

1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:01:17,080

2  
00:01:17,080 --> 00:01:20,980  
So at 2:00 he used to pass  
the houses of the Jews

3  
00:01:20,980 --> 00:01:23,320  
and when he passed  
the entrance as he

4  
00:01:23,320 --> 00:01:29,950  
used to tell his dog by  
the word of dirty Jew,

5  
00:01:29,950 --> 00:01:32,240  
the dog would strain  
against the leash.

6  
00:01:32,240 --> 00:01:34,120  
He was going to eat us all up.

7  
00:01:34,120 --> 00:01:35,830  
So he was really a terrible man.

8  
00:01:35,830 --> 00:01:38,560  
But one day he died  
of natural causes

9  
00:01:38,560 --> 00:01:41,000  
and we were all happy about it.

10  
00:01:41,000 --> 00:01:43,150  
We looked at when they  
carried his coffin out

11  
00:01:43,150 --> 00:01:45,070  
and there was a band  
from his cronies

12  
00:01:45,070 --> 00:01:48,230

from the First World  
War and they played

13  
00:01:48,230 --> 00:01:50,310  
this famous German  
song, "I Had a Comrade,"

14  
00:01:50,310 --> 00:01:52,630  
in very subdued tones.

15  
00:01:52,630 --> 00:01:55,330  
So we were happy  
that he was gone.

16  
00:01:55,330 --> 00:01:58,900  
What happened to his dog?

17  
00:01:58,900 --> 00:02:00,790  
I don't know what happened.

18  
00:02:00,790 --> 00:02:06,280  
Well, he went also to  
his maker I reckon.

19  
00:02:06,280 --> 00:02:08,320  
No, he was really  
something that man.

20  
00:02:08,320 --> 00:02:11,840  
He was he was a violent  
anti-Semite for no reason

21  
00:02:11,840 --> 00:02:13,942  
but I can think of.

22  
00:02:13,942 --> 00:02:15,400  
Do you ever recall  
his dog actually

23  
00:02:15,400 --> 00:02:16,483  
attacking a Jewish person.

24

00:02:16,483 --> 00:02:17,220  
No, no.

25  
00:02:17,220 --> 00:02:20,110  
He held him in a  
leash, very short,

26  
00:02:20,110 --> 00:02:22,950  
but he used to say  
[GERMAN] Dirty Jew,

27  
00:02:22,950 --> 00:02:25,825  
and the dog used to flash his  
teeth and he used to strain

28  
00:02:25,825 --> 00:02:28,000  
in order to get to  
you, but he didn't.

29  
00:02:28,000 --> 00:02:29,140  
He didn't let him go ever.

30  
00:02:29,140 --> 00:02:32,675

31  
00:02:32,675 --> 00:02:34,050  
Do you recall any  
other incidents

32  
00:02:34,050 --> 00:02:38,050  
of adults attacking a child?

33  
00:02:38,050 --> 00:02:42,210  
No, I don't remember one  
single case like that.

34  
00:02:42,210 --> 00:02:44,760  
And it does--

35  
00:02:44,760 --> 00:02:46,470  
I don't I don't remember that--

36

00:02:46,470 --> 00:02:49,330

37

00:02:49,330 --> 00:02:51,430

No I really can't  
remember anything

38

00:02:51,430 --> 00:02:53,080

of that sort happened to me.

39

00:02:53,080 --> 00:02:54,378

What would the teachers do?

40

00:02:54,378 --> 00:02:55,420

How would they treat you?

41

00:02:55,420 --> 00:02:57,490

What would they say to you?

42

00:02:57,490 --> 00:03:00,250

Oh, I can't really  
recollect too much.

43

00:03:00,250 --> 00:03:01,600

But I remember this Krieger.

44

00:03:01,600 --> 00:03:03,950

He was an art teacher.

45

00:03:03,950 --> 00:03:07,510

He taught us how  
to draw and paint.

46

00:03:07,510 --> 00:03:11,410

And then invariably when  
he used to take red paint

47

00:03:11,410 --> 00:03:14,380

he said now you paint  
this red except the Jews.

48

00:03:14,380 --> 00:03:16,750

The Jews don't paint red  
because that reminds us

49  
00:03:16,750 --> 00:03:20,050  
of the blood of the pigs  
and the Jews don't eat pigs,

50  
00:03:20,050 --> 00:03:21,760  
they don't eat pork.

51  
00:03:21,760 --> 00:03:24,280  
So that sort of  
nonsense he used to say.

52  
00:03:24,280 --> 00:03:26,230  
So a lot of it was  
just stupid stuff.

53  
00:03:26,230 --> 00:03:26,980  
Very stupid.

54  
00:03:26,980 --> 00:03:29,110  
It made no sense  
to me even then.

55  
00:03:29,110 --> 00:03:32,170  
It makes less sense to me today.

56  
00:03:32,170 --> 00:03:35,820  
It just ingrained in  
people to be ignorant.

57  
00:03:35,820 --> 00:03:38,560  
If they would have thought a  
little bit, I don't think--

58  
00:03:38,560 --> 00:03:41,170  
If a person would  
think, I don't think he

59  
00:03:41,170 --> 00:03:43,250  
would behave the way he does.

60

00:03:43,250 --> 00:03:44,500

I mean, there's no--

61

00:03:44,500 --> 00:03:46,900

It's full of nonsense.

62

00:03:46,900 --> 00:03:50,680

I mean, I understand if a person  
has a dislike for somebody

63

00:03:50,680 --> 00:03:58,360

so it's based on some  
certain kinds of reasons.

64

00:03:58,360 --> 00:04:01,210

But there are no reasons  
to behave the way they did.

65

00:04:01,210 --> 00:04:06,180

66

00:04:06,180 --> 00:04:09,980

So I think it was just  
this constant hammering

67

00:04:09,980 --> 00:04:13,250

into their minds this  
propaganda on the media

68

00:04:13,250 --> 00:04:16,820

and in the newspapers  
so they followed along.

69

00:04:16,820 --> 00:04:23,180

But it didn't make any sense  
to me even when I was a child.

70

00:04:23,180 --> 00:04:25,460

And I wasn't really  
very much affected by it

71

00:04:25,460 --> 00:04:28,520

because I was a happy child.

72

00:04:28,520 --> 00:04:31,460

I was a playful child, so  
it did happen, big deal.

73

00:04:31,460 --> 00:04:37,490

74

00:04:37,490 --> 00:04:38,350

I was wondering.

75

00:04:38,350 --> 00:04:41,770

You mentioned the synagogue  
burning that you witnessed.

76

00:04:41,770 --> 00:04:44,810

Could you tell us the  
name of that synagogue?

77

00:04:44,810 --> 00:04:46,630

No, I do not remember the name.

78

00:04:46,630 --> 00:04:50,620

I mentioned before that it was  
in the town of Szczecin, which

79

00:04:50,620 --> 00:04:52,660

is today Poland  
is called Techin.

80

00:04:52,660 --> 00:04:54,850

It was a very  
elaborate synagogue,

81

00:04:54,850 --> 00:04:56,390

a beautiful synagogue.

82

00:04:56,390 --> 00:05:00,850

And I think I mentioned it was a  
conservative one with an organ.

83

00:05:00,850 --> 00:05:02,920  
I remember the cantor.

84  
00:05:02,920 --> 00:05:04,300  
His name was Reinovitz.

85  
00:05:04,300 --> 00:05:08,590  
He had an impressive,  
wonderful voice.

86  
00:05:08,590 --> 00:05:12,940  
And he was also a teacher in the  
Jewish school at the same time

87  
00:05:12,940 --> 00:05:14,920  
on Jewish subjects.

88  
00:05:14,920 --> 00:05:16,600  
And there was a big  
community there.

89  
00:05:16,600 --> 00:05:20,124  
The name I do not remember  
of that synagogue.

90  
00:05:20,124 --> 00:05:22,730

91  
00:05:22,730 --> 00:05:27,170  
You mentioned that you lived  
across the street from a bar

92  
00:05:27,170 --> 00:05:30,740  
and that the people who  
spent time in the bar

93  
00:05:30,740 --> 00:05:33,620  
drinking and carrying  
on were the first people

94  
00:05:33,620 --> 00:05:38,900  
to put on the SS  
uniforms in 1933.



95  
00:05:38,900 --> 00:05:42,140  
Could you tell us  
a specific story

96  
00:05:42,140 --> 00:05:47,930  
about a specific person who  
went through this transformation

97  
00:05:47,930 --> 00:05:49,940  
period, and what  
kind of things he

98  
00:05:49,940 --> 00:05:54,470  
did before he was given this  
new title and responsibility?

99  
00:05:54,470 --> 00:05:56,720  
And then the sorts of  
things that he did after he

100  
00:05:56,720 --> 00:05:58,610  
got this new responsibility?

101  
00:05:58,610 --> 00:06:02,990  
Yeah, there's very little  
except I remember one man very

102  
00:06:02,990 --> 00:06:04,100  
clearly.

103  
00:06:04,100 --> 00:06:06,153  
He was always unemployed  
and he was always drunk.

104  
00:06:06,153 --> 00:06:07,820  
As soon as he had a  
little bit of money,

105  
00:06:07,820 --> 00:06:09,560  
he used to go and drink.

