

1 INTERVIEW WITH HERBERT BARASCH
2 HOLOCAUST ORAL HISTORY PROJECT
3 DATE: NOVEMBER 8, 1990
4 PLACE: SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA
5 INTERVIEWER: GENE AYRES
6 TRANSCRIBER: LORI PIPER
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10 TODAY IS THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1990. I AM GENE AYRES,
11 AN INTERVIEWER OF THE HOLOCAUST ORAL HISTORY PROJECT OF SAN
12 FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA. TODAY WE ARE TALKING WITH HERBERT
13 BARASCH. ASSISTING IN THE INTERVIEW IS MICHAEL GALCHINSKY.

14 Q. GOOD MORNING, MR. BARASCH.

15 A. GOOD MORNING.

16 Q. WOULD YOU START BY TELLING US -- SAY YOUR FULL
17 NAME, PLEASE, AND SPELL IT AND THEN GIVE US THE DATE AND
18 PLACE OF YOUR BIRTH.

19 A. IT'S HERBERT BARASCH. IT'S B-A-R-A-S-C-H. I
20 WAS BORN IN VIENNA, AUSTRIA, ON JANUARY 8, 1937.

21 Q. WOULD YOU SAY YOUR PARENTS' NAMES ALSO.

22 A. MY MOTHER IS MARIAM BARASCH, AND MY FATHER IS
23 SAMUEL BARASCH.

24 Q. LET'S JUST START ABOUT THE FIRST THING YOU CAN
25 REMEMBER ABOUT VIENNA, IF YOU DO HAVE ANY MEMORIES THAT GO

1 BACK THAT FAR.

2 A. WHEN I LEFT VIENNA OR WHEN MY PARENTS LEFT
3 VIENNA, I THINK I WAS ABOUT 18 MONTHS OLD. SO I DON'T HAVE A
4 LOT OF MEMORIES OF VIENNA AT ALL. I MEAN FROM THERE I DO
5 HAVE OTHER MEMORIES, BUT NOT OF VIENNA ITSELF.

6 Q. YOU WERE BORN THERE IN '37?

7 A. RIGHT.

8 Q. ABOUT WHEN DID YOU AND YOUR FAMILY LEAVE THERE?

9 A. WE LEFT VIENNA IN 1939 AFTER THE ANNEXATION OF
10 VIENNA FROM THE GERMAN REICH. AND MY PARENTS HAD RELATIVES
11 IN ANTWERP, AND THEY TOLD THEM TO COME. SO THIS IS HEARSAY,
12 YOU KNOW, WHAT I'M GOING INTO IS THAT MY PARENTS SENT
13 PERSONAL BELONGINGS WITH MONEY TO BELGIUM, AND THEY HIRED A
14 SMUGGLER. YOU HAD TO BE SMUGGLED OUT OF THE COUNTRY, WHICH
15 MEANS THEY WERE SMUGGLED INTO COLOGNE FROM AUSTRIA, AND FROM
16 COLOGNE THEY WERE ABLE TO CROSS INTO THE BORDER AT NIGHT.
17 THEY WERE ABLE TO GET TO ANTWERP WHERE THEY HAD RELATIVES
18 LIVING THERE.

19 Q. AND SOME BELONGINGS? YOUR PARENTS WERE ABLE --

20 A. YES. WELL, THEY SENT OUT PERSONAL BELONGINGS,
21 MOSTLY CLOTHING, I THINK. AND IN THE CLOTHING THEY HAD SOME
22 BRITISH POUNDS -- WHICH THEY HAD CHANGE AND SOME MONEY THAT
23 THEY HAD, AND THEY SENT THAT AHEAD.

24 Q. ONCE AGAIN YOU HAVE NO PERSONAL MEMORY OF THAT?

25 A. NO.

1 Q. BUT YOU'VE SINCE BEEN TOLD OF THIS?

2 A. RIGHT.

3 Q. AND NO PERSONAL MEMORY OF YOUR EXISTENCE IN
4 VIENNA AT ALL?

5 A. NOT OF VIENNA, NO.

6 Q. HAVE YOU BEEN TOLD SINCE WHY IT WAS NECESSARY
7 FOR YOUR FAMILY TO FLEE VIENNA?

8 A. YEAH, THAT I WAS AWARE OF. I WAS AWARE OF THE
9 GERMANS AND THE FEAR THAT EVERYONE HAD.

10 Q. YOUR PARENTS -- WHAT SORT OF WORK DID YOUR
11 FATHER AND YOUR FAMILY DO?

12 A. IN VIENNA THEY HAD A -- THEY COULDN'T WORK IN
13 VIENNA. YOU KNOW, MOST OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE IN VIENNA WERE
14 STATELESS. SO THEY HAD NO WORKING PAPERS. SO THEIR TIME WAS
15 THAT THEY WERE WORKING -- MY MOTHER WAS A VERY GOOD
16 SEAMSTRESS, AND SHE WAS CONTRACTED TO MANUFACTURE SHIRTS FOR
17 A MANUFACTURER. SO IT WAS LIKE A SMALL SHOP, AND SHE HAD A
18 FEW WOMEN WORKING THERE, AND THAT'S WHAT THEY WERE DOING.

19 Q. WITHOUT GOING FURTHER INTO IT, YOUR PARENTS ARE
20 ORIGINALLY FROM SOMEWHERE ELSE?

21 A. RIGHT. MY MOTHER AND FATHER WERE BORN IN
22 POLAND, AND THEY DID NOT MEET EACH OTHER UNTIL THEY MET IN
23 VIENNA. AND THAT'S WHERE THEY WERE MARRIED.

24 MY FATHER WAS AN ORPHAN, AND HE HAD AN OLDER
25 BROTHER THAT LIVED IN VIENNA WHO BROUGHT HIM OVER.

1 AND MY MOTHER CAME TO VIENNA BECAUSE SHE WAS
2 ILL, AND THERE WERE SOME MEDICAL PEOPLE DOWN THERE THAT WERE
3 HELPING HER.

4 Q. SO THEY DIDN'T KNOW EACH OTHER IN POLAND?

5 A. THEY DID NOT KNOW EACH OTHER, NO.

6 Q. AND MET IN VIENNA AND WERE MARRIED THERE?

7 A. RIGHT. RIGHT.

8 Q. HOW LONG HAD THEY BEEN IN VIENNA BEFORE THEY
9 FELT IT NECESSARY TO MOVE?

10 A. WELL, THEY WERE MARRIED, I GUESS, IN 1935, AND
11 THE PRESSURE FOR THEM TO MOVE WAS RIGHT AFTER -- BEFORE THE
12 ANNEXATION OF AUSTRIA TO GERMANY. IT WAS BECOMING VERY
13 DIFFICULT FOR JEWISH PEOPLE. THEY WERE BEING HARASSED AND,
14 YOU KNOW, AND THEY FOUND THAT THEY NEEDED -- THEY WANTED TO
15 GET AWAY BECAUSE THEY FELT IF THEY WENT TO ANOTHER COUNTRY --
16 THIS WAS PRIOR TO THE WAR. SO THEY FELT MAYBE NOTHING ELSE
17 WAS GOING TO HAPPEN. SO THEY WANTED TO LEAVE AUSTRIA.

18 Q. AND YOU LEFT AUSTRIA?

19 A. YEAH, THEY LEFT.

20 Q. WHEN?

21 A. IN 1939.

22 Q. BEFORE THE ANSCHLUSS?

23 A. RIGHT AFTER THE ANSCHLUSS.

24 Q. JUST AFTER.

25 A. AFTER THE ANSCHLUSS, RIGHT. AND THEY WENT TO

1 ANTWERP WHERE I PREVIOUSLY SAID THEY HAD RELATIVES THERE.
2 AND THEY STAYED IN ANTWERP, AND THEY LIVED IN A SMALL HOUSE
3 IN AN ATTIC, THIRD FLOOR UP. AND AS I WAS TELLING YOU
4 BEFORE, FROM THE MEMORIES THAT I HAVE, MY MOTHER WAS CARRYING
5 ME UP THESE STAIRS. SHE TRIPPED, AND WE WENT GOING DOWN. AND
6 I SPOKE TO THEM, AND THEY CONFIRMED THAT. IT WAS JUST REALLY
7 A MEMORY. I THOUGHT ABOUT IT.

8 Q. WHAT'S YOUR EARLIEST MEMORY OF THAT PERIOD OF
9 TIME? WAS THAT IT?

10 A. WELL, THAT WAS IT. BUT THE OTHER MEMORIES WE
11 HAD WAS THAT FROM WHEN THE GERMANS CAME, THE WAR HAD STARTED
12 AND WE NEEDED -- THEY WERE SCARED. AND EVERYBODY WAS SCARED.
13 AND THE WORD WAS THAT, IF YOU GOT TO DUNKIRK, THE BRITISH
14 WOULD TAKE YOU OFF -- OFF THE CONTINENT. THEY HAD SHUTTLES
15 GOING. SO THEY PHYSICALLY PACKED UP THEIR BELONGINGS, I
16 REMEMBER, AND MY DAD, MY MOTHER, AND MY COUSIN AND HIS
17 WIFE -- THEY DIDN'T HAVE CHILDREN. SO THEY KIND OF ADOPTED
18 ME AS THEIRS -- AND THEY STARTED THIS LONG WALK BY FOOT GOING
19 UP TOWARDS DUNKIRK FROM ANTWERP, AND THEY WERE HEADED UP THAT
20 WAY. I'M NOT SURE OF THE TIME FRAME AS FAR AS HOW LONG THEY
21 WERE WALKING AND THINGS LIKE THAT. BUT I REMEMBER THAT THIS
22 WAS A MEMORY. I WAS A BRAT. I WAS A LITTLE KID.

23 AND ALL OF A SUDDEN IN THIS MARCH AT NIGHT, I
24 START TO CRY. AND I KEPT SAYING, "I WANT A BANANA," YOU
25 KNOW, RIGHT OUT IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE. SO I GUESS MY

1 COUSIN HARRY, WHO WAS A VERY ELOQUENT MAN -- AND HE WASN'T
2 AFRAID. SO HE WENT OUT LOOKING ALL OVER IN THE COUNTRYSIDE.
3 AND HE CAME UP WITH A BANANA. NOW, WHERE, I HAVE NO IDEA.
4 BUT HE FOUND A BANANA TO SHUT ME UP. AND I WAS CARRIED ON
5 THE BACK OF A RUCK SACK LIKE THE BACKPACKS THAT THEY HAVE
6 TODAY, BUT THEY STUCK ME BACK IN ONE OF THOSE BECAUSE I
7 COULDN'T WALK THAT MUCH. AND BY THE TIME WE GOT -- THEY GOT
8 THERE OR GETTING CLOSE TO DUNKIRK, THE GERMANS HAD ALREADY
9 INVADED FRANCE, AND IT WAS TOO LATE. SO THEY WENT BACK.

10 AND THEN THEY GOT TO BELGIUM, OF COURSE, AND
11 THE GERMAN OCCUPATION WAS THERE, WHICH MEANT THEY HAD TO
12 REGISTER. EVERY JEWISH PERSON HAD TO REGISTER. I DON'T
13 RECALL ANY OF THOSE THINGS. THAT'S MORE HEARSAY. I KNOW
14 THAT AFTER WE REGISTERED, THEY MOVED ALL THE JEWISH FAMILIES
15 TO A CAMP IN -- IT'S CALLED THE BERGEN BELLER.

16 YOU KNOW, I NEED TO GO BACK SOMEPLACE. WHEN MY
17 PARENTS WERE IN ANTWERP AFTER THE ANSCHLUSS AND BEFORE THE
18 WALK TO DUNKIRK -- MY MOTHER CAME FROM A VERY RELIGIOUS
19 FAMILY, AND HER FATHER WAS A VERY PIOUS, LEARNED MAN IN HER
20 VILLAGE. ANYWAY HE HAD SOME INFLUENCE ANYWAY. SHE AND MY
21 DAD WERE HIRED BY A YESHIVA, AND THEY WERE TAKING CARE OF THE
22 COOKING FOR THE WHOLE YESHIVA. THEY WERE IN CHARGE OF THAT.
23 AND I THINK THAT WAS APPROXIMATELY MAYBE A YEAR IN THE TIME
24 FRAME BETWEEN MAYBE 1938 TO -- BETWEEN 1939 AND DUNKIRK. SO
25 IT COULD HAVE BEEN SIX MONTHS, EIGHT MONTHS. BUT ANYWAY,

1 THAT'S WHAT THEY WERE DOING AT THAT TIME.

2 SO I'M GOING TO GO BACK TO -- WHEN THEY CAME
3 BACK TO ANTWERP AFTER TRYING TO GET TO DUNKIRK, THEY HAD TO
4 REGISTER WITH THE GERMANS, AND THEY WERE TOLD THAT THEY HAD
5 TO -- THE COMMUNITY HAD TO MOVE TO THIS PLACE CALLED BERGEN
6 MINE. AND I LOOKED AT THE MAP, BUT I COULDN'T QUITE FIND IT.
7 I THINK IT WAS CLOSE TO -- IT COULD HAVE BEEN BEVERIN, BUT
8 I'M NOT QUITE SURE. ANYWAY, IT WAS A COAL MINING TOWN. AND
9 THEY HAD COAL MINES THERE, AND THE MEN HAD TO WORK IN THE
10 COAL MINES, PRODUCE COAL MINES. AND THEY SHARED A SMALL
11 HOUSE WITH THE PEOPLE.

12 AND THAT WAS AROUND APPROXIMATELY FROM THE
13 MIDDLE OF 1940 TO JANUARY OF 1941. AGAIN THIS IS
14 INFORMATION -- IN MAY OF 1940 THEY WENT TO DUNKIRK. SO THE
15 TIME FRAME WAS THERE. AFTER DUNKIRK THEY WENT TO THIS MINE.
16 THEN IN JANUARY OF -- FROM JANUARY TO AUGUST OF 1941 THEY
17 WERE IN THAT TOWN WHERE THE BERGEN MINER WERE. SO IT WAS
18 APPROXIMATELY SIX MONTHS. I CAN REMEMBER SOME OF THE PLACES
19 IN THERE. WE HAD A LITTLE CABIN THERE, AND THE KIDS PLAYED
20 TOGETHER. YOU WERE KIND OF SHELTERED A LITTLE BIT. AND FROM
21 MY UNDERSTANDING IS THAT MY PARENTS HAD TO VALIDATE
22 THEMSELVES EVERY DAY. THEY HAD TO PRESENT THEMSELVES TO THE
23 GERMANS FOR VALIDATION EITHER TO IDENTIFY OR ROLL CALL OR
24 SOME KIND OF RECORD-KEEPING SYSTEM THAT THEY HAD.

25 THEN FROM THERE IN 1941 -- NOW, I AM -- THIS

1 AREA HERE, MY COUSIN HARRY AND CLARA. HARRY SEEMED TO BE THE
2 KIND OF PERSON THAT WAS ABLE TO EITHER GET HIMSELF INTO
3 POSITIONS OR SOMEPLACE. ANYWAY, THEY WERE IN BRUSSELS. HE
4 WAS A FURRIER, AND EITHER HE HAD SOME CONNECTIONS OR HE HAD
5 FUNDS AVAILABLE WHERE HE COULD BRIBE PEOPLE OR WHATEVER. HE
6 WAS IN BRUSSELS. IN 1941 THE WOMEN AND THE MEN AT THIS
7 BERGEN MINE WERE CALLED IN, AND THEY WERE TOLD THAT THE WOMEN
8 HAD TO GO TO ANTWERP AND THE MEN HAD TO GO TO BRUSSELS. THIS
9 IS JUST FACTS FROM THAT -- I DON'T RECALL, BUT THIS IS WHAT'S
10 TOLD TO ME.

11 SO MY MOTHER AND I WENT TO ANTWERP. MY FATHER
12 WENT TO BRUSSELS. AND FROM WHAT I UNDERSTAND IS WE WENT TO
13 ANTWERP, TURNED AROUND, TOOK A TRAIN, WENT TO BRUSSELS AND
14 MET MY FATHER.

15 CAN YOU STOP THE CAMERA FOR JUST A SECOND.

16 (BRIEF RECESS.)

17 A. SO THE WOMEN HAD TO GO TO ANTWERP. THAT WAS
18 THEIR THING. THE MEN HAD TO GO TO BRUSSELS. AND MY PARENTS
19 MUST HAVE MADE ARRANGEMENTS TO MEET EACH OTHER IN BRUSSELS.
20 AND THEY -- WHEN THEY GOT TO BRUSSELS, MY -- THERE WAS A
21 JEWISH COMMITTEE THERE WHERE ALL THE JEWISH PEOPLE WOULD GO
22 TO GET INFORMATION ON WHAT'S GOING ON. AND THIS COMMITTEE
23 ALSO HAD CONNECTIONS WITH THE UNDERGROUND MOVEMENT THAT WAS
24 GOING ON THAT WAS ANTI-GERMAN.

25 WHEN THEY GOT TO BRUSSELS IN 1941, THEY ALL HAD

1 TO PUT ON PATCHES. THE JEWISH STAR HAD TO BE SEWN ON.
2 JEWISH PEOPLE HAD TO WEAR IT. WHAT HAPPENED IS THAT MY
3 COUSIN HARRY, HE HAD A JOB WITH THE -- HE GOT A JOB WITH THE
4 GERMANS TO MANUFACTURE GERMAN HELMET LINERS OUT OF FUR
5 BECAUSE OF HIS TRADE AS A FURRIER. AND THE GERMANS NEEDED
6 HELMET LINERS FOR THE WESTERN FRONT. SO HE WAS WORKING FOR
7 THE GERMANS, AND HE GOT A JOB FOR MY FATHER.

8 AND THE GERMANS GUARANTEED THE SAFETY OF THE
9 PEOPLE THAT WORKED FOR THEM. THEY WERE GUARANTEED THAT THEY
10 WOULD BE SAFE FROM ANY ARREST AND ALSO THAT THEIR FAMILIES
11 WOULD BE SAFE FROM ANY ARREST. AND THEY ALSO GAVE THEM
12 DOCUMENTATIONS. AND MY FATHER HAS THIS DOCUMENTATION, JUST A
13 PIECE OF PAPER STATING THE FACT THAT HE WAS PERFORMING A DUTY
14 AND THAT HE AND HIS FAMILY WERE NOT TO BE HARASSED OR
15 ARRESTED.

16 AND THEN WHAT HAPPENED WAS THAT ON OCTOBER 8,
17 1942, MY MOTHER HAD PREVIOUSLY HAD A SERIOUS SURGERY.
18 AND OF COURSE JEWISH PEOPLE WERE NOT ABLE TO GO TO DOCTORS,
19 BUT THERE WAS A BELGIUM DOCTOR THAT TOOK CARE OF HER. AND WE
20 LIVED ON THE SECOND FLOOR IN BRUSSELS. THE GERMANS CAME ONE
21 AFTERNOON OR EARLY MORNING, AND THEY CAME AND TOOK MY MOTHER
22 AND ME AWAY. AND THAT I DO REMEMBER. I WAS CRYING, AND I
23 KEPT TELLING THE GERMANS TO TAKE IT EASY, MY MOTHER HAD BEEN
24 SERIOUSLY ILL AND TO LEAVE HER BE. AND THEY WOULDN'T. AND I
25 KNOW I WAS IN TEARS, AND THEY TOOK US AWAY.

1 AND THEY TOOK US TO A POLICE STATION WHERE THEY
2 HAD A LARGE HOLDING ROOM, AND I CAN REMEMBER SITTING IN THAT
3 ROOM. AND IT WAS TILED, THE WALLS WERE SWEATING. THERE WERE
4 HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE IN THIS ROOM. IF YOU HAVE SEEN WALLS THAT
5 SWEAT, YOU KNOW, IN A SHOWER. I MEAN IT WAS JUST THE
6 HUMIDITY, I GUESS, FROM SO MANY PEOPLE SITTING THERE, AND THE
7 WALLS WERE DRIPPING. AND THE TIME FRAME ON THAT IS THAT THE
8 GERMANS WERE LEAVING AT SIX O'CLOCK THAT EVENING. THEY WOULD
9 FILL UP THIS ROOM EVERY DAY. THEY WOULD GO OUT AND BRING
10 PEOPLE IN AT SIX O'CLOCK AT NIGHT. THEY WOULD LOAD THEM UP
11 IN TRUCKS TO TAKE THEM TO THE TRAIN STATIONS TO SEND THEM TO
12 THE CONCENTRATION CAMPS.

13 MY FATHER, GETTING HOME FROM WORK IN THE
14 EVENING, WALKED IN THERE. AND ONCE THE GERMANS TAKE YOU,
15 THEY SEAL THE DOOR WITH A GERMAN EAGLE. THEY SEAL THE LOCK.
16 IN BELGIUM THEY HAD BIG OAK KEYS WITH LARGE LOCKS, AND THEY
17 WOULD SEAL THAT SAYING THAT THIS PROPERTY NOW BELONGED TO THE
18 GERMAN REICH AND NO ONE COULD ENTER UNTIL THEY REMOVED THE
19 SEAL OR REMOVED THE PROPERTIES. SO WHEN MY FATHER SAW THAT,
20 HE RAN TO MY COUSIN HARRY, AND HE SAID THAT, YOU KNOW, WE
21 WERE TAKEN.

