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Interview with ERIC LIVINGSTON

3

Holocaust Oral History Project

4

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Place: San Francisco

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Interviewer: Gene Ehrs (phonetic)

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Transcriber: Sara Goldenberg

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1 Q. Today is Thursday, February 21st, 1991. I
2 am Gene Ehrs, an interviewer with the Holocaust Oral
3 History Project in San Francisco, California. Today we
4 are talking with Eric Livingston in a continuation of an
5 interview that was begun December 13. Assisting in the
6 interview today is Jack Clark.

7 And Mr. Livingston, why don't you continue
8 with what you were saying when we were here last.

9 A. Yeah. I gave you, in our last session,
10 highlights of my life, starting under the Kaiser,
11 followed up by living under communism, then the Weimar
12 Republic, Hitler, concentration camp Dachau, and finally
13 living under democracy and living an honest, good life
14 again and finding peace and freedom in the United
15 States.

16 The lesson to be learned out of this
17 labyrinth, out of these episodes, is this: It could
18 happen again, although we never believed that it could
19 happen in Germany, the land of the poets and the
20 composers and the scientists, that a madman like Hitler
21 could rule the country, but it happened. And so we
22 should be prepared, no matter where we live now, that it
23 could happen again, especially if you are Jewish.

24 We see it today with Saddam Hussein again.
25 He calls it's anti-Zionist, but it is anti-Jewish, and

1 there is no reason for him. He uses the Jews again as
2 whipping boys for all the things he did wrong, same as
3 Hitler.

4 Now, the consequences I learned from my ways
5 through the labyrinth: No. 1, the most important, you
6 have to have a good education. The better education,
7 the better background you have, the easier it will be to
8 assimilate in a new country.

9 I met -- and I can give you the names --
10 high-class lawyers and judges in Germany who couldn't
11 find a job, an opportunity to make a living. One of my
12 best friends was a high-class lawyer in Rupertal
13 (phonetic). He had to flee to England, couldn't make a
14 living there. The one thing he did finally; he sold
15 cemetery lots and gravestones to other refugees, and he
16 was a high-class lawyer.

17 Here in San Francisco I remember a gentleman
18 who was a judge in Germany. He couldn't find a
19 position. His wife made chocolates in the kitchen,
20 candy, and he peddled them amongst the other newcomers.

21 So what's the lesson we learn? Besides an
22 excellent education, you have to have a profession or a
23 hobby which is good in any country all over the world.
24 If you are a baker or a chemist, a pharmacist or a
25 physician, it's better than to be a teacher or a lawyer.

*Ceman
phonetic*

1 You find much easier to get into the unity and be an
2 asset and not a liability. That's the biggest lesson.

3 So my two daughters here grew up in America.
4 When we came, they were 11 and six years old. I
5 insisted that they should learn a profession which is
6 good anywhere in the world. The one became a
7 pharmacist, and the other wanted to become a doctor, but
8 when she went to Harvard, she met another medical
9 student. They got engaged and got married. He became a
10 doctor. She had to put him through college later,
11 because she only was -- she didn't make the degree as a
12 doctor, but she was already -- what do you call it? --
13 physical therapy or laboratory technician; that she
14 could work. And she got a job like this, and she put
15 hubby through college.

16 So these are just the personal experiences I
17 had. But if they would have to go into any other
18 country, both as a physical therapist or a laboratory
19 technician and a pharmacist, they would make a living
20 immediately. They would come out of the refugee status
21 to be someone in the community again. That's a lesson I
22 learned: high education and a profession.

23 No. 2, I forgot to mention, in my last
24 interview, the stories of my mother and my
25 mother-in-law. Both came out of high-class families,

1 upper middle class. They were very active in the
2 community in Germany, both of them; had a lot of friends
3 amongst the Christian or Aryan population.

4 When we had to leave, as you know, I didn't
5 prepare to leave, so I didn't have any money to take
6 along. I was just stateless and without a job and
7 without money and took my wife and the two children.

8 And neither my mother nor my mother-in-law
9 applied for emigration in Germany. They wanted to stay
10 there. And my friends, let's call it -- the Nazis told
11 me the old ladies over 70 years of age, they wouldn't
12 get harmed. They'd stay in their house, and they'd have
13 enough to eat here and enough friends here. We wouldn't
14 bother them.

15 So I wasn't worried, although you might
16 remember, I sold my factory under the condition that the
17 new owner would pay my mother 100,000 marks in monthly
18 installments. He never paid a cent or a penny.

19 I applied for emigration in Germany. They
20 wanted to stay there. And through my friend's
21 connection, let's call it, similar agreements were made
22 for my mother-in-law we left behind. And as soon as we
23 came to this blessed America, United States, and I made
24 a living, a small one, I tried to get my mother over, to
25 bring my mother over.

German?
phonetic

1 Now, here comes my furniture. The furniture
2 came only a year later, because although I paid a permit
3 to get the lifvan (phonetic) over to San Francisco and
4 had the permission to pay for my blocked marks -- I
5 think it was at that time 6,000 gold marks to pay for
6 the transfer of the furniture to San Francisco -- the
7 moving company, Beringurn (phonetic), didn't send them
8 out. And after we complained where is the furniture, he
9 only sent them to Rotterdam.

phonetic

10 And in 1940 I was still working hard to find
11 my place, and I had no money, just enough to live. I
12 got a cable from Rotterdam: Your lift van (phonetic) is
13 here. Please send us, as far as I remember, \$1200 to
14 send it from here to San Francisco.

15 I had no money, and I didn't know what to
16 do. And this was the only capital I could save from
17 Germany. It was a lot of capital involved there. We
18 had beautiful furniture, and like cameras and the
19 Steinway grand piano.

20 So I said, This is all I could save. I went
21 around here to acquaintances I already had made and knew
22 people from my first visit to the United States in 1935,
23 many with good means, with a lot of means.

24 I say, I need the \$1200 to get the only
25 valuables I could save to America, and I give the

1 guarantee the value there is in my furniture for the
2 \$1200 many, many times. "No, we can't do that. It's
3 too much risk, and there is a war coming."

4 I couldn't get the money until Rabbi
5 Bernstein (phonetic) heard about my dilemma. He said,
6 Go to the Hebrew Free Loan. There you get the money. I
7 say, What is Hebrew Free Loan? "They give the money for
8 needy purposes without charging interest." I couldn't
9 believe it.

10 I went there, and within 24 hours I had the
11 money. And I gave them the lift van (phonetic) as
12 security. In fact, we offered also a pearl necklace
13 from my wife, which we got out in time of course. They
14 didn't want it.

15 To make a long story short, they saved my
16 furniture. And when I got the furniture, I sorted
17 things out of it. I paid them. I saw, What do I owe
18 you? They said, \$1200. I said, No. You listen. You
19 saved so much for me. I'd like to give you \$100 extra.
20 "No, we can't do that." And I gave them litvan
21 (phonetic) as security.

22 I say, What do I owe you? "\$1200." I say,
23 No. Listen. You saved too much for me. I'd like to
24 give you \$100 extra. "No, we can't do that. We don't
25 charge interest." But I still gave them \$100, and they

1 made me a life member there.

2 And since that time, I have a foundation
3 there too, Eric Grayer (phonetic) Livingston Fund, to
4 help others.

5 And out of this furniture I immediately sold
6 my Steinway piano at that time for \$700, and to get a
7 visa for my mother -- not to America. They couldn't
8 give it to me; the quota was filled -- to Cuba. And she
9 still got that visa from me, from the Cuban consulate in
10 San Francisco, but Hitler didn't let her come anymore.

11 So she, I'm sorry to say, was transported to
12 Poland, and that was the end of the story. She was
13 gassed or shot. I don't know. It's a very sad story.
14 She got the Cuban visa, but she couldn't come out
15 anymore.

16 My mother-in-law was similar. My
17 brother-in-law was in England, and he could raise money
18 over there, through old acquaintances, to get a visa for
19 his mother to come to England, but Hitler didn't let her
20 out either anymore. The war was coming.

21 And when the Nazis came to arrest her to
22 send to Poland, she committed suicide. She jumped from
23 the roof of our house -- or the house where they had to
24 live now. It wasn't our house anymore. She committed
25 suicide.

1 At least I know where she was buried -- in
2 *phonetic* Vupeta (phonetic). My mother, we don't know. That's
3 the end, the final station, the final solution, as
4 Hitler called it, of the Lowenstein/Stern families. The
5 two wonderful females perished. That's the end of the
6 story, Dean. Now, if you have any other questions.

7 Q. Do you know where your mother was sent in
8 Poland?

9 A. I wrote to Yad Va Shem in Israel to find
10 out, and they wrote me she was sent to Minsk.

11 Q. In Russia, Minsk?

12 A. But from there on, it's all out.

13 Q. You've never heard any trace of her since
14 then?

15 A. No, no. All I found out is that
16 transportation to Minsk, at least a little earlier, were
17 only sent there to be shot, not to be gassed at the
18 time. They had to dig their own grave and were shot.
19 That's what I heard, but I hope she rests in peace.
20 That's all I can say.

21 Q. Then shall we go back, way back.

22 A. If you have any questions, I'll try to
23 answer them.

24 Q. Let's go back to just after World War I.

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. You were in the army?

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. In the German army?

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. Two years in the trenches?

6 A. Two years in the trenches with the French.

7 Q. You were decorated?

8 A. Oh, yeah.

9 Q. And you had been selected to become an
10 officer at the time the war ended?

11 A. Correct.

12 Q. Suddenly? I believe you put it that way;
13 the war ended suddenly, and you were back?

14 A. Yeah. I was in the officers' training corp
15 at that time, and the war ended suddenly. For me the
16 war was finished.

