

1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:01:42,070

2  
00:01:42,070 --> 00:01:44,700  
In seconds, you can identify  
everybody and you start it up.

3  
00:01:44,700 --> 00:01:45,200  
OK.

4  
00:01:45,200 --> 00:01:53,370

5  
00:01:53,370 --> 00:01:54,820  
I'm Sandra Bendayan.

6  
00:01:54,820 --> 00:01:57,150  
I'm here with John  
Steiner, interviewing

7  
00:01:57,150 --> 00:02:01,290  
John for the Oral History  
Project in San Francisco.

8  
00:02:01,290 --> 00:02:05,070  
Today is the 27 of March, 1991.

9  
00:02:05,070 --> 00:02:07,197  
And we have as a second--

10  
00:02:07,197 --> 00:02:09,030  
Brian, would you like  
to introduce yourself?

11  
00:02:09,030 --> 00:02:10,289  
My name is Brian Paris.

12  
00:02:10,289 --> 00:02:13,156  
And also John's friend--

13

00:02:13,156 --> 00:02:15,930  
Carol Hurwitz.

14  
00:02:15,930 --> 00:02:19,950  
So would you please start out by  
introducing yourself and giving

15  
00:02:19,950 --> 00:02:22,840  
your names and if your birth  
name was any different.

16  
00:02:22,840 --> 00:02:23,340  
Yeah.

17  
00:02:23,340 --> 00:02:24,673  
And who and where you were born.

18  
00:02:24,673 --> 00:02:25,530  
OK.

19  
00:02:25,530 --> 00:02:29,490  
My name is Dr. John M. Steiner  
and I was born in Prague

20  
00:02:29,490 --> 00:02:36,810  
on August 3, 1925.

21  
00:02:36,810 --> 00:02:38,430  
And you were born John Steiner?

22  
00:02:38,430 --> 00:02:42,775  
I was born Jan Mikhail Steiner.

23  
00:02:42,775 --> 00:02:45,570

24  
00:02:45,570 --> 00:02:46,530  
That's what I was born.

25  
00:02:46,530 --> 00:02:50,010  
That was the Czech  
name for John.

26  
00:02:50,010 --> 00:02:52,500  
When I came here, I  
changed it into John

27  
00:02:52,500 --> 00:02:54,630  
for reasons which escape me now.

28  
00:02:54,630 --> 00:02:56,973

29  
00:02:56,973 --> 00:02:58,890  
Could you talk a little  
bit about your family.

30  
00:02:58,890 --> 00:03:00,190  
Are you an only child?

31  
00:03:00,190 --> 00:03:01,530  
I'm an only child.

32  
00:03:01,530 --> 00:03:04,720  
And I had a family that came  
from upper middle class.

33  
00:03:04,720 --> 00:03:15,210  
My father was a bank  
employee, executive with one

34  
00:03:15,210 --> 00:03:17,685  
of the largest private banks.

35  
00:03:17,685 --> 00:03:21,240

36  
00:03:21,240 --> 00:03:25,890  
My mother was an  
Orenstein and she

37  
00:03:25,890 --> 00:03:29,200  
was related to those people.

38

00:03:29,200 --> 00:03:31,140

We were related to  
those people who

39

00:03:31,140 --> 00:03:33,030

were the owners of  
this bank, which

40

00:03:33,030 --> 00:03:38,040

was Otto Petschek in Prague  
and one of the richest

41

00:03:38,040 --> 00:03:41,280

people in Czechoslovakia then.

42

00:03:41,280 --> 00:03:47,820

And we lived pretty much  
in the center of Prague.

43

00:03:47,820 --> 00:03:53,400

That's where I was raised in  
a large apartment building.

44

00:03:53,400 --> 00:03:56,190

And we never  
changed our address.

45

00:03:56,190 --> 00:04:00,120

We had a villa.

46

00:04:00,120 --> 00:04:03,750

My uncle had a villa back in--

47

00:04:03,750 --> 00:04:05,370

close to Prague  
and that's where we

48

00:04:05,370 --> 00:04:07,755

spent many of the summers  
or parts of the summers.

49

00:04:07,755 --> 00:04:10,350

50  
00:04:10,350 --> 00:04:16,290  
And we were a very extended,  
functional family up to a point

51  
00:04:16,290 --> 00:04:20,700  
and very closely knit.

52  
00:04:20,700 --> 00:04:25,440

53  
00:04:25,440 --> 00:04:30,300  
Very open, not dogmatic.

54  
00:04:30,300 --> 00:04:33,930  
And we were not--

55  
00:04:33,930 --> 00:04:38,040  
none of my parents were  
ideologues of any sort.

56  
00:04:38,040 --> 00:04:43,020  
They had perspectives, which  
changed with new information.

57  
00:04:43,020 --> 00:04:51,440  
And they were, by persuasion,  
anthroposophists and adhered

58  
00:04:51,440 --> 00:04:55,470  
to that, and I was brought up  
in that particular philosophy,

59  
00:04:55,470 --> 00:04:57,590  
if you will.

60  
00:04:57,590 --> 00:05:07,290  
And we met very interesting  
people throughout my childhood.

61  
00:05:07,290 --> 00:05:14,270

I was very lucky in  
this respect because we

62  
00:05:14,270 --> 00:05:19,610  
were exposed to the creme de  
la creme in terms of educated,

63  
00:05:19,610 --> 00:05:22,670  
culture people who made a  
very important contribution,

64  
00:05:22,670 --> 00:05:25,910  
Jewish as well as  
non-Jewish, but primarily

65  
00:05:25,910 --> 00:05:27,860  
culturally Jewish people.

66  
00:05:27,860 --> 00:05:30,020  
Not necessarily  
religious Jewish people

67  
00:05:30,020 --> 00:05:34,160  
because my only one who  
was religious Jewish

68  
00:05:34,160 --> 00:05:36,470  
was my grandfather.

69  
00:05:36,470 --> 00:05:44,540  
And he always came there on  
Saturdays for Shabbos meal.

70  
00:05:44,540 --> 00:05:49,220  
And he always-- and  
my responsibility

71  
00:05:49,220 --> 00:05:55,250  
was to bring him  
the book with a cap

72  
00:05:55,250 --> 00:05:59,180  
and then he prayed in a

prayer book after the meal.

73

00:05:59,180 --> 00:06:01,580

And that was very  
mysterious and always

74

00:06:01,580 --> 00:06:02,900

was dreadfully impressed.

75

00:06:02,900 --> 00:06:07,640

And none of us were  
very Jewish types.

76

00:06:07,640 --> 00:06:11,540

I, later on, just only found  
out about his background.

77

00:06:11,540 --> 00:06:15,650

I found out that  
my grand, grand,

78

00:06:15,650 --> 00:06:20,630

grandparents on his side,  
grand father's side,

79

00:06:20,630 --> 00:06:23,390

converted to Judaism for  
reasons which escape me.

80

00:06:23,390 --> 00:06:25,970

I've never found out.

81

00:06:25,970 --> 00:06:29,630

And they were Joseph  
and Maria Steiner.

82

00:06:29,630 --> 00:06:33,020

And I think they converted to--

83

00:06:33,020 --> 00:06:34,280

84

00:06:34,280 --> 00:06:36,850  
And little did they know  
what it would do to me.

85  
00:06:36,850 --> 00:06:41,150

86  
00:06:41,150 --> 00:06:43,910  
Could you talk a little  
about the anthroposophy?

87  
00:06:43,910 --> 00:06:46,820  
Well, anthroposophy  
is a movement

88  
00:06:46,820 --> 00:06:50,480  
which was founded  
by a man called

89  
00:06:50,480 --> 00:06:57,530  
Dr. Rudolf Steiner, no  
relationship, was an Austrian

90  
00:06:57,530 --> 00:07:00,580  
and died in 1925,  
as a matter of fact.

91  
00:07:00,580 --> 00:07:11,960  
And he developed the kind  
of philosophy of concerning

92  
00:07:11,960 --> 00:07:14,570  
humankind, anthropost--

93  
00:07:14,570 --> 00:07:23,630  
philosophy of man, which is very  
esoteric, very metaphysical.

94  
00:07:23,630 --> 00:07:34,290  
And is different from most of  
the other notions of that kind

95  
00:07:34,290 --> 00:07:40,220



perhaps related to some  
degree to theosophy,

96  
00:07:40,220 --> 00:07:44,690  
and because he started  
to be a leading

97  
00:07:44,690 --> 00:07:47,210  
member of the theosophy  
movement until he

98  
00:07:47,210 --> 00:07:49,460  
started his own movement.

99  
00:07:49,460 --> 00:07:53,750  
And just in a nutshell,  
that is perhaps

100  
00:07:53,750 --> 00:07:55,560  
the center of the whole thing.

101  
00:07:55,560 --> 00:07:58,430  
It's just more  
complex, but I don't

102  
00:07:58,430 --> 00:08:01,530  
think we should be talking  
about that in great detail

103  
00:08:01,530 --> 00:08:05,090  
because it would only produce  
some degree of confusion.

104  
00:08:05,090 --> 00:08:07,310  
Anyone who is interested  
can read about it.

105  
00:08:07,310 --> 00:08:10,550  
There are many books which  
have been written by him.

106  
00:08:10,550 --> 00:08:12,620  
That is to say,

primarily, lectures

107  
00:08:12,620 --> 00:08:16,550  
which then were transcribed  
and published in book form.

108  
00:08:16,550 --> 00:08:19,700

109  
00:08:19,700 --> 00:08:25,070  
Well, I mean, what is perhaps  
important or should be said,

110  
00:08:25,070 --> 00:08:31,730  
particularly in  
conjunction with survival,

111  
00:08:31,730 --> 00:08:35,030  
is the fact that I was  
very fortunate to have been

112  
00:08:35,030 --> 00:08:36,770  
born in that particular time.

113  
00:08:36,770 --> 00:08:46,910  
I was because I was exposed  
to, perhaps, the ideal time

114  
00:08:46,910 --> 00:08:52,550  
in respect to politics,  
in respect to democracy

115  
00:08:52,550 --> 00:08:59,030  
and in respect to individuals  
who became very important role

116  
00:08:59,030 --> 00:09:00,950  
models to me.

117  
00:09:00,950 --> 00:09:06,170  
And one person who permeated  
this sort of thing where people

118

00:09:06,170 --> 00:09:09,260  
like Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk  
who was the first president

119

00:09:09,260 --> 00:09:10,340  
of Czechoslovakia.

120

00:09:10,340 --> 00:09:12,380  
He was the founder  
of Czechoslovakia

121

00:09:12,380 --> 00:09:19,940  
and so-called the person  
who freed these peoples

122

00:09:19,940 --> 00:09:25,220  
from the Austrian-Hungarian  
Empire, which may or may not

123

00:09:25,220 --> 00:09:26,140  
have been a mistake.

124

00:09:26,140 --> 00:09:31,520  
I've had many discussions on  
that with notable historians

125

00:09:31,520 --> 00:09:37,280  
including [? Koroman ?] who  
felt that Masaryk was really

126

00:09:37,280 --> 00:09:44,120  
a person who did greater harm  
by actually participating

127

00:09:44,120 --> 00:09:48,060  
in the destruction of the  
Austro-Hungarian monarchy,

128

00:09:48,060 --> 00:09:50,660  
which he felt was a  
tremendous system.

129

00:09:50,660 --> 00:09:51,650  
And in a way, it was.

130  
00:09:51,650 --> 00:09:54,200  
So I mean, there are very  
interesting different notions

131  
00:09:54,200 --> 00:09:54,740  
about that.

132  
00:09:54,740 --> 00:09:58,580

133  
00:09:58,580 --> 00:10:03,050  
So I was exposed to role models  
during my early socialization,

134  
00:10:03,050 --> 00:10:09,620  
which were public figures  
whom we considered to be very

135  
00:10:09,620 --> 00:10:13,500  
important and trailblazing.

136  
00:10:13,500 --> 00:10:16,650  
Masaryk, of course,  
one of the foremost.

137  
00:10:16,650 --> 00:10:22,440  
And then in terms of  
family relationships,

138  
00:10:22,440 --> 00:10:27,030  
which looking back now and  
having some sort of comparison

139  
00:10:27,030 --> 00:10:32,730  
by virtue of my age, I  
found really quite ideal,

140  
00:10:32,730 --> 00:10:35,511  
although I had a very  
difficult father.

141  
00:10:35,511 --> 00:10:41,400  
A father who had a  
very bad temper and was

142  
00:10:41,400 --> 00:10:46,410  
a person who somehow had a  
problem finding his niche

143  
00:10:46,410 --> 00:10:48,750  
to really find the  
proper expression--

144  
00:10:48,750 --> 00:10:53,550  
the channels for his proper  
expression, self-expression.

145  
00:10:53,550 --> 00:10:58,180  
And other than that, all the  
other members of the family,

146  
00:10:58,180 --> 00:11:01,620  
which includes my grandparents--

147  
00:11:01,620 --> 00:11:04,170  
mother's grandparents had  
died when she was still

148  
00:11:04,170 --> 00:11:07,000  
a teenager, both of them.

149  
00:11:07,000 --> 00:11:09,620  
So I never met  
them, but they were

150  
00:11:09,620 --> 00:11:16,680  
exceedingly wealthy family.

151  
00:11:16,680 --> 00:11:23,010  
And just brought up with  
governess and English

152

00:11:23,010 --> 00:11:23,670  
governess.

153  
00:11:23,670 --> 00:11:26,790  
And they spoke  
languages, many languages

154  
00:11:26,790 --> 00:11:28,860  
when they were already  
still very young,

155  
00:11:28,860 --> 00:11:30,750  
particularly English.

156  
00:11:30,750 --> 00:11:34,380  
And that somehow  
rubbed off on me.

157  
00:11:34,380 --> 00:11:41,770  
Just rubbed off, them on  
me, and was very helpful.

158  
00:11:41,770 --> 00:11:44,250  
And so it was a very  
cosmopolitan sort

159  
00:11:44,250 --> 00:11:46,710  
of atmosphere, at  
that time in Prague

160  
00:11:46,710 --> 00:11:48,010  
as well as in our family.

161  
00:11:48,010 --> 00:11:52,710  
It was wide travels and very  
international connected.

162  
00:11:52,710 --> 00:11:57,180  
And so it gave me a very good  
basis in terms of orientation,

163  
00:11:57,180 --> 00:11:59,610  
finding meaning.

164  
00:11:59,610 --> 00:12:01,560  
And that was, of  
course, very important,

165  
00:12:01,560 --> 00:12:07,140  
later on, when we came  
into the situation

166  
00:12:07,140 --> 00:12:08,760  
when people were deported.

167  
00:12:08,760 --> 00:12:14,580  
Now the interesting thing is  
that this particular background

168  
00:12:14,580 --> 00:12:18,630  
was very helpful in  
providing me with some sort

169  
00:12:18,630 --> 00:12:21,870  
of a philosophy of life.

170  
00:12:21,870 --> 00:12:24,420  
So that this philosophy  
of life still

171  
00:12:24,420 --> 00:12:27,930  
had some very  
practical application

172  
00:12:27,930 --> 00:12:34,620  
during the times  
of the internment.

173  
00:12:34,620 --> 00:12:40,950  
And that, I recognized  
as so important also

174  
00:12:40,950 --> 00:12:44,880  
in terms of my  
present endeavor where

175

00:12:44,880 --> 00:12:47,580

I emphasized how important--  
that is of course,

176

00:12:47,580 --> 00:12:50,880

fragmented families and  
all this sort of thing

177

00:12:50,880 --> 00:12:53,760

was a very rare occasion.

178

00:12:53,760 --> 00:12:56,980

It existed and it also was  
in our immediate environment.

179

00:12:56,980 --> 00:12:59,250

And my mother,  
actually, got divorced

180

00:12:59,250 --> 00:13:01,260

when I was 13 from  
my father, which

181

00:13:01,260 --> 00:13:04,350

was a very traumatic event.

182

00:13:04,350 --> 00:13:07,470

Not so much for her and  
myself, but socially.

183

00:13:07,470 --> 00:13:13,300

In a way, it was a totally  
strange sort of thing to do

184

00:13:13,300 --> 00:13:24,160

But because there are so many  
important links in family

185

00:13:24,160 --> 00:13:30,580

relationships, important links  
so that if one link somehow

186



00:13:30,580 --> 00:13:33,760  
did not function that  
well-- just as my father

187  
00:13:33,760 --> 00:13:36,250  
didn't because he never  
really had learned

188  
00:13:36,250 --> 00:13:38,560  
to play the role of a father.

189  
00:13:38,560 --> 00:13:40,060  
It was very difficult for him.

190  
00:13:40,060 --> 00:13:42,100  
Not that he was not  
well-meaning and all that,

191  
00:13:42,100 --> 00:13:48,100  
but he just was very impatient  
and had problems with that.

192  
00:13:48,100 --> 00:13:49,720  
So many other people  
took his place.

193  
00:13:49,720 --> 00:13:56,110  
So that missing  
father didn't really

194  
00:13:56,110 --> 00:14:00,880  
create any sort of  
traumatic situation, which

195  
00:14:00,880 --> 00:14:02,733  
could have not been happening.

196  
00:14:02,733 --> 00:14:04,900  
Actually, he didn't create  
any because there were so

197  
00:14:04,900 --> 00:14:08,440  
many other people who

took, immediately--

198  
00:14:08,440 --> 00:14:10,570  
while he was not really  
functioning properly,

199  
00:14:10,570 --> 00:14:11,410  
took his place.

200  
00:14:11,410 --> 00:14:15,220

201  
00:14:15,220 --> 00:14:18,320  
So you lived with your  
mother, the two of you?

202  
00:14:18,320 --> 00:14:21,170  
Well, that was already '38.

203  
00:14:21,170 --> 00:14:24,550  
I mean, you see that was  
just barely before the--

204  
00:14:24,550 --> 00:14:26,695  
it was already  
trouble, you see and--

205  
00:14:26,695 --> 00:14:30,460

206  
00:14:30,460 --> 00:14:34,200  
What is your memories then  
from your younger days?

207  
00:14:34,200 --> 00:14:38,260  
My memory from younger  
days is just I went

208  
00:14:38,260 --> 00:14:39,610  
to an English kindergarten.

209  
00:14:39,610 --> 00:14:41,570

I went to a German  
primary school.

210  
00:14:41,570 --> 00:14:44,170  
And I went to a Czech  
gymnasium and, later,

211  
00:14:44,170 --> 00:14:47,530  
started medical studies back  
at the Charles University

212  
00:14:47,530 --> 00:14:48,920  
in Prague.

213  
00:14:48,920 --> 00:14:54,370  
So my memories is very  
harmonious and very

214  
00:14:54,370 --> 00:14:59,390  
reflected and  
tremendous childhood,

215  
00:14:59,390 --> 00:15:03,970  
which I would wish  
to my son, anyone

216  
00:15:03,970 --> 00:15:07,090  
who is a friend or  
particularly my enemies

217  
00:15:07,090 --> 00:15:09,640  
because then the chances  
are they would be my--

218  
00:15:09,640 --> 00:15:12,310  
they wouldn't be my enemies.

219  
00:15:12,310 --> 00:15:21,520  
So the important thing  
in terms of the Holocaust

220  
00:15:21,520 --> 00:15:24,250  
is that, as I said,

every Saturday, there

221

00:15:24,250 --> 00:15:26,440  
was kind of an institution.

222

00:15:26,440 --> 00:15:27,830  
My cousin and I only--

223

00:15:27,830 --> 00:15:32,890  
you see, this is  
my father's sister.

224

00:15:32,890 --> 00:15:39,700  
My mother had a sister in  
Prague and were closest

225

00:15:39,700 --> 00:15:43,810  
uncle and aunt, but they  
didn't have any children.

226

00:15:43,810 --> 00:15:46,990  
And my father's sister, Leah--

227

00:15:46,990 --> 00:15:49,570

228

00:15:49,570 --> 00:15:52,750  
beautiful, blonde, blue  
eyed individual, beautiful.

229

00:15:52,750 --> 00:15:58,870  
And she only had one son  
and his name was Tommy.

230

00:15:58,870 --> 00:16:01,450  
And Tommy was two  
years younger than I

231

00:16:01,450 --> 00:16:04,270  
and we were very  
close like brothers.

232

00:16:04,270 --> 00:16:08,590  
And we also, then,  
reunited quote,

233  
00:16:08,590 --> 00:16:10,768  
unquote in Theresienstadt.

234  
00:16:10,768 --> 00:16:14,440

235  
00:16:14,440 --> 00:16:18,250  
So Tommy and I, we  
always went on most

236  
00:16:18,250 --> 00:16:20,570  
Saturdays to my  
grandfather, and I

237  
00:16:20,570 --> 00:16:23,740  
we had this sort of  
tremendous meals.

238  
00:16:23,740 --> 00:16:34,720  
And in 1934, it  
must have been, they

239  
00:16:34,720 --> 00:16:36,740  
had all sorts of  
interesting gadgets.

240  
00:16:36,740 --> 00:16:42,350  
And my grandfather, my  
father had problems with it,

241  
00:16:42,350 --> 00:16:45,440  
was a sales--

242  
00:16:45,440 --> 00:16:48,710  
kind of a senior  
sales representative

243  
00:16:48,710 --> 00:16:54,620  
of a very large textile

manufacturing company,

244

00:16:54,620 --> 00:16:59,300  
producing textiles for shirts.

245

00:16:59,300 --> 00:17:02,490  
And to me, it was  
tremendously interesting

246

00:17:02,490 --> 00:17:04,525  
because all these  
fabrics and all that.

247

00:17:04,525 --> 00:17:05,900  
And I just-- from  
that, you know,

248

00:17:05,900 --> 00:17:08,660  
he always gave me his samples.

249

00:17:08,660 --> 00:17:11,839  
And he didn't-- traveled quite  
a bit and had a tremendous

250

00:17:11,839 --> 00:17:12,500  
personality.

251

00:17:12,500 --> 00:17:17,160  
He was very witty and was just  
a fantastic sort of human being.

252

00:17:17,160 --> 00:17:22,349  
And so was my grandmother.

253

00:17:22,349 --> 00:17:25,579  
So this sort of  
institutionalized event

254

00:17:25,579 --> 00:17:31,040  
always brought some interesting  
encounters and events

255

00:17:31,040 --> 00:17:35,540  
during these  
Saturdays and feasts

256  
00:17:35,540 --> 00:17:37,580  
in so many ways, real feasts.

257  
00:17:37,580 --> 00:17:41,890  
And in '34, as I said  
earlier, I just--

258  
00:17:41,890 --> 00:17:47,900  
they'd just had received, in  
'34, a wireless set radio.

259  
00:17:47,900 --> 00:17:52,220  
And I still remember that  
it was kind of oval shaped,

260  
00:17:52,220 --> 00:17:54,800  
made of wood, of course,  
as all these radios

261  
00:17:54,800 --> 00:17:55,910  
at that particular time.

262  
00:17:55,910 --> 00:17:58,130  
They were wooden cabinet.

263  
00:17:58,130 --> 00:18:01,010  
And name was standard--  
the standard.

264  
00:18:01,010 --> 00:18:04,370  
And the first time,  
actually, they

265  
00:18:04,370 --> 00:18:07,130  
turned it on and  
all that, I heard

266  
00:18:07,130 --> 00:18:10,730  
Hitler speak during a rally.

267

00:18:10,730 --> 00:18:13,970

And just a friend of  
mine came for a visit

268

00:18:13,970 --> 00:18:17,990

to give a speech back  
at the University,

269

00:18:17,990 --> 00:18:20,168

and so we discussed  
some old times.

270

00:18:20,168 --> 00:18:21,710

And I just mentioned  
to him, you see,

271

00:18:21,710 --> 00:18:25,370

that's something which  
he has come to my mind.

272

00:18:25,370 --> 00:18:28,760

And of course, at  
that particular age,

273

00:18:28,760 --> 00:18:33,770

I was about eight years old--

274

00:18:33,770 --> 00:18:36,610

275

00:18:36,610 --> 00:18:39,650

eight years old.

276

00:18:39,650 --> 00:18:41,840

I've heard this  
voice and, of course,

277

00:18:41,840 --> 00:18:44,540

didn't understand at all  
what he said and all that.

278



00:18:44,540 --> 00:18:50,210  
He was just shouting and  
then I got very disturbed.

279  
00:18:50,210 --> 00:18:51,140  
It's really terrible.

280  
00:18:51,140 --> 00:18:52,610  
It's just a terrible thing.

281  
00:18:52,610 --> 00:18:55,610  
Something terrible, just  
the feeling I've had.

282  
00:18:55,610 --> 00:18:57,590  
And my parents, of  
course, had much better

283  
00:18:57,590 --> 00:19:01,460  
than my grandparents and all  
the other ones who listened--

284  
00:19:01,460 --> 00:19:04,220  
had a much better  
notion in terms

285  
00:19:04,220 --> 00:19:06,920  
of what was all about Hitler.

286  
00:19:06,920 --> 00:19:10,190  
Because at that time,  
'34, it was already

287  
00:19:10,190 --> 00:19:12,680  
well known what he stood for.