106

00:06:09,560 --> 00:06:13,580  
And from time to time he  
used to do small jobs for us,

107  
00:06:13,580 --> 00:06:14,400  
for my father.

108  
00:06:14,400 --> 00:06:17,390  
And my father used to give  
him some schnapps which

109  
00:06:17,390 --> 00:06:18,980  
my father brewed by himself.

110  
00:06:18,980 --> 00:06:22,190  
It was something he  
learned in Poland to do.

111  
00:06:22,190 --> 00:06:25,190  
Very strong, almost  
100% alcohol.

112  
00:06:25,190 --> 00:06:27,930  
And he used to give him  
one or two of these things.

113  
00:06:27,930 --> 00:06:30,200  
And he was attached  
to my father in a way.

114  
00:06:30,200 --> 00:06:35,900  
But then when the Nazis came  
to power he joined the SS

115  
00:06:35,900 --> 00:06:39,290  
and he had a  
beautiful uniform on.

116  
00:06:39,290 --> 00:06:45,330  
And I can't even say he  
became such an enemy of us.

117  
00:06:45,330 --> 00:06:49,370

He continued to come very  
secretly into our house

118  
00:06:49,370 --> 00:06:51,590  
in order to get the schnapps.

119  
00:06:51,590 --> 00:06:54,440  
So he looked very  
peculiar in his uniform

120  
00:06:54,440 --> 00:06:56,090  
to be in a Jewish home.

121  
00:06:56,090 --> 00:06:59,420  
But I remember he was  
still on a first-name basis

122  
00:06:59,420 --> 00:07:01,730  
with my father.

123  
00:07:01,730 --> 00:07:08,120  
But I don't remember  
any specific incident

124  
00:07:08,120 --> 00:07:09,050  
except for one thing.

125  
00:07:09,050 --> 00:07:14,510  
One day the street next  
to us bees got loose

126  
00:07:14,510 --> 00:07:16,640  
and they were swarming  
in the street.

127  
00:07:16,640 --> 00:07:18,450  
And he went there  
with his uniform,

128  
00:07:18,450 --> 00:07:20,750  
and he stood amongst them  
because he made himself out

129

00:07:20,750 --> 00:07:24,690

to be a hero but he got stung  
very soon so he rushed off

130

00:07:24,690 --> 00:07:27,470

and he looked incongruous  
in his uniform running away

131

00:07:27,470 --> 00:07:29,120

from those bees.

132

00:07:29,120 --> 00:07:31,580

That's a childhood memory  
that I remember of that man,

133

00:07:31,580 --> 00:07:34,430

but I can't really  
remember anything else.

134

00:07:34,430 --> 00:07:37,400

Do you recall him doing  
any anti-Semitic things

135

00:07:37,400 --> 00:07:41,090

or saying anything  
against the Jews?

136

00:07:41,090 --> 00:07:44,540

Not in particular, no.

137

00:07:44,540 --> 00:07:47,570

Do you remember him ever  
helping a Jewish person?

138

00:07:47,570 --> 00:07:49,550

Yes, he used to do a  
lot for Jewish people

139

00:07:49,550 --> 00:07:50,750

before he had the uniform.

140

00:07:50,750 --> 00:07:53,903

He always used to go from  
Jewish home to Jewish home

141  
00:07:53,903 --> 00:07:55,820  
to help in order to get  
a little bit of money.

142  
00:07:55,820 --> 00:07:58,700  
And then of course he  
spent that money on drinks.

143  
00:07:58,700 --> 00:08:02,040  
But later on I only remember him  
that he came from time to time

144  
00:08:02,040 --> 00:08:04,460  
to the house to get the  
schnapps my father always

145  
00:08:04,460 --> 00:08:05,720  
used to give him.

146  
00:08:05,720 --> 00:08:09,080  
And he was on friendly  
terms even then.

147  
00:08:09,080 --> 00:08:12,920  
Of course, one must  
understand those times

148  
00:08:12,920 --> 00:08:15,710  
that it was a natural  
thing to be in uniform.

149  
00:08:15,710 --> 00:08:18,470  
If you weren't in black uniform  
you were in brown uniform.

150  
00:08:18,470 --> 00:08:20,390  
But everybody was in uniform.

151  
00:08:20,390 --> 00:08:23,840  
Everybody was a Nazi

everybody wore the swastika.

152  
00:08:23,840 --> 00:08:25,670  
So people are people.

153  
00:08:25,670 --> 00:08:30,260  
Although he had this uniform  
on, he still spoke to my father.

154  
00:08:30,260 --> 00:08:34,220  
Do you think he was so much  
enamored by the uniform

155  
00:08:34,220 --> 00:08:35,690  
as by the ideology?

156  
00:08:35,690 --> 00:08:37,340  
Do you think he  
was all that aware?

157  
00:08:37,340 --> 00:08:38,370  
No, I don't think so.

158  
00:08:38,370 --> 00:08:43,460  
I think that it gave him a  
sort of a lift up in his ego.

159  
00:08:43,460 --> 00:08:45,320  
Suddenly he was somebody.

160  
00:08:45,320 --> 00:08:47,210  
He was nobody before.

161  
00:08:47,210 --> 00:08:52,880  
And then having this uniform  
it gave him authority

162  
00:08:52,880 --> 00:08:55,010  
and he walked around very proud.

163  
00:08:55,010 --> 00:08:56,810  
He had nothing to do

really except to be

164  
00:08:56,810 --> 00:09:00,050  
in uniform, to be present.

165  
00:09:00,050 --> 00:09:04,580  
But he had no specific duties  
except maybe to go to meetings

166  
00:09:04,580 --> 00:09:06,940  
or to parades and raise his  
hand and shout, Heil Hitler.

167  
00:09:06,940 --> 00:09:13,670  
But I don't think he  
had any specific task.

168  
00:09:13,670 --> 00:09:19,820  
Hitler apparently needed  
lots of people in his party,

169  
00:09:19,820 --> 00:09:23,090  
so at least he got paid  
on a regular basis,

170  
00:09:23,090 --> 00:09:24,230  
so that made him happy.

171  
00:09:24,230 --> 00:09:30,740

172  
00:09:30,740 --> 00:09:33,770  
How did your father die?

173  
00:09:33,770 --> 00:09:35,060  
It's not quite clear to me.

174  
00:09:35,060 --> 00:09:40,650  
Because my father died  
of an enlarged liver

175  
00:09:40,650 --> 00:09:43,190

which pressed on his heart.

176  
00:09:43,190 --> 00:09:46,790  
And the doctor said, if  
I remember correctly,

177  
00:09:46,790 --> 00:09:49,130  
that while cutting  
the leather he

178  
00:09:49,130 --> 00:09:50,870  
passed it against  
his liver, which

179  
00:09:50,870 --> 00:09:52,580  
enlarged it and did something.

180  
00:09:52,580 --> 00:09:56,300  
Anyway, he was pretty sick.

181  
00:09:56,300 --> 00:09:59,210  
He was in bad.

182  
00:09:59,210 --> 00:10:00,440  
He couldn't work anymore.

183  
00:10:00,440 --> 00:10:04,160  
And then it went  
from bad to worse.

184  
00:10:04,160 --> 00:10:08,640  
And I remember the night  
he died my mother started

185  
00:10:08,640 --> 00:10:12,950  
to cry very loudly and soon  
some neighbors came in,

186  
00:10:12,950 --> 00:10:16,145  
Jewish neighbors, and  
he died that night.

187



00:10:16,145 --> 00:10:18,860

188

00:10:18,860 --> 00:10:22,460

He was only 36 years  
old when he died.

189

00:10:22,460 --> 00:10:24,110

36?

190

00:10:24,110 --> 00:10:25,175

He died in '36.

191

00:10:25,175 --> 00:10:26,550

No, he was 38.

192

00:10:26,550 --> 00:10:34,330

He was born in 1898, I remember.

193

00:10:34,330 --> 00:10:42,340

Did your family have  
many Gentile friends?

194

00:10:42,340 --> 00:10:44,340

I don't think they had  
many Gentile friends.

195

00:10:44,340 --> 00:10:45,340

They had a few who came.

196

00:10:45,340 --> 00:10:50,050

In fact, we also had not  
only this maid I mentioned,

197

00:10:50,050 --> 00:10:54,010

we had from time to time a  
girl used to clean the house

198

00:10:54,010 --> 00:10:58,550

and look after us.

199

00:10:58,550 --> 00:11:02,440

In fact, I remember we  
had a maid from Poland.

200  
00:11:02,440 --> 00:11:04,570  
Her name was Marie.

201  
00:11:04,570 --> 00:11:06,730  
And she used to put  
butter in her hair

202  
00:11:06,730 --> 00:11:08,920  
to make her hair really shiny.

203  
00:11:08,920 --> 00:11:11,410  
She was a very primitive woman.

204  
00:11:11,410 --> 00:11:15,880  
So she used to be our  
maid for many years.

205  
00:11:15,880 --> 00:11:20,170  
She was a Gentile, too, but she  
wasn't German, she was Polish.

206  
00:11:20,170 --> 00:11:24,490  
But I remember a  
man called Wagner.

207  
00:11:24,490 --> 00:11:27,280  
He was a police officer,  
but not in uniform.

208  
00:11:27,280 --> 00:11:29,460  
He was a detective.

209  
00:11:29,460 --> 00:11:31,960  
And he used to come from time  
to time to speak to my father.