17 Q. You considered yourself a good German
18 citizen?

19 A. Oh, yeah, of Jewish faith.

20 Q. Of Jewish faith.

21 A. But the Kaiser promised all the volunteers
German 22 at that time (German spoken). The fatherland will never
23 forget you and will be always grateful for you that you
24 joined the German army.

25 Q. You considered yourself a German citizen?

1 A. Oh, yeah, I was.

2 Q. You were proud of being German?

3 A. I was. There was no difference between
4 myself and my next-door neighbor, who was the son of a
5 pastor.

6 Q. And you went to your neighbor in Rupertal
7 and got a recommendation in order to become an officer?

8 A. Oh, yes. He was not a classmate of mine, a
9 school mate of mine, Frieda Wax (phonetic).

10 Q. You say the war ended suddenly. The war was
11 over. Was it a great surprise to you that -- do you
12 consider that Germany was beaten?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. You think so?

15 A. Germany was beaten, definitely.

16 Q. Did the war end abruptly?

17 A. Abruptly, but it was then that the soldier,
18 the so-called soldatengrad (phonetic), suddenly took
19 over. These were the communists at the time in Russia
20 1917, 1918, the revolution. And the same revolution was
21 in Germany when the war ended. So we were in the
22 barracks, in the officers' training camp.

23 Q. Where was that?

24 A. That was in --

25 Q. In Berlin?

German 1 A. Grupernawgrodensing (phonetic). It's on the
German 2 Russian -- east Russia, near (German). There was an
3 officers' training camp, and when the war was finished,
4 the revolution in Germany broke out. These
5 soldatengrad, these communist soldiers, came to the camp
6 with machine guns and arrested us. We couldn't go out.

German 7 What do you call it? Umcris (phonetic).
8 All over were the red soldiers with their machine guns.
9 "You are officers of the German army. You are the
10 traitors of the new movement in Germany." Suddenly, we
11 were again the traitors.

12 Q. You were not yet an officer?

13 A. Yes. I was a second lieutenant, not a first
14 lieutenant.

15 Q. I see.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Well, okay. And you were there, an officer
18 in the German army, and still considering yourself and
19 being proud of being German?

20 A. Oh, sure.

21 Q. Let's jump then with that attitude. And I
22 believe I recall what you were saying, that you were
23 proud to be a German and considered yourself a good
24 German after the war in the '20s?

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. When Hitler came along and even before that,
2 during those days in the 1920s, the word was that the
3 German army had been stabbed in the back. Do you recall
4 that?

5 A. Yeah, sure.

6 Q. Did you believe the German army was stabbed?

7 A. No. The German army was defeated,
8 definitely.

9 Q. You, as a good German soldier, could say
10 that?

11 A. We saw it clearly. There was no stab in the
12 back. That was done -- or the rumor was spread by the
13 German Republicans. There was no Hitler at that time
14 yet. It came a few -- one or two years later. But
15 these were already the -- what shall I say? -- the roots
16 of the Hitler movement. They spread: "We would have
17 won the war if we wouldn't have been stabbed in the
18 back," which was just nonsense.

19 Q. You were certainly a good German, but you
20 were an upper class German?

21 A. Oh, yeah.

22 Q. Your father was?

23 A. Oh, yeah.

24 Q. And your friends were?

25 A. All upper class.

1 Q. Factory-owning and industrial class?

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. Do you think all of the persons in that
4 class in your hometown, or that you know -- do you think
5 they believed that stab in the back idea?

6 A. No, no.

7 Q. Who did believe it?

8 A. Nobody.

9 Q. Somebody, ultimately?

10 A. The utmost right.

11 Q. Were there very many Jews in the German army
12 in World War I?

13 A. Many Jews?

14 Q. Yes.

15 A. I don't know the statistics, but there were
16 quite a lot, quite a lot. I don't have the exact
17 statistics.

18 Q. They were certainly allowed to go into the
19 army and serve?

20 A. Oh, yes, oh yes, but in the Prussian army
21 were less than in the Bavarian army. Prussia was a
22 little -- not less Jews. Maybe there were the same
23 amount of Jews there in the Prussian army, but they
24 didn't let them advance.

25 Q. I see. Which army were you in?

1 A. The Prussian.

2 Q. The Prussian?

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. But you --

5 A. But it took a lot of time. All my friends
6 became officers.

7 Q. But you were --

8 A. And I was still a private first class, and I
9 went to my captain. I remember his name, in fact.

German 10 Packbush (phonetic) was his name. That was in 1917 or
11 so. I said, How come I am a first class private now?

German 12 My friends become unterofficia (phonetic). Why not me?
13 He says -- I couldn't give you the exact terms, but:
14 You are sitting here in the headquarters, so to say,
15 working on the telephone and telegraph. I said, Yes,
16 and I do my duty here, and we get shot too here at
17 headquarters.

German 18 He says, You have to go in the stewingshore
19 (phonetic). I said, What is stewingchore? In the front
20 trenches, because we had no wires at that time, but the
21 wires had to be prepared after shooting. And in the
22 front the wires had to be prepared too, not only in
23 back.

24 I said I'd volunteer for the front. That's
25 how I got in the front. And then I got immediately

1 promoted and advanced.

2 Q. Was there any element of anti-Semitism in
3 your failure to be promoted, do you think?

4 A. Not openly, not openly definitely, but
5 indirectly, yes, not openly. Jews in Germany -- I think
6 I mentioned that before -- we had a class system, and
7 Jews couldn't get into certain positions. They couldn't
8 get to become into the steel industry or into the
9 shipping industry. That was impossible for Jews. They
10 had to be businessmen or physicians, yeah, but not --

11 And the same was in the military. There
12 were no Jews in the upper ranks in the military. There
13 were no Jewish generals or Jewish -- no.

14 Q. Then World War I is over, and we're into the
15 the 1920s.

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. And we have the Weimar Republic?

18 A. And an awful inflation.

19 Q. And terrible inflation, 1923.

20 A. Right.

21 Q. And the stories of people carrying their
22 money in a wheelbarrow.

23 A. Yeah. It was practically that, yeah.

24 Q. You returned to Rupertal?

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. There were lots of dissatisfied veterans?

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. And the country was in a turmoil, and there
4 were veterans' organizations springing up. Did you join
5 any?

6 A. No.

7 Q. None at all?

8 A. No. There was a Jewish veterans'
9 organization, I suppose, but I didn't join them, no.

10 Q. Later, as Hitler came to power, there were a
11 number of Jewish organizations?

12 A. Right.

13 Q. To try and do something to speak for the
14 Jews in Germany.

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. Did you join any of those groups?

German 17 A. Yeah. There was the central (German
German 18 spoken.) A wonderful title. (German spoken.) In
19 English it means Central Organization of German States
20 Citizens of Jewish Faith. That was a big organization.

21 Q. One thing. We're jumping back and forth.
22 But in the '30s now, with Hitler --

23 A. In the '30s.

24 Q. -- these Jewish organizations were trying to
25 do something to help the condition, so to speak?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. There had been laws. One was that Jews
3 could no longer join the army?

4 A. Hitler didn't take any Jews, no.

5 Q. Do you recall when that law came --

6 A. Yeah, but I was too old to join the army
7 myself, but there was no German army for Jews at all,
8 no.

9 Q. As a veteran. But how did you feel about
10 the fact that Jews could no longer join?

11 A. Awful, awful. We could no longer
12 participate anymore, you know. There was -- besides,
13 there was B'nai Brith lodge. It's in America too. The
14 B'nai Brith lodge was a very big fraternity, Jewish
15 fraternity. Leo Beck was the head man, the president,
16 Leo Beck in Berlin. And I joined the B'nai Brith in
17 Germany too.

18 And Leo Beck came to Rupertal. We were
19 maybe 10 or 12 new members of the B'nai Brith. We were
20 inaugurated, and inaugurated by Leo Beck from Berlin in
21 the B'nai Brith, who is now -- he passed away, but he
22 visited us here once too.

23 And the Leo Beck Institute in New York is
24 now, I think, the place to gather to collect memories or
25 interviews or artifacts of Germany, the past, even of

1 the middle ages. They collect everything.

2 And my family's story or family tree is at
3 the Leo Beck Institute in New York, because it goes back
4 to 1648, where my roots go to Casa Ferdana (phonetic).
5 And this is at the Leo Beck Institute.

6 Q. During those days of inflation -- well, for
7 a moment I want to go back to the law that was passed
8 early, early in the Hitler phase, that Jews could not
9 serve in the army.

10 A. No. This was out --

11 Q. There was an editorial in Jewish newspapers
12 violently opposing this, saying there should be a place
13 for Jews in Germany, and to leave us out is bad, and we
14 deserve the right to fight for the fatherland. This was
15 early in Hitler's --

16 A. It was even before Hitler.

17 Q. Do you remember that you agreed with that,
18 or did you agree with it at the time?

19 A. Oh, yeah, originally, but that was before
20 Hitler. That was in 1920 or in 1919, 1920, that the
21 front soldata, front soldiers, Jewish organization of
22 front soldiers, something like this, that was organized.

23 That was before Hitler, because these
24 anti-Semites spread lies that Jews were not fighting in
25 the war, that there were no Jews. And then they

1 organized the Jewish front soldiers, Jewish war
2 veterans, front soldiers. That was another
3 organization. That was before Hitler.