288  
00:19:12,680 --> 00:19:14,090  
And that remained in my mind.

289  
00:19:14,090 --> 00:19:15,770  
It was kind of a  
very dreadful type

290

00:19:15,770 --> 00:19:17,360  
of experience, kind of an awe.

291

00:19:17,360 --> 00:19:21,980  
This awesome-- sort of  
awesome dramatic experience.

292

00:19:21,980 --> 00:19:25,640  
Although, as I said, I didn't  
understand hardly a word,

293

00:19:25,640 --> 00:19:29,480  
but the tone and the whole  
thing was just a very disturbing

294

00:19:29,480 --> 00:19:29,990  
thing to me.

295

00:19:29,990 --> 00:19:32,540

296

00:19:32,540 --> 00:19:36,260  
So things of that  
nature, of course,

297

00:19:36,260 --> 00:19:38,120  
occurred from time to time.

298

00:19:38,120 --> 00:19:44,630  
But politically, we all were  
very focused on the Czech

299

00:19:44,630 --> 00:19:49,970  
democracy, which particularly  
during the life of President

300

00:19:49,970 --> 00:19:56,510  
Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk  
was very safe and secure.

301

00:19:56,510 --> 00:19:59,180

302  
00:19:59,180 --> 00:20:02,750  
So that we didn't have  
any sort of fears.

303  
00:20:02,750 --> 00:20:07,430  
However, what changed later on  
when I was still very small,

304  
00:20:07,430 --> 00:20:13,580  
in '34, we had a lot of refugees  
coming to Czechoslovakia

305  
00:20:13,580 --> 00:20:14,840  
from Germany.

306  
00:20:14,840 --> 00:20:21,170  
And that is some  
sort of to speak of--

307  
00:20:21,170 --> 00:20:26,750  
so my parents and my  
relatives immediately

308  
00:20:26,750 --> 00:20:31,010  
became aware of all the  
refugees from Hitler--

309  
00:20:31,010 --> 00:20:34,310  
Germany, and gave them shelter.

310  
00:20:34,310 --> 00:20:40,460  
And every time, every week,  
some child came to eat with us.

311  
00:20:40,460 --> 00:20:45,440  
And I remember that somehow I  
don't always behave very well.

312  
00:20:45,440 --> 00:20:48,740  
I felt kind of an  
intruder coming in

313

00:20:48,740 --> 00:20:52,670  
and I just had absolutely no  
notion about the significance

314

00:20:52,670 --> 00:20:53,490  
of the whole thing.

315

00:20:53,490 --> 00:20:57,930  
So at times, I didn't behave  
very nicely to these children.

316

00:20:57,930 --> 00:21:08,990  
And I recollect that with some  
kind of shame and trepidation.

317

00:21:08,990 --> 00:21:13,443  
But it only points out that the  
entire clan-- the entire family

318

00:21:13,443 --> 00:21:15,110  
was very much aware  
of what was going on

319

00:21:15,110 --> 00:21:18,980  
and also were very  
supportive to the people who

320

00:21:18,980 --> 00:21:22,220  
came as refugees  
in terms of money,

321

00:21:22,220 --> 00:21:26,840  
inviting them and supporting  
them, trying to find jobs

322

00:21:26,840 --> 00:21:28,710  
for them and what have you.

323

00:21:28,710 --> 00:21:31,760  
Just providing for  
them a support system.

324

00:21:31,760 --> 00:21:34,810  
So very in early in  
life, I became aware--

325  
00:21:34,810 --> 00:21:40,460  
very sensitive to the need to  
be supportive of other people

326  
00:21:40,460 --> 00:21:44,630  
and be empathetic.

327  
00:21:44,630 --> 00:21:48,740  
And that was a very  
important impulse,

328  
00:21:48,740 --> 00:21:49,970  
which then was developed.

329  
00:21:49,970 --> 00:21:54,000  
And my mother, especially,  
was very conscious of that

330  
00:21:54,000 --> 00:21:56,240  
and I think she tried  
to instill that in me.

331  
00:21:56,240 --> 00:21:59,270  
So that when I  
was a small child,

332  
00:21:59,270 --> 00:22:04,250  
I was a person with  
compassion and concern

333  
00:22:04,250 --> 00:22:05,450  
for the needs of others.

334  
00:22:05,450 --> 00:22:07,490  
And that, I think, was  
a very important thing

335  
00:22:07,490 --> 00:22:09,770  
in terms of my

later development.

336

00:22:09,770 --> 00:22:18,410

And in a way, I'm sold on  
the pedagogy of my parents

337

00:22:18,410 --> 00:22:22,580

because they were very  
important role models to me.

338

00:22:22,580 --> 00:22:24,910

Did your mother's family have  
a religious point of view

339

00:22:24,910 --> 00:22:25,940

as grandparents?

340

00:22:25,940 --> 00:22:30,290

Oh, yeah, there were  
anthroposophist, of course.

341

00:22:30,290 --> 00:22:33,160

The other, with the  
exception of my grandfather,

342

00:22:33,160 --> 00:22:35,600

they were all kind  
of cultural Jews,

343

00:22:35,600 --> 00:22:38,090

but they're very  
assimilated Jews.

344

00:22:38,090 --> 00:22:42,200

And that was not an emphasis.

345

00:22:42,200 --> 00:22:49,190

Judaism was not an emphasis  
except the cultural aspects

346

00:22:49,190 --> 00:22:54,470

of people with  
Jewish background who

347  
00:22:54,470 --> 00:23:00,830  
were very significant-- made  
very significant contribution

348  
00:23:00,830 --> 00:23:03,570  
to Czech society.

349  
00:23:03,570 --> 00:23:05,800  
And that, to me,  
was very important.

350  
00:23:05,800 --> 00:23:07,490  
That was very important.

351  
00:23:07,490 --> 00:23:13,610  
But there was no chauvinism,  
no flag waving or religiosity,

352  
00:23:13,610 --> 00:23:15,830  
which was emphasized.

353  
00:23:15,830 --> 00:23:18,270  
On the contrary,  
anthroposophy, of course,

354  
00:23:18,270 --> 00:23:23,510  
is very much pointing  
to the figure of Christ.

355  
00:23:23,510 --> 00:23:28,220  
And he's a central figure in  
that particular philosophy.

356  
00:23:28,220 --> 00:23:31,130

357  
00:23:31,130 --> 00:23:33,590  
So that I was exposed  
to the leading

358  
00:23:33,590 --> 00:23:37,190

people on the Jewish faith  
and we discussed these things.

359  
00:23:37,190 --> 00:23:39,470  
My parents and all that  
were very open and not

360  
00:23:39,470 --> 00:23:43,100  
at all prejudiced, in  
one way or another.

361  
00:23:43,100 --> 00:23:45,650  
And then, I also  
met very important

362  
00:23:45,650 --> 00:23:49,220  
people who were of different  
other faiths including

363  
00:23:49,220 --> 00:23:52,730  
Catholics and all that, who made  
a very deep impression to me

364  
00:23:52,730 --> 00:23:54,710  
even before I got into camp.

365  
00:23:54,710 --> 00:23:58,550  
For example, one of  
my close associates

366  
00:23:58,550 --> 00:24:06,380  
was the cardinal of Prague,  
Joseph Baron, who was not

367  
00:24:06,380 --> 00:24:09,590  
only fighting the Nazis,  
but he was also fighting

368  
00:24:09,590 --> 00:24:12,590  
the communists and  
was a prisoner of both

369  
00:24:12,590 --> 00:24:19,010



until he was permitted  
to leave for Rome.

370  
00:24:19,010 --> 00:24:22,670  
And he was very  
instrumental in helping

371  
00:24:22,670 --> 00:24:32,510  
me to skip the country  
in 1949, and helped me

372  
00:24:32,510 --> 00:24:36,110  
with very important contacts in  
Italy because I went via Italy.

373  
00:24:36,110 --> 00:24:40,370  
And I had escorts and  
everything, military escorts

374  
00:24:40,370 --> 00:24:41,050  
and everything.

375  
00:24:41,050 --> 00:24:43,000  
You know, someone who  
came with nothing,

376  
00:24:43,000 --> 00:24:45,920  
I didn't even have a  
handkerchief to mine.

377  
00:24:45,920 --> 00:24:50,600  
And so this sort of networking--  
what we call today networking

378  
00:24:50,600 --> 00:24:51,590  
was very important.

379  
00:24:51,590 --> 00:24:53,630  
And in all this sort  
of significance,

380  
00:24:53,630 --> 00:24:58,970  
I recognized, of course, ex post

facto, how important it is to--

381  
00:24:58,970 --> 00:25:02,300  
in contrast to what we have  
today where we were very, very

382  
00:25:02,300 --> 00:25:05,870  
lonely individuals, those  
survivors, very isolated,

383  
00:25:05,870 --> 00:25:07,170  
socially and otherwise.

384  
00:25:07,170 --> 00:25:15,560  
And so that, of course, comes  
to mind when we just experience,

385  
00:25:15,560 --> 00:25:19,460  
many of us, exactly the opposite  
where we just simply don't fit.

386  
00:25:19,460 --> 00:25:25,940  
And lots of talk and  
no action, in terms

387  
00:25:25,940 --> 00:25:27,290  
of survivors and all that.

388  
00:25:27,290 --> 00:25:31,030  
And that's one of  
my concerns anyway.

389  
00:25:31,030 --> 00:25:34,650

390  
00:25:34,650 --> 00:25:36,540  
I was wondering, also,  
when you were young,

391  
00:25:36,540 --> 00:25:41,445  
as you were saying, even in  
'34, you were hearing Hitler.

392

00:25:41,445 --> 00:25:44,010

While your family was  
receiving refugees,

393

00:25:44,010 --> 00:25:46,450

did they have any  
sense, that you knew of,

394

00:25:46,450 --> 00:25:51,510

of the terrible things that were  
happening to Jews in Germany?

395

00:25:51,510 --> 00:25:52,570

Well, I think so.

396

00:25:52,570 --> 00:25:56,970

I mean, except I personally  
didn't at that particular time,

397

00:25:56,970 --> 00:26:00,180

for sure, because I would  
imagine that my parents did.

398

00:26:00,180 --> 00:26:02,130

But they certainly  
didn't share it with me

399

00:26:02,130 --> 00:26:05,140

because they felt I  
was not ready for it.

400

00:26:05,140 --> 00:26:10,380

So all these sort of things,  
the details or the things

401

00:26:10,380 --> 00:26:13,230

which we know today, from  
the very beginning in 1933,

402

00:26:13,230 --> 00:26:14,760

particularly the  
thing which I've

403

00:26:14,760 --> 00:26:18,150

researched all that, of  
course, I had no idea at all.

404

00:26:18,150 --> 00:26:20,980

Except I know some bad  
things were going on.

405

00:26:20,980 --> 00:26:23,970

But a child of that age just  
really couldn't really quite

406

00:26:23,970 --> 00:26:24,570

picture that.

407

00:26:24,570 --> 00:26:27,060

Because to me, it was just  
like a different world.

408

00:26:27,060 --> 00:26:29,340

It was just a totally  
different reality, which

409

00:26:29,340 --> 00:26:32,400

I couldn't relate to at all.

410

00:26:32,400 --> 00:26:34,650

So I'm sure that my  
parents just simply

411

00:26:34,650 --> 00:26:36,990

didn't want to involve  
me because, somehow, they

412

00:26:36,990 --> 00:26:40,370

also were very protective  
of me in terms of it.

413

00:26:40,370 --> 00:26:42,690

And also, they felt  
that it's in Germany.

414

00:26:42,690 --> 00:26:47,320  
And really, Czechoslovakia  
was so self-contained in a way

415  
00:26:47,320 --> 00:26:50,550  
and so secure at that  
particular time--

416  
00:26:50,550 --> 00:26:52,652  
during that particular  
time, that they felt, well,

417  
00:26:52,652 --> 00:26:53,610  
there is not very much.

418  
00:26:53,610 --> 00:26:56,280  
Until, of course, '38  
and all that sort of--

419  
00:26:56,280 --> 00:27:00,495  
and that actually started early  
because the death of Masaryk,

420  
00:27:00,495 --> 00:27:06,570  
he died of old age, I think  
was the turn of the tide.

421  
00:27:06,570 --> 00:27:09,090  
It somehow changed  
the entire issue

422  
00:27:09,090 --> 00:27:12,810  
because his successor,  
Edvard Benes,

423  
00:27:12,810 --> 00:27:14,890  
just simply was not at all--

424  
00:27:14,890 --> 00:27:17,430  
and there, he made a mistake  
that he was his choice

425  
00:27:17,430 --> 00:27:19,080

and he became his successor.

426

00:27:19,080 --> 00:27:22,470

And I think that was a terrible  
tragedy because the man was

427

00:27:22,470 --> 00:27:23,820

not up to it.

428

00:27:23,820 --> 00:27:26,850

And many of the things which  
happened in Central Europe

429

00:27:26,850 --> 00:27:33,600

were due to his inactivity and  
being dreadfully misguided.

430

00:27:33,600 --> 00:27:34,720

And though those people--

431

00:27:34,720 --> 00:27:40,380

this person was very  
educated, supposedly educated

432

00:27:40,380 --> 00:27:42,540

and experienced,  
seasoned statesmen,

433

00:27:42,540 --> 00:27:44,250

but he just simply  
didn't live up

434

00:27:44,250 --> 00:27:46,260

to the hopes of all the people.

435

00:27:46,260 --> 00:27:50,850

And the fact that I'm here  
would say to a large extent

436

00:27:50,850 --> 00:27:53,580

due to the fact that he failed.

437

00:27:53,580 --> 00:27:56,490  
Otherwise, I wouldn't be here.

438  
00:27:56,490 --> 00:28:02,970  
When did the Czechs  
begin to feel

439  
00:28:02,970 --> 00:28:05,610  
the political climate changing?

440  
00:28:05,610 --> 00:28:09,280  
Well, I think '37  
and '38, of course,

441  
00:28:09,280 --> 00:28:13,800  
was very obvious and '39.

442  
00:28:13,800 --> 00:28:15,510  
In what ways?

443  
00:28:15,510 --> 00:28:16,230  
In what ways?

444  
00:28:16,230 --> 00:28:21,330  
Well, simply because  
they realized

445  
00:28:21,330 --> 00:28:24,960  
that there was an aggressor  
with an eye on Czechoslovakia

446  
00:28:24,960 --> 00:28:28,260  
and that there may be  
a war with Germany.

447  
00:28:28,260 --> 00:28:29,880  
And that's  
particularly something

448  
00:28:29,880 --> 00:28:36,600  
which there was full,  
total mobilization and were

449

00:28:36,600 --> 00:28:38,010  
prepared for air raids.

450

00:28:38,010 --> 00:28:39,600  
I still have a--

451

00:28:39,600 --> 00:28:42,930  
I think I brought  
it with me actually.

452

00:28:42,930 --> 00:28:46,620  
In a crowd where we're just  
like in Israel, for example.

453

00:28:46,620 --> 00:28:48,690  
They're just getting  
gas masks and all

454

00:28:48,690 --> 00:28:53,220  
that because of the Iraqis.

455

00:28:53,220 --> 00:28:56,430  
We were getting exactly  
the same situation,

456

00:28:56,430 --> 00:29:03,290  
buying gas masks, people's  
gas masks during '39

457

00:29:03,290 --> 00:29:05,520  
when people thought that  
there's going to be a war.

458

00:29:05,520 --> 00:29:07,860  
And they're ready to go.

459

00:29:07,860 --> 00:29:11,610  
Except it was prevented by  
the decision of Benes who said

460

00:29:11,610 --> 00:29:13,680  
we have absolutely no chance.



461  
00:29:13,680 --> 00:29:15,150  
It is something which--

462  
00:29:15,150 --> 00:29:22,020  
and so the joke had it  
that Benes had a plan

463  
00:29:22,020 --> 00:29:25,950  
and his plan was an aeroplane.

464  
00:29:25,950 --> 00:29:30,870  
And that was one of  
the greatest tragedies

465  
00:29:30,870 --> 00:29:34,920  
because as I've talked to,  
later on after the war,

466  
00:29:34,920 --> 00:29:41,620  
to SS Generals  
and said, John, we

467  
00:29:41,620 --> 00:29:42,930  
were not at all well prepared.

468  
00:29:42,930 --> 00:29:45,480  
And if your Czechs  
would have gone to war,

469  
00:29:45,480 --> 00:29:49,110  
the chances are that Hitler  
would have changed his tune.

470  
00:29:49,110 --> 00:29:51,030  
Not only that, but  
so many other people

471  
00:29:51,030 --> 00:29:55,950  
would have joined in with  
Czechoslovakia against Germany.

472

00:29:55,950 --> 00:29:59,880

And so he was very  
upfront and said, I mean,

473

00:29:59,880 --> 00:30:02,190

that was a big mistake.

474

00:30:02,190 --> 00:30:02,940

We were not ready.

475

00:30:02,940 --> 00:30:03,640

Did you all know that back then?

476

00:30:03,640 --> 00:30:05,760

It happened to be  
that this SS General--

477

00:30:05,760 --> 00:30:10,840

this SS General happened to be  
one of my namesake's, a fellow

478

00:30:10,840 --> 00:30:13,365

called Felix Steiner--

479

00:30:13,365 --> 00:30:17,130

was very nice guy,  
actually, so very nice guy.

480

00:30:17,130 --> 00:30:18,242

He was Waffen SS.

481

00:30:18,242 --> 00:30:20,700

He didn't have anything to do  
with any of the concentration

482

00:30:20,700 --> 00:30:21,760

camps.

483

00:30:21,760 --> 00:30:27,030

He was a professional  
soldier and not a Nazi.

484

00:30:27,030 --> 00:30:28,950  
But he wanted to make a career.

485  
00:30:28,950 --> 00:30:30,510  
He was an opportunist.

486  
00:30:30,510 --> 00:30:34,190  
And he just joined the SS  
because he said, hey, there I

487  
00:30:34,190 --> 00:30:36,670  
have a career, which he did.

488  
00:30:36,670 --> 00:30:39,400

489  
00:30:39,400 --> 00:30:43,480  
So he said it's just  
unbelievable some of the things

490  
00:30:43,480 --> 00:30:45,400  
Hitler were having.

491  
00:30:45,400 --> 00:30:48,110  
Were you aware of  
any anti-Semitism?

492  
00:30:48,110 --> 00:30:48,610  
Yeah.

493  
00:30:48,610 --> 00:30:49,652  
Can you tell us about it?

494  
00:30:49,652 --> 00:30:51,220  
Well, there was  
a fellow called--

495  
00:30:51,220 --> 00:30:52,400  
I remember his name.

496  
00:30:52,400 --> 00:30:59,980  
There was one kind of

small, impoverished addition

497  
00:30:59,980 --> 00:31:01,990  
of the Lord  
Fauntleroy, and he was

498  
00:31:01,990 --> 00:31:06,910  
one of my fellow schoolmates.

499  
00:31:06,910 --> 00:31:12,400  
And small fellow and just really  
looked impoverished addition.

500  
00:31:12,400 --> 00:31:17,880  
Anyway, just very snobbish  
parents and name was Miller.

501  
00:31:17,880 --> 00:31:21,790

502  
00:31:21,790 --> 00:31:27,170  
So the school I went to  
was the primary school.

503  
00:31:27,170 --> 00:31:30,680  
In primary school,  
there was always

504  
00:31:30,680 --> 00:31:36,110  
some sort of classes  
for catechism

505  
00:31:36,110 --> 00:31:37,940  
and all that, which  
I didn't attend

506  
00:31:37,940 --> 00:31:41,300  
because my parents didn't want  
me to attend that, of course.

507  
00:31:41,300 --> 00:31:44,270  
And there was no  
other, then there was

508  
00:31:44,270 --> 00:31:48,210  
Catholic teaching of religion.

509  
00:31:48,210 --> 00:31:50,500  
And so a Catholic priest  
came in and all that.

510  
00:31:50,500 --> 00:31:58,110

511  
00:31:58,110 --> 00:32:00,970  
Some kids and I just talked  
about something and said,

512  
00:32:00,970 --> 00:32:05,420  
well, you know the Jews killed  
Christ and crucified him.

513  
00:32:05,420 --> 00:32:09,030  
And I said, well, yes.

514  
00:32:09,030 --> 00:32:14,290  
Well, that's-- but you know  
the Jews are responsible.

515  
00:32:14,290 --> 00:32:15,630  
I said, hey.

516  
00:32:15,630 --> 00:32:18,420  
I was, of course, very  
steeped in all these things

517  
00:32:18,420 --> 00:32:22,890  
because I had my private  
lessons in religion

518  
00:32:22,890 --> 00:32:27,660  
and all that, went to a  
minister who did that.

519  
00:32:27,660 --> 00:32:31,500

And I said, well, yes.

520  
00:32:31,500 --> 00:32:35,850  
But you see, he was a Jew too.

521  
00:32:35,850 --> 00:32:38,180  
And so he said--

522  
00:32:38,180 --> 00:32:40,470  
he told that to his  
teacher and said,

523  
00:32:40,470 --> 00:32:44,760  
tell this dirty Jew to keep his  
mouth shut or something like

524  
00:32:44,760 --> 00:32:46,350  
that, some of sort of remark.

525  
00:32:46,350 --> 00:32:47,190  
And I was really--

526  
00:32:47,190 --> 00:32:49,080  
I was really very upset.

527  
00:32:49,080 --> 00:32:52,710  
And then there is some sort  
of, in this Miller fellow,

528  
00:32:52,710 --> 00:32:53,880  
just innuendos.

529  
00:32:53,880 --> 00:32:57,900  
And he wanted to  
invite me to his place,

530  
00:32:57,900 --> 00:33:01,080  
but his mother didn't want  
to because she said, well,

531  
00:33:01,080 --> 00:33:01,800  
you are--

532  
00:33:01,800 --> 00:33:03,925  
you don't belong to us or  
something of that nature.

533  
00:33:03,925 --> 00:33:05,508  
And I said, what do  
you mean you don't

534  
00:33:05,508 --> 00:33:06,840  
belong to us and all this?

535  
00:33:06,840 --> 00:33:08,430  
And these sort of  
things came up.

536  
00:33:08,430 --> 00:33:10,110  
That was one thing.

537  
00:33:10,110 --> 00:33:13,050  
So that was one of  
the first episode,

538  
00:33:13,050 --> 00:33:15,390  
and that was just  
very rare, actually.

539  
00:33:15,390 --> 00:33:20,920  
And then there was  
actually two episodes

540  
00:33:20,920 --> 00:33:23,130  
which stayed in my mind.

541  
00:33:23,130 --> 00:33:31,710  
And the second  
episode was just--

542  
00:33:31,710 --> 00:33:39,690  
must have been either  
'37 or '38 and we

543

00:33:39,690 --> 00:33:45,600  
were riding the bus going  
from some-- coming home.

544

00:33:45,600 --> 00:33:52,380  
And I was very lots into  
sports and did all sorts

545

00:33:52,380 --> 00:33:57,390  
of things and kind  
of a role model

546

00:33:57,390 --> 00:34:03,660  
for an association of  
gym people who went

547

00:34:03,660 --> 00:34:05,910  
into gymnastics and all that.

548

00:34:05,910 --> 00:34:08,389  
So I did a lot of  
things and I was very--

549

00:34:08,389 --> 00:34:12,630  
I was always very rubbery  
and tremendous runner

550

00:34:12,630 --> 00:34:14,380  
and all this sort of thing.

551

00:34:14,380 --> 00:34:29,320  
And so in this bus when  
he stepped out very close

552

00:34:29,320 --> 00:34:37,170  
to our home, I always  
jumped off the bus earlier

553

00:34:37,170 --> 00:34:41,860  
before it actually stopped  
to the dismay of my mother.

554

00:34:41,860 --> 00:34:47,139



And so she was a bit on  
the overprotective side.

555  
00:34:47,139 --> 00:34:49,800  
There's no question about that.

556  
00:34:49,800 --> 00:34:55,480  
And so she shouted at that  
particular time and in German.

557  
00:34:55,480 --> 00:34:57,610  
And she was a very dark--  
could have been an India.

558  
00:34:57,610 --> 00:35:02,640  
I mean, she was very dark and  
kind of small and all that.

559  
00:35:02,640 --> 00:35:05,440  
Obviously, the Czech type.

560  
00:35:05,440 --> 00:35:08,560  
She was very obviously  
not a Czech .

561  
00:35:08,560 --> 00:35:12,330  
And what she was shouting  
at me just to stop and not

562  
00:35:12,330 --> 00:35:16,260  
to jump off the  
still moving bus,

563  
00:35:16,260 --> 00:35:20,700  
there was one man who made a  
very interesting remark, which

564  
00:35:20,700 --> 00:35:23,610  
disturbed her more  
than it disturbed me.

565  
00:35:23,610 --> 00:35:25,860  
He said, Hitler!

566  
00:35:25,860 --> 00:35:28,200  
Hitler!

567  
00:35:28,200 --> 00:35:29,770  
Only Jews, only Jews.