210  
00:11:31,960 --> 00:11:35,120  
And also my father used  
to give him the schnapps.

211

00:11:35,120 --> 00:11:37,870

They all liked his schnapps.

212

00:11:37,870 --> 00:11:40,620

Very fond of it.

213

00:11:40,620 --> 00:11:42,690

And of course the annushka.

214

00:11:42,690 --> 00:11:45,870

I don't think so many, except  
of course, our clients.

215

00:11:45,870 --> 00:11:48,780

All our clients were non-Jewish.

216

00:11:48,780 --> 00:11:56,040

My father used to sell army  
surplus like overcoats and army

217

00:11:56,040 --> 00:12:01,140

uniforms and they all  
came in to buy them.

218

00:12:01,140 --> 00:12:05,010

There was a season  
for asparagus.

219

00:12:05,010 --> 00:12:08,400

So Polish workers were  
imported from Poland

220

00:12:08,400 --> 00:12:13,530

and they used to come and work  
on the surrounding farmsteads.

221

00:12:13,530 --> 00:12:15,000

And then when they  
had money they

222

00:12:15,000 --> 00:12:19,480

used to come very often

to our shop and buy wares.

223  
00:12:19,480 --> 00:12:22,027  
And then when the  
asparagus season

224  
00:12:22,027 --> 00:12:23,610  
was finished they  
went back to Poland,

225  
00:12:23,610 --> 00:12:25,440  
took all the wares with them.

226  
00:12:25,440 --> 00:12:27,120  
And next year they  
came back again.

227  
00:12:27,120 --> 00:12:34,490

228  
00:12:34,490 --> 00:12:36,920  
What were your aspirations  
before the war,

229  
00:12:36,920 --> 00:12:38,660  
before everything got so bad?

230  
00:12:38,660 --> 00:12:40,400  
Before the war.

231  
00:12:40,400 --> 00:12:40,900  
I see.

232  
00:12:40,900 --> 00:12:44,060  
Well, I've told you  
that I've written

233  
00:12:44,060 --> 00:12:48,880  
a kind of a manuscript  
of my childhood.

234  
00:12:48,880 --> 00:12:50,630

I have not passed my  
childhood manuscript.

235  
00:12:50,630 --> 00:12:58,548  
So it became clear to me there  
were two stages when I made

236  
00:12:58,548 --> 00:12:59,840  
a decision what I wanted to be.

237  
00:12:59,840 --> 00:13:03,170  
The first one was when a  
troop of German soldiers

238  
00:13:03,170 --> 00:13:05,480  
came into our street  
and bivouacked there.

239  
00:13:05,480 --> 00:13:08,720  
And one of the soldiers said  
to me, can you hold my horse?

240  
00:13:08,720 --> 00:13:11,150  
And he gave me the  
privilege of holding

241  
00:13:11,150 --> 00:13:14,540  
his horse by the holster  
while he ate his food.

242  
00:13:14,540 --> 00:13:17,720  
And the horse always used to  
neigh and lift up his head,

243  
00:13:17,720 --> 00:13:20,690  
lifting me up in the air while  
I was holding onto the holster.

244  
00:13:20,690 --> 00:13:25,190  
And I was so impressed by this  
horse of his and his uniform

245  
00:13:25,190 --> 00:13:26,570

and his iron rations.

246

00:13:26,570 --> 00:13:30,210

When I finished, he gave me  
as a reward some of his food.

247

00:13:30,210 --> 00:13:31,700

So I want to become a soldier.

248

00:13:31,700 --> 00:13:34,370

That was for sure I was  
going to be a soldier.

249

00:13:34,370 --> 00:13:39,320

But then we had a yearly fair.

250

00:13:39,320 --> 00:13:40,110

There was a fair.

251

00:13:40,110 --> 00:13:43,130

And sometimes some  
Cossacks came from Russia

252

00:13:43,130 --> 00:13:47,870

and they did all kinds of  
daring feats on the horses,

253

00:13:47,870 --> 00:13:50,150

gyrating from the  
back to the stomach

254

00:13:50,150 --> 00:13:54,050

and galloping, holding  
onto the mane of the horse,

255

00:13:54,050 --> 00:13:55,730

shouting at the  
top of the voices.

256

00:13:55,730 --> 00:13:59,993

And I said, I'm going to be a  
horse rider like the Cossacks.

257

00:13:59,993 --> 00:14:01,160

That's what I want it to be.

258

00:14:01,160 --> 00:14:11,180

259

00:14:11,180 --> 00:14:14,120

What secular activities  
did you have?

260

00:14:14,120 --> 00:14:17,150

Oh, there was a couple of  
cinemas there with still

261

00:14:17,150 --> 00:14:20,990

films, those silent films.

262

00:14:20,990 --> 00:14:24,830

So every Sunday at 2:00 we  
used to take 10 pfennigs

263

00:14:24,830 --> 00:14:26,390

and go to the cinema.

264

00:14:26,390 --> 00:14:29,210

And we used to look  
at those movies.

265

00:14:29,210 --> 00:14:32,820

We saw Tom Hicks and Rin Tin Tin  
and Charlie Chaplin and Harold

266

00:14:32,820 --> 00:14:33,320

Lloyd.

267

00:14:33,320 --> 00:14:34,700

I remember those.

268

00:14:34,700 --> 00:14:35,960

And who else?

269

00:14:35,960 --> 00:14:40,280  
Well, German actors like  
Gustav Freilich and whoever.

270  
00:14:40,280 --> 00:14:42,500  
I forgot all those names.

271  
00:14:42,500 --> 00:14:45,140  
They used to put barrels up  
and they put planks across

272  
00:14:45,140 --> 00:14:46,910  
and there we sat.

273  
00:14:46,910 --> 00:14:50,720  
And then in the middle they used  
to come and check our tickets,

274  
00:14:50,720 --> 00:14:53,602  
and I, for excitement, used to  
eat those tickets up and then

275  
00:14:53,602 --> 00:14:55,560  
when I had no ticket they  
used to throw us out.

276  
00:14:55,560 --> 00:15:00,410  
So my brothers used to blame me  
for not having those tickets.

277  
00:15:00,410 --> 00:15:02,750  
But there was maybe  
some Hanukkah party

278  
00:15:02,750 --> 00:15:04,350  
for the grown ups once a year.

279  
00:15:04,350 --> 00:15:07,680  
But I don't think  
was anything else.

280  
00:15:07,680 --> 00:15:09,760  
And except those



motorcycles, I think,

281

00:15:09,760 --> 00:15:15,890

but there was very little  
in the way of entertainment

282

00:15:15,890 --> 00:15:17,090

in those days.

283

00:15:17,090 --> 00:15:19,130

Of course, there  
was no television.

284

00:15:19,130 --> 00:15:19,950

Even radio.

285

00:15:19,950 --> 00:15:20,825

I don't think we had.

286

00:15:20,825 --> 00:15:24,260

We had an old gramophone, those  
things you used to wind up.

287

00:15:24,260 --> 00:15:27,680

But yeah, Jewish  
friends used to come in.

288

00:15:27,680 --> 00:15:30,470

They used to play cards.

289

00:15:30,470 --> 00:15:34,290

And then of course was a  
synagogue on every Saturday.

290

00:15:34,290 --> 00:15:36,680

But that was  
entertainment of a sort.

291

00:15:36,680 --> 00:15:40,370

And the high holy  
days once a year.

292

00:15:40,370 --> 00:15:42,323  
But otherwise--

293  
00:15:42,323 --> 00:15:43,865  
Well, I had no lack  
of entertainment.

294  
00:15:43,865 --> 00:15:46,580  
I used to play on the  
streets with my cronies.

295  
00:15:46,580 --> 00:15:48,440  
I used to play marbles.

296  
00:15:48,440 --> 00:15:50,030  
And we used to--

297  
00:15:50,030 --> 00:15:54,830  
Oh yes, we had this Zionist  
organization, the Maccabees.

298  
00:15:54,830 --> 00:15:56,480  
So we used to go on outings.

299  
00:15:56,480 --> 00:16:00,320  
Sometimes there were  
outings from the school.

300  
00:16:00,320 --> 00:16:03,110  
But I don't think  
for the grown ups

301  
00:16:03,110 --> 00:16:06,680  
there was much recreation,  
or very little of it.

302  
00:16:06,680 --> 00:16:10,190  
But I don't think they  
expected that as much

303  
00:16:10,190 --> 00:16:11,750  
as they have today.

304

00:16:11,750 --> 00:16:16,730

How did your family  
spend their evenings?

305

00:16:16,730 --> 00:16:23,640

Oh, we sit at home.

306

00:16:23,640 --> 00:16:26,430

We sat in the yard.

307

00:16:26,430 --> 00:16:29,820

We played outside  
when it was summer.

308

00:16:29,820 --> 00:16:31,360

And we sat.

309

00:16:31,360 --> 00:16:36,210

I don't know what we did.

310

00:16:36,210 --> 00:16:39,840

I forgot we had a  
swimming, it wasn't a pool,

311

00:16:39,840 --> 00:16:44,130

it was a kind of  
institution for swimming.

312

00:16:44,130 --> 00:16:46,380

We used to go there  
and swim sometimes.

313

00:16:46,380 --> 00:16:49,170

I revisited it on my  
recent visit there.

314

00:16:49,170 --> 00:16:51,690

It's still there, but it's  
not in use any longer.