4 Q. Did you support them?

5 A. Not active, but I supported them. I was a
6 member.

7 Q. We're in the 1920s, about to 1923, with
8 inflation.

9 A. Awful, yeah.

10 Q. There must have been lots of passions,
11 strong feelings. Was there strong anti-Semitism during
12 that period of time?

13 A. No, no. That was artificially organized
14 later.

15 Q. Everyone was in the same boat, pretty much?

16 A. Yeah. No, no.

17 Q. Your own personal situation, however -- you
18 were back in Rupertal? Your father was still alive?

19 A. Yeah. My father died in 1924, but in 1923
20 he was still alive. And I was not in 1923 with him,
21 because I was an engineer, was working in the exfen
22 (phonetic) work in the coal mines, so to say, for
23 ventilation and air transportation.

24 Q. So your life was -- you had a job?

25 A. I had a very good job, and I had

German

1 girlfriends, and I was a young man in my 20s.

2 Q. You were married perhaps a year later?

3 A. 1925. After my father died in 1924, I had
4 to take over the factories, and I married in 1925, a
5 year later. But when I had to take over the factories,
6 that was immediately after the inflation. There was
7 nothing left but the machinery. There was no money
8 anymore.

9 Q. You said factories. There was more than one
10 factory?

11 A. Yeah. There was one factory, and the other
12 one was an import house.

13 Q. Yes.

14 A. And later on I had two factories. After I
15 married and my father-in-law passed away, I had to take
16 over his factory too. He had a ribbon factory, and we
17 had a lace factory.

18 Q. At that time life was not bad for you?

19 A. Oh, no.

20 Q. You were a young man.

21 A. No, life was not bad. The only thing was it
22 was just after inflation. There was no money there.
23 And our bank credit at the Deutsch Bank was fantastic.
24 They gave me half a million at that time, as a young
25 man, to run the factories. I had good credit.

1 Q. No credit problems?

2 A. No, no, no.

3 Q. If I recall, you were Jewish, but you were
4 very well assimilated in society?

5 A. Oh, yeah.

6 Q. You were not an Orthodox Jew?

7 A. No, no.

8 Q. Were there any Orthodox families in
9 Rupertal?

10 A. Yeah, but there were very few, very few.
11 They had their own congregation. I don't remember their
12 name, but there was a small orthodox congregation, very
13 small, but they didn't count for anything.

14 Q. So the bankers loaned you money?

15 A. No question. Oh, yeah. As I said, I
16 immediately got half a million dollars -- not dollars --
17 half a million marks credit immediately, without any
18 question.

19 Q. The bankers themselves were not Jewish?

20 A. No, they were not Jewish. They were not
21 Jewish.

22 Q. Were you able to --

23 A. There was a Jewish bank, but not in
24 Rupertal.

25 Q. Were you able to repay the loan?

1 A. Oh, yeah, sure.

2 Q. Because actually, after the inflation,
3 business got good?

4 A. Oh, yeah. We had a terrific business. Both
5 factories were running. In 1925, 1928, 1930, the
6 factories were full blast.

7 Q. How was life for you then?

8 A. Fine. We traveled a lot.

9 Q. You started having your daughter, your
10 family, right away?

11 A. Yeah. My first daughter was born in 1927,
12 Doris.

13 Q. And were you active in the Jewish community?

14 A. No, no. I was a member of the Jewish
15 community. I was a little active at the B'nai Brith at
16 the time, but no, no, I was not in Jewish --

17 Q. You didn't go to temple?

18 A. My father was as long as he lived, but I
19 never was active. They knew me, but -- I paid my taxes
20 as contribution, but I was never active, no.

21 Q. In your family did you do the High Holidays?

22 A. Yeah, High Holidays we did.

23 Q. Ever go to temple?

24 A. Oh, yeah. A Jew at High Holidays in
25 Germany, yeah. When I was a little child -- and all our

1 friends were Christian, and there was Christmas. We had
2 always a small Christmas tree. We had maids, a
3 chauffeur. We had a Christmas tree. And when we got
4 married, my wife said, No more Christmas tree. Hanukah
5 lights.

6 And we had one more Christmas tree, only in
7 the very beginning. And there were the candles, not
8 electric, you know, wax. We got a fire. Our draperies
9 caught fire. And that was the last Christmas tree we
10 had. It was a small one only. No, no more Christmas
11 trees.

12 Q. Also in 1923, besides the inflation, there
13 was another little thing that happened over in Munich.

14 *German* A. Oh, the puch (phonetic).

15 Q. You were 24 years old at the time?

16 A. Yeah, 26 I think. It was in '23, and I was
17 25, yeah. I was born in 19- --

18 Q. Were you aware of that puch at the time?

19 A. Oh, yeah.

20 Q. Was there very much made of it in the news?

21 A. Yeah, yeah, but he was arrested. And
22 once -- Hitler was, at that time, just one of the
23 troublemakers, Hitler with his rightists. And the Nazis
24 and the communists were fighting in the streets every
25 night. It was awful.

1 And then he had the puch in Munich, which is
2 500 miles away from us, but we knew about it. And he
3 was arrested and sent to Landsburg, in the
4 fortification.

5 Q. Do you recall, when your father was alive,
6 whether you or people you knew considered Hitler to be a
7 threat at that time?

8 A. Oh, yeah.

9 Q. They did?

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. Not just a kook?

12 A. No, a threat. I know my father -- my father
13 was a very strong athletic man, and someone made a
14 remark in a streetcar, and my father grabbed him -- that
15 was in the beginning of Hitler -- grabbed him and threw
16 him out of the running streetcar. He made a remark, a
17 "dirty Jew" or something.

18 And I never forgot that. My father grabbed
19 that fellow and threw him out. Under Hitler it couldn't
20 have happened anymore. Under Hitler he couldn't have
21 done it. He wouldn't have dared to do it, because the
22 black shirts and the brown shirts would kill him.

23 Q. So in the later '20s, when business was good
24 and you had married and started your family -- and we're
25 in '28 and '29?

1 A. Right.

2 Q. And all of those years, the Nazi party was
3 growing?

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. Did you notice anything different, in terms
6 of society, in terms of your being Jewish? Did you
7 notice anything different in the late '20s, before the
8 Weimar --

9 A. No, no, no.

10 Q. Were you aware politically that the Nazi
11 party was growing?

12 A. No, they were not growing so much. They
13 made unrest and riots, but they were growing in a very
14 small way. Even when Hitler was nominated Reich
15 chancellor of Hindenburg in 1933, he was not a big
16 party. He had no majority.

17 Hindenburg just wanted to get the unrest and
18 the riots and the shooting off the streets, away. He
19 wanted to have peace in their country. And that's why
20 they offered him the chancellor. And Hitler took it,
21 but instead of taking the chancellorship, he sent all
22 his troops in and killed, I think, 20,000 people during
23 the first night when he was chancellor.

24 All the opposition, all the communists and
25 the leading social Democrats, all were killed, not so

1 much the Jews at that time.

2 Q. By 1930, the Nazi party was the second
3 largest party in the 1930 elections, although still not
4 a majority?

5 A. No, never had a majority.

6 Q. But as a businessman -- by now you were a
7 businessman, owned a factory. Were you aware that
8 Hitler was, at that time, trying to consolidate support
9 from the business community, from the industrialists --

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. -- the men who owned the large corporations?
12 You were aware of that?

13 A. Oh, yes.

14 Q. Did any of your friends have -- did you know
15 any stories or anecdotes about --

16 A. Yeah, I have a personal story there.

17 Q. What was that?

18 A. But that was in 1934, I think. Hitler was
19 already in power. Our factories -- suddenly we lost
20 customers, not that they didn't like our material, our
21 fabrics. They liked our prices. They liked to do
22 business with us, but not under the Jewish name, because
23 Hitler got to power only through intimidation, through
24 spying. "You still buy from a Jew? You're a traitor to
25 the fatherland."

1 And so our customers didn't want the Jewish
2 name anymore on their passwords (phonetic). And the
3 shipping -- they wouldn't take our shipping anymore.

4 Q. What was the name of your factory?
5 Lowenstein?

6 A. Lowenstein, Lowenstein, and the other one --
7 my father-in-law was Stern, S-t-e-r-n. Stern Bahn
8 (phonetic) Fabric and Lowenstein Spitzer (phonetic)
9 Fabric. And they didn't want it anymore.

10 So I called my first -- what do you call
11 it? -- power of attorney girl. She was an apprentice
12 with my father. She was with the company I think for 40
13 years. I say, Emmie, you are here for 40 years. You do
14 a good job. You make good money. I want you to be a
15 partner. You don't have to put any more money in it.
16 You don't have to do anything else. Instead of out of
17 Lowenstein, we call the company Asbeck & Company, Asbeck
18 & Company. Her name was Asbeck.

19 And besides, your wages, which you still
20 get, you get 10 percent of the profits. You don't have
21 to invest anything. You don't have -- everything will
22 be the same, only you get 10 percent of the profits for
23 your name.

24 Oh, she said, I have to discuss it with my
25 lawyer. The next day she came. "Wonderful." We made a

1 contract and she became partner, 10 percent partner, of
2 Asbeck & Company. That was I think in 1934.

3 And our factory got up again. And the same
4 or similar was done with Stern. They had a lady there,
5 *German* Ms. Klufer (phonetic). So they called it Kluferband.
6 Up it went, just the name change and 10 percent profit.