568  
00:35:29,770 --> 00:35:30,270  
Hitler!

569  
00:35:30,270 --> 00:35:30,770  
Hitler!

570  
00:35:30,770 --> 00:35:34,270

571  
00:35:34,270 --> 00:35:35,830  
And that stopped me.

572  
00:35:35,830 --> 00:35:37,420  
And I said, my  
God, what is wrong?

573  
00:35:37,420 --> 00:35:40,150  
My mother was terribly upset.

574  
00:35:40,150 --> 00:35:42,940  
And when we went out,  
we went to a policeman

575  
00:35:42,940 --> 00:35:45,850  
and she complained about  
this person's remarks, which

576  
00:35:45,850 --> 00:35:49,600  
was kind of naive  
and all because he

577  
00:35:49,600 --> 00:35:53,680  
was gone with the wind anyway.

578

00:35:53,680 --> 00:35:58,060  
But that was actually two  
incidents through which

579  
00:35:58,060 --> 00:36:00,940  
the first awareness.

580  
00:36:00,940 --> 00:36:05,310  
So when your fellow students  
considered you Jewish.

581  
00:36:05,310 --> 00:36:07,860  
That's right.

582  
00:36:07,860 --> 00:36:10,260  
Did you think they considered  
themselves cultural Jews?

583  
00:36:10,260 --> 00:36:11,835  
Oh, yeah, I would say that.

584  
00:36:11,835 --> 00:36:13,320  
I think absolutely, yeah.

585  
00:36:13,320 --> 00:36:18,210  
Absolutely, in  
spite of their faith

586  
00:36:18,210 --> 00:36:20,160  
which was very everything else.

587  
00:36:20,160 --> 00:36:24,330  
But culturally,  
absolutely, yeah.

588  
00:36:24,330 --> 00:36:34,320  
And which was a very enrichment  
of the environment, which

589  
00:36:34,320 --> 00:36:36,480  
is exceedingly  
important influence

590

00:36:36,480 --> 00:36:38,400  
on me and certainly on them.

591

00:36:38,400 --> 00:36:45,470

592

00:36:45,470 --> 00:36:47,750  
So that was the first  
awareness I've had.

593

00:36:47,750 --> 00:36:55,220  
And then I joined the Boy  
Scouts when I was about 12,

594

00:36:55,220 --> 00:36:59,900  
and was an Eagle Scout and all  
that sort of thing and leader

595

00:36:59,900 --> 00:37:02,375  
of a group of the Owls.

596

00:37:02,375 --> 00:37:07,220

597

00:37:07,220 --> 00:37:11,960  
And that was already then during  
a time when we were occupied.

598

00:37:11,960 --> 00:37:14,090  
I was still in it, I remember.

599

00:37:14,090 --> 00:37:17,650  
And before I got  
actually accepted,

600

00:37:17,650 --> 00:37:19,370  
there was also a  
namesake of mine,

601

00:37:19,370 --> 00:37:22,860  
also his name was Steiner,  
who was in charge.

602  
00:37:22,860 --> 00:37:25,890  
He was in charge of the  
whole division of Scouts

603  
00:37:25,890 --> 00:37:28,790  
or the district Scout leader.

604  
00:37:28,790 --> 00:37:31,160  
And so my mother  
and I went there,

605  
00:37:31,160 --> 00:37:37,610  
it was not very far from  
where we lived, and introduced

606  
00:37:37,610 --> 00:37:42,620  
ourselves, me and all that to be  
accepted as a member of the Boy

607  
00:37:42,620 --> 00:37:43,760  
Scouts.

608  
00:37:43,760 --> 00:37:49,940  
And then he made some  
sort of innuendos, Jewish

609  
00:37:49,940 --> 00:37:51,020  
and all this and that.

610  
00:37:51,020 --> 00:37:54,770  
And that continued during the  
time I was actually in it.

611  
00:37:54,770 --> 00:37:57,490  
And that also was the third  
incident which somehow

612  
00:37:57,490 --> 00:38:00,171  
was an eye-opening experience.

613  
00:38:00,171 --> 00:38:06,312

614  
00:38:06,312 --> 00:38:07,020  
Was your family--

615  
00:38:07,020 --> 00:38:09,185  
But they're very infrequent.

616  
00:38:09,185 --> 00:38:11,310  
All these sort of things  
were relatively infrequent

617  
00:38:11,310 --> 00:38:12,780  
and that's why I  
just recollected

618  
00:38:12,780 --> 00:38:17,160  
sort of three events, which I  
think made me more sensitive.

619  
00:38:17,160 --> 00:38:21,090  
Because before that, my identity  
was everything else but Jewish

620  
00:38:21,090 --> 00:38:22,110  
or this or that.

621  
00:38:22,110 --> 00:38:23,580  
I really didn't  
have no identity.

622  
00:38:23,580 --> 00:38:26,490

623  
00:38:26,490 --> 00:38:30,370  
And you asked a question.

624  
00:38:30,370 --> 00:38:33,748  
I was wondering if you were  
sensing fears in your family

625  
00:38:33,748 --> 00:38:34,290

by that time.

626  
00:38:34,290 --> 00:38:36,990

627  
00:38:36,990 --> 00:38:37,860  
No fears.

628  
00:38:37,860 --> 00:38:40,950  
Unfortunately, no fears.

629  
00:38:40,950 --> 00:38:43,290  
No fears because very  
many of our friends--

630  
00:38:43,290 --> 00:38:45,060  
since you mentioned  
that, it's just always

631  
00:38:45,060 --> 00:38:47,580  
good to just ask questions  
so that I can fill

632  
00:38:47,580 --> 00:38:51,420  
in some because they lead  
to some associations which

633  
00:38:51,420 --> 00:38:53,610  
might be interesting.

634  
00:38:53,610 --> 00:38:56,640  
Many of our friends  
left in the '30s,

635  
00:38:56,640 --> 00:39:00,210  
and all sorts of  
different places

636  
00:39:00,210 --> 00:39:02,850  
depending where they could go.

637  
00:39:02,850 --> 00:39:05,377

And yeah, it became a concern.

638

00:39:05,377 --> 00:39:06,210

Oh, they're leaving?

639

00:39:06,210 --> 00:39:09,540

Well, it's Hitler and  
all this and that.

640

00:39:09,540 --> 00:39:11,550

So that started,  
actually, in the '30s.

641

00:39:11,550 --> 00:39:16,440

It was just started  
long before the blow up.

642

00:39:16,440 --> 00:39:20,850

And my mother was also and --

643

00:39:20,850 --> 00:39:24,240

So she insisted, well, maybe  
we should learn some Spanish

644

00:39:24,240 --> 00:39:29,040

because we may go to South  
America or something.

645

00:39:29,040 --> 00:39:32,920

So I learned Spanish and  
I took lessons in Spanish,

646

00:39:32,920 --> 00:39:39,510

which evaporated very  
quickly because I didn't--

647

00:39:39,510 --> 00:39:41,630

So then I said, well,  
what's going on?

648

00:39:41,630 --> 00:39:43,920

So there, just around '37--



649

00:39:43,920 --> 00:39:46,200  
that's just after the  
death of Masaryk, actually.

650

00:39:46,200 --> 00:39:49,350

651

00:39:49,350 --> 00:39:55,410  
I said, well, it's not  
as clear cut and as solid

652

00:39:55,410 --> 00:39:56,910  
as I thought it would be.

653

00:39:56,910 --> 00:40:01,350  
We just didn't feel that  
something was changing.

654

00:40:01,350 --> 00:40:05,460  
The situation was no longer  
political [INAUDIBLE]..

655

00:40:05,460 --> 00:40:07,320  
Intellectual, of  
course, I didn't really

656

00:40:07,320 --> 00:40:10,320  
understand that much about  
that, except I felt, well,

657

00:40:10,320 --> 00:40:11,940  
some things are changing.

658

00:40:11,940 --> 00:40:16,560  
Some threats, someplace  
which do something

659

00:40:16,560 --> 00:40:21,390  
with the feelings I have about  
being in this sort of place.

660

00:40:21,390 --> 00:40:25,680

I identify where I feel secure  
and which I enjoy tremendously.

661  
00:40:25,680 --> 00:40:29,520  
I enjoyed it tremendously  
to be born where I was.

662  
00:40:29,520 --> 00:40:30,830  
I really enjoyed myself.

663  
00:40:30,830 --> 00:40:31,800  
I made the best of it.

664  
00:40:31,800 --> 00:40:36,930  
I had this sort  
of elan the river.

665  
00:40:36,930 --> 00:40:46,710  
Yeah, was really  
appreciating enjoying what

666  
00:40:46,710 --> 00:40:48,040  
the opportunities were there.

667  
00:40:48,040 --> 00:40:51,240

668  
00:40:51,240 --> 00:40:54,270  
Were the adults talking about  
the political situation?

669  
00:40:54,270 --> 00:40:55,980  
Oh, yeah, they very  
much into politics,

670  
00:40:55,980 --> 00:40:58,740  
except most of the things I just  
didn't particularly-- was not

671  
00:40:58,740 --> 00:41:00,390  
that fully interested, one.

672

00:41:00,390 --> 00:41:02,700

And two, I didn't  
quite understand

673

00:41:02,700 --> 00:41:06,540

the implications, the words.

674

00:41:06,540 --> 00:41:11,670

And it didn't make much of  
an impression, only after,

675

00:41:11,670 --> 00:41:14,370

of course, the beginning  
and '38 and all that.

676

00:41:14,370 --> 00:41:17,250

And then, of course, we  
got all into a totally

677

00:41:17,250 --> 00:41:20,310

different situation,  
which then--

678

00:41:20,310 --> 00:41:20,820

oh, yeah.

679

00:41:20,820 --> 00:41:23,580

There was another  
situation, which

680

00:41:23,580 --> 00:41:26,700

was the beginning  
of, so to speak,

681

00:41:26,700 --> 00:41:32,550

the beginning of  
the dreadful time.

682

00:41:32,550 --> 00:41:34,628

There was one person who was--

683

00:41:34,628 --> 00:41:37,380

684  
00:41:37,380 --> 00:41:42,370  
that was very shortly  
after the German invasion.

685  
00:41:42,370 --> 00:41:53,460  
And a man called Weiner, and  
he came from Germany, refugee.

686  
00:41:53,460 --> 00:41:57,150  
And when the Germans  
came in, actually--

687  
00:41:57,150 --> 00:41:59,460  
so he lived in the  
same apartment house.

688  
00:41:59,460 --> 00:42:02,700  
So he committed suicide  
jumping out of the window.

689  
00:42:02,700 --> 00:42:06,480  
And my mother was--  
during World War I,

690  
00:42:06,480 --> 00:42:10,650  
she was a very identified  
with Austro-Hungarian things.

691  
00:42:10,650 --> 00:42:14,580  
She was a highly decorated  
nurse, highly decorated nurse.

692  
00:42:14,580 --> 00:42:17,850  
I could still remember when I  
played with all the medals she

693  
00:42:17,850 --> 00:42:20,760  
had as a young woman.

694  
00:42:20,760 --> 00:42:23,610  
And very well skilled  
and very liked

695

00:42:23,610 --> 00:42:28,560  
and exceedingly successful, and  
made very important contacts.

696

00:42:28,560 --> 00:42:29,980  
So she was at home then.

697

00:42:29,980 --> 00:42:31,980  
And of course, that was  
the first thing she did.

698

00:42:31,980 --> 00:42:34,920  
She just somehow observed  
it or heard it or something,

699

00:42:34,920 --> 00:42:38,816  
went down and the  
body was there.

700

00:42:38,816 --> 00:42:41,850  
A very massive sort of  
a fairly large figure.

701

00:42:41,850 --> 00:42:44,190  
I still remember him,  
Dr. Weiner was his name.

702

00:42:44,190 --> 00:42:48,000

703

00:42:48,000 --> 00:42:51,420  
So we had more of these  
incidents, suicides

704

00:42:51,420 --> 00:42:54,270  
and all that before and after.

705

00:42:54,270 --> 00:43:00,533  
And then of course, for Hitler,  
it was a total change, well,

706

00:43:00,533 --> 00:43:01,200  
the whole thing.

707  
00:43:01,200 --> 00:43:07,890  
And my response, political  
awareness or awakening,

708  
00:43:07,890 --> 00:43:14,400  
so to speak, was with the  
Scouts, when I'd become a scout

709  
00:43:14,400 --> 00:43:15,885  
leader, and it was in '39.

710  
00:43:15,885 --> 00:43:19,940

711  
00:43:19,940 --> 00:43:24,300  
That kid said, all right-- just  
said we have to do something.

712  
00:43:24,300 --> 00:43:27,500  
So we organized a  
quasi underground.

713  
00:43:27,500 --> 00:43:29,900  
We just playing with--

714  
00:43:29,900 --> 00:43:34,050  
training with weapons or  
something like Mickey Mouse

715  
00:43:34,050 --> 00:43:34,550  
stuff.

716  
00:43:34,550 --> 00:43:38,600

717  
00:43:38,600 --> 00:43:43,910  
And that was the first thing  
that I started to resist.

718

00:43:43,910 --> 00:43:47,810  
But my parents  
somehow still didn't

719  
00:43:47,810 --> 00:43:50,390  
woke up to the whole  
thing, except they

720  
00:43:50,390 --> 00:43:52,700  
said you have to go.

721  
00:43:52,700 --> 00:43:55,040  
So they arranged for  
me-- they arranged

722  
00:43:55,040 --> 00:44:04,070  
for me to go to England with  
the assistance of this Petschek

723  
00:44:04,070 --> 00:44:11,020  
And although Petschek had died  
long before, many years before,

724  
00:44:11,020 --> 00:44:14,680  
but there was another  
Petschek and children,

725  
00:44:14,680 --> 00:44:18,160  
and they were the heirs to  
all this unbelievable money

726  
00:44:18,160 --> 00:44:20,860  
and all this and that.

727  
00:44:20,860 --> 00:44:21,980  
So when she was--

728  
00:44:21,980 --> 00:44:27,170  
Martha Petschek was my  
mother's first cousin.

729  
00:44:27,170 --> 00:44:31,420  
So they were already in

England before things happened.

730  
00:44:31,420 --> 00:44:34,700  
And because all these  
people, all the rich people

731  
00:44:34,700 --> 00:44:39,460  
we knew, all of them, I mean  
all the really rich rich people,

732  
00:44:39,460 --> 00:44:44,890  
they had left before 12 o'clock.

733  
00:44:44,890 --> 00:44:47,733  
And so that made a very  
important impression.

734  
00:44:47,733 --> 00:44:49,150  
Because some of  
the people who now

735  
00:44:49,150 --> 00:44:50,970  
are in the United  
States and all that,

736  
00:44:50,970 --> 00:44:55,510  
the [INAUDIBLE] people who had  
the largest sugar refineries

737  
00:44:55,510 --> 00:44:59,530  
in Czechoslovakia called  
[? Mansel ?] Jewish people

738  
00:44:59,530 --> 00:45:01,330  
with whom we were friends.

739  
00:45:01,330 --> 00:45:05,590  
And they had left and all that.

740  
00:45:05,590 --> 00:45:08,170  
So they tried very hard to--

741



00:45:08,170 --> 00:45:12,220  
because somehow, they didn't  
feel it was possible for them

742  
00:45:12,220 --> 00:45:16,330  
or whatever reasons, and it's  
a very complicated situation

743  
00:45:16,330 --> 00:45:17,220  
whatever.

744  
00:45:17,220 --> 00:45:19,990  
They talked about  
the complicated--

745  
00:45:19,990 --> 00:45:22,870  
So they felt they didn't,  
in particular, were

746  
00:45:22,870 --> 00:45:25,570  
able to leave for reasons  
which were not at all

747  
00:45:25,570 --> 00:45:30,040  
reasonable to me in retrospect.

748  
00:45:30,040 --> 00:45:32,420  
They felt that I  
should leave in time.

749  
00:45:32,420 --> 00:45:35,210  
And so I had my railway ticket.

750  
00:45:35,210 --> 00:45:40,390  
I had a college that is a  
private school back in England.

751  
00:45:40,390 --> 00:45:43,900  
I was just-- bought me  
all the various suits

752  
00:45:43,900 --> 00:45:47,200  
and things and everything,

outfit, beautiful,

753

00:45:47,200 --> 00:45:48,490  
and have specific date.

754

00:45:48,490 --> 00:45:53,470  
And that is an important thing  
because then, by that time,

755

00:45:53,470 --> 00:45:57,130  
the Nazis already had  
invaded Czechoslovakia.

756

00:45:57,130 --> 00:46:04,910  
And Gestapo was in place  
and the Jewish measures

757

00:46:04,910 --> 00:46:06,330  
were introduced and all that.

758

00:46:06,330 --> 00:46:08,860  
So we already were--

759

00:46:08,860 --> 00:46:13,360  
it was not the Jewish star as  
yet, but just shortly before,

760

00:46:13,360 --> 00:46:15,200  
actually.

761

00:46:15,200 --> 00:46:19,770  
That was before the war, so  
it was '39 before Poland.

762

00:46:19,770 --> 00:46:22,310  
And so I had to go to  
the Gestapo headquarters,

763

00:46:22,310 --> 00:46:26,780  
some of the very infamous  
SS officer-- very infamous

764

00:46:26,780 --> 00:46:29,330  
SS officer, present  
myself in order

765  
00:46:29,330 --> 00:46:31,920  
to get a Gestapo permission  
to leave the country.

766  
00:46:31,920 --> 00:46:36,860  
And I remember I knew  
that sort of spade

767  
00:46:36,860 --> 00:46:42,840  
of this stereotypical--

768  
00:46:42,840 --> 00:46:46,010  
I should say  
stereotypical SS types,

769  
00:46:46,010 --> 00:46:49,040  
they just had to stand in  
attention all this sort

770  
00:46:49,040 --> 00:46:50,370  
of thing that was expected.

771  
00:46:50,370 --> 00:46:53,210  
And I was very good at  
it, very good at it.

772  
00:46:53,210 --> 00:46:55,470  
So I [? greet ?] a  
very important fellow

773  
00:46:55,470 --> 00:47:01,400  
was named Burger, that's  
Hauptsturmfuhrer Burger.

774  
00:47:01,400 --> 00:47:05,720  
Burger, B-U-R-G-E-R.

775  
00:47:05,720 --> 00:47:10,070  
And so I went and

sat with my mother.

776

00:47:10,070 --> 00:47:12,510

And he was kind of OK, very OK.

777

00:47:12,510 --> 00:47:15,140

All right, OK, all right.

778

00:47:15,140 --> 00:47:17,990

Kind of impressed because

I didn't fit the type.

779

00:47:17,990 --> 00:47:22,700

780

00:47:22,700 --> 00:47:23,750

So that was fine.

781

00:47:23,750 --> 00:47:24,320

I was ready.

782

00:47:24,320 --> 00:47:25,640

I had my railway ticket.

783

00:47:25,640 --> 00:47:31,730

And then just a day before

I was to go, something

784

00:47:31,730 --> 00:47:36,680

of that nature, day or two

something of that nature,

785

00:47:36,680 --> 00:47:41,120

they invaded Poland

and war broke out.

786

00:47:41,120 --> 00:47:45,987

And all the borders were

closed and I was in, finished.

787

00:47:45,987 --> 00:47:46,820

So I didn't get out.

788  
00:47:46,820 --> 00:47:50,520

789  
00:47:50,520 --> 00:47:54,890  
And prior to that, of  
course, the mobilization--

790  
00:47:54,890 --> 00:47:59,120  
there's still a possibility  
we're at war with Germany.

791  
00:47:59,120 --> 00:48:01,706  
I remember all  
the sort of things

792  
00:48:01,706 --> 00:48:07,340  
with all the measures to  
no light and all that,

793  
00:48:07,340 --> 00:48:12,830  
air raids and gas masks and  
panicky sort of situation.

794  
00:48:12,830 --> 00:48:14,660  
I find that was  
very adventurous.

795  
00:48:14,660 --> 00:48:17,570  
I just thrived on it and just  
thought it was terrifying.

796  
00:48:17,570 --> 00:48:19,195  
You weren't afraid?

797  
00:48:19,195 --> 00:48:20,100  
No, not at all.

798  
00:48:20,100 --> 00:48:21,830  
I was just thriving.

799  
00:48:21,830 --> 00:48:24,440

It was terribly stimulating, a very interesting sort of thing.

800  
00:48:24,440 --> 00:48:30,780

801  
00:48:30,780 --> 00:48:31,770  
Then when the Germans--

802  
00:48:31,770 --> 00:48:34,920  
I was, at that particular time, in the German school.

803  
00:48:34,920 --> 00:48:42,520  
When the Germans came in, they didn't know-- many of them

804  
00:48:42,520 --> 00:48:45,370  
didn't know that I was Jewish background.

805  
00:48:45,370 --> 00:48:48,250  
There was another fellow from Austria who was half Jewish

806  
00:48:48,250 --> 00:48:49,720  
and we were kind of close friends.

807  
00:48:49,720 --> 00:48:51,970  
A fellow called Erich Fromm, but has

808  
00:48:51,970 --> 00:48:54,100  
nothing to do with the other Erich Fromm.

809  
00:48:54,100 --> 00:48:56,403  
And a very intelligent fellow, nice person.

810  
00:48:56,403 --> 00:48:57,820  
I don't know what

happened to him.

811  
00:48:57,820 --> 00:48:59,195  
I was lost,  
unfortunately, sight.

812  
00:48:59,195 --> 00:48:59,770  
He got out.

813  
00:48:59,770 --> 00:49:01,050  
He got out in time, somehow.

814  
00:49:01,050 --> 00:49:04,150

815  
00:49:04,150 --> 00:49:06,130  
So then they said, OK.

816  
00:49:06,130 --> 00:49:08,170  
Heil, Hitler, Hans.

817  
00:49:08,170 --> 00:49:09,130  
They called me Hans.

818  
00:49:09,130 --> 00:49:11,523  
Heil, Hitler, Hans and all this.

819  
00:49:11,523 --> 00:49:12,940  
And I said, hey,  
what do you mean?

820  
00:49:12,940 --> 00:49:15,732  
So I came with the check  
line in it, the check thing.

821  
00:49:15,732 --> 00:49:17,440  
And I said, what the  
hell, are you crazy?

822  
00:49:17,440 --> 00:49:18,070  
What they do?

823

00:49:18,070 --> 00:49:20,050  
You join the Hitler Youth, what?

824

00:49:20,050 --> 00:49:22,390  
Well, and then, of  
course, the whole thing

825

00:49:22,390 --> 00:49:25,360  
came out and all this, and  
I was kicked out of school.

826

00:49:25,360 --> 00:49:28,420  
And they joined the  
Hitler Youth, of course,

827

00:49:28,420 --> 00:49:35,260  
and I was ordered to attend some  
of the meetings, Nazi meetings

828

00:49:35,260 --> 00:49:37,750  
because the whole  
school had to go.

829

00:49:37,750 --> 00:49:41,030  
And then, of course, they  
saw that the background

830

00:49:41,030 --> 00:49:44,440  
was and Nuremberg laws  
and all this and that.

831

00:49:44,440 --> 00:49:45,700  
I was kicked out of school.

832

00:49:45,700 --> 00:49:49,370

833

00:49:49,370 --> 00:49:53,240  
So then the whole  
notion of Jewishness

834

00:49:53,240 --> 00:49:57,180



and all that sort of thing,  
that just was overwhelming.

835  
00:49:57,180 --> 00:49:59,525  
And I was totally  
unprepared, and so I just

836  
00:49:59,525 --> 00:50:02,020  
was very ambivalent and  
said, what the hell?

837  
00:50:02,020 --> 00:50:03,980  
How come I this and that?

838  
00:50:03,980 --> 00:50:08,420  
Because who understood racial  
or logicity of racial laws?

839  
00:50:08,420 --> 00:50:11,060  
Something which is  
totally and utterly

840  
00:50:11,060 --> 00:50:15,818  
illogical and unscientific,  
and you name it, obviously.

841  
00:50:15,818 --> 00:50:21,500

842  
00:50:21,500 --> 00:50:25,790  
So then all those who  
were similarly situated,

843  
00:50:25,790 --> 00:50:27,440  
namely all those  
who were defined

844  
00:50:27,440 --> 00:50:32,360  
as according to the Nuremberg  
laws as Jews, all their friends

845  
00:50:32,360 --> 00:50:37,730  
and all that, we all were

externally and internally,

846  
00:50:37,730 --> 00:50:44,990  
of course, isolated and  
then banned together.

847  
00:50:44,990 --> 00:50:48,020  
And then the whole  
thing started.

848  
00:50:48,020 --> 00:50:50,030  
And it was a Jewish  
school, a trade school.

849  
00:50:50,030 --> 00:50:52,160  
And I went into  
Jewish trade school

850  
00:50:52,160 --> 00:50:56,810  
to learn the trade of  
an electro technician.

851  
00:50:56,810 --> 00:51:04,620

852  
00:51:04,620 --> 00:51:09,420  
My uncle had one of the  
largest wholesale businesses

853  
00:51:09,420 --> 00:51:14,320  
in the electro-technical field.