22 SO MY COUSIN AND HE WENT TO THIS GERMAN MAN
23 THAT THEY WORKED FOR. AND MY COUSIN SAID TO HIM, AND MY
24 FATHER SAID, YOU KNOW, "YOU PROMISED TO PROTECT US, TO
25 PROTECT OUR FAMILIES. YET THEY WERE TAKEN." AND THE GERMAN

1 OFFICER WAS -- WELL, HE SAID, "I PROMISED THAT." AND HE
2 WAS -- THIS IS AGAIN IS HEARSAY. BUT HE WAS AN HONORABLE
3 MAN. HE WAS PROBABLY NOT THE GESTAPO NAZI TYPE, BUT HE WAS A
4 GERMAN MAN. AND HE SAID, "I DID MAKE A PROMISE TO YOU, AND
5 I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO."

6 HE TOLD MY COUSIN AND MY DAD, "GET A TAXI."
7 THEY GOT A TAXI, AND THEY WENT DOWN TO THE HEADQUARTER
8 BUILDING THERE. AND HE WAS A HIGH RANKING OFFICER, PROBABLY
9 POSSIBLY EITHER A MAJOR OR COLONEL, YOU KNOW. AND HE WALKED
10 IN THERE DEMANDING TO TALK TO THE COMMANDER, THE COMMANDANT
11 THERE. AND HE SAID TO THE COMMANDANT, "I WANT THIS WOMAN AND
12 THIS CHILD RELEASED." AND THE COMMANDANT SAID, "THESE JEWS
13 ARE READY TO GO BACK, AND I WON'T RELEASE THEM." SO HE SAID,
14 WELL, HE STARTED TO YELL AT HIM IN GERMAN, "MY JOB. MY
15 STATUS. AND I WANT THEM RELEASED NOW OR ELSE YOU ARE GOING
16 TO BE IN REAL TROUBLE." AND I GUESS THIS GERMAN, THIS OTHER
17 MAN OUTRANKED HIM AND HE WAS POWERFUL ENOUGH.
18 AND HE JUST RELENTEED AND SAID, "OKAY."

19 WE WERE TAKEN OUT OF THERE ABOUT TWO MINUTES TO
20 6:00, AND THEY WERE ALREADY LOADING THE TRUCKS. THEN THE
21 GERMAN MAN HAD TOLD MY FATHER THAT -- AFTER HE WAS DONE HE
22 SAID, "I'VE DONE WHAT I CAN FOR YOU." HE SAYS, "I'VE NEVER
23 HAD ANY LOVE FOR JEWS PER SE," HE SAYS, "BUT I'VE DONE MY
24 PROMISE." AND HE SAID, "I'M NOT GOING TO SEE YOU AGAIN." HE
25 SAYS, YOU KNOW, "YOU LEAVE NOW." AND HE WALKED AWAY. HE

1 KEPT HIS WORD THAT HE WAS GOING TO DO THAT, BUT HE DIDN'T
2 WANT TO BE INVOLVED ANYMORE. HOWEVER, HE MUST HAVE BEEN
3 INVOLVED BECAUSE MY FATHER HAS A LETTER FROM HIM THE NEXT DAY
4 THAT SAID TO RETURN TO THIS COMMANDER, COMMANDANT FROM THE
5 THING, TO RETURN ALL THE PAPERS THAT THEY HAD TAKEN FROM MY
6 MOTHER AND I, YOU KNOW, TO RETURN TO US.

7 SO MY FATHER MUST HAVE SEEN HIM EITHER THE NEXT
8 DAY OR HE MADE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THIS LETTER TO BE GIVEN TO
9 THE -- MY DAD HAS THOSE TWO LETTERS. I WAS REALLY IMPRESSED
10 WHEN I SAW THOSE BECAUSE I DIDN'T REALIZE THAT HE HAD IT.
11 AND IT'S SIGNED SO-AND-SO, "HEIL HITLER," AND THE WHOLE
12 THING. IT WAS VERY -- SO WE WERE LUCKY AT THAT TIME BECAUSE
13 MY MOTHER WAS ILL, AND I DON'T THINK SHE WOULD HAVE MADE IT
14 INTO A CONCENTRATION CAMP.

15 Q. DO YOU KNOW WHERE THE TRAIN WAS GOING?

16 A. I HAVE NO IDEA WHERE IT WAS GOING TO, WHAT
17 AREA, WHERE IT WAS GOING. ALL WE KNEW WAS THERE WAS A TRAIN
18 AND THAT PEOPLE NEVER RETURNED THAT WENT ON THAT TRAIN. THAT
19 WAS IT. EXCEPT FOR A STORY THAT MY COUSIN CLARA HAD BEEN
20 TAKEN -- PICKED UP. BECAUSE THE PEOPLE WERE BEING PICKED OFF
21 THE STREETS TOO. THEY WERE WEARING STARS. THE REASON THEY
22 WANTED THEM TO WEAR STARS WAS BECAUSE THEY COULD BE
23 RECOGNIZED. SO THEY WOULD JUST WALK ALONG, AND ANYONE THAT
24 HAD A JEWISH STAR THEY WOULD PICK UP. YOU KNOW, I GUESS THEY
25 HAD QUOTAS TO FILL, OR WHATEVER THEY HAD TO DO, THEY JUST DID

1 IT.

2 AND MY COUSIN CLARA HAD BEEN TAKEN AWAY,
3 WEARING THE SAME TYPE OF THING. SHE WAS PUT ON A TRAIN. AND
4 SHE WAS A SMALL WOMAN, AND THEY WERE ABLE TO FORCE THE WINDOW
5 OPEN, AND SHE WAS LIFTED UP. BECAUSE SHE WAS SMALL, SHE WAS
6 ABLE TO SQUEEZE THROUGH IT. SHE JUMPED THE TRAIN, AND SHE
7 HIT HER HEAD ON THE RAIL. AND I CAN REMEMBER SHE HAD THIS
8 BIG SCAR OVER HER EYE. FROM WHAT SHE SAID WAS SHE HAD BEEN
9 UNCONSCIOUS -- SHE COULDN'T KNOW FOR HOW LONG, MAYBE A FEW
10 HOURS. THEN WHEN SHE CAME TO, SHE WAS ABLE TO WALK AWAY.

11 SHE HAD MADE ARRANGEMENTS TO MEET HER HUSBAND.
12 THEY HAD A SAFE PLACE WHERE THEY DECIDED THAT, IF EITHER ONE
13 OF THEM WOULD GET PICKED UP AND IF THEY WERE ABLE TO GET
14 AWAY, THEY SHOULD MEET OVER THERE. AND NORMALLY YOU KNEW IF
15 YOU WERE PICKED UP, IF YOU DIDN'T SHOW UP AT HOME AT SIX
16 O'CLOCK OR WHATEVER TIME AND YOU DIDN'T SHOW UP A FEW HOURS
17 LATER THAT, YOU KNOW, THAT SOMETHING HAPPENED.

18 SO AFTER THIS, WE HAD NO HOME TO GO TO BECAUSE
19 THE GERMANS HAD CLOSED OUR HOME. NOW, THIS JEWISH COMMITTEE
20 THAT THEY HAD THERE, THEY WERE ABLE TO HELP JEWISH PEOPLE.
21 THEY GAVE THEM MONEY. THEY GAVE THEM SOME KIND OF FOOD.
22 AND, YOU KNOW, THEY TRIED TO DO WHATEVER THEY COULD FOR
23 THEM.

24 THIS IS HEARSAY ON MY PART. AFTER MY MOTHER
25 AND I HAD GOTTEN BACK AND MY FATHER -- THEY HAD NO PLACE TO

1 GO TO STAY. SO IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD WHERE THEY LIVED, THEY
2 WALKED INTO THIS BAR, COFFEE SHOP, AND THEY ASKED THE OWNER
3 IF THEY COULD PUT US UP FOR THE NIGHT. THEY SAID, NO, THEY
4 WOULDN'T. THEY COULDN'T. AND THERE WAS A BELGIUM WOMAN
5 THERE. AND SHE SAW MY MOTHER BECAUSE SHE KNEW HER BECAUSE
6 THEY WERE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD. AND SHE OFFERED TO PUT THEM
7 UP, TO HELP THEM. AND HER NAME WAS GABBY BEVERNAGE. AND SHE
8 IS REALLY PART OF MY MOTHER AND FATHER'S STORY.

9 AND THEN AFTER THIS HAPPENED THEY -- MY PARENTS
10 HAD DECIDED THAT THE WAY THINGS WERE GOING ON THAT THERE
11 WASN'T REALLY A LOT OF CHANCE OF SURVIVAL, AND THEY DECIDED
12 THAT THEY WANTED TO DO WHAT THEY COULD FOR ME TO SURVIVE.
13 AND THEY WENT BACK TO THIS UNDERGROUND COMMITTEE, AND THEY
14 SAID THAT, YOU KNOW, "WHAT CAN WE DO AND, YOU KNOW, TO SAVE
15 OUR SON?"

16 AND THEY SAID, WELL, THEY WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH
17 THEM. THEY HAVE TO SAY THAT -- THE COMMITTEE'S QUESTIONS
18 WERE THAT IF YOU ARE GOING TO GIVE UP YOUR SON, ARE YOU
19 WILLING TO NOT KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING TO HIM? ARE YOU WILLING
20 TO GIVE HIM UP UNCONDITIONALLY? YOU KNOW, THOSE THINGS. AND
21 THEY SAID YES. SO THEY SAID -- MY PARENTS TOLD THEM WHERE
22 THEY WERE GOING TO BE AT, AND THEY WERE GIVEN SOME -- I GUESS
23 SOME FUNDS TO BUY FOOD OR WHATEVER, AND THE UNDERGROUND SAID
24 THEY WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH THEM. THAT HAPPENED, OH, THIS
25 WAS IN 1942, PROBABLY AROUND OCTOBER, END OF SEPTEMBER, EARLY

1 OCTOBER THE UNDERGROUND HAD MADE ARRANGEMENTS. AND THEY
2 CONTACTED MY PARENTS, AND THEY SAID THAT THEY HAD MADE
3 ARRANGEMENTS, AND WE WERE TO TAKE -- THEY WERE TO TAKE ME TO
4 THIS TRAIN STATION, AND THEY WERE TO WAIT THERE. AND THAT
5 WAS ABOUT OCTOBER 10 OR 12, 1942.

6 AND THIS -- THEY -- MY MOTHER HAD SAID, TOLD
7 ME, I GUESS, THAT I WAS GOING TO GO AWAY.

8 CAN I GET A BREAK ON THAT?

9 (SHORT BREAK.)

10 A. NOW -- IS IT ALL RIGHT?

11 Q. UH-HUH.

12 A. WHAT I DIDN'T SAY PRIOR TO THAT IS THAT OUR
13 NAME WAS -- MY NAME WAS IN BELGIUM UNTIL WE CAME TO THE
14 UNITED STATES IN 1948, MY NAME WAS HERBERT KATZ VEL BARASCH.
15 OKAY. IT WAS HERBERT, AND THE LAST NAME WAS KATZ, K-A-T-Z,
16 V-E-L, WHICH IS ANOTHER NAME, AND BARASCH, B-A-R-A-S-C-H.
17 NOW, I'M NOT QUITE SURE WHERE MY FATHER GOT ALL THESE NAMES,
18 BUT THAT WAS HIS NAME. THIS IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE OF THE NEXT
19 PHASE OF THIS.

20 WHEN MY PARENTS TOOK ME TO THIS TRAIN STATION
21 AND THEY SAID THAT SOMEBODY WOULD CONTACT US WHEN WE GOT
22 THERE, THIS WOMAN CAME UP TO ME, AND SHE SAID, "WHAT IS YOUR
23 NAME?"

24 AND I SAID, "MY NAME IS HERBERT KATZ VEL
25 BARASCH."

1 AND SHE SAID, "NO, YOUR NAME NOW IS HUGHBARE
2 LASHAY (PHONETIC), HERBERT THE CAT. THAT IS YOUR NAME." AND
3 SHE LEFT. AND SHE CAME BACK MAYBE 20 MINUTES LATER, AND SHE
4 SAYS, "WHAT IS YOUR NAME?"

5 AND I ANSWERED HER, "HUGHBARE LASHAY." AND SHE
6 TOOK ME BY THE HAND AND SHE -- THIS IS WHERE MY MEMORY REALLY
7 -- I ALWAYS THOUGHT THEY TOOK ME IN A CAR, BUT MY PARENTS
8 SAID THEY TOOK ME BY TRAIN. I'M NOT SURE WHICH IT WAS. ALL
9 I KNOW WAS THIS WOMAN TOOK ME.

10 MY PARENTS HAD WARNED ME NOT TO CRY, NOT TO GET
11 UPSET. AND THEY WENT AWAY. AND I REMEMBER -- I CAN'T
12 REMEMBER THE TRAVELING TIME, BUT I KNOW I WENT INTO A
13 CATHOLIC CHURCH OR MONASTERY. IT WAS AN ORPHANAGE. BUT
14 ANYWAY, IT WAS WITH CATHOLIC PEOPLE. AND THERE WERE SISTERS
15 THERE, AND THEY GAVE ME A ROOM AND A DORMITORY WITH A LOT OF
16 LITTLE KIDS, AND THEY DRESSED ME ACCORDING TO WHATEVER -- I'M
17 NOT QUITE SURE, BUT THEY HAD SOME TYPE OF UNIFORM TYPE OF
18 DRESS. AND I GUESS I JUST STARTED TO BE INDOCTRINATED INTO
19 CATHOLICISM WITH THEM, AND YOU KNOW -- NOW, THIS WAS IN
20 1942.

21 MY PARENTS HAD ABSOLUTELY NO IDEA OF WHERE I
22 WAS AT THE TIME. PART OF THE ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE
23 UNDERGROUND MOVEMENT WAS THAT PARENTS WERE NOT TO KNOW WHERE
24 THEIR CHILDREN WERE BECAUSE THERE WAS GREAT FEAR THAT IF THEY
25 WERE ARRESTED THAT THEY MIGHT DIVULGE WHERE THEIR CHILDREN

1 ARE. AND THE GERMANS TACTICALLY KNEW THAT IF THEY ARRESTED
2 YOUNG PEOPLE WITHOUT CHILDREN -- BECAUSE JEWISH PEOPLE HAD A
3 TENDENCY TO HAVE CHILDREN. RELIGIOUSLYWISE, YOU KNOW, YOU
4 HAVE TO BEAR CHILDREN -- SO THEY KNEW THAT IF THEY CAUGHT
5 PEOPLE, THEY HAD CHILDREN. SO THEY WERE TRYING TO FIND OUT
6 WHERE THEY WERE.

7 THE ORPHANAGE WAS LOCATED IN LA VAN, WHICH IS
8 AN AREA NOT TOO FAR FROM BRUSSELS. AND IT WAS COUNTRY. AND
9 A LOT OF BELGIUM ITSELF, ASIDE FROM THE MAIN CITIES, IS A LOT
10 OF SMALL TOWNS, A LOT OF SMALL COUNTRIES, A LOT OF SMALL
11 LITTLE VILLAGES ALL OVER. SO THAT'S WHERE I WAS.

12 NOW, THROUGHOUT THIS PERIOD OF TIME -- WE ARE
13 TALKING FROM 1942 UNTIL THE LIBERATION, WHICH WAS 1945 -- I
14 CAN REMEMBER TIMES WHEN -- I THINK ONE TIME THE GERMANS CAME
15 AND THEY WERE LOOKING AT, YOU KNOW -- THEY WERE KIND OF
16 LOOKING AT CHILDREN AND ASKING QUESTIONS. AND THEY LINED UP
17 A LOT OF CHILDREN, AND THEY WERE KIND OF LOOKING THEM OVER
18 AND TRYING TO FIGURE OUT IF THERE MIGHT HAVE BEEN JEWISH
19 CHILDREN THERE OR NOT. AND THEY PLAYED GAMES. I REMEMBER
20 THEY WERE PLAYING LIKE "KELLY SAID THIS. KELLY SAID THAT"
21 TYPE OF GAME. THE BOTTOM QUESTION WAS, YOU KNOW -- AND THEY
22 WERE ASKING CERTAIN THINGS. THEN THEY WOULD SAY, "DIRETZ
23 YIDDISH?" IT WAS JUST A GAME PLAYING TO CATCH SOME YOUNGSTER
24 THAT WOULD SAY, "I DO," OR "ICH AD YIDDISH (PHONETIC)," OR
25 SOMETHING LIKE THAT. BUT IT DIDN'T HAPPEN IN THE ORPHANAGE

1 WHERE I WAS WITH ALL THESE KIDS.

2 NOW, MY FATHER SAID THAT THERE WAS
3 APPROXIMATELY 35 JEWISH CHILDREN THERE. I CAN VAGUELY
4 REMEMBER THAT THERE MIGHT HAVE BEEN SIX THAT I KNEW. THERE
5 MIGHT HAVE BEEN OTHERS THAT I HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OF. AND
6 THESE NUNS AND THESE PRIESTS, THEY WERE VERY HARD ON US.
7 THEY TREATED US -- WELL, IT WAS HARD TIMES. BUT THEY TRIED
8 TO EDUCATE US, AND THEY TRIED TO CONVERT US. OR I SHOULDN'T
9 SAY CONVERSION, AT THAT TIME. THEY WERE TRYING TO JUST MAKE
10 US BE PART OF THEIR LIFESTYLE AND FIT IN THERE. AND THEY FED
11 US, AND THEY GAVE US WHATEVER THEY COULD. AND THEY WERE ALSO
12 HELPED BY THE UNDERGROUND.

13 AND THERE WERE VERY FEW PEOPLE THAT KNEW WHO
14 THE JEWISH CHILDREN WERE. I MEAN THE NUNS OR THE HEAD OF THE
15 NUNS -- THERE WERE ALSO PRIESTS. THEY HAD CLOISTERS CLOSE BY
16 THERE -- THEY ARE THE ONES THAT HAD AN IDEA.

17 Q. HOW MANY CHILDREN WERE THERE ALTOGETHER?

18 A. THERE COULD HAVE BEEN TWO OR THREE HUNDRED IN
19 THIS ORPHANAGE, AND THEY HAD DIFFERENT GRADE LEVELS -- OLDER,
20 YOUNGER. I CAN REMEMBER MY BIGGEST FEAR WAS THAT I WOULD WET
21 MY BED BECAUSE THEY MADE YOU WALK WITH YOUR WET SHEETS AROUND
22 EVERYBODY. I MEAN BECAUSE WE WERE LITTLE. I COULDN'T HAVE
23 BEEN MORE THAN, YOU KNOW -- WHAT WAS I? FOUR OR FIVE YEARS
24 OLD. AND YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT DURING THOSE TIMES.

25 AND ONE TIME MY PARENTS WERE CALLED, AND THEY

1 SAID THAT THEY WERE GOING TO MOVE US BECAUSE THE GERMANS WERE
2 REALLY HOT ON PURSUIT ON THESE PLACES. SO THEY TOOK US
3 SOMEPLACE ELSE. SOMEWHERE DURING THE TIME THERE, ONE TIME I
4 SAW MY PARENTS BECAUSE I HAD A TOOTHACHE. I HAD AN ABSCESSED
5 TOOTH, AND THEY COULDN'T DO ANYTHING FOR ME. THE UNDERGROUND
6 BROUGHT ME BACK TO THEM.

7 AND THEN THERE WAS A -- IN A HOUSE WHERE MY
8 MOTHER AND FATHER -- AND I DON'T WANT TO INFRINGE ON THEIR
9 STORIES -- THEY LIVED IN A BASEMENT. AND THIS WOMAN THAT MY
10 MOTHER MET AT THIS CAFE, HER NAME WAS GABBY, AND SHE HAD AN
11 INVALID SISTER, MARIA. THEY WERE BOTH SPINSTERS. AND THEY
12 OWNED THIS HOUSE. AND THEY TOOK MY PARENTS IN. AND THEY HAD
13 A BASEMENT WHERE MY PARENTS STAYED THERE.

14 SHE ALSO HAD LIVING IN THAT HOUSE A GERMAN MAN,
15 AND SHE HAD A -- WHAT IS THE WORD? -- SHE HAD A RELATIVE THAT
16 HAD BEEN A PRIEST THAT THEY THREW OUT OF THE CHURCH. SO I'M
17 NOT QUITE SURE WHAT HE WAS, BUT HE LIVED THERE TOO. AND HE
18 KNEW THAT MY PARENTS WERE THERE. AND HE USED TO FRIGHTEN
19 THEM ALL THE TIME BECAUSE -- HE ALMOST THREATENED THEM THAT
20 HE WAS GOING TO TURN THEM IN. I MEAN HE REALLY PLAYED A MIND
21 GAME WITH THEM.