7 Q. The Asbeck lady, do you know if she was a
8 Nazi sympathizer at all?

9 A. No, she wasn't. In fact, she had a Jewish
10 boyfriend. She never got married, but she had a Jewish
11 boyfriend.

12 Q. I think you said last time that later --

13 A. Her brother.

14 Q. -- her brother became a Nazi.

15 A. Her brother. When it came to I had to
16 leave, I said, Emmie, do you want to buy the factory --
17 or the business? "Yes." So she bought the business.
18 And when I came out of concentration camp, everything
19 was settled.

20 On the 16th of December -- I don't know
21 whether I mentioned that before. In 1938 I had been
22 summoned to come before the high court in Rupertal for
23 60,000 marks, or 100,000 marks in fact, partly because
24 this 10 percent -- the Jews made money with the name of
25 the good Christian girl. And 10 percent, this is Jewish

1 tricks. 50 percent retroactive for the four years.

2 I won that trial. And the next day
3 Mr. Asbeck, her brother, who was high in the Nazi
4 movement, called me and said, Mr. Livingston -- or
5 Mr. Lowenstein at that time, you cannot emigrate. We're
6 going to appeals court. Jews in these days cannot win
7 any trials anymore in Germany. That's it. No matter
8 whether you are right or wrong, Jews cannot win anymore.

9 I say, Mr. Asbeck, I know I am not allowed
10 to take any money along. Everything is blocked. You
11 are in a position to take it. You know we have ten
12 times as much as you in the Dresden Bank. Get it. I
13 have to leave. And he got it, and we left. That was
14 the end of the assimilation or whatever.

15 Q. That was the end of your love affair with
16 Germany; is that right?

17 A. Right. I never had a love affair with her.

18 Q. Do you recall, in those early days of
19 Hitler, about in 1930 or '31 or 2, before he was in
20 power -- did you know that he made approaches to
21 industrialists, asking for support? Were any of your
22 friends approached by him?

23 A. No, no. We knew what was going on, but no.
24 I know that the industrialists -- you see, in our area,
German 25 Rupertal, Zolingen (phonetic), where they make knives,

German

1 Eisen (phonetic), armament, they supported him because
2 he revitalized the German army. And certainly it was
3 their business, so they supported him money-wise. I
4 don't think -- in their minds, they didn't support him.

5 Q. You were an upper class German.

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. What was your attitude and the attitude of
8 your upper class friends toward this Austrian from a
9 small town?

10 A. Awful, awful.

11 Q. What were you saying?

12 A. He never can make it in this country. He is
13 unbelievable. You know, he wrote this Mein Kampf when
14 he was imprisoned in Landsburg -- I mentioned that
15 before. After the puch in Munich they imprisoned him in
16 Landsburg, in the forest. And there he wrote Mein
17 Kampf, and that was his bible.

18 Q. Were there jokes about him? Did you make
19 jokes about him?

20 A. You were afraid to make jokes about him.

21 Q. This was before he was in power?

22 A. Yeah. There were some jokes, but it died
23 very fast, because his troops, SS troops -- if I hear --
24 in the beginning here, if I heard the ambulance, "joop
25 joop joop joop," I got a shiver, because -- what do they

German

1 call it? (German spoken.) They had the same siren. It
2 was awful. And you heard them all night.

3 No, no. You were afraid to make jokes about
4 him.

5 Q. When he was a politician, not yet a
6 chancellor, and he made many speeches, did you find his
7 speech, his Austrian accent --

8 A. Sure, he had one.

9 Q. -- different, funny?

10 A. No, not funny, not funny, but that the
11 German people swallowed it, that was -- I couldn't
12 believe it.

13 Q. Did you ever hear him speak personally?

14 A. No. Over the radio, yeah, not personally,
15 no.

16 Q. Was he a spellbinding speaker?

17 A. Yeah, yeah.

18 Yeah, he was a spellbinding. You were
19 hypnotized by him, definitely, definitely.

20 Q. By his manner of speaking or --

21 A. By his manner of speaking and his powerful
22 speaking. He could speak powerful. And I don't think
23 there was any other speaker I can think of who could
24 speak that powerful like he did. He had the masses
25 hypnotized, definitely.

1 And there was another fellow who helped him,
German 2 Goebbels. He was a little man with a klumfort
3 (phonetic), and he could speak too, very well.

4 Q. Did you ever see Hitler?

5 A. Personally, no.

6 Q. Goebbels?

7 A. Goebbels, yes. Goebbels, yes, during -- I
8 don't think so.

9 Q. What was the occasion that you saw Goebbels?

10 A. When they had parades in Rupertal. I never
11 saw him person to person, no. I saw him in the parade.

12 Q. In the crowd?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. In the 1930 election, do you recall how you
15 voted?

16 A. No. I think Democrats.

17 Q. Social Democrat?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. Hitler's party was -- grew to be the second
20 largest party in Germany, in that election? I wonder if
21 you recall. In 1932, Hitler ran for president against
22 Hindenburg. Do you recall?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. And there were two or three other candidates
25 also. Do you recall how you voted in that election?

1 A. No, no. I was a friend of -- I liked
2 Hindenburg. I liked Hindenburg; that I know. In fact,
3 I liked him so much. My family liked him so much.

4 Q. Because why?

5 A. Because he was a good man, an honest man.
6 He was not bipartisan. He was open, with democratic
7 ideas. When my sister was pregnant and the boy was born
8 at the same time of Hindenburg's birthday, they called
9 him Paul -- Howard -- Paul -- what was it? Hindenburg's
10 first name. They called him Paul.

11 Q. What was Hindenburg's attitude toward Jews?
12 Did he have any feeling?

13 A. He was pro-Jewish. He was pro-Jewish,
14 definitely.

15 Q. Did you like him because he was a military
16 man?

17 A. I liked him. I was a military man too, but
18 I liked him.

19 Q. And he had democratic ideas?

20 A. He had democratic ideas, definitely.

21 Q. And he didn't have very much use for young
22 Hitler; did he?

23 A. No, no.

24 Q. Did you think Hindenburg was getting too old
25 to do the job?

1 A. Yeah, yeah.

2 Q. You're older than he was right now, of
3 course.

4 A. At the moment I'm older than Hindenburg was.
5 I wouldn't like to get his job either, not now and not
6 before.

7 Q. Then in that election of 1932, you believe
8 you voted for Hindenburg?

9 A. I think so.

10 Q. And there were several other candidates, and
11 there had to be, then, another election in about another
12 month, a runoff election. And once again, the
13 candidates were narrowed to three, Hindenburg and Hitler
14 and one other, I think.

15 A. Who?

16 Q. I don't know the other one.

17 A. No, I don't remember.

18 Q. Once again, Hindenburg won?

19 A. Yeah, yeah.

20 Q. Do you believe you voted for Hindenburg at
21 that time also?

22 A. I believe so. I believe so.

23 Q. He became president?

24 A. He became president. Hindenburg became
25 president.

1 Q. At that time was there -- in the elections
2 of the country, was anti-Semitism an issue very much?
3 Do you recall whether it was made an issue?

4 A. Yeah, it was an issue, but only through
5 *German* Hitler (German spoken) his paper. No, no. But it was
6 not country-wise, let's put it this way.

7 Q. Hitler made it an issue in his campaign?

8 A. It was his slogan.

9 Q. Were you and other Jewish people worried
10 about this young fellow, what if he wins?

11 A. I was not too much worried. There were some
12 people worried, and some people just left Germany.

13 Q. This is still --

14 A. At that time they could take all their
15 money, and they could sell their factory or their
16 business and could take everything along in 1933, 1934.
17 Oh, yes. Only after Hitler became chancellor, then he
18 *German* started out: You have to take the Judenstern
19 (phonetic). That was 10 percent, 20 percent, 40,
20 50 percent until the end, everything, 100 percent
21 Judenstern. If you want to emigrate, you have to leave
22 the money there.

23 So many people who are here now with a lot
24 of money, they came in 1933, 1934. They could bring
25 their money along legally. But I was too German to

1 leave.

2 Q. So in 1932, when Hindenburg became
3 chancellor, you and many others like you were not overly
4 concerned?

5 A. No, no.

6 Q. Then in 1933, when Hitler was named
7 chancellor by President Hindenburg --

8 A. Then he got --

9 Q. -- then do you recall what your feelings and
10 your reaction were at that time?

11 A. Yeah, yes. I would say not 100 percent
12 anymore. It's practically 60 years ago. But I remember
13 I was in London on business when the Nuremburg laws came
14 out. That was 1935. And they told me in London, You
15 stay here. Don't go back. I say, No, I can't. I have
16 to go back. My wife is there. My children are there.
17 And I have to dissolve, and I want to go out legally. I
18 have nothing to hide.

19 And at that time already there were many
20 Jews who fled, black and legally. I only wanted to go
21 out legally, but not at that time. So yes.

22 Q. How about that day in January 1933, when the
23 announcement came Hitler is your new chancellor?

24 A. I had my first kidney attack.

25 Q. You had your first kidney attack?

1 A. Right. January 31st, 1933, when that came
2 out, I had my first kidney attack.

3 Q. Is that because you knew what was --

4 A. Yeah. It was awful. That was a sign on the
5 wall, you know, handwriting on the wall.

6 Q. And do you think most almost all the Jews in
7 the country knew at that point they were in trouble?

8 A. Yeah. From there on it went downhill.

9 Q. Why didn't more people leave at that time?

10 A. Because they felt still this is their
11 homeland. They were Germans. The same here. I didn't
12 prepare for emigration at that time. I should have.

13 Q. That's about the time, shortly thereafter,
14 that the Jewish organizations began to form to speak for
15 Jews?

16 A. Yeah. Jewish organizations were there
17 before, but they became -- were more visible, let's call
18 it this way, and more active.