854  
00:51:14,320 --> 00:51:17,370  
He had some former employees,  
people he worked with,

855  
00:51:17,370 --> 00:51:20,430  
so we said, well, we should  
go and learn the trade too,

856  
00:51:20,430 --> 00:51:21,670  
not just that.

857

00:51:21,670 --> 00:51:25,230

So I went there, and  
then the anti-Semitism,

858

00:51:25,230 --> 00:51:27,640

all these sort of things--

859

00:51:27,640 --> 00:51:33,360

and the rather primitive sort of  
people who took advantage and I

860

00:51:33,360 --> 00:51:36,630

felt, my God, we are  
Czechs, but we are not Jews.

861

00:51:36,630 --> 00:51:38,720

So there are some  
people who are below us,

862

00:51:38,720 --> 00:51:40,650

and you are one of them.

863

00:51:40,650 --> 00:51:44,040

So that was quite a bit of  
cruelty and unpleasantness.

864

00:51:44,040 --> 00:51:45,750

And that's when I  
started to learn

865

00:51:45,750 --> 00:51:48,750

to defend myself  
physically and otherwise.

866

00:51:48,750 --> 00:51:50,380

And it was a very trying time.

867

00:51:50,380 --> 00:51:51,990

You were beat up?

868

00:51:51,990 --> 00:51:52,590

Oh, yeah.

869  
00:51:52,590 --> 00:51:54,290  
Well, I was abused, beat up.

870  
00:51:54,290 --> 00:51:55,290  
I mean, I could defend--

871  
00:51:55,290 --> 00:51:58,290  
I was strong and so  
I defended myself.

872  
00:51:58,290 --> 00:52:00,720  
But I mean, you can't  
defend yourself always

873  
00:52:00,720 --> 00:52:04,920  
against a number of kids  
who are older and all that,

874  
00:52:04,920 --> 00:52:08,190  
and tough primitives, you see.

875  
00:52:08,190 --> 00:52:10,890  
And so that's when I  
learned to defend myself,

876  
00:52:10,890 --> 00:52:12,600  
and successfully.

877  
00:52:12,600 --> 00:52:15,720  
But I suffered a great deal  
because of the injustice

878  
00:52:15,720 --> 00:52:17,610  
and unfairness and  
all the whole thing,

879  
00:52:17,610 --> 00:52:22,590  
it just totally overtook me.

880  
00:52:22,590 --> 00:52:24,510  
I just had to come

to terms with that,

881

00:52:24,510 --> 00:52:29,380  
which I just had problems with  
because I was not prepared.

882

00:52:29,380 --> 00:52:33,930  
It came very sudden and  
with tremendous force.

883

00:52:33,930 --> 00:52:41,280  
And to adjust all these things  
was exceedingly difficult.

884

00:52:41,280 --> 00:52:45,360  
But we got that and then we--

885

00:52:45,360 --> 00:52:49,070  
my father, and the whole  
family and all that,

886

00:52:49,070 --> 00:52:52,320  
had links with the  
resistance, and we

887

00:52:52,320 --> 00:52:55,600  
did all sorts of things we  
could to sabotage and all that.

888

00:52:55,600 --> 00:52:57,990  
Nothing really great,  
help people to escape over

889

00:52:57,990 --> 00:53:00,630  
the borders, I remember that.

890

00:53:00,630 --> 00:53:04,470  
Very endangered sort of  
species, a person who

891

00:53:04,470 --> 00:53:08,130  
was very active in the Social  
Democratic Party, a man

892  
00:53:08,130 --> 00:53:15,790  
called Walter  
[Personal name] who

893  
00:53:15,790 --> 00:53:18,330  
had a Social Democratic  
paper published,

894  
00:53:18,330 --> 00:53:20,220  
a paper with a publisher.

895  
00:53:20,220 --> 00:53:22,985  
And so he had to--

896  
00:53:22,985 --> 00:53:28,340  
so we sheltered him back  
in the villa in Rostok

897  
00:53:28,340 --> 00:53:31,500  
and sheltered him and  
helped him to get over

898  
00:53:31,500 --> 00:53:32,610  
the border to Poland.

899  
00:53:32,610 --> 00:53:36,930  
That was before the  
Polish situation,

900  
00:53:36,930 --> 00:53:41,723  
but the Nazis were already  
there in Czechoslovakia.

901  
00:53:41,723 --> 00:53:46,680

902  
00:53:46,680 --> 00:53:48,930  
Did you family do any other  
resistance kind of things?

903  
00:53:48,930 --> 00:53:49,530

Oh, yeah.

904  
00:53:49,530 --> 00:53:51,180  
Well, yeah.

905  
00:53:51,180 --> 00:53:53,440  
All these sort of-- yeah,  
my mother, for example,

906  
00:53:53,440 --> 00:53:55,170  
was an interrogator, oh, yeah.

907  
00:53:55,170 --> 00:53:57,070  
Well, that's kind of  
interesting thing.

908  
00:53:57,070 --> 00:54:02,760  
So the bank place--  
the bank building

909  
00:54:02,760 --> 00:54:09,130  
in which my father worked  
was confiscated, of course.

910  
00:54:09,130 --> 00:54:10,860  
Immediately after  
the Germans come,

911  
00:54:10,860 --> 00:54:15,130  
it become the  
Gestapo headquarters.

912  
00:54:15,130 --> 00:54:22,350  
And my mother was brought  
there to be interrogated

913  
00:54:22,350 --> 00:54:24,330  
and that was after  
my father already

914  
00:54:24,330 --> 00:54:28,200  
had been deported to  
Theresienstadt because he was

915  
00:54:28,200 --> 00:54:33,420  
one whom they call  
the AK2 transport, AK1

916  
00:54:33,420 --> 00:54:39,300  
and AK2 transport, to build  
up Theresienstadt as a ghetto.

917  
00:54:39,300 --> 00:54:43,920  
And he was on the bottom  
ground in AK2 transport

918  
00:54:43,920 --> 00:54:49,740  
and he was deported in '41.

919  
00:54:49,740 --> 00:54:54,120  
And because he was tall, he was  
relatively young then and all

920  
00:54:54,120 --> 00:54:57,090  
that to build, and then he  
became a very important person

921  
00:54:57,090 --> 00:55:00,120  
at Theresienstadt,  
in this regard.

922  
00:55:00,120 --> 00:55:03,570  
And had privileged status  
by virtue of the fact

923  
00:55:03,570 --> 00:55:12,210  
that he, with so many others who  
came from Prague and elsewhere,

924  
00:55:12,210 --> 00:55:16,060  
had to develop  
Theresienstadt and prepare it

925  
00:55:16,060 --> 00:55:22,110  
for the concentration  
camp, the ghetto.



926  
00:55:22,110 --> 00:55:24,570  
Well, that gave him  
a privileged status.

927  
00:55:24,570 --> 00:55:26,610  
Anyway, but because  
some things were

928  
00:55:26,610 --> 00:55:29,340  
known, and whatever about  
his activities and this,

929  
00:55:29,340 --> 00:55:32,353  
so my mother then was  
interrogated by the Gestapo.

930  
00:55:32,353 --> 00:55:34,020  
I don't think really  
very much happened.

931  
00:55:34,020 --> 00:55:36,310  
She came home and always  
told me very little

932  
00:55:36,310 --> 00:55:38,910  
just not to scare  
me and just make

933  
00:55:38,910 --> 00:55:40,530  
me worry and all this and that.

934  
00:55:40,530 --> 00:55:44,880

935  
00:55:44,880 --> 00:55:47,172  
Then we still had a--

936  
00:55:47,172 --> 00:55:53,140  
at home we always had  
a live-in maid, help--

937

00:55:53,140 --> 00:55:55,410  
one, two, one.

938  
00:55:55,410 --> 00:55:59,010  
And she was still there and  
the German soldiers came

939  
00:55:59,010 --> 00:55:59,640  
and all this.

940  
00:55:59,640 --> 00:56:02,520  
And so this one, changed them  
occasionally and this one

941  
00:56:02,520 --> 00:56:10,620  
happened to be kind of woman  
of just kind of a little bit

942  
00:56:10,620 --> 00:56:12,220  
retarded or whatever.

943  
00:56:12,220 --> 00:56:17,070  
So some German soldier picked  
her up and came to our family

944  
00:56:17,070 --> 00:56:20,100  
there and slept overnight  
with her and all

945  
00:56:20,100 --> 00:56:22,320  
these sort of things  
started on that.

946  
00:56:22,320 --> 00:56:27,435  
And so then we had  
contact with the Germans

947  
00:56:27,435 --> 00:56:30,180  
who then had occupied that--

948  
00:56:30,180 --> 00:56:38,250  
and I became very active  
in the kind of resistance,

949  
00:56:38,250 --> 00:56:44,070  
and that was strictly Jewish,  
Maccabi type of resistance,

950  
00:56:44,070 --> 00:56:46,050  
under the leadership  
of a man called

951  
00:56:46,050 --> 00:56:49,950  
Fredy Hirsch, Fredy Hirsch.

952  
00:56:49,950 --> 00:56:54,660  
And we became very  
close friends.

953  
00:56:54,660 --> 00:57:03,270  
And a group of youngsters like  
myself, under his leadership,

954  
00:57:03,270 --> 00:57:08,760  
and with the permission  
of the Gestapo,

955  
00:57:08,760 --> 00:57:10,890  
prepared deportees  
for deportation.

956  
00:57:10,890 --> 00:57:15,060  
That is to say help them to  
gather their things together

957  
00:57:15,060 --> 00:57:23,490  
and bring them to the station  
or whatever and kind of render

958  
00:57:23,490 --> 00:57:24,010  
support.

959  
00:57:24,010 --> 00:57:25,510  
And that was a very  
important thing.

960

00:57:25,510 --> 00:57:28,440

And also sabotage what  
could be sabotaged.

961

00:57:28,440 --> 00:57:31,320

And that was my first  
real active situation

962

00:57:31,320 --> 00:57:33,700

in this and I  
totally identified.

963

00:57:33,700 --> 00:57:37,870

So I was provocative,  
Jewish star,

964

00:57:37,870 --> 00:57:43,530

went through Wenceslas  
Square in center of Prague,

965

00:57:43,530 --> 00:57:45,690

which we didn't have  
permission, but I

966

00:57:45,690 --> 00:57:48,300

had a special permission  
because of my activity

967

00:57:48,300 --> 00:57:51,510

and I just used it to the hilt.

968

00:57:51,510 --> 00:57:54,570

And we did what  
we could and made

969

00:57:54,570 --> 00:57:58,750

it somewhat easier for people  
who were deported somehow

970

00:57:58,750 --> 00:58:01,590

to prepare, to help to pack,  
particularly older people.

971

00:58:01,590 --> 00:58:05,040

And it was something  
which started, somehow,

972

00:58:05,040 --> 00:58:13,460

my active type of  
resistance, if you will.

973

00:58:13,460 --> 00:58:20,740

Resistance in a way to  
outmaneuver, whenever we could,

974

00:58:20,740 --> 00:58:21,250

the Nazis.

975

00:58:21,250 --> 00:58:26,405

976

00:58:26,405 --> 00:58:27,280

You were quite young.

977

00:58:27,280 --> 00:58:29,980

Well, what kind of sabotage  
would you be able to do?

978

00:58:29,980 --> 00:58:33,040

Well, sabotage in  
terms of doing things

979

00:58:33,040 --> 00:58:34,540

we are not supposed  
to do in favor

980

00:58:34,540 --> 00:58:38,410

of those who were victimized.

981

00:58:38,410 --> 00:58:41,230

So it was nothing political  
in terms of blowing up

982

00:58:41,230 --> 00:58:42,230

things or this and that.

983

00:58:42,230 --> 00:58:46,150

No, that was not-- although  
some people did it and all this.

984

00:58:46,150 --> 00:58:52,360

But no, my thing was just  
simply to render support

985

00:58:52,360 --> 00:58:54,220

within this sort  
of group, to those

986

00:58:54,220 --> 00:59:00,490

who were to be deported  
and advise them and help

987

00:59:00,490 --> 00:59:02,080

them, whatever and all that.

988

00:59:02,080 --> 00:59:04,730

Now during that time,  
also some other people--

989

00:59:04,730 --> 00:59:09,520

then of course, apartments  
of the nature we've had,

990

00:59:09,520 --> 00:59:11,320

of course, were much too large.

991

00:59:11,320 --> 00:59:14,830

Then by order, we had to take  
in some other people, Jews

992

00:59:14,830 --> 00:59:17,500

and all that would come  
from different other places

993

00:59:17,500 --> 00:59:19,750

and lived in very  
crowded conditions.

994

00:59:19,750 --> 00:59:22,750

But not in ghettos because  
that was not in Prague.

995

00:59:22,750 --> 00:59:26,470

They just stayed where they  
were living, except they

996

00:59:26,470 --> 00:59:28,120

had to bring in more people.

997

00:59:28,120 --> 00:59:30,790

And then from these  
places, then they

998

00:59:30,790 --> 00:59:33,385

were eventually deported  
to various other places.

999

00:59:33,385 --> 00:59:39,190

1000

00:59:39,190 --> 00:59:40,900

So that was one  
activity, and that's

1001

00:59:40,900 --> 00:59:43,690

how I got to know Fredy Hirsch.

1002

00:59:43,690 --> 00:59:49,600

And I was with him off and on  
until he committed suicide back

1003

00:59:49,600 --> 00:59:51,785

in Auschwitz-Birkenau.

1004

00:59:51,785 --> 00:59:53,410

And he was a very  
important role model.

1005

00:59:53,410 --> 00:59:55,030

He was just a fantastic person.

1006  
00:59:55,030 --> 00:59:58,783  
And a man called Adler, who  
wrote about the Theresienstadt,

1007  
00:59:58,783 --> 00:59:59,950  
and I discussed it with him.

1008  
00:59:59,950 --> 01:00:01,283  
He just simply didn't have much.

1009  
01:00:01,283 --> 01:00:05,410  
He was just totally distorted  
and just totally distorted.

1010  
01:00:05,410 --> 01:00:11,200  
And so role the Fredy  
Hirsch played in--

1011  
01:00:11,200 --> 01:00:16,060  
not only in resisting the  
Nazis with methods which

1012  
01:00:16,060 --> 01:00:19,120  
were just very uncanny and all  
that and saving many people's

1013  
01:00:19,120 --> 01:00:19,870  
lives.

1014  
01:00:19,870 --> 01:00:22,840  
Until it was not  
possible anymore

1015  
01:00:22,840 --> 01:00:24,387  
because all these  
people were gassed

1016  
01:00:24,387 --> 01:00:25,470  
at that particular moment.

1017  
01:00:25,470 --> 01:00:33,745



1018  
01:00:33,745 --> 01:00:37,840  
In the period between, I  
was going to say, '39 to '41

1019  
01:00:37,840 --> 01:00:40,362  
when you weren't living  
with your father,

1020  
01:00:40,362 --> 01:00:42,070  
but were you in touch  
with him regularly?

1021  
01:00:42,070 --> 01:00:42,910  
Oh, yes, of course.

1022  
01:00:42,910 --> 01:00:45,790  
I mean, it never ended  
because what he did.

1023  
01:00:45,790 --> 01:00:48,860  
He just moved to  
my grandparents,

1024  
01:00:48,860 --> 01:00:51,400  
which was 10 minutes  
walking distance.

1025  
01:00:51,400 --> 01:00:54,250

1026  
01:00:54,250 --> 01:00:55,840  
So that was no problem.

1027  
01:00:55,840 --> 01:00:58,540  
I saw him regularly and  
we had a nice relationship

1028  
01:00:58,540 --> 01:00:59,590  
with no problem.

1029

01:00:59,590 --> 01:01:02,380

1030

01:01:02,380 --> 01:01:09,010  
My mother felt OK about that  
and I also felt kind of better,

1031

01:01:09,010 --> 01:01:12,100  
but it was kind of  
a good arrangement.

1032

01:01:12,100 --> 01:01:14,185  
I didn't suffer or  
my mother didn't.

1033

01:01:14,185 --> 01:01:16,060  
I think he probably  
suffered a little bit

1034

01:01:16,060 --> 01:01:23,600  
because by virtue  
of the fact that he

1035

01:01:23,600 --> 01:01:27,140  
had a room with his parents.

1036

01:01:27,140 --> 01:01:28,720  
There was not too  
much of a problem,

1037

01:01:28,720 --> 01:01:31,880  
so he had some closeness  
and was not abandoned

1038

01:01:31,880 --> 01:01:33,230  
by anyone for that matter.

1039

01:01:33,230 --> 01:01:37,580  
Except some of my mother's  
blood relations were not exactly

1040

01:01:37,580 --> 01:01:39,330  
happy with his

conduct and all that.

1041

01:01:39,330 --> 01:01:41,280

So there's always  
two sides to it.

1042

01:01:41,280 --> 01:01:44,220

1043

01:01:44,220 --> 01:01:46,680

Did he lose his job?

1044

01:01:46,680 --> 01:01:49,280

Well, I mean, he was--  
yes, he lost his job.

1045

01:01:49,280 --> 01:01:52,670

And then the Gestapo also  
ordered him to liquidate.

1046

01:01:52,670 --> 01:01:55,640

We were one of the last  
liquidators of the Petschek

1047

01:01:55,640 --> 01:01:57,720

bank.

1048

01:01:57,720 --> 01:02:01,490

And because he knew too much  
and some of the things--

1049

01:02:01,490 --> 01:02:04,280

then he was also the first to  
be deported to Theresienstadt

1050

01:02:04,280 --> 01:02:06,370

as kind of a thank you.

1051

01:02:06,370 --> 01:02:12,750

1052

01:02:12,750 --> 01:02:15,620

Where you present  
when he was deported?

1053  
01:02:15,620 --> 01:02:17,000  
Oh, yeah, of course.

1054  
01:02:17,000 --> 01:02:22,340  
You know, I mean, we used to  
send him parcels and all that,

1055  
01:02:22,340 --> 01:02:25,400  
whatever there was, which  
was more than they had there.

1056  
01:02:25,400 --> 01:02:28,310  
So we sent regular parcels  
and were in contact with him

1057  
01:02:28,310 --> 01:02:29,185  
all the time.

1058  
01:02:29,185 --> 01:02:30,800  
In terms of letters  
and all that,

1059  
01:02:30,800 --> 01:02:31,992  
he could write and all that.

1060  
01:02:31,992 --> 01:02:33,140  
[INAUDIBLE] that before.

1061  
01:02:33,140 --> 01:02:35,188  
Oh, yeah.

1062  
01:02:35,188 --> 01:02:36,230  
And how did your mother--

1063  
01:02:36,230 --> 01:02:38,690  
And he also knew  
when I came myself.

1064  
01:02:38,690 --> 01:02:39,550

He expected me.

1065  
01:02:39,550 --> 01:02:43,860  
He was there when I came,  
actually, in the railway,

1066  
01:02:43,860 --> 01:02:46,720  
in the wagon, box car.

1067  
01:02:46,720 --> 01:02:49,140  
He was there,  
present, expecting me

1068  
01:02:49,140 --> 01:02:51,380  
because he found out,  
because of his position,

1069  
01:02:51,380 --> 01:02:53,530  
that I was on the list.

1070  
01:02:53,530 --> 01:02:54,530  
He found out?

1071  
01:02:54,530 --> 01:02:55,170  
Oh, yeah.

1072  
01:02:55,170 --> 01:02:58,418  
Yeah, he already expected me.

1073  
01:02:58,418 --> 01:03:00,240  
And when was that?

1074  
01:03:00,240 --> 01:03:01,543  
When did you go there?

1075  
01:03:01,543 --> 01:03:02,960  
Well, that's another  
thing which--

1076  
01:03:02,960 --> 01:03:06,120  
is a story which I have to say  
because it's an important one.

1077  
01:03:06,120 --> 01:03:07,440  
OK.

1078  
01:03:07,440 --> 01:03:10,130  
How about your mother, how  
did she fair financially?

1079  
01:03:10,130 --> 01:03:12,350  
Financially, she  
was pretty well off.

1080  
01:03:12,350 --> 01:03:18,770  
I mean, she was pretty well  
off because my uncle always

1081  
01:03:18,770 --> 01:03:19,790  
rendered support.

1082  
01:03:19,790 --> 01:03:22,260  
He was quite wealthy  
and he rendered support

1083  
01:03:22,260 --> 01:03:23,930  
when there was some shortage.

1084  
01:03:23,930 --> 01:03:29,552  
And we didn't-- there  
was never any sort of--

1085  
01:03:29,552 --> 01:03:31,760  
so I certainly didn't feel  
it and she didn't feel it.

1086  
01:03:31,760 --> 01:03:34,660  
I mean, we retained  
our apartment

1087  
01:03:34,660 --> 01:03:36,410  
with the exception of  
the fact that we had

1088

01:03:36,410 --> 01:03:39,350  
to take some people into it.

1089  
01:03:39,350 --> 01:03:40,506  
How many people came in?

1090  
01:03:40,506 --> 01:03:48,220

1091  
01:03:48,220 --> 01:03:51,580  
Two-- well, we always had  
some people from Germany

1092  
01:03:51,580 --> 01:03:58,030  
all the time and single ones,  
usually single women, which

1093  
01:03:58,030 --> 01:04:01,000  
was kind of interesting because  
I was a good looking chap

1094  
01:04:01,000 --> 01:04:02,300  
at that particular time.

1095  
01:04:02,300 --> 01:04:03,712  
And so they all--

1096  
01:04:03,712 --> 01:04:05,170  
although I was a  
child, they always

1097  
01:04:05,170 --> 01:04:09,030  
tried some sexual innuendos  
with these young women who

1098  
01:04:09,030 --> 01:04:11,080  
were just in their early 20s.

1099  
01:04:11,080 --> 01:04:14,125  
And so on, and you sat on  
my lap and all this that.

1100

01:04:14,125 --> 01:04:15,250  
It was kind of interesting.

1101  
01:04:15,250 --> 01:04:16,833  
They didn't do  
anything bad, actually.

1102  
01:04:16,833 --> 01:04:18,302  
I found it quite interesting.

1103  
01:04:18,302 --> 01:04:19,950  
You were very young,  
a teenager then.

1104  
01:04:19,950 --> 01:04:22,090  
No, I was not a teenager then.

1105  
01:04:22,090 --> 01:04:23,160  
That was before.

1106  
01:04:23,160 --> 01:04:25,330  
No, no, no, that was  
long before that.

1107  
01:04:25,330 --> 01:04:25,870  
OK.

1108  
01:04:25,870 --> 01:04:28,760  
But so we always took that  
as part of the refugees.

1109  
01:04:28,760 --> 01:04:31,930  
So that was before that.

1110  
01:04:31,930 --> 01:04:34,330  
But that was in connection  
with the refugees,

1111  
01:04:34,330 --> 01:04:37,400  
so when we sheltered and  
then took and all that.

1112



01:04:37,400 --> 01:04:37,900  
I see.

1113  
01:04:37,900 --> 01:04:43,480

1114  
01:04:43,480 --> 01:04:49,170  
Two people, yeah, family.

1115  
01:04:49,170 --> 01:04:50,800  
You were forced to  
take them by then?

1116  
01:04:50,800 --> 01:04:53,080  
Yeah, forced.

1117  
01:04:53,080 --> 01:04:57,040  
And they were also the ones  
who were deported and were

1118  
01:04:57,040 --> 01:05:02,500  
called Peltzer from Vienna,  
Dr. Peltzer from Vienna.

1119  
01:05:02,500 --> 01:05:04,730  
And he was there  
until his deportation.

1120  
01:05:04,730 --> 01:05:06,310  
And he was a very  
interesting person

1121  
01:05:06,310 --> 01:05:11,110  
because he had some  
sort of corroboration,

1122  
01:05:11,110 --> 01:05:20,302  
some very shady deals with  
some of the Gestapo people.

1123  
01:05:20,302 --> 01:05:21,760  
I don't know what  
he did, but there

1124  
01:05:21,760 --> 01:05:24,070  
was some-- he always had  
some tremendous things.

1125  
01:05:24,070 --> 01:05:27,880  
They got special foods  
and all this and that.

1126  
01:05:27,880 --> 01:05:32,320  
Went down with black boots  
kind of emulating the SS,

1127  
01:05:32,320 --> 01:05:35,110  
not identifying, but  
emulating in terms of power.

1128  
01:05:35,110 --> 01:05:39,580  
They wanted to endear themselves  
and did some very strange

1129  
01:05:39,580 --> 01:05:42,430  
things, very strange things,  
and knew a lot of things,

1130  
01:05:42,430 --> 01:05:45,220  
and very shady deals.

1131  
01:05:45,220 --> 01:05:48,520  
Something was going on, which  
was obvious because they got

1132  
01:05:48,520 --> 01:05:50,950  
also chocolates and all that  
when these sort of things

1133  
01:05:50,950 --> 01:05:56,560  
were not to be had for  
anyone, and living in splendor

1134  
01:05:56,560 --> 01:06:02,410  
and not only boasted about  
their contacts with SS

1135  
01:06:02,410 --> 01:06:08,740  
and all that and the important  
SS officers in charge

1136  
01:06:08,740 --> 01:06:10,120  
of deportation all that.