315

00:16:51,690 --> 00:16:54,180

And there was of

course two lakes.

316  
00:16:54,180 --> 00:16:56,220  
On weekends we used  
to go out to the lakes

317  
00:16:56,220 --> 00:16:58,260  
and we used to picnic there.

318  
00:16:58,260 --> 00:17:00,570  
Or my father used to  
rent a little boat

319  
00:17:00,570 --> 00:17:02,820  
and we used to go on the  
boat and go out into the sea.

320  
00:17:02,820 --> 00:17:05,910

321  
00:17:05,910 --> 00:17:08,430  
But not really  
much, I don't think.

322  
00:17:08,430 --> 00:17:10,079  
People used to sit at home.

323  
00:17:10,079 --> 00:17:16,290  
My mother used to clean or cook  
and my father, I don't know.

324  
00:17:16,290 --> 00:17:17,369  
Not much one could do.

325  
00:17:17,369 --> 00:17:24,202

326  
00:17:24,202 --> 00:17:25,619  
Did you talk to  
your parents much?

327  
00:17:25,619 --> 00:17:28,890

328  
00:17:28,890 --> 00:17:30,570  
Nothing about serious things.

329  
00:17:30,570 --> 00:17:33,120  
My parents, my mother  
constantly used

330  
00:17:33,120 --> 00:17:36,332  
to admonish me because  
I was full of tricks.

331  
00:17:36,332 --> 00:17:38,040  
She used to say, don't  
do that, and don't

332  
00:17:38,040 --> 00:17:42,000  
play with those children,  
don't play with those children.

333  
00:17:42,000 --> 00:17:44,628  
But actual talks I don't know.

334  
00:17:44,628 --> 00:17:46,170  
I was too young to  
speak to my mother

335  
00:17:46,170 --> 00:17:48,690  
on any serious kind of subject.

336  
00:17:48,690 --> 00:17:50,340  
None.

337  
00:17:50,340 --> 00:17:53,790  
Did they communicate to  
you a fear or concern

338  
00:17:53,790 --> 00:18:00,400  
about the growing Nazi--

339  
00:18:00,400 --> 00:18:01,720

Not to me.

340  
00:18:01,720 --> 00:18:06,790  
I heard my parents spoke  
to each other in Yiddish

341  
00:18:06,790 --> 00:18:10,480  
that things don't  
look good and maybe we

342  
00:18:10,480 --> 00:18:12,640  
should think of emigrating.

343  
00:18:12,640 --> 00:18:14,680  
But my father had  
established himself

344  
00:18:14,680 --> 00:18:16,030  
and he had built up a business.

345  
00:18:16,030 --> 00:18:21,140  
And to liquidate a business  
and then restart again,

346  
00:18:21,140 --> 00:18:23,050  
and he had no real  
profession, he

347  
00:18:23,050 --> 00:18:25,000  
didn't think that  
it was possible to.

348  
00:18:25,000 --> 00:18:27,030  
And he had this  
experience before when

349  
00:18:27,030 --> 00:18:29,740  
he went to Palestine  
and it didn't work out.

350  
00:18:29,740 --> 00:18:30,340  
He came back.

351

00:18:30,340 --> 00:18:35,410

And anyway he died when he was 38 and my mother was--

352

00:18:35,410 --> 00:18:36,610

She remarried then.

353

00:18:36,610 --> 00:18:40,930

354

00:18:40,930 --> 00:18:42,430

So they made no real steps to--

355

00:18:42,430 --> 00:18:43,000

No.

356

00:18:43,000 --> 00:18:45,280

None whatsoever.

357

00:18:45,280 --> 00:18:49,270

Not many people thought that what did happen

358

00:18:49,270 --> 00:18:50,290

could really happen.

359

00:18:50,290 --> 00:18:54,310

That is something out of this world

360

00:18:54,310 --> 00:19:00,040

to have thought any human mind could think in these terms

361

00:19:00,040 --> 00:19:01,870

that the Holocaust could have happened.

362

00:19:01,870 --> 00:19:06,790

That is an extraordinary phenomena,

363

00:19:06,790 --> 00:19:09,280  
and nobody could have even  
thought that such a thing could

364

00:19:09,280 --> 00:19:09,863  
have happened.

365

00:19:09,863 --> 00:19:12,940  
OK, so you had anti-Semitism,  
but they were so conditioned

366

00:19:12,940 --> 00:19:15,940  
to anti-Semitism all their  
lives, in their childhood,

367

00:19:15,940 --> 00:19:17,350  
in their adulthood,  
and even when

368

00:19:17,350 --> 00:19:23,140  
they came to Germany  
until 1933 it was fine.

369

00:19:23,140 --> 00:19:26,350  
But from 1933 immediately  
when the Nuremberg

370

00:19:26,350 --> 00:19:28,040  
laws were inaugurated--

371

00:19:28,040 --> 00:19:30,790

372

00:19:30,790 --> 00:19:33,160  
But I suppose a person  
gets conditioned even

373

00:19:33,160 --> 00:19:41,230  
to bad conditions to  
bear circumstances.

374

00:19:41,230 --> 00:19:43,060



And then you draw  
your conclusions.

375  
00:19:43,060 --> 00:19:46,480  
You think, oh, these  
things will pass.

376  
00:19:46,480 --> 00:19:47,920  
If you look at  
Jewish history, you

377  
00:19:47,920 --> 00:19:50,487  
will find that there have  
always been oppressors

378  
00:19:50,487 --> 00:19:51,570  
against the Jewish people.

379  
00:19:51,570 --> 00:19:55,760  
Then things pass and  
there's a rebirth

380  
00:19:55,760 --> 00:20:00,410  
of a flourishing Jewish culture.

381  
00:20:00,410 --> 00:20:04,360  
And people made a living  
and they did very well

382  
00:20:04,360 --> 00:20:05,080  
for themselves.

383  
00:20:05,080 --> 00:20:08,370  
And my father comparatively  
did well for himself.

384  
00:20:08,370 --> 00:20:11,260  
I don't think he  
could face liquidating

385  
00:20:11,260 --> 00:20:12,760  
and then restarting.

386

00:20:12,760 --> 00:20:15,310

It is no easy thing  
to do, especially

387

00:20:15,310 --> 00:20:18,410

when he had four children.

388

00:20:18,410 --> 00:20:20,170

When did he go to Palestine?

389

00:20:20,170 --> 00:20:28,090

In 1923.

390

00:20:28,090 --> 00:20:31,003

Did you talk about any  
incidents at school or problems

391

00:20:31,003 --> 00:20:32,170

at school with your parents.

392

00:20:32,170 --> 00:20:35,980

Yes, I told my mother that I  
didn't want to go to school

393

00:20:35,980 --> 00:20:38,350

and I pretended that  
I have a stomach ache

394

00:20:38,350 --> 00:20:41,230

and my leg hurts and my arm  
hurts and my head aches.

395

00:20:41,230 --> 00:20:43,160

But she knew exactly  
why I didn't want to go.

396

00:20:43,160 --> 00:20:45,230

I was fearful of  
going to school.

397

00:20:45,230 --> 00:20:50,440

This what is going

to be tomorrow?

398

00:20:50,440 --> 00:20:53,590

What are they going  
to do to me tomorrow?

399

00:20:53,590 --> 00:20:54,610

I couldn't face it.

400

00:20:54,610 --> 00:20:57,730

To face the next day going to  
school and sitting in school

401

00:20:57,730 --> 00:21:02,530

and being made fun of,  
or being not spoken

402

00:21:02,530 --> 00:21:06,790

to like an ordinary  
person, it affected me.

403

00:21:06,790 --> 00:21:09,730

So I asked my mother,  
I can't go to school.

404

00:21:09,730 --> 00:21:11,470

I don't feel well, and so forth.

405

00:21:11,470 --> 00:21:14,050

406

00:21:14,050 --> 00:21:15,470

But mostly my  
mother didn't allow.

407

00:21:15,470 --> 00:21:16,470

You had to go to school.

408

00:21:16,470 --> 00:21:18,512

If you didn't come one or  
two days to school then

409

00:21:18,512 --> 00:21:19,620  
the police would come.

410  
00:21:19,620 --> 00:21:22,240  
You would have to go to school.

411  
00:21:22,240 --> 00:21:24,030  
And if you did not  
appear at school,

412  
00:21:24,030 --> 00:21:27,390  
you'd have to have a  
certificate from the doctor

413  
00:21:27,390 --> 00:21:29,640  
to say why you didn't appear.

414  
00:21:29,640 --> 00:21:32,850  
Even I as a Jewish  
child there was a law

415  
00:21:32,850 --> 00:21:34,960  
that I had to appear in school.

416  
00:21:34,960 --> 00:21:36,785  
This law applied to everybody.

417  
00:21:36,785 --> 00:21:40,180

418  
00:21:40,180 --> 00:21:43,330  
How come your parents when  
to Palestine when they went?

419  
00:21:43,330 --> 00:21:45,290  
Well, it was before  
my time, of course.

420  
00:21:45,290 --> 00:21:51,640  
But I heard that my father had  
a partner and something went

421

00:21:51,640 --> 00:21:55,520  
wrong and he lost everything.

422  
00:21:55,520 --> 00:21:58,530  
And then he said, in any  
case, I tried to explain

423  
00:21:58,530 --> 00:22:01,090  
the concept of religion.