19 Q. You joined some of them?

20 A. Yeah. I joined them before.

21 Q. Did you work actively, or what did you do?

22 A. No, no, no, not actively.

23 Q. The organization was --

24 A. The organization was there. No. I
25 supported them, the organizations, but I was not active,

1 no. I was active, but this was not a political
2 organization. I was active. I was president of the
3 social -- of the (German spoken) club. In Rupertal we
4 had the Jewish club. I was one of the Eischgattia
5 (phonetic).

6 Q. A social organization?

7 A. A social organization. There I was
8 president and active. It was Rhineland, where we grew
9 up. There was a lot of drinking wine and a lot of
10 humor. And there was -- there was a lot of humor, and
11 open-minded.

12 Q. You were just a Rhinelander?

13 A. A Rhinelander, right.

14 Q. Then shortly thereafter, the Reichstadt fire
15 occurred?

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. And chancellor Hitler was given a decree
18 which made him a dictator. Were you and others like you
19 aware at that time what that might mean?

20 A. Yeah, yeah. We knew that the Reichstadt
21 burning was not arson by the communists. It was arson
22 by the Nazis, but they put it on the communists.

23 Q. Yes.

24 A. They arrested one man, in fact. He was --

25 Q. -- a communist?

1 A. I don't remember the name anymore.

2 Q. Was it common knowledge, do you think, that
3 the Nazis themselves had set the fire?

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. People were saying that?

6 A. Oh, yeah, not openly, because if you say it
7 openly, you would be arrested and sent to concentration
8 camp.

9 Q. At that time of the Reichstadt fire, on the
10 streets of Rupertal were there brown shirts?

11 A. Yeah, yeah, but it was not -- what shall I
12 say? -- not dangerous. Nothing dangerous.

13 Q. They were not bullies?

14 A. No. In fact, when that happened, when the
15 Reichstadt burned, one of our employees -- his name
16 was -- I don't remember his name. It doesn't make any
17 difference. I never knew it. He was an SS man, a black
18 uniform with a skull and crossbones, you know. He was
19 one of Hitler's special guard.

20 And that day -- what was his name? -- he
21 came into my office in black uniform. I said, What
22 happened to you? He says, I'm coming to get you safe
23 home today. I say, You want to go with me through the
24 streets of Rupertal and take me home? "Yeah."

25 He said, I don't want you that you get

1 attacked or that any harm will come to you. You are a
2 good man. Come on. I'll take you.

3 He took me home. That was a 20 minutes walk
4 from my office to home, and he went with me. I was
5 under the guard, supervision, of an SS man.

6 Q. Who would have harmed you?

7 A. I don't know. I had no enemies, but...

8 Q. He thought somebody would harm you?

9 A. There was anti-Jewish propaganda. Someone
10 could hit you or throw a stone at you or shoot you.

11 Q. Do you recall, after the Reichstadt fire,
12 within that day or two, whether there were anti-Jewish,
13 anti-Semitic statements on the radio?

14 A. That I don't remember anymore, but there
15 were anti-Jewish --

16 Q. It was blamed on the Jews?

17 A. Yeah -- not the Reichstadt fire. That was
18 blamed on the communists.

19 Q. On the communists, non-Jewish communists?

20 A. No, not the Jewish, just communists.

21 Q. In 1933 there started to be laws,
22 anti-Jewish laws, right away?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. After, they would exclude non-Aryan lawyers?

25 A. Right.

1 Q. And there were quotas for Jewish children in
2 the schools due to overcrowding?

3 A. Right.

4 Q. Do you remember that?

5 A. That was an execution. But our oldest one
6 couldn't go to public school anymore. We had to have a
7 tutor for her, and we got one, private.

8 Q. Jewish children were not allowed in --

9 A. Were not allowed in public schools.

10 Q. How old was your oldest daughter at this
11 time?

12 A. Doris in 1933 was six, seven.

13 Q. Six or seven?

14 A. Seven.

15 Q. She just started school?

16 A. Just starting school. We got her in a
17 private school, a very nice private school. And
18 until -- to the day when I was arrested, she came out of
19 school. And I was between the two. There were Nazis,
20 but not in uniform, arrested me that morning to get --

21 Q. That was Kristallnacht?

22 A. Kristallnacht. And our Doris came from her
23 private school, and she saw me there. And she never --
24 I never forget her, and she never forget me.

25 Q. Was it a Jewish private school?

1 A. No, no, no, no. Private.

2 Q. With all kinds of children?

3 A. All kinds of children.

4 Q. Was there any difficulty in having her
5 enrolled in that school?

6 A. No, no. We knew them. That was a
7 Dr. Masyevsky or something. He had a private school for
8 intelligent children, or what do you call it?

9 Q. You had a second daughter. Was she there?

10 A. No. She was born in '33 only.

11 Q. I see.

12 A. No.

13 Q. She was too young for school.

14 A. No.

15 Q. Back in '33, when those laws were passed,
16 there was a book-burning.

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. Do you recall that?

19 A. Yeah, but I never saw it.

20 Q. Books by Jewish authors.

21 A. But it was more in university cities,
22 Heidelberg and Munchen and Berlin certainly, but not in
23 Rupertal. There was no book-burning.

24 Q. Do you recall your thoughts or your
25 attitudes at that time?

1 A. No. It was unbelievable, book-burning, but
2 it was not in Rupertal.

3 Q. Then in 1935 you mentioned the Nuremburg
4 laws. What were those?

5 A. The Nuremburg laws was that the Jews could
6 not have household help anymore.

7 Q. Non-Jewish household help?

8 A. Non-Jewish household help.

9 Q. You had had non-Jewish household help?

10 A. Oh, yes, certainly. We had a cook and a
11 house mate and a chauffeur.

12 Q. What happened to them in 1935? Did you have
13 to let them go?

14 A. Yeah, we had to let them go. One of them
15 was I think over 45, and she -- we had to let them go,
16 but we could have kept her. But it was awful. They
17 cried that they had to leave us.

18 Q. Your business was such you were still able
19 to have servants?

20 A. Yeah. The business was blacklisted, but it
21 still went on.

22 Q. After that other lady's name --

23 A. Asbeck & Company.

24 Q. Also, part of the Nuremburg laws were to
25 reduce Jews from the status of citizens? You lost your

1 citizenship in 1935?

2 A. No. We lost our citizenship, but it was
3 two years I think later, in '37. We suddenly got
4 notification from the Reichensteiger (phonetic) that we
5 had to add to our name. The Jews had to add to their
6 name Israel. Eric Israel Lowenstein and Greta Sarah
7 Lowenstein. We had to add to our name Sara and Israel,
8 which in Germany sound much worse than in English.

9 Q. Did you do that?

10 A. We had to.

11 Q. So when you signed your name or anytime your
12 name appeared, you had to use the word Israel?

13 A. Yeah -- not in my --

14 Q. In your signature?

15 A. In the signatures, no, no, no. In the
16 passports, yes.

17 Q. In the passports?

18 A. In the official things, yes.

19 Q. And in 1935 it became illegal for Jews to
20 marry non-Jews?

21 A. Oh, yeah, racenjanda (phonetic).

22 Q. You were already married?

23 A. Oh, yeah.

24 Q. But did it bother the young Jewish men and
25 women?

1 A. I don't know. It should have bothered them.
2 I know of some who kept their mistresses or their girls
3 and got in trouble.

4 Q. Was there a good deal -- go ahead. Do you
5 know whether Jewish men kept --

6 A. The friendship with their girls, yes.

7 Q. Non-Jewish girls?

8 A. Non-Jewish girls. And one of -- he was much
9 younger than I am, a very good-looking young boy. And
10 he was -- they had a haberdasher store in Rupertal, and
11 he was a junior. He had a beautiful girlfriend for many
12 years. He was murdered. He was sent to camp and was
13 just shot there, only on account of that friendship with
14 the girl.

15 Q. He was sent to a camp?

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. Do you know which one?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. Do you know which camp?

20 A. Which camp, no, no. That I don't know, but
21 I know he was murdered. And my brother-in-law, who was
22 a young man, he had also a girlfriend.

23 Q. A non-Jewish girlfriend?

24 A. A non-Jewish girlfriend. Later on he had
25 Jewish girlfriends, but at that time he still had. I

1 say, You'd better give it up. So he did. But they were
2 all under pressure.

3 Q. You said something. I was going to ask you,
4 Did you know if lots of -- you were a young man in those
5 days and knew young people, both Jewish and
6 non-Jews.

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. Was there a lot of dating and social life
9 back and forth between Jews and non-Jews?

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. That was quite common?

12 A. Yeah, yeah. It's not only -- it wasn't all
13 sexual, but there was a lot of full friendship and
14 communication.

15 Q. Was there a lot of romance also?

16 A. Oh, yeah. I was very friendly with a
17 Dr. Funderbreiler (phonetic). He was a close friend of
18 mine. He was a library -- director of the library in
19 Rupertal. At that time it was Amford. And he said,
20 Eric, we drink wine together, play chess together. He
21 said one day, Eric, I'm sorry. I cannot greet you on
22 the street anymore. I would love to.

23 When we prepared to immigrate to the United
24 States, I knew that his wife had a brother in the United
25 States. They were afraid to have connection with the

1 United States. Anything connection with abroad is
2 suspicious for Hitler.

3 But when we left, I said to her, Can we do
4 anything? Can we contact your brother, give you his
5 telephone number or his address? "Oh, no. Don't
6 contact my brother." That was it. They were afraid.