1137  
01:06:10,120 --> 01:06:12,370  
So they had some  
dealing and wheeling,

1138  
01:06:12,370 --> 01:06:15,640  
and that was kind of very  
strange, very strange.

1139  
01:06:15,640 --> 01:06:18,490  
Never adhered to these  
rules and all that.

1140  
01:06:18,490 --> 01:06:20,150  
They had some special  
sort of thing.

1141  
01:06:20,150 --> 01:06:23,552  
But then they were taken and  
boom, no one heard from them.

1142  
01:06:23,552 --> 01:06:25,510  
But they still were forced  
to leave their home.

1143  
01:06:25,510 --> 01:06:26,277  
Mhm?

1144  
01:06:26,277 --> 01:06:28,610  
They were still had been  
forced to leave their own home.

1145  
01:06:28,610 --> 01:06:31,990  
Oh, well, they came  
from Vienna, yeah.

1146

01:06:31,990 --> 01:06:35,300

Forced not-- that,  
for sure, yeah.

1147

01:06:35,300 --> 01:06:36,490

Yeah, yeah.

1148

01:06:36,490 --> 01:06:38,680

But they had some very--  
there were very interesting

1149

01:06:38,680 --> 01:06:43,328

thing, which if I had  
more time and occasion,

1150

01:06:43,328 --> 01:06:44,620

I would have liked to research.

1151

01:06:44,620 --> 01:06:46,870

Because there was some very  
interesting sort of things

1152

01:06:46,870 --> 01:06:49,750

going on because he told us  
about his terrific contacts

1153

01:06:49,750 --> 01:06:56,650

with this deportation  
authorities and all that.

1154

01:06:56,650 --> 01:06:59,620

Well, but the thing which  
I want to say that--

1155

01:06:59,620 --> 01:07:00,730

so that happened.

1156

01:07:00,730 --> 01:07:05,950

And then Heydrich was  
assassinated in '42.

1157

01:07:05,950 --> 01:07:16,120

And there was a very,  
very exciting time for me.

1158  
01:07:16,120 --> 01:07:27,370  
I was also doing things to earn  
some extra money for my mother,

1159  
01:07:27,370 --> 01:07:28,300  
just to earn.

1160  
01:07:28,300 --> 01:07:34,390  
So I was cutting toys  
out of wood things

1161  
01:07:34,390 --> 01:07:35,980  
and put them together  
and all that,

1162  
01:07:35,980 --> 01:07:42,070  
and got paid so much  
for a number of things

1163  
01:07:42,070 --> 01:07:45,220  
which I'd cut up and all that.

1164  
01:07:45,220 --> 01:07:46,260  
I used this one.

1165  
01:07:46,260 --> 01:07:51,100  
And at that time, all the other  
people were deported already.

1166  
01:07:51,100 --> 01:07:57,710  
And so we were on our own  
there in the apartment again.

1167  
01:07:57,710 --> 01:07:59,590  
You mean, your extended  
family had gone off?

1168  
01:07:59,590 --> 01:08:01,490  
That's right, they  
all were all gone.

1169  
01:08:01,490 --> 01:08:05,830

1170  
01:08:05,830 --> 01:08:09,860  
So after the sort of  
assassination was a search.

1171  
01:08:09,860 --> 01:08:18,640  
So the military was ordered  
the German armed forces went

1172  
01:08:18,640 --> 01:08:21,609  
through every house, every  
room, everything searching

1173  
01:08:21,609 --> 01:08:23,760  
for the assassin, which was--

1174  
01:08:23,760 --> 01:08:25,899  
and they also came  
to us and were

1175  
01:08:25,899 --> 01:08:27,729  
very impressed that  
I was cutting out

1176  
01:08:27,729 --> 01:08:29,457  
these toys and all that.

1177  
01:08:29,457 --> 01:08:30,790  
They were quite nice about that.

1178  
01:08:30,790 --> 01:08:35,890

1179  
01:08:35,890 --> 01:08:42,729  
Then as a retaliation to the  
assassination of Reinhard

1180  
01:08:42,729 --> 01:08:52,240  
Heydrich, they decided to

have a special transport

1181  
01:08:52,240 --> 01:08:55,740  
to Theresienstadt of kind of  
very rich Jews or whatever,

1182  
01:08:55,740 --> 01:09:01,200  
this sort of thing, as a  
punitive sort of transport,

1183  
01:09:01,200 --> 01:09:04,830  
as a retaliation to  
the assassination.

1184  
01:09:04,830 --> 01:09:05,910  
And I was one.

1185  
01:09:05,910 --> 01:09:15,059  
And on the 10 of August, 1942, I  
was deported to Theresienstadt.

1186  
01:09:15,059 --> 01:09:17,760

1187  
01:09:17,760 --> 01:09:23,055  
And actually, I had celebrated  
my birthday on 3 of August,

1188  
01:09:23,055 --> 01:09:24,029  
it's my birthday.

1189  
01:09:24,029 --> 01:09:26,407  
And I already had some  
sort of premonition,

1190  
01:09:26,407 --> 01:09:27,990  
something terrible  
is going to happen.

1191  
01:09:27,990 --> 01:09:30,450  
And I woke up and told my  
mother some-- you know,

1192

01:09:30,450 --> 01:09:32,109  
are you sick or something?

1193

01:09:32,109 --> 01:09:34,260  
Just something terrible  
is going to happen.

1194

01:09:34,260 --> 01:09:36,359  
I kept on repeating that  
terrible going to happen,

1195

01:09:36,359 --> 01:09:37,350  
terrible.

1196

01:09:37,350 --> 01:09:42,102  
And on the 10 of August, they  
took me and my mother stayed.

1197

01:09:42,102 --> 01:09:42,810  
My mother stayed.

1198

01:09:42,810 --> 01:09:44,890  
They didn't take my mother  
for whatever reason.

1199

01:09:44,890 --> 01:09:49,439  
So they took me as a  
kind of punitive act.

1200

01:09:49,439 --> 01:09:53,010  
They came to your house?

1201

01:09:53,010 --> 01:09:57,660  
Yeah, so then I came  
to Theresienstadt

1202

01:09:57,660 --> 01:10:00,180  
on a terrible transport,  
all these sort of things.

1203

01:10:00,180 --> 01:10:05,610  
Of course, you have traumatic



adjustment to new realities

1204  
01:10:05,610 --> 01:10:11,640  
and unanticipated, all  
these sort of things,

1205  
01:10:11,640 --> 01:10:13,305  
will never occur to  
you in nightmares.

1206  
01:10:13,305 --> 01:10:15,330  
Although I had quite  
frequent nightmares,

1207  
01:10:15,330 --> 01:10:18,870  
which pointed to some  
direction or some --

1208  
01:10:18,870 --> 01:10:21,070  
I've had them.

1209  
01:10:21,070 --> 01:10:24,100  
And so then we arrived.

1210  
01:10:24,100 --> 01:10:26,670  
My father was there, and the  
whole thing in Theresienstadt

1211  
01:10:26,670 --> 01:10:27,430  
started.

1212  
01:10:27,430 --> 01:10:30,150  
And many people I  
knew and got involved

1213  
01:10:30,150 --> 01:10:31,410  
in a lot of activities.

1214  
01:10:31,410 --> 01:10:33,270  
There was Fredy  
Hirsch, of course,

1215

01:10:33,270 --> 01:10:35,370  
and with him and  
some other people

1216  
01:10:35,370 --> 01:10:40,410  
I got very much active  
in cultural endeavors.

1217  
01:10:40,410 --> 01:10:43,140  
I encountered  
people I never would

1218  
01:10:43,140 --> 01:10:44,820  
have encountered in my life.

1219  
01:10:44,820 --> 01:10:48,510  
Other than that, just people,  
Nobel Prize winners, whatever

1220  
01:10:48,510 --> 01:10:53,460  
and very active,  
intellectual life.

1221  
01:10:53,460 --> 01:10:57,960  
And I was exposed  
to people who were

1222  
01:10:57,960 --> 01:11:05,790  
the best of possible teachers  
you ever would meet in reality.

1223  
01:11:05,790 --> 01:11:07,310  
Virtually impossible  
to encounter

1224  
01:11:07,310 --> 01:11:10,070  
and that was Theresienstadt  
for a certain time.

1225  
01:11:10,070 --> 01:11:13,890

1226  
01:11:13,890 --> 01:11:24,740

I stayed with about 12 or  
13 youngsters in one thing

1227  
01:11:24,740 --> 01:11:31,390  
under the supervision of a  
Czech philosophy student,

1228  
01:11:31,390 --> 01:11:33,500  
almost finished his  
doctorate but didn't, a man

1229  
01:11:33,500 --> 01:11:38,070  
called Gustav [Personal  
name] who staged

1230  
01:11:38,070 --> 01:11:41,310  
plays and unbelievable things.

1231  
01:11:41,310 --> 01:11:45,770  
And so that the cultural  
scene, which existed there,

1232  
01:11:45,770 --> 01:11:54,230  
of philosophers, thinkers,  
scientists, artists, musicians,

1233  
01:11:54,230 --> 01:11:59,390  
all that, was a very,  
very stimulating

1234  
01:11:59,390 --> 01:12:07,220  
and an important experience  
which somehow powerfully

1235  
01:12:07,220 --> 01:12:10,320  
balanced all the traumatic  
events, the deprivation

1236  
01:12:10,320 --> 01:12:12,750  
and the dreadfulness of it all.

1237  
01:12:12,750 --> 01:12:17,670

1238  
01:12:17,670 --> 01:12:24,050  
It had a very  
important impact on me,

1239  
01:12:24,050 --> 01:12:29,960  
lasting because there were  
people of many-- all you know

1240  
01:12:29,960 --> 01:12:33,210  
lots of different people there.

1241  
01:12:33,210 --> 01:12:35,990  
Encountered were just from SA--

1242  
01:12:35,990 --> 01:12:38,630  
members of the SA, but they  
found out they're Jewish,

1243  
01:12:38,630 --> 01:12:40,340  
so they deported them.

1244  
01:12:40,340 --> 01:12:42,950  
And then they had the priests.

1245  
01:12:42,950 --> 01:12:47,940  
You had people of  
different persuasions.

1246  
01:12:47,940 --> 01:12:52,320  
Just unbelievable,  
unbelievable, broad spectrum.

1247  
01:12:52,320 --> 01:12:54,300  
And also had the  
Judenrat, and they

1248  
01:12:54,300 --> 01:12:57,570  
were the worst of them all.

1249  
01:12:57,570 --> 01:12:58,720  
In what way?

1250  
01:12:58,720 --> 01:13:01,140  
Well, they were just  
not only collaborating,

1251  
01:13:01,140 --> 01:13:04,020  
but they just simply  
tried to save their skin

1252  
01:13:04,020 --> 01:13:13,980  
and collaborated with the  
Nazis in a most abominable way

1253  
01:13:13,980 --> 01:13:15,930  
and just terrible.

1254  
01:13:15,930 --> 01:13:18,870  
And I still remember  
some of the people

1255  
01:13:18,870 --> 01:13:20,730  
during the  
deportation situation,

1256  
01:13:20,730 --> 01:13:23,760  
particularly where we  
assemble, the place when

1257  
01:13:23,760 --> 01:13:27,090  
people are deported in Prague.

1258  
01:13:27,090 --> 01:13:32,820  
Some of these characters, some  
of the rabbis and whatever,

1259  
01:13:32,820 --> 01:13:39,950  
were just unbelievable types  
and did all the dirty work

1260  
01:13:39,950 --> 01:13:41,460  
of the Gestapo.

1261

01:13:41,460 --> 01:13:43,170  
And that was unforgivable.

1262  
01:13:43,170 --> 01:13:46,680  
And that continued pretty  
much in Theresienstadt,

1263  
01:13:46,680 --> 01:13:52,350  
so with the exception of the  
Judenrat, which was simply

1264  
01:13:52,350 --> 01:14:00,840  
totally unacceptable, the other  
people were counterbalance.

1265  
01:14:00,840 --> 01:14:03,720  
Then of course, I was  
with my grandmother

1266  
01:14:03,720 --> 01:14:07,350  
there, some distant  
relatives, many

1267  
01:14:07,350 --> 01:14:09,960  
of the friends with  
whom we were very close,

1268  
01:14:09,960 --> 01:14:12,030  
befriended families.

1269  
01:14:12,030 --> 01:14:15,450  
So there were a lot of people  
with whom I had contact,

1270  
01:14:15,450 --> 01:14:18,780  
but the older ones, of course,  
deteriorated very rapidly

1271  
01:14:18,780 --> 01:14:21,390  
and it was just terrible to  
see what happened to them.

1272  
01:14:21,390 --> 01:14:24,000

My mother, of course,  
was also not well off.

1273  
01:14:24,000 --> 01:14:26,100  
She had pneumonia,  
caught pneumonia there.

1274  
01:14:26,100 --> 01:14:29,343

1275  
01:14:29,343 --> 01:14:31,260  
She had come later?

1276  
01:14:31,260 --> 01:14:31,760  
Mhm?

1277  
01:14:31,760 --> 01:14:33,270  
She had come  
lately, your mother?

1278  
01:14:33,270 --> 01:14:39,350  
Yeah, she came the  
same year, later,

1279  
01:14:39,350 --> 01:14:44,370  
I think in October  
or something--

1280  
01:14:44,370 --> 01:14:45,930  
October or November.

1281  
01:14:45,930 --> 01:14:53,990  
And so to see all that  
was, of course, terrible.

1282  
01:14:53,990 --> 01:14:56,163  
And how was the food situation?

1283  
01:14:56,163 --> 01:14:56,705  
No situation.

1284  
01:14:56,705 --> 01:15:00,440

It just awful in  
this place, dreadful.

1285  
01:15:00,440 --> 01:15:01,320  
People starving.

1286  
01:15:01,320 --> 01:15:05,870  
But my father supplemented  
some of these things because

1287  
01:15:05,870 --> 01:15:07,970  
of his privileged status.

1288  
01:15:07,970 --> 01:15:10,220  
So he was getting more  
by virtue of the fact

1289  
01:15:10,220 --> 01:15:14,410  
that he had come during the  
so-called AK2 transport.

1290  
01:15:14,410 --> 01:15:20,010

1291  
01:15:20,010 --> 01:15:23,010  
So he was able to get special  
rations, which he then

1292  
01:15:23,010 --> 01:15:23,640  
shared with us.

1293  
01:15:23,640 --> 01:15:29,350  
He was in this kind of very  
different and he was very,

1294  
01:15:29,350 --> 01:15:34,100  
very supportive and  
fantastic things for mother

1295  
01:15:34,100 --> 01:15:35,620  
from whom he was divorced.

1296



01:15:35,620 --> 01:15:39,210  
But he behaved very  
well also towards me.

1297  
01:15:39,210 --> 01:15:43,125  
Very, very nice and supportive  
kind of relationship.

1298  
01:15:43,125 --> 01:15:44,400  
It changed in the camp.

1299  
01:15:44,400 --> 01:15:50,250

1300  
01:15:50,250 --> 01:15:53,940  
So all these various  
activities, we studied

1301  
01:15:53,940 --> 01:15:56,820  
and we worked and we  
did all sorts of things

1302  
01:15:56,820 --> 01:15:59,850  
with various people  
who became well known

1303  
01:15:59,850 --> 01:16:03,150  
in the history of the  
Holocaust, many of the names.

1304  
01:16:03,150 --> 01:16:06,070  
And I was right in  
the midst of it.

1305  
01:16:06,070 --> 01:16:12,840  
And I knew them all and worked  
with them in the activity.

1306  
01:16:12,840 --> 01:16:21,250  
And then in '43, I was on the  
list for those to be deported.

1307  
01:16:21,250 --> 01:16:24,620

I also worked with some  
of the people, so that I--

1308  
01:16:24,620 --> 01:16:26,850  
in some sort of  
administrative situation

1309  
01:16:26,850 --> 01:16:28,690  
as clerical situation.

1310  
01:16:28,690 --> 01:16:30,960  
So therefore, I  
had some knowledge

1311  
01:16:30,960 --> 01:16:35,090  
in terms of the type of  
Gestapo people and Judenrat

1312  
01:16:35,090 --> 01:16:35,640  
and all that.

1313  
01:16:35,640 --> 01:16:40,140  
And what I saw was just  
awful, awful, awful.

1314  
01:16:40,140 --> 01:16:41,610  
It was just awful what I saw.

1315  
01:16:41,610 --> 01:16:46,678  
These characters-- saw  
people ruined and the way

1316  
01:16:46,678 --> 01:16:47,970  
they collaborated and all that.

1317  
01:16:47,970 --> 01:16:49,650  
It was just awful, just awful.

1318  
01:16:49,650 --> 01:16:51,132  
It was very depressing for me.

1319  
01:16:51,132 --> 01:16:54,510

1320  
01:16:54,510 --> 01:16:55,010  
Mhm?

1321  
01:16:55,010 --> 01:16:58,620  
I was asking if you  
could speak of that.

1322  
01:16:58,620 --> 01:17:01,220  
Well, I mean, it's  
just that they

1323  
01:17:01,220 --> 01:17:04,790  
did-- they collaborated  
to do the dirty job.

1324  
01:17:04,790 --> 01:17:08,690  
An extension of the Gestapo,  
that's what they were.

1325  
01:17:08,690 --> 01:17:14,180  
And I found that to be totally  
and utterly unforgivable.

1326  
01:17:14,180 --> 01:17:16,560  
And they did that also  
because, first of all,

1327  
01:17:16,560 --> 01:17:19,580  
they wanted to prevail and  
wanted to save their own skin

1328  
01:17:19,580 --> 01:17:22,520  
and have a better life  
with a rich position.

1329  
01:17:22,520 --> 01:17:26,450

1330  
01:17:26,450 --> 01:17:28,160  
So that's the  
first time I became

1331  
01:17:28,160 --> 01:17:35,780  
interested in what I later  
studied as an academician.

1332  
01:17:35,780 --> 01:17:39,170  
How people behave in  
extreme stress situation

1333  
01:17:39,170 --> 01:17:41,660  
in terms of moral precepts.

1334  
01:17:41,660 --> 01:17:45,030  
And many of these people are  
rabbis, as I said before.

1335  
01:17:45,030 --> 01:17:48,040  
That's why rabbi doesn't  
mean anything to me.

1336  
01:17:48,040 --> 01:17:49,742  
It doesn't mean that  
he's a person who

1337  
01:17:49,742 --> 01:17:50,700  
is any better than any.

1338  
01:17:50,700 --> 01:17:54,500  
He's just as vulnerable  
as anyone else.

1339  
01:17:54,500 --> 01:18:00,650  
Anyway, so that people  
with doctor degrees and all

1340  
01:18:00,650 --> 01:18:04,580  
that behaved in a  
way which was, I

1341  
01:18:04,580 --> 01:18:06,620  
consider even under  
those circumstances,

1342  
01:18:06,620 --> 01:18:07,890  
beyond forgivable.

1343  
01:18:07,890 --> 01:18:10,790

1344  
01:18:10,790 --> 01:18:13,910  
Did you have  
instances where people

1345  
01:18:13,910 --> 01:18:20,010  
were extraordinarily kind  
beyond what you might expect?

1346  
01:18:20,010 --> 01:18:24,462  
I mean besides in a family  
situation with your father.

1347  
01:18:24,462 --> 01:18:26,170  
I don't quite understand  
what you saying.

1348  
01:18:26,170 --> 01:18:31,240  
Where there-- in hard times,  
people were more kind at times

1349  
01:18:31,240 --> 01:18:35,380  
then you would have  
accepted, as well as being--

1350  
01:18:35,380 --> 01:18:38,470  
Well, my father always was very  
socially-- as I said earlier,

1351  
01:18:38,470 --> 01:18:44,380  
socially very social person,  
very oriented in his regard--

1352  
01:18:44,380 --> 01:18:46,360  
very socially-oriented and--

1353  
01:18:46,360 --> 01:18:49,090

1354  
01:18:49,090 --> 01:18:52,300  
but the fact is that in  
spite of the conflict

1355  
01:18:52,300 --> 01:18:55,300  
he had with my mother  
and certainly with me, he

1356  
01:18:55,300 --> 01:18:57,850  
behaved in a way  
which was exceedingly

1357  
01:18:57,850 --> 01:19:01,670  
responsible and supportive.

1358  
01:19:01,670 --> 01:19:08,240  
And so that changed kind of the  
relationship with all for us,

1359  
01:19:08,240 --> 01:19:09,810  
actually, mother  
as well as myself.

1360  
01:19:09,810 --> 01:19:16,340

1361  
01:19:16,340 --> 01:19:18,880  
Yes, and there are some  
interesting incidents.

1362  
01:19:18,880 --> 01:19:22,300

1363  
01:19:22,300 --> 01:19:25,690  
When I lived with a  
group of young people,

1364  
01:19:25,690 --> 01:19:28,990  
there are some people, lots  
of half Jewish people--

1365

01:19:28,990 --> 01:19:33,730  
half Jewish were first degree,  
not second degree Jews.

1366

01:19:33,730 --> 01:19:36,260  
Half Jews, first degree  
that is to say these people

1367

01:19:36,260 --> 01:19:37,810  
were not exempted.

1368

01:19:37,810 --> 01:19:39,520  
Second degree were exempt.

1369

01:19:39,520 --> 01:19:45,710

1370

01:19:45,710 --> 01:19:47,360  
So in the Theresienstadt,  
it was still

1371

01:19:47,360 --> 01:19:52,470  
possible to make contacts,  
by people, do things.

1372

01:19:52,470 --> 01:19:56,750  
So some of these kids, I knew,  
just periodically left over

1373

01:19:56,750 --> 01:19:59,420  
the weekend to visit home.

1374

01:19:59,420 --> 01:20:05,180  
Left Theresienstadt,  
and this is just a fact,

1375

01:20:05,180 --> 01:20:08,810  
and then they came  
back on Sunday.

1376

01:20:08,810 --> 01:20:09,700  
How did they do that?

1377  
01:20:09,700 --> 01:20:11,510  
Well, they just  
had the contacts.

1378  
01:20:11,510 --> 01:20:14,870  
And they dealt with the  
Czech Gendarmes and all that,

1379  
01:20:14,870 --> 01:20:16,340  
knew where and how to get out.

1380  
01:20:16,340 --> 01:20:19,700  
Knew the loopholes and  
got out, slipped out,

1381  
01:20:19,700 --> 01:20:22,130  
and then they returned  
the same way back.

1382  
01:20:22,130 --> 01:20:27,590  
And that was the so-called,  
I know the names, of course,

1383  
01:20:27,590 --> 01:20:30,380  
the Friedman brothers--

1384  
01:20:30,380 --> 01:20:32,630  
one older and younger  
brother -- terrors.

1385  
01:20:32,630 --> 01:20:33,616  
Absolute terrors.

1386  
01:20:33,616 --> 01:20:38,480  
Yeah, they were half  
Jews, first degree.

1387  
01:20:38,480 --> 01:20:39,980  
And they did that.

1388  
01:20:39,980 --> 01:20:43,220



And then a good friend of  
mine whom I knew from Prague,

1389  
01:20:43,220 --> 01:20:45,170  
I didn't know them  
before, but I got

1390  
01:20:45,170 --> 01:20:52,940  
to know them-- and a real  
terror because they misbehaved

1391  
01:20:52,940 --> 01:20:54,410  
in so many different ways.

1392  
01:20:54,410 --> 01:20:58,550  
They were cruel to a lot  
of young kids like us

1393  
01:20:58,550 --> 01:21:02,450  
and just really beat the hell  
out of them whenever they could

1394  
01:21:02,450 --> 01:21:04,500  
and all this sort of thing.

1395  
01:21:04,500 --> 01:21:08,780  
And then there was a  
fellow called Taussig.

1396  
01:21:08,780 --> 01:21:16,010  
And his appearance, he  
looked like what we called

1397  
01:21:16,010 --> 01:21:17,060  
[NON-ENGLISH].

1398  
01:21:17,060 --> 01:21:19,750  
That means that the Jewish  
community put together

1399  
01:21:19,750 --> 01:21:23,700  
in terms of stereotypical  
Jewish appearance.

1400  
01:21:23,700 --> 01:21:25,260  
So he did the same thing.

1401  
01:21:25,260 --> 01:21:28,580  
It was a close friend of mine,  
and I was always supportive.

1402  
01:21:28,580 --> 01:21:30,860  
Of course, I knew all  
the things and did

1403  
01:21:30,860 --> 01:21:32,960  
all I could in order  
to make it possible,

1404  
01:21:32,960 --> 01:21:34,693  
whatever I could do  
from my end because I

1405  
01:21:34,693 --> 01:21:35,735  
didn't have that contact.

1406  
01:21:35,735 --> 01:21:38,030  
I couldn't do  
[? either. ?] Although, I

1407  
01:21:38,030 --> 01:21:41,150  
could have gone to people  
who would have sheltered me,

1408  
01:21:41,150 --> 01:21:43,130  
but it was a very risky thing.