424  
00:22:01,090 --> 00:22:03,730  
They had the same  
concept about Zionism.

425  
00:22:03,730 --> 00:22:07,060  
It wasn't real  
political Zionism like I

426  
00:22:07,060 --> 00:22:09,350  
say I want the state of my own.

427  
00:22:09,350 --> 00:22:10,940  
I want a government of my own.

428  
00:22:10,940 --> 00:22:12,200  
I want an army of my own.

429  
00:22:12,200 --> 00:22:13,870  
I want to be free.

430  
00:22:13,870 --> 00:22:17,350  
For them it was a  
concoction, a mixture

431  
00:22:17,350 --> 00:22:22,225  
of religion and sentiments.

432  
00:22:22,225 --> 00:22:23,600  
But it wasn't  
really in the sense

433  
00:22:23,600 --> 00:22:28,190

of what Theodor Herzl  
wanted of a Jewish state

434  
00:22:28,190 --> 00:22:30,860  
and later thinkers.

435  
00:22:30,860 --> 00:22:37,730  
They went because they always  
heard, next year in Jerusalem.

436  
00:22:37,730 --> 00:22:39,527  
A Jewish state.

437  
00:22:39,527 --> 00:22:41,610  
But I don't think it had  
any real meaning to them.

438  
00:22:41,610 --> 00:22:43,693  
They thought, maybe if  
we're amongst Jewish people

439  
00:22:43,693 --> 00:22:45,830  
it'll be better for us.

440  
00:22:45,830 --> 00:22:47,840  
But this ideology  
of creating a state,

441  
00:22:47,840 --> 00:22:49,340  
I don't think ever  
occurred to them.

442  
00:22:49,340 --> 00:22:51,560  
Because they didn't last very  
long then, maybe half a year

443  
00:22:51,560 --> 00:22:52,220  
or so.

444  
00:22:52,220 --> 00:22:55,520  
So it wasn't really  
rooted in them.

445

00:22:55,520 --> 00:22:59,390

Even if a person  
is an idealist, he

446

00:22:59,390 --> 00:23:01,850

will go to Israel or to  
Palestine in those days

447

00:23:01,850 --> 00:23:05,060

and he wants to  
achieve a Jewish state.

448

00:23:05,060 --> 00:23:07,490

To them, if it wasn't  
good they would leave.

449

00:23:07,490 --> 00:23:10,100

And it didn't work  
out so they had

450

00:23:10,100 --> 00:23:15,110

no real attachment to neither an  
ideal nor to a Jewish country.

451

00:23:15,110 --> 00:23:17,630

They wanted to go where  
it's good for them.

452

00:23:17,630 --> 00:23:19,550

If Israel, Palestine  
in those days,

453

00:23:19,550 --> 00:23:21,570

would have been good to  
them and easy for them,

454

00:23:21,570 --> 00:23:22,700

they would have stayed.

455

00:23:22,700 --> 00:23:24,170

But they had to struggle.

456

00:23:24,170 --> 00:23:27,590  
And it was hot and it was  
primitive in comparison

457  
00:23:27,590 --> 00:23:28,730  
to Germany.

458  
00:23:28,730 --> 00:23:33,030  
They had no motivation  
at all to stay there.

459  
00:23:33,030 --> 00:23:41,050  
So after some time they returned  
and then I was born in 1925.

460  
00:23:41,050 --> 00:23:42,880  
What was the first  
violence you saw?

461  
00:23:42,880 --> 00:23:45,720

462  
00:23:45,720 --> 00:23:48,570  
Oh, that was in the bar.

463  
00:23:48,570 --> 00:23:52,320  
But that was by Germans  
against Germans.

464  
00:23:52,320 --> 00:23:54,570  
There used to be  
rowdy lot in that bar.

465  
00:23:54,570 --> 00:23:57,360  
And a lot of singing  
a lot of noise.

466  
00:23:57,360 --> 00:24:02,950  
And from time to time somebody  
went beyond his usual behavior.

467  
00:24:02,950 --> 00:24:07,940  
So he had some



chucker-outers, some people--

468  
00:24:07,940 --> 00:24:08,620  
A bouncer.

469  
00:24:08,620 --> 00:24:10,980  
Oh, that's in English  
you call them bouncers.

470  
00:24:10,980 --> 00:24:13,845  
So they used to carry them by  
the shoulders and by the feet

471  
00:24:13,845 --> 00:24:16,290  
and they used to  
shout in unison, Ho!

472  
00:24:16,290 --> 00:24:18,960  
and they used to throw  
them out into the street.

473  
00:24:18,960 --> 00:24:24,510  
And this had used to hit the  
pavement with a sickening sound

474  
00:24:24,510 --> 00:24:26,400  
and they just left him there.

475  
00:24:26,400 --> 00:24:29,100  
And then when he slept off  
his stupor or the police

476  
00:24:29,100 --> 00:24:33,080  
would come take him to the  
jail and he would sleep,

477  
00:24:33,080 --> 00:24:35,610  
the next day he would  
come back again to the bar

478  
00:24:35,610 --> 00:24:37,500  
as if nothing had happened.

479

00:24:37,500 --> 00:24:39,930

That was the first  
thing I ever saw.

480

00:24:39,930 --> 00:24:41,310

There used to be  
a lot of fights,

481

00:24:41,310 --> 00:24:44,340

especially amongst  
kids and grown ups.

482

00:24:44,340 --> 00:24:47,490

You know I've been here  
10 years in America.

483

00:24:47,490 --> 00:24:50,250

I have never seen a physical  
fight between two people,

484

00:24:50,250 --> 00:24:52,770

not even once.

485

00:24:52,770 --> 00:24:53,618

I know they exist.

486

00:24:53,618 --> 00:24:55,410

I know there's crime,  
I know there's drugs,

487

00:24:55,410 --> 00:24:57,452

but I personally haven't  
seen any of these things

488

00:24:57,452 --> 00:24:59,760

ever in America.

489

00:24:59,760 --> 00:25:01,890

But in Germany you  
see fights all over.

490

00:25:01,890 --> 00:25:03,870

Every five minutes you  
see people fighting.

491  
00:25:03,870 --> 00:25:06,930

And the policemen come  
and take you to prison.

492  
00:25:06,930 --> 00:25:13,900

I've seen handcuffs put on  
here in America, but in Germany

493  
00:25:13,900 --> 00:25:17,670

in those days, even today, I  
saw it last year in Germany,

494  
00:25:17,670 --> 00:25:19,740

a person was handcuffed  
and then the policeman

495  
00:25:19,740 --> 00:25:21,865

come with the truncheon  
and beat them all the time,

496  
00:25:21,865 --> 00:25:23,580

and beats him and beats him.

497  
00:25:23,580 --> 00:25:26,940

That is an indication of what  
kind of a people they are.

498  
00:25:26,940 --> 00:25:30,060

I've never seen anybody  
being beaten in this country.

499  
00:25:30,060 --> 00:25:31,550

You saw that last  
year in Germany?

500  
00:25:31,550 --> 00:25:32,050

Mm-hmm.

501  
00:25:32,050 --> 00:25:32,970

What part of Germany?

502  
00:25:32,970 --> 00:25:34,200  
I was in Hamburg.

503  
00:25:34,200 --> 00:25:37,890  
And I was walking a little bit,  
I was going next into the plane

504  
00:25:37,890 --> 00:25:42,000  
and going to Israel,  
And I was walking

505  
00:25:42,000 --> 00:25:45,450  
through the streets a bit  
before I went to my hotel.

506  
00:25:45,450 --> 00:25:48,570  
Suddenly I saw an elderly  
policeman dragging out

507  
00:25:48,570 --> 00:25:54,360  
a man out of a bar, handcuffed,  
and with the truncheon

508  
00:25:54,360 --> 00:25:57,870  
he was beating him all  
the time like this.

509  
00:25:57,870 --> 00:26:00,390  
And the man had his hands up,  
trying to sort of fend off

510  
00:26:00,390 --> 00:26:02,790  
the beatings.

511  
00:26:02,790 --> 00:26:05,880  
It made such an impression on  
me that really, really honestly

512  
00:26:05,880 --> 00:26:08,760  
I think nothing had changed.

513

00:26:08,760 --> 00:26:11,010  
You talk about  
democracy in Germany,

514  
00:26:11,010 --> 00:26:14,430  
you talk about freedom,  
but the concept of freedom

515  
00:26:14,430 --> 00:26:17,790  
has not really set well  
with the Germans yet.

516  
00:26:17,790 --> 00:26:20,280  
It needs a lot of time  
for them to become

517  
00:26:20,280 --> 00:26:21,492  
like any normal persons.

518  
00:26:21,492 --> 00:26:23,700  
If they can do that, they  
can do it to somebody else.

519  
00:26:23,700 --> 00:26:26,310

520  
00:26:26,310 --> 00:26:28,110  
I don't quite trust the Germans.

521  
00:26:28,110 --> 00:26:32,550  
In fact, I saw a similar  
case when in '45 I

522  
00:26:32,550 --> 00:26:33,780  
was stationed in Germany.

523  
00:26:33,780 --> 00:26:39,120  
And a time train passed,  
one of those trains.

524  
00:26:39,120 --> 00:26:40,230  
There were two conductors.