22 AND THEY BROUGHT ME BACK TO THEIR HOUSE BECAUSE
23 I GUESS THE HEAT WAS ON. THEY WANTED TO MOVE ME AND OTHER
24 JEWISH CHILDREN, AND ALSO THE FACT I HAD AN ABSCESSED TOOTH.
25 SO THEY WERE ABLE TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR ME TO SEE A

1 DENTIST. AND THIS ANTOINE, WHO WAS THIS EX-PRIEST, YOU KNOW,
2 HE'S THE ONE THAT TOOK ME TO THE DENTIST BECAUSE HE LOOKED
3 VERY ARYAN, VERY -- YOU KNOW, SO IF HE HAD ME BY THE HAND,
4 THEY COULDN'T TELL OR ANYTHING. SO HE TOOK ME TO THIS
5 DENTIST. AND I REMEMBER THEY HAD NO MEDICATION, AND HE HAD
6 TO PULL THE TOOTH. AND HE CRACKED THE TOOTH, AND HE PICKED
7 IT OUT PIECE BY PIECE. BUT IT WAS KIND OF VERY HARD, BUT
8 THEY HAD NO MEDICATION TO GIVE FOR ANYBODY. SO IT DIDN'T
9 MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE.

10 SO FROM THERE I WENT BACK TO THE UNDERGROUND --
11 I MEAN TO THE MONASTERY. AND LIKE I SAID, THEY MOVED US
12 AROUND PERIODICALLY. THEY JUST DIDN'T LEAVE YOU THERE. I
13 CAN REMEMBER THE BOMBING, TOWARDS THE END THE BOMBINGS WERE
14 COMING. AND WE WOULD SIT THERE, AND BOMBS WOULD COME. AND
15 THEY HAD BASEMENTS OR SHELTERS MADE FOR BOMBING. AND THE
16 BOMBS WOULD COME, AND WE WOULD SIT FOR HOURS. AND YOU WOULD
17 HEAR THOSE BOMBS WHISTLING, AND THEY WOULD DROP. AND THEN
18 LATER ON WHEN THE GERMANS WERE SENDING THE V-2'S AND V-1
19 ROCKETS, YOU COULD HEAR THEM AND SEE THEM, AND THEN EVERYBODY
20 WOULD RUN. AS LONG AS YOU COULD HEAR THEM, YOU WEREN'T
21 WORRIED ABOUT THEM. BUT THE MINUTE YOU DIDN'T HEAR THEM, THE
22 MINUTE THEY STOPPED MAKING THE WHINING NOISE, THAT MEANS THAT
23 THEY RAN OUT OF FUEL AND THEY WERE DROPPING. THEN EVERYBODY
24 JUST HID, YOU KNOW, OR HEADED FOR COVER.

25 THE PEOPLE THAT MY PARENTS STAYED WITH, THEY

1 WERE ALSO IN CONTACT WITH THE UNDERGROUND. THE UNDERGROUND
2 KNEW, OF COURSE, THAT THESE PEOPLE WERE TAKING CARE OF THEM.
3 AND WHEN THE WAR WAS OVER -- IN 1945, I GUESS, THE WAR WAS
4 OVER -- MY PARENTS WERE TRYING TO FIND US BECAUSE THEY MOVED
5 US AROUND. THEY HAD NO IDEA. I SHOULD GO BACK.

6 DURING THE TIME IN THE MONASTERY I BECAME VERY
7 INVOLVED IN CATHOLICISM, I GUESS, BECAUSE WHEN YOU ARE YOUNG
8 AND YOUR MIND IS VULNERABLE -- AND IT SOUNDED GOOD. YOU
9 KNOW, THIS WONDERFUL RELIGION HERE, AND THEY ACCEPTED ME.
10 AND I REALLY STARTED TO THINK IN TERMS -- YOU KNOW, I
11 BELIEVED IT. I MEAN I KNEW ON ONE SIDE WHAT I LEARNED AT
12 HOME AND ON THE OTHER SIDE IT SEEMED TO BE -- YOU KNOW, IT'S
13 LIKE GOING TO SCHOOL. THEY KEEP TEACHING YOU SOMETHING. YOU
14 THINK THAT'S THE WAY IT IS. I WENT TO CHURCH, AND I DID
15 EVERYTHING THAT YOU DO AS A CATHOLIC, YOU KNOW, LEARN SOME
16 CATECHISM AND SO FORTH.

17 SO WHEN THE WAR WAS OVER, THIS GABBY WENT TO
18 LA VAN, AND THEY WENT TO ALL THE CHURCHES. SHE TOOK MY
19 MOTHER. I MEAN THEY FOUND OUT FROM THE UNDERGROUND
20 APPROXIMATELY WHERE THESE ORPHANAGES WERE. THEY WEREN'T SURE
21 THEMSELVES BECAUSE THEY LOST TRACK BECAUSE OF EVERYTHING THAT
22 WAS GOING ON. SO MY PARENTS WERE TRYING TO FIND ME. SO THIS
23 GABBY WENT WITH THEM, AND THEY WENT TO LA VAN. AND THEY
24 WALKED MAYBE FIVE, TEN MILES, AND THEY WENT FROM ONE CLOISTER
25 AND FROM ONE CHURCH TO ANOTHER. AND THEY FOUND THIS ONE /

1 PLACE THAT THEY SAID, "YES, THE CHILDREN WERE MOVED TO THIS
2 OTHER MONASTERY WHERE THE BROTHERS WERE." AND THAT WAS A --
3 IT WAS A GROUP OF PRIESTS, YOU KNOW, THAT IT WAS BROTHERS.
4 AND THERE WAS A LOT OF CHILDREN OVER THERE, THEY SAID. THEY
5 WEREN'T SURE BECAUSE THEY HAD NO DOCUMENTATION OF WHO WAS
6 WHERE OR WHAT. THE ONLY DOCUMENTATION THAT WAS THERE, THE
7 UNDERGROUND HAD DOCUMENTATION. THEY KNEW MORE OR LESS WHERE
8 PEOPLE WERE.

9 AND SO MY PARENTS WENT OVER THERE. AND THERE
10 WAS A SOCCER GAME, THE BRITISH WERE PLAYING THE PRIESTS. YOU
11 KNOW, THE WAR WAS OVER, AND THERE WAS A SOCCER GAME. AND WE
12 WERE ALL SITTING OUT THERE WATCHING THE SOCCER GAME. AND I
13 JUST LOOKED OVER THERE, AND THERE WAS MY MOTHER AND FATHER.

14 THEN, YOU KNOW, THEY TALKED TO THE PEOPLE, AND
15 THEY MADE ARRANGEMENTS FOR A RETURN. THEY COULDN'T JUST TAKE
16 ME, I MEAN, IT WAS -- THEY WEREN'T JUST GOING TO LET SOMEBODY
17 WALK UP AND TAKE SOMEBODY OUT OF THERE. FIRST OF ALL, THE
18 CHURCH FELT THAT WE BELONGED TO THE CHURCH, AND THEY WERE NOT
19 GOING TO GIVE ANYONE UP. SO THERE WAS A PROCESS TO GET THE
20 RIGHTFUL CLAIM BACK TO YOUR CHILDREN. YOU HAD TO PROVE THAT
21 YOU WERE THE PARENTS AND THAT WAS YOUR CHILD AND THESE
22 THINGS. IT TOOK A LITTLE BIT OF TIME, NOT A LOT, BUT THERE
23 WAS SOME TIME INVOLVED IN IT.

24 AND THERE WAS ANOTHER JEWISH BOY THAT I WAS
25 VERY CLOSE TO. AND WHEN MY PARENTS WERE ABLE TO MAKE

1 ARRANGEMENTS TO TAKE ME OUT OF THERE, THEY ALSO LIED AND MADE
2 ARRANGEMENTS AND TOOK THIS OTHER BOY OUT BECAUSE HE HAD NO
3 PARENTS. AND MY MOTHER KNEW THAT FOR -- THAT HE HAD FAMILY
4 IN PALESTINE. AND SHE WAS ABLE TO CONVINCE THE CATHOLIC
5 PEOPLE WHEN SHE TOOK ME OUT THAT THIS BOY -- I CAN'T REMEMBER
6 HIS NAME. MY FATHER KNOWS. IT'S SOMETHING -- I FORGOT. BUT
7 I KNOW THEY TOOK BOTH OF US OUT, AND SHE CLAIMED TO BE HIS
8 AUNT. AND THEY COULDN'T PROVE THAT SHE WASN'T. SO HE CAME
9 OUT WITH ME.

10 AND AFTER, YOU KNOW, THEY CAME OUT, I REMEMBER
11 THE FIRST NIGHT WE CAME OUT THEY HAD TO DELOUSE US. WE
12 SAT -- AND IN BELGIUM THERE WAS NO RUNNING WATER, YOU KNOW.
13 SO THEY HAD -- IN THIS PLACE THAT THEY LIVED THEY HEATED UP
14 WATER, AND BOTH OF US WERE BEING BATHED AND DELOUSED FROM ALL
15 OF THAT. THEY WERE ABLE TO -- THE UNDERGROUND WAS NOW A
16 JEWISH COMMITTEE. EVERYTHING WAS ABOVE BOARD. THEY WERE
17 ABLE TO TRACE THIS BOY'S FAMILY, AND THEY SENT HIM TO
18 PALESTINE.

19 AND THEN AFTER THE TIME OF THE -- WHEN I CAME
20 OUT OF THE MONASTERY, I WAS REALLY VERY MUCH INVOLVED IN
21 CATHOLICISM. AND THERE WAS A CHURCH ACROSS THE STREET FROM
22 THE HOUSE THAT WE LIVED, AND I USED TO GO TO CHURCH EVERY
23 DAY. AND THE PRIEST WOULD COME TO MY PARENTS, AND SAY,
24 "LISTEN. HE'S MORE CATHOLIC THAN JEWISH. WHY WON'T YOU GIVE
25 HIM UP, LET US HAVE HIM?" AND I WOULD PLAY "PRIEST." I

1 REMEMBER I WOULD DRESS LIKE A PRIEST AND GO THROUGH ALL THE
2 MOTIONS THAT THE PRIEST WOULD DO.

3 AND IT TOOK MONTHS, BUT MY PARENTS FOR SOME
4 REASON -- AND THEY ARE ORTHODOX JEWS AND PRACTICING ORTHODOX
5 JEWS -- DID NOT AT THAT TIME DO ANYTHING OR FORCE ANYTHING.
6 THEY JUST KIND OF LET IT GO. AND AS THINGS WENT, I CAME
7 BACK. BUT THEY JUST LET IT GO. THEY DIDN'T SAY NO. THEY
8 DIDN'T SAY YES. THEY JUST LET ME DO WHAT I WANTED TO DO, AND
9 THEY JUST LEFT ME IN MY OWN AREA.

10 AND WE -- THIS WAS IN 1945. WE CAME TO THE
11 UNITED STATES IN 1948. MY PARENTS HAD -- MY MOTHER HAD AN
12 UNCLE IN SAN FRANCISCO, VERY NICE FAMILY, AND THEY SPONSORED
13 US THROUGH THE NORMAL CHANNELS.

14 Q. BEFORE WE COME TO THE UNITED STATES, COULD WE
15 PERHAPS GO BACK AND FILL IN SOME OF THE SPOTS ABOUT YOUR LIFE
16 AT THE ORPHANAGE OR EVEN BEFORE, IF YOU DON'T MIND?

17 A. NO. FINE.

18 Q. YOU COVERED A LOT OF GROUND THERE, AND WE WANT
19 TO JUST TOUCH ON ONE OR TWO THINGS.

20 YOU HAD RELATIVES IN ANTWERP, WHICH IS WHY YOU
21 WENT THERE.

22 A. RIGHT.

23 Q. AND YOU WERE ABOUT FIVE YEARS OLD WHEN YOU WENT
24 INTO THE ORPHANAGE; AM I CORRECT?

25 A. CORRECT.

1 Q. DID YOU HAVE AN EXTENDED FAMILY ALL AROUND YOU,
2 AND WAS THERE A JEWISH COMMUNITY YOU WERE INVOLVED WITH BACK
3 THERE IN ANTWERP?

4 A. YES. THERE WAS MY COUSINS, THEY WERE THERE.
5 AND OF COURSE MY MOTHER AND MY FATHER WORKED IN THE YESHIVA
6 THERE WHERE THEY WERE COOKS AND THEY HELPED OUT. SO THERE
7 WAS A LOT OF JEWISH PEOPLE THERE, INVOLVEMENT THERE. BUT
8 EVERYBODY WAS FOR THEMSELVES, EVERYBODY WAS LOOKING TO
9 SURVIVE. YOU KNOW, THERE WAS THIS GREAT FEAR. AND IT MUST
10 HAVE BEEN AN AWFUL LOT, A TREMENDOUS AMOUNT OF PRESSURE ON
11 THESE PEOPLE. BECAUSE I DON'T THINK THEY KNEW WHAT WAS GOING
12 ON, I MEAN EXCEPT FROM WHAT THEY HEARD. BUT THERE WAS
13 NOTHING CONCRETE. ALL THESE RUMORS WERE GOING ON ALL THE
14 TIME.

15 Q. AT THE AGE OF FIVE YOU WERE HAVING MEMORIES,
16 YOUR OWN MEMORIES OF THAT PERIOD OF TIME?

17 A. YES.

18 Q. DO YOU RECALL WHEN VARIOUS LAWS AND REGULATIONS
19 WENT INTO EFFECT THAT WOULD AFFECT, FOR INSTANCE, THE WEARING
20 OF THE STAR?

21 A. YES. I REMEMBER WE ALL HAD TO HAVE STARS SEWN
22 ON. I REMEMBER MY PARENTS -- THEY WOULD COME ON A BIG SHEET,
23 AND THE STARS WERE YELLOW WITH A BLACK STAR AND IT HAD A "J"
24 IN THERE, YOU KNOW, FOR UNA (PHONETIC). AND THEY CAME IN
25 SECTIONS, AND YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO CUT THEM OUT. I REMEMBER

1 WE WERE SITTING THERE, AND THEY WERE CUTTING THEM OUT, AND
2 THEY WERE SEWING THEM ON THEIR GARMENTS.

3 Q. WHERE DID THOSE COME FROM?

4 A. THE GERMANS HANDED THEM OUT. THEY HAD TO
5 REPORT -- YOU SEE THE GERMANS HAD PEOPLE REPORT ALL THE TIME.
6 THEY HAD A PLACE WHERE YOU HAD TO REPORT, MAKE YOURSELF
7 KNOWN. SO THEY HAD DOCUMENTATION OF WHERE YOU WERE, WHO YOU
8 WERE. AND THEN BY PUTTING THE STAR ON, IT WAS A LOT EASIER
9 BECAUSE THEY COULD PICK YOU OFF THE STREET.

10 I KNOW MY MOTHER USED TO WALK WITH HER PURSE
11 LIKE THIS ALL THE TIME BECAUSE THE STAR WAS HERE. AND THEY
12 WERE ALL -- YOU KNOW, YOU COULD PROBABLY TELL ALL THE JEWISH
13 WOMEN BECAUSE THEY ALL HAD THEIR PURSES UP HERE. THEY
14 THOUGHT THEY WERE CLEVER, THEY WOULD HIDE IT. BUT THERE
15 WASN'T ANYTHING.

16 Q. YOU REMEMBER YOUR PARENTS WERE ORTHODOX, YOU
17 SAY. AND DO YOU REMEMBER A SIZABLE JEWISH COMMUNITY THERE?

18 A. WELL, THE ONLY PEOPLE THEY KNEW WERE JEWISH
19 PEOPLE. I MEAN THEY INTERMINGLED WITH JEWISH PEOPLE. THE
20 BELGIUM PEOPLE DIDN'T INTERMINGLE THAT MUCH WITH THEM. I
21 MEAN THERE WAS A LARGE JEWISH COMMUNITY IN BELGIUM. THEY
22 WERE SECLUDED BECAUSE THEY STAYED WITHIN THEIR THING. THEY
23 COULDN'T WORK ANYPLACE. SO THEY KIND OF HAD TO HELP EACH
24 OTHER.

25 Q. DO YOU RECALL WHAT LANGUAGE WAS MOST -- MANY

1 WERE REFUGEES, OF COURSE. DO YOU RECALL WHAT LANGUAGES YOU
2 SPOKE?

3 A. EVERYBODY SPOKE YIDDISH.

4 Q. YIDDISH?

5 A. YES.

6 Q. DID YOUR PARENTS SPEAK YIDDISH?

7 A. YEAH. I SPEAK YIDDISH. MY PARENTS SPEAK
8 YIDDISH.

9 Q. YOU SPEAK IT ALSO?

10 A. YES, I WAS RAISED YIDDISH, AND I SPEAK YIDDISH.
11 I MEAN THAT'S THE ONLY COMMUNICATIONS -- I SPEAK WITH MY
12 PARENTS YIDDISH, AND THAT'S WONDERFUL. I'M ONLY SORRY THAT
13 MY CHILDREN DON'T SPEAK YIDDISH.

14 Q. AND THERE WAS A RELIGIOUS LIFE?

15 A. YES. THEY STILL ARE RELIGIOUS, YOU KNOW.

16 Q. YOU TALKED A LOT ABOUT HOW YOU FELT ABOUT YOUR
17 RELIGIOUS LIFE WHEN YOU WERE INVOLVED WITH CATHOLICISM. WHAT
18 ABOUT EARLIER WHEN YOU WERE IN BRUSSELS? DID YOU HAVE --

19 A. YEAH. WELL, WE HAD -- YOU KNOW, WE WERE
20 PRACTICING JEWISH PEOPLE. YOU KNOW, THERE'S A MINION --
21 WHERE THERE'S 10 JEWISH PEOPLE, THERE'S ALWAYS A MINION. WE
22 WERE ALWAYS ABLE TO COME UP WITH A MINION.

23 AND THEN, YOU KNOW, IN ANTWERP WE WERE IN THIS
24 YESHIVA. I REMEMBER THE HEAD OF THE YESHIVA WAS A MAN WITH A
25 GRAY BEARD, AND I USED TO SIT NEXT TO HIM AT THE TABLE ALL

1 THE TIME.

2 Q. SO DO YOU RECALL -- YOU MENTIONED A COUPLE OF
3 NAMES I'D LIKE TO CLARIFY.

4 A. SURE.

5 Q. A COUSIN HARRY?

6 A. YEAH.

7 Q. WHAT WAS HIS LAST NAME?

8 A. LANDAU.

9 Q. LANDAU?

10 A. YES.

11 Q. AND HE WAS YOUR FATHER'S --

12 A. HE WAS MY MOTHER'S, BY MARRIAGE, FIRST COUSIN.

13 Q. AND COUSIN CLAIRE?

14 A. CLARA. CLARA WAS MY MOTHER'S FIRST COUSIN. HE
15 WAS MARRIED TO HER.

16 Q. OKAY. AND YOU HAD PERHAPS -- HOW MANY
17 ADDITIONAL RELATIVES WOULD YOU ESTIMATE THAT YOU HAD THERE IN
18 BELGIUM?

19 A. OH, THERE MUST HAVE BEEN MAYBE EIGHT, TEN. I
20 MEAN I CAN ONLY REMEMBER -- I REMEMBER ONE COUSIN VAGUELY,
21 BUT THOSE, I JUST DON'T REMEMBER.

22 Q. NOW, DO YOU RECALL THE NAME OF THE UNDERGROUND
23 ORGANIZATION THAT YOU EVENTUALLY -- YOUR FAMILY EVENTUALLY --

24 A. NO. IT WAS JUST CALLED A JEWISH COMMITTEE.

25 Q. THE JEWISH --

1 A. YEAH, THE JEWISH COMMITTEE. AND FROM THAT THEY
2 HAD AN UNDERGROUND MOVEMENT. AND FOR SOME REASON THEY WERE
3 INFILTRATING SOME OF THE GERMAN AREAS BECAUSE THEY KNEW
4 THINGS PRIOR TO THEM HAPPENING.

5 Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY SENSE OF WHETHER IT WAS
6 ATTACHED TO OR AFFILIATED WITH A NON-JEWISH UNDERGROUND?

7 A. YES, DEFINITELY. IT WAS FUNDED BY NON -- THE
8 PARTISANS IN THE UNDERGROUND WERE FUNDING THEM MONEY. DURING
9 THE YEARS THAT MY PARENTS WERE IN HIDING, THEY WERE FUNDED
10 MONEY AND PAPERS AND RATION BOOKS SO THAT THEY WERE ABLE TO
11 GET SOME FOOD. SO IN OTHER WORDS, THE BELGIUM PEOPLE THAT
12 THEY LIVED WITH WERE ABLE TO GET SOME THINGS FOR THEM OR THEY
13 WERE ABLE TO BUY FOR THEM. SO THEY WERE SUBSIDIZING THEM.
14 THEY KNEW THE ONES THAT WERE STILL THERE, AND THEY WERE
15 HELPING AS MANY AS THEY COULD.