7 Q. Now we've had the Nuremburg laws in 1935,
8 and you and other Jewish citizens must have known pretty
9 well what was happening.

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. In 1936, do you recall any feelings, when
12 the German troops marched into the Rhineland, the area
13 of the Rhineland?

14 A. It was a neutral zone before, and --

15 Q. Not far from your town?

16 A. Not far from us, no, certainly not. And
17 Hitler moved in with -- not fighting, just occupied it.
18 And it was a danger zone. That was a danger signal for
19 us.

20 Q. What did you and your friends think? What
21 were your reactions?

22 A. That the end of -- what shall I say? End of
23 democracy, that we have to be afraid of the future.
24 Nothing but power and armament. It was even worse when
25 he occupied Austria.

1 Q. But that was later.

2 A. That was later, but that was the end of it.
3 That was awful. Although he said: I didn't occupy
4 Austria. They called me in. They called him in to
5 liberate them.

6 Q. When Germany reoccupied the Rhineland in
7 1936, you still -- had your love affair with Germany
8 ended, or were you still considering yourself a German
9 citizen or not?

10 A. Yeah, I was still a German citizen, but that
11 was a time when we started to prepare.

12 Q. Was this a matter, then, of pride for you as
13 a German, because --

14 A. No. I was afraid of it. There was no pride
15 anymore. I said, this is it.

16 Q. From the defeat of World War I?

17 A. And that was a time when I said to my wife,
18 We cannot stay any longer or we have to do something.
19 And I contacted the same school friend who vouched for
20 me in the officers' corp in the first world war. And in
21 the meantime, I knew he was, I think, a chamber of
22 commerce president under the Nazis. He became a Nazi.

23 So I went to him and said, Freida, you know
24 me and I know you. What do you recommend for me? Do I
25 have to leave? And he recommended at that time, Eric,

1 you and your wife, you are one of us. You can stay.
2 Nothing will happen. Your mother can stay. But your
3 children, they have no future here in the country
4 anymore. They have to go out.

5 I said, Freida, I should send my children
6 away to America or Israel or somewhere without me? No.
7 Then I go too.

8 And then I prepared for the immigration.
9 That was the time I prepared.

10 Q. In 1936, in later 1936, the Olympics were in
11 Berlin. Do you remember that?

12 A. Vaguely, vaguely.

13 Q. You were not into that?

14 A. No. I was busy with my immigration, and
15 then comes the trouble. The moment the Nazis heard that
16 I wanted to leave, they came in and blocked all bank
17 accounts and all accounts of the company. I was not
18 allowed to write a check anymore.

19 Later on they allowed me a thousand marks
20 per month, which is \$250 per month, just to live off,
21 and not more.

22 Q. In those days was that enough?

23 A. In those days it was -- we got along, but
24 not the way we were used to living. \$250 was a minimum,
25 minimum. A thousand marks was minimum wage, there is no

1 question about it, but we could live off it. But we
2 couldn't travel anymore. We couldn't have maids
3 anymore. We couldn't go to the restaurant or theater.

4 We could live on it, no question about it.

5 Q. Could you pay your taxes?

6 A. I didn't have any money to pay taxes
7 anymore. I didn't have any income anymore.

8 Q. You had a big house and factory, though.

9 A. Yeah. That was all -- that was theirs now,
10 not mine anymore.

11 Q. I see.

12 A. And what was I going to say? That when
13 the -- yeah. When they heard that I want to immigrate,
14 they blocked everything. And then I went to the
15 American consulate in Stuttgart. I had an affidavit
16 from a cousin of mine in America, a very good one.

17 And when I went to the Stuttgart consulate,
18 they said, Your affidavit is excellent, but I cannot
19 give you the entrance visa for America. I said, Why?
20 "America has a quota system for Germans, and you are
21 German under this quota. And we only have 30,000 per
22 year quota system, and I have 45,000 applications here.
23 You have to wait 1 1/2 years."

24 So it wasn't Hitler. Hitler would have let
25 me go at that time. It was America who didn't let me

1 in. And the consulate said too, Why don't you go,
2 interim, to England or Switzerland? I said, Then I have
3 to flee like a thief at night. I'm not used to it. I
4 do legal business. I pay my taxes, and I want to get
5 out legally.

6 I have to wait. That's why I had to wait
7 till 1938.

8 Q. Do you know if England or Holland or France
9 had a quota system?

10 A. No, they didn't have a quota system, but
11 they had some other restrictions. They had -- I don't
12 know the countries anymore. I don't want to put
13 anything on a special country. But most of them had --
14 you had to have \$5,000 per head to come in, to get the
15 visa to enter the state. \$5,000 per head was possible,
16 but not for me anymore, because my money was
17 confiscated.

18 And other countries -- Canada, to get in at
19 that time they had also a lot of applications. You had
20 to be a laborer, agriculture. Then you immediately
21 could come in. As an agriculture or a chemist or so,
22 you could get in immediately to Canada. That was open.

23 In South America -- I know that because a
24 cousin of mine went that way -- you had to become
25 Catholic. The Catholic church will let you in. So my

1 cousin became Catholic and went to Chile. When we
2 visited them in 1955 in Chile, I said, What are you now?
3 Are you Jewish or Catholic? "We are Jewish Catholics."
4 I said, Can you eat that?

5 Awful, but this was a condition to get out
6 or to get in.

7 Q. You didn't want to go to South America?

8 A. No.

9 Q. So you decided to wait and go to the United
10 States?

11 A. Yeah. I had to wait till -- the end of '38
12 I got my visa.

13 Q. You put your name on the list?

14 A. Oh, yeah. Oh, yeah. Not my mother's name
15 and not my mother. I mentioned that before.

16 Q. Then the Olympics, you were too busy with
17 your own problems, trying to work out your --

18 A. I know there were Olympics, yeah.

19 Q. So in the late 1930s, then, along comes
20 another year or so, the Austria (German spoken)?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. What did that do? What was your reaction to
23 that?

24 A. That Hitler cannot be stopped anymore,
25 although Mr. Chamberlain came to Munich to sign

1 Czechoslovakia away at that time. "Peace in our times."
2 I never believed in it.

3 Q. Did you think the fact that Hitler --
4 Germany and Austria are now joined together meant bad
5 news for Jews in both countries?

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. Or what was your --

8 A. Definitely, definitely. Jews were just a
9 scapegoat, the whipping boy -- what shall I say? -- for
10 Hitler. Everything went wrong. He had no money, he
11 blamed it on the Jews. In former times he blamed it on
12 all churches, but he got reprisals, but not from the
13 Jews. The Jews, there was none. There was nothing.

14 Q. What were living conditions at that time?
15 1938 is getting pretty far along. He had been
16 chancellor for five years, dictator for five years.

17 A. Living condition?

18 Q. For Jews, social conditions.

19 A. Social? The social life was kaput. The
20 social life -- there was no social life anymore, only
21 amongst Jews. They could visit themselves.

22 Q. Could you walk on the street?

23 A. Oh, yeah, I could walk on the street. I was
24 not afraid. I had a clean conscience.

25 Q. There was not yet a curfew for Jews?

1 A. No, no, no, no, no.

2 Q. Did you have to wear the star?

3 A. No. That came later. That came later. My
4 mother had to wear a star later.

5 Q. You left in '39?

6 A. January 6th of '39.

7 Q. Did you ever have to wear the Star of David
8 while you were there?

9 A. No. I had "Israel" in my passport, yes, but
10 not a star, no, no.

11 Q. But later, after '39, your mother had to?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. So suddenly there was -- Austria and Germany
14 were one?

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. Then also the same year, within a month or
17 two, the Munich conference and Czechoslovakia. Did you
18 see these events are coming swiftly now? Did they seem
19 to mean danger to you?

20 A. Yeah, definitely, not to the Jews but to the
21 world.

22 Q. How about for the Jews?

23 A. To the Jews it was a fact already, but to
24 the world it was in the making. There was no question
25 about it, no, no. It was dangerous and -- what shall I

1 say? We had to leave. I left too late.

2 Q. Did you know at that time what was happening
3 to Jews in Austria and the Jews in Czechoslovakia when
4 Germany took over those countries?

5 A. No, not directly, only indirectly, what we
6 were allowed to see on the television or on the radio or
7 in the papers. No, no. In Rupertal as such it was
8 comparatively quiet until the Kristallnacht, and then I
9 wasn't even home. I was in prison.

10 Q. That was in 1938?

11 A. 1938.

12 Q. Also very --

13 A. The 8th of November, 1938.

14 Q. And you discussed last time what happened to
15 you after Kristallnacht. You were taken to Dachau, and
16 you went into that at some length. And shortly after
17 you were released, you came to this country. You were
18 allowed to leave?

19 A. Right, right. It was a relief. It was the
20 first time we could breathe freely again.

21 Q. In looking back on those years, the '20s and
22 '30s in Germany -- and you were a full-grown man during
23 that period of time -- is there ever any -- did you ever
24 say to yourself, I wish I had done more, or was there
25 anything I could have done that would help that

1 situation? Have you ever thought back on that?

2 A. I personally could have done to the
3 situation? No, no. I was powerless. You are
4 powerless. You are under constant threat. Personally,
5 for me and my family, yes, I could have done something.
6 I should have gotten out earlier.