525

00:26:40,230 --> 00:26:41,760

And they said to  
a man, it's full.

526

00:26:41,760 --> 00:26:43,943

You can't come here.

527

00:26:43,943 --> 00:26:45,360

You have to wait  
for the next one.

528

00:26:45,360 --> 00:26:48,120

And he didn't want to, so  
he clung on to the railing.

529

00:26:48,120 --> 00:26:50,520

And so they took  
him the same way.

530

00:26:50,520 --> 00:26:53,460

They took him by the  
shoulders and they threw him

531

00:26:53,460 --> 00:26:55,200

onto the pavement.

532

00:26:55,200 --> 00:26:57,685

I've never seen--  
It is so cruel.

533

00:26:57,685 --> 00:26:59,310

You know, I've seen  
people being pushed

534

00:26:59,310 --> 00:27:00,560

around in Israel and so forth.

535

00:27:00,560 --> 00:27:03,540

I've never once seen  
such kind of treatment

536

00:27:03,540 --> 00:27:05,340

from one human  
being to the next.

537  
00:27:05,340 --> 00:27:08,670  
And on various occasions  
I saw that in Germany.

538  
00:27:08,670 --> 00:27:11,020  
In the times of Hitler,  
of course I've seen it.

539  
00:27:11,020 --> 00:27:16,140  
And this one occasion  
in '45, after the War.

540  
00:27:16,140 --> 00:27:19,597  
Of course I told  
you about Hamburg

541  
00:27:19,597 --> 00:27:21,180  
when this policeman  
with the truncheon

542  
00:27:21,180 --> 00:27:23,070  
hit this man he  
dragged out of the bar.

543  
00:27:23,070 --> 00:27:25,815  
And the man wasn't violent.

544  
00:27:25,815 --> 00:27:28,710

545  
00:27:28,710 --> 00:27:31,950  
He was just sort of  
trying to guard his head.

546  
00:27:31,950 --> 00:27:39,870

547  
00:27:39,870 --> 00:27:42,568  
What was the first violence  
you saw against Jews?

548  
00:27:42,568 --> 00:27:47,410

549  
00:27:47,410 --> 00:27:49,600  
I told you the story  
about Kristallnacht

550  
00:27:49,600 --> 00:27:53,050  
when I saw this man being  
forced to dance on the Torah.

551  
00:27:53,050 --> 00:27:58,280  
And then my teacher being  
dragged out of the class.

552  
00:27:58,280 --> 00:28:00,280  
That was the first violence  
you'd actually seen.

553  
00:28:00,280 --> 00:28:03,700  
Yeah, and you know I haven't  
seen any violence afterwards

554  
00:28:03,700 --> 00:28:04,810  
because I left Germany.

555  
00:28:04,810 --> 00:28:07,790

556  
00:28:07,790 --> 00:28:12,088  
When you were in this crowd  
watching the synagogue burn,

557  
00:28:12,088 --> 00:28:13,880  
what did you hear people  
around you saying?

558  
00:28:13,880 --> 00:28:17,780

559  
00:28:17,780 --> 00:28:20,060



It's not what I  
heard them saying

560  
00:28:20,060 --> 00:28:21,290  
but what they didn't say.

561  
00:28:21,290 --> 00:28:25,510  
Nobody spoke in sympathy  
of the Jewish people,

562  
00:28:25,510 --> 00:28:30,380  
or like I mentioned this  
house of God burning.

563  
00:28:30,380 --> 00:28:33,860  
I had only this woman say  
what she said, it's about time

564  
00:28:33,860 --> 00:28:37,860  
that the Jews will taste  
what the Germans are like.

565  
00:28:37,860 --> 00:28:40,830  
It's about time that  
they are taught a lesson.

566  
00:28:40,830 --> 00:28:42,650  
But everybody was  
looking on and not

567  
00:28:42,650 --> 00:28:48,160  
objecting and not voicing an  
opinion that this is wrong.

568  
00:28:48,160 --> 00:28:51,270  
Not so much as what they did  
say what they didn't say.

569  
00:28:51,270 --> 00:28:54,060  
Nobody objected.

570  
00:28:54,060 --> 00:28:58,350  
I mean any decent society,

if you see a church burned

571  
00:28:58,350 --> 00:29:04,680  
or any house of  
God or gravestone,

572  
00:29:04,680 --> 00:29:10,320  
I should see the day when a  
Jews would turn a gravestone

573  
00:29:10,320 --> 00:29:12,520  
or put a pipe bomb in a church.

574  
00:29:12,520 --> 00:29:14,430  
It doesn't seem right to me.

575  
00:29:14,430 --> 00:29:17,640  
It's ridiculous to me to  
even think about such things.

576  
00:29:17,640 --> 00:29:20,810

577  
00:29:20,810 --> 00:29:29,460  
So I don't know what to say  
that such things could really

578  
00:29:29,460 --> 00:29:32,010  
be perpetrated by human  
beings against another.

579  
00:29:32,010 --> 00:29:37,490

580  
00:29:37,490 --> 00:29:40,370  
When did you first  
see a Brownshirts?

581  
00:29:40,370 --> 00:29:47,330  
Oh, that was even before 1933.

582  
00:29:47,330 --> 00:29:50,330

Hitler, I think,  
established this SR,

583  
00:29:50,330 --> 00:29:53,150  
it's called the Sturmabteilung,  
I think before 1933.

584  
00:29:53,150 --> 00:29:54,050  
That was his party.

585  
00:29:54,050 --> 00:29:55,160  
That was the Nazi Party.

586  
00:29:55,160 --> 00:29:58,820

587  
00:29:58,820 --> 00:30:01,580  
But they came most  
prevalent in 1933.

588  
00:30:01,580 --> 00:30:06,560  
Hitler came to power in 1933  
so they were, all of them, they

589  
00:30:06,560 --> 00:30:11,058  
even used to dress babies in  
uniform and taught them to say,

590  
00:30:11,058 --> 00:30:13,100  
Heil Hitler, a child which  
couldn't even talk yet

591  
00:30:13,100 --> 00:30:16,490  
but they could teach a little  
baby to say a few words.

592  
00:30:16,490 --> 00:30:18,230  
The first thing  
they used to teach.

593  
00:30:18,230 --> 00:30:23,060  
It's a real replica of  
the uniform with the hat,

594  
00:30:23,060 --> 00:30:25,790  
baby maybe six months  
old, one year old,

595  
00:30:25,790 --> 00:30:28,370  
and they dressed  
them in this uniform.

596  
00:30:28,370 --> 00:30:30,050  
And they made them--

597  
00:30:30,050 --> 00:30:34,220  
And if child usually says a  
clever word they say, look!

598  
00:30:34,220 --> 00:30:38,450  
My child knows how  
to say, Heil Hitler.

599  
00:30:38,450 --> 00:30:45,650  
But actually in 1933, they  
were all party members.

600  
00:30:45,650 --> 00:30:46,610  
Every single one.

601  
00:30:46,610 --> 00:30:51,160

602  
00:30:51,160 --> 00:30:54,750  
When did you first see  
a Brownshirt parade?

603  
00:30:54,750 --> 00:30:56,905  
In 1933, all the time.

604  
00:30:56,905 --> 00:30:58,780  
They were always marching  
through the streets

605  
00:30:58,780 --> 00:31:00,460

with those standards  
and those hundreds

606  
00:31:00,460 --> 00:31:05,590  
of flags and their jackboots.

607  
00:31:05,590 --> 00:31:08,650  
All the time there were parades.

608  
00:31:08,650 --> 00:31:13,820  
Every little occasion they  
made parades to show presence.

609  
00:31:13,820 --> 00:31:19,390  
And it was pretty frightening  
the way they walked through.

610  
00:31:19,390 --> 00:31:25,360  
All young men, all vicious, and  
all found now their position

611  
00:31:25,360 --> 00:31:27,650  
in life.

612  
00:31:27,650 --> 00:31:28,210  
So many.

613  
00:31:28,210 --> 00:31:32,090

614  
00:31:32,090 --> 00:31:35,510  
When did the SS start  
joining the Brownshirts?

615  
00:31:35,510 --> 00:31:36,460  
No they didn't join.

616  
00:31:36,460 --> 00:31:38,000  
They were the SS.

617  
00:31:38,000 --> 00:31:39,590  
Schutzstaffel.

618  
00:31:39,590 --> 00:31:42,860  
They were the  
lifeguard of Hitler.

619  
00:31:42,860 --> 00:31:47,360  
That was Hitler's  
personal lifeguard.

620  
00:31:47,360 --> 00:31:51,390  
And they also came  
into being in 1933.

621  
00:31:51,390 --> 00:31:53,030  
They were the elite.

622  
00:31:53,030 --> 00:31:57,020  
Only specific person,  
specific background maybe,

623  
00:31:57,020 --> 00:31:58,910  
specific height.

624  
00:31:58,910 --> 00:32:02,510  
They had to look a  
very Germanic way.

625  
00:32:02,510 --> 00:32:06,380  
And to get into that in those  
days was kind of a privilege.

626  
00:32:06,380 --> 00:32:07,310  
That was privileged.

627  
00:32:07,310 --> 00:32:10,460

628  
00:32:10,460 --> 00:32:12,200  
Did any of your  
friends or neighbors

629  
00:32:12,200 --> 00:32:13,790

participate in the Brownshirts?