1409  
01:21:43,130 --> 01:21:45,750  
And it was just an  
unbelievable thing.

1410  
01:21:45,750 --> 01:21:47,960  
I don't know if anyone has  
written about that yet.

1411

01:21:47,960 --> 01:21:52,220  
I mean, if not,  
one should really.

1412  
01:21:52,220 --> 01:21:57,560  
So there was this Taussig  
and he looked very Jewish.

1413  
01:21:57,560 --> 01:22:00,980  
And to be sure, he did it  
on a number of occasions

1414  
01:22:00,980 --> 01:22:05,960  
because he too was  
out, and got caught

1415  
01:22:05,960 --> 01:22:07,610  
and came to a very bad end.

1416  
01:22:07,610 --> 01:22:10,340  
And I tried to help  
him on that bad end

1417  
01:22:10,340 --> 01:22:17,270  
because the Judenrat just  
tried to protect themselves,

1418  
01:22:17,270 --> 01:22:21,830  
not to be chided or just  
get into real problems

1419  
01:22:21,830 --> 01:22:25,520  
with the SS authorities.

1420  
01:22:25,520 --> 01:22:28,730  
So I mean, he then was  
taken out of circulation,

1421  
01:22:28,730 --> 01:22:31,660  
put into some  
special confinement

1422  
01:22:31,660 --> 01:22:36,140

and gassed and  
sent to Auschwitz.

1423  
01:22:36,140 --> 01:22:43,460  
And then was another fellow  
who was also like that,

1424  
01:22:43,460 --> 01:22:46,910  
but looked not at all Jewish--

1425  
01:22:46,910 --> 01:22:48,320  
and blonde.

1426  
01:22:48,320 --> 01:22:53,270  
And that was one of my  
major things which I did,

1427  
01:22:53,270 --> 01:22:54,430  
and I'm very proud of.

1428  
01:22:54,430 --> 01:22:59,930

1429  
01:22:59,930 --> 01:23:02,630  
He didn't have anyone  
else to talk to.

1430  
01:23:02,630 --> 01:23:07,620  
He was actually an  
orphan of sorts,

1431  
01:23:07,620 --> 01:23:09,540  
so he always confided in me.

1432  
01:23:09,540 --> 01:23:12,240  
And said, OK, I'd  
like you to help me

1433  
01:23:12,240 --> 01:23:15,930  
to escape from Theresienstadt.

1434  
01:23:15,930 --> 01:23:22,260

And this and this, I'm going  
to do, leave on that day.

1435  
01:23:22,260 --> 01:23:23,790  
I need some supplies.

1436  
01:23:23,790 --> 01:23:25,600  
You can help me with  
that and all that.

1437  
01:23:25,600 --> 01:23:28,320  
And then you have to cover  
for me in case people would--

1438  
01:23:28,320 --> 01:23:34,130

1439  
01:23:34,130 --> 01:23:41,140  
And he had found exactly,  
again, a loophole

1440  
01:23:41,140 --> 01:23:42,742  
to get out, to slip out.

1441  
01:23:42,742 --> 01:23:44,200  
That was possible  
in Theresienstadt

1442  
01:23:44,200 --> 01:23:45,320  
if you really knew it.

1443  
01:23:45,320 --> 01:23:50,860  
And he was a very enterprising,  
aggressive individual.

1444  
01:23:50,860 --> 01:23:54,274  
His name was Kurt,  
Kurt [Personal name]

1445  
01:23:54,274 --> 01:24:00,480  
Kurt [Personal name]  
And that was in '43.

1446

01:24:00,480 --> 01:24:04,590

1447

01:24:04,590 --> 01:24:09,240

It was in spring '43, I think.

1448

01:24:09,240 --> 01:24:13,050

So he-- we prepared everything,  
rations, food, everything

1449

01:24:13,050 --> 01:24:15,090

so that he could,  
strength and all that.

1450

01:24:15,090 --> 01:24:18,470

And one night, he just  
said, OK, it's time.

1451

01:24:18,470 --> 01:24:23,490

He went and everything went OK.

1452

01:24:23,490 --> 01:24:24,640

And why do I know that?

1453

01:24:24,640 --> 01:24:26,730

Because I met him by  
accident in Prague,

1454

01:24:26,730 --> 01:24:29,470

in Prague Street after the war.

1455

01:24:29,470 --> 01:24:32,530

[Personal name] made his way  
because the way he looked.

1456

01:24:32,530 --> 01:24:33,990

He just looked  
like he could have

1457

01:24:33,990 --> 01:24:36,970

been an SS man if he wanted to.

1458

01:24:36,970 --> 01:24:42,780

And he made his way to Vienna  
and out of Austria, Balkan

1459

01:24:42,780 --> 01:24:43,740

and then to England.

1460

01:24:43,740 --> 01:24:48,960

He came back and then became  
a member of the Allied British

1461

01:24:48,960 --> 01:24:49,820

Forces.

1462

01:24:49,820 --> 01:24:51,570

A miracle.

1463

01:24:51,570 --> 01:24:56,573

- Yeah, Kurt [Personal name]

1464

01:24:56,573 --> 01:24:58,740

Did you ever think to try  
to do something like that?

1465

01:24:58,740 --> 01:25:01,690

Yeah, I did, but  
that was before that.

1466

01:25:01,690 --> 01:25:04,500

And since you  
mentioned-- because we

1467

01:25:04,500 --> 01:25:07,740

had non-Jewish relatives  
and all that in Vienna,

1468

01:25:07,740 --> 01:25:09,270

particularly in Vienna.

1469

01:25:09,270 --> 01:25:17,850

And my uncle, a husband of  
my mother's sister, Charlotte

1470  
01:25:17,850 --> 01:25:23,130  
Froehlich, was his  
name, Froehlich, was

1471  
01:25:23,130 --> 01:25:30,040  
a very well-known figure  
and high official in Vienna,

1472  
01:25:30,040 --> 01:25:37,470  
and had very many well-known  
influential people.

1473  
01:25:37,470 --> 01:25:39,870  
So he became a submarine.

1474  
01:25:39,870 --> 01:25:43,910  
He disappeared and survived.

1475  
01:25:43,910 --> 01:25:46,550  
After the war, we were  
in touch and all that,

1476  
01:25:46,550 --> 01:25:51,110  
so he died of old age in Vienna.

1477  
01:25:51,110 --> 01:25:54,170  
So then we also had  
some distant relatives

1478  
01:25:54,170 --> 01:25:57,470  
who were not Jewish or just  
not sufficiently Jewish

1479  
01:25:57,470 --> 01:25:59,430  
to be affected.

1480  
01:25:59,430 --> 01:26:03,210  
And so one of them  
was a physician.

1481  
01:26:03,210 --> 01:26:08,150



And he came to Prague and said,  
why don't you come to Vienna?

1482  
01:26:08,150 --> 01:26:11,180  
I help you to  
become a submarine.

1483  
01:26:11,180 --> 01:26:13,070  
Then I said, yes, we  
should really do that.

1484  
01:26:13,070 --> 01:26:17,450  
I was take-- don't give  
anything to the Nazis.

1485  
01:26:17,450 --> 01:26:20,240  
Bury all the jewelry,  
all this and that.

1486  
01:26:20,240 --> 01:26:23,780  
But they wouldn't do  
it because they just--

1487  
01:26:23,780 --> 01:26:24,900  
or we haven't done it.

1488  
01:26:24,900 --> 01:26:27,620  
We just have to be obedient and  
do these things and all that.

1489  
01:26:27,620 --> 01:26:30,470  
All my parents and  
my relatives kind of

1490  
01:26:30,470 --> 01:26:35,290  
felt obligated to abide by--

1491  
01:26:35,290 --> 01:26:38,300  
which was very-- and I was  
really rebelling and said,

1492  
01:26:38,300 --> 01:26:39,650  
this is crazy.

1493  
01:26:39,650 --> 01:26:42,950  
And so did this  
physician relative

1494  
01:26:42,950 --> 01:26:45,180  
of ours, distant relative.

1495  
01:26:45,180 --> 01:26:47,660  
So I said, well, but I  
wouldn't want to do it.

1496  
01:26:47,660 --> 01:26:48,688  
I didn't want to do it.

1497  
01:26:48,688 --> 01:26:49,730  
And I said, why don't we?

1498  
01:26:49,730 --> 01:26:51,105  
At least we have  
nothing to lose.

1499  
01:26:51,105 --> 01:26:53,300  
Said this is terrible  
you didn't do nothing.

1500  
01:26:53,300 --> 01:26:54,590  
But no, they wouldn't do it.

1501  
01:26:54,590 --> 01:26:59,880

1502  
01:26:59,880 --> 01:27:08,160  
Yeah, so I thought of that,  
but did not succeed in this.

1503  
01:27:08,160 --> 01:27:12,900  
Now the same thing, of course,  
with this Kurt [Personal name]

1504  
01:27:12,900 --> 01:27:15,750  
and all that, that

was among the worst

1505  
01:27:15,750 --> 01:27:19,530  
conditions and the Friedman  
brothers got away with it.

1506  
01:27:19,530 --> 01:27:23,490

1507  
01:27:23,490 --> 01:27:24,810  
No, Freed, not Friedman.

1508  
01:27:24,810 --> 01:27:26,640  
Freed brothers,  
Freed was their name.

1509  
01:27:26,640 --> 01:27:27,540  
Freed.

1510  
01:27:27,540 --> 01:27:33,540  
And Kurt [Personal name] got  
away with it and survived.

1511  
01:27:33,540 --> 01:27:38,430  
Why would people go out  
for the weekend and return?

1512  
01:27:38,430 --> 01:27:41,700  
Because it would have been  
too risky to keep them there

1513  
01:27:41,700 --> 01:27:43,920  
on a permanent basis.

1514  
01:27:43,920 --> 01:27:46,290  
It would have been too risky.

1515  
01:27:46,290 --> 01:27:47,590  
And they would have--

1516  
01:27:47,590 --> 01:27:49,560  
they would noticed that

they are not there.

1517

01:27:49,560 --> 01:27:51,220

Of course, [Personal  
name] later on,

1518

01:27:51,220 --> 01:27:55,290

of course, after I've tried  
to cover for him and all that,

1519

01:27:55,290 --> 01:27:58,830

when he was already  
gone, God knows where,

1520

01:27:58,830 --> 01:28:00,030

and then they found out.

1521

01:28:00,030 --> 01:28:02,670

They count and there  
was someone missing.

1522

01:28:02,670 --> 01:28:04,710

But that's something  
which you found out

1523

01:28:04,710 --> 01:28:07,360

because they kept tabs on you.

1524

01:28:07,360 --> 01:28:09,720

I mean, precisely, that's  
how they structured it.

1525

01:28:09,720 --> 01:28:14,070

You had Jewish overseers who  
said, hey, that is [INAUDIBLE]

1526

01:28:14,070 --> 01:28:17,800

and then went up and reported.

1527

01:28:17,800 --> 01:28:19,620

That's everything,  
OK, and all that.

1528

01:28:19,620 --> 01:28:22,680

And that's the system  
which is described

1529

01:28:22,680 --> 01:28:26,538

by Raul Hilberg  
and Hannah Arendt

1530

01:28:26,538 --> 01:28:31,410

and so many other people,  
which they institutionalized,

1531

01:28:31,410 --> 01:28:33,630

the Nazis, the Gestapo  
institutionalized

1532

01:28:33,630 --> 01:28:36,360

because that saved them  
a great deal of personnel

1533

01:28:36,360 --> 01:28:42,400

and implicating the  
Jews to corroborate.

1534

01:28:42,400 --> 01:28:46,938

And so that there was a division  
of the unification in terms

1535

01:28:46,938 --> 01:28:48,325

of the leadership and all that.

1536

01:28:48,325 --> 01:28:49,460

They were very successful.

1537

01:28:49,460 --> 01:28:55,133

It was just an absolutely,  
devilish, satanic method.

1538

01:28:55,133 --> 01:28:57,550

It was only to retaliate on  
the family members left behind

1539

01:28:57,550 --> 01:28:58,320  
also.

1540  
01:28:58,320 --> 01:29:02,280  
Right, right, right.

1541  
01:29:02,280 --> 01:29:06,460

1542  
01:29:06,460 --> 01:29:10,510  
Well, so that was a  
very interesting thing.

1543  
01:29:10,510 --> 01:29:13,430  
And then I was deported  
to Auschwitz-Birkenau.

1544  
01:29:13,430 --> 01:29:16,700  
And by that time, there  
were some friends of mine

1545  
01:29:16,700 --> 01:29:21,520  
who were already there  
from Theresienstadt.

1546  
01:29:21,520 --> 01:29:27,860

1547  
01:29:27,860 --> 01:29:30,890  
They too were kind of elected  
for reasons which escape me.

1548  
01:29:30,890 --> 01:29:34,850  
Because I, again, came with  
some sort of special outfit

1549  
01:29:34,850 --> 01:29:36,980  
to Auschwitz-Birkenau,  
not to be gassed.

1550  
01:29:36,980 --> 01:29:38,482  
Not to be gassed.

1551  
01:29:38,482 --> 01:29:39,440  
Did you know that then?

1552  
01:29:39,440 --> 01:29:40,530  
And we have privilege--

1553  
01:29:40,530 --> 01:29:44,090  
no, then it was just  
something unbelievable.

1554  
01:29:44,090 --> 01:29:49,620  
And we are sent to the  
so-called B2 family camp.

1555  
01:29:49,620 --> 01:29:52,250  
They didn't cut our hair.

1556  
01:29:52,250 --> 01:29:55,460  
And this friend of  
mine, a man called

1557  
01:29:55,460 --> 01:29:57,620  
Hans Fisher was a jazz pianist.

1558  
01:29:57,620 --> 01:30:03,740  
A very gifted person,  
son of a psychiatrist,

1559  
01:30:03,740 --> 01:30:07,790  
a professor of  
psychiatry in Prague.

1560  
01:30:07,790 --> 01:30:13,480  
Friends from Prague I  
knew before the camp time.

1561  
01:30:13,480 --> 01:30:19,330

1562  
01:30:19,330 --> 01:30:23,530  
So he was part of the musicians,  
the Auschwitz-Birkenau

1563  
01:30:23,530 --> 01:30:26,650  
musicians, who were in the band.

1564  
01:30:26,650 --> 01:30:28,420  
And therefore, had a  
privileged position

1565  
01:30:28,420 --> 01:30:30,620  
to move around a little bit.

1566  
01:30:30,620 --> 01:30:33,270  
And so somehow, he  
was already there,

1567  
01:30:33,270 --> 01:30:35,290  
that I'd be in this thing.

1568  
01:30:35,290 --> 01:30:36,970  
That I would be in--

1569  
01:30:36,970 --> 01:30:40,420  
arriving in this transport  
to Auschwitz-Birkenau.

1570  
01:30:40,420 --> 01:30:42,225  
And he was there and  
said, here you are.

1571  
01:30:42,225 --> 01:30:43,100  
Do you have anything?

1572  
01:30:43,100 --> 01:30:43,850  
Give it to me.

1573  
01:30:43,850 --> 01:30:44,810  
I can bring it to you.

1574  
01:30:44,810 --> 01:30:46,370  
So we give it.

1575



01:30:46,370 --> 01:30:50,600  
And of course, we were  
deloused, so to speak,

1576  
01:30:50,600 --> 01:30:52,210  
cold showers and all this.

1577  
01:30:52,210 --> 01:30:54,970  
And that was a very  
interesting sort of thing

1578  
01:30:54,970 --> 01:30:59,110  
because I'm not  
circumcised, of course,

1579  
01:30:59,110 --> 01:31:02,140  
by virtue of my parents.

1580  
01:31:02,140 --> 01:31:07,850  
And so when we went into Kanada  
with all the people in Kanada

1581  
01:31:07,850 --> 01:31:12,250  
and dealing with us  
and the delousing.

1582  
01:31:12,250 --> 01:31:14,660  
so they said, hey, what  
are you doing here?

1583  
01:31:14,660 --> 01:31:18,850  
And started interesting sort  
of remarks that were not funny.

1584  
01:31:18,850 --> 01:31:20,030  
They thought it was funny.

1585  
01:31:20,030 --> 01:31:22,900  
I didn't because I was  
traumatized in terms

1586  
01:31:22,900 --> 01:31:25,090  
of what was taking place there.

1587  
01:31:25,090 --> 01:31:27,970  
I could smell the gas,  
everything, an awful thing.

1588  
01:31:27,970 --> 01:31:30,580

1589  
01:31:30,580 --> 01:31:35,050  
So this Hans Fischer,  
meanwhile, of course,

1590  
01:31:35,050 --> 01:31:38,650  
took some of the things which  
they were taking away from me.

1591  
01:31:38,650 --> 01:31:42,490  
And I was able to save some few  
things in some of my crevices

1592  
01:31:42,490 --> 01:31:44,890  
in my backside, a  
beautiful knife and all

1593  
01:31:44,890 --> 01:31:48,670  
these sort of books and  
just unbelievable stuff.

1594  
01:31:48,670 --> 01:31:52,000  
By that time, I  
already was seasoned

1595  
01:31:52,000 --> 01:31:57,640  
and I knew how to manipulate  
my situation to my advantage.

1596  
01:31:57,640 --> 01:31:59,980  
And I talked to some  
of the people in Kanada

1597  
01:31:59,980 --> 01:32:02,020  
and they gave me some  
advice because they

1598

01:32:02,020 --> 01:32:04,090

knew that we somehow  
were very different

1599

01:32:04,090 --> 01:32:06,220

and we will be  
treated differently

1600

01:32:06,220 --> 01:32:08,030

and not sent to the gas chamber.

1601

01:32:08,030 --> 01:32:09,910

So they're more talkative  
and more supportive

1602

01:32:09,910 --> 01:32:11,590

because they did  
what they could.

1603

01:32:11,590 --> 01:32:16,370

And yes, they just went  
and told me what to do.

1604

01:32:16,370 --> 01:32:19,810

We went through the showers, of  
course, dreadful this terrible,

1605

01:32:19,810 --> 01:32:21,260

everything left.

1606

01:32:21,260 --> 01:32:23,890

And we had this  
awful striped things

1607

01:32:23,890 --> 01:32:29,195

and the smell is awful,  
just dreadful situation.

1608

01:32:29,195 --> 01:32:32,860

Then we went to the B2 camp and  
there was Hans Fischer and he

1609

01:32:32,860 --> 01:32:35,800  
just gave me back all the things  
because he was a friend and all

1610

01:32:35,800 --> 01:32:37,930  
this and --

1611

01:32:37,930 --> 01:32:46,140  
And then Fredy Hirsch came  
and many other people.

1612

01:32:46,140 --> 01:32:48,910

1613

01:32:48,910 --> 01:32:52,720  
And then eventually my  
parents came, both of them.

1614

01:32:52,720 --> 01:32:55,180  
And my mother was on the--

1615

01:32:55,180 --> 01:33:00,640  
see, the members of the AK2  
transport to Theresienstadt,

1616

01:33:00,640 --> 01:33:09,620  
their basic camp building  
Kommando, so to speak,

1617

01:33:09,620 --> 01:33:14,410  
they were exempt from being  
deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau

1618

01:33:14,410 --> 01:33:16,230  
or from Theresienstadt, period.

1619

01:33:16,230 --> 01:33:20,110  
They were exempted from any  
movement -- transportation.

1620

01:33:20,110 --> 01:33:21,670  
But my mother came next.

1621  
01:33:21,670 --> 01:33:23,340  
You see, my mother  
then was on the list

1622  
01:33:23,340 --> 01:33:27,220  
to be shipped to  
Auschwitz-Birkenau.

1623  
01:33:27,220 --> 01:33:31,450  
And so my father did one  
of the most heroic things.

1624  
01:33:31,450 --> 01:33:34,740  
He said, I'm coming with you.

1625  
01:33:34,740 --> 01:33:37,040  
That is--

1626  
01:33:37,040 --> 01:33:41,570  
Knowing already  
that this was death.

1627  
01:33:41,570 --> 01:33:44,220  
I mean, we didn't know the  
gassing and this or that,

1628  
01:33:44,220 --> 01:33:50,435  
but rumors, rumors that this was  
the [? arnoux ?] [? Mundi, ?]

1629  
01:33:50,435 --> 01:33:53,960  
the worst thing.

1630  
01:33:53,960 --> 01:34:02,290  
And so he did volunteer  
to go with my mother

1631  
01:34:02,290 --> 01:34:04,870  
and I'll never forget that.

1632  
01:34:04,870 --> 01:34:05,550

Totally.

1633

01:34:05,550 --> 01:34:06,590

That is heroic.

1634

01:34:06,590 --> 01:34:08,680

That was a heroic act.

1635

01:34:08,680 --> 01:34:12,100

Because you see, when I  
went, they didn't volunteer.

1636

01:34:12,100 --> 01:34:13,060

No.

1637

01:34:13,060 --> 01:34:17,260

And I remember my cousin  
showed me two of the wagons

1638

01:34:17,260 --> 01:34:21,580

and another one [INAUDIBLE]  
and gave me his--

1639

01:34:21,580 --> 01:34:23,620

poor fellow was  
sort of ski medal

1640

01:34:23,620 --> 01:34:27,895

kind of a talisman and all that  
and was absolutely distraught.

1641

01:34:27,895 --> 01:34:30,400

1642

01:34:30,400 --> 01:34:31,845

But none of them  
said I would come

1643

01:34:31,845 --> 01:34:33,970

with you which was a  
possibility you could do that.

1644

01:34:33,970 --> 01:34:34,900  
You could volunteer?

1645  
01:34:34,900 --> 01:34:36,760  
You could do that.

1646  
01:34:36,760 --> 01:34:39,730  
And some other people would  
be exempt and taken out,

1647  
01:34:39,730 --> 01:34:41,100  
and you could go.

1648  
01:34:41,100 --> 01:34:43,180  
Well, they didn't,  
but my father did it.

1649  
01:34:43,180 --> 01:34:46,210  
My father did it, so they both  
arrived in Auschwitz-Birkenau.

1650  
01:34:46,210 --> 01:34:49,930  
I helped them to adjust  
because I was very--

1651  
01:34:49,930 --> 01:34:54,663  
I was quite alert, quite alert.

1652  
01:34:54,663 --> 01:34:56,080  
How did you know  
they were coming?

1653  
01:34:56,080 --> 01:34:56,950  
I didn't.

1654  
01:34:56,950 --> 01:34:57,460  
I didn't.

1655  
01:34:57,460 --> 01:35:00,820  
I just simply was alert,  
and people said, well,

1656

01:35:00,820 --> 01:35:02,620  
these possibilities existed.

1657  
01:35:02,620 --> 01:35:08,170  
And they too, for some reason,  
whatever by chance, were

1658  
01:35:08,170 --> 01:35:16,180  
not selected and came  
to the family camp.

1659  
01:35:16,180 --> 01:35:16,970  
Were you tattooed?

1660  
01:35:16,970 --> 01:35:20,710  
Mhm, yeah, for sure.

1661  
01:35:20,710 --> 01:35:21,624  
They too?

1662  
01:35:21,624 --> 01:35:22,540  
Mhm?

1663  
01:35:22,540 --> 01:35:23,540  
They also?

1664  
01:35:23,540 --> 01:35:24,900  
Oh, yes, of course.

1665  
01:35:24,900 --> 01:35:27,250  
Well, you see, once  
you were tattooed,

1666  
01:35:27,250 --> 01:35:30,310  
people who were designated  
to go in the gas chamber

1667  
01:35:30,310 --> 01:35:32,330  
were not tattooed. you know.

1668  
01:35:32,330 --> 01:35:34,540  
There were no point.



1669  
01:35:34,540 --> 01:35:38,910  
But people whose fate  
was kind of unclear,

1670  
01:35:38,910 --> 01:35:41,332  
it didn't prevent  
you from being sent--

1671  
01:35:41,332 --> 01:35:42,790  
and I'll tell you  
in just a moment.

1672  
01:35:42,790 --> 01:35:45,670

1673  
01:35:45,670 --> 01:35:49,060  
But that means for the  
time being, a day, week,

1674  
01:35:49,060 --> 01:35:53,500  
two months, several  
months, you would not

1675  
01:35:53,500 --> 01:35:56,530  
be sent to the gas chamber.

1676  
01:35:56,530 --> 01:36:02,540  
So they're not sent  
to the gas chamber.

1677  
01:36:02,540 --> 01:36:06,470  
And so we stayed there  
for very many months,

1678  
01:36:06,470 --> 01:36:08,240  
dreadful conditions.

1679  
01:36:08,240 --> 01:36:10,190  
Hell, absolute hell.

1680  
01:36:10,190 --> 01:36:13,640

Unbelievable situations, one  
could write books and stories

1681  
01:36:13,640 --> 01:36:17,240  
which have never been told yet  
about some of the [? feats ?]

1682  
01:36:17,240 --> 01:36:22,790  
blockalteste, woman  
also called Steiner.