16 Q. SO THERE WAS SOME NON-JEWISH HELP?

17 A. OH, A LOT OF NON-JEWISH HELP.

18 Q. AND WITHOUT A NON-JEWISH UNDERGROUND
19 ORGANIZATION, COULD YOU HAVE BEEN PLACED IN A CATHOLIC
20 ORPHANAGE, FOR INSTANCE?

21 A. I DON'T THINK SO. I DON'T THINK THERE WOULD
22 HAVE BEEN ANYBODY THAT CARED. I MEAN NOT SAYING THEY
23 WOULDN'T HAVE, BUT I THINK THAT THE PEOPLE THEMSELVES, THE
24 BELGIUM PEOPLE HAD GREAT FEARS, YOU KNOW, FOR THEIR OWN
25 SURVIVAL BECAUSE THEY WEREN'T THAT WELL OFF. SO THEY WERE

1 NOT GOING TO GO OUT THERE AND DO SOMETHING TO JEOPARDIZE
2 THEIR SAFETY.

3 Q. SO ONCE IN THE ORPHANAGE, DO YOU KNOW -- DID
4 THE MONKS BELONG TO ANY PARTICULAR ORDER?

5 A. WELL, NOT THAT I KNOW OF. I KNOW THAT BELGIUM
6 IS EXTREMELY CATHOLIC, ROMAN CATHOLIC ALL THE WAY. THERE IS
7 NO IN BETWEEN. AND IT WAS ALL ROMAN CATHOLIC THERE.

8 Q. WERE YOU BAPTIZED?

9 A. NO. BUT THEY WERE JUST HOPING THAT -- THAT IF
10 THEY COULD ADOPT ME, YOU KNOW, THAT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN THERE.

11 Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY -- RELYING ON YOUR MEMORY, YOU
12 DIDN'T SEE YOUR PARENTS FOR PERHAPS ALMOST THREE YEARS DURING
13 THAT PERIOD?

14 A. YEAH. I SAW THEM MAYBE ONCE, YOU KNOW.

15 Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY SENSE -- DID YOU KNOW
16 SPECIFICALLY THAT ANY OTHER INDIVIDUAL YOUNGSTER THERE AT
17 SCHOOL WAS JEWISH?

18 A. I KNEW OF PROBABLY ONE OR TWO.

19 Q. WHOM YOU KNEW?

20 A. YEAH. NOT THAT WE SAID ANYTHING. WE JUST KIND
21 OF KNEW. I MEAN I THINK ONCE THAT YOU GOT INTO THE IDEA
22 THAT -- YOU KNOW, I GUESS EVEN AS YOUNG AS I WAS THAT I
23 REALIZED THAT SOMETHING BAD COULD HAPPEN. YOU KNOW, SO WE
24 KIND OF PLAYED BY THE RULES AND, YOU KNOW -- BECAUSE I GUESS
25 THE FEAR WAS THERE. I MEAN I SAW THE FEAR. I THINK IT

1 REALLY SUNK IN WHEN MY MOTHER AND I WERE TAKEN BY THE
2 GERMANS.

3 Q. I WANTED TO ASK YOU A QUESTION ABOUT THAT. DO
4 YOU REMEMBER WHEN YOU WERE IN THAT ROOM WITH THE SWEATY WALLS
5 QUESTIONS THAT THE GERMANS WERE ASKING YOU OR YOUR MOTHER?

6 A. THEY WEREN'T ASKING ANY QUESTIONS. THEY JUST
7 THREW YOU IN THERE, AND EVERYBODY WAS CRYING. YOU COULD JUST
8 HEAR ALL THE TEARS AND THE FEARS. I MEAN I COULD FEEL IT. I
9 MEAN AS YOUNG AS I WAS, I COULD FEEL THAT FEAR.

10 Q. YOU HAVE ACTUAL MEMORIES OF THAT?

11 A. I DO REMEMBER THAT, YEAH.

12 Q. OF BEING THERE AND BEING LOCKED UP?

13 A. YEAH.

14 Q. DO YOU SENSE OR KNOW -- WAS THERE ONE TRAIN A
15 DAY FROM THERE?

16 A. ONCE A DAY IT WAS LEAVING AT SIX O'CLOCK.

17 Q. YOU DON'T KNOW EXACTLY WHERE IT WAS GOING?

18 A. NO.

19 Q. BUT IT WAS TAKING PEOPLE AWAY?

20 A. IT WAS TAKING PEOPLE AWAY. AND THEY WOULD LOAD
21 THEM ON TRUCKS TO THE TRAIN STATION.

22 Q. DO YOU RECALL PERSONALLY WHEN SOMEBODY -- YOUR
23 FATHER AND THIS OFFICER CAME TO GET YOU OUT?

24 A. I JUST SAW THE END OF IT WHEN WE WERE TAKEN OUT
25 AND BROUGHT UP. WE WERE GOING UP THESE LONG, HIGH STAIRS

1 BECAUSE IT WAS IN THE BASEMENT.

2 Q. EVERYBODY ELSE THERE WAS JEWISH?

3 A. YES.

4 Q. WERE YOU WEARING STARS AT THAT POINT?

5 A. NO. BUT THERE WERE MEN WITH BEARDS AND WOMEN
6 WITH SHETELS, YOU KNOW, WIGS. AND YOU COULD TELL BECAUSE
7 THERE WERE SO MANY PRACTICING ORTHODOX JEWS THERE, A LOT OF
8 THEM. AND THEY WERE OBVIOUS JEWS. IT WASN'T JUST SOMEBODY
9 CLEANSHAVEN THAT COULD PASS OFF AS NON-JEWISH. IT WAS THE
10 STEREOTYPE OF JEWS. THERE WERE A LOT OF THEM THERE.

11 Q. SO SHORTLY AFTER THAT YOUR PARENTS DECIDED THAT
12 YOU HAD TO BE CARED FOR?

13 A. TWO DAYS AFTER THAT. IT WAS A DECISION THAT I
14 CANNOT -- LOOKING AT MY PARENTS NOW AND THE STRENGTH THAT
15 THEY HAD TO BE ABLE TO MAKE DECISIONS LIKE THAT. AND I'M IN
16 AWE WHEN I THINK ABOUT IT. BECAUSE LOOKING AT THE THINGS
17 THAT THEY HAD TO DO AND WERE WILLING TO SACRIFICE -- YOU
18 KNOW, WHEN YOU HEAR ABOUT PEOPLE SAYING THEY MAKE A
19 SACRIFICE, WELL, WHEN YOU GIVE UP A CHILD, THAT'S A
20 TREMENDOUS SACRIFICE.

21 Q. YOU WERE AN ONLY CHILD?

22 A. I WAS AN ONLY CHILD. AND TO GIVE THAT UP
23 BECAUSE YOU WANTED THAT CHILD TO LIVE REGARDLESS OF WHAT
24 HAPPENS TO THEM, IT'S A CHARACTER THAT'S HARD TO SEE. WHEN I
25 THINK ABOUT IT, I AM REALLY AMAZED. BECAUSE WHEN I LOOK AT

1 THEM THAT THEY HAD THAT STRENGTH, I DON'T PICTURE THEM -- I
2 DON'T SEE THAT STRENGTH -- I DIDN'T SEE IT UNTIL I THOUGHT
3 ABOUT IT. IT'S AMAZING. I'M TOTALLY AMAZED BY IT.

4 Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY SENSE OF HOW YOUR PARENTS FELT
5 AT THAT TIME, WHETHER OR NOT THEY THEMSELVES WOULD SURVIVE?

6 A. I DON'T THINK THEY THOUGHT THEY WOULD SURVIVE,
7 AND THIS IS WHY THEY WERE WILLING TO DO THIS. I MEAN THEIR
8 CHANCES WERE VERY SLIM. AND I THINK THEY WANTED THEIR CHILD
9 TO SURVIVE, AND THEY WERE WILLING TO DO ANYTHING, YOU KNOW,
10 FOR THAT TO HAPPEN.

11 Q. DO YOU THINK THEY HAD SOME APPREHENSION THAT
12 YOU MIGHT ADOPT THE CATHOLIC FAITH?

13 A. I THINK THEY WERE SO GLAD THAT THEY SURVIVED
14 AND THAT I SURVIVED THAT MAYBE AT THAT TIME THEY WEREN'T
15 CONCERNED ABOUT IT. THEY WERE MORE CONCERNED WITH THE FACT
16 THAT I SURVIVED.

17 Q. I MEAN BACK WHEN THEY PLACED YOU THERE?

18 A. THAT WAS AN OPTION. BUT THE QUESTION WAS THEY
19 WANTED ME TO LIVE. AND I GUESS IT DIDN'T MATTER IF I WAS
20 JEWISH OR CATHOLIC JUST AS LONG AS I SURVIVED.

21 Q. DID YOU UNDERSTAND THAT YOU WERE BEING TAKEN
22 AWAY?

23 A. YES.

24 Q. AND THAT YOU WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO SEE YOUR
25 PARENTS?

1 A. YES, I UNDERSTOOD THAT. AND I THINK AS A
2 CHILD, WHEN YOU ARE UPROOTED -- BUT CHILDREN HAVE A VERY --
3 THEY SEEM TO BE ABLE TO FALL BACK ON THEIR FEET LIKE A CAT
4 WITH NINE LIVES. THEY CAN SURVIVE, YOU KNOW, WITH THE PROPER
5 GUIDANCE. AND THE CATHOLIC PEOPLE, THE NUNS AND THE PRIESTS,
6 THEY DID A WONDERFUL JOB. I MEAN THEY REALLY PUT THEMSELVES
7 OUT, AND THEY TREATED US AS ONE OF THEIR OWN, AND WE WEREN'T
8 ANY DIFFERENT. AND THEY TOOK AN AWFUL CHANCE BECAUSE THE
9 GERMANS COULD HAVE COME AND TAKEN THEM ALL. I MEAN THEY HAD
10 NO PRINCIPLES. I MEAN THEY DIDN'T CARE.

11 Q. DO YOU RECALL KNOWING WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO THEM
12 IF THEY -- WITH THE NUNS AND PRIESTS -- IF THE GERMANS FOUND
13 JEWISH CHILDREN THERE?

14 A. THEY WOULD TAKE THEM AWAY. I CAN'T SAY THAT
15 THEY WOULD BE SHOT BECAUSE I DON'T KNOW. BUT I KNEW THAT
16 THEY WOULD BE TAKEN AWAY. AND I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT WOULD
17 HAPPEN FROM THERE, BUT THEY WOULD BE TAKEN.

18 Q. DID YOU HAVE, WHILE YOU WERE THERE AT THE
19 ORPHANAGE, A CONSCIOUSNESS OF THE SENSE OF DANGER THAT YOU
20 HAD TO CONCEAL THE FACT THAT YOU WERE JEWISH?

21 A. YES, I WAS VERY MUCH AWARE OF THAT. I WAS
22 AFRAID.

23 Q. WERE YOU TOLD THAT?

24 A. I DIDN'T NEED TO BE TOLD. I KNEW.

25 Q. AND YOU WERE TREATED, YOU AND THE OTHER JEWISH

1 BOYS, THEY WERE TREATED -- WERE THEY ALL BOYS?
2 A. THEY WERE ALL BOYS. THERE WAS NO GIRLS.
3 Q. -- TREATED JUST LIKE ALL THE OTHERS?
4 A. EXACTLY. WE GOT PUNISHED JUST LIKE THEY DID.
5 WE WENT TO CLASS. AND I CAN REMEMBER ONE OF THE NUNS, THEY
6 HAD THESE GREAT BIG KEYS, YOU KNOW, THOSE LOCK KEYS. AND WE
7 WOULD BE IN CLASS, AND IF WE DID SOMETHING WRONG, SHE MADE
8 US COME UP TO THE FRONT, PUT OUR HANDS ON THE DESK, AND SHE
9 WOULD TAKE THIS KEY AND JUST WAP YOU RIGHT OVER THE HAND
10 UNTIL IT HURT. I REMEMBER THOSE, YES.
11 Q. COULD YOU DESCRIBE A TYPICAL DAY THAT YOU MIGHT
12 HAVE SPENT?
13 A. WE SPENT TIME IN CLASS. THEY SPENT A LOT OF
14 TIME TEACHING US CATHOLICISM, GOD, CHRISTIAN LIFE. BECAUSE I
15 THINK WE -- THE ORPHANAGE WHERE WE WERE WAS A CAPTIVE
16 AUDIENCE, I THINK, IN TERMS WAS MOST OF THESE CHILDREN THERE
17 HAD NO FAMILIES. SO THEY BELONGED TO THE CHURCH. SO THEIR
18 CONCEPT WAS THAT THEY WERE GOING TO INDOCTRINATE THEM FOR THE
19 CHURCH WHICH MEANT THAT A LOT OF THEM WOULD PROBABLY BECOME
20 PRIESTS OR GET INVOLVED IN THEIR RELIGION. BECAUSE IT'S KIND
21 OF LIKE "THESE ARE OURS, AND WE CAN DO WHAT WE WANT WITH
22 THEM. WE CAN MOLD THEM. WE CAN DO WHATEVER IT IS."
23 Q. WHAT LANGUAGE DID YOU STUDY IN?
24 A. FRENCH.
25 Q. THEY WERE FRENCH SPEAKING BELGIUM?

1 A. BELGIUM IS FRENCH SPEAKING -- BOTH. THEY SPEAK
2 DUTCH OR FLEMISH AND FRENCH. BUT IT WAS ALL FRENCH.
3 Q. IT WAS JUST FRENCH?
4 A. YES.
5 Q. WERE YOU ABLE TO UNDERSTAND FRENCH?
6 A. YES, I SPOKE FRENCH.
7 Q. IN THOSE DAYS?
8 A. YES. I STILL SPEAK IT. VERY LITTLE, BUT IT
9 DOESN'T TAKE MUCH TO BRING IT BACK.
10 Q. YOU ACQUIRED THAT AFTER YOU ARRIVED?
11 A. WELL, YES. AND THEN OF COURSE YOU SPEAK
12 FRENCH -- IN THE MONASTERY WE SPOKE FRENCH. THERE WAS NO
13 OTHER LANGUAGE. THERE WAS NO WAY OF COMMUNICATING IF YOU
14 DIDN'T SPEAK FRENCH.
15 Q. DID YOU ALREADY SPEAK IT ONCE YOU GOT TO THE
16 ORPHANAGE?
17 A. WE SPOKE SOME FRENCH. BUT, YES.
18 Q. YOUR OTHER STUDIES, WHAT WERE THEY LIKE BESIDES
19 THE CHURCH --
20 A. JUST REALLY BASIC EDUCATIONAL THINGS, YOU KNOW,
21 READING AND WRITING AND ARITHMETIC TYPE OF THINGS. WHATEVER
22 YOUR CAPABILITIES WERE AND WHATEVER GROUP YOU WERE IN. THERE
23 WAS A LITTLE. THE NUNS SPENT A LOT OF TIME IN PRAYER. I
24 MEAN WE PRAYED A LOT. I MEAN A LOT OF HOURS OF PRAYING,
25 CERTAIN PRAYERS THAT YOU HAD TO DO. THEY WERE TEACHING US

1 HOW TO BE A CATHOLIC AND WHAT YOU DO. AND WE SPENT A LOT OF
2 TIME IN THE BOMB SHELTERS PRAYING. WE PRAYED AS A GROUP.
3 ALL OF US PRAYED.

4 Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY SENSE AT ALL YOU WERE GETTING
5 AN EXTRA HEAVY DOSE OF CATHOLICISM BECAUSE YOU WERE
6 JEWISH?

7 A. I DON'T THINK SO. I THINK IT WAS JUST A NORMAL
8 PROCEDURE.

9 Q. WHAT EVERYBODY GOT?

10 A. YEAH, IT WAS ALL THE SAME. WE WERE ALL TREATED
11 THE SAME.

12 Q. BUT YOU WERE NOT FORMALLY BAPTIZED?

13 A. NO. BUT THAT WASN'T A PROBLEM. I DON'T THINK
14 THEY THOUGHT ABOUT IT ONE WAY OR THE OTHER. THEY WEREN'T
15 REALLY -- AT THAT TIME THEY WEREN'T -- YOU KNOW.

16 Q. DO YOU KNOW WHETHER YOU WERE CARRIED ON THEIR
17 RECORDS AS A CATHOLIC CHILD?

18 A. I BELIEVE SO. BECAUSE THEY HAD TO HAVE THAT
19 FOR DOCUMENTATION FOR, YOU KNOW, FOR THE GERMANS.

20 Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA THAT THE GERMANS EVER CAME
21 AND ASKED TO SEE SUCH?

22 A. YEAH, I'M SURE THEY DID. THAT'S WHY THEY ALSO
23 PHYSICALLY WENT AROUND TO OBSERVE, YOU KNOW, AT TIMES.

24 Q. HOW OFTEN DID YOU SEE GERMANS COME IN THERE?

25 A. WELL, THERE WERE TIMES THEY KNEW THE GERMANS

1 WERE COMING AND THEY WOULD PULL US AWAY AND HIDE US. AND I
2 MEAN THE GERMANS WERE COMING AND ALL OF A SUDDEN WE SIX OF US
3 WOULD BE PULLED OUT AND TAKEN SOMEWHERE. THEY HAD
4 ADVANTAGE -- FOR SOME REASON THEY HAD ADVANCE COMMUNICATIONS
5 THAT SOMETHING WAS COMING UP. AND WHEN THE GERMANS WERE HOT
6 AND HEAVY, THEY SEEMED TO HAVE KNOWN AND THEY MOVED US. SO
7 THEIR INFILTRATION SYSTEM WAS VERY GOOD.

8 Q. THIS HAPPENED A FEW TIMES, AND DID YOU NOTICE
9 THAT THE SAME SIX BOYS WERE BEING --

10 A. WE WERE ALL THE SAME, YEAH.

11 Q. WHAT DID YOU FEEL ABOUT THE FACT YOU COULDN'T
12 SEE YOUR MOTHER AND DAD? HOW WAS THAT?

13 A. I CRIED A LOT. I REMEMBER NIGHTS THAT I WOULD
14 CRY BECAUSE I WAS LONELY.

15 Q. DID YOU KNOW WHY?

16 A. YEAH, I KNEW. I WAS VERY LONELY BECAUSE THERE
17 WASN'T A LOT OF FEELINGS THERE. I MEAN THE PEOPLE TOOK CARE
18 OF YOU, BUT THERE WASN'T ANY -- IT WAS A MECHANICAL CARING.
19 YOU KNOW, YOUR NEEDS. BUT I THINK YOUR EMOTIONAL NEEDS WERE
20 NOT MET.

21 Q. DID ANY OF THE NUNS OR PRIESTS EVER DISCUSS
22 WITH YOU THE FACT THAT YOU WERE THERE AND YOUR PARENTS WERE
23 HIDDEN SOMEWHERE ELSE AND THAT YOU WERE JEWISH?

24 A. NO.

25 Q. WAS THERE AN ATTEMPT MADE TO SORT OF GLOSS OVER

1 THAT IN THE SENSE THAT THEY WERE AFRAID YOU AS A CHILD MIGHT
2 BETRAY YOURSELF TO THE GERMANS?

3 A. YEAH. AND THAT'S WHY I BELIEVE THAT THEY
4 TREATED US EQUALLY AND NOT TREAT US ANY DIFFERENT THAN THE
5 REST OF THEM. AND THEREFORE, NONE OF THIS WENT ACROSS TO
6 ANYBODY ELSE. YOU WERE JUST -- EVEN WHEN THEY PULLED US OUT,
7 SOME KIDS WOULD BE PULLED OUT SO YOU KIND OF BLENDED INTO THE
8 POPULATION THERE. AND IT WAS WELL ORGANIZED AND WELL TAKEN
9 CARE OF. THERE WAS NOTHING OBVIOUS THERE, EVEN TO ANYONE
10 OBSERVING THE ROUTINE.

11 AND I HAVE TO SAY THAT -- I WANT TO ADD
12 SOMETHING TO THIS. IN ALL THE TIME THAT WE WERE THERE, WE
13 BASICALLY -- WE WERE FED MOSTLY BREAD, POTATOES, YOU KNOW,
14 THINGS THAT WERE GROWN. THEY HAD A FARM THERE AND THEY --
15 YOU KNOW, WE ATE OFF THE LAND, WHATEVER IT WAS. AND WHEN THE
16 WAR WAS OVER, THEY WERE CELEBRATING. THEY HAD THIS GREAT BIG
17 HOG. I MEAN -- WELL, IT PROBABLY WASN'T THAT BIG, BUT TO A
18 LITTLE BOY, HE LOOKED REAL BIG. ANYWAY, WHEN THE WAR WAS
19 OVER, THE CELEBRATION WAS THAT THEY SLAUGHTERED THAT HOG.
20 AND I THINK THAT WAS THE ONLY MEAT WE EVER HAD. AND I
21 REMEMBER THEY WERE FEEDING EVERYBODY OFF OF THIS ONE HOG.
22 AND THEY DICED THE MEAT INTO LITTLE SQUARES, DICED, YOU KNOW,
23 AND EVERYBODY GOT SIX DICED PIECES OF IT. YOU KNOW, THAT WAS
24 KIND OF THE FOOD TO GO AROUND. SO THAT WAS THE ONLY MEAT
25 THAT I THINK WE HAD IN ALL THE YEARS.