7 Q. Looking back --

8 A. Looking back, I should have gone out in '33
9 or '34.

10 Q. You could have sold your factory, do you
11 think?

12 A. Oh, yeah, no question. And not only
13 selling, I could have taken everything along with me.

14 Q. You were still patriotic?

15 A. Oh, yeah, yeah. No. The only thing --
16 looking back, that's the only thing I would have done
17 differently. I should have gone out earlier. And knock
18 on wood, I think I did my share to the family, to the
19 community, and to the country too, now, and I'm
20 grateful. We count our blessings, and we are grateful
21 for it. I'm not so much active anymore on account of my
22 age. I was very active, not only in Jewish affairs but
23 in all-over welfare, wherever there was help necessary
24 to support.

25 Q. That's in this country?

1 A. In this country, in this country. I was
2 director of the Salvation Army, and I was director of
3 the United Cross aid, but that was some years ago.

4 Q. Once again, now that you're in this country
5 now, and the world is at war --

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. -- Germany has invaded Poland. What did you
8 think then?

9 A. Oh, you mean the second world war?

10 Q. Yes. You're now in the United States, and
11 in 1939 you had only just arrived here. Germany invaded
12 Poland. Do you recall what you and your wife said to
13 each other at that time?

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. Your mother's still in Germany?

16 A. What shall I say? I had started in
17 business, as you know, pest control. I did a lot of the
18 work myself. And in 1939 I was maybe half a year in
19 business. I had signed up for hotels and some movie
20 theaters.

21 And for the movie theaters, I liked it
22 because I could see a movie without paying. So I took
23 my wife along, and I sprayed against fleas the movie
24 theater at -- I think it was the Coliseum theater. And
25 after the show, it was 12:00 at night. And suddenly the

1 manager of the theater came out. "Mr. Livingston,
2 Mr. Livingston, I need you." I say, What is it? "I have
3 on my radio Germany, and I cannot understand what Hitler
4 says. Can you translate it for me?"

5 Yeah, I say. I tried. So he called me down
6 into his office, and there was that radio going,
7 shortwave. Hitler declared war against Poland. I says,
8 this is the end of the story. I don't spray any longer.
9 I have to go home. It shocked me. That was the
10 beginning of the second world war.

11 Q. Did you realize that at the time?

12 A. Yeah, yeah. I couldn't work anymore. That
13 was the end of it. That was in the little office in the
14 Coliseum theater. Mr. Levin was the manager there.
15 I'll never forget it. It was --

16 Q. Was your mother still in Germany?

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. Do you know when she was taken, sent away?

19 A. In 1942. In 1942. It was '39. We were not
20 even in the war here in America.

21 Q. You're living here in this country, and
22 World War II is going to start.

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. Were you aware here of what was happening to
25 Jews in Poland and Czechoslovakia and France and those

1 nations?

2 A. Aware? I wouldn't say aware. I knew what
3 was happening there, and --

4 Q. Did you know about the camps that were
5 being -- not many people in this country did.

6 A. Sure. I don't know, during the war, whether
7 there were special camps that were set up. I know of
8 the camps, and they were, as far as I know, more used
9 than before. I was in the Dachau camp. I could get out
10 by giving the Nazis everything, and so many others could
11 get out.

12 During the war, when you got in the Nazi
13 camp, it was the end for you. You couldn't get out
14 anymore. You had a direct connection with Goering,
15 because Goering once said, I declare who is a Jew. I
16 will declare who is a Jew. So he saved a few, Goering,
17 but otherwise you couldn't get out anymore.

18 Q. You don't recall knowing -- in those days
19 knowing that there was such a thing as Auschwitz or any
20 of those places?

21 A. No, no.

22 Q. You didn't learn of those places until at
23 the end of the war, when they were liberated?

24 A. Right, right.

25 Q. I think you said, in conversation, that

1 during your -- when you were in Germany and your family
2 had been there perhaps one or 200 years, your family was
3 in Czechoslovakia and then came to Germany. How long
4 had they been in Germany?

5 A. In Germany over 200 years, over 200 years.

6 Q. Was your father in the German army?

7 A. My father was in the German army.

8 Q. During any war?

9 A. No, no. That was after the '70 --

10 Q. Was your grandfather in Germany?

11 A. Not that I know of. That I don't know.

12 Maybe he was, but that I wouldn't know. My father was
13 in the German army. In fact, I have pictures of him as
14 a soldier.

15 Q. You said, in conversation, that in Germany
16 you had 41 first cousins?

17 A. 43 first cousins, yeah. You see, Germany,
18 after the French war in 1917 and with Bismarck in
19 charge, Germany was just it. Germany was growing leaps
20 and bounds, and whatever you did with a little brain was
21 successful.

22 So the Jews in Germany at that time, from
23 1870 to 1914 under the Kaiser, were very successful.
24 You could start anything. With brains and honesty and
25 hard work, you were successful.

1 So then the Jewish families, not just the
2 little ones but with a little intellect, started
3 businesses, or lawyers or physicians or science. They
4 were all successful.

5 And they married, and they had a lot of
6 children. So my grandfather on my mother's side I think
7 had eight or nine children, and on my father's side ten
8 children. And they were all successful, no matter what
9 they did. The one had a hose factory, ladies' hose.
10 The other made -- men's stocking factory. And the one
11 had a kettle farm, and on my mother's side they had
12 department stores.

13 They started out. They were all successful,
14 and they all had a lot of children. So I had 50 -- 43
15 first cousins.

16 Q. Any more second cousins?

17 A. I don't count them.

18 Q. This would be about the time that Hitler
19 came to power, right?

20 A. Oh, yes.

21 Q. How many of those persons survived the war?

22 A. Four -- five, five.

23 Q. Counting you, five?

24 A. Five.

25 Q. What happened to the rest?

1 A. I don't know. Partly they died, and partly
2 they disappeared in camps.

3 Q. Were they all in Germany?

4 A. They were all in Germany.

5 Q. And you don't know what happened?

6 A. No, but I know that I am still in contact
7 with four of them, three on my mother's side and one of
8 my father's side. They were still alive, not here, not
9 necessarily here in the country. In England, in Chile,
10 and in America and in Israel.

11 Q. Were you ever tempted to go to Israel, live
12 in Israel?

13 A. To live there, no. We'd visit. No. Yeah,
14 I was in Israel too, but the first time it was
15 Palestine, and with an eye whether it would be suitable
16 to emigrate there. That was in 1936, I think, or 5.

17 And it was not suitable for -- I think it
18 wasn't suitable for me. They needed people with a
19 shovel, pioneers to turn the desert into blooming
20 fields. They didn't need Eric Lowenstein, an engineer
21 from Germany who was already, at that time, 40 years
22 old. They needed boys of 20 years, 18 years. That's
23 what they needed there.

24 So Palestine was never attractive to me, and
25 especially when it was Palestine. It was desert.

1 Q. You said your love affair with Germany ended
2 about the time they confiscated your factory and bank
3 account.

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. What were your feelings, you and your wife,
6 this past year ago, during the past year, when we had a
7 reunited Germany? Were you happy about that, or any old
8 feelings of patriotism?

9 A. You couldn't prevent it. I think it was a
10 natural birth or natural getting together. I am afraid
11 of one thing, the German mentality. It is, in my
12 mind -- there is no question that in the moment they get
13 together with the European community, 1992, next year --
14 that will be England and France and Belgium and Italy
15 and I think Spain, the other countries -- that Germany
16 will outperform them all within that European community,
17 and rightfully so, because they are hard workers, have
18 the good equipment, and have the knowledge.

19 But I am afraid, although at this moment the
20 population in Germany is very democratic-thinking and
21 that in time, let's say in ten years or in 20 years,
22 there will be times where the Germans will say, Here.
23 We show it to you. We made it again. We are the
24 leaders. Deutschland, Deutschland uberlast (phonetic).
25 They will be getting arrogant and self-conscious and the

1 super race, and then we have trouble again. So we have
2 to keep our finger in the pie.

3 Q. "We" meaning the United States?

4 A. We, the United States, has to keep the
5 finger in the pie.

6 Q. You are a German, your family for 200 years.
7 You're German. Do Germans have something in their
8 mentality that might lead to this super race?

9 A. Yeah, definitely, definitely. It's the way
10 they're brought up.

11 Q. Were you brought up that way?

12 A. Yeah, yeah, yeah. No question about it.

13 Q. Do you consider yourself superior to other
14 people?

15 A. No, no, not anymore, but at that time,

German 16 Deutschland, Deutschland (German spoken). German,
17 Germany above everything else. And in kindergarten you
18 already had to learn the songs. We sung them with full

German 19 heart? What was it? Not only Deutschen (German
20 spoken). That's the best one I could think of. But
phonetic 21 when the dam (phonetic) was calling to war, he walked on
22 my side, and we went together. And when the bullet came
23 and hit him, he was like a peaceful man. They were
24 children's songs.

German 25 (Singing in German.) If the soldiers

German 1 marched through the town, (speaking German), all the
2 girls opened the windows and the doors to welcome them.
3 The soldiers are -- these are children's songs. All the
4 power, all superior, power.

5 Q. And it could happen again, possibly?

6 A. It could happen again.

7 Q. Under the right circumstances?

8 A. It could happen again, and that's what I am
9 afraid of.

10 Q. Are you following what's happening in the
11 war in the Mideast right now?

12 A. Oh, very much so.

13 Q. Have you heard President Bush compare Saddam
14 Hussein to Adolph Hitler?

15 A. A hundred percent, every word that he said
16 in this respect.

17 Q. Do you agree he's --

18 A. Yeah. You can't believe that Saddam
19 Hussein, no.

20 Q. In what way? Is he a tyrant?

21 A. He's lying. He is a tyrant, and he's lying
22 straight into your face. When he takes children, he
23 said, They are not our hostages. They are our -- what
24 did he say? Visitors or friends. They are well taken
25 care of. They are not hostages. What kind of a man is

1 he?