1683  
01:36:22,790 --> 01:36:26,330  
There were lots of Steiner  
people all over the place.

1684  
01:36:26,330 --> 01:36:28,040  
And beautiful.

1685  
01:36:28,040 --> 01:36:29,300  
She was in Theresienstadt.

1686  
01:36:29,300 --> 01:36:30,740  
She was because of her beauty.

1687  
01:36:30,740 --> 01:36:33,230  
Well, she was  
blockalteste, block senior.

1688  
01:36:33,230 --> 01:36:36,830

1689  
01:36:36,830 --> 01:36:41,310  
So then next to it was  
camp A and then it was B2.

1690  
01:36:41,310 --> 01:36:43,100  
I was next to it, adjacent.

1691  
01:36:43,100 --> 01:36:47,870  
And so one night  
I saw that someone

1692

01:36:47,870 --> 01:36:53,870  
had dug under the barbed  
wire, the charred barbed wire

1693  
01:36:53,870 --> 01:36:57,895  
from Camp A, crawled under it.

1694  
01:36:57,895 --> 01:36:59,770  
Although there were  
posts all over the place,

1695  
01:36:59,770 --> 01:37:01,790  
they just risked  
it in order to have

1696  
01:37:01,790 --> 01:37:07,730  
some sexual encounter  
with Eva Steiner who

1697  
01:37:07,730 --> 01:37:08,850  
was the block leader.

1698  
01:37:08,850 --> 01:37:10,730  
And just because  
these people still

1699  
01:37:10,730 --> 01:37:14,700  
functioned sexually because they  
had enough food to function.

1700  
01:37:14,700 --> 01:37:18,260  
While physiologically,  
the rest of us, of course,

1701  
01:37:18,260 --> 01:37:23,420  
didn't because we had other  
problems to worry about.

1702  
01:37:23,420 --> 01:37:26,270  
And that was just something.

1703  
01:37:26,270 --> 01:37:28,430  
And then they discovered--

the SS discovered that

1704  
01:37:28,430 --> 01:37:31,252  
and they just thought,  
oh, that was heroic.

1705  
01:37:31,252 --> 01:37:32,960  
They were very impressed,  
very impressed.

1706  
01:37:32,960 --> 01:37:34,790  
Nothing happened, nothing.

1707  
01:37:34,790 --> 01:37:37,430  
Very impressed, they  
were very impressed.

1708  
01:37:37,430 --> 01:37:44,120  
And very shortly after that, of  
course, these people escaped.

1709  
01:37:44,120 --> 01:37:48,680

1710  
01:37:48,680 --> 01:37:51,920  
Two people escaped, not these  
people, but someone else.

1711  
01:37:51,920 --> 01:37:56,240  
And one, actually, escaped  
with one SS person.

1712  
01:37:56,240 --> 01:37:57,830  
And they caught  
them, they came back.

1713  
01:37:57,830 --> 01:38:01,627  
But before they caught them and  
all that, after a while and not

1714  
01:38:01,627 --> 01:38:06,860  
immediately, and  
so we had to stand,

1715  
01:38:06,860 --> 01:38:10,310  
I don't know, in those  
winter, bitter cold.

1716  
01:38:10,310 --> 01:38:14,060  
And we had to stand there  
and I caught pneumonia

1717  
01:38:14,060 --> 01:38:16,550  
and I had to be  
sent to the barrack

1718  
01:38:16,550 --> 01:38:20,870  
and almost died of pleurisy.

1719  
01:38:20,870 --> 01:38:25,850  
Pleurisy, caught tuberculosis  
and all sorts of things.

1720  
01:38:25,850 --> 01:38:27,620  
I had everything there.

1721  
01:38:27,620 --> 01:38:34,670  
And so there was a  
pediatrician who was

1722  
01:38:34,670 --> 01:38:36,270  
a very close friend of ours.

1723  
01:38:36,270 --> 01:38:39,170  
And he was working very  
closely and was also

1724  
01:38:39,170 --> 01:38:41,760  
a prodigy of Mengele.

1725  
01:38:41,760 --> 01:38:49,080  
And so I able to let him know,  
because he was accessible,

1726  
01:38:49,080 --> 01:38:50,070

that I was there.

1727  
01:38:50,070 --> 01:38:53,090  
So the little medication  
they had, I got.

1728  
01:38:53,090 --> 01:38:55,130  
Had injections,  
everything, sort of thing,

1729  
01:38:55,130 --> 01:38:57,980  
in order to help me to survive.

1730  
01:38:57,980 --> 01:39:00,920  
And I did, and because  
of this extra help.

1731  
01:39:00,920 --> 01:39:04,460  
Then Fredy Hirsch came and  
brought me some food and all

1732  
01:39:04,460 --> 01:39:06,200  
that, for a visit and all this.

1733  
01:39:06,200 --> 01:39:09,580  
So again, this network  
and support system

1734  
01:39:09,580 --> 01:39:10,580  
made all the difference.

1735  
01:39:10,580 --> 01:39:12,580  
Because without it, I  
never would have survived.

1736  
01:39:12,580 --> 01:39:16,220

1737  
01:39:16,220 --> 01:39:19,580  
Freddy Kantor, Alfred  
Kantor, he wrote the book,

1738

01:39:19,580 --> 01:39:22,110  
A book of Alfred Kantor.

1739  
01:39:22,110 --> 01:39:27,620  
He was a close friend of  
mine and was in love with--

1740  
01:39:27,620 --> 01:39:33,948  
very close relationship with Eva  
Glauber who was his sweetheart,

1741  
01:39:33,948 --> 01:39:35,240  
even already in Theresienstadt.

1742  
01:39:35,240 --> 01:39:36,560  
They were there, too.

1743  
01:39:36,560 --> 01:39:39,440  
So he was getting  
vitamin and parcels.

1744  
01:39:39,440 --> 01:39:42,883  
We could get parcels  
and did get parcels

1745  
01:39:42,883 --> 01:39:45,300  
to Auschwitz-Birkenau, which  
many, many people don't know.

1746  
01:39:45,300 --> 01:39:46,800  
Mhm, you did get parcels?

1747  
01:39:46,800 --> 01:39:47,300  
Huh?

1748  
01:39:47,300 --> 01:39:48,133  
You did get parcels?

1749  
01:39:48,133 --> 01:39:50,890  
Yeah, and very few people  
now that, realize that.

1750

01:39:50,890 --> 01:39:53,790  
They could be sent and  
they were received.

1751  
01:39:53,790 --> 01:39:55,310  
Actually, there's  
one fellow here

1752  
01:39:55,310 --> 01:40:00,360  
who knows that who was the  
former president of the--

1753  
01:40:00,360 --> 01:40:03,050  
I've talked to him  
many years ago,

1754  
01:40:03,050 --> 01:40:05,350  
many times socially and other--

1755  
01:40:05,350 --> 01:40:08,180  
who was in Auschwitz.

1756  
01:40:08,180 --> 01:40:10,680  
And he was in charge of this  
sort of or part of the parcel

1757  
01:40:10,680 --> 01:40:11,180  
thing.

1758  
01:40:11,180 --> 01:40:14,930  
But he did lousy stuff, I don't  
have much respect for that,

1759  
01:40:14,930 --> 01:40:17,990  
were they just forced them to  
open and took the best thing

1760  
01:40:17,990 --> 01:40:21,260  
and left a little bit  
something for the people.

1761  
01:40:21,260 --> 01:40:22,940  
Not with me, I got



the full things.

1762

01:40:22,940 --> 01:40:24,230

You mean food and everything?

1763

01:40:24,230 --> 01:40:25,580

Yeah, I got the full thing.

1764

01:40:25,580 --> 01:40:27,413

In Auschwitz-Birkenau,  
you didn't

1765

01:40:27,413 --> 01:40:28,580

have to go to a post office.

1766

01:40:28,580 --> 01:40:31,820

In Auschwitz, you had to go to  
this sort of post office thing.

1767

01:40:31,820 --> 01:40:34,850

But we were just given that  
by-- they brought us the thing,

1768

01:40:34,850 --> 01:40:36,860

and I received them regular.

1769

01:40:36,860 --> 01:40:38,250

Could you get medication?

1770

01:40:38,250 --> 01:40:38,750

Huh?

1771

01:40:38,750 --> 01:40:39,792

Could you get medication?

1772

01:40:39,792 --> 01:40:43,850

Well, he was getting  
vitamins, this Alfred Kantor.

1773

01:40:43,850 --> 01:40:46,400

And he shared his vitamins  
with me, for example.

1774  
01:40:46,400 --> 01:40:49,730

1775  
01:40:49,730 --> 01:40:52,280  
So you had all these  
sort of this networking

1776  
01:40:52,280 --> 01:40:54,500  
made it possible  
for you to enhance

1777  
01:40:54,500 --> 01:40:58,010  
your chances to survive.

1778  
01:40:58,010 --> 01:41:02,870  
So you could remain in  
the barracks being sick?

1779  
01:41:02,870 --> 01:41:04,760  
Well, that was the point.

1780  
01:41:04,760 --> 01:41:07,940  
You see, so I could remain  
in the barracks being sick.

1781  
01:41:07,940 --> 01:41:11,180  
But periodically, they came.

1782  
01:41:11,180 --> 01:41:14,390  
The SS came and selected people.

1783  
01:41:14,390 --> 01:41:19,370  
And that was the very  
important thing because then,

1784  
01:41:19,370 --> 01:41:24,380  
his name was Heller,  
Dr. Heller came

1785  
01:41:24,380 --> 01:41:28,140  
and said you have to leave

because tomorrow there's

1786  
01:41:28,140 --> 01:41:28,640  
selection.

1787  
01:41:28,640 --> 01:41:31,160  
Because if you're  
here, you're finished.

1788  
01:41:31,160 --> 01:41:33,983  
And said, I don't care how  
you feel and all that, you can

1789  
01:41:33,983 --> 01:41:35,150  
come back again or whatever.

1790  
01:41:35,150 --> 01:41:36,110  
You have to get out.

1791  
01:41:36,110 --> 01:41:38,750  
So I was back in the barrack.

1792  
01:41:38,750 --> 01:41:41,150  
Although, I was not [INAUDIBLE].

1793  
01:41:41,150 --> 01:41:43,370  
And then they came,  
the selection,

1794  
01:41:43,370 --> 01:41:46,670  
and they selected the people,  
send them to the gas chamber--

1795  
01:41:46,670 --> 01:41:48,778  
periodically selections.

1796  
01:41:48,778 --> 01:41:51,320  
So if you didn't have any sort  
of contacts, you were a goner.

1797  
01:41:51,320 --> 01:41:55,640

1798  
01:41:55,640 --> 01:41:58,780  
So the great support  
of other people.

1799  
01:41:58,780 --> 01:41:59,410  
That's right.

1800  
01:41:59,410 --> 01:42:01,780  
There was just really  
networking, this sort

1801  
01:42:01,780 --> 01:42:04,720  
of support groups where  
the major sort of thing

1802  
01:42:04,720 --> 01:42:07,750  
in those situations.

1803  
01:42:07,750 --> 01:42:10,270  
And that was precisely  
Auschwitz-Birkenau because that

1804  
01:42:10,270 --> 01:42:12,340  
was the most deadly place.

1805  
01:42:12,340 --> 01:42:14,900  
And if you didn't have that,  
I mean, you're just finished.

1806  
01:42:14,900 --> 01:42:19,030  
OK, so then I had  
the same thing.

1807  
01:42:19,030 --> 01:42:22,300  
I was-- also very strange sort  
of encounters, which might--

1808  
01:42:22,300 --> 01:42:24,520  
which I wanted to bring.

1809  
01:42:24,520 --> 01:42:27,710

I've actually written  
about some of these things,

1810  
01:42:27,710 --> 01:42:28,960  
and I want to bring you that.

1811  
01:42:28,960 --> 01:42:29,460  
Do you?

1812  
01:42:29,460 --> 01:42:30,710  
I forgot-- I forgot--

1813  
01:42:30,710 --> 01:42:32,410  
I forgot to bring it.

1814  
01:42:32,410 --> 01:42:34,000  
Well, we might have  
another session.

1815  
01:42:34,000 --> 01:42:36,869  
Yeah, probably because it's  
just getting late and all that.

1816  
01:42:36,869 --> 01:42:39,452  
It's getting late, but just go  
on as much as you'd like today.

1817  
01:42:39,452 --> 01:42:42,110

1818  
01:42:42,110 --> 01:42:43,870  
I don't know, where was I?

1819  
01:42:43,870 --> 01:42:45,680  
Oh, yeah, we were  
sort of networking.

1820  
01:42:45,680 --> 01:42:49,555  
So I had, for example, jaundice.

1821  
01:42:49,555 --> 01:42:51,950  
I developed this sort of

jaundice, terrible situation,

1822

01:42:51,950 --> 01:42:52,450  
yellow.

1823

01:42:52,450 --> 01:42:57,460  
And for some reason, I was  
not mistreated by SS people.

1824

01:42:57,460 --> 01:43:03,620  
Somehow, they were supportive  
of me in so many cases,

1825

01:43:03,620 --> 01:43:05,210  
for reasons which--

1826

01:43:05,210 --> 01:43:11,000  
because my perfect German  
and because the way I looked.

1827

01:43:11,000 --> 01:43:18,680  
They somehow felt that I somehow  
didn't fit the stereotype.

1828

01:43:18,680 --> 01:43:21,470  
And so I already had jaundice.

1829

01:43:21,470 --> 01:43:29,540  
And to get a job in the  
kitchen peeling potatoes

1830

01:43:29,540 --> 01:43:34,325  
was just like if you would  
have won a million dollars,

1831

01:43:34,325 --> 01:43:41,000  
more than that actually,  
kingdom empire.

1832

01:43:41,000 --> 01:43:43,440  
All right, so that was being--

1833

01:43:43,440 --> 01:43:44,750  
they're looking for.

1834  
01:43:44,750 --> 01:43:48,290  
And there was an SS man in  
charge of the thing, kitchen.

1835  
01:43:48,290 --> 01:43:50,330  
And said, I'm looking  
for some people.

1836  
01:43:50,330 --> 01:43:53,180  
And then, of course,  
all the various people

1837  
01:43:53,180 --> 01:43:59,750  
who were members of the power  
elite-- and you talk about 1%

1838  
01:43:59,750 --> 01:44:03,290  
of the power elite in  
a camp of thousands,

1839  
01:44:03,290 --> 01:44:06,350  
you had 1% of the  
real power elite.

1840  
01:44:06,350 --> 01:44:08,510  
And they were, of course,  
having their buddies

1841  
01:44:08,510 --> 01:44:09,890  
and all this and that.

1842  
01:44:09,890 --> 01:44:10,850  
And I was there.

1843  
01:44:10,850 --> 01:44:13,310  
I didn't have any  
one no spokesperson

1844  
01:44:13,310 --> 01:44:21,080  
or mentor who would intervene

on my behalf with the SS men.

1845  
01:44:21,080 --> 01:44:24,530  
So I said, yeah,  
I'd be interested.

1846  
01:44:24,530 --> 01:44:28,010  
And said, yeah, you, you.

1847  
01:44:28,010 --> 01:44:31,700  
And then all the people with  
all the big Kapos and all

1848  
01:44:31,700 --> 01:44:32,690  
that, look at him.

1849  
01:44:32,690 --> 01:44:33,260  
He's yellow.

1850  
01:44:33,260 --> 01:44:34,100  
I mean, he's yellow.

1851  
01:44:34,100 --> 01:44:35,280  
You can see, he's sick here.

1852  
01:44:35,280 --> 01:44:36,322  
[INAUDIBLE], he's yellow.

1853  
01:44:36,322 --> 01:44:38,810

1854  
01:44:38,810 --> 01:44:41,698  
And I don't care, he said.

1855  
01:44:41,698 --> 01:44:42,240  
I don't care.

1856  
01:44:42,240 --> 01:44:43,870  
I want him.

1857  
01:44:43,870 --> 01:44:45,620



Well, the thing is I  
didn't last because I

1858  
01:44:45,620 --> 01:44:48,130  
got so sick that I had to  
go into the sick barrack.

1859  
01:44:48,130 --> 01:44:49,470  
I just didn't last.

1860  
01:44:49,470 --> 01:44:52,520  
That was just two  
days, lasted, and then

1861  
01:44:52,520 --> 01:44:56,030  
I just collapsed because I  
had this bad case of jaundice.

1862  
01:44:56,030 --> 01:45:03,010

1863  
01:45:03,010 --> 01:45:05,350  
So back I was in the barracks.

1864  
01:45:05,350 --> 01:45:07,040  
And then, again, I  
had some relatives.

1865  
01:45:07,040 --> 01:45:09,640  
A fellow came and  
visited and tried.

1866  
01:45:09,640 --> 01:45:12,550  
And Fredy Hirsch and  
all the various people

1867  
01:45:12,550 --> 01:45:14,860  
supportive, and the  
doctors were sent

1868  
01:45:14,860 --> 01:45:19,870  
by a man called Dr. Otto Heller  
who was a protege of Mengele,

1869  
01:45:19,870 --> 01:45:20,830  
survived.

1870  
01:45:20,830 --> 01:45:24,520  
His family survived,  
child, wife survived

1871  
01:45:24,520 --> 01:45:29,500  
because of the protegee  
of Mengele, Josef Mengele.

1872  
01:45:29,500 --> 01:45:32,290  
He got shot during  
the liberation

1873  
01:45:32,290 --> 01:45:34,210  
of Auschwitz-Birkenau.

1874  
01:45:34,210 --> 01:45:36,720  
Not by the SS, but by  
some sort of stray bullet.

1875  
01:45:36,720 --> 01:45:39,950

1876  
01:45:39,950 --> 01:45:43,640  
Otto Heller Dr. Otto Heller.

1877  
01:45:43,640 --> 01:45:46,100  
So because of it--  
so then again,

1878  
01:45:46,100 --> 01:45:48,390  
they looked after  
me, tried to help me.

1879  
01:45:48,390 --> 01:45:50,927  
And I stayed there  
and then they said,

1880  
01:45:50,927 --> 01:45:52,010

you have to get out again.

1881  
01:45:52,010 --> 01:45:55,290  
The same sort of  
game, the same thing.

1882  
01:45:55,290 --> 01:45:58,790  
And then I got out  
and then I was better.

1883  
01:45:58,790 --> 01:46:02,295  
Because if you want  
to cure jaundice,

1884  
01:46:02,295 --> 01:46:03,420  
starvation's the best cure.

1885  
01:46:03,420 --> 01:46:07,870

1886  
01:46:07,870 --> 01:46:09,080  
So it did not take long.

1887  
01:46:09,080 --> 01:46:12,437  
I mean, I was ready in no time.

1888  
01:46:12,437 --> 01:46:14,770  
Where did you go when you had  
to get out of the barrack?

1889  
01:46:14,770 --> 01:46:16,940  
I went into the barrack  
where I came from.

1890  
01:46:16,940 --> 01:46:18,640  
They just sent me  
back to the barrack

1891  
01:46:18,640 --> 01:46:24,040  
where I just came from  
with hundreds of people.

1892

01:46:24,040 --> 01:46:26,110  
Well, and just the usual stuff.

1893  
01:46:26,110 --> 01:46:27,810  
I'm just trying to  
tell unusual stuff

1894  
01:46:27,810 --> 01:46:29,740  
because so many things  
which people will tell

1895  
01:46:29,740 --> 01:46:30,950  
you are pretty much the same.

1896  
01:46:30,950 --> 01:46:33,033  
I'm telling you things  
other people won't tell you

1897  
01:46:33,033 --> 01:46:34,843  
because the experience  
is different.

1898  
01:46:34,843 --> 01:46:35,385  
This is good.

1899  
01:46:35,385 --> 01:46:37,000  
But tell anything that--

1900  
01:46:37,000 --> 01:46:40,990

1901  
01:46:40,990 --> 01:46:43,810  
So then when I  
was well again, we

1902  
01:46:43,810 --> 01:46:47,110  
joined with, under the  
leadership of Fredy Hirsch,

1903  
01:46:47,110 --> 01:46:51,880  
sort of resistance group,  
some sort of Haganah,

1904

01:46:51,880 --> 01:46:53,870  
ridiculous stuff.

1905

01:46:53,870 --> 01:47:00,550  
And so resistance and all these  
sort of things, so we did that.

1906

01:47:00,550 --> 01:47:06,610  
And talked big and nothing  
came of it, of course.

1907

01:47:06,610 --> 01:47:09,550  
And then came the  
terrible thing that all

1908

01:47:09,550 --> 01:47:14,290  
of a sudden, certain  
people with certain numbers

1909

01:47:14,290 --> 01:47:21,820  
had to go and be  
separated, taken away.

1910

01:47:21,820 --> 01:47:24,340  
So that all the people-- they  
went and controlled people

1911

01:47:24,340 --> 01:47:27,820  
with certain numbers,  
which was just exactly

1912

01:47:27,820 --> 01:47:31,840  
the number of Fredy Hirsch and  
my friends, Hans Fisher and so

1913

01:47:31,840 --> 01:47:37,660  
many other buddies I've had,  
like my people and all that.

1914

01:47:37,660 --> 01:47:39,310  
Friends, close  
friends-- and they

1915

01:47:39,310 --> 01:47:42,280

had to go and be  
gassed for no reason.

1916

01:47:42,280 --> 01:47:45,640

Young people, no-- they took  
them out and gassed them.

1917

01:47:45,640 --> 01:47:50,200

That whole entire transport  
which had a certain number,

1918

01:47:50,200 --> 01:47:54,970

for reasons I don't know.

1919

01:47:54,970 --> 01:47:57,070

And Fredy Hirsch  
committed suicide.

1920

01:47:57,070 --> 01:47:59,110

Fredy Hirsch committed  
suicide because he

1921

01:47:59,110 --> 01:48:04,480

didn't want to be gassed  
and had poisoned himself.

1922

01:48:04,480 --> 01:48:06,490

The other ones were gassed.

1923

01:48:06,490 --> 01:48:13,290

And then father of Hans  
Fischer, a psychiatrist working

1924

01:48:13,290 --> 01:48:18,660

with Mengele, survived.

1925

01:48:18,660 --> 01:48:22,760

He survived Auschwitz-Birkenau  
because of Mengele.

1926

01:48:22,760 --> 01:48:26,230

1927

01:48:26,230 --> 01:48:28,250

Came and said, you're alive.

1928

01:48:28,250 --> 01:48:28,750

See?

1929

01:48:28,750 --> 01:48:33,250

And our Hans has been gassed.

1930

01:48:33,250 --> 01:48:35,680

And that was devastating  
because, you see,

1931

01:48:35,680 --> 01:48:38,180

interesting things  
psychologically,

1932

01:48:38,180 --> 01:48:40,540

I tell my students  
very frequently when

1933

01:48:40,540 --> 01:48:43,600

we have the sociology  
of the Holocaust,

1934

01:48:43,600 --> 01:48:45,610

is that absolute denial.

1935

01:48:45,610 --> 01:48:50,080

Because I was the one who  
refused to accept the fact

1936

01:48:50,080 --> 01:48:51,640

that people were gassed.

1937

01:48:51,640 --> 01:48:57,790

Refused to -- people died by  
the thousands until I know.

1938

01:48:57,790 --> 01:49:01,090

And that was the  
point when they took--

1939  
01:49:01,090 --> 01:49:06,580  
in this transport which  
took place relatively early

1940  
01:49:06,580 --> 01:49:08,440  
during my stay in  
Auschwitz-Birkenau,

1941  
01:49:08,440 --> 01:49:10,810  
on this B2 familienlager.

1942  
01:49:10,810 --> 01:49:15,700

1943  
01:49:15,700 --> 01:49:19,180  
There I just simply  
couldn't deny it anymore.

1944  
01:49:19,180 --> 01:49:25,180  
I smelled it, everything,  
chimney, you name it, refused.

1945  
01:49:25,180 --> 01:49:27,880  
And then he comes,  
the father comes says,

1946  
01:49:27,880 --> 01:49:30,710  
they've gassed Hans.

1947  
01:49:30,710 --> 01:49:33,790  
You're still alive.

1948  
01:49:33,790 --> 01:49:35,980  
He said it in some sort way.

1949  
01:49:35,980 --> 01:49:36,730  
Why him?

1950  
01:49:36,730 --> 01:49:37,360



Why not you?

1951  
01:49:37,360 --> 01:49:40,070  
Right.

1952  
01:49:40,070 --> 01:49:40,570  
Right.

1953  
01:49:40,570 --> 01:49:44,234

1954  
01:49:44,234 --> 01:49:46,100  
So you had to see it then?

1955  
01:49:46,100 --> 01:49:46,750  
Mhm?

1956  
01:49:46,750 --> 01:49:48,120  
You had to see it then?

1957  
01:49:48,120 --> 01:49:50,420  
No, I just had to face up to it.

1958  
01:49:50,420 --> 01:49:54,800  
I just had to accept the  
reality of the situation.

1959  
01:49:54,800 --> 01:49:56,090  
How did you cope with that?

1960  
01:49:56,090 --> 01:49:59,060  
Well, cope, just  
philosophically cope with it.