1 Q. YOU BECAME A VEGETARIAN OUT OF NECESSITY?

2 A. RIGHT. LOTS OF POTATOES AND LOTS OF GRAINS AND
3 BREAD AND WATER AND, YOU KNOW, MILK.

4 Q. WAS THERE HUNGER ALL THE TIME? WERE YOU ALWAYS
5 HUNGRY?

6 A. THERE WAS NEVER ENOUGH FOOD. BUT THERE WAS
7 ENOUGH TO SUSTAIN LIFE, BUT IT WASN'T ENOUGH TO SATISFY AND
8 FILL YOU UP AND BE COMFORTABLE.

9 Q. HOW DID YOUR GROWTH PROCEED DURING THOSE YEARS?

10 A. WELL, CAN WE PUT A HOLD ON THAT FOR ONE
11 MOMENT?

12 CAMERA TECHNICIAN: DO YOU WANT TO TURN THE CAMERA OFF?

13 MR. BARASCH: I HAVE SOME OTHER THINGS I CAN ADD TO
14 IT.

15 CAMERA TECHNICIAN: THE TAPE IS ROLLING. SO IN ABOUT
16 SIX SECONDS WE CAN CONTINUE.

17 Q. MR. BARASCH, AS THE WAR DREW TO AN END -- AT
18 LEAST LIBERATION CAME -- WERE YOU AND THE BOYS IN THE
19 ORPHANAGE AWARE OF WHAT WAS HAPPENING IN THE OUTSIDE WORLD?

20 A. YES. WE WERE AWARE BECAUSE THE BOMBINGS WERE
21 INCREASING. AND WE STARTED TO HEAR GROUND FIGHTING, CANNONS.
22 BUT THE BOMBS WERE COMING. WE WERE GETTING BOMBED EVERY DAY
23 FOR, OH, MAYBE WEEKS BEFORE THE INVASION. I MEAN IT WAS
24 GETTING THIS CONTINUAL STREAM OF BOMBING. THEY WERE JUST
25 COMING. AND YOU COULD LOOK UP IN THE SKY AND YOU SEE ALL

1 THESE PLANES. AND IT'S LIKE WHEN YOU SEE SOME OF THE WAR
2 MOVIES. I MEAN IT REALLY HAPPENED. THE SKY WAS FULL OF
3 PLANES. I MEAN HUNDREDS OF PLANES FLYING IN FORMATION, JUST
4 COMING RIGHT OVER. AND THEY WERE HEADED TOWARDS GERMANY.

5 Q. THESE WERE ALLIED PLANES?

6 A. ALLIED PLANES COMING OVER.

7 Q. DID YOU EVER HAVE ANY SENSE OF ELATION?

8 A. NO. WE WERE EXCITED, YEAH. WE KNEW THE GOOD
9 AND THE BAD. EVEN AT THAT AGE, YOU KNOW THE GERMANS WERE
10 BAD, AND THE AMERICANS WERE GOOD, AND THE RUSSIANS WERE GOOD.
11 AND WE KIND OF ROOTED FOR THE RUSSIANS AND THE AMERICANS. I
12 MEAN, YOU KNOW, WE WERE INFORMED OF -- WE KNEW THERE WAS A
13 WAR. I MEAN BEING JEWISH WAS ONE THING, BUT THE WAR WAS
14 SOMETHING ELSE. BUT IT WAS ALL THERE.

15 Q. YOU WERE BETWEEN THE AGES OF FIVE, AND TOWARD
16 THE LATTER STAGES OF THE WAR YOU WERE ALMOST SEVEN AND EIGHT?

17 A. RIGHT.

18 Q. DID YOU HEAR AT ALL OR WERE YOU INFORMED AT ALL
19 ABOUT WHAT WAS HAPPENING TO JEWS, SAY, IN GERMANY OR IN
20 EASTERN EUROPE OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT?

21 A. NO.

22 Q. AND IN ANY SENSE WERE YOU INFORMED ABOUT JEWISH
23 MATTERS OUT OF THE ORDINARY? IN ANY SENSE WERE YOU KEPT
24 INFORMED OF WHAT WAS HAPPENING TO JEWS ANYWHERE?

25 A. NO. I WAS TOO YOUNG. I DID NOT.

1 Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHETHER THIS WAS FOR YOUR
2 OWN PROTECTION THAT YOU WERE JUST TREATED AS ANOTHER CATHOLIC
3 CHILD?

4 A. RIGHT, AND I DON'T THINK THAT THEY WERE AWARE.
5 I MEAN THEY MIGHT HAVE BEEN AWARE OF -- SOME OF THE PEOPLE
6 MIGHT HAVE BEEN AWARE OF, BUT I THINK THEY WERE ALSO
7 SECLUDED. I DON'T THINK THE CHURCH WAS PASSING THIS
8 INFORMATION AROUND.

9 Q. DID YOU HAVE ANY RECOLLECTION OF KNOWING WHAT
10 WAS HAPPENING TO OTHER JEWS LIKE YOUR PARENTS WHO WERE IN
11 HIDING OR IN --

12 A. NO.

13 Q. -- IN BELGIUM SURROUNDINGS?

14 A. NO.

15 Q. NO IDEA?

16 A. I THINK YOU BECOME AN INDIVIDUAL, AND THE ONLY
17 IMPORTANT THING IS YOUR OWN SURVIVAL, YOU KNOW. I THINK YOU
18 HAVE NO CHOICES OR NO OPTIONS.

19 Q. AND YOU FELT VERY MUCH AT HOME AND BEGAN TO
20 FEEL VERY CLOSE TO THE CATHOLIC RELIGION.

21 A. VERY MUCH SO. THEY TREATED ME WELL.

22 Q. DID YOU HAVE ANY SENSE THAT YOU MIGHT WANT TO
23 STAY IN THE CHURCH AND BECOME A PART OF IT? A PRIEST OR --

24 A. WELL --

25 Q. -- A MONK OR SOMETHING?

1 A. NOT REALLY AT THE TIME. BECAUSE I THINK I
2 STILL WAS VERY -- I WAS VERY INFLUENCED BY THEM DURING THAT
3 TIME. I THINK THEY MIGHT HAVE WANTED ME TO CONTINUE, WHICH I
4 KNOW THEY DID. BUT WHEN I GOT OUT OF THERE, IT TOOK US --
5 THE PRIEST WOULD COME EVERY DAY TO THE HOUSE, TALK TO MY
6 MOTHER, I WOULD GO TO THE CHURCH. AND, YOU KNOW, HE WOULD
7 TRY TO, YOU KNOW, GET ME. BUT HE DIDN'T INFLUENCE ME IN THAT
8 WAY. HE ALSO LEFT ME ALONE. HE WAS NOT PUTTING ANY
9 PRESSURES ON SAYING, "YOU SHOULD BE WITH US," AND ALL OF
10 THAT.

11 Q. DO YOU RECALL AS YOU WERE STILL IN THE
12 ORPHANAGE AS THE LIBERATION GREW NEAR -- DO YOU RECALL HAVING
13 ANY THOUGHTS ABOUT, "WELL, MAYBE I'LL ASK TO SEE MY PARENTS,"
14 OR "I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED TO MY PARENTS"? DO YOU RECALL
15 YOUR --

16 A. I HAD ABSOLUTELY NO IDEA.

17 Q. -- THOUGHTS AT ALL?

18 A. WELL, I HAD NO IDEA IF I WOULD EVER SEE THEM
19 AGAIN. I THINK AT THAT STAGE IN MY LIFE I WAS BEGINNING TO
20 ACCEPT THE LIFE THAT I WAS LEADING.

21 Q. WHEN THE LIBERATION CAME AND FOR SOME TIME
22 AFTER, MONTHS AFTER THAT, YOU WERE STILL IN THE ORPHANAGE?

23 A. YES, UNTIL ALL THE ARRANGEMENTS WERE MADE.

24 Q. YOU HAVE SINCE BEEN TOLD, BY YOUR PARENTS I
25 GATHER, OF THE PROCEDURE THEY HAD TO GO THROUGH TO BASICALLY

1 TO RECLAIM YOU?

2 A. YEAH.

3 Q. AND YOU SAY THEY HAD TO ESSENTIALLY PROVE THAT

4 THEY WERE YOUR PARENTS?

5 A. RIGHT.

6 Q. WERE YOU AWARE THAT THEY WERE MAKING THESE

7 REQUESTS?

8 A. OH, YES, I WAS AWARE. THEY CAME, AND I SAW

9 THEM, AND I WAS GOING TO GO HOME SOON. AND I'M NOT QUITE

10 SURE WHAT THE SPAN OF TIME WAS BETWEEN WHEN THEY FOUND ME AND

11 THE ARRANGEMENTS. IT COULD HAVE BEEN A WEEK OR TWO, MAYBE.

12 NOT MORE THAN THAT.

13 Q. THE FIRST TIME YOU HAD SEEN THEM IN SEVERAL

14 YEARS --

15 A. YEAH.

16 Q. -- WAS AT THE SOCCER GAME?

17 A. AT THE SOCCER GAME, YES.

18 Q. AND YOU WERE NOT FOREWARNED?

19 A. ABSOLUTELY. THEY HAD NO IDEA. THIS WAS REALLY

20 COINCIDENTAL BECAUSE THEY WERE JUST WALKING FROM ONE PLACE TO

21 ANOTHER, JUST LOOKING. BECAUSE THEY HAD NO IDEA. IT JUST SO

22 HAPPENS IT WAS SO -- I GUESS IT WAS MEANT TO BE THAT WAY.

23 BECAUSE THEY CAME AND I JUST KIND OF LOOKED OVER, AND THERE

24 THEY WERE.

25 Q. WAS IT INSTANT RECOGNITION?

1 A. YEAH.

2 Q. YOU RECOGNIZED THEM?

3 A. I RECOGNIZED THEM RIGHT AWAY.

4 Q. THEY RECOGNIZED YOU?

5 A. YEAH.

6 Q. BECAUSE YOU HAD CHANGED?

7 A. YEAH, BUT STILL, YOU KNOW, I GUESS THAT'S THE

8 MAGNETISM OR THE FEELING THERE WAS THERE.

9 Q. WHAT DID YOU DO?

10 A. I'M REALLY NOT SURE. I THINK I RAN OVER OR

11 THEY CAME OVER. I PUT MY ARMS AROUND -- I'M NOT SURE. I

12 REALLY DON'T KNOW. I MEAN IT WAS JUST -- YOU KNOW. THEN I

13 WAS THINKING, GEE, THIS WAS A GREAT FOOTBALL GAME I'M

14 WATCHING -- WHO ARE THOSE PEOPLE?

15 Q. DID YOU HAVE ANY MOMENTS? HOW MUCH TIME DID

16 YOU HAVE WITH THEM AT THAT TIME?

17 A. WE HAD QUITE A BIT OF TIME, YOU KNOW. AND THEN

18 THEY WENT BACK. IT WAS SIMPLE BECAUSE THEN, I MEAN, THE

19 PROCEDURE WAS GETTING THEM TAKEN CARE OF.

20 Q. WERE YOU TREATED ANY DIFFERENTLY AFTER THAT?

21 A. WELL, STILL ONE OF THE KIDS. YOU KNOW, JUST

22 EXACTLY. I GUESS THEY WERE -- THEY -- IN A WAY THEY DID A

23 JOB. THEY SAVED LIVES. AND, YOU KNOW, GIVING UP A LIFE, YOU

24 KNOW, BECAUSE THEY GAVE A LOT TO THOSE PEOPLE. I MEAN THERE

25 WERE THE CATHOLIC PEOPLE AND THE NUNS AND THE PRIESTS THAT

1 WERE INVOLVED THERE, YOU KNOW. THEY GAVE AN AWFUL LOT.

2 Q. DO YOU HAVE A SENSE NOW OF THAT THEY MAY OR MAY
3 NOT HAVE SAVED YOUR LIFE? DO YOU HAVE ANY FEELING YOU WOULD
4 HAVE SURVIVED IF YOU HAD NOT BEEN IN SUCH A PLACE?

5 A. I DON'T THINK I WOULD HAVE SURVIVED. THERE WAS
6 NO WAY. I MEAN THERE'S NO WAY AT THE AGE THAT I WAS. AND I
7 CAN'T SEE REALISTICALLY THAT I WOULD HAVE SURVIVED.

8 Q. EVEN IF YOU WERE HIDDEN?

9 A. THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN NO WAY THAT A LITTLE BOY
10 COULD HAVE STAYED HIDDEN IN A PLACE FOR SO MANY YEARS WITHOUT
11 ATTRACTING ATTENTION IN ONE WAY OR THE OTHER. IT COULD BE
12 DONE, I WOULD SAY, BUT THAT'S, YOU KNOW, REALLY DREAMING
13 ABOUT IT. REALISTICALLY I DON'T THINK SO. AND I THINK THOSE
14 PEOPLE WOULD HAVE PUT US OUT. THEY WOULD HAVE PUT MY PARENTS
15 OUT IF THE CHILD WAS THERE. BECAUSE I THINK THEY WERE
16 RISKING THEIR OWN SAFETY AS WELL. BUT WITH A CHILD THERE, IT
17 WOULD HAVE REALLY MADE IT VERY DIFFICULT.

18 Q. ONCE YOU WERE RECLAIMED BY YOUR PARENTS AND
19 WENT BACK TO -- BRUSSELS, WAS IT?

20 A. UH-HUH.

21 Q. -- AND THE PRIESTS FROM THE ORPHANAGE CONTINUED
22 TO VISIT YOU?

23 A. NO. IT WAS NOT THE PRIEST FROM THE
24 ORPHANAGE. IT WAS A PARISH PRIEST. YOU KNOW, BELGIUM IS
25 VERY CATHOLIC. SO THERE WAS CHURCHES ALL OVER THE PLACE.

1 AND IT JUST SO HAPPENS THAT THIS CHURCH WAS RIGHT ACROSS THE
2 STREET FROM WHERE WE LIVED. SO THAT'S WHERE I WENT TO
3 CHURCH.

4 Q. AND YOU CONTINUED TO GO?

5 A. I WENT TO CHURCH FOR MONTHS.

6 Q. AT WHAT POINT DID YOU BEGIN TO LEAVE?

7 A. JUST GRADUALLY, I THINK, IT JUST CAME. ALL OF
8 A SUDDEN I STARTED TO BE MORE AWARE OF THE SHAVAS CANDLES.

9 Q. YOUR PARENTS CONTINUED TO BE ORTHODOX EARLIER
10 IN THE HOME?

11 A. YEAH, RIGHT. BUT THEY DIDN'T FORCE ME TO DO
12 ONE WAY OR THE OTHER. WHEN I CAME OUT OF THE MONASTERY,
13 AFTER THAT I WAS TOTALLY -- WHAT IS THE WORD? -- I WAS SKIN
14 AND BONES. I WAS WEAK. I WAS HUNCHBACKED FROM, YOU KNOW,
15 FROM LACK OF FOOD AND STUFF LIKE THAT. AND THE COMMITTEE,
16 THE JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS THAT WHEN THEY TOOK US OUT OF THERE,
17 THEY TOOK ME AFTER I HAD BEEN TO BELGIUM -- THEY HAD A
18 REHABILITATION CAMP FOR YOUNG PEOPLE LIKE US THAT HAD GONE
19 THROUGH THAT HAD SURVIVED, AND IT WAS UP IN THE COUNTRY IN
20 BELGIUM. I'M NOT QUITE SURE WHERE IT WAS. I KNOW IT WAS UP
21 IN THE MOUNTAIN AREA.

22 AND IT WAS LIKE A SPORTS CAMP WHERE WE GOT UP
23 EARLY IN THE MORNING, FIVE, SIX O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING, AND
24 WE WENT OUT AND EXERCISED, AND WE SWAM IN COLD WATER. AND I
25 THINK THERE WAS A PERIOD FOR MAYBE A MONTH OR SIX WEEKS WHERE

1 THEY GAVE YOU A LOT OF FOOD, YOU KNOW, TO REHABILITATE US
2 BECAUSE WE WERE REALLY -- I'M TRYING TO FIND THE WORD --
3 DRIED UP. THERE WASN'T MUCH TO US. AND I WAS HUNCHBACKED,
4 YOU KNOW. AND THEY TOLD ME I NEEDED TO WALK WITH A
5 BROOMSTICK BETWEEN MY HANDS SO THAT YOUR BACK WOULD PULL
6 BACK. AND I THINK FOR MONTHS I USED TO WALK WITH A
7 BROOMSTICK BETWEEN MY HANDS WHEN I WALKED, YOU KNOW, JUST TO
8 PULL YOUR SHOULDERS BACK AND YOUR BACK TO STRAIGHTEN IT UP.
9 AND I WAS PART OF -- I REMEMBER THAT MY MOTHER
10 AND FATHER CAME TO VISIT ME UP THERE, AND MY COUSIN HARRY AND
11 CLARA, THEY HAD SURVIVED. THEY HAD BEEN IN SWITZERLAND, AND
12 THEY CAME BACK TO BELGIUM. AND THEY CAME UP THERE. THEY HAD
13 TO TAKE THE TRAIN ANYWAY. SO I WENT OUT ON AN OUTING WITH
14 THEM. SO YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND THAT MY PARENTS ARE KOSHER.
15 THEY WERE KOSHER. SO THEY TOOK ME TO THIS RESTAURANT, AND
16 THEY BOUGHT ME A HORSE STEAK -- WHICH BELGIUM IS KNOWN FOR
17 HORSE STEAKS. THAT'S ONE OF THEIR DELICACIES -- WITH BIG
18 FRENCH FRIES. AND I GUESS THEY JUST WATCHED ME EAT IT AND
19 POLISH THIS THING OFF.

20 Q. IT WOULD NOT BE KOSHER?

21 A. IT WASN'T KOSHER, BUT THEY DIDN'T CARE. IT WAS
22 JUST THEY WANTED TO FEED ME TO DEATH IS WHAT IT WAS. THEY
23 JUST WANTED TO PUT FOOD INTO YOUR BODY AND TO STRENGTHEN YOU.

24 Q. THE CAMP WAS RUN BY THE JEWS?

25 A. YES, IT WAS A JEWISH COMMITTEE, JEWISH

1 ORGANIZATION.

2 Q. IT MUST HAVE BEEN AN UNDERGROUND ORGANIZATION?

3 A. RIGHT.

4 Q. DO YOU KNOW THE NAME OF IT? HOW LONG WERE YOU
5 AT THAT CAMP?

6 A. PROBABLY ANYWHERE FROM FOUR TO SIX WEEKS, I
7 THINK.

8 Q. WERE YOU ALL JEWISH KIDS THERE?

9 A. YEAH. IT WAS JUST A FUN CAMP IN A SENSE, YOU
10 KNOW, A SPORTS CAMP. AND THEY WOULD EXERCISE YOU, AND JUST,
11 YOU KNOW, REHABILITATE YOU, GET YOU UP THERE, SHOW YOU SOME
12 GOOD THINGS.

13 Q. DO YOU REMEMBER MAKING FRIENDS THERE?

14 A. NOT SO MUCH. I THINK WE ALL KIND OF WERE AS A
15 GROUP, BUT YOU DIDN'T DEVELOP ANY CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS, OR
16 MAYBE I DIDN'T. I'M NOT SURE. I THINK WE WERE ALL AFRAID OF
17 BEING CLOSE BECAUSE YOU WERE SO USED TO BEING BY YOURSELF
18 THAT IT WAS HARD TO BE CLOSE TO ANYBODY.

19 Q. DID YOU HAVE ANY -- DO YOU REMEMBER AT ALL ANY
20 OTHER STORIES OF HOW THOSE OTHER KIDS HAD SURVIVED THE WAR?
21 OR WERE THEY FROM ORPHANAGES OR HAD THEY BEEN HIDDEN AND THAT
22 SORT OF THING?

23 A. SOME OF THEM HAD BEEN HIDDEN. SOME OF THEM HAD
24 JUST SURVIVED IN DIFFERENT AREAS. BUT THERE WASN'T A LOT OF
25 STORIES EXCHANGED IN THERE. I THINK WE ALL JUST KIND OF --

1 THEY WORKED US, THEY FED US, AND, YOU KNOW, WE HAD A GOOD
2 TIME. AND WE DIDN'T THINK ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED.

3 Q. THE RESULTS OF THAT TIME SPENT THERE, HOW WAS
4 YOUR HEALTH? WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR HEALTH?