2 No, no, no. That fellow is lying from top
3 to bottom.

4 Q. Can he be as bad as Hitler?

5 A. Yeah, yeah. He gassed his own people.

6 Q. What does it do to you emotionally when you
7 hear about Iraq sending missiles to Israel?

8 A. Scapegoat. They wanted Israel involved
9 because Israel is the only point where the Arab states
10 are of one mind.

11 Q. What are your feelings, as a Jew, about
12 Israel, a noncombatant in this war, being bombed by
13 Iraq?

14 A. I think Israel shows terrific power not
15 to...

16 Q. Respond?

17 A. Respond, not to respond. Terrific power.
18 But in the long run I think Israel will not exist like
19 the state we all hoped for. If Israel would have been a
20 state before Hitler or under Hitler, six million souls
21 would have been saved.

22 Q. In what way?

23 A. We couldn't get out, emigration. Many
24 people didn't have money for a thousand dollars per
25 head, or many people didn't have the money to leave at

1 all, and Israel would have taken them. My mother and my
2 mother-in-law would have been saved, definitely, if
3 there would have been an Israel.

4 But this Israel will not come through
5 anymore. There will be an Israel. As far as I can see
6 it, sorry to say, it will be just an Israel
7 intellectually.

8 Q. Do I understand what you're saying is Israel
9 will not take persons in, will not take refugees?

10 A. They love to take. They take 100,000
11 Russian Jews now, or even more. But in the long run,
12 the frontiers are too small. It's a very small country.
13 How can they take them in unless they get -- Jordan or
14 Lebanon, they have all the space they want. They can
15 all take the Palestinians in and give Israel enough
16 space to grow, but it will not come true. I'm sorry to
17 say, I don't see it.

18 Q. Do you think it is a wise decision for
19 Israel to restrain itself right now?

20 A. Yeah. If they would fire back, all the
21 Arabs would get together. And against that overpowering
22 masses, of those overpowering, Israel has no future.
23 Even if they win the war -- they win the battle, they
24 wouldn't win the war with that structure there, with
25 millions of Arab enemies. So they have to live with

1 them, not against them. And that what's the restriction
2 is now, I'm pretty sure.

3 How are we doing, young man?

4 VIDEOGRAPHER: Very well. We're rolling.

5 Q. Eric, do you consider yourself a Jew or a
6 German?

7 A. A Jew.

8 Q. At one time you thought of yourself only as
9 a German, right?

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. You did not define or know that there was
12 any distinction whatsoever?

13 A. Hitler made me a Jew. Hitler taught me to
14 be a Jew, let's call it this way.

15 Q. Consequently, in early stages, when you saw
16 other families leaving, which -- illegally? You called
17 them leaving illegally?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. Because of the fact that you wanted to leave
20 illegally --

21 A. Correct.

22 Q. -- did you have any resentment to those
23 families that were leaving?

24 A. Yeah, definitely.

25 Q. You thought that they were giving up?

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. Do you think that if these families --
3 because these were wealthy families; these were
4 industrialists and so forth and so on, that if --

5 A. A cousin of mine went this way.

6 Q. -- your organizations --

7 A. And I fought him.

8 Q. -- became politically-minded and bonded
9 together, do you think that there would have been a turn
10 that you could have possibly done something together as
11 a group --

12 A. No.

13 Q. -- against --

14 A. No.

15 Q. -- Nazism?

16 A. We were powerless. The main thing is what
17 Asbeck told me after I won that trial. A Jew cannot win
18 any judgments in Germany anymore. No matter if you have
19 the proof, that you are a hundred percent right, a
20 thousand percent right, as a Jew you cannot win anymore.
21 So we were powerless; there's no question about it.

22 But let's call it this way. You asked me
23 before whether I am a German or Jew. These are two
24 things. Germany's a state. United States is a state.
25 A Jew is my belief, a religion. So there is a

1 difference. I am not a German anymore, but I am a
2 United States citizen, and a very proud one. But I am a
3 Jew.

4 Q. Are you ashamed of Germany?

5 A. Ashamed, no. I feel sorry for Germany. I
6 feel sorry for Germany. When we came back in 1950 the
7 first time to Germany on account of restitution, there
8 were no Nazis anymore. And we knew there were Nazis.
9 And one lady said to us, You seem to be still the proud
10 Jew.

11 That is our belief. We were proud to be
12 Jewish. We were proud to be Jewish. I wasn't that
13 proud to be Jewish when I was in Germany. I didn't know
14 so much about Jewishness.

15 Q. How many other German officers, when you
16 were in school or in the -- you were around 16, and you
17 were an officer. How many other Jewish officers were
18 there in your regiment or battalion or whatever?

19 A. In the regiment, I wouldn't know. Maybe
20 one. But I had -- my brother-in-law was an officer, and
21 another cousin of mine was an officer -- two cousins of
22 mine. One fell in the war, in the first world war.

23 Q. Did you attribute it to your family class
24 that you were an officer, or was it --

25 A. To the class.

1 Q. To the class. It was a class --

2 A. It was a class population in Germany. The
3 voting was class. Taxes were class. There was a class
4 system.

5 Q. And within the Jewish faith --

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. -- there was a class distinction?

8 A. Oh, yeah, yeah. There was a class
9 distinction, definitely.

10 Q. Being Orthodox versus the non-Orthodox?

11 A. It doesn't have to be, no, no.

12 Q. You did not define it that way?

13 A. The one with the education and the one
14 without education, let's call it this way.

15 Q. That was how class was determined, by the
16 education?

17 A. Yeah, not by the Orthodox or non-Orthodox.
18 There were two Jewish clubs in Rupertal. I told you, I
19 was the officer or president of the Anischkeit
20 (phonetic). Anischkeit means Concordia. You are
21 unique. You are one. And the other one was called
22 something like it, but there was -- the other one was
23 the other class, let's call it this way.

24 There was no anti-Semitism, no Orthodox. It
25 was just another class of people.

German

1 And we were called the Anischkeit, and the
2 other one was -- I'm sorry. I forgot the word. It was

German

3 a nice name. (German spoken). Okay. I'm sorry.

4 Q. The final question I have is, Were you able
5 to get messages to and from your mother and your
6 mother-in-law after you left?

7 A. Oh, letters. As long as there was no war,
8 there was mail. Letters we got, yes. And they got
9 ours, although a little delayed. But after 1941, no.

10 Q. You heard nothing after 1941?

11 A. '41, we got one letter still, a very sad
12 one -- but I don't know whether we still have it -- from
13 a lady from Dusseldorf. She saw the transportation of
14 Jewish ladies in trucks. And there was one lady who was
15 like a queen, and she threw her a paper with my address
16 on it. That was from my mother. That's the last I
17 heard.

18 Q. Was that lady from Dusseldorf Jewish?

19 A. No, no, but she was impressed.

20 Q. I have one more. You lost a great deal of
21 property in the war.

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. You lost factories --

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. -- incomes, your home, many things. Have

1 you received reparations or restitution from West
2 Germany since the war?

3 A. Yes and no. After the war, our factories
4 were bombed out, both. Our rooms were still standing,
5 and our import business didn't exist anymore. They went
6 bankrupt during the war.

7 Now, the one factory, mine, that new Nazi
8 owner never paid my mother. He still had it. I got it
9 back, but only the ruins. There was no factory anymore.
10 And I was -- what shall I say? -- mad about the Germans,
11 how they did it. And I said, I don't want those ruins
12 back. I want the factories back. "No, you can't get
13 that."

14 So I got an offer at that time for 60,000
15 marks for the ruins. That would have been, in American
16 money -- although the 60,000 marks at that time bought
17 as much as \$60,000 here, but the conversion was only
18 \$15,000. But I didn't want to deal with the Germans
19 anymore, so I took that.

20 The other factory was also bombed out, but
21 Mrs. Klufer was still alive, and she was a decent
22 person. And we made a deal with her. She can keep the
23 factory and build it up again. We didn't get any money
24 out, although I have to say there, she died and she left
25 in her last will one-third of the factory to my wife,

1 one-third of the factory to my brother-in-law, and
2 one-third of the factory to her sister. That was
3 decent.

4 So then we got another, I don't know,
5 \$20,000 or something out of it, one-third, and then our
6 business was kaput.

7 But there was also restitution for lost
8 income, and they asked my lawyer -- I had a lawyer here.
9 I had to send my income taxes here. Now, I was on my
10 own with Mrs. Crane, and my income taxes in 1945 or
11 '48 -- I had already a nice income here after I was
12 eight years in business. I don't know what it was.
13 Maybe it was \$30,000 or something per year.

14 And they said, Uh-uh. With that income over
15 there, \$30,000 in German money is 120,000 marks in
16 Germany per year. Uh-uh. So they didn't give it to me.

17 But in the long run they found out, yes, I
18 should have gotten something. I get now, I think, \$500
19 a month or something.

20 Q. From?

21 A. From Germany.

22 Q. From the German republic?

23 A. You continue to get that as long as -- I get
24 it every month, 600 marks. My wife gets too, but she
25 only gets, I think, \$60 or something from Germany.

1 Q. Can that amount of money ever repay --

2 A. No. It's tax-free.

3 Q. It's tax-free. Can it ever repay what
4 you've gone through?

5 A. No. Money doesn't repay it, never.

6 Thanks a lot, gentlemen.

7 Q. Thank you very much.

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