1961  
01:49:59,060 --> 01:50:02,210  
Just what is the meaning?

1962  
01:50:02,210 --> 01:50:11,060  
And that's why I'm very much  
a supporter of Viktor Frankl's

1963

01:50:11,060 --> 01:50:11,660  
writings.

1964  
01:50:11,660 --> 01:50:15,720  
Because if you didn't have--

1965  
01:50:15,720 --> 01:50:18,290  
if you didn't have  
any sort of ability

1966  
01:50:18,290 --> 01:50:25,550  
to psychologically  
resist and find

1967  
01:50:25,550 --> 01:50:28,850  
some sort of meaning,  
regardless with what means,

1968  
01:50:28,850 --> 01:50:36,040  
but meaning in this type  
of hellish existence,

1969  
01:50:36,040 --> 01:50:39,975  
you lost your resistance.

1970  
01:50:39,975 --> 01:50:41,380  
You lost your resistance.

1971  
01:50:41,380 --> 01:50:43,330  
And I mean, in  
terms of logicity,

1972  
01:50:43,330 --> 01:50:47,020  
in terms of medical  
history, in terms of--

1973  
01:50:47,020 --> 01:50:49,630  
I mean, I'd absolutely--  
it was just a miracle

1974  
01:50:49,630 --> 01:50:52,220  
that I didn't die  
with all the things.

1975  
01:50:52,220 --> 01:50:53,050  
I had typhus.

1976  
01:50:53,050 --> 01:50:54,460  
I had dysentery.

1977  
01:50:54,460 --> 01:50:58,580  
I had pneumonia, pleurisy.

1978  
01:50:58,580 --> 01:51:00,580  
You name it, I had it all  
in Auschwitz-Birkenau.

1979  
01:51:00,580 --> 01:51:05,680  
And no food, starved,  
walking x-ray.

1980  
01:51:05,680 --> 01:51:10,750  
And I didn't die,  
stayed alert, a miracle.

1981  
01:51:10,750 --> 01:51:13,060  
It is.

1982  
01:51:13,060 --> 01:51:15,310  
Did you have some work you  
were assigned to that you--

1983  
01:51:15,310 --> 01:51:17,680  
Well, I mean, there's work  
that was very incidental

1984  
01:51:17,680 --> 01:51:19,210  
and that was very  
interesting too

1985  
01:51:19,210 --> 01:51:21,010  
because it got me  
into other camps.

1986  
01:51:21,010 --> 01:51:23,980

And women's camps where I saw  
things, cruelty and all that.

1987

01:51:23,980 --> 01:51:27,445

I've got problems in this  
because they were cruel.

1988

01:51:27,445 --> 01:51:28,930

They were more  
cruel to each other

1989

01:51:28,930 --> 01:51:32,470

than they are in the camp  
I was, the women's camp.

1990

01:51:32,470 --> 01:51:38,500

And then some sort of  
work, which was just really

1991

01:51:38,500 --> 01:51:39,760

token type of work.

1992

01:51:39,760 --> 01:51:41,050

It was not really hard work.

1993

01:51:41,050 --> 01:51:42,820

They just took us, get out.

1994

01:51:42,820 --> 01:51:45,580

For example, an  
SS man took us out

1995

01:51:45,580 --> 01:51:48,307

to some sort of ridiculous  
singing group of people.

1996

01:51:48,307 --> 01:51:49,390

Nothing, you know nothing.

1997

01:51:49,390 --> 01:51:50,807

It was no real  
hard work, nothing.

1998

01:51:50,807 --> 01:51:52,078

It was just mild thing.

1999

01:51:52,078 --> 01:51:53,370

And then he let us stand there.

2000

01:51:53,370 --> 01:51:58,870

He just met an SS woman,  
this female SS type.

2001

01:51:58,870 --> 01:52:04,960

And then they started and  
they just went and had sex.

2002

01:52:04,960 --> 01:52:06,752

And then we waited  
until they had that sex

2003

01:52:06,752 --> 01:52:08,710

and then he came back,  
and we just went around.

2004

01:52:08,710 --> 01:52:10,900

So it was kind of an  
excuse and on account

2005

01:52:10,900 --> 01:52:12,730

get to her and  
all that and this.

2006

01:52:12,730 --> 01:52:15,070

We didn't do any work,  
speaking of it all.

2007

01:52:15,070 --> 01:52:16,390

It was just mild things.

2008

01:52:16,390 --> 01:52:20,230

I didn't really work  
hard there at all.

2009

01:52:20,230 --> 01:52:23,650

But then came the type of  
selection process, again.

2010  
01:52:23,650 --> 01:52:28,120  
Because then in end of '43--

2011  
01:52:28,120 --> 01:52:32,497  
no, it was already  
'44, beginning of '44,

2012  
01:52:32,497 --> 01:52:33,580  
I think it must have been.

2013  
01:52:33,580 --> 01:52:35,710  
Because yeah, it  
was '44, I think,

2014  
01:52:35,710 --> 01:52:41,350  
and so then they needed people  
in slave labor situation.

2015  
01:52:41,350 --> 01:52:46,180  
Because they had less  
and less manpower.

2016  
01:52:46,180 --> 01:52:48,700  
So they came and said,  
well, we are looking

2017  
01:52:48,700 --> 01:52:50,270  
for people and all that.

2018  
01:52:50,270 --> 01:52:52,810  
So then Mengele was  
there or I don't even

2019  
01:52:52,810 --> 01:52:55,090  
know whether for sure  
Mengele or some other SS

2020  
01:52:55,090 --> 01:52:57,590  
officer, selection  
officer, it was an officer,

2021  
01:52:57,590 --> 01:53:01,640  
and we had to run naked  
and see to what extent.

2022  
01:53:01,640 --> 01:53:05,170  
So then, of course,  
my father and I--

2023  
01:53:05,170 --> 01:53:07,240  
but only men, no women.

2024  
01:53:07,240 --> 01:53:08,750  
So my mother was left behind.

2025  
01:53:08,750 --> 01:53:11,110  
So we passed for reasons--

2026  
01:53:11,110 --> 01:53:12,040  
whatever.

2027  
01:53:12,040 --> 01:53:14,500  
Because we all were skeletons  
anyway, but we could run.

2028  
01:53:14,500 --> 01:53:15,340  
We still could run.

2029  
01:53:15,340 --> 01:53:16,960  
And he could run, I could run.

2030  
01:53:16,960 --> 01:53:19,840  
So he was selected to go  
to the one slave labor

2031  
01:53:19,840 --> 01:53:26,180  
camp, which was still in the  
subcamp of Auschwitz-Birkenau.

2032  
01:53:26,180 --> 01:53:29,560  
It belonged to that  
particular center thing,

2033

01:53:29,560 --> 01:53:30,850  
which was called Blechhammer.

2034

01:53:30,850 --> 01:53:34,420  
But anyway, so my mother stayed.

2035

01:53:34,420 --> 01:53:38,890  
And so we were moved  
temporarily from B2

2036

01:53:38,890 --> 01:53:43,090  
to the A camp, which  
was the adjacent one.

2037

01:53:43,090 --> 01:53:44,980  
And I still could  
talk to my mother

2038

01:53:44,980 --> 01:53:47,920  
and still kind of  
through the barbed wire.

2039

01:53:47,920 --> 01:53:51,340  
And there was a  
French, Jewish Kapo.

2040

01:53:51,340 --> 01:53:55,360  
And he saw that and came, and  
he just in front of her just

2041

01:53:55,360 --> 01:53:59,590  
really beat the hell  
out of me and just--

2042

01:53:59,590 --> 01:54:03,100  
that was the most devastating  
thing because that was,

2043

01:54:03,100 --> 01:54:05,720  
not that it hurt  
that much, I didn't--



2044

01:54:05,720 --> 01:54:06,940  
that was nothing.

2045

01:54:06,940 --> 01:54:10,510  
But that my mother saw it  
and she was devastated.

2046

01:54:10,510 --> 01:54:13,720  
And that was the last  
sort of view she had of me

2047

01:54:13,720 --> 01:54:15,280  
because that was  
a parting thing.

2048

01:54:15,280 --> 01:54:19,030  
Because she stayed in the  
B2 and we went to the A

2049

01:54:19,030 --> 01:54:22,600  
to be moved from there  
into the other camp which

2050

01:54:22,600 --> 01:54:27,790  
was called Blechhammer, which  
was a synthetic fuel thing,

2051

01:54:27,790 --> 01:54:29,740  
which was not very far.

2052

01:54:29,740 --> 01:54:34,745  
In a lorry, we were taken  
there with an SS guard.

2053

01:54:34,745 --> 01:54:37,720  
Did you say it was  
a French, Jewish?

2054

01:54:37,720 --> 01:54:39,100  
A French, Jewish.

2055

01:54:39,100 --> 01:54:41,050

He had a black triangle.

2056

01:54:41,050 --> 01:54:43,855

He had a black triangle.

2057

01:54:43,855 --> 01:54:46,390

A real son of a  
bitch, he was too.

2058

01:54:46,390 --> 01:54:50,980

And blockalteste  
and it was a French

2059

01:54:50,980 --> 01:54:53,140

and had a black and a Jewish.

2060

01:54:53,140 --> 01:54:58,316

So black and a yellow  
triangle, all that--

2061

01:54:58,316 --> 01:55:01,150

And what does the black mean?

2062

01:55:01,150 --> 01:55:04,330

Sabateur, sabotage.

2063

01:55:04,330 --> 01:55:06,060

He had some sort of sabotage.

2064

01:55:06,060 --> 01:55:10,000

He did some-- whatever, black  
market business and all that.

2065

01:55:10,000 --> 01:55:12,210

So he was not just  
Jewish, but he also

2066

01:55:12,210 --> 01:55:15,360

did something in addition to  
which was against the laws

2067

01:55:15,360 --> 01:55:16,080

and all that.

2068

01:55:16,080 --> 01:55:17,130

He was sent to--

2069

01:55:17,130 --> 01:55:19,580

and he then was a Kapo

and he did that you know.

2070

01:55:19,580 --> 01:55:21,700

It was nothing, really,

in terms of physically.

2071

01:55:21,700 --> 01:55:22,450

He didn't hurt me.

2072

01:55:22,450 --> 01:55:25,590

He just slapped me so hard

that I just simply fell

2073

01:55:25,590 --> 01:55:28,370

to the ground, which didn't

mean very much for someone

2074

01:55:28,370 --> 01:55:32,820

who's relatively

well-fed and all that.

2075

01:55:32,820 --> 01:55:36,730

We were walking X-ray's, so it

doesn't take much to slap you.

2076

01:55:36,730 --> 01:55:39,360

So he did that in front of--

and my mother was devastating.

2077

01:55:39,360 --> 01:55:42,345

And that was the last

thing I have seen her.

2078

01:55:42,345 --> 01:55:44,020

And she stayed there.

2079

01:55:44,020 --> 01:55:46,230

And then I talked to  
people who survived,

2080

01:55:46,230 --> 01:55:48,750

particularly the family  
of Dr. Otto Heller.

2081

01:55:48,750 --> 01:55:51,510

And said, well, if we  
had known, surely I

2082

01:55:51,510 --> 01:55:53,730

could have saved her life  
because of her connection

2083

01:55:53,730 --> 01:55:55,064

to Mengele.

2084

01:55:55,064 --> 01:55:56,583

I could have done that.

2085

01:55:56,583 --> 01:55:57,750

She knew that we were there.

2086

01:55:57,750 --> 01:55:58,625

Why didn't you do it?

2087

01:55:58,625 --> 01:56:00,595

She could have done it.

2088

01:56:00,595 --> 01:56:01,720

Because I stayed with them.

2089

01:56:01,720 --> 01:56:03,680

I lived with them in  
Prague for a while

2090

01:56:03,680 --> 01:56:08,005

and in an apartment with the  
survivors of the family of Otto

2091

01:56:08,005 --> 01:56:09,784

Heller, Dr. Otto Heller.

2092

01:56:09,784 --> 01:56:11,550

So what was your mother's fate?

2093

01:56:11,550 --> 01:56:12,050

Huh?

2094

01:56:12,050 --> 01:56:13,550

What was your mother's fate?

2095

01:56:13,550 --> 01:56:15,120

My mother's fate was obvious.

2096

01:56:15,120 --> 01:56:20,510

She was gassed because  
she was healthy otherwise.

2097

01:56:20,510 --> 01:56:21,599

44.

2098

01:56:21,599 --> 01:56:22,476

She was healthy.

2099

01:56:22,476 --> 01:56:22,976

Mhm.

2100

01:56:22,976 --> 01:56:25,730

2101

01:56:25,730 --> 01:56:26,420

Yeah.

2102

01:56:26,420 --> 01:56:29,330

And then we went to the other  
camp that was Blechhammer,

2103

01:56:29,330 --> 01:56:35,615

called Blechhammer, which  
was the syn fuel plant.

2104  
01:56:35,615 --> 01:56:40,820

2105  
01:56:40,820 --> 01:56:45,470  
And by that time, of course, all  
the people I knew, most of them

2106  
01:56:45,470 --> 01:56:47,150  
were gassed.

2107  
01:56:47,150 --> 01:56:50,690  
Particularly in this one  
transport which was somehow,

2108  
01:56:50,690 --> 01:56:54,050  
by orders of Berlin,  
it came from Berlin

2109  
01:56:54,050 --> 01:56:55,610  
because was not internal thing.

2110  
01:56:55,610 --> 01:56:58,700  
It was obviously an  
order from Berlin

2111  
01:56:58,700 --> 01:57:00,860  
where they said all the people--

2112  
01:57:00,860 --> 01:57:06,360  
the entire transport is  
going to be exterminated.

2113  
01:57:06,360 --> 01:57:11,360  
And that's where I  
was most of my friends

2114  
01:57:11,360 --> 01:57:16,130  
who had survived to that  
point at Auschwitz-Birkenau.

2115  
01:57:16,130 --> 01:57:18,770

And then before that, I--

2116  
01:57:18,770 --> 01:57:22,010  
for some reason or another,  
I just don't know what I did.

2117  
01:57:22,010 --> 01:57:26,890  
Somehow, I was able  
to move from one camp

2118  
01:57:26,890 --> 01:57:28,473  
to another at some point.

2119  
01:57:28,473 --> 01:57:30,640  
I don't know why because I  
didn't have any function.

2120  
01:57:30,640 --> 01:57:32,200  
I didn't have any  
particular job.

2121  
01:57:32,200 --> 01:57:33,670  
But it must have  
been in connection

2122  
01:57:33,670 --> 01:57:38,320  
with some sort of work detail,  
some labor work detail.

2123  
01:57:38,320 --> 01:57:42,490  
And I went to this other camp,  
which was a holding camp.

2124  
01:57:42,490 --> 01:57:49,510  
Because at times, the  
gassing were so overcrowded

2125  
01:57:49,510 --> 01:57:52,350  
that they had to wait until--

2126  
01:57:52,350 --> 01:57:54,720  
wait their turn.

2127

01:57:54,720 --> 01:57:56,530

So these were  
primarily old people.

2128

01:57:56,530 --> 01:57:58,300

And then I just walked around.

2129

01:57:58,300 --> 01:58:00,160

Somehow, I was not supervised.

2130

01:58:00,160 --> 01:58:03,560

I just-- it just still  
beats me how I would--

2131

01:58:03,560 --> 01:58:07,930

I don't remember how I  
could have done that at all.

2132

01:58:07,930 --> 01:58:10,480

And there I see a  
relative of mine

2133

01:58:10,480 --> 01:58:19,930

who was married to a non-Jewish  
Czech, well-known, high ranking

2134

01:58:19,930 --> 01:58:22,270

politician.

2135

01:58:22,270 --> 01:58:25,210

And why she got there  
because all her children

2136

01:58:25,210 --> 01:58:27,970

were not deported and all that,  
because I thought she would--

2137

01:58:27,970 --> 01:58:29,800

I don't know what really--

2138

01:58:29,800 --> 01:58:34,360

and there she was, a person



who was very close to me

2139

01:58:34,360 --> 01:58:36,364  
and a very important--

2140

01:58:36,364 --> 01:58:40,240  
personality wise, it was a  
very important person to me.

2141

01:58:40,240 --> 01:58:46,040  
And so it was a tremendous joy  
to be together, not to see her,

2142

01:58:46,040 --> 01:58:47,500  
but to be together.

2143

01:58:47,500 --> 01:58:55,570

2144

01:58:55,570 --> 01:58:57,880  
And at that particular  
time, I still

2145

01:58:57,880 --> 01:59:03,100  
didn't want to believe what was  
going on in these holding camp.

2146

01:59:03,100 --> 01:59:06,490  
And said, well, it's  
going to happen.

2147

01:59:06,490 --> 01:59:08,320  
We have no chance.

2148

01:59:08,320 --> 01:59:13,900  
So she said, well, do you  
want to take these things

2149

01:59:13,900 --> 01:59:15,820  
with you and all that?

2150

01:59:15,820 --> 01:59:20,590

And people with \$1,000  
bills, here, they

2151  
01:59:20,590 --> 01:59:23,830  
throw it in the latrine.

2152  
01:59:23,830 --> 01:59:25,510  
And I wasn't into this.

2153  
01:59:25,510 --> 01:59:27,972  
At all, this sort of thing,  
it impressed me in one way,

2154  
01:59:27,972 --> 01:59:28,930  
that this is happening.

2155  
01:59:28,930 --> 01:59:30,340  
Why this, what?

2156  
01:59:30,340 --> 01:59:31,440  
Maybe should it be saved?

2157  
01:59:31,440 --> 01:59:34,210  
Yeah, I said, they're  
throwing all the \$1,000 bills

2158  
01:59:34,210 --> 01:59:37,900  
into the latrine and all.

2159  
01:59:37,900 --> 01:59:39,460  
So then I had to leave.

2160  
01:59:39,460 --> 01:59:41,867  
And then only after that,  
then I just really wanted--

2161  
01:59:41,867 --> 01:59:43,450  
I didn't want to  
believe these things.

2162  
01:59:43,450 --> 01:59:46,700  
I just didn't want to

face up to this reality.

2163

01:59:46,700 --> 01:59:49,510

And so I tried to be supportive.

2164

01:59:49,510 --> 01:59:52,360

I couldn't do anything,  
of course, supportive.

2165

01:59:52,360 --> 01:59:53,860

And then left again, of course.

2166

01:59:53,860 --> 01:59:57,050

And then after the fact, of  
course, I had to face-- yeah,

2167

01:59:57,050 --> 02:00:01,120

there was holding camp  
and they sent them

2168

02:00:01,120 --> 02:00:03,520

and gassed old people.

2169

02:00:03,520 --> 02:00:04,960

No tattoo, of course.

2170

02:00:04,960 --> 02:00:08,260

2171

02:00:08,260 --> 02:00:11,620

Same thing, I saw in the  
neighboring camp people

2172

02:00:11,620 --> 02:00:17,710

who came from Hungary,  
women, naked and all the SS--

2173

02:00:17,710 --> 02:00:22,060

fresh, well-fed, good  
looking, just from Hungary.

2174

02:00:22,060 --> 02:00:25,960

They didn't go in other camp and  
was also dreadful times other

2175  
02:00:25,960 --> 02:00:28,120  
than the transportation  
from Hungary

2176  
02:00:28,120 --> 02:00:31,162  
to Auschwitz, a terrible  
thing, traumatic thing.

2177  
02:00:31,162 --> 02:00:32,620  
But I mean, they  
still looked good.

2178  
02:00:32,620 --> 02:00:34,690  
Then the SS came and  
they just started

2179  
02:00:34,690 --> 02:00:39,100  
to rub around and mill with  
these naked women and all that.

2180  
02:00:39,100 --> 02:00:40,930  
Gypsies, similar situations.

2181  
02:00:40,930 --> 02:00:43,810  
But the Hungarian  
ones really stand up

2182  
02:00:43,810 --> 02:00:46,690  
because I could see  
that he's swine,

2183  
02:00:46,690 --> 02:00:48,820  
just try to take  
advantage sexually.

2184  
02:00:48,820 --> 02:00:52,270  
Really tried to find an  
excuse to rub and all this.

2185  
02:00:52,270 --> 02:00:55,630

Those were around and  
just manhandled, whatever.

2186  
02:00:55,630 --> 02:00:58,210  
And that naked in  
that camp before

2187  
02:00:58,210 --> 02:01:00,280  
they were put into  
lorries and then gassed.

2188  
02:01:00,280 --> 02:01:10,080

2189  
02:01:10,080 --> 02:01:14,520  
And then I remember  
also some young kids

2190  
02:01:14,520 --> 02:01:18,390  
who were used as some  
sort of sexual things

2191  
02:01:18,390 --> 02:01:24,855  
for the Kapos and people who  
had the vitality or whatever,

2192  
02:01:24,855 --> 02:01:27,500  
had their food.

2193  
02:01:27,500 --> 02:01:30,350  
They kept young kids  
who were spared,

2194  
02:01:30,350 --> 02:01:33,785  
not sent to the gas chamber,  
although they were in the age.

2195  
02:01:33,785 --> 02:01:36,460

2196  
02:01:36,460 --> 02:01:39,580  
But they were sent, and there  
are some how were exempt.

2197  
02:01:39,580 --> 02:01:45,880  
And then were put into some  
beautiful type of camp clothing

2198  
02:01:45,880 --> 02:01:50,576  
and all that and then started  
to terrorize grown ups.

2199  
02:01:50,576 --> 02:01:51,970  
Terrorize

2200  
02:01:51,970 --> 02:01:54,100  
Terrorize grown ups. Why?

2201  
02:01:54,100 --> 02:01:58,600  
Because they are under the  
protection of their mentors,

2202  
02:01:58,600 --> 02:02:02,290  
the things with whom they  
had some sexual encounters,

2203  
02:02:02,290 --> 02:02:03,200  
whatever.

2204  
02:02:03,200 --> 02:02:07,890  
And that stands out too as  
something kind of very bizarre.

2205  
02:02:07,890 --> 02:02:09,820  
How old were [INAUDIBLE]?

2206  
02:02:09,820 --> 02:02:12,340  
13, 12.

2207  
02:02:12,340 --> 02:02:20,340

2208  
02:02:20,340 --> 02:02:26,340  
You alluded, before,  
to the strength

2209  
02:02:26,340 --> 02:02:31,070  
you got from your  
[INAUDIBLE] philosophy.

2210  
02:02:31,070 --> 02:02:32,950  
Yeah, well, a very  
important question.

2211  
02:02:32,950 --> 02:02:35,040  
Yeah, well, it gave  
me somehow meaning.

2212  
02:02:35,040 --> 02:02:36,570  
I was able to put it in.

2213  
02:02:36,570 --> 02:02:38,103  
It's some sort of--

2214  
02:02:38,103 --> 02:02:40,020  
I don't know whether I  
should talk about that.

2215  
02:02:40,020 --> 02:02:42,250  
I could, but I don't  
know whether I want to.

2216  
02:02:42,250 --> 02:02:51,920  
And a question of something  
which was destined,

2217  
02:02:51,920 --> 02:02:53,060  
I had to go through.

2218  
02:02:53,060 --> 02:02:56,210  
Let's put it that way in a  
very simple sort of terms.

2219  
02:02:56,210 --> 02:03:00,950  
Something which I was  
destined to go through

2220

02:03:00,950 --> 02:03:03,740  
for a number of reasons.

2221  
02:03:03,740 --> 02:03:08,550

2222  
02:03:08,550 --> 02:03:13,700  
And I had many people,  
including this one physician who

2223  
02:03:13,700 --> 02:03:15,270  
was very supportive,  
helping me--

2224  
02:03:15,270 --> 02:03:17,760  
and also I got a  
parcel, by the way,

2225  
02:03:17,760 --> 02:03:20,100  
when I was in the sick barrack.

2226  
02:03:20,100 --> 02:03:24,930  
And would discuss this  
with me because somehow he

2227  
02:03:24,930 --> 02:03:28,450  
had noticed that there is  
something there which keeps me.

2228  
02:03:28,450 --> 02:03:31,080  
And so we had a very lengthy  
discussion, not just with him,

2229  
02:03:31,080 --> 02:03:32,700  
some other people  
about these things.

2230  
02:03:32,700 --> 02:03:38,117  
Philosophy, general  
things and so on and

2231  
02:03:38,117 --> 02:03:39,450  
made a great deal of difference.



2232

02:03:39,450 --> 02:03:40,620

Without that, it would have--

2233

02:03:40,620 --> 02:03:42,453

I would have been in a  
very different state.

2234

02:03:42,453 --> 02:03:47,070

So that's why I say what Viktor  
Frankl is writing in his books,

2235

02:03:47,070 --> 02:03:50,538

in terms of logo therapy and  
all that, is decisive to me.

2236

02:03:50,538 --> 02:03:52,080

It's decisive because  
I totally agree

2237

02:03:52,080 --> 02:03:53,205

with what he said, totally.

2238

02:03:53,205 --> 02:03:53,940

I mean, 100%.

2239

02:03:53,940 --> 02:03:55,580

I mean--