5 A. I FELT BETTER. I REGROUPED REAL QUICK. AND
6 THEN I WENT BACK TO BELGIUM. AND THERE I PROCEEDED TO ENROLL
7 INTO A NORMAL LIFE SPAN. BUT IT WASN'T NORMAL BECAUSE WE
8 WERE STILL JEWISH, AND THERE WAS A LOT OF ANTI-SEMITISM GOING
9 ON THERE EVEN AFTER THE WAR, YOU KNOW. AND THERE WERE
10 BELGIUM PEOPLE THAT WERE FOR THE NAZIS. AND WHEN I WENT TO
11 GRADE SCHOOL, I HAD A TEACHER THAT REALLY GAVE ME A HARD TIME
12 BECAUSE I WAS JEWISH.

13 Q. IT WAS A PUBLIC SCHOOL?

14 A. PUBLIC SCHOOL. AND HE WAS REALLY ANTI-JEWISH
15 AND WE -- HE WAS REALLY ON MY CASE A LOT. MY PARENTS RAISED
16 A STINK ABOUT HIM AND GOT HIM FIRED BECAUSE HE WAS DEFINITELY
17 ANTI-SEMITIC AND HE REALLY GAVE ME A HARD TIME. HE MADE IT
18 VERY MISERABLE FOR ME. AND HE WAS WORSE THAN THE NAZIS AT
19 TIMES. AND THE SCHOOL DID REALIZE THAT AFTER, BECAUSE I
20 GUESS I WASN'T THE ONLY JEWISH PERSON THAT THIS WAS HAPPENING
21 TO. I MEAN HE WAS REALLY GOING AFTER US.

22 Q. WERE YOU ABLE TO TELL -- AFTER THE WAR, WHEN
23 YOU RETURNED FROM CAMP, YOU WERE GETTING A LITTLE OLDER.
24 WERE YOU ABLE TO TELL THAT THERE WERE JUST FEWER JEWS AROUND
25 IN THE COMMUNITY THAN THERE HAD BEEN BEFORE?

1 A. I DIDN'T KNOW THE AMOUNT THERE WAS BEFORE, BUT
2 I DID KNOW THAT WE WERE BEING PERSECUTED A LOT. AND YOU
3 COULD FEEL IT EVEN WITH THE NORMAL SCHOOL POPULATION. I WAS
4 HAVING A HARD TIME WITH SOME OF THE KIDS. THEY WERE -- I
5 KNOW I GOT INTO ONE, POSSIBLY TWO FIGHTS. AND I KNOW WITH
6 ONE KID I GOT INTO A FIGHT BECAUSE HE CALLED ME A SALGIVE,
7 WHICH IS A DIRTY JEW. I GOT INTO A FIGHT WITH HIM, AND I
8 MUST HAVE HIT HIM BECAUSE THIS BOY'S PARENTS CAME TO COMPLAIN
9 TO MY PARENTS THAT I HAD STRUCK THIS KID. YOU KNOW, I MEAN,
10 YOU KNOW, WE GOT -- A LOT OF THIS WAS GOING ON. IT WASN'T
11 OVER. THE WAR WAS OVER, BUT BEING JEWISH WAS NOT -- THAT
12 WASN'T SOLVED. THAT PROBLEM HADN'T BEEN SOLVED.

13 Q. IT CERTAINLY DIDN'T ELIMINATE ANTI-SEMITISM?

14 A. ABSOLUTELY NOT. IT'S STILL THERE. IT WAS A
15 DEEPLY ROOTED TYPE OF THING. THE GOOD OUTWEIGHS THE BAD, BUT
16 THE BAD IS STILL THERE.

17 Q. DO YOU REMEMBER SOME OF THE EXPERIENCES WITH
18 THE TEACHER?

19 A. YEAH, HE WOULD KEEP US AFTER -- HE WOULD KEEP
20 ME AFTER SCHOOL. HE WOULD HUMILIATE ME IN FRONT OF THE CLASS
21 IF SOMETHING WASN'T RIGHT. HE WOULD SAY, "JEW RIF
22 (PHONETIC), WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY?" THAT'S A DEROGATORY
23 WORD. THAT'S LIKE CALLING A BLACK PERSON A NASTY NAME. I
24 COULD SEE HOW THEY WOULD REACT. THOSE WERE THINGS THAT WERE,
25 YOU KNOW, GETTING TO ME. I THINK AT THE TIME ONCE YOU

1 REALIZED THAT, YOU KNOW, YOU ARE JEWISH AND IT'S YOUR
2 HERITAGE AND YOU ARE NOT ASHAMED OF BEING JEWISH AND YOU
3 DON'T WANT TO TAKE THAT STUFF FROM ANYBODY, AND, YOU KNOW,
4 WHEN YOU STAND UP ON YOUR OWN AND SAY, "I'M NOT GOING TO TAKE
5 THIS ANYMORE. NOBODY IS GOING TO DO THIS TO ME."

6 Q. YOUR PARENTS WENT DOWN TO THE HEAD OF THE
7 SCHOOL?

8 A. YEAH, TO THE SCHOOL, AND THEY TALKED TO THEM,
9 AND THEY GOT SOME ACTION OUT OF IT.

10 Q. HE WAS FIRED?

11 A. YEAH. AND I THINK THE SCHOOL PEOPLE WERE
12 EMBARRASSED. BECAUSE HERE THIS WAR HAS JUST BEEN OVER. IT'S
13 BEEN OVER A YEAR. AND HERE YOU HAVE A PERSON, YOU KNOW,
14 STARTING THIS TYPE OF STUFF.

15 Q. WOULD YOU EVER COME TO KNOW WHETHER THIS
16 TEACHER HAD A HISTORY OF ANTI-SEMITISM OR HAD HE BEEN ALIGNED
17 WITH THE NAZI PARTY?

18 A. NO, WE DIDN'T. BUT I KNOW THEY REMOVED HIM
19 FROM HIS TEACHING DUTIES, AND WHATEVER THEY DID WITH HIM, I
20 DON'T KNOW. BUT --

21 Q. BUT THE KIDS STILL CALLED YOU NAMES?

22 A. YEAH, "JEW RIF" (PHONETIC). YEAH, WELL, YOU
23 HAVE TO FORGIVE CHILDREN, I GUESS, BECAUSE THEY DON'T KNOW
24 ANY BETTER. BUT STILL, IF YOU ARE ON A ONE-ON-ONE LEVEL,
25 IT'S NOT A PLEASANT SITUATION TO BE IN.

1 Q. YOU WERE IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS THERE FOR TWO OR
2 THREE YEARS --

3 A. RIGHT.

4 Q. -- BEFORE YOU CAME TO THIS COUNTRY?

5 A. RIGHT.

6 Q. DID THAT CONTINUE ALL THE TIME YOU WERE IN
7 PUBLIC SCHOOL?

8 A. NOT TOO MUCH AFTER A WHILE, OR MAYBE YOU JUST
9 KIND OF JUST ROLL WITH THE PUNCHES AND DON'T PAY A LOT OF
10 ATTENTION. YOU KNOW, BECAUSE WHAT THE OTHER CHILDREN OR
11 STUDENTS WOULD DO IS WHAT PROBABLY THEY HEARD FROM THEIR
12 PARENTS, AND THEY THOUGHT THAT WAS THE THING TO DO, MAYBE.
13 SO, YOU KNOW, YOU CALLED SOMEBODY A NAME BECAUSE YOUR PARENTS
14 CALLED SOMEBODY A NAME. YOU KNOW, THEY FIGURED THAT'S THE
15 WAY YOU DO IT.

16 Q. DO YOU THINK THE FACT THAT THESE KIDS HAD SEEN
17 PEOPLE -- THE OFFICIAL POLICY WAS HATING JEWS?

18 A. OF COURSE.

19 Q. AND JEWS WERE BEING REVILED AND PUT DOWN BY
20 EVERY AUTHORITY FIGURE YOU COULD SEE. DID THAT AFFECT THESE
21 KIDS?

22 A. PROBABLY, BECAUSE WHEN YOU SEE SOMEBODY BEING
23 KICKED, WHEN YOU CAN DO THE KICKING, YOU KNOW, YOU JUMP ON
24 THE BAND WAGON AND GAVE 'EM A LITTLE KICK. IT MAKES YOU FEEL
25 GOOD THAT WAY.

1 Q. IN THOSE THREE YEARS AFTER THE WAR, HOW DID
2 YOUR PERSONAL LIFE, PERSONAL VIEW OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH
3 CHANGE, IF IT DID?

4 A. I HAD A LOT OF RESPECT FOR THEM. I STILL DO.
5 I MEAN I FIND -- I MEAN, I DON'T AGREE WITH SOME OF THE
6 POLICIES BECAUSE I'M OLDER NOW, AND I REALIZE WHAT COULD HAVE
7 BEEN. BUT ON THE LEVEL THAT I WAS, I RESPECT THEM
8 TREMENDOUSLY. AND MY -- I'M REALLY SORRY IN MY LIFE THAT I
9 WAS NOT ABLE TO GO BACK THERE TO VISIT THIS. YOU KNOW,
10 HOPEFULLY I WAS THINKING OF GOING BACK THERE. I THINK THE
11 PLACE IS NOT THERE, BUT JUST EVEN TO GO THERE, IT WOULD BE
12 WORTHWHILE.

13 Q. WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR OWN RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE?
14 DID THAT CHANGE? DID YOU RESUME BEING JEWISH?

15 A. I RESUMED BEING JEWISH, AND I STARTED GOING TO
16 CHEDER. AND WE BECAME A PRACTICING JEW. YOU KNOW, I CAME TO
17 THIS COUNTRY -- WE CAME IN 1948 IN THIS COUNTRY. AFTER MY
18 BARMITZVAH, MY PARENTS SENT ME TO A YESHIVA BACK EAST, AND I
19 SPENT A YEAR IN AN ORTHODOX YESHIVA. AND THAT WASN'T WHAT I
20 WANTED. MY MOTHER WANTED ME TO GO, BUT IT WASN'T MY THING.
21 BUT I WENT BECAUSE, YOU KNOW, IF YOUR PARENTS TELL YOU TO DO
22 SOMETHING, YOU NORMALLY OBEY. BUT I JUST REBELLED. I DID
23 NOT WANT TO BE A RABBI. I GUESS I DIDN'T WANT TO BE A PRIEST
24 EITHER. THE YESHIVA WAS A VERY EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE, AND
25 I'M ALWAYS GREATFUL FOR IT TO HAVE SPENT THAT TIME THERE.

1 Q. WHICH ONE WAS THAT?

2 A. IT WAS CALLED THE YESHIVA TERAVIDAS (PHONETIC).
3 THAT WAS A VERY ORTHODOX YESHIVA IN BROOKLYN. AND THE REASON
4 I WENT THERE WAS BECAUSE MY MOTHER HAD A RELATIVE WHO
5 HAPPENED TO BE THE HEAD OF THAT YESHIVA. SO SHE WANTED ME TO
6 GO THERE.

7 Q. HOW DID YOUR PARENTS DECIDE THAT IT WAS TIME TO
8 GET OUT OF BELGIUM AND COME OVER HERE?

9 A. WELL, THERE WAS NO FUTURE THERE FOR JEWISH
10 PEOPLE.

11 Q. WHY IS THAT?

12 A. FIRST OF ALL, LIKE BACK TO SQUARE ONE, YOU ARE
13 NOT A CITIZEN. WE WERE STATELESS. YOU KNOW, IN OTHER WORDS
14 THERE WAS NO COUNTRY THAT WANTED US. WE HAD NO TIES. VIENNA,
15 YOU KNOW, DIDN'T WANT YOU TO BE THERE. POLAND DIDN'T WANT
16 YOU. BELGIUM DIDN'T WANT ANY NEW CITIZENS. YES, THEY
17 TOLERATED YOU BECAUSE YOU WERE THERE, BUT THEY WOULDN'T LET
18 YOU BECOME CITIZENS. SO YOU COULDN'T WORK. REALISTICALLY --
19 I MEAN YOU COULDN'T WORK UNLESS SOMEBODY GAVE YOU SOMETHING
20 TO DO. SO, YOU KNOW, YOU COULDN'T WORK. SO THERE WASN'T A
21 LOT THEY COULD DO. SO, I GUESS, AFTER GOING THROUGH THE WAR
22 AND WANTING TO GET AWAY FROM EUROPE -- I THINK MOST PEOPLE
23 WANTED TO GET OUT OF EUROPE. I MEAN THE WAR IS OVER, BUT WHO
24 KNOWS?

25 AND IT HAPPENS THAT MY MOTHER HAD AN UNCLE IN

1 SAN FRANCISCO AND -- I DON'T KNOW HOW THEY WERE ABLE TO
2 COMMUNICATE. I GUESS THEY COULD -- THE HIGHEST AGENCIES AND
3 STUFF -- YOU REALLY WENT TO WORK TO CONTACT RELATIVES ALL
4 OVER THE WORLD. YOU KNOW, YOU CAME TO THEM AND SAID, "I WAS
5 BORN HERE, AND THIS IS MY TOWN, AND THESE ARE RELATIVES."
6 AND THEY WERE SEARCHING. AND, I GUESS, YOU KNOW, THOSE DAYS
7 THEY DIDN'T HAVE COMPUTERS TO DO ALL OF THIS. IT WAS MANUAL
8 WORK. BUT THEY FOUND RELATIVES. AND WE FOUND AN UNCLE IN
9 SAN FRANCISCO, WHICH WAS, YOU KNOW -- AND THEY WERE ABLE TO
10 SPONSOR US.

11 YOU COULDN'T COME TO THIS COUNTRY UNLESS YOU
12 HAD A SPONSOR. AND, YOU KNOW, THEY GUARANTEED THAT WE WOULD
13 NOT BE BURDENS TO THE STATE, TO THE COUNTRY; THAT THEY WOULD
14 CLOTHE US, FEED US, SEE THAT WE HAVE WORK, WOULDN'T BE ANY OF
15 THESE WELFARERS; THAT YOU WOULD NOT FALL AS A WARD OF THE
16 STATE OR ANYTHING. AND WITH THOSE GUARANTEES WE WERE ABLE TO
17 GET A VISA, WHICH TOOK TIME, BECAUSE THERE WAS QUOTAS IN
18 THOSE DAYS. AND I GUESS THERE STILL IS NOW. YOU JUST HAVE
19 TO WAIT YOUR TURN.

20 Q. HOW LONG DID YOU AND YOUR PARENTS WAIT?

21 A. FROM 1945 TO 1948. SO THAT WAS THREE YEARS TO
22 GET ON THE QUOTA.

23 Q. YOU APPLIED RIGHT AWAY?

24 A. YEAH, RIGHT AT THE END OF THE WAR. SO WE CAME
25 TO THE UNITED STATES IN JULY, MIDDLE OF JULY OF 1948. SO IT

1 TOOK ABOUT TWO AND A HALF YEARS.

2 Q. HOW DID YOUR PARENTS GET ALONG FOR THAT THREE-
3 YEAR PERIOD OF TIME. HOW DID THEY SUSTAIN THEMSELVES?

4 A. WELL, THEY WERE DOING ODD TYPE OF WORK. MY
5 DAD -- AFTER THE WAR MY DAD WENT TO WORK FOR THE BRITISH.
6 THEY HAD A LARGE FACTORY WHERE IT WAS GOVERNMENT SURPLUS.
7 AND MY DAD JUST HAPPENED TO BE -- HE HAD MECHANICAL APTITUDE.
8 SO HE WORKED FOR THEM FOR A COUPLE YEARS. AND THAT WAS
9 PAYMENT, YOU KNOW. SO HE WAS ABLE TO EARN MONEY DURING THOSE
10 DAYS. AND I THINK THEY PAID FAIRLY WELL. AND HE WAS TAKING
11 CARE OF SOME OF THEIR MACHINERY AND STUFF. SO HE EARNED A
12 REASONABLE AMOUNT OF MONEY.

13 Q. WERE YOU HAPPY OR UNHAPPY TO LEAVE EUROPE AND
14 COME TO THE UNITED STATES?

15 A. I REALLY DIDN'T WANT TO COME TO THE UNITED
16 STATES BECAUSE I BECAME A ZIONIST IN MY YEARS AFTER THAT.
17 THEY HAD A LOT OF ZIONIST MOVEMENTS, YOU KNOW. YOU BECAME
18 PRO-ZIONIST. AND I WAS ABLE TO JOIN A ZIONIST GROUP CALLED
19 HASHOMER HAZMER, WHICH WAS A FAR-OUT GROUP, AND IT WAS
20 VERY -- WHAT THEY PREACHED WAS SIMILAR TO WHERE "NEVER AGAIN
21 ARE WE GOING TO LET THIS HAPPEN TO US." AND, YOU KNOW, THEY
22 PREACHED THIS TO YOUNG KIDS. AND IT WAS LIKE BOY SCOUTS. WE
23 HAD UNIFORMED SHIRTS AND, YOU KNOW, WE PRACTICED. SO I
24 REALLY WANTED TO GO TO PALESTINE, AND MY PARENTS WANTED TO GO
25 TO THE UNITED STATES. BUT I GUESS THEY OUTWEIGHED US. BUT

1 AT THE TIME WE WANTED TO GO TO PALESTINE -- I WANTED TO GO TO
2 PALESTINE.

3 Q. DID YOU ARGUE FOR THAT?

4 A. YEAH. BUT, YOU KNOW, I MEAN I DIDN'T HAVE MUCH
5 OF A SAY IN THE MATTER.

6 Q. DO YOU RECALL THEIR ANSWERS TO YOUR --

7 A. WELL, THE ANSWER IS SIMPLE. PALESTINE WAS
8 DIFFICULT, AND IN AMERICA YOU HAVE A BETTER OPPORTUNITY AT
9 THAT TIME. AND THEN YOU HAVE TO REMEMBER IN 1948 WAS JUST
10 WHEN ISRAEL WAS CREATED. IT WAS VERY DIFFICULT. AND THE
11 REASON WE WANTED TO GO TO PALESTINE, I GUESS, ALSO WAS AN
12 OPTION BECAUSE MY MOTHER HAD A BROTHER THERE WHO HAD
13 IMMIGRATED THERE BEFORE THE WAR. SO WE DID HAVE A CONNECTION
14 THERE.

15 Q. YOU DIDN'T NEED A VISA TO GET IN?

16 A. WE DID. YOU HAD TO HAVE A QUOTA, TOO, TO GET
17 INTO PALESTINE. NOBODY COULD JUST WALK IN. IN THOSE DAYS WE
18 WERE STILL -- IT WAS PRIOR TO THAT BECAUSE THE BRITISH
19 MANDATE WAS STILL THERE AND YOU COULDN'T GET INTO ISRAEL -- I
20 MEAN TO PALESTINE. I MEAN THERE WAS QUOTAS. THEY LET PEOPLE
21 IN, BUT THEY WERE SMUGGLING MORE PEOPLE IN THAN THE QUOTAS
22 WOULD LET THEM IN. THE NORMAL CHANNELS IT WAS NEXT TO
23 IMPOSSIBLE TO GET IN.

24 Q. SO WHEN IT FINALLY HAPPENED AND YOU GOT YOUR
25 VISA AND WERE ABLE TO COME TO THE UNITED STATES, YOU WERE NOT

1 NECESSARILY OVERJOYED, WERE YOU?

2 A. WELL, YES, I WAS AFTER -- ONCE YOU GOT GOING,
3 YOU KNOW. AND I WAS.

4 Q. YOU WERE 11 YEARS OLD?

5 A. YEAH.

6 Q. AND DID YOU COME DIRECTLY TO SAN FRANCISCO?

7 A. NO. WE WENT TO NEW YORK, AND MY PARENTS HAD
8 SOME RELATIVES THERE. SO WE VISITED WITH SOME RELATIVES, AND
9 THEN THEY PUT US ON THE TRAIN. AND WE TOOK THE TRAIN ACROSS
10 COUNTRY, SITTING UP IN THE COACH. AND THAT WAS -- YOU KNOW,
11 HERE WE COULDN'T SPEAK A WORD OF ENGLISH, COMPLETELY GREEN
12 HORNS. I MEAN, YOU KNOW, WHEN YOU COME FROM EUROPE -- AND,
13 YOU KNOW, EUROPE IS VERY BACKWARD COMPARED TO THE UNITED
14 STATES EVEN IN THOSE DAYS.

15 AND WE -- THIS HYATT AGENCY HAD US UP IN THE
16 HOTEL SOMEPLACE IN NEW YORK, AND THEN WE HAD SANDWICHES.
17 THEY MADE SANDWICHES FOR US. AND THAT'S WHAT WE ATE FOR
18 THREE DAYS, FOUR NIGHTS AND THREE DAYS WHILE WE TRAVELED
19 ACROSS COUNTRY BY TRAIN. AND WE COULDN'T SPEAK A WORD OF
20 ENGLISH, AND COMMUNICATION WAS REALLY DIFFICULT. BUT SOMEHOW
21 WE MADE IT.