630  
00:32:13,790 --> 00:32:15,110  
Oh yes, all of them.

631  
00:32:15,110 --> 00:32:16,890  
And the Gestapo?

632  
00:32:16,890 --> 00:32:18,380  
Gestapo?

633  
00:32:18,380 --> 00:32:20,090  
Oh, SS.

634  
00:32:20,090 --> 00:32:23,570  
I can't say except this one  
man whom I talked about.

635  
00:32:23,570 --> 00:32:26,000  
I don't recall.

636  
00:32:26,000 --> 00:32:32,000  
But the SR, I think everybody  
became a member of the National

637  
00:32:32,000 --> 00:32:34,140  
Socialist Party.

638  
00:32:34,140 --> 00:32:39,200  
Whoever didn't, I think  
he had a hard time of it.

639  
00:32:39,200 --> 00:32:41,090  
He had to join.

640  
00:32:41,090 --> 00:32:43,830  
Did anybody ever exhibit  
embarrassment about--

641  
00:32:43,830 --> 00:32:44,570  
No.

642

00:32:44,570 --> 00:32:48,530

It was a proud  
moment when somebody

643

00:32:48,530 --> 00:32:51,020

could don this uniform.

644

00:32:51,020 --> 00:32:54,590

It was an accepted  
kind of honor.

645

00:32:54,590 --> 00:32:59,880

646

00:32:59,880 --> 00:33:02,820

Did your parents  
change as they noticed

647

00:33:02,820 --> 00:33:07,980

the Brownshirts and the  
SS become more prevalent?

648

00:33:07,980 --> 00:33:11,610

Did your parents kind of become  
quieter or change in any way?

649

00:33:11,610 --> 00:33:13,570

Oh, I think they  
became more fearful.

650

00:33:13,570 --> 00:33:16,140

They saw the signs  
on the wall, I think.

651

00:33:16,140 --> 00:33:21,450

They realized that things are  
turning from bad to worse.

652

00:33:21,450 --> 00:33:24,480

653

00:33:24,480 --> 00:33:29,490



But to undergo this  
change of emigrating,

654  
00:33:29,490 --> 00:33:32,340  
to do something about it,  
that was a different story.

655  
00:33:32,340 --> 00:33:34,860  
Because they thought this  
is only the beginning

656  
00:33:34,860 --> 00:33:39,150  
until everything gets settled  
and the government will be OK.

657  
00:33:39,150 --> 00:33:42,690  
And only the beginning one needs  
to use certain methods in order

658  
00:33:42,690 --> 00:33:47,730  
to gain power, in order to  
subjugate other parties.

659  
00:33:47,730 --> 00:33:54,930  
But all in all, I think that  
people were expecting things

660  
00:33:54,930 --> 00:33:56,790  
to do to get really  
bad in Germany.

661  
00:33:56,790 --> 00:33:59,770

662  
00:33:59,770 --> 00:34:03,130  
Because when the  
Nuremberg Laws, I

663  
00:34:03,130 --> 00:34:07,810  
think they were published in  
1933 if I remember correctly,

664  
00:34:07,810 --> 00:34:12,010

when they came out  
everybody knew that things

665  
00:34:12,010 --> 00:34:15,250  
were going to go really bad.

666  
00:34:15,250 --> 00:34:18,400  
I heard or read one  
time that it didn't

667  
00:34:18,400 --> 00:34:21,250  
get really terrible until  
after the Olympic games.

668  
00:34:21,250 --> 00:34:22,400  
In 1936?

669  
00:34:22,400 --> 00:34:23,050  
Yeah.

670  
00:34:23,050 --> 00:34:26,199  
Did you notice a  
big change then?

671  
00:34:26,199 --> 00:34:27,159  
I can't say.

672  
00:34:27,159 --> 00:34:34,630  
I only remember an  
incident when Jesse--

673  
00:34:34,630 --> 00:34:36,460  
what was his name--

674  
00:34:36,460 --> 00:34:42,280  
Jesse Owens won so many  
gold medals and Hitler

675  
00:34:42,280 --> 00:34:46,210  
couldn't take the fact  
that a Black person won

676

00:34:46,210 --> 00:34:48,639  
against a white person.

677  
00:34:48,639 --> 00:34:54,370  
So then we heard disparaging  
remarks about Blacks.

678  
00:34:54,370 --> 00:34:57,340  
And then of course, there  
was an American Jewish boxer

679  
00:34:57,340 --> 00:35:00,070  
called Max Baer.

680  
00:35:00,070 --> 00:35:02,200  
And he was a very good boxer.

681  
00:35:02,200 --> 00:35:03,908  
And I think he  
defeated Schmeling.

682  
00:35:03,908 --> 00:35:04,450  
I'm not sure.

683  
00:35:04,450 --> 00:35:07,000  
Schmeling was a world  
master in boxing, German.

684  
00:35:07,000 --> 00:35:12,460  
And of course he fought against  
Joe Louis, American Black

685  
00:35:12,460 --> 00:35:13,330  
boxer.

686  
00:35:13,330 --> 00:35:15,778  
And Joe Louis finished him  
off in the first round.

687  
00:35:15,778 --> 00:35:16,570  
He knocked him out.

688

00:35:16,570 --> 00:35:19,000  
He KO'd him and finished him.

689  
00:35:19,000 --> 00:35:21,040  
That was a terrible  
blow to the Nazi Party

690  
00:35:21,040 --> 00:35:28,180  
that a Black man, American,  
was able to defeat the world

691  
00:35:28,180 --> 00:35:29,680  
champion Max Schmeling.

692  
00:35:29,680 --> 00:35:31,190  
You heard of Max Schmeling?

693  
00:35:31,190 --> 00:35:31,990  
Oh yeah.

694  
00:35:31,990 --> 00:35:32,930  
He's still alive.

695  
00:35:32,930 --> 00:35:36,940  
He lives in Hamburg Joe Louis,  
of course, died some years ago.

696  
00:35:36,940 --> 00:35:39,610  
And he defeated him.

697  
00:35:39,610 --> 00:35:42,025  
And that was also a terrible  
blow to the Nazi movement.

698  
00:35:42,025 --> 00:35:47,470

699  
00:35:47,470 --> 00:35:50,350  
Oh yes, there was a Jewish--

700  
00:35:50,350 --> 00:35:53,140

701  
00:35:53,140 --> 00:35:55,960  
Helena Meyer, and she  
was in the Olympics

702  
00:35:55,960 --> 00:36:02,110  
and she fought for  
Germany in fencing.

703  
00:36:02,110 --> 00:36:06,490  
And she won the gold  
medal for Germany.

704  
00:36:06,490 --> 00:36:09,130  
And of course, they didn't  
publish the fact that she

705  
00:36:09,130 --> 00:36:10,440  
was Jewish, but she was Jewish.

706  
00:36:10,440 --> 00:36:15,940

707  
00:36:15,940 --> 00:36:18,610  
What do you recall about the  
day the Nazis placed Brownshirts

708  
00:36:18,610 --> 00:36:21,160  
in the doorway of all  
Jewish businesses?

709  
00:36:21,160 --> 00:36:22,850  
Oh, I remember that  
very well indeed.

710  
00:36:22,850 --> 00:36:30,370  
They didn't allow anybody to  
go in and buy in Jewish stores.

711  
00:36:30,370 --> 00:36:35,673  
And whoever did go in was  
assaulted and was photographed.

712  
00:36:35,673 --> 00:36:37,090  
And their photograph  
was published

713  
00:36:37,090 --> 00:36:39,400  
the next day in the newspapers.

714  
00:36:39,400 --> 00:36:42,310  
So whoever did go in was a very  
courageous person, but very few

715  
00:36:42,310 --> 00:36:42,820  
did go in.

716  
00:36:42,820 --> 00:36:46,590

717  
00:36:46,590 --> 00:36:49,200  
Did you know the man  
stationed at your shop?

718  
00:36:49,200 --> 00:36:49,710  
Pardon?

719  
00:36:49,710 --> 00:36:51,543  
Did you know the man  
stationed at your shop?

720  
00:36:51,543 --> 00:36:52,050  
No.

721  
00:36:52,050 --> 00:36:53,400  
He was a stranger.

722  
00:36:53,400 --> 00:36:56,500  
What was his attitude?

723  
00:36:56,500 --> 00:36:57,930  
A terrible anti-Semite.

724  
00:36:57,930 --> 00:37:01,710

He was a completely  
idealistic Nazi.

725  
00:37:01,710 --> 00:37:03,750  
He had a job to do  
and he did it well.

726  
00:37:03,750 --> 00:37:07,080  
All Germans do their jobs  
well, whatever it is.

727  
00:37:07,080 --> 00:37:08,550  
And he stood in  
front of our shop

728  
00:37:08,550 --> 00:37:13,200  
and whoever wanted to  
come in he said, don't go.

729  
00:37:13,200 --> 00:37:14,790  
Don't buy from Jews.

730  
00:37:14,790 --> 00:37:17,130  
And if he did go in  
then his name was taken

731  
00:37:17,130 --> 00:37:18,750  
and his picture was  
taken and it was

732  
00:37:18,750 --> 00:37:20,490  
published in the newspapers.

733  
00:37:20,490 --> 00:37:23,650  
So there were very few  
who were that courageous.

734  
00:37:23,650 --> 00:37:26,060  
I mean, you can't  
really blame them.

735  
00:37:26,060 --> 00:37:30,010  
Did anybody go into

your shop to buy?

736  
00:37:30,010 --> 00:37:34,350  
I think one or two that didn't  
care for the Nazis so they did.

737  
00:37:34,350 --> 00:37:36,968  
Those days, even if you  
did the worst thing that

738  
00:37:36,968 --> 00:37:38,760  
could have happened to  
you, as I mentioned,

739  
00:37:38,760 --> 00:37:42,180  
that was that their name was  
published in the newspaper

740  
00:37:42,180 --> 00:37:43,620  
and their photograph.

741  
00:37:43,620 --> 00:37:44,850  
But no more than that.

742  
00:37:44,850 --> 00:37:47,940  
They weren't imprisoned  
or incarcerated

743  
00:37:47,940 --> 00:37:51,430  
in concentration camps.

744  
00:37:51,430 --> 00:37:53,100  
Did you ever wish  
when you were a child

745  
00:37:53,100 --> 00:37:57,600  
that you could join the Hitler  
Youth for the acceptance

746  
00:37:57,600 --> 00:38:00,210  
and the hikes and  
the fun things?



747

00:38:00,210 --> 00:38:01,060

No.

748

00:38:01,060 --> 00:38:05,490

In fact, I wanted to  
be also in uniform.

749

00:38:05,490 --> 00:38:08,910

When I was a child, I dreamed of  
being in uniform like the rest,

750

00:38:08,910 --> 00:38:13,500

wearing jackboots and having  
this SS, Nazi and the swastika,

751

00:38:13,500 --> 00:38:14,920

sure.

752

00:38:14,920 --> 00:38:18,390

I thought I was underprivileged.

753

00:38:18,390 --> 00:38:21,190

All my friends had  
it, why shouldn't I?

754

00:38:21,190 --> 00:38:22,940

Did you ever express  
this to your parents?

755

00:38:22,940 --> 00:38:24,030

No.

756

00:38:24,030 --> 00:38:26,745

No, but I had it in my heart I  
wanted to become one of them,

757

00:38:26,745 --> 00:38:27,245

sure.

758

00:38:27,245 --> 00:38:33,560

759

00:38:33,560 --> 00:38:36,570  
When did you totally lose that?

760

00:38:36,570 --> 00:38:40,040  
Oh, when I came to  
the Jewish school

761

00:38:40,040 --> 00:38:43,220  
and I came amongst my  
Jewish compatriots.

762

00:38:43,220 --> 00:38:45,920

763

00:38:45,920 --> 00:38:48,890  
Because we had so few  
children in the town where

764

00:38:48,890 --> 00:38:52,500  
I came from that one couldn't  
really express oneself.

765

00:38:52,500 --> 00:38:54,830  
But when I came  
amongst Jewish teachers

766

00:38:54,830 --> 00:38:57,110  
and Jewish surroundings  
and Jewish children,

767

00:38:57,110 --> 00:38:59,840  
a new world was opened for me.

768

00:38:59,840 --> 00:39:01,940  
I was taught Jewish  
subjects and I

769

00:39:01,940 --> 00:39:04,010  
saw how wonderful  
these teachers were

770

00:39:04,010 --> 00:39:08,480

and how compassionate  
and kind and lovable.

771  
00:39:08,480 --> 00:39:10,520  
Such a contrast  
between those teachers

772  
00:39:10,520 --> 00:39:13,790  
I had before and then  
certainly Jewish teachers

773  
00:39:13,790 --> 00:39:17,810  
who were tremendous,  
wonderful people.

774  
00:39:17,810 --> 00:39:19,860  
Quiet, nice, educated people.

775  
00:39:19,860 --> 00:39:23,540  
I felt even at that  
age the education

776  
00:39:23,540 --> 00:39:25,250  
and the culture they  
had within the--

777  
00:39:25,250 --> 00:39:27,620  
I mean, the Germans couldn't  
get near those kind of--

778  
00:39:27,620 --> 00:39:30,230  
Despite all these  
tribulations, despite all

779  
00:39:30,230 --> 00:39:33,050  
these terrible things  
which were done to us,

780  
00:39:33,050 --> 00:39:34,910  
we never lost our faith.

781  
00:39:34,910 --> 00:39:37,370  
We never lost our belief.

782  
00:39:37,370 --> 00:39:41,750  
I mean, those teachers,  
every single one of them,

783  
00:39:41,750 --> 00:39:44,870  
the rabbi and the cantor  
and the ritual slaughter

784  
00:39:44,870 --> 00:39:48,530  
and the teachers, the  
male and female teachers,

785  
00:39:48,530 --> 00:39:52,010  
they were beautiful,  
wonderful people.

786  
00:39:52,010 --> 00:39:54,810  
They taught us with  
such love and compassion

787  
00:39:54,810 --> 00:39:56,780  
and some wonderful educators.

788  
00:39:56,780 --> 00:39:58,280  
And then of course,  
all the children

789  
00:39:58,280 --> 00:39:59,930  
there were wonderful children.

790  
00:39:59,930 --> 00:40:03,860  
There was no hatred,  
there was no spite,

791  
00:40:03,860 --> 00:40:06,320  
there was no running after  
me calling me [GERMAN]..

792  
00:40:06,320 --> 00:40:08,630  
And brilliant  
children amongst them.

793

00:40:08,630 --> 00:40:12,500

I know today children, a  
few from this whom I know,

794

00:40:12,500 --> 00:40:14,450

they are lawyers  
and doctors and one

795

00:40:14,450 --> 00:40:21,920

is one of the greatest people  
in the Israeli National Bank.

796

00:40:21,920 --> 00:40:30,640

A very capable people and  
most of them modest people.

797

00:40:30,640 --> 00:40:34,820

Despite all that, we  
kept our image of God.

798

00:40:34,820 --> 00:40:38,720

a different world  
was opened for me.

799

00:40:38,720 --> 00:40:39,900

I started to live.

800

00:40:39,900 --> 00:40:42,060

I started to breathe.

801

00:40:42,060 --> 00:40:46,970

And the first time I  
could even think and learn

802

00:40:46,970 --> 00:40:48,630

without all this  
terrible residue

803

00:40:48,630 --> 00:40:54,390

on my head, these terrible  
apprehensions which I had.

804

00:40:54,390 --> 00:40:56,900  
It was a bit late,  
I was only two years

805  
00:40:56,900 --> 00:40:59,960  
whatever I gleaned  
that I have today

806  
00:40:59,960 --> 00:41:03,125  
it's probably from that period.

807  
00:41:03,125 --> 00:41:07,880

808  
00:41:07,880 --> 00:41:10,130  
How did your family get  
through the Depression and all

809  
00:41:10,130 --> 00:41:11,680  
that inflation?

810  
00:41:11,680 --> 00:41:12,580  
Oh, I don't know.

811  
00:41:12,580 --> 00:41:13,670  
It was before my time.

812  
00:41:13,670 --> 00:41:19,180  
But I know we had in our loft  
big coffers full of money.

813  
00:41:19,180 --> 00:41:23,740

814  
00:41:23,740 --> 00:41:26,120  
100 million marks.

815  
00:41:26,120 --> 00:41:28,180  
And I was told about that.

816  
00:41:28,180 --> 00:41:32,530  
When you got your wages

and before you got home,

817  
00:41:32,530 --> 00:41:35,440  
you couldn't buy a pair of  
shoes with a month's wages.

818  
00:41:35,440 --> 00:41:36,700  
I heard about these things.

819  
00:41:36,700 --> 00:41:38,530  
The fact that the  
money was in our loft,

820  
00:41:38,530 --> 00:41:42,730  
and I used to say to my father,  
I said, what is this money for?

821  
00:41:42,730 --> 00:41:45,430  
And then he explained to me.

822  
00:41:45,430 --> 00:41:48,790  
But you see the trouble  
started right there.

823  
00:41:48,790 --> 00:41:51,850  
Jews were plenty smart.

824  
00:41:51,850 --> 00:41:54,010  
They bought property.

825  
00:41:54,010 --> 00:41:56,290  
So property didn't go.

826  
00:41:56,290 --> 00:41:58,620  
So when all this was over,  
they bought the property.

827  
00:41:58,620 --> 00:41:59,440  
They had houses.

828  
00:41:59,440 --> 00:42:00,550  
They had whole streets.

829  
00:42:00,550 --> 00:42:03,340  
They had half of a city.

830  
00:42:03,340 --> 00:42:04,570  
They owned all that.

831  
00:42:04,570 --> 00:42:07,720  
And of course the envy and  
the jealousy of the Gentile

832  
00:42:07,720 --> 00:42:13,420  
population was reenacted  
through all this

833  
00:42:13,420 --> 00:42:16,180  
and Jews were blamed  
even for this Depression,

834  
00:42:16,180 --> 00:42:17,444  
for the inflation.

835  
00:42:17,444 --> 00:42:20,170

836  
00:42:20,170 --> 00:42:22,510  
Maybe you are not  
allowed to be too clever.

837  
00:42:22,510 --> 00:42:24,080  
Maybe one should  
keep a low profile.

838  
00:42:24,080 --> 00:42:24,910  
I don't know.

839  
00:42:24,910 --> 00:42:27,360  
But then why stop it?

840  
00:42:27,360 --> 00:44:36,000