 --> 02:02:34,470
So we rented this.

2421
02:02:34,470 --> 02:02:36,750
I went to see him at 6 o'clock.

2422
02:02:36,750 --> 02:02:38,130
He's barbecuing steak.

2423
02:02:38,130 --> 02:02:40,560
He never saw me in my life.

2424
02:02:40,560 --> 02:02:43,125
He's barbecuing steak.

2425
02:02:43,125 --> 02:02:47,650
So I said, gee, California
is God's country,

2426
02:02:47,650 --> 02:02:49,150
and we became friends.

2427
02:02:49,150 --> 02:02:53,390
And like I said, one
thing leads to another.

2428
02:02:53,390 --> 02:02:57,430
You do one nice favor to
someone, you get repaid.

2429
02:02:57,430 --> 02:03:00,280
One way or another, somewhere
along the line, you get repaid.

2430
02:03:00,280 --> 02:03:02,830
And this is another
philosophy I have.

2431
02:03:02,830 --> 02:03:08,030
If you can help, even if some
strangers come from Israel

2432
02:03:08,030 --> 02:03:12,080
to see my wife, I take the
car, I take Lombard Street,

2433
02:03:12,080 --> 02:03:18,933
I take the bridge, Golden
Gate, go underneath, show them

2434
02:03:18,933 --> 02:03:19,850
underneath the bridge.

2435
02:03:19,850 --> 02:03:22,190
Go on the other side,
go up on the hill.

2436
02:03:22,190 --> 02:03:26,890
I take every possible ways
to show them a good time.

2437
02:03:26,890 --> 02:03:29,660
Some people from
France, I did this.

2438
02:03:29,660 --> 02:03:31,310
He had a son marry here.

2439

02:03:31,310 --> 02:03:34,160

A guy, he lives in
Paris in the suburbs.

2440

02:03:34,160 --> 02:03:36,470

When we went to
France the last time,

2441

02:03:36,470 --> 02:03:39,950

he quit two days' work
to take me around.

2442

02:03:39,950 --> 02:03:42,890

That just shows you, if you
do something for someone nice,

2443

02:03:42,890 --> 02:03:44,120

you're going to get repaid.

2444

02:03:44,120 --> 02:03:46,850

There are few and
far in between,

2445

02:03:46,850 --> 02:03:48,817

there are some guys
that are louse.

2446

02:03:48,817 --> 02:03:50,400

They don't want to
know from anything,

2447

02:03:50,400 --> 02:03:51,650

but they're not that bad.

2448

02:03:51,650 --> 02:03:55,610

In general, you're always going
to find, if you act nice--

2449

02:03:55,610 --> 02:03:58,880

I have cases even now people
I don't know, they look at me,

2450

02:03:58,880 --> 02:04:01,850
they smile at me and say hello.

2451
02:04:01,850 --> 02:04:02,780
He doesn't know me.

2452
02:04:02,780 --> 02:04:04,880
He looks at my
face, he says hello.

2453
02:04:04,880 --> 02:04:08,290
I think that's nice
rather than have a stick

2454
02:04:08,290 --> 02:04:10,540
and try and hit you
on the head with it.

2455
02:04:10,540 --> 02:04:12,000