22 Q. WHAT WAS YOUR -- YOU WERE NOT A WELL-TRAVELED
23 YOUNG MAN, BUT WHAT WAS YOUR REACTION TO GOING DAY AFTER DAY
24 ACROSS THIS COUNTRY IN A TRAIN, MILE AFTER MILE AFTER MILE
25 AFTER MILE? WAS IT DIFFERENT?

1 A. IT WAS. I COULDN'T BELIEVE IT, YOU KNOW. AND
2 I HAD NEVER SEEN ANY NEGROES IN MY LIFE, AND THIS TRAIN WAS
3 JUST FULL OF NEGROES. AND THERE WAS JUST REALLY SURPRISE
4 BECAUSE IT WAS LIKE SEEING SOMEBODY FROM MARS, YOU KNOW. YOU
5 HAVE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THAT.

6 I MEAN BELGIUM HAD NEGROES BECAUSE OF THE
7 BELGIAN CONGO, BUT YOU SAW VERY FEW OF THEM THERE. SO I
8 DON'T THINK I EVER SAW A NEGRO UNTIL I WAS ON THE STREET.

9 Q. HOW DID THE TRAIN EXPERIENCE COMPARE WITH THE
10 BOAT EXPERIENCE ON THE WAY OVER?

11 A. THE BOAT EXPERIENCE WAS REALLY -- WE CAME
12 ACROSS ON THE U.S.S. ERNIE PILE, WHICH WAS A TROOP
13 TRANSPORT. WE WERE DECKED EIGHT -- SIX OR SEVEN HIGH, YOU
14 KNOW, JUST LIKE WHEN THEY TRANSPORTED THE TROOPS. AND IT
15 TOOK US 11 DAYS TO CROSS OVER. AND WE WERE REALLY -- THE
16 FIRST DAY COMING ACROSS THE ENGLISH CHANNEL WAS REALLY ROUGH,
17 AND I THINK EVERYBODY WAS REALLY SICK AND WE --

18 THEY HAD -- THEY WERE BRINGING A CREW OF DUTCH
19 SAILORS TO THE UNITED STATES TO BRING A SHIP BACK. AND THEY
20 WERE GREAT BECAUSE THEY JUST GRABBED EVERYBODY AND THEY
21 WALKED THEM UP AND DOWN THE DECK. THESE SAILORS WERE JUST
22 HAULING PEOPLE OUT OF THEIR BEDS BECAUSE EVERYBODY WAS SICK,
23 AND THEY JUST MADE THEM GET UP ON DECK AND WALK.

24 AND THE MOST EXCITING EXPERIENCE I EVER SAW WAS
25 LANGENDORF WHITE BREAD ON THE TABLE ON AN AMERICAN SHIP.

1 BECAUSE I DON'T THINK IN BELGIUM NOBODY HAS EVER SEEN WHITE
2 BREAD. AND WE COULDN'T UNDERSTAND HOW BREAD COULD BE WHITE,
3 YOU KNOW, BECAUSE BREAD IS COARSE AND GRAY AND BLACK, BUT NOT
4 WHITE. THAT'S THE ONLY THING I REALLY REMEMBERED WELL FROM
5 THE BOAT RIDE.

6 Q. DID YOU LIKE IT?

7 A. YEAH, IT WAS ALL RIGHT.

8 Q. DO YOU STILL EAT WHITE BREAD?

9 A. NO.

10 Q. SO DID THE BIG CITY OF NEW YORK -- YOU LANDED
11 IN NEW YORK?

12 A. RIGHT.

13 Q. WAS THAT -- WHAT DID IT SEEM? WAS IT
14 IMPRESSIVE OR NOT IMPRESSIVE?

15 A. WE REALLY DIDN'T SEE MUCH OF NEW YORK IN THAT
16 TIME. WE WERE ONLY THERE A FEW DAYS UNTIL THE TRAIN
17 TRANSPORTATION WAS MADE. WE CAME ACROSS THIS COUNTRY, AND WE
18 LANDED IN OAKLAND. AND WE TOOK THE FERRY BOAT ACROSS FROM
19 OAKLAND TO SAN FRANCISCO, AND OUR RELATIVES WERE THERE TO
20 PICK US UP. AND I REMEMBER THEY DROVE US UP CALIFORNIA
21 STREET ON THE HILL BECAUSE THEY LIVED, I THINK, SIXTH AVENUE,
22 UP IN THE AVENUES. AND WE DROVE UP CALIFORNIA STREET. AND I
23 WAS AMAZED BECAUSE PEOPLE WERE WALKING SLANTED BECAUSE THEY
24 WERE GOING UP THIS HILL, AND IT LOOKED LIKE EVERYBODY -- AND
25 I THOUGHT TO MYSELF, "THIS IS STRANGE. I MEAN, YOU KNOW, HOW

1 CAN PEOPLE WALK LIKE THAT?"

2 Q. WHEN YOU GOT HERE AND MET YOUR RELATIVES, WHAT
3 HAPPENED? DID THEY MORE OR LESS SET YOU UP IN SOME WAY OR
4 OTHER? OR WHAT HAPPENED?

5 A. ONE OF MY COUSINS HAD AN APARTMENT, AND HE WAS
6 A BACHELOR. AND HE GAVE UP HIS APARTMENT AND GAVE THE
7 APARTMENT TO US.

8 Q. APARTMENTS WERE HARD TO COME BY?

9 A. YEAH. IT WAS A LITTLE SMALL STUDIO APARTMENT
10 WITH TWO WALL BEDS -- OR ONE WALL BED AND A COUCH, AND THEY
11 GAVE US THAT. AND THEY HELPED US. AND MY MOTHER AND FATHER
12 STARTED TO LOOK FOR WORK. MY MOTHER FOUND A JOB BEFORE MY
13 FATHER DID. SHE WAS A PRETTY GOOD SEAMSTRESS. SO SHE WOUND
14 UP GETTING A JOB AT A LEVI STRAUSS. SHE WAS MAKING THE GRAND
15 SUM OF ABOUT 50 CENTS AN HOUR. AND AFTER A WHILE MY FATHER
16 FOUND A JOB. BY TRADE HE WAS A MATTRESS MAKER. AND HE FOUND
17 A JOB WORKING FOR THE SIMMONS AND THE CERTA (PHONETIC)
18 COMPANY. AND HE WORKED FOR THOSE PEOPLE FROM 1948 UNTIL HE
19 WAS 72 YEARS OLD. YOU KNOW, HE STARTED VERY LATE IN LIFE.
20 HE STARTED A CAREER, AND HE WORKED FOR THEM ALL THIS TIME.

21 Q. YOUR PARENTS WERE SPEAKING YIDDISH?

22 A. YIDDISH.

23 Q. AND PERHAPS FRENCH?

24 A. THEY SPOKE SOME FRENCH, BUT MORE FLEMISH, WHICH
25 IS CLOSER TO GERMAN AND YIDDISH. AND, OF COURSE, NOW THEY

1 SPEAK ENGLISH.

2 Q. HOW WAS YOUR LANGUAGE COMING ALONG?

3 A. I WAS VERY FORTUNATE. I PICKED UP ENGLISH
4 WITHOUT TOO MUCH OF A PROBLEM. THE ONLY REAL PROBLEM I HAD
5 WAS THAT I NEVER LEARNED GRAMMAR WELL, AND IT'S HAUNTED ME
6 ALL MY LIFE. BECAUSE I HAD LEARNED FRENCH GRAMMAR WHEN I WAS
7 IN BELGIUM, AND THE GRAMMAR STRUCTURES ARE DIFFERENT HERE.
8 SO I KIND OF GOT BY WITH IT. BUT AS FAR AS THE LANGUAGE
9 ITSELF, I DIDN'T HAVE ANY PROBLEM. I WAS SPEAKING FAIRLY
10 FLUENT ENGLISH WITHIN THREE MONTHS.

11 Q. YOU GOT INTO THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM, I GUESS?

12 A. YEAH. I GOT INTO -- WE LIVED ON SCOTT STREET,
13 WHICH WASN'T IN THE AREA. AND THERE WAS A PUBLIC SCHOOL JUST
14 A FEW BLOCKS FROM THERE, AND THEY HAD CLASSES THERE FOR
15 ALIENS. WE HAD A LOT OF ORIENTALS AND OTHER LANGUAGE-
16 SPEAKING PEOPLE THERE, AND I SPENT SIX MONTHS IN A CLASS TO
17 LEARN ENGLISH. YOU WERE NOT INVOLVED IN THE ACTUAL NORMAL
18 SCHOOL, BUT IT WAS JUST BASICALLY LEARNING ENGLISH AND TO
19 TALK. AND IT WAS WELL DONE. I REALLY LEARNED A LOT. I MEAN
20 I DON'T THINK THEY HAVE THAT TYPE OF THING NOW.

21 Q. BUT WHEN YOU GOT INTO THE REGULAR COURSE WORK
22 AFTER GETTING ENOUGH ENGLISH TO MAKE IT WORK, DID YOU FIND
23 THAT YOU WERE BEHIND THE OTHER KIDS OR AHEAD OF THEM?

24 A. I WAS ADVANCED ON THE SAME GRADE LEVEL. I
25 THINK I WAS, LIKE, ONE OR TWO MORE GRADES ADVANCED IN BASIC

1 THINGS LIKE MATH AND STUFF LIKE THAT. BUT I WAS QUITE BEHIND
2 IN GRAMMAR AND THINGS LIKE THAT, AND I'VE HAD A HARD TIME
3 WITH THAT AREA. BUT THE HISTORY AND MATHEMATICS, WE WERE
4 BETTER TAUGHT IN EUROPE. I MEAN, YOU KNOW, THE BEGINNING
5 PART OF IT.

6 Q. AND YOUR FAMILY CONTINUED TO BE AN ORTHODOX
7 FAMILY?

8 A. YEAH.

9 Q. AND YOUR PARENTS?

10 A. AND MY PARENTS ARE.

11 Q. AND YOU TOO?

12 A. WELL, I'M MORE CONSERVATIVE THAN ORTHODOX. I'M
13 NOT ORTHODOX.

14 Q. BUT IN THOSE DAYS?

15 A. BUT IN THOSE DAYS, YES. WE BELONGED TO AN
16 ORTHODOX SYNAGOGUE.

17 Q. WHICH ONE?

18 A. IT WAS CALLED KNESET ISRAEL. THEY WERE ON
19 WEBSTER STREET, WHICH WAS BASICALLY -- MOST OF THE JEWISH
20 AREA IN SAN FRANCISCO WAS BETWEEN MCALLISTER STREET, FULTON,
21 GOLDEN GATE, WEBSTER, AND THEY HAD TWO OR THREE SYNAGOGUES IN
22 THAT AREA THERE, AND THEY HAD SOME KOSHER RESTAURANTS -- NOT
23 RESTAURANTS -- BUTCHER SHOPS AND DELICATESENS, BAKERIES.
24 SAN FRANCISCO IN THAT TIME HAD A VERY LARGE ORTHODOX JEWISH
25 POPULATION IN THOSE DAYS. NOT AS LARGE AS THE OTHER PART,

1 BUT A LOT MORE THAN IT HAS NOW.

2 Q. DID YOU ENCOUNTER ANY ANTI-SEMITISM ONCE YOU
3 ARRIVED HERE IN THIS COUNTRY?

4 A. NO. VERY LITTLE. I FOUND A LITTLE BIT OF
5 PROBLEMS IN PUBLIC SCHOOL WITH SOME OF THE BLACK KIDS, BUT
6 THAT WAS JUST BECAUSE YOU WERE DIFFERENT. IT WASN'T ANYTHING
7 TO DO WITH BECAUSE YOU WERE JEWISH. IT WAS BECAUSE YOU WERE
8 DIFFERENT. SO THEY PICKED ON YOU A LITTLE BIT. IT WAS JUST
9 A MATTER OF ESTABLISHING TERRITORIES.

10 Q. HOW ABOUT THE FACT THAT YOU WERE JUST -- NOT
11 NECESSARILY JEWISH, BUT JUST AN ALIEN KID? DID THAT CAUSE
12 SOME PROBLEMS?

13 A. YEAH, THAT CAUSED SOME PROBLEMS. BECAUSE WE
14 WERE A LITTLE BIT DIFFERENT, YOU KNOW, UNTIL YOU ASSIMILATED
15 INTO THE AMERICAN WAY OF LIVING. OR EVEN THE CODE OF DRESS
16 BECAUSE YOU DRESSED DIFFERENT, YOU KNOW. YOU GET OFF THE
17 BOAT WEARING SHORT PANTS. I MEAN I WAS THE ONLY PERSON IN
18 THE WHOLE UNITED STATES WEARING SHORT PANTS. EVERYBODY WORE
19 LONG PANTS. IN EUROPE NOBODY WEARS LONG PANTS.

20 Q. DID THAT MORTIFY YOU AS A YOUNG MAN?

21 A. I WAS A LITTLE EMBARRASSED, I THINK. BUT, YOU
22 KNOW, IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG TO TAKE CARE OF THAT PROBLEM.

23 Q. THE VERY NEXT PAIR OF PANTS --

24 A. EXACTLY, WERE LONG PANTS.

25 Q. AND DID YOU GO TO COLLEGE? YOU WENT TO

1 YESHIVA, YOU SAID, AFTER GETTING OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL, I
2 GATHER?

3 A. NO, THAT WAS BEFORE I WENT TO HIGH SCHOOL. I
4 WAS VERY YOUNG. IF YOU GO TO YESHIVA, YOU START EARLY --
5 ORTHODOX YESHIVA. IT'S NOT LIKE NOW, WHERE PEOPLE GO TO
6 COLLEGE AND THEN THEY GO TO THE HEBREW COLLEGES, YOU KNOW.

7 IN THOSE DAYS MOSTLY, YESHIVA, YOU START --
8 ACTUALLY IN THE REAL TRADITIONAL, ORTHODOX WAY, YOU START
9 LEARNING WHEN YOU ARE STILL THREE OR FOUR YEARS OLD, AS YOU
10 PROGRESS ALONG. THEN YOU USUALLY WIND UP GOING TO THE
11 YESHIVA AND THEN DIFFERENT LEVELS OF YESHIVA, STARTING OFF
12 BETWEEN THE AGES OF 10 ON UP. AND YOU KEEP RIGHT ON GOING
13 DEPENDING ON WHERE YOU GO, WHERE YOU WANT TO BE.

14 Q. THEN RETURNING FROM THAT, YOU CONTINUED THROUGH
15 HIGH SCHOOL, I GATHER?

16 A. YEAH. I WENT TO SAN FRANCISCO. I MEAN I CAME
17 BACK TO SAN FRANCISCO, WENT BACK TO -- YOU KNOW, JUST DID MY
18 NORMAL THING LIKE ANY OTHER AMERICAN PERSON WOULD DO. YOU GO
19 TO SCHOOL. YOU GO TO COLLEGE. YOU GET INTO A VOCATION, AND,
20 YOU KNOW, YOU JUST PICK UP YOUR LIFE.

21 Q. DID YOU GO TO COLLEGE SOMEWHERE?

22 A. I WENT FOR A YEAR.

23 Q. WHERE WAS THAT?

24 A. CITY COLLEGE IN SAN FRANCISCO.

25 Q. UH-HUH. AND YOUR RELIGIOUS ORIENTATION HAS

1 CHANGED A LITTLE BIT FROM ORTHODOX TO MORE --
2 A. CONSERVATIVE.
3 Q. -- CONSERVATIVE NOW.
4 DID YOUR CATHOLIC EXPOSURE HAVE ANYTHING TO DO
5 WITH THE WAY YOU VIEW YOUR RELIGION NOW?
6 A. NO, I THINK NOT. THE ONLY REASON IS, YOU KNOW,
7 DEPENDING -- YOU ARE IN AN ENVIRONMENT WHICH IS NOT ORTHODOX,
8 AND YOU ARE GOING TO WIND UP DRIFTING TOWARDS THE
9 ENVIRONMENT.
10 Q. YOU DON'T THINK YOU HAVE ANY SPECIAL
11 PERSPECTIVE ON IT BECAUSE OF YOUR ORIENTATION AS A CATHOLIC?
12 A. NO. NO.
13 Q. DO YOU THINK YOU LOOK AT CATHOLICS DIFFERENT
14 FROM THE WAY OTHER JEWS LOOK AT CATHOLICS?
15 A. NO, I DON'T THINK SO. I DON'T THINK AT ALL.
16 Q. BUT YOU HAVE MORE FEELINGS TOWARD --
17 A. OH, I DO. I CAN UNDERSTAND THEM BETTER THAN
18 MOST JEWISH PEOPLE DO. I MEAN THERE'S THINGS THAT COME UP AT
19 DIFFERENT TIMES THAT WILL RING A BELL.
20 Q. CAN YOU REMEMBER THE NAME OF THE ORGANIZATION
21 THAT HANDLED THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR BRINGING YOU TO THIS
22 COUNTRY?
23 A. I THINK IT WAS THE HIASS.
24 Q. WHICH WAS A RELIEF ORGANIZATION?
25 A. YEAH. RIGHT. THERE WAS QUITE A FEW. THAT'S

1 ONE OF THE LARGEST ONES.

2 Q. YOU WERE A STRONG ZIONIST JUST BEFORE -- AS A
3 YOUNG MAN?

4 A. YES.

5 Q. JUST BEFORE YOU CAME TO THIS COUNTRY?

6 A. RIGHT.

7 Q. WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT URGE ON YOUR PART? DID
8 THAT GO AWAY?

9 A. NO. WHEN I CAME TO SAN FRANCISCO, THERE WAS
10 SOME GROUPS IN HERE. AND I JOINED A ZIONIST GROUP CALLED THE
11 BETAR. AND I PARTICIPATED IN THAT IN MY EARLY TEENS, YOU
12 KNOW.

13 Q. WHAT WERE THEIR ACTIVITIES?

14 A. THEY WERE PRO-ISRAEL TYPE OF THINGS, YOU KNOW.
15 WE -- I CAN REMEMBER WE HAD A CEREMONY IN CITY HALL WHERE WE
16 WENT OUT THERE DRESSED IN OUR LITTLE UNIFORM SHIRTS. YOU
17 KNOW, JUST MAKING A SHOW OF HANDS OR JUST A SHOW THAT OUR
18 GROUP'S HERE. BUT THAT GROUP KIND OF EVENTUALLY DISAPPEARED.

19 Q. WHERE WERE YOU WHEN ISRAEL BECAME A NATION?

20 A. IN 1948 I THINK WE HAD JUST GOTTEN TO THE
21 UNITED STATES.

22 Q. DO YOU RECALL ANY FEELINGS THAT YOU HAD OR YOUR
23 PARENTS HAD?

24 A. I THINK MY PARENTS WERE ELATED. I DIDN'T
25 CONCEIVE THAT CONCEPTION AT THE TIME, I DON'T THINK.

1 Q. AS A ZIONIST, YOU STILL DIDN'T --

2 A. OH, I WAS THRILLED. BUT, LIKE, YOU KNOW, I
3 COULDN'T GET THIS "CREATING A COUNTRY." HOW DO YOU CREATE A
4 COUNTRY? THAT WHOLE THING. EXCEPT THAT FOR NOW IT WAS THE
5 FIRST TIME WE REALIZED THAT THERE WAS GOING TO BE A COUNTRY
6 THAT'S GOING TO BE RULED BY JEWISH PEOPLE AND THAT EVERYBODY
7 WAS EQUAL.

8 Q. DID YOU HAVE ANY FEELINGS TO VISIT IT AT LEAST?

9 A. NO. I LEARNED TO -- BECAME VERY HAPPY IN THE
10 UNITED STATES. THIS IS A WONDERFUL COUNTRY TO BE IN AND TO
11 HAVE THE OPPORTUNITIES TO BE IN THIS COUNTRY. PEOPLE JUST
12 DON'T REALIZE WHAT IT IS TO BE AN AMERICAN AND TO HAVE ALL
13 THESE THINGS THAT YOU HAVE AVAILABLE TO YOU, YOU KNOW, WHICH
14 PEOPLE HAVE THE FEELING THAT IT'S YOUR GOD-GIVEN RIGHT, WHICH
15 IT'S NOT. WHEN YOU HAVE NEVER HAD THOSE RIGHTS AND YOU HAVE
16 THE OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE THESE THINGS, YOU KNOW, YOU REALLY
17 APPRECIATE THEM MORE.

18 Q. YOU ARE MARRIED, AND YOU HAVE A FAMILY?

19 A. YES.

20 Q. HOW MANY CHILDREN DO YOU HAVE? WHAT ARE THEIR
21 NAMES?

22 A. I HAVE TWO SONS. AND MY OLDEST SON IS ADAM.
23 HE'S 25 YEARS OLD. AND I HAVE ANOTHER SON WHOSE NAME IS
24 LARRY, AND HE'S 22 YEARS OLD.

25 Q. AND YOUR WIFE'S NAME?

1 A. MY WIFE'S NAME IS SERENE, AND WE MET AT THE
2 JEWISH CENTER. AND WE HAVE BEEN MARRIED GOING ON 29 YEARS.
3 Q. YOU HAVE CONTINUED TO BE ACTIVE IN THE JEWISH
4 COMMUNITY HERE?
5 A. WELL, WE ARE ACTIVE IN OUR TEMPLES WHERE WE
6 ARE.
7 Q. WHICH IS WHAT?
8 A. TEMPLE BETH JACOB IN REDWOOD CITY. WE WERE
9 VERY ACTIVE -- WE LIVED IN FOSTER CITY WHEN WE WERE YOUNG
10 MARRIEDS, AND WE WERE VERY ACTIVE IN TEMPLE SINAI. WE WERE
11 ONE OF THE ESTABLISHING FAMILIES OF THAT TEMPLE. WE STARTED
12 WITH TWO OR THREE FAMILIES. WE WERE ONE OF THE TWO OR THREE
13 FAMILIES.
14 Q. YOU HAVE A BUSINESS?
15 A. YES, I'M SELF-EMPLOYED. I WAS VERY -- I'M NOT
16 AN EDUCATED PERSON, BUT I'VE GOT A REASONABLY SUCCESSFUL
17 BUSINESS. WITH THE HELP OF MY FAMILY AND MY WIFE, WE'VE DONE
18 QUITE WELL.
19 Q. DID YOU RAISE YOUR BOYS TO BE ACTIVE IN THE --
20 A. WE RAISED THEM JEWISH, AND BOTH MY SONS WERE
21 VERY ACTIVE IN A.Z.A. THEY PUT A LOT OF THEIR TIME IN IN
22 THEIR YOUTH. THEY WERE BOTH PRESIDENTS OF THEIR CHAPTER, AND
23 MY YOUNGEST SON WAS A REGIONAL BOARD MEMBER OF THE A.Z.A. SO
24 THEY'VE HAD JEWISH EXPOSURE.
25 Q. DO THEY KNOW YOUR STORY?

1 A. NOT AS WELL AS THEY SHOULD. THEY WERE THE ONES
2 THAT ENCOURAGED ME TO COME TO THIS, ASIDE FROM MY WIFE. AND
3 WE WANTED MY PARENTS TO DO THIS, REALLY, BECAUSE WE WANTED
4 THE BOYS TO HAVE A LEGACY.

5 Q. DO THEY KNOW THE STORY OF YOUR PARENTS?

6 A. THEY KNOW IT, YEAH. THEY DON'T HAVE IT IN
7 GREAT DETAILS, BUT, YOU KNOW, JUST SOME BITS AND PIECES OF
8 THE STORY, AND THEY KNOW WHAT WENT ON AND WHAT HAPPENED. AND
9 THEY KNOW BY EXAMPLE. WE ARE SELF-MADE PEOPLE, AND WE HAVE
10 STRONG STOCK. AND THAT'S NOT PATTING MYSELF ON THE BACK.
11 BUT WE ARE A STRONG PEOPLE.

12 Q. DO YOU HAVE STRONG FEELINGS ONE WAY OR THE
13 OTHER ABOUT WHAT'S HAPPENING IN EUROPE NOW WITH THE
14 REUNIFICATION OF GERMANY? AND DO YOU HAVE ANY STRONG
15 FEELINGS ABOUT THE GERMAN PEOPLE?

16 A. I HAVE VERY STRONG FEELINGS ABOUT THE GERMAN
17 PEOPLE.

18 Q. WHAT ARE YOUR FEELINGS?

19 A. WELL, YOU KNOW, IT SAYS TO FORGIVE AND ALL OF
20 THAT, AND THAT'S FINE. BUT MY FEELINGS ARE THIS: THAT IT
21 HAPPENED. AND IT SHOULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED. AND THEY LET IT
22 HAPPEN. AND FOR THAT, YOU KNOW, THERE IS NO JUSTIFICATION.
23 AND, YOU KNOW, THEY WERE RESPONSIBLE.

24 THE PEOPLE OF GERMANY NOW ARE REALLY NOT -- YOU
25 CAN'T BLAME THEM FOR WHAT HAPPENED. BUT THE PEOPLE, WHEN IT

1 DID HAPPEN, THEY WERE RESPONSIBLE. AND THEY SHOULD BEAR THE
2 CONSEQUENCES.

3 Q. DO YOU HAVE SOME FEAR ABOUT A REUNIFIED
4 GERMANY?

5 A. YES. THERE IS ALWAYS GOING TO BE A FEAR
6 BECAUSE IT HAPPENED ONCE. AND IN THIS WORLD THAT WE LIVE IN
7 TODAY, WE CAN SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING IN IRAQ WITH SADDAM
8 HUSSEIN AT THIS TIME. WHAT HAPPENS IF SOME MANIAC GETS
9 GERMANY GOING? I WOULD SAY THE WAY THINGS ARE NOW THAT IT'S
10 UNLIKELY THAT IT COULD HAPPEN, BUT YOU NEVER KNOW.

11 I MEAN YOU LET THIS GUY GO INTO KUWAIT AND TAKE
12 OVER A COUNTRY. IT'S VERY PARALLEL OF WHAT HITLER DID WHEN
13 HE STARTED HIS ANSCHLUSS. THEY WERE GOING TO TAKE CARE OF
14 THE GERMAN PEOPLE. I MEAN THERE'S A LOT OF PARALLELS THERE.
15 WE ARE SITTING OUT THERE, AND NOTHING IS HAPPENING. YOU
16 KNOW. HE'S CALLING US A BLUFF. AND THAT'S WHAT HITLER DID.
17 HE PLAYED THE GAME. AND EVERYTHING FELL HIS WAY UNTIL HE
18 FINALLY THOUGHT THAT HE COULD JUST KEEP RIGHT ON GOING. AND
19 EXCEPT FOR THE FACT THAT -- THIS IS MY ANALYSIS OF THIS -- IS
20 THE FACT THAT HITLER WAS SO PREOCCUPIED WITH PERSECUTING THE
21 JEWS, HE COULD HAVE CONQUERED THE WORLD. I MEAN, IF THIS
22 HADN'T DISTRACTED HIM AND THAT WASN'T SUCH A HIGH PRIORITY,
23 HE MIGHT HAVE DONE THAT.

24 Q. DO YOU -- YOU HAD A NUMBER OF RELATIVES,
25 DISTANT -- PERHAPS AUNTS AND UNCLES, CERTAINLY COUSINS -- IN

1 EUROPE. TENS, TWENTIES MAYBE?

2 A. MORE THAN THAT.

3 Q. MORE THAN THAT?

4 A. YES.

5 Q. HOW MANY DIDN'T MAKE IT OUT, IF YOU KNOW?

6 A. WELL, FROM MY MOTHER'S FAMILY, SHE HAS A

7 BROTHER IN ISRAEL THAT SURVIVED BECAUSE HE LEFT BEFORE. SHE

8 HAD AN OLDER SISTER THAT WENT TO POLAND, AND SHE SURVIVED

9 WITH FOUR CHILDREN. AND THEY WERE JUST -- THEY SURVIVED IN

10 RUSSIA THROUGHOUT THE WAR. AND MY PARENTS BROUGHT THEM TO

11 BELGIUM OUT OF A D.P. CAMP FROM GERMANY, AND THEN FROM

12 BELGIUM THEY WERE ABLE TO GET TO THE UNITED STATES.

13 I THINK WE LOST MOST OF OUR FAMILY. THERE WAS

14 VERY FEW THAT SURVIVED. MY GRANDPARENTS WERE KILLED

15 DURING --

16 Q. WHAT COUNTRY WERE THEY IN?

17 A. THEY WERE IN POLAND. MY GRANDMOTHER WAS DEAD

18 ON MY MOTHER'S SIDE. AND MY GRANDFATHER WAS NOT, AND HE WAS

19 HERDED OUT AND SHOT IN A MASS GRAVE IN ONE OF THE VILLAGES

20 WHEN THEY WERE GOING THROUGH AND JUST TAKING PEOPLE OUT.

21 Q. DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT PLACE?

22 A. NO. THAT'S MY MOTHER'S -- I DON'T KNOW. I

23 JUST KNOW THAT HE WAS ONE OF THEM, YOU KNOW, THAT HE WAS

24 KILLED. AND THE REST OF THE FAMILIES -- AUNTS AND UNCLES --

25 YOU KNOW, THEY JUST ANNIHILATED WHOLE AREAS.

1 Q. DOZENS WOULD YOU SAY?

2 A. OH, YEAH. MORE THAN THAT. THEY HAD A FAIRLY
3 LARGE FAMILY. SO THERE WAS A LOT OF PEOPLE THERE. I THINK
4 JUST THE PEOPLE THAT SURVIVED WERE REALLY THE ONES THAT WERE
5 NOT IN POLAND. THEY WERE OUT INTO THE LITTLE MORE MODERN
6 WORLD WERE PROBABLY ABLE TO SURVIVE A LITTLE BIT MORE, BUT
7 MOST OF THE PEOPLE THAT WERE IN POLAND PROBABLY DIDN'T HAVE
8 THAT MUCH OF A CHANCE.

9 Q. YOU HAVEN'T BEEN BACK TO EUROPE?

10 A. NO, I HAVE NOT. MY PARENTS HAVE BEEN TO
11 EUROPE, AND YEARS AGO THE TWO PEOPLE THAT SAVED MY MOTHER AND
12 FATHER'S LIVES, THEY WERE -- YADHASHEM. THEY HAVE BEEN
13 COMMENDED BY THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT FOR HELPING THEM.

14 Q. RIGHTEOUS?

15 A. RIGHTEOUS, RIGHT.

16 Q. WOULD YOU SAY THEIR NAMES, PLEASE?

17 A. YES. IT WAS GABBY AND MARIA BEVERNAGE. AND MY
18 PARENTS SAW THEM -- THEY WENT TO EUROPE ONCE -- I CAN'T
19 REMEMBER HOW MANY YEARS AGO, AND THEY DID SEE THEM. AND THEN
20 THEY BOTH DIED. BUT THEY DID MAKE A RETURN TRIP TO VISIT
21 THEM. AND THEY KEPT IN CORRESPONDENCE FOR MANY YEARS WITH
22 THEM ALL THE TIME.

23 Q. DO YOU THINK YOUR EXPERIENCES AS A YOUNG BOY
24 DURING THAT PERIOD OF TIME -- WHAT AFFECT HAVE THEY HAD ON
25 YOU UP TO THIS TIME? DOES IT STILL AFFECT YOU IN ANY WAY, DO

1 YOU THINK?

2 A. I THINK THE EFFECT OF AN EXPERIENCE LIKE THAT
3 IS I THINK -- IT AFFECTS MY PERSONALITY TO A CERTAIN DEGREE.
4 I MEAN I'M AN INWARD PERSON. I THINK IT GIVES YOU A CERTAIN
5 AMOUNT OF CHARACTER WHICH YOU DON'T SEE IN OTHER PEOPLE. I
6 THINK YOU CAN HANDLE ADVERSE SITUATIONS -- MAYBE NOT WELL,
7 BUT YOU CAN KIND OF "GRIN AND BEAR IT" TYPE OF THING.

8 I DON'T KNOW. IT JUST MAKES YOU A SURVIVOR.
9 YOU DO THINGS THAT THE PEOPLE CAN'T DO TODAY, I THINK,
10 BECAUSE YOU SEEM TO WANT TO DO THINGS MORE. YOU HAVE MORE
11 DETERMINATION IN REACHING CERTAIN AREAS AND GOALS IN YOUR
12 LIVES.

13 Q. DO YOU HAVE A FEELING THAT SOME PEOPLE YOU SEE
14 AROUND YOU TODAY WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO SURVIVE AN ORDEAL LIKE
15 THAT?

16 A. YEAH, I BELIEVE SO. IT'S VERY POSSIBLE. I
17 THINK IF I WAS AN ADULT, I MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO
18 SURVIVE. I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU REACT TO SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

19 THERE WAS SO LITTLE INFORMATION GOING ON IN
20 THOSE DAYS. IT'S AMAZING THAT THE PEOPLE WERE SURVIVING
21 BECAUSE NOBODY KNEW ANYTHING. I MEAN SOME PEOPLE KNEW, BUT I
22 MEAN THE MASS PEOPLE DIDN'T KNOW. THEY DIDN'T KNOW FROM DAY
23 TO DAY WHAT'S GOING ON OR WHAT TO DO. THERE WAS NO GUIDANCE
24 OF ANY KIND FROM ANYPLACE.

25 Q. DO YOU THINK YOUR EXPERIENCES, IN RETROSPECT,

1 HAVE MADE YOU APPRECIATE OR LOOK AT YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER IN
2 A DIFFERENT LIGHT FOR WHAT THEY DID AT THAT PARTICULAR TIME?

3 A. I'M VERY DEVOTED TO MY PARENTS. THEY ARE OLD
4 PEOPLE. I TALK TO THEM EVERY DAY. I TAKE CARE OF THEM. I
5 HELP THEM WITH THEIR NEEDS. BUT THE MORE I THINK ABOUT IT, I
6 AM COMPLETELY AMAZED ABOUT THOSE PEOPLE. BECAUSE LOOKING AT
7 THE CHARACTER OF WHAT THEY HAD TO DO IS JUST -- I DON'T SEE
8 IT. I MEAN I JUST DON'T -- I CAN'T FIND THE RIGHT WORDS TO
9 SAY HOW IMPRESSED I AM BY THEM AND THAT THEY WERE ABLE TO DO
10 THAT. BECAUSE THEY ARE WONDERFUL PEOPLE, BUT RIGHT NOW THEY
11 ARE VERY DEPENDENT PEOPLE. YET AT THAT TIME THEY WERE ABLE
12 TO DO SO MUCH AND BE SO INDEPENDENT THAT I JUST -- IT'S HARD
13 TO SEE THEM IN THE SAME -- YOU KNOW, I CAN'T SEE THEM -- I
14 SEE THEM NOW, AND I SEE THEM THE WAY THEY WERE THEN. AND
15 IT'S AMAZING HOW THEY WERE.

16 Q. AS A FATHER NOW, HAVE YOU EVER PUT YOURSELF
17 SOMEWHAT IN THEIR PLACE WITH YOUR OWN SONS AND ASKED
18 YOURSELF, "WOULD I BE ABLE TO DO WITH MY SONS WHAT THEY HAD
19 TO DO WITH ME BACK IN 1942?"

20 A. I HONESTLY DON'T THINK I WOULD BE ABLE TO DO
21 SOMETHING LIKE THAT. I'M NOT SURE. BECAUSE IT'S HARD TO SAY
22 WHAT THE SITUATION IS. IT'S HARD TO SAY IF YOU CAN JUST LET
23 GO AND SAY, "WELL, I'M GOING TO DIE. AND I'M WILLING TO
24 SACRIFICE MY LIFE SO THAT MY CHILDREN CAN LIVE." IF I TOLD
25 YOU "YES, I COULD DO THAT," I WOULD BE LYING BECAUSE I REALLY

1 DON'T KNOW. IT'S A VERY DIFFICULT CHOICE TO MAKE.

2 I THINK WE'VE NEVER BEEN PUT INTO A CHOICE OF
3 LIFE AND DEATH, WHEN YOU HAVE TO MAKE THAT KIND OF A
4 DECISION. YOU MAKE EVERYDAY DECISIONS. BUT WERE YOU TO EVER
5 MAKE A DECISION WHERE A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH IS
6 CONCERNED, IT'S VERY HARD TO SAY HOW YOU WOULD REACT. I JUST
7 COULDN'T JUST COME OUT AND SAY, "SURE. I COULD DO THAT." I
8 DON'T THINK SO. I DON'T KNOW.

9 Q. IN ANY EVENT, THAT'S ADDED TO YOUR RESPECT FOR
10 YOUR --

11 A. OH, ABSOLUTELY.

12 Q. ANYTHING ELSE AT ALL THAT -- ANY IMPRESSION OR
13 FEELING ABOUT ALL OF THIS THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SAY?

14 A. WELL, I JUST WANT -- THAT THE THINGS THAT HAVE
15 HAPPENED, YOU KNOW, SHOULD BE -- WE SHOULD REMEMBER THAT.
16 AND HOPEFULLY THAT AS PEOPLE LEAVE THIS WORLD AND PEOPLE HAVE
17 BEEN THROUGH THIS ARE GOING TO BE GONE, THAT THE WORLD WILL
18 KNOW THAT THIS REALLY HAPPENED AND THAT NOBODY CAN EVER SAY
19 THAT IT NEVER HAPPENED. BECAUSE, YOU KNOW, THIS IS SOMETHING
20 THAT IN A THOUSAND YEARS FROM NOW IN HISTORY, IT SHOULD BE A
21 VIVID MEMORY THAT IT HAPPENED. AND IN MY OWN WAY, I CAN'T
22 BELIEVE THAT THIS HAPPENED AND THE WORLD STOOD BY AND LET IT
23 HAPPEN. I JUST CAN'T SEE HOW IT COULD HAVE HAPPENED. YOU
24 KNOW, IF THE WORLD KNEW AND IT LET IT HAPPEN, TO ME THAT'S AN
25 ANSWER THAT WILL HAUNT ME FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE.

1 Q. ANYTHING ELSE AT ALL?

2 A. NO.

3 Q. OKAY. CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THESE PICTURES?

4 A. THE PICTURE ON THE LEFT WAS WHEN I WAS TAKEN

5 AWAY TO THE MONASTERY. THAT WAS IN EARLY 1942. AND THE

6 PICTURE ON THE RIGHT WAS WHEN I WAS RELEASED FROM THE

7 MONASTERY. AND BASICALLY, LOOKING AT IT MYSELF, I JUST

8 NOTICE A DIFFERENCE IN THE EYES, LOOKING AT IT NOW AT THIS

9 STAGE OF MY LIFE. I THINK THE EYES ON THE RIGHT WERE REALLY

10 SAD, AND THE MOUTH IS KIND OF COVERED*DOWN. I THINK ON THE

11 LEFT, BEFORE I LEFT, I THINK I PROBABLY WAS STILL A HAPPY

12 CHILD.

13 Q. AND THE RELEASE DATE FROM THE MONASTERY AGAIN

14 WAS WHEN?

15 A. WAS IN 1945, PROBABLY AROUND JULY OR AUGUST.

16 RIGHT AFTER THE WAR.

17 Q. SO YOU WERE HOW OLD IN THE FIRST PICTURE AND

18 HOW OLD IN THE SECOND?

19 A. IN THE FIRST PICTURE I MUST HAVE BEEN -- LET ME

20 KEEP TRACK -- PROBABLY AROUND FIVE, FIVE AND A HALF, AND

21 CLOSE TO SEVEN AND A HALF OR EIGHT IN THE OTHER ONE. THAT'S

22 MORE RIGHT ON. THAT WAS CLOSER TO THE TIME FRAME.

23 Q. CAN YOU TELL US WHAT THIS IS WE ARE LOOKING AT

24 NOW?

25 A. ARE WE ROLLING NOW?

1 Q. YEAH, WE ARE ROLLING.

2 A. THIS IS A PASSPORT ISSUED BY THE GERMAN PEOPLE
3 IN VIENNA, AND EVERY PERSON HAD TO HAVE A PASSPORT. AND THIS
4 HAS GOT THE GERMAN EAGLE ON IT. AND IT SAYS "DEUTSCHE REICH"
5 ON THE COVER OF IT, AND ON THE INSIDE OF THE PASSPORT IS A
6 PICTURE AND A DATE OF BIRTH. AND THIS PASSPORT HAS MY NAME
7 ON IT, WHICH IS HERBERT KATZ VEL BARASCH, WHICH LATER WHEN WE
8 CAME TO THE UNITED STATES WE DROPPED PART OF IT AND CHANGED
9 IT TO BARASCH. BUT THE J. OVER HERE -- WHICH ALL PASSPORTS
10 MEANT THAT YOU WERE A JEW JUDEN, AND YOU HAD TO HAVE THIS
11 PASSPORT WITH YOU ALL THE TIME. SO IF YOU WERE EVER STOPPED
12 ON THE STREET, YOU HAD TO IDENTIFY YOURSELF, AND THEY WOULD
13 KNOW IMMEDIATELY THAT YOU WERE JEWISH.

14 THIS BASICALLY SHOWS A PICTURE WHEN I WAS
15 APPROXIMATELY 18 MONTHS OLD. AND IT'S GOT THE GERMAN SEAL
16 AROUND THE PICTURE, AND THEN ON THE RIGHT ON THE DESCRIPTION
17 IT SAID "STATEN LOSS," MEANING WE HAD NO COUNTRY. AND THE
18 REST OF IT BASICALLY WAS INFORMATION OF WHEN YOU WERE BORN.
19 AND THAT'S ABOUT IT, I THINK. THE REST OF IT, THERE'S
20 NOTHING HERE. IT'S JUST --

21

22

23

